

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

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Volume 10, Number 10

OCTOBER 1990

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving the members/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are cordially invited to attend our next meeting or send a S.A.S.E. to:

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. Box 29863
Dallas, Tx. 75229

Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG & be complete.

*****NEXT MEETING*****
Saturday, October 20, 1990
at the Dallas INFOMART
Oak Lawn Blvd. and I-35 East

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: Phone the 99er Connection BBS :
: 24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 baud :
: 214-233-1750 :
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P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TEXAS 75229

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Phone the 99ER CONNECTION BBS
300/1200/2400 Baud
24 Hours, 214-233-1750



Member of the
Computer Council of Dallas

CCD Information Line: 746-3297

 * DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP *
 * OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS *

OCTOBER 1990

FRIDAY 5
 10:00 pm Newsletter Article Deadline
 10:00 pm INFOMART room request due @ CCD

SATURDAY 6 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale

SATURDAY 20 SUPER SATURDAY @ INFOMART
 9:00 am Business Meeting
 9:40 am Open Forum
 9:50 am Recess
 10:00 am Main Meeting Special Guest
 John Yantis
 With a behind the scenes look at the TI 99/4a

11:30 am Social Hour, Lunch, Activity sign up.
 1:00 pm Program to be Announced

MONDAY 22 CCD Corporate Director Meeting

FRIDAY 26
 10:00 pm Newsletter Article Dealine
 10:00 pm Room Request Due @ CCD

SATURDAY 27 EC MEETING @ Mr. Gatti's
 2:30 pm Officer's Meeting
 3:30 pm Chairperson meeting
 5:00 pm recess & pizza

SUNDAY 28 Daylight Savings Time ends
 --- set back 1 hour

NOVEMBER 1990

FRIDAY 2 NEXT - STEP Technical Assistance
 Meeting--Place to be announced

SATURDAY 3 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale?

SATURDAY 10 SUPER SATURDAY @@ INFOMART
 Special Guest : Chris Bobbitt

SATURDAY 17 EC MEETING @ Mr. Gatti's

THURSDAY 22 Thanksgiving

FRIDAY 23 NEXT STEP Technical
 Assistance Meeting

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

By Thierry Weber

Welcome again for a new edition of the French Connection.

Of course, the first thing to talk about is the big let-down at last month's INFOMART. For those not in attendance, and those there missed Chris Bobbitt's presentation since he cancelled his trip to Dallas less than a week before his scheduled appearance. He promised to make it to the November meeting. If he does come to Dallas in November, it might be one of the most interesting meetings of the year since he promised to bring along some new products he brought back from Germany (at the time West Germany).

This month, an equally interesting guest will address our INFOMART meeting. John Yantis, who long was associated with the development of the 99/4a will share some of the insights on the bringing to life of our little computer. This is a MUST SEE meeting...

On the executive committee side, as announced last month, a nominating committee was appointed and is now actively searching to fill the offices for the next year. John Creviston, Mattie Bush and Butch Spill have accepted the awesome task to provide this group with a new leadership. Please help them in their task.

Well that's about what happened in the wings this month. I will be looking for all of you at INFOMART come Saturday morning, so don't be late....

Remember that the drawing for the Horizon Ram Disk is getting closer and closer. Be sure to get in on it before it's too late...

Until next time. Stay tuned and keep on computing.....



The 80 Column

— by David Axberg

by David R. Axberg
Program Chairman '90

Due to the demands of my employer and/or my family, I have spent the majority of my time in transit either going to or coming from someplace I had no real desire to be in the first place. This has resulted a less than adequate amount of time to spend doing the things I like to do. Also it has caused some hardship and concern on the part of the executive committee. For that I apologize. However, to the task at hand, the guest speaker for this month.

John Yantis lays claim to be one of the few people in the world who has the true inside information on the "Life and Times of the Texas Instruments 99/4A Home Computer". Having been involved in its initial development and evolution, John had the true life adventures of what actually happened to the TI 99/4A.

