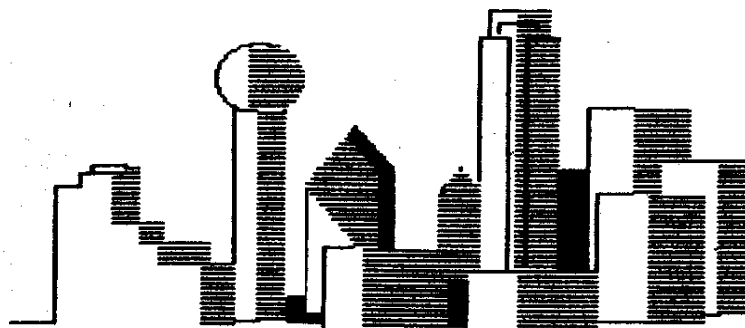


DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP  
PO Box 29863  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75229



## DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 8, Number 4

April 6, 1988

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  
PO Box 29863  
Dallas, Texas 75229

**NEXT MEETING:**  
Saturday, April 16, 1988  
The Dallas INFOMART

99er Connection BBS  
24 Hours, 300/1200 Baud  
214-272-2786

### ----- April Highlights -----

**Meeting Day:**

**Special SIG:** PEB Prototype Card  
**Main Program:** TI-IBM Interface  
**Software SIG:** Unique Uses for  
TI-Writer

**Inside the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE:**

Coming Events  
Group Meeting Information  
Program Committee Report  
MiniSIG and Next Step Reports  
Software SIG Overview  
Fat Cat's Tales  
Heard on the Bus  
Five Years Ago  
CEO/FICS  
User Profile: Mike Stanfill  
Funnyweb Farm  
and more...

**NEXT-STEP Workshop:**

Friday, April 29, 5:15 pm

FIRST CLASS



April 1988

## SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

----- APRIL -----

4/16/88            INFOMART Meetings  
           9:00 am    Special SIG: Wilforth PEB prototype card.  
           10:00 am    Main Meeting: The TI-IBM connection.  
           1:00 pm    Software SIG: Unique applications of TI-Writer.

4/23/88            Executive Committee Meeting  
           1:00 pm    Officers  
           2:30 pm    Committee Chairmen

4/24/88    2:00 pm    + # MiniSIG: Graphics Orientation

4/27/88    6:00 pm    Newsletter Deadline

4/29/88    5:15 pm    # Next Step Workshop: Wyatt's at Beltline and Josey.

4/30/88            Texas TI-Faire: Holiday Inn, Richardson.

----- May -----

5/14/88            INFOMART Meetings  
           9:00 am    Software SIG: Telecommunications for the novice.  
           10:00 am    Main Meeting: TI-Artist screen dump program.  
           1:00 pm    Hardware SIG: Tips on disk management.

5/21/88            Executive Committee Meeting  
           1:00 pm    Officers  
           2:30 pm    Committee Chairmen

5/22/88    2:00 pm    #+ MiniSig: Using the 99er Connection BBS.

5/24/88    6:00 pm    #+ MiniSIG: Telecommunications, hands-on!

5/25/88    6:00 pm    Newsletter Deadline

5/27/88    5:15 pm    Next Step Workshop

## NOTES:

\$ = Attendance Fee

# = DTIHCG Membership Required

+ = Reservations Required

SIG = S(pecial) I(nterest) G(roup)

Dallas TI Home Computer Group

Program Schedule - INFOMART

April 16, 1988

9:00 - 9:55 The Wilforth PEB Prototype Card

10:00 - 11:55 Main Meeting

          10:00 - 10:30 Business Meeting

          10:30 - 11:30 The TI-IBM Connection

          11:30 - 11:55 New Member / Guest Orientation Session

12:00 - 12:55 LUNCH BREAK

          1:00 - 2:55 Unique Applications of TI-Writer

Meeting room numbers can be obtained at our booth, or check the master list posted on the two overhead projectors, located just past the Registration booths. Children under age 16 MUST remain with their parents at all times, in accordance with INFOMART regulations!

All meetings will begin promptly on the hour, since other groups may be scheduled to use the room after us. Please be on time.

-----  
ATTENTION PURCHASERS OF THE MARCH DISK-OF-THE-MONTH

The March D-O-M was inadvertently copied using the wrong disk format (for most of you, anyway). If you are unable to read your copy, please bring it to the April meeting for exchange!

The Dallas TI Home Computer Group features a wide variety of meetings, held throughout each month. One or more of these is bound to be just the one for which you're looking.

#### MAIN MEETING AT INFOMART:

This meeting has a little bit of everything. We open with a short business meeting and announcements, follow with an audience participation "open forum," present an informative program on preannounced topics and wrap it up with merchandise sales and new member/visitor orientation.

#### SIG MEETINGS AT INFOMART:

Topics of a little narrower range of interest are presented in these Special Interest Group Meetings. Two such meetings are held each month, one preceding the main meeting at 9:00 am and the other following the lunch hour at 1:00 pm. Subjects include application software, hardware, programming and other fascinating topics.

