

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 12, Number 3

March, 1992

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving our members and other 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 and be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, March 7th, 1992
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit



DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

PHONE THE 99ER CONNECTION BBS
24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 Baud
(214) 233-1750



Member of the
Computer Council of Dallas

CCD Information line (214) 234-2667

DTIHCG'S MARCH EVENTS

- 7 Sidewalk Sale
7 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
- Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
 - Time: 9:00 am
 - AM Program: WORD PROCESSING
 - PM Program: TRANSLITERATES & GRAPHICS
- 14 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- Mr. Gatti's
 - Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
 - Officers: 2:30 pm,
 - Chairpersons at 3:30 pm
- 20 NEXT-STEP
- JOJO'S on Stemmons at
 - 1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm

DTIHCG'S APRIL EVENTS

- 3 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
4 Sidewalk Sale
5 Daylight Savings Time Begins
5 SOFTWARE LIBRARY SWAP
- 1:00 to 5:00, Marcus Recreation Center
 - 3003 Northaven Road
- 18 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
- Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
 - Time 9:00 am
 - Program: TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 25 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- Mr. Gatti's
 - Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
 - Officers: 2:30 pm,
 - Chairpersons at 3:30 pm
- MAY 1 NEXT-STEP
- JOJO'S On Stemmons at
 - 1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Software Library Swap on April 5th. We need two-disk systems as well as people to man the systems. People are needed to handle the distribution of the library's disk catalog and to issue the cards used to control the copying process. Call John DiPrima after 5:00 pm at (214)293-1410.



*Shaking
the
Bushes
By
Mattie Bush*

As we make our way into the month of March, we are ready for an exciting program that will be given by Butch Spill and Willie Gupton on WORD PROCESSING. We are real lucky to have a NEW MEMBER to do a program and how he has learned to do this on his very own. No wonder we have such a group of 4A USER'S that can help with about anything you want to know!

The afternoon MINI-SIG will be on the TRANSLITERATES and GRAPHICS-- this should be a very interesting afternoon, so we want you to plan to attend and be counted.

We have received the ASGARD new catalog for 1992 and it has lots of NEW SOFTWARE in it. They have a NEW one called MAIL ROOM by: Larry Tippet which is a personal information manager for the 4A and the Geneve. The one called LINK is now shipping which is dozens of terminal emulator programs that are available for use. The others are TOTAL FILER, SCHEDULE MANAGER, CASSETTE LABLER, STAMP MANAGER, ELECTRONIC GOURMET; this is just a few to mention that we have. So try some of them and see how you like them. Our attendance was just GREAT at our February 8, meeting. We had a total of 56 to attend. I think that the head count at Infomart was a surprise to them. So, PLEASE, I want you make our MARCH 7 meeting at Infomart a big success. Let's fill the room to it's fullest.

The LIBRARY SWAP will be APRIL 5, at the MARCUS RECREATION CENTER at 3003 Northaven Rd. from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All the ones that are bringing systems, please be there at 12:30 for setup. Then afterwards, we will have dinner at the LOTUS Chinese on Northwest

Shaking the Bushes, continued



HWY. Then home we go.

In order to survive, Tiers have learned to 'share', and in most instances this is a good thing. When, for example, it comes to public domain software and shareware, it's important that we share with others what we have. This is true that we do share our public domain software, but it is true with the shareware as well; the people there are who have access to a shareware product, the more people (hopefully) there will be who will share an appropriate financial reimbursement to the authors.

The situation seems not always clear when it comes to commerical products. We all agree that piracy is wrong, but I'm not sure that we all agree on when piracy is taking place.

Splitting costs with friends or users is like piracy as is the MicroPendium that everyone shares instead of buying their own subscriptions.

If we are to survive and each one thrives as a community, as Tier Users we must support those who support us with software and the hardware that keeps us going. MicroPendium is the magazine that fully supports the TI99/4A. We still have some software companies that continue to support us as USERS GROUPS. As one famous person once said: "KNOWLEDGE IS NO GOOD UNTIL YOU SHARE IT". So until next month this is Shaking The Bushes signing off and Just Keep on Computing.

SEE ALL OF YOU AT INFOMART MARCH 7.
President Mattie Bush

DOM
Remarks
by
Jim Stewart

Of the 40 February DOM's recorded, 38 were purchased by DTIHCG members. We hope you all found time to explore this disk, using the many fine programs meant to give you knowledge, fun and a sound return on your computer investment. The new Boot and Fast-Term are particularly welcome. Please give us feed-back on if and how you liked the DOM, so we can better respond to the needs of our members.

