

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 14, Number 10

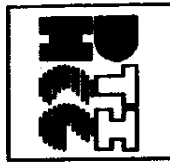
October, 1994

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

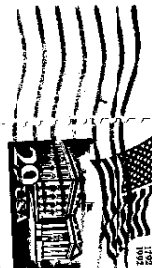
Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG and be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, October 29, 1994
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, E71
(214) 233-1750

DTIHCG'S OCTOBER EVENTS

- 29 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: DTIHCG GRAND REUNION
- 29 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 30 Daylight Savings Time Ends - Set Clocks Back One Hour
- 31 Halloween



DTIHCG'S NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 4 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE
- 5 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale
Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM
- 8 Election Day - Remember to Vote!
- 11 NEXT STEP
JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)
1415 Motor Street, 5:15 PM
- 11 Veterans Day - Remember to Fly Your Flag!
- 19 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: DTIHCG ANNUAL GARAGE SALE
- 19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 24 Thanksgiving Day

OLD DSK1.



By Dan Lowe

Here it is the month of October - trick or treat time. Time to start thinking about ghosts, goblins, vampires, witches, and those door-to-door forays around the neighborhood with the young'uns in tow in search of candies, apples, oranges, Snickers, and all the other wonderful things that go with the season.

However, and for the first time ever, THIS month of October will be different from all the others because of the addition of DTIHCG's GRAND REUNION. That's right - THIS IS THE MONTH, October 29, 1994, at the INFOMART in Dallas, Tex. Can you believe it? DTIHCG's GRAND REUNION on the 29th of October, and then, just two days later, Halloween on the 31st? Ah, life is good, life is sweet, REUNION and Halloween can't be beat! (O.K., so I'm not a poet, but it do rhyme!)

REUNION PROGRESS REPORT #3

By now you should have already received the first "flyer" or mailing announcing DTIHCG's upcoming GRAND REUNION. In addition, Mattie Bush and Tom Hall have been busy burning up the telephone lines with calls to members reminding them of the time and place of the REUNION. And, by the time you read this newsletter, you should also have received Tom Hall's hand-crafted postcard as a second reminder of the REUNION. Plus, Tom's postcard will also serve as your entry for the drawing(s) that will take place during the REUNION. So, be sure to BRING YOUR POSTCARD TO THE REUNION if you want to take part in the drawing(s). And yes, you DO HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!

And what else, you ask, can you expect if you come to our REUNION? Well first, as you come in the door, you'll be greeted by a Welcoming Committee who'll give you your own personalized name tag. Then, you may want to just stroll around the room, taking in the various displays/demonstrations from the TI-99/4A world. Remember Bill Cosby from the TV series "The Cosby Show"? Well, he will be there too (on video)

hawking the TI-99/4A via his television commercials just like yesterday. You'll see some old and familiar TI equipment, along with magazines, brochures, pamphlets, and posters from TI past.

Now, move on to the next table to see just what this little 99/4A "orphan" can really do in today's state-of-the-art machines. You will see the latest in a TI-configuration not even dreamed of a decade ago. And, while you're in the neighborhood, you might want to stop by and see what I call TI MEETS IBM or, if you prefer, IBM MEETS TI. This IS like having your cake and eating it too!

And speaking of eating cake, you might want to take a "time out" about now for some cake, cookies, and something to wash them down with. And for those among us who must watch our sugar intake, not to worry; there'll be plenty of sugar-free cookies to eat (and they ARE GOOD).

O.K., let's continue. How about a graphics demonstration of how to put pix on T-shirts? Or a review of DTIHCG's extensive 350 plus disk software library? Or the latest, updated vendor list of TI equipment?

Well, I'm sure you get the picture by now of what to expect. And I'm sure I've probably left out one or two displays (like a fantastic crawl program of current and former members of DTIHCG set against a musical background and a kaleidoscope of exploding letters and numbers also in the background). But, if I did leave something out, then all the more reason for you to come to our REUNION and see for yourself!

At the risk of repeating myself let me say it again - come one, come all. All current and former TI-99/4A users are welcome. (Why, we might even let you in even if you've moved on to THAT OTHER computer.) As I've said before, there will be lots to do, lots to see, lots to eat, lots of chit-chat and visiting with old friends while making new friends. Talking, mix-and-mingle in a relaxed atmosphere while reminiscing about the old days with the TI-99/4A while, at the same time, planning for the future because, through DTIHCG, there will most certainly be a "future" for the TI-99/4A.

