

I've got another problem with my system, so ...

**\*\*\* JUST A REMINDER !!! \*\*\***

The DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP meets this Friday  
7:00 P.M. at Northlake Community College

Hope to see you then.



Robert Hoffpauer, Editor

MAY 84

Dear Friends,

My problems persist, however, it seems to be somehow related to my home wiring, and is not in the 99/4A system. Therefore, I would like to turn over this responsibility at least until my problem is analyzed and corrected.

Despite my problem, the Program Committee has asked Ross Williams, from the TI Exchange Center, to speak to us at this month's meeting, and he has agreed.

So,...

The DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP meets this Friday (5/18) at 7:00pm at Northlake Community College (Rm: B-206) on MacArthur Blvd between Hiways 114 and 183 in Irving.

See you there.



Robert Hoffpauer, Editor

EDITOR continued from page one:

This means that major software developers will not be releasing 99/4A versions of their programs. This has been apparent to me even before the TI pullout. Leaf thru any major computer magazine not devoted to a particular machine and read the advertisements. Software companies generally do not write versions for our machine. They write versions for Commodore, they write versions for Apple, they write versions for the IBM-PC and its clones, and they will be writing versions for the Peanut and Macintosh; but, they will generally NOT be writing versions for us.

What this means for TI 99/4A users is, either (1) there will be a lot of us with expensive game machines trying to write applications individually, or (2) there will be a lot of us cooperatively creating the tools and support structures needed to realize the potentials of our machines. Since I do not have, and don't expect to have, soon, the resources to 'jump ship', I must opt for and work for the second alternative.

One of the more encouraging developments in recent days was found in the pages of the first issue of the new Home Computer Magazine (99'er). Tex-Comp is advertizing (page 137) TI-FORTH. This confirms that FORTH has indeed been released. TEX-COMP is asking over forty dollars for the software and manual, but FORTH, as I understand it, is in the public domain and can be copied freely. TI's FORTH manual may be proprietary, but if the software isn't I'm sure that copies of the manual will be as easily come by. I know that several members of our own group have had TI-FORTH for some time, and I just got my own copy (don't know how it works, but I got it). Without knowing the language, I believe that FORTH may be the key to unstopping the bottle and letting our geni's (gin?) out. It appears

to be every bit as capable as assembly language, and, without being easy, is not as tedious as assembly language. There is no reason that we in the Dallas TI Home Computer Group could not form a FORTH sub-group, of those interested in learning the language AND writing quality programs for our members and for sale to other user groups. The best way to really learn a language is to use it, and the group could write structured programs, which would increase in sophistication and utility as time passed. (Just an idea.)

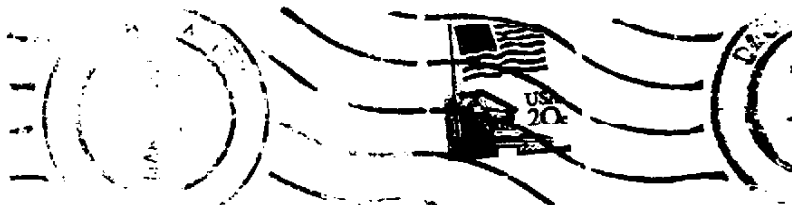
Tex-Comp, Unisource, and Terec, among other suppliers, are now offering 32K and RS-232 cards manufactured by a company named CORCOMP, whatever that stands for. This manufacturer supposedly is just about to release a bundled expansion package, including an expansion box, 32K, RS-232, and controller cards for about \$300.00. This box/package apparently does not include drives in that price. If this is so, it may soon be easier and cheaper, than it was for us 'oldtimers', for the newer TI owners to expand to a disk system. Also, this same manufacturer is rumored to be working on a successor machine to the 99/4A -- the 99/64. But rumors abound. Until some hard evidence of this development exists, we must make plans based on the 99/4.

Some other ideas: (1) establish an official relationship with TI user group in Hurst. (2) do the same with the IUE (International 99/4 User Group) and with a new 'umbrella' organization called WRUGA (Western Users Group Association). (3) encourage within our group and without the development of informal networks (such as videotext links between users and cooperative links between members with common interests as in the FORTH sub-group idea). and (4) aggressively recruit new members.

Organize, organize, organize, but always on the voluntary principle.

END OF FILE

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP  
Irving, Texas 75061



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FIRST CLASS MAIL  
\*\*\*\*\*

TO:

MEMBER 116 REF: 31883  
RICHARD ROBERTS  
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IRVING, TEX 75061

## RESOURCES

Listed here are some sources of information and support for TI 99/4A users. If any member knows of additional sources, please notify the editor.