#### MINISIG MEETINGS:

For "hands-on" sessions and in depth looks at literally ANY subject, MiniSiG meetings are held at members homes or businesses throughout the Dallas area. Generally at least one of these meetings is planned and scheduled by the group during each month. Additional meetings may be held at

any time by any member with adequate enthusiasm for the topic; the group stands ready to help you find and contact people with like interests.

#### NEXT STEP WORKSHOPS:

Originally a MiniSiG, the NEXT STEP has taken on a life of its own. This is the informal meeting at which to get you questions answered, your hardware problems diagnosed (and probably fixed), to get to talk casually with the "experts" and, often, to eat! Many of the NEXT STEP meetings are held in cafeteria meeting rooms; bring your appetite and help us buy enough food to pay for the room.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held the Saturday following the INFOMART meetings (generally at the presidents house), these are the meetings where the real planning and execution of group business take place. DON'T miss 'em if you are a group officer or committee chairman; Rip almost always finds a new and exciting place for us to eat after the meeting...

#### SOCIAL MEETINGS:

As if we didn't eat enough at the other meetings, several times a year the group sponsors social meetings combined with DINNER! Each has been different, each has been GREAT! Watch for announcement of the next one.



#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Jim Stewart

----- graphic  
simulations. Outstanding, Thierry! John Guion taught us everything we need to know about Archiving, and he knows his stuff so well he actually makes it look easy.

My "Ran Disk for Beginners" probably bored everyone else, but the "Boot" program (even without a Ram Disk) is helping me a lot. I have a two DSSD set that gives me both Super Disk and Funnelweb at the touch of a key or two, and I have another 2 disk set with all my business letters and programs, that used to be spread over 10 different disks. Because I have drives 1 and 2 really loaded, I needed a scratch drive to hold my TI Writer letters long enough to get them printed by the Formatter. While considering the cost of a 3rd drive, I thought about "CS1". If someone knows how to save from TIW to "CS1" you'd have a free 3rd drive. Instead I made one menu choice "SUB MENU by A.W. STUMP", which adds 6 more programs available at a key press, yet leaving me 200 sectors on my

Thierry Weber captivated us March 12th with his Astronomy program, showing fascinating computational skills along with very clever

DSK2. as a TI WRITER Scratch File, I repeatedly use and over-write. Think how much fun I'd be having if I actually had a real RAM DISK!

April 16th John Creviston will explore what the PEB Prototype Card can be designed to accomplish. David Axberg has agreed to demonstrate for us how he transfers files between IBM and the TI 99/4a, including the RAVE keyboard. Our past TI Writer programs have always been very popular, so be sure to attend Jon Hodges presentation on unique ways this fine program is being used by our fellow members, helping you broaden your TIW horizons.

In future months we will probe "Telecommunications for Beginners", Data Bases, a symphony of tiny programs, and find ways the VCR can be utilized with our computer. If you think some of our programs are being slanted more towards the "non-techie", you are absolutely right. Our gifted inner core know how to solve their own problems, and fortunately for the rest of us, find rewarding satisfaction in sharing their knowledge and helping repair others hardware and software. This is the real power driving the Dallas TI Home Computer Users Group. Thanks...techie. We salute you....with all five thumbs!!!



MINISIG REPORT  
Tom Hall

The ADVENTURE GAME MiriSiG was not well attended. Where were all you folks who told me that this was such a great idea? At any rate, if I am ever lost in the jungle I sure want to have Thierry and Rip along. They both proved their skills in getting around in the ADVENTURE GAMES.

SUNDAY, April 24th, 2 - 5 PM,  
GREG JUSTICE - Host.

The topic is: GRAPHICS ORIENTATION - There will be demo programs and some "how to's" in programming. Although it is not required, you may bring your printer (and cable) to this MiniSiG. Be sure and sign up at the INFOMART or let me know via the 99er CONNECTION.

SUNDAY, May 22nd, 2 - 5 PM,  
DTIHCG COMMUNICATIONS CENTRAL,  
DAN JOHNSEN - Host.

The Topic is "Using the 99er Connection BBS". Demonstrations will use either Fast Term or TELCO; if you have another, favorite terminal emulator program, bring it along. Refreshments will be prominently featured. Be sure and sign up, attendance will be limited. When you sign up, I will have a map for you (prepared by

As a companion to the Sunday meeting there will be a meeting the following Tuesday, May 24th, 6 - 9:30 PM, at the Guion residence. This is a hands-on introduction to basic tele-communications for beginners and novices. If you are thinking of buying a MODEM or have one you aren't using, this is for you!

This Basic Tele-communications SIG will be followed, at a later date, with a SIG for the intermediate and advanced level user.

I am looking for a host and SIG Leader for a MiniSiG on COMPUTER BASICS (featuring the 4A). This MiniSiG will look at care/feeding of your system, backups, what does it mean - when??? and other good stuff.