- Date: 29 October 1994
- Time: 9:00 AM until Noon
- Place: INFOMART in Dallas

INFOMART is located on Stemmons Freeway (I-35 E) and Oak Lawn.

Guess that's about all I've to say for now. But, before I depart, I'll leave you with these few words about kids and vacations:

"While they were still young and impressionable, I thought it a good idea to take the kids on a vacation to Yosemite to see all the big trees. Well, the kids were not very impressed, but our dog almost had a heart attack."

TOM'S TRIVIA



by Tom Hall

This is the month for the TI-99/4A GRAND REUNION! Make every effort to attend. An invitation to THE REUNION will be a good excuse to call an old 4A buddy - PLEASE DO IT! If THE GRAND REUNION is to be a success, everyone will have to help and you can help by attending this important event. You will get to visit with former members, gossip about "the old days" and catch up with the latest news. A lot of folks have done a bunch of work and spent a lot of the Group's money, don't let them down. We have had lots of good times as members of our User Group and this GRAND REUNION will be one additional good time to remember.

Our sympathy is extended to JAMES HOYLE and his family on the passing of his father and his brother-in-law in September.

The condolences of DTIHCG are lovingly extended to MATTIE BUSH on the passing of her husband, Paul. This is a shocker.

To get up-to-the-minute developments on THE REUNION, call the BBS. There will be a post card mailed to everyone on our MEGA list. Keep this card and bring it to THE REUNION meeting on October 29th, for a series of drawings.

"Nobody moves, Nobody gets hurt!" - Postal Service Motto.

Ever wonder why your mail gets lost or takes a long time to arrive at the destination? Next time you are in your Post Office, pick up NOTICE 221, USPS 1992 APRIL. The title is ADDRESSING FOR SUCCESS and has a picture of a stack of letters on the front.

TEXAS STATE BBS - 1-800-227-8392. Try it -- it's FREE!

Starting with the November calendar, the KEY MEMBER name will be determined by nominations from various members. If there is someone who, you think, deserves to be recognized as a KEY MEMBER then call me or leave me a message on the BBS.

A few of the famous (notorious) DTIHCG philosophers contributed some more incidental laws on reality:

- JONES NON-RECIPROCAL LAW OF EXPECTATIONS:
Negative expectations yield negative results. Positive expectations yield negative results.
- LOWE'S LAW:
Every man has a scheme that will not work.
- DCC SMITH'S CONSTANT:
That quantity which, when multiplied by, divided by, added to or subtracted from the answer you get, gives you the answer you should have gotten the first time.
- GUION'S 2nd LAW:
If a project is not worth doing at all, it is not worth doing well.

- LESHER'S LAW:

If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disregarded.

- GUION'S LAW:

Inside every large problem there is a small problem struggling to get out of control.

- MATTIE'S LAW:

When in doubt, mumble.

- HALL'S COROLLARY:

When really in doubt, mumble with gestures.

If, by chance, there are any other observations on reality, please let me know and I will deal with them in a future column. Contributors' names will be kept in the strictest secrecy.

In November, Texans vote for Governor, Senator, Congressmen and a variety of State and local officials. Read up on the candidates, remember what they have done or failed to do and then get out and VOTE.

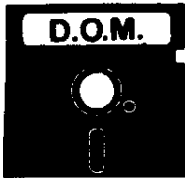
A wood privacy fence can be made to look more attractive by making "hooks" from short tree branches with a fork. Use these "hooks" to hang flower baskets on your fence.

To make sanding more efficient, add a pad of newspaper between the back of the sand paper and the sanding block.

The hook portion of a coat hanger makes a good hanger for light tools when stapled to the bottom of your workshop shelf.

This is a good time to finish those summer painting projects. Also, a good time to fertilize your lawn and shrubs.



















If you were born during the month of October, your birth stone is the OPAL and your flower is the CALENDULA.