**ENTHUSIAST '99** - This is the only magazine I know of devoted exclusively to the TI 99/4A. It is published bi-monthly by the IUG (International 99/4 Users-Group), and is available only with a membership (about \$15). The group has no official status as THE international organization. They have assumed that status on their own initiative, but they are probably the best bet for developing a national umbrella organization for TI users. From seeing three consecutive issues of their magazine, I believe that it deserves my support.

International 99/4 Users-Group  
P. O. Box 67  
Bethany, Oklahoma 73088

**HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE** - Formerly 99'er Home Computer Magazine, and formerly 99'er Magazine. I think most of us are wary of HCM. The quality and relevance of HCM had been seen by some as declining prior to the crash. Following the crash, no one heard from them until very recently, and then they did not produce quite what they had promised. Despite these reservations, and despite their shift away from exclusive coverage of the TI, I will probably renew my subscription when it comes due in two more months, simply because there are so few magazines available that cover the 99/4A (\$25).

Home Computer Magazine  
P. O. Box 5537  
Eugene, Oregon 97405

**THE SMART PROGRAMMER** - This is a sixteen-page, high-quality, technical newsletter being published monthly by Millers Graphics. This would be a must for any member wanting to get down with the nuts and bolts of the computer. Miller's Graphics has published several good game programs for the 99/4A, and also published the booklet, "Smart Programmer's Guide for Sprites," an excellent primer on sprite control and

graphics oriented to the Extended Basic Language. They began sending a free four-page newsletter to customers on their mailing list, and apparently received such a strong response they decided to make an independent venture of the newsletter. Oriented towards Extended Basic, with Assembly Language and maybe even FORTH coverage (\$12.50).

The Smart Programmer  
c/o Millers Graphics  
1475 W. Cypress Avenue  
San Dimas, California 91773

**HOME COMPUTER COMPENDIUM** - A twenty-four page, pulp newsletter published monthly (2 issues so far) here in Texas. It leans on software reviews and general articles with an emphasis on news and gossip. I say news and gossip because I don't know yet how accurate their reporting is. It is a long shot at this point that it will develop into a truly valuable resource, but if money is no problem it might be worth supporting. I bet if you write for a sample copy, they will be glad to send you one. (\$12)

Home Computer Compendium  
P. O. Box 1543  
Round Rock, Texas 78680

**STARTEXT** - A videotex service published by the Forth Worth Star Telegram. Requires RS-232 card, modem, and Terminal Emulator II. Many interesting features, but not of the caliber or scope of the Source or Comuserve; however, it doesn't cost an arm and a leg like the two national services do. For about twenty-five dollars you get three months of twenty-four hour a day access with NO USAGE CHARGES. This gives us a dandy local communication network for only eight dollars and change each month. They are currently implementing a new version (Startext III) demonstrating that they are a growing service. Between the Source and Startext, I would probably pick Startext unless I had the need for the national service; but for a casual user I personally recommend Startext.

Call metro 426-2633 for a temporary password.

## MEMBER WRITES TI COLUMN FOR STARTEXT

Richard Roberts, whose column as group secretary appears above, is now writing a weekly column on the STARTEXT videotex service. His column is found by keying in the "TI2" command at the request prompt. So far he has written two columns — one on the availability of help (my article last month) from Ross Williams at the TI Exchange Center, and one on uploading text files to the Startext service. Both were excellently written and informative articles. My compliments, Richard. I hope to see more people (members and non-members) joining the service and contributing to the two TI columns and the new TICHAT feature for TI 99/4A users. Such a medium can offer valuable communication ability for the development of inforeal networks thru subscriber written columns, electronic mail between subscribers, and chat features. My best wishes to Richard in his undertaking, and my help wherever I can contribute.

THIS SPACE (and more) RESERVED

for

MEMBERS' ARTICLES

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE: Glen Ashe

We have several requests to make to the membership this month. First, we have tons of programs that need to be looked at. We don't know what they do, whether they work, if so, how they work, or what equipment is needed to make them work. We need members to volunteer to look at these programs and report back on their findings and make recommendations. (This is a good way to build your library). Second, we need to find members having documentation for the following programs. The library needs to copy your documentation so that it can be available to members who wish to see a particular program.

The programs needing documentation are:

- Any and all Scott Adams Adventure Games
- Congo-Bongo
- Cubit
- Hopper
- Beyond Parsec
- Wizard's Dominion
- Ring Wraith's Lair
- Futura Word Processor

Anyone having this documentation please contact me at the meeting. Also, the library needs blank cassette tapes. If you have extra tapes that you do not need (you say have upgraded to disk), please donate them to the library so that we can make tape versions available to members not having disk.

Send letters or articles to:

R. L. Hoffpauer  
P. O. Box 400  
Richardson, Texas 75080

or: via STARTEXT: 41547  
via the SOURCE: TI3700