For those of you who did not attend the NEXT-STEP at St. Mark's School, you can rest easy! Out NEXT STEP WORKSHOP of consideration of where he was, Louis Guion never once put his hands on a PE-Box and said "HEAL!". Mike Stanfill told not ore joke, Needless to say, the club was invited to make a return visit. (SEE "NEXT STEP, page 7)

"NEXT STEP" (continued from page 6)  
ANGELA and CAROLYN were gracious hostesses and the Computer Lab at St. Mark's is a perfect place to have a meeting. Our objective, in this meeting, was to see if Angela had any problems with which we could help. And no one was bored. Angela had some project within the abilities of each person. Angela was the busiest person there, keeping the projects (and a dozen conversations) going. Everyone was challenged. This was a shining hour for DTIHCG.

St. Mark's Computer Lab needs EXTENDED BASIC MODULES and single side, full height disk drives. If you have any extras get in touch with Angela or a club officer.

On Friday, April 29th, the NEXT-STEP will be back at WYATT's on Jossy at Beltline. Starting time is around 5:15. Plan to eat and mark your ticket, "DTIHCG". We must guarantee WYATT's \$75.00 in food sales, in order to get to use the meeting room. - SEE YOU THERE!



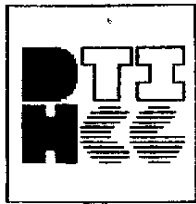
SOFTWARE SIG  
Jon Hodges

TI-WRITER has got to be one of the most useful (and most used) programs for the 99/4A ever put out by Texas Instruments.

mailmerge for customizing letters? Did you know you can have indents appear in your Editor files? That feature is very useful in writing newsletter columns. There are also special purpose programs designed to manipulate the data in your TI-WRITER files to make mailing lists, multiple-column printing, etc. The list goes on.

But do we use it to its capacity? We all (I hope) know how to use TI-WRITER to write notes and letters to ourselves and others. But many of us balked at learning to use the Formatter commands until forced to (what? You're still not using the Formatter? Well, read on, oh timid one). That leads me to suspect that there are aspects of TI-WRITER that not everybody is familiar with. For instance, how many of us really understand the power of the TRANSLITERATE command? How many of us ever availed ourselves of the MAILMERGE features? For instance, did you know that you do not have to have a mailing list set up to use

To help you timid types learn more about TI-WRITER, as well as the rest of us who need a refresher course, this month I will be hosting a SHOW'N-TELL of various unusual uses of TI-WRITER. What I would like to do for this meeting is take a look at many of the advanced functions of TI-WRITER and then allow members to demonstrate how they use(d) TI-WRITER. So if you have a sample of an advanced implementation of TI-WRITER you can show us, bring it (preferably on disk and on paper). And if you would like to learn more about using TI-WRITER, come to the 1:00 meeting, and BRING YOUR MANUAL! See you there!



FAT CAT'S TALE  
Rip Dowling

TI-99/4As are alive and well in Plano! In fact: some have risen from the dead thanks to the efforts of several of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group.

Friday, Feb. 25th saw the grounds of St. Mark's school in Plano stormed by the friendly assault of TI'ers with the tools and talent to fix an impressive array of busted and malfunctioning hard and software. A total of eight consoles were restored to life along with three P-boxes, a disk drive, a flex-cable, a video modulator, and a power brick. Two programs were debugged much to the surprise of the debuggers.

Piled on top of all that thar fixin' there whar also a lot of larnin' goin' on. There were demos of several of the utilities and some games to the teachers of the school, as well as a start to finish tutorial on TI Writer. All told, about \$1000 worth of hardware repairs and service combined with a lot of invaluable informatior was supplied to the community as a public service. The club can really be proud of the efforts of all the members who helped out and lent their support. A special Presidential citation and a good mark by the patron saint of computers goes to Charlice Althar, John Guion, Louis Guion, Tom Fall, Mike Stanfill, Greg Justice, Jon Hodges and Walter Pearson for their extra efforts at St. Mark's.

As a treat for the members in attendance, there was a demo of the club's new letter quality printer being used for the newsletter. In addition to making some new friends, the group has found a super facility for some types of "hands on" mini-sigs. It was a very rewarding evening.

Way back on March 12, (remember that far back?) we had a very well attended INFOMART meeting that featured, in the morning SIC, the irrepresible Jim Stewart cemonstrating the use of the horizon RAM disk for beginners by a beginner. Jim also showed us the HRD clone, Boot, a software ard much less expensive option for folks without true HRDs.

Thierry Weber showed us his very impressive astronomy program for the main meeting. It combines a lot of ingenuity with loads of research and programming expertise. It is especially easy to recognize Thierry's extra effort when ore realizes that is was done in his second national language.