DTHCG ACTIVITIES

October 23 - December 3, 1994



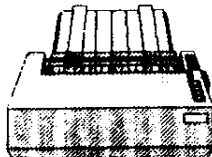
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 23  Please nominate a KEY MEMBER for November	Oct 24	Oct 25  Mother-in-law's Day	Oct 26 X 1	Oct 27  LQ T. Roosevelt b. 1858	Oct 28  Columbus discovered Cuba - 1492	Oct 29 XCHANGE SATURDAY Check room number for last minute changes 9:00a GRAND REUNION
MAKE THE GRAND REUNION A SUCCESS - BRING A FRIEND						
Oct 30  Daylight Savings	Oct 31  Halloween	Nov 1 All Saints' Day	Nov 2	Nov 3  NM 1st Virus crystallized - 1955	Nov 4 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ROOM RESERVATION	Nov 5 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE 7:01a Sunrise Milk & Fair 
Nov 6  Get software from DTHCG Library	Nov 7	Nov 8  ELECTION DAY	Nov 9	Nov 10  FQ	Nov 11  NEXT-STEP 5:15-8:00p Jo Jo's on Motor St	Nov 12 Veterans Day - NOV 11th 
THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP						
Nov 13	Nov 14 Yale University announced admittance of Women 1968	Nov 15	Nov 16	Nov 17	Nov 18  FM DeSoto automobile discontinued - 1960	Nov 19  XCHANGE SATURDAY 9:00a Annual Garage Sale 1:00p EC MEETING
ANNUAL GARAGE SALE - NOVEMBER 19th						
Nov 20 Passport photo required for US - 1914	Nov 21	Nov 22	Nov 23 X 1	Nov 24  Thanksgiving	Nov 25	Nov 26  LQ
If you move, let us know your new address, we care						
Nov 27 Jim Leshar is our resident T19S/4a Dealer 214-821-9274	Nov 28	Nov 29	Nov 30	Dec 1 Deadline for Newsletter & Room Reservation 12/2/94	Dec 2  NEXT-STEP 5:15-8:00p Jo Jo's on Motor Street	Dec 3 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE 7:15a Sunrise - Fair
FOR INFOMART SCHEDULE CALL 214-919-4980						

HAVE YOU CALLED THE 99'er TODAY? (214) 233-1750 - 24 HOURS

BEGINNER PRINTER

TI-WRITER AND YOUR PRINTER - PART 4

by Jim Leshar



This and future articles will be written with Funnelweb 5.0 and all references to TI-WRITER are synonymous with Funnelweb 5.0, also all printer commands will be for the Gemini 10X. For those who may not have done this, if you want to print only certain lines, you can make your print command look like this: 1 8 PIO, this will print only lines 1 thru 8, likewise you can print lines 5 thru 10 or what ever you want using the same system. (18)(ESC 4)

If you have practiced like a good student, you should be able to do a CTRL U, FCTN R quickly by now, so let's do it. Also let's do as we promised and install more than one printer command on the same page. May I suggest you use this article as your text to practice on and I will place the number or letter in parentheses in the proper places so you can see where they must be placed to get the desired effect. (ESC 5) (ESC E)

First let's make the title in wide print. Where you see the 14 in parentheses just before the TI-WRITER, go to CTRL U SHIFT N and you will see what looks like a tiny e, this will print one line of wide print. Now let's make the next paragraph in condensed print. This command can be put just above the first line and just after the last line in the preceding paragraph you want to print in this mode.

Now how do we turn this condensed mode off and print the next paragraph in another font? Here is how, after the last word, but before the carriage return symbol if you have one there, in that paragraph do a CTRL U SHIFT T which is an 18 to the printer. Just for practice let's do the next paragraph in so let's do a CTRL U FCTN R CTRL U and press 4. Then of course to turn it off, place an escape 5 at the end of the paragraph. As you can see, unless you have new ribbon, the Italics come out lighter than normal print and a lot lighter than the condensed, so we need to darken it up a little with either Emphasized or double-strike.

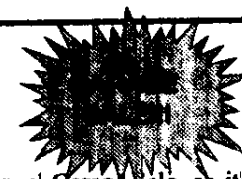
There has been a time or two where I have used both to get it dark enough. So let's do it, replace the (ESC 5) with (ESC E) and the next paragraph will be a darker Italic. That will bring us to this point in the text so we will now cancel both the Italic and the emphasized print with this, (ESC 5 ESC F) (ESC G). Let's do one more then call it a day. The next command is DOUBLE STRIKE which requires an escape, so let's do that one. Here is the key press sequence, just to refresh our memory. CTRL U FCTN R CTRL U G And there you have double strike. This is good to use when you have a worn or dried out ribbon, you can get a little more out of it by using the double strike or the Emphasized mode. To engage the Emphasized mode, just go back to your printer control line and replace the G with an E. You don't have to go thru the whole CTRL U sequence again at this point.