John will share with us some of the products that were developed and never released and some of the products that were anticipated, but due to the termination of the product, never developed. Now we will finally have someone who can answer the question, "WHY DID THEY STOP PRODUCTION OF THE 99/4A?" and "WHY WON'T TI ALLOW ANYONE ELSE TO PRODUCE IT?"

While we all know the answer to the question "Will TI ever produce the 99/4A again?" (definitely NO!!!) This should be an interesting talk for the putting things into perspective as to what happened and why. I know I want to know and think this could be one of the most interesting talks will be have this year ... as far as thought provoking and intellectually stimulating information about our machine.

I hope to see you there on SuperSaturday at the INFOMART.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Now the Nominating Committee faces a difficult task. They would like to nominate regular 4A users for the elected offices. After a casual review of the list of members, it seems that the members with the most experience, and the most likelihood of accepting, are composed of a high percentage of non-regular 4A users. To be sure, there are a few regular 4A users available, but the percentage is too low. It seems appropriate for the officers of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group to be TI Home Computer Users on a regular basis, but we have proved that it isn't mandatory!

We want to find those individuals that have been overlooked, those with the desire and abilities to lead DTIHCG. There are certainly people in the group that haven't made their willingness sufficiently known, yet. It is still October, and the nominations aren't due until the December Meeting. So if you know of a likely suspecter..NO, I MEAN CANDIDATE!!, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members soon. Feel free to nominate yourself, or any member of the club for any elected office. If committee chairmanships are offered, they will be listed and given to the newly elected president.

The members of the Nominating Committee are:

Mattie Bush

Butch Spill

John Creviston.

This club belongs to the members. They decide it's direction. Select the officers carefully, because they actively guide your club.

NEXT STEP REPORT

By Charlice Althar



This month's NEXT STEP was in a different room at the Wadley Blood Center than usual, and as far as we know, only 1 person was unable to find us--we'll let you guess who that was! However, we won't be meeting in the "old" place in the future, due to the closing of the Morton Hospital. At this time, we are trying to find a new meeting place, and will let everyone know as soon as we know where we will be meeting on November 2.

Although we didn't have quite as large a group as we've had in the past, a lot was going on, with about 5 systems setup and being used or repaired. Here's a partial list:

1. A broken Horizon RAM Disk was fixed.
2. Got TI/Artist to load from the RAM disk.
3. Made backups for the RAM disk.
4. Sold 2 more tickets for the raffle of the club's RAM disk.
5. Played SPAD XIII.
6. Repaired Rose's drive #2.
7. Demo'd PAGE PRO V1.5A.
8. Supplied equipment for troubleshooting a sick system.
9. Tested SPAD XIII V1.0, and compared it to other flight simulator programs.
10. Welcomed a new member--DEAN POWELL of Richardson.
11. Reconfigured FUNNELWEB to load MASS TRANSFER.
12. Fixed a sick expansion box.
13. Verified a console's problem with its grom port.
14. Set up a system for various repairs.
15. Enjoyed the camaraderie of good friends.
16. Answered questions about TI-WRITER transliterate commands.
17. Updated member's addresses and phone numbers.
18. Read newsletters from around the country.

As always, while doing all this, we had a great deal of fun! Having a good time, and having good food, are DTIHCC trademarks--and the hamburgers at Dunston's were as delicious as always following our meeting. We urge you to join us if any of the above sounds like the sort of one-on-one help *YOU* need to get on with your NEXT STEP in computing. Join us November 2!

HARDWARE AND HACKING

From The Hardware Chairman



Welcome to this month's column. This month we will talk a little about past mistakes and promises for the future. There was a little misinformation in last month's column that I would like to clear up. I stated that Mass Transfer would support online viewing of RLE pictures. This is not so. I was confusing Mass Transfer with Omega and am sorry for any confusion that may have been caused by my mistake. If there is any more clarification needed please let me know.