The afternoon special interest meeting had John Guion demonstrating the use and misuse of Archiver II. John had an easy going, laid back presentation that showed us what the program could do as well as discovering a few things it would not do. Exploring the limits of a program like that was a good lesson for lots of us that are often afraid we're going to "hurt" something.  
(SEE "CAT", page 9)

"CAT" (continued from page 8)

The Potluck Projects Dinner, last Sunday, was a real treat. We've got some folks doing some mighty interesting things with their 'lil orphans. Some of the projects were unveiled for the first time and some were improvements to ongoing efforts which were somewhat familiar to us. We also got a few sneak previews on new projects that are still in the works and should be completed shortly, our very own vaporware. Naturally all the fixin's were great and the take-home menus disappeared like magic. Lots of new stuff to try on the range as well as for the 'puter.

Coming up this Saturday at INFOMART we're going to hear from good 'ole John Creviston on the Willforth PEB Prototype card for the morning meeting, and a discussion of the TI-ibm (oops, I

mean IBM) connection by Dave Axberg for the main meeting. Maybe we can help save big blue from all those evil foreigners. The afternoon meeting will be a discussion and presentation of some unique TI-Writer applications by Jon Hodges. This is a lead in to exploring some avenues toward desktop publishing for the TI, and should be very interesting.

We had a busy, profitable and fulfilling first quarter. By the looks of the plans for the rest of the year we will all be busy learning and exploring with each other and our infamous TIs.

Don't forget the TEXAS TI-FAIRE coming up April 30, at the Holiday Inn on North Central Expressway in Richardson. It's an all day shindig that should be worth checking out.



HEARD ON THE BUS  
Louis Guion

My, my, how quickly the wind direction changes from California!

Last month there was all good news to report on the GRAND RAM front. Cards had been made and shipped. Our twelve GRAND RAMs, ordered and paid for in advance on September 30th last year, were to be shipped from the next batch. Our investment of \$2,873.80 was about to become twelve real,

hold-in-your-hand, P-Box cards. This from one of the co-owners of Databiotics, no less. Straight to member John Creviston.

Well, now, for that wind-shift I mentioned. On Saturday, March 26th, I got a letter from Databiotics' Mike Evanba: who signs as their Marketing Manager. It is undated (an oversight?) and has no telephone number (on purpose?). It begins, "We have reason to believe that you have recently sent money to Galen Read of Innovative Programming for one or more GRAND (SEE "BUS", page 10)

"BUS" (continued from page 9)  
 RAM PEB cards." What a startling insight, especially since, at the request of Bill Moseid (the other co-owner), our club had furnished Moseid with copies of our cancelled check in a letter dated December 11th. Oh, yes, Bill Moseid had also promised member David Moore, in a telephone call held sometime in the last week of November, that Databiotics would be filling all of Innovative's orders for the GRAND RAMs.

To digress for a moment, it sure seems suspect that Databiotics, having known that something funny was going on as early as late November, when David Moore talked to Bill Moseid, waits four months before writing all these letters and demanding all these things. Funnier still when you think that Databiotics has been saying for these months that we were not to worry, that Databiotics would be filling all the orders. By Christmas, yet!

To continue, Evanbar goes on through two paragraphs taking the position that Innovative Programming is not connected with Databiotics other than as an independent dealer and consultant and then turns around and steps on his own argument by asserting that Innovative did not report GRAND RAM sales to him. He blows away the assertion that Innovative is an independent by then saying that Databiotics has demanded, yes demanded, an accounting from Galen Read for all monies collected.

Evanbar repeats this act in a copy of a letter he enclosed to Innovative, dated March 7th, in which he again has a paragraph saying that Innovative is independent from Databiotics. In this letter he tries to disassociate Databiotics from a phone number commonly used by BOTH of the companies. Innovative's ads carried a "TECHNICAL HOTLINE" number that is 100% identical to the TECHNICAL HOTLINE number carried on DATABIOTICS own Private Fall Preview Sale flyer, issued last year. On this Databiotics flyer, directly mailed to myself and to other club members, these TECHNICAL HOTLINE numbers are the only phone numbers anywhere in the four page flyer. Surely they advertised their own (Databiotice) phone number, and not that of an independent company when they printed THEIR flyer?

To attempt to separate their businesses now by sending copies of letters that they wrote strikes me more as weaseling out from under promises made verbally by the owners to our club members and others who called. Promises to ship our GRAND RAMs and let the other chips fall where they may! Evanbar, in his letter to Innovative makes the demand I told you of, "We demand that you forthwith remit either the balance of monies received along with an accounting so that we can ship the produce, or return all monies received." This hardly sounds like a demand that one would place on an (SEE "BUS", page 1)

"BUS" (continued from page 10)  
 independent business, does it? So I must conclude that Databiotics, as shown by their letting Innovative use their phone number and by placing "cements" on Innovative, are both one and the same and inseparable.