Did you find the 'hidden file' and 'challenge' ? Hope so. John Creviston was the first to find it and suggest a solution, although Dan Lowe also found it very quickly as well. Robert Jones could not understand why I was having a problem, since his copy worked just fine -- as will be demonstrated at our next meeting.

Our March DOM theme is SPACE. An exceptional program named Star Gazer by John Phillips, who has given us permission to share this with other TI users, will teach you about the constellations in a pleasant and memorable way. You couldn't get into orbit without WEATHER giving clearance for SHUTTLE to fling you on your way. If colorful launches appeal to you, don't miss the COLORSCRN tutorial and COLORBURST is a feast for your eyes. If you do well at SCIENCE, then there's hope for LANDER and LIFEUNE. Interstellar vehicles are harder to navigate than BATTLESHIPs, which are very hard to hit. We hope TYPE works for you, and if you are a Page Pro, you'll be glad to see some new fonts.

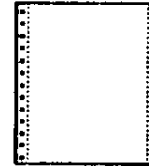
With the March DOM, you will receive DEFAULT, with Docs explaining its use. Please copy these 2 files to your February DOM, as these relate to the FAST-TERM program, and ideally should be configured before you

DOM remarks continued

begin using your new F-T program. Both BOOT and FAST-TERM are provided by their authors in expectation of receiving Shareware payment. Robert Jones has donated his fine enhancements to the TI community without fee, which is most generous, and typical of him. John Crevision has provided TI users with wonderful insight into DEFAULT, also without any fee. We are lucky to have so many talented and sharing people within DTIHCG.

Here is an invitation. The March DOM includes a simple but hopefully convenient program called TYPE. It works just like an old fashioned typewriter. Position your paper, envelope or label....decide how much to indent....type a line of text, and the line will print out when entered. Four lines up to 255 characters should be enough for any address or message. We invite you to come up with your own version of this program. No holds barred, just any way you decide to change it is fine...try your skills...send in your version soon. President Bush will make the decision, and the winner's version will be included in a future DOM.

Thanks for supporting the Dallas T I Home Computer Group by buying the DOM. These funds help make possible the many support functions of our group to make computing productive and entertaining!



FROM
A
REMOTE TERMINAL

This month's mail brought us a very nice letter from member GREG HUDSON of Half Moon Bay, California. The following is from his letter:

"...Imagine my feeling of pride to see my name and hometown mentioned in the newsletter...I guess I do belong to the club even though everyone wonders who I am".

"...I am in contact with lots of people who are Power users and want to stand with their toes on the cutting edge. Needless to say, I get a lot of flack about my toy computer. I have a very friendly, productive, educational computer. My detractors have bloody toes..."

"...Every month when I get the newsletter it's like getting a letter from home....The one big problem I need help with is, there is no user group near me that I know of so I have no access to shareware programs. Therefore no C-99, no Funnelweb, no Archiver, no anything unless I get it through Tex-Comp...Make the D.O.M. available to remote members...the best thing is I am in contact with a group that is interested in MY computer."

TO GREG AND OUR OTHER REMOTE TERMINALS:

We hear you! The executive committee discussed your letter at the last meeting, and we are planning to help our "REMOTE TERMINALS" feel less remote! Please be patient with us, we're working to make the DISK OF THE MONTH available to you by mail, on a quarterly subscription basis. We're also trying to make our Software Library more available to you, so you'll be able

From a Remote Terminal, continued

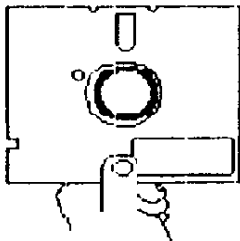
to be "up and running" on equal footing with our local members.

Thank you very much for writing! Stay tuned for further developments, stay in touch--and happy computing!

THE ALTMAN FAIRWARE LIST

The Altman Fairware List is being maintained and update by the SouthWest 99ers. The latest list includes over 400 titles, and indexes for author and subject. It is available for \$2 (postage inc.). You can choose to receive it, either pre-printed or on disk. The SSD unarchives to 591 sectors, and prints out to over 30 pages. Send a check or money order to SouthWest Ninety-Niners, PO Box 17831, Tucson AZ 85730.

Announcements of new fairware may be sent to the above address. Please include a short description of the program(s) and the author's address. The information provided will be added to The Altman Fairware List and made available to other TI/9640 users.