The hardware sales have been slow lately. I have not completed the disk drive cables yet, but will continue working on them. There is a catalog that I have just received that has a number of TI related parts that we may be stocking soon. Please let me know if you have a specific need and we will try to provide you with it. There are about ten raffle tickets that remain to be sold. There have been several members that have bought a number of tickets so now is your chance to increase your odds at winning the Horizon Ram Disk. Please see me at Super Saturday, or Next Step. If you prefer, contact me by phone and we can make arrangements to mail your ticket to you.

I would like to expand on the subject I started last month concerning the unexpanded system. Few persons started calling bulletin boards like I did. At first I used a standalone RS232, TE-II cartridge, and a 300 baud modem. It served my needs while I learned the ropes about telecommunication and using bulletin board services (BBS). The TE-II cartridge was slow, but it had the unique feature of being able to speak what I read if I had the speech module. I was thrilled the first time I discovered that, and even now I am learning more of what is available. One of the drawbacks of TE-II was it could not support x-modem file transfers. This limited my downloads to boards that supported TE-II protocol.

I will continue to write on the unexpanded TI because we have always tended to support the high tech enhancements available, rather than focusing on the simpler things that newcomers to the TI world may find interesting. I would like to point out that the term "unexpanded TI" is not totally true. In order to access the capabilities of the 99/4A you do have to purchase some extra devices. So stay tuned and we will explore this subject together.

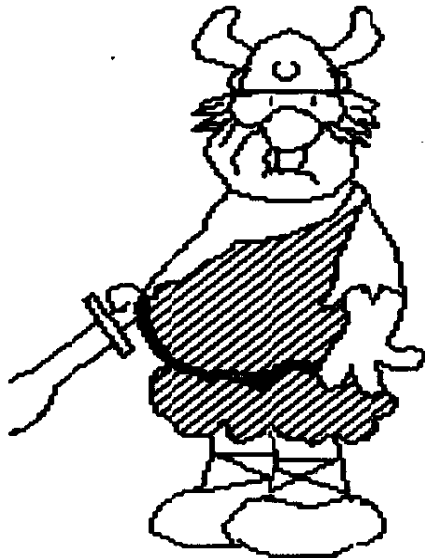
Let's look into the near future now and talk about the opportunity that faces all of us in the upcoming year. As a member of the nominating committee I would like to invite all willing volunteers to step forward and make your desires known to committee. We are looking for officers, chairpersons and volunteers to carry the Dallas TI Home Computer Group into the 90's. You can make a difference. Is there something you want from the group? Have the courage to be a part of that change!

I would like to thank the other members of the nominating committee for volunteering their time and effort for this task. Mattie Bush, John Creviston and I will be contacting a majority of the membership, and we all look forward to your help and cooperation.

That pretty well wraps it up for this month. Keep those keyboards clicking and PE boxes humming!

USING TI-

"BUTCH" SPILL.



Louie Guion

has never claimed to
be a early morning
"FUN-KIND-A-GUY"

that's because he is
up all night BBSing

PULL OUT THESE
PAGES AND
PRESENT THEM
TO A COMMITTEE
MEMBER WITH
YOUR NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AND SUGGESTION FORM 1990

For PRESIDENT I suggest: _____

For VICE-PRESIDENT I suggest: _____

For SECRETARY I suggest: _____

For TREASURER I suggest: _____

For MEMBER-AT-LARGE I suggest: _____

For PROGRAM CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For MINI-SIG CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For DCC REPRESENTATIVE I suggest: _____

For D-O-M SALES CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For NEWSLETTER EDITOR I suggest: _____

For MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For MERCHANDISE CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For HARDWARE CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN I suggest: _____