I therefore conclude that we are still owed the twelve GRAND RAMs we paid for and that I don't care at all which faction makes the shipment! But, perhaps I'm too hasty as Databiotics' Evanbar, who says that Innovative sent them \$1500 to cover the orders they had accepted, offers to either pro-rate the money received towards our PURCHASE of GRAND RAMs from Databiotics or that Databiotics will actually return the pro-rata amount to us. Not a very generous offer considering that both owners promised two of our members that Databiotics would be taking the responsibility and would be shipping our GRAND RAMs. If \$1500 is all they have recovered, and if they got other orders than our \$2,873.90, then we are in a world of hurt. If there were 250 GRAND RAMs sold, a not unreasonable number, that would mean our share would be \$6 per GRAND RAM. Think about it a while.

I think that if Databiotics thinks about it a while they will see that for the money involved here they could not possibly BUY all the bad publicity, hard feeling, investigation by the Attorney General, visits by the Postal Inspectors, and calls from

the Better Business Bureau that this position can generate. They could not possibly imagine what this position could do to their standing in the small and clannish TI-99/4A world. Perhaps they are looking for new fields to conquer? This might be the perfect way to crack the VIC-20 market, or to make a name in the ADAM world, but it sure won't help their standing in this market.

Like I implied last month, a few of those folks on the West Coast sure listen to a different drummer. I think my drummer better play the "COD Song" from now on. That way, even if it didn't work, AT LEAST I'D HAVE IT IN MY HOT LITTLE HAND!

On another note, Cy Leonard of Safety Harbor, Florida, says, "I am pleased to report Barry Boone was on the Swap Shop (BBS)..... and has advised he will be on Spring Break..... and hopes to finish ARCHIVER Ver 3. This will be a one/step operation. It will compress without having to go through the dual process...."

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#### MORE SOFTWARE ARRIVES

Tom Hall notes that the latest group order from Great Lakes Software has arrived. Please see Tom if you didn't pick up your copies of CERTIFICATE 99, EXTENDED BUSINESS GRAPHICS or BANNER 99 at the April 10th "Show and Tell" extravaganza.

----- MEMBERSHIP SERVICES -----

99er CONNECTION BBS:

Fire up your modem and call 214-272-278E. The group BBS answers both 300 and 1200 baud, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Be sure to let the SysOp know if you are a new DTHCC member...

STUFF FOR SALE:

Each month a new Disk-Of-the-Month, packed with a little something for everyone is available at group meetings for \$3.00 each. A limited number of "back issues" may be available, be sure to check with the D-O-M chairman.

Blank diskettes are also available for purchase at most group functions. These high quality, generic diskettes may cost a nickel more than the "junk stuff," but they ALMOST NEVER give you any problems; if they do the Diskette Sales Chairman will ABSOLUTELY NEVER give you any problem exchanging one!

Other "minor" hardware (CROM ports, keyboards, power supplies, cables, etc) are also available to members at most meetings. See the "Material Distribution" chairman to get the going rate on the things you need.

As opportunities arise, the group often sponsors "mass purchases" of major items of hardware. Watch this section of the newsletter and stay awake at the meetings to find out what the current "buy" is.

HARDWARE LOAN:

A limited number of 99/4A consoles and acoustic modems (you thought they were all gone, didn't you?) are available for loan to members who experience equipment failures. The Hardware Custodian doesn't carry this stuff around with him though, so be sure to give him a call BEFORE the meeting to let him know your needs.

"PEOPLE SERVICES":

The Recruitment Committee is always on the lookout for new and better ways to let potential members know we exist. If you have a suggestion or (better yet) can lend a hand, give the chairman a call.

The Membership Committee handles enrollment of new members and distribution of information to guests and new members alike, as well as providing services to our existing members. If you're new, check with the Membership Chairman if you need a little assistance; if you've been around for a while, give him a hand in welcoming our guests and new members. That's one of the things that got you to sign up, isn't it?

Our Volunteer Coordinator has a multitude of thankless tasks. Each meeting requires organization of who is bringing what, who will help with the set up and tear down, to say nothing of notification to the membership. If the chairman asks for your help, give it cheerfully; better yet, volunteer BEFORE she has to ask!



FIVE YEARS AGO  
Richard Roberts

APRIL 1983 -

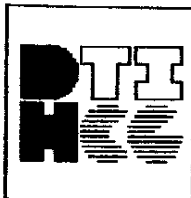
Several important milestones were reached during this month. One brought an end to an era, and the other was a new beginning.

First, April's meeting was to be the last held at the University of Dallas, the location of the User Group almost from its inception two years earlier. In my opinion, humble as it may be, it was a sad time indeed, as the basement room in Gorman Hall had proved to be a great meeting place. This was probably due, in large part, to the fact that there was a 99/4 console at virtually every seat. This room was the school's Mathematics lab, and the center of its computer department, and as such, provided a virtual "heaven" for us neophytes, adult and child alike. On the downside, it was hard for the president to maintain

any semblance of order, as it was sooooo tempting to pop in a cartridge that you had never played before, and flail away at it with total disregard for your neighbor's attention span. Yes indeed, it was the end of an era.

