

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP  
OCTOBER, 1984

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

>>> NEXT MEETING: Friday, 19 October, 1984 <<<

President: Robert Bayne  
Vice-President: Keith Althar (STARTEXT: 49530)  
Secretary: Richard Roberts (SOURCE: TI3552; STARTEXT: 7772)  
Treasurer: Earl Bullock  
Editor: Robert Lee Hoffpauer (SOURCE: TI3700; STARTEXT: 51547)

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 you are invited to attend our next meeting or send a SASE to: DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, ~~2222~~, Irving, Texas 75061.  
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NEXT MEETING: Dan Johnson

At this Friday's meeting we will have Mr. Steve Roubik as our guest. He will be demonstrating the Super Sketch graphics pad. We said we would find him, and we did. I think this will be a good one not to miss. See you there!

LOST & FOUND: a TI Business Analyst II calculator -- see Robert Hoffpauer at the meeting.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Richard Roberts

Last month's meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was on September 21, 1984. The meeting was brought to order by club vice-president, Keith Althar. The minutes from the August meeting were read by club secretary, Richard Roberts.

Dan Johnson, program director, then introduced the speaker for the evening, Robert Hoffpauer (newsletter editor). Since Robert has been handling the duties of the newsletter editor for quite a few months now, he has become very proficient in the use of TI-WRITER's FORMATEP. He proceeded to present, and explain, many of the "dot commands" which are used by the word processing program. One of the hardest to understand is Transliteration, but Robert explained it in such a way as to make it seem rather easy. Especially nice was his explanation of the header file he created, which allows him to start any file with a pre-defined set of Transliteration commands to choose from. This gives him quick and accurate control over the operation of the printer, without having to "re-invent the wheel" each time. What was intended to be a 30 minute presentation turned into an hour and a half, due to the many questions that were put to him. I think that is a testament to the fact that TI-WRITER is a more complex program than we sometimes give it credit for. All in all, it was a most needed presentation, and was handled very well by Robert. Thanks a lot!

HOW TO WRITE A REVIEW: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

How many pieces of equipment do all our members own? How many commercial software packages? How many books on the TI? While I will admit that there are few major releases of new merchandise for our home computers, many of our members may not be aware of that super-duper what-cha-na-jigger that you use every time you power up. Let us know about it. You are the expert on the book you just read, or the programming technique you just spent two weeks figuring out. Let the rest of us in on the secret!

An easy way to share your big discovery is to review a product for this newsletter. "How easy is that?" you ask. Easy enough that I'm going to tell you how to do it. So get off your duff and write us a review of your favorite game.

A review, just like a letter, needs a heading. The sample headings, below, has five elements: (1) a title for the review, with your name, (2) the name of the product being reviewed, (3) the author/publisher or manufacturer, (4) the publisher's or manufacturer's address, and (5) a price.

ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE BOOK REVIEW: Robert Lee Hoffbauer

Title: Fundamentals of TI-99/4A Assembly Language  
Author: M. S. Morley  
Publisher: TAB Books, Inc. (1984) Blue Ridge Summit, Pennsylvania 17214  
Price: \$11.50

Among the host of recently released books about the 99/4A, I have found what seems to be an excellent introduction to writing assembly language programs for our home computers. I must caution the reader that I am not an assembly language programmer, and that my opinion of this book is therefore only an impression; however, I have reviewed the book as thoroughly as I can with my limited understanding and believe that this is a volume that belongs on my bookshelf (I intend to learn). This book, while specifically targeted for systems using the NINI-Memory module, contains a wealth of general introductory material that applies to Editor/Assembler programming, as well

The text is some two hundred and thirteen pages, with an additional ninety-odd pages of appendices and an index. The text is organized into fourteen chapters, divided into three sections: Part I - Fundamental Concepts, Part II - The 9900 and the TI-99/4A Home Computer, and Part III - Programs. The first five chapters (Part I) are a generic introduction to assembly language and an overview of the basic concepts needed to understand assembly language. The next three chapters (part II) zero in on assembly language concepts for the home computer. The final six chapters (Part III) are the meat of this book (about 140 pages), in which the reader is taken by the hand and coached gradually thru the process of writing assembly language programs. By the end of Part III, the reader will have written forty-six short programs, including mathematical operations, string operations, and system utility operations.

My only reservation regarding this book is its orientation toward the Mini-Memory module, rather than the Editor/Assembler; however, the concepts are the same, and many of the programs will possibly run from the E/A with little or no modification. I think that Fundamentals of TI-99/4A Assembly Language by M. S. Morley should be second on the list of assembly language tutorials, after buying Steve Davis Publishing's assembly book - Assembly Language for the TI HOME COMPUTER by Ralph Holsworth.

EDITOR/ASSEMBLER: Robert Lee Hoffbauer

Firstly, and, lastly, this is a short newsletter, and it's late. Enough said.

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