For DISK LIBRARIAN I suggest: _____

For CART/TAPE LIBRARIAN I suggest: _____

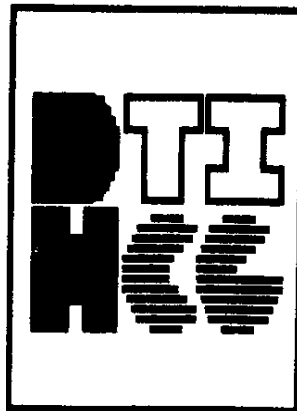
For ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN I suggest: _____

For _____ CHAIRMAN I suggest: _____

For _____ LIBRARIAN I suggest: _____

Please fill out any names you would like to offer (especially your own!) and give to a NOMINATING COMMITTEE member: MATTIE BUSH; BUTCH SPILL; JOHN CREVISTON

PULL OUT THESE
 PAGES AND
 PRESENT THEM
 TO A COMMITTEE
 MEMBER WITH
 YOUR NOMINATIONS



A THANK-YOU FROM MATTIE!

Sometimes an organization gets really lucky--a new member joins the group, and just pitches right in from Day One, willing to do anything possible to learn more about the group, its members, and its needs. DTIHCG has been very fortunate this year in gaining such a member in MATTIE BUSH. Almost from the day in March that she and her friend MARY LEARD joined us, Mattie has offered to do whatever she could to help our group. She has become a vital contributor by serving as Registration Chairmar at our INFOMART meetings, signing up new members and guests, answering questions and directing people to help, and encouraging all of us to sign in and wear our name tags.

We've missed Mattie's smiling face the past couple of months, as she has had much-needed surgery on her knee. She hopes to be back with us in October. Prior to our September meeting, she sent the group a letter, thanking us for all the calls, letters, and cards she has received. She also wrote a poem expressing how she feels about the people of DTIHCG:

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Some people have a wonderful way
 Of putting others at ease.
 They say and do the little things
 That will comfort and will please.

They have a special kind of warmth,
 They are quick to understand.
 Whenever there is trouble;
 They lend a helping hand.

The world of ours is a better place
 And happier by far
 Because there are special people
 As wonderful as you are.

Mattie Bush

Thank you, Mattie! We think *YOU* are Someone Special, too!

 MEET AN OFFICER By Linda Way

Rip Dowling has been a club member since August of 1986. He is currently serving the group as vice-president.

Rip and Dian have two lovely daughters they are very proud of. You don't have to be around Rip very long to notice that he's kissed the Blarney Stone, which probably came in handy back when he was involved with community theater.

A curious extrovert, he's interested in many things, including music, movies, hunting, dining out, cooking, travel, people, science fiction, computing, and has a book in the works.

He says he would like to climb a mountain and learn to skydive and SCUBA. Before he became an assistant manager in the catering business, he was a bodyguard in Mexico, among other things.

Rip has also been involved with I-Care for six years and is a longstanding member of the Elks.

Rip owns a TRS 80 as well as his TI-99/4A, but uses the 4A most of the time to do graphics, programming, word processing, business reports, spreadsheets, and to enjoy StarText and the 99er Connection. His next project will be video titling. Of course, his kids enjoy the games and educational programs.

FOR SALE

Corcomp Mini-PEB with 32k, RS232, Parallel printer port, and Double-sided, Double-density disk drive controller. \$120

call Walter at 214-943-2439.



Come Help Us Celebrate The
TI-99/4A's 10th Year
Anniversary



USOC in association with the
Pomona Valley US is hosting

FEST WEST 91

THE HAPPIEST FEST ON EARTH

Across the street from Disneyland PLUS some more attractions in the area for the wife/husband and kids to enjoy while you meet internationally renowned TI entrepreneurs, enthusiasts, and innovators. Fest tickets are on sale now (\$6.00 for both days). Ticket requests with a post mark before January 1, 1991 are eligible for a drawing for one free night at the Rosado.

PLAN YOUR THREE DAY WEEKEND NOW!