BEGINNER PRINTER

By
Jim Leshner

These programs are written on a Star Gemini printer and may or may not work on another brand. This is about the most basic programs for a printer. It could all be put on one line in Extended Basic. "PRINTB" BASIC PRINTING

The printer must first be addressed with the OPEN #1 "PIO". You can use OPEN#2 OR 3 OR 99 as long as you use the same number in the PRINT # line. Notice the to be printed is in quotes.

This little program will print out all the keyboard (printable characters) on your 99/4A. You should see the ASCII number beside each character also. You will notice we have incorporated the comma at the end of the PRINT line so as to give it a nice neat spacing so that it looks like a chart.

```
10 REM PRINT KEYBOARD CHARACTERS.
20 CALL CLEAR
30 OPEN #1:"PIO"
40 PRINT #1:"TI99/4A KEYBOARD CHARACTERS.":
50 FOR CHAR=32 TO 127
60 PRINT CHAR;CHR$(CHAR);" ";
70 PRINT #1:CHAR;CHR$(CHAR);" ";
80 NEXT CHAR
```

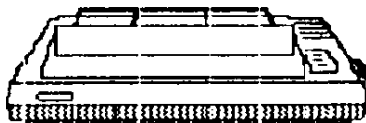
Should you go to the Sidewalk sale or Infomart Super Bargain Basement sale and see a good used printer you just can't live without, and when you get it home and realize you have no manual for it, you can run this program and it will spit out all the characters you can access. Of course it won't tell you the commands, particular to that printer, but you will know its normal font and (special character set).