I use the Emphasized mode rather than the double-strike coz it's faster and almost as dark as the double-strike. Now if you really want to make a word or sentence emphatic, use both. Again we want to cancel this command from the printer, cause you may not want the next thing you print to be in this last mode, so at this point we will insert this: (ESC @) this will erase all printer commands and return it to normal, or turning your printer off will have the same effect, have fun.

If you need any help call or write to:

Jim Leshar / 722 Huntley / Dallas TX / 75214 or call 214-821-9274

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!



Our November meeting will be the scene of our Annual Garage Sale, so it's time now to start digging out all those treasures you've been hoarding away, waiting for the opportunity to pass them on to others who need them more than you do.

As has been our tradition, items brought to sell must be computer-related, but not necessarily specifically for the TI-99/4A. It's up to you to set your own prices (we suggest marking your items with a price before you come, just to have a "starting place" for the haggling that makes all this so much fun). DTIHCG makes no money from this annual event, just the fun of sponsoring it for our members. And it's not even limited to members -- anyone is welcome to attend, browse, buy, sell or trade! So pass the word, the date will be November 19, the place our meeting room at INFOMART!

NEXT STEP REPORT



WOW, what a lively occasion our most recent NEXT STEP turned out to be! Guess everyone was just in a real upbeat mood, thinking of our coming REUNION, and the energy level was amazing!

JIM LESHER was busily enjoying his peach cobbler, while CHESTER was devouring his special JOJO's burger with a side of chili that he would "go to the ends of the earth for", along with showing DAN and CATHERINE how to write some Oriental characters. JIM STEWART said this report would not be complete without noting that I finally got a big enough glass of iced tea when our charming waitress suggested "sticking a straw" into the fresh pitcher of tea she'd just placed on the table. Well, at least it would have allowed enough space for the lemon!

DAN conducted a meeting to review all the arrangements for the REUNION, and of course most of the talk around the table for the entire evening was on the same subject. When this group gets together, the brainstorming really gets into high gear! ROBERT JONES has created a special display program for the event. TOM has worked so hard on the flyers which were sent out last month, and has done an equally superb piece of work on the postcards which you will receive before you read this. Many of you saw other samples of his many hours of work in the brightly colored posters announcing our REUNION which were located in various places last month at INFOMART.

JIM STEWART garnered the biggest round of laughter of the evening by being "sent to his room" by PRESIDENT DAN for questioning the use of the group's big monitor, but after clarifying the motives, JIM was released and of course retained his usual good humor over the whole thing.

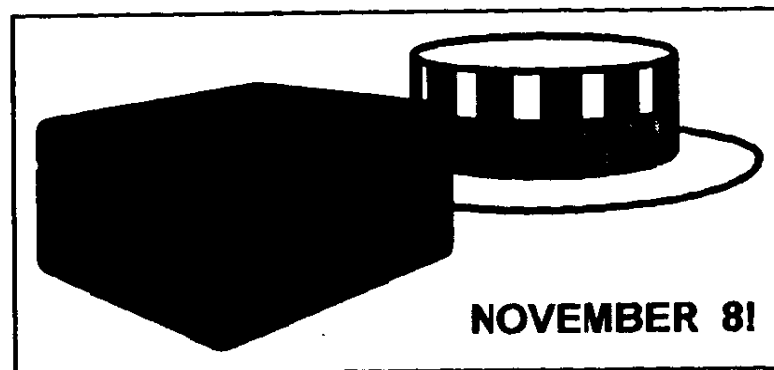
ROBERT and BERTHA SMITH were accompanied by ROBERT's daughter and son-in-law, who were (as far as we know) unaware of the successful loading of an ice-making machine into the trunk of her brand new Chrysler Concorde for the return trip to East Texas. We've been assured a minimum amount of permanent damage was done! Please let us know how the ice making is going, ROBERT!

JIM LESHER and ROBERT JONES were busily discussing some assembly programs, while others worked on a problem with Page Pro and Funnelweb which was putting "garbage" on the screen. Ever had an experience like that? Well, that's what NEXT STEP is for!

JOHN CREVISTON and