For new beginnings, the main meeting presentation provided us with a first look at Microsoft Multiplan. Due to equipment failure (sounds familiar, doesn't it!), we were not able to see it demonstrated on the computer. However, due to arrangements made the prior month, a number of the members had already been introduced to Multiplan, courtesy of Jin Erwin's Office Supply. We met at their location and had a very productive overview of the program, albeit not via the 99/4A, but rather the newly released Pegasus, or TI-PRO.

Next month: On to Northlake College.



CEOTICS  
Jim Leshner

The bubbles are back, says a scientist at Carnegie-Mellon's Magnetics Technology Center.

The future of high density memories is in magnetic bubble technology. At present, about 4mb can be put on a chip the size of a thumbnail. He believes in less than ten years, one gigabit can occupy the same place. The

great advantage over the laser disk is, much less bulk and no moving mechanical parts.

In another university microbiologists are using magnetoactive bacteria. The bacteria use five tiny magnets to navigate by, measuring .000001811 inch each. Scientists are extracting these micro magnets and implanting them in a semiconductor wafer. At present the system is a read only, further research is under way.

## ----- THE LIBRARY CORNER -----

## DTIHCG MEMBER PROFILE: MIKE STANFILL

## SOFTWARE LIBRARY:

A copy of the DTIHCG Software Library catalog may be obtained from the librarian in one of the following formats. Copies are free, but you must provide blank diskettes to replace those you are given:

- 6 SSSD diskettes
- 3 DSSD diskettes
- Printed copy (by prior arrangement, only)

Programs are provided by COMPLETE disk only for a service charge of \$2.00 per disk (you provide the diskette) or \$3.00 per disk (we provide diskette, mailer and postage). Additionally, the group schedules periodic meetings at which you may copy as many disks as you wish for one, "flat" fee.

As of 12/12/87, there were over 235 diskettes in our library. Members are encouraged to donate copies of public domain or freeware programs at any time; please see the software librarian to do so.

Many programs are also available (or can be made available) on cassette. See the librarian for more information.

## CARTRIDGE LIBRARY:

Over 70 DIFFERENT software cartridges are available for a one month checkout from our cartridge librarian! This service is an excellent way to try out some of these titles that are not

available in any other format, before you buy a copy of your own. See the cartridge librarian during normal group meetings to get an up-to-the-minute list and check out your personal favorite.

As with the other DTIHCG libraries, members are encouraged to contribute modules that they find are no longer being used. Especially appreciated are those with complete, intact, original documentation.

## ADVENTURE LIBRARY:

Like the cartridge library, our Adventure Library works on a one month checkout basis. Original, complete versions of these programs are available for you to try before you purchase your OWN copy. See the Adventure Librarian for a complete list of the games currently available.

A limited number of adventures are also available in cassette form!

## NEWSLETTER LIBRARY:

Our newsletter library is unique because Mike Stanfill, our librarian, has taken all the work out of it for you! His compilations of the "Best Of the Newsletters" are broken down by major topics of interest. See Mike to find out what is currently available and check out one of these fine collections on a monthly basis. Tell him you read about it in a newsletter...

Mike Stanfill has been a member of the DTIHCG since November of 1984. He is currently serving the group in the capacity of Newsletter Librarian, a position that he invented. He has taken the "best of the best" from all of the newsletters the club receives from other user groups and combined the articles into separate folders, each pertaining to a specific topic of interest.

Born in Gainesville, Texas, Mike has lived all his life in the metroplex, and has resided in Dallas for the past 10 years. He is self-employed, working as a commercial artist and illustrator. His business cards read: Mike "STANFILLUSTRATION" Stanfill. He uses his 99/4A, which he has owned since 1983, to create "personalized invoices" for his customers. Mike utilizes GRAPH-X to create graphics on the invoices for that "personal touch".

Other than for work, Mike uses his 99/4A for "relaxation", stating that, "It is a very controlled world" to work in. Mike also says that he doesn't really have any hobbies, but that his work is his hobby. Mike also uses the aforementioned GRAPH-X package to create the member pictures that appear in the Dallas 99 Interface.

Mike does quite a bit of programming on his 4A, mostly in Extended Basic, although he has dabbled in Assembly Language a bit.

Mike's trademark is the TINYGRAM, an invention of his that he describes as "a program that is viewable on one screen (24 rows by 28 columns)". Mike has made several contributions to the group's newsletter, including TINYGRAM listings, programming hints, and a goodly supply of his famous (or infamous) sense of humor. Mike has also stepped forward to present programs to group members and visitors, and is a rare treat to watch in action!

The aspects Mike likes most about the DTIHCG are "the fabulous babes, and the large discount we get on blue jumpsuits". As for other clubs or organizations of which Mike is a member, he sites that he has helped with the plight of the unwed mothers (he helps them get their start). Other than that, he is a member of the Dallas Society of Visual Communication (DSVC), a group created and supported by Graphic Illustrators and Commercial Artists.