Basic Printer, continued

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 PRINT "STAR,SPECIAL CHARACTER TABLE"
30 OPEN #1:"PIO"
40 PRINT #1:"STAR SPECIAL CHARACTER TABLE"
50 FOR I=32 TO 128
60 PRINT #1:I;CHR$(I),
70 NEXT I
80 CLOSE #1
90 OPEN #1:"PIO"
100 FOR I=160 TO 255
110 PRINT #1:I;CHR$(I),
120 NEXT I
```

If you have any questions or comments call or write to:

Jim Leshar
722 Huntley
Dallas TX 75214
214 821 9274



We would like to thank Jim for his donation of door prizes at the February 15th DTICUG meeting. Stop by his table at Infomart, drop him a line, or call and express your thanks, ok?

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MINISIG by Charlice Althar

Our first MiniSIG of 1992 was held Sunday, February 23. Hosted by CHARLICE ALTHAR, MiniSIG leader JOHN CREVISTON, with able assistance from BUTCH SPILL, started off by showing--and demonstrating--an actual "dumb terminal", then progressed to using our TI-99/4A as a "terminal emulator". Next, JOHN gave us very detailed demo of creating a parameter file for the absolutely latest version of FAST TERM. He then called our 99er CONNECTION BBS and proceeded with a thorough explanation of the features of both FAST TERM and the BBS.

Thanks to our co-sysops, LOUIS and JACKIE GUION, our participants had unlimited access to our BBS during MiniSIG hours, so each had time at the keyboard, working through loading FAST TERM, calling the board, signing on, changing passwords, reading messages and text files, entering and editing messages, downloading files, uploading a text file, and logging to both the printer and a disk file. Then BUTCH took over with an excellent demo of TELCO, setting the desired parameters, and pointing out the differences between the two terminal emulator programs. When our time on our BBS ended, but before closing the MiniSIG, we accessed STARTEXT, the video text information service of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram.

Our MiniSIG was a big success, and thanks to the efforts of JACKIE and LOUIS GUION and SHARON CREVISTON, each participant took home a special laminated copy of the FAST TERM REFERENCE CARD. JACKIE and LOUIS printed the cards from the TI-99/4A on their laser printer, and SHARON laminated them. We have a list of members who have expressed interest in

Telecommunications Minsig, continued

attending this MiniSIG, so we plan to repeat it, hopefully in March. Telecommunications -- It's part of all our lives!

UPDATING THE DATABASE...

by Charlice Althar

We're delighted to welcome two NEW MEMBERS this month: TOM ADAMS of Greenville is the son of member BILL ADAMS. And we're now an international group for sure with the addition of STANCULESCU MARIN, of Bucharest, Romania! Welcome, TOM and STANCULESCU! We trust you will enjoy and benefit from your association with DTIHCG.

RENEWALS are always so welcome, and we've received a bunch this month, including MARY and TOM LEARD, ED HARP, BILL PRY, BUTCH SPILL, ROSS WHITMORE, and RICKY MAY. Also from JAMES HOYLE, MATTIE BUSH and GLADYS MCCRARY, and a special welcome back to MIKE STANFILL! Thank you, each and every one!

We had several guests present at INFOMART this month, including JOHN KENNEDY, son of L.M. and JIMMIE KENNEDY, EDITH, PHILLIP, and DANIEL BEIGHTOL, wife and sons of DOUG BEIGHTOL, and ED BRUCE. We're very happy each of you spent part of your Saturday with DTIHCG and hope you'll return often!

HARDWARE AND HACKING. *The Program Chairman's turn!*

Hello and welcome to my article for March. This month I will be discussing the upcoming programs and talking a little more about the topics we explored last month. This is also my time to solicit input to the programs. There are two things I need from the membership right now. One of the things I need is a volunteer to do a demo of the new MIDI interface for the TI, and the second thing is for to fill out the rest of the year with the kind of thing you like to do. So, I am open for suggestions, no volunteer will be refused, and I am looking forward to you getting in touch with me!

In March we will be looking at Word Processors. Willie has been so kind as to volunteer his services and I look forward to seeing if the applications he uses will help me in my attempts at utilizing TI-WRITER and the other word processing clones. We may also have a surprise presentation pending my successfully contacting the person that has offered his services. In the afternoon we will have more of the same theme plus transliterates and graphics So plan to be there, I promise I will not be working that day!

Now let's talk a little about the subject we covered last month at the meeting. John Creviston showed us how to transfer files between a TI and a clone using a null modem cable and terminal emulators. He also talked about and demoed several terminal emulators and showed off Robert Jones latest modifications to FAST TERM. I could tell that some had questions about why you would want to do this type of transfer so I will explain what my personal experiences of the last week have been and let you draw your own conclusion.

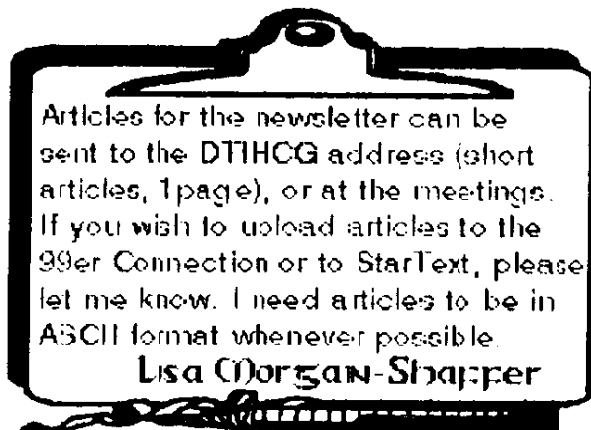
Hardware and Hacking, continued



Those of you that were able to stay for the afternoon session may have seen John and I transfer some PRINTMASTER format graphic files from the clone to the TI. I have spent the last week converting these type of files to first TIPS and then PAGE PRO formats. What this means is that I have in excess of 1800 new files for these two programs. What was the price of this addition to my graphic library other than some time? Nothing, zero, zip and that is the beauty of utilizing the resources on hand to fill your needs.

Well, I enjoyed talking to all of you, have a safe and happy day. I will look forward to seeing you all at the INFOMART meeting in March, and remember our programs are only as good as you help to make them.

Using TII
"Butch"



NEXT STEP REPORT
by