FEST DATES ARE FEB 16 & 17, 1991

The Fest will be held at the Rosado Main Gate. Anaheim Toll Free 1-800-447-4040 Special rate to fest goes (\$55.00 per night plus taxes) Only 50 rooms available at this rate and closing date for this rate is 15 Jan 91.

Travel arrangements may be made by contacting Ruth Dickey, Travel Concepts. (714) 778-5459

For future announcements contact the USOC BBS (714) 761-4332 or write to:



Fest West 91 Committee
c/o Bill Nelson
11692 Puryear Lane
Garden Grove, CA 92648



FEST WEST 91

GRAB BAG BY
JOHN CREVISTON

In making room on the ramdisk for this column I found some old textfiles about interesting subjects. One was some messages taken from a bbs. They were discussing the double density upgrade for the TI floppy disk controller. A project started many times, by many people, but as yet, not finished by anyone. The other topic was the 80 column upgrade being designed to fit inside the console, in place of the existing 9918A video controller. Certainly worthwhile projects, but currently ones on the rather lengthy list of things started, but not likely to see distribution. Probably less than 1 in 100 of the serious hardware projects started for the 4A ever got released.

The 4A community has had to be one composed of a strong user base since TI exited the manufacturing business. Commercial companies have provided us with new products, but users have given us good ones too. The Horizon RamDisk is probably the best known.

The users of the 4A also have to operate the User Groups, and ours is no exception. The Nominating Committee has been selected and is looking for members to recommend as candidates for the officer positions of this user group.

The Dallas TI Home Computer Group has always been a strong social organization. The members frequently have friendships outside the computer bounds. That fact has been evident in the fact that non-TI 99/4A regular users have been among the very active positions of the Executive Council. Without them the group might have gone without some of the tasks being accomplished in the excellent manor that they have.

TI-WRITER

JIM LESHER

JUST FOR US BEGINNERS IN TI WRITER

Suppose you have a page of text with just about 3 or 4 lines left over. Oh how you would like to get those extra lines on just one page. Well here is one way we can do it. Looking at the numbers on the left side of your screen, when you are in TI WRITER edit mode, we have 70 lines and we want to put them all on one page which normally only accepts 66 lines. With the cursor at the upper lefthand corner of the page, press FCTN 8 to give yourself an extra line to work with. Then press CTRL U FCTN R FCTN D and look down the list for the number 70 and see what it matches up with. It should be 21. Now we don't want the lines to go to the very bottom of the page so lets use 21. Now if we look on page 146 of our TIW manual, at the list on the next page, we find that 21 is a shift U, so at this point we press SHIFT U. Then press CTRL U again to return to normal key function, and at the space between the strange looking characters when you pressed FCTN R and the other strange looking character when you pressed shift U, place the number 3. The first character is an escape character telling the printer "pay attention here, I'm going to give you a command." The 3 is the code for the printer change the line spacing and the last character is the character the printer recognizes as 21. And so there you are. Suppose you wanted to go the other way, you want to fill the page with only 50 lines. Look down the list and find 50, WHOA! Whats this, the number 2? Thats right, immediately after typing in the escape character (the tiny b), press CTRL U to get back to normal key operation and type 32. The minimum number of lines seems to be about 13, the maximum is about 105. If an attempt is made to go beyond this limit, the top of one line starts merging into the bottom of the line above it. Now for the 1,2,3 system. For 70 lines per page. After you have positioned the cursor in the upper left corner and inserted a space with FCTN 8:

- 1 press CTRL U
- 2 Press FCTN D
- 3 Look up the number 70
- 4 Note that it matches number 21
- 5 Note that 21 matches SHIFT U, Press SHIFT U
- 6 Press CTRL U
- 7 Type a 3 between the tiny b and the tiny 5
- 8 Print the page

If you have a problem with this, call Jim Lesher 214 821 9274

OFFICERS

Here is the list for TI-Writer line heights, for step 4 above.