Among the awards Mike has won: He has achieved the honor of becoming a Boy Scout First Class, he won a TOPS Award for Illustration, and he placed 3rd in the Computer Shopper's National Programming Contest in the Extended Basic category.

Mike is 33, and his philosophy is "Love, peace, and universal spirituality for all Mankind". His personal Motto: Never kill people. No foolin'!





FUNNYWEB FARM  
Mike Stanfill

-----  
to set the  
record straight:

I was born in a cabin and taught myself to program by candlelight after all of the chores had been done. I married my childhood sweetheart but would have preferred marrying a woman as dogs are terrible cooks! We currently live in a storm-drain outside the incorporated area of Rockwall with our eleven kids, most of whom look like the rejects from an 'Elephant Man' casting call. I presently work for Dallas City Councilman Al Lipscomb. It's my job to come up with unpleasant things for him to say about his fellow city council members. With luck I hope to start getting paid for this soon.

There's more but I'm sure the editor clipped out the more offending material. For the whole story check your local newspaper and pay close attention to all stories headlined "Local resident brought in for questioning."

Thank you for your time and trouble.

There is possibly a piece in this months snoozletter about me which I believe is partially libelous. So, to set the

Well, it's April, but don't expect an April Fools joke from me since I did it LAST month by not including my column in the snoozletter (Although some considered its absence a blessing!). In actuality I was caught unawares by the dreaded 'short-month' monster which permitted five whole days between the last meeting and the N/L deadline.

But enough with this kvetching about the Gregorian calendar and on with this Springs first Tinygram which harkens back to a maddening device from the days of our collective youths.

This clever little tigger consisted of a matrix, generally 5x5 or 6x6, of slotted plastic tiles encased within the confines of a black, plastic frame. Each tile was usually numbered or lettered and the object of the toy (If you could call it that!) was to rearrange the tiles so that the letters or numbers could be read in order. A blank area was left in the matrix to make this re-ordering easier.

Such is the Tinygram I leave with you this month. It utilizes a 5x5 matrix and employs the alphabetic letters from 'A' to 'X'. The program is written to use the arrow keys to move the tiles but if you're happier using a joystick then replace the code in line 6 with the code in line 11.

SEE "WEB", page 17

"WEB" (continued from page 16)

This is an enjoyable little program but it is rife with possibilities. Consider:

- (1) Re-define the characters so that they form a familiar picture (i.e., a boat, a car, a doll or some such for younger children). Certain pictures for adults is a possibility, too! (In both cases it wouldn't hurt to have a version of the finished product readily available!).
- (2) Include a timer, to add either up or down, for that little extra adrenaline rush!
- (3) With a little re-programming you could have the program jumble a specific phrase.

These are only 3 ideas, I'm sure there are many more but I leave them in your capable digits. As always, have fun!

Next month, a surprise! Tinygrams written by other users!!! Is such a thing possible? Tune in, same Tinygram-time, same Tinygram-station! And don't forget your Little Orphan Annie Secret Tinygram Decoder Rings! TTFN!

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*-----*
* 1 !*****TINYPUZZLE***** *
* *****A TINYGRAM***** *
* ****BY MIKE STANFILL**** *
* **DALLAS TI USER GROUP** *
*-----*
* 2 CALL COLOR(4,5,5) *
*-----*
* 3 CALL CLEAR :: CALL CHAR(64 *
* ,"FF818181818181FF"):: DIM J *
* (88) : FOR T=4 TO 10 :: DISP *
* LAY AT(T,2):"???????" :: NEX *
* T T :: Q=6 :: FOR T=5 TO 9 *
*-----*
* 4 RANDOMIZE :: CALL HCHAR(5, *
* 5,64):: M=INT(RND)+65 :: *
* IF J(M)THEN 4 ELSE CALL HCHA *
* R(Q,T,M):: J(M)=1 :: Q=Q+1 : *
* : IF Q=10 THEN Q=5 ELSE 4 *
*-----*
* 5 NEXT T :: X,Y=5 *
*-----*
* 6 CALL KEY(1,K,S):: IF S=0 T *
* HEN 6 ELSE B=(K=0)-(K=5):: C *
* =(K=3)-(K=2):: H=Y+C :: G=X+ *
* B :: CALL GCHAR(G,H,I):: IF *
* I<64 THEN 6 *
*-----*
* 7 CALL HCHAR(G,H,64) *
*-----*
* 8 FOR T=1 TO 8 :: CALL SPRIT *
* E(#1,I,2,(G*B-7)+B*-T,(H*8-7 *
* )+C*-T):: CALL SOUND(-99,-6, *
* 15):: NEXT T :: CALL HCHAR(X *
* ,Y,I):: CALL DELSPRITE(ALL) *
*-----*
* 9 X=X+B :: Y=Y+C :: GOTO 6 *
*-----*
* 11 CALL JOYST(1,K,S):: IF S+ *
* K=0 THEN 6 ELSE C=SGN(-K):: *
* B=SGN(S):: G=X+B :: H=Y+C :: *
* CALL GCHAR(G,H,I):: IF I<64 *
* THEN 6 !joystick routine *
    