Charlice Althar

Our January NEXT STEP was held January 31, too close to our INFOMART meeting to be reported in our February DALLAS 99 INTERFACE. We had a much larger than usual attendance, and helped our Editor, LISA MORGAN-SHAFFER, assemble the newsletter and prepare it for mailing. We had a sneak preview of JIM STEWART's Disk-of-the-Month. We discussed problems encountered in using TI-WRITER, other software difficulties, and prepared a demographic map of DTIHCG members. In all, a really great evening!

February 21 was NEXT STEP again, and as usual, our activities covered a wide range. The only "down" note was the absence of the smiling presence of PRESIDENT MATTIE BUSH, hospitalized at Medical City, but promising to be back with us at INFOMART.

Talk about ole times, and past NEXT STEPS and MiniSIGs with DTIHCG was accompanied by a large selection of snapshots from TOM HALL. There was a brief discussion of the merits of conducting music as a means of exercise; we discussed various columns to be included in this newsletter, the postage necessary for mailing it to Romania, and the events of the winter Olympics. TOM HALL and ROBERT JONES had a couple of anxious moments (grin!) when asking L.M. and JIMMIE KENNEDY whether son JOHN (who visited us this month at INFOMART) reads any of the "La*yer" messages on the 99er CONNECTION over his Dad's shoulder...LISA MORGAN-SHAFFER told us a few more "inside stories" of the days at TI in Lubbock when our computers were being developed and produced; and we admired JAMES HOYLE's lyrics to his TI-99/4A song--maybe we can get him to sing it at INFOMART!

FOR SALE

Next Step Report, continued

JOHN CREVISTON and ROBERT JONES helped JIM STEWART straighten out some problems with the Disk-of-the-Month, and JOHN CREVISTON gave JIM STEWART a piece of the neither regions. We attempted to help DOUG BEIGHTOL solve his printer difficulties, but were unsuccessful without the aid of the manual. We distributed the just-received third issue of our four-issue group subscription to the ASGARD NEWS, now known as REFLECTIONS, discussed other printer and printer cable problems and the programming language EIFFEL, and attempted to help WILLIE GUPTON with his disk drive problem. JIM LESHER demonstrated the "Lines" program, and we talked about Epson printer codes. We talked about the upcoming Disk Swap and dinner at Lotus, and signed up to help with the Disk Swap. And we ate....and ate....and signed a card for MATTIE! The final touch was LOUIS GUION's reading of "The History of the World", making certain that those of us who were the last to leave went home wearing big smiles. Another evening of good food, good friends, and computer talk now resides in our memories, fortunately unlimited in size. We hope you'll try to join us for NEXT STEP on March 20, at JOJO's on Motor Street off I-35.



1 Black & Silver console W/XB card & book
1-PEB w/32K, DSK Cont (Both TI), FH DS drive
1-12" Color Monitor
(Asking \$200 for above 3 items)

1-MYARC HFDC card W/book, software, cables
(Asking \$150)

1-PGRAM + W/clock, 4 pages module selections
(Asking \$150)

1-256K HORIZON card
(Asking \$125)

NOTE: Only one of the last two items will be sold as the other will remain in my system. Phone me at (903) 849-6868, see me at DTIHCG meeting or write John L. Teague, Box 525, Chandler, TX 75758.

I am not abandoning my TI, just disposing of some items not being used at present. At today's prices it is difficult to understand anyone continuing to use the horribly slow cassette route of data storage/retrieval. I hope some of our members still in need of upgrades will be able to take advantage of these offers.

(S/T) John L. Teague

Notice: *Deadline for personal sale of computer items for the April newsletter is April 3rd. Mail info to DTICHG address.*

For Sale, continued

The following is a list of hardware items that are in the DTIHCG inventory. Interested people can contact Mary Leard.

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE(EA)
Black/silver console(2309577)	1	25.00
Keyboards for consoles	6	5.00
Transformers	4	5.00
RF Modulators	4	5.00
Slo-blo fuses	8/5ea	1.00
Ray Vac Lithium 3V	6	2.00
Fan for PEB	2	5.00
Power supply fo console	1	5.00
Disk drive head cleaning kit	1	5.00
Memory Expansion(side car)	1	10.00
Hayes modem(300 baud)	1	20.00
Modem cables	10	10.00
RS232 y-cables	3	10.00
Parallel cable extension(6ft)	5	10.00
External disk drive cable	3	5.00
Short external drive cable	7	5.00
Grom port connector	1	8.00
M.O.V.	10	1.00



OFFICERS FOR 1992

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE-PRESIDENT	DON STEVENSON	214-372-7014
TREASURER	SHARON CREVISION	214-594-0721
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	WILLIE GUPTON	214-375-9575

CHAIRPERSONS FOR 1992

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	BUTCH SPILL	817-461-6217
D-O-M CHAIRMAN	JIM STEWART	214-625-0922
MINI-SIG CHAIRMAN	Vacant	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	LISA SHAFFER	817-265-2032
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
MERCHANDISE/HARDWARE	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
CCD REPRESENTATIVES	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
HISTORIAN	Vacant	
LOBBY KIOSK	TIM ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEXT STEP CHAIRMAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	SHARON CREVISION	214-594-0721

LIBRARIANS

CART/TAPE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5 pm)	214-293-1410
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5 pm)	214-293-1410
NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	Vacant	
ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822

These people are DTIHCG 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 Executive Committee Meeting the Saturday afternoon following the INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's portion of the meeting.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their job easier.