DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
AUGUST, 1985

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

>>> NEXT MEETING: Friday, 16 August, 1985 <<<

President: Richard Roberts (SOURCE: TI3552; STARTEXT: 8762)
Vice-President: Dan Johnsen
Secretary: Louis Guion (STARTEXT: 77536)
Treasurer: Earl Bullock
Editor: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

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, ⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛⬛ Irving, Texas 75061.
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PRESIDENT'S SCREENDUMP: Richard Roberts

The dogdays of summer are upon us now, and already our thoughts are turning to SNOW. Wouldn't that be a wonderful relief! Well, we all know that's not going to happen, so let's turn our thoughts to something real, the August User Group meeting.

The program this month will be a dual one, once again, but we are going to modify it from our past attempts at two programs. The plan is to have a short program at the beginning which will cover BASIC programming concepts. This portion of the program is scheduled to last no more than 30-45 minutes, and will be an on-going process, whereby the concepts covered at one meeting will be expanded on at the next. Robert Hoffpauer will present this program each month for the next several months, and will perhaps have more to say about it later in the newsletter.

Then, the second part of the August meeting will be spent reviewing GRAPHX, a graphics generation program which was not adequately demonstrated previously.

Hopefully, this style of monthly program will satisfy the needs of novice and experienced computer user alike. It is something that the Executive Board has discussed at great length, in order to meet the needs of as many members as possible. If anyone has further ideas, or comments, I would certainly be glad to hear from you, as would any other club officer. Please speak up, and let us know your thoughts.

Congratulations to the raffle winners last month. Jacgene Osborne won the software raffle, and chose the Teach Yourself Basic cassettes. And finally, we were able to hold the disk drive raffle, and it was won by David Martin.

Remember, the raffle is open to anyone in attendance, member or guest, and is entered by enclosing a $1 donation in an envelope, and dropping it in the raffle box at the sign-in table. Be sure to write your name on the envelope, and feel free to make as many donations as you like. Envelopes are available at the sign-in table.

The items listed below will be offered for the August raffle, from which the winner may choose one item.

> ADVENTURE module, Scott Adams (cassette version)

> MULTIPLAN spreadsheet program

> Adventure Editor program

For those members on the Executive Board, the next meeting will be Saturday, September 7. It will begin at 1:00 pm, at Louis Guion's house. I would like to point out that this meeting is not closed to other club members, if there are
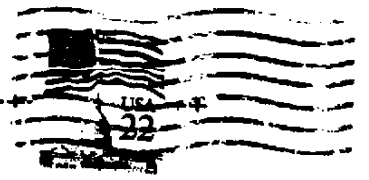
Don't worry that you will fail to include something crucial -- you probably will. But by going through the steps outlined above you will probably forget fewer critical elements than if you hadn't gone to the trouble to make the list in the first place.

After you have done this, still using your pencil, but using a few more sheets of paper, draw some rough sketches of any output (including display screens) that you have listed, above.   These don't need to be elaborate, but should give the general sense of the spacing of the different elements.   Graph paper can be handy, but is not essential.

If you will be reading from, or writing to disk or tape files, you should layout the structure of the records in each file used.   Decide how many fields each record will contain, and whether a particular field will contain numeric or alphabetic data.   Decide whether the data should be kept in internal or display format.   This usually depends on whether the data will be displayed on the screen or used only in internal calculations.   Decide whether the records are to be of fixed length or variable length.   This depends on whether the data in the record fields will be of variable length.   Finally, decide what the maximum length of each record will be.   Add up the number of alphabetic characters, add one for each alphabetic field, and add eight for each numeric field.

Now, put it all away, and fix yourself a glass of lemonade, or mow the lawn -- it probably needs it, mine does. Sleep on it.   Then go back and review what you've done.   If you think you have covered all the bases, then you are ready to start designing the program.   Notice that I did not say that you were ready to start coding the program, but designing it.   More on this aspect of programming next month.

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