```



APRIL 30TH, 1988

**WHAT:**  
A convention for all TI 99/4A owners  
and users.

**WHY:**  
To offer opportunities for you to see  
new, exciting hardware and software,  
and learn all about what your computer  
can do for you.

**BY:**  
The Forest Lane TI Users Group  
The Paris TI Users Group  
The NET99ers TI Users Group  
The Brazos Valley TI Users Group  
The Amarillo TI Users Group

**WHERE:**  
HOLIDAY INN- RICHARDSON  
1655 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY  
RICHARDSON, TEXAS (2 MILES NORTH OF  
MAIN TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, INC. IN NORTH  
DALLAS.

**COST:**  
\$4 per adult at the door, \$3 if  
purchased before April 10th.  
Special Dinner Saturday Evening for  
up to 15 persons-All Invited.  
\$12 per plate-Pre-registration  
required.

VENORS:	Product	ACTIVITIES/SESSIONS:	Speaker
Company		Description	
NYARC, INC.	Hardware	* Fennelweb System	Mary McCain - FLAG
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, INC.	Repairs	* New Products, Updates	Janl Riley - Myarc
ARMADILLO BYTES.	Hard/software	* Disk Management Systems	Richard Fleetwood - FLAG
TELEMONTS	Software	* Hardware Projects	James Crossan - Net99ers
BUD HILLS SERVICES	Harddisk	* Programming in BASIC	Jerry Keisler - Paris 99ers
WILFORD PROTOTYPE BOARDS	PC boards	* Telecommunications Panel	Scott Darling - Omaha
DAVE 99	IBM Style Keyboards		Richard Fleetwood-Jolphi
MICROPHIDIUM	Subscriptions		Blaine Crandall -The Source
GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE	Software	* Harddisks and the TI	John Creviston - DYNEG
GENIE Information Service	Database System	* FNET Music Card	Sam Weller - FLAG
MILLERS COMMUNICATIONS	Hardware	* Game Cartridge Arcade	James Carson - FLAG
JIM LESHER PRODUCTS	TI hardware/software	* ---other seminars/demos of games, utilities, and	
STARBIKE	Database System	* applications and Graphics Programs.	
--more vendors expected--only a few tables left--		* * * SPECIAL DINNER BANQUET ** Saturday Evening at 8:00 pm	
		luffet Style dinner with Pre-dinner speaker- \$12 per plate	

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CALL BOY WILLIS AT 214-331-2166, OR RICHARD FLEETWOOD AT 214-328-9217.  
OR WRITE: TEXAS TI FAIRE, FOREST LANE TI USERS GROUP, P.O. BOX 743005, DALLAS, TEXAS 75247-3005  
OR CALL THE FLAG TIMES AT 214-328-6880 FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION (300/1200 BAND-24 HOURS)

RATES--NOTE: ROOMS-\$45-55 (1QRT); VENDOR TABLES-\$40 FOR 1st, \$25 FOR 2nd; T-Shirts-\$8 Each; User Group Tables-\$20

\*\* The "TEXAS TI FAIRE" is not affiliated in any way with TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, INC. Promoters of this faire are members of local users groups, and are providing this event to help lengthen the life of the TI 99/4A Home Computer, which is no longer supported by Texas Instruments, Inc.

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## Club Officers

President	Rip Dowling (metro)	817-467-0369
Vice-President	Louis Guion	214-239-6829
Secretary	Robert Jones	1-214-954-0365
Treasurer	Greg Justice	214-240-6647
Board Member at Large	Tom Hall (metro)	817-267-5987

## Club Chairpersons

Adventure Librarian	Carol Tapia	214-442-5022
BBS SysOp	Dan Johnsen	
Cartridge Librarian	Doug Garretson	214-475-7580
CCD Representative	Louis Guion	214-239-6829
CCD Alternate Rep.	Lynn Nidiffer	214-228-4820
Disk-of-the-Month	Chris Slenker	214-340-2463
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Historian	Richard Roberts	214-579-7822
Material Distribution	Earl Bullock	214-934-0013
Membership Chairman	Mike Chapman	214-255-5643
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Recruitment Chairman	Walter Pearson	214-943-2439
Software Librarian	Charlice Althar	214-337-4840
Special Presidential Assistant	David Martin	1-214-370-3268
Special Projects	Bill Pry	214-247-9909
Volunteer Chairman	Imogene Osborn	214-252-5985

These people are the club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the two and a half hour Committee Chairmen's meeting (the officers meet for an hour and a half before that!) on the Saturday one week after the INFOMART meeting. In addition to just belonging, they serve themselves and you by giving freely of their time to make this a better club for us all. Thank them individually if you