

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP MARCH 1984

Meetings: 7:00pm, 3rd Friday each month
At Northlake College, Room B-206, Irving, Texas

President: Robert Bayne -- Vice-President: Keith Althar
Secretary: Richard Roberts -- Treasurer: Earl Bullock
Editor: Robert Lee Hoffbauer

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, ~~4800~~ Irving, Texas 75061.

=====

EDITOR/ADMINISTRATOR: Robert Lee Hoffbauer

Several months have now passed since Texas Instruments made their dismaying announcement that they were going to pull out of the home computer market, and I think that things (you know, 'things') are beginning to settle out to where we can begin to make some informed guesses about what that move will really mean to us. What follows is, of course, my own opinion.

First, we have an excellent little machine, that is such more capable than its current competition (i.e., Commodore). The most recent entry, the Peanut (IBM-PC, Jr.), is probably more capable of being the 'ideal' home computer than our 99/4A's, but we have the 4A's, and unless we want to scrap our systems and shell out another fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars we will have to make the best possible use of the marvelous little machines we have.

Second, it's pretty obvious that, beyond offering repair (exchange) for our systems, and releasing a small volume of new software (mostly games and lower level educational programs), TI has left us pretty much on our own. I am somewhat bitter about that. I try to understand that the decision to pull out was a business decision, and business is business; but, it leaves a bad taste in my mouth just the same. In any event, we (owners and users, nationwide) must organize our efforts, educate ourselves, and support one another, OR OUR MACHINES WILL BE OBSOLETE BEFORE THEIR TIME, for all practical intents.

Third, software is the critical element. There will be no manufacturer (TI) effort of any appreciable scale directed toward encouraging third-party software development -- certainly not on the scale we will see from the 'surviving' machines such as Commodore, Apple, and IBM.

Continued on back ...

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Richard Roberts

The last meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was on February 17, 1984. Despite the prevalence of the flu bug, which kept several members at home, attendance was still good. There were five guests in attendance, three of which paid their annual dues to become members. I would like to welcome the new members, and encourage you to become involved in the activities of the club. We have several positions still open for 1984, including Hospitality and Membership committee chairmen.

Our club president, Robert Bayne, was one of the members out with the flu, so the scheduled program was cancelled. The meeting consisted of reviewing some new programs that were brought by various members, and a general talk session between members about various industry rumors, programming problems, and solutions.

For the benefit of the new members, and others who have just joined in recent months, I would like to mention the Software library. Access to this library is one of the benefits of being a club member. The procedure for withdrawing programs from the library has been changing over the recent months, but should be finalized by the next meeting. Glenn Ashe, library chairman, will give us the details, and will also have several more updated pages for the software catalog. Hopefully, these new procedures will make it easier for members to take advantage of this resource.

END OF FILE

MEMBER WRITES TI COLUMN FOR STARTEXT

See article, page 2 ...

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY, 17 MARCH, 1984.

I called Ross back the next day, and he told me to bring my whole system in, again, the following day. He said to bring everything, even the TV-modulator. I did, and Ross had scrounged an entirely new system -- new console, transformer, modulator, P-Box, card, 32-K memory, RS-232, disk controller, disk drive, cables, the works.

I took my system home and have had no problems since (except that I had to take my printer back to Star Micronics to get it repaired, which they did. They now have a complete TI system at their DFW offices so that they can troubleshoot any problems that people with TI's have with their Gemini printers.

I want to thank Ross Williams, and, incidentally, TI for finally getting me back on line. I also want to thank Gregg at Star Micronics for his help.

Now, what was wrong?

Since the replacement of my system I have been reacquainting myself with my computer.

I have had a chance to experiment further, and refine my understanding of the ways in which TI-WRITER will manipulate my Gemini 10 dot-matrix printer. I have also had the opportunity to use my modem for communicating between members. Our Secretary, Richard Roberts, sent me his article for this month via modem. It was the first time I have received a file over the telephone and it was Richard's first time to send a file out that way. Works fine!

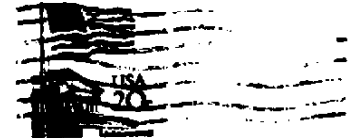
I have just discovered StarText, and am sending in my application; and, I also have membership in the Source. I would like to put together a 'directory' of those members who have accounts with various communication services, so that we could send electronic mail back and forth.

The directory I propose would only include the member's name and the service(s) and account number(s). I intend to propose that we do this at the February meeting. If you have an opinion on this proposal, please come.

END OF FILE



DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
~~Address~~
Irving, Texas 75061



FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO:

MEMBER 114 REF: 31883
RICHARD ROBERTS
~~1201 N. BR...~~
75061

THIS SPACE RESERVED
for
MEMBERS' ARTICLES