FOR 13 LINES USE #121	FOR 60 LINES USE #26
FOR 14 LINES USE #113	FOR 61 LINES USE #25
FOR 15 LINES USE #105	FOR 62 LINES USE #25
FOR 16 LINES USE #99	FOR 63 LINES USE #25
FOR 17 LINES USE #93	FOR 64 LINES USE #24
FOR 18 LINES USE #88	FOR 65 LINES USE #24
FOR 19 LINES USE #83	FOR 66 LINES USE #24
FOR 20 LINES USE #79	FOR 67 LINES USE #23
FOR 21 LINES USE #75	FOR 68 LINES USE #23
FOR 22 LINES USE #72	FOR 69 LINES USE #22
FOR 23 LINES USE #68	FOR 70 LINES USE #22
FOR 24 LINES USE #66	FOR 71 LINES USE #22
FOR 25 LINES USE #63	FOR 72 LINES USE #22
FOR 26 LINES USE #60	FOR 73 LINES USE #21
FOR 27 LINES USE #58	FOR 74 LINES USE #21
FOR 28 LINES USE #56	FOR 75 LINES USE #21
FOR 29 LINES USE #54	FOR 76 LINES USE #20
FOR 30 LINES USE #52	FOR 77 LINES USE #20
FOR 31 LINES USE #51	FOR 78 LINES USE #20
FOR 32 LINES USE #49	FOR 79 LINES USE #20
FOR 33 LINES USE #48	FOR 80 LINES USE #19
FOR 34 LINES USE #46	FOR 81 LINES USE #19
FOR 35 LINES USE #45	FOR 82 LINES USE #19
FOR 36 LINES USE #44	FOR 83 LINES USE #19
FOR 37 LINES USE #42	FOR 84 LINES USE #18
FOR 38 LINES USE #41	FOR 85 LINES USE #18
FOR 39 LINES USE #40	FOR 86 LINES USE #18
FOR 40 LINES USE #39	FOR 87 LINES USE #18
FOR 41 LINES USE #38	FOR 88 LINES USE #18
FOR 42 LINES USE #37	FOR 89 LINES USE #17
FOR 43 LINES USE #36	FOR 90 LINES USE #17
FOR 44 LINES USE #36	FOR 91 LINES USE #17
FOR 45 LINES USE #35	FOR 92 LINES USE #17
FOR 46 LINES USE #34	FOR 93 LINES USE #17
FOR 47 LINES USE #33	FOR 94 LINES USE #16
FOR 48 LINES USE #33	FOR 95 LINES USE #16
FOR 49 LINES USE #32	FOR 96 LINES USE #16
FOR 50 LINES USE #31	FOR 97 LINES USE #16
FOR 51 LINES USE #31	FOR 98 LINES USE #16
FOR 52 LINES USE #30	FOR 99 LINES USE #16
FOR 53 LINES USE #29	FOR 100 LINES USE #15
FOR 54 LINES USE #29	FOR 101 LINES USE #15
FOR 55 LINES USE #28	FOR 102 LINES USE #15
FOR 56 LINES USE #28	FOR 103 LINES USE #15
FOR 57 LINES USE #27	FOR 104 LINES USE #15
FOR 58 LINES USE #27	FOR 105 LINES USE #15
FOR 59 LINES USE #26	

PRESIDENT	THIERRY WEBER	(214)-686-1714
VICE-PRESIDENT	RIP DOWLING (METRO)	(817)-467-0369
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BBS SYSOP	LOUIS GUION	(214)-239-6829
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NEXT-STEP CHAIRMAN	ROSS WHITMORE	(214)-352-3889
REGISTRATION CHAIRMAN	MATTIE BUSH	(214)-637-4937

These people are DTIHCG's officers and chairpersons. They help themselves and you, by giving much of their time in working to make this a better club for all of us. Most attend the three hour Committee Chairmen's Meeting (the officers meet for an hour before that!) on the Saturday following the INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's Meeting.

Thank them individually, wher you have the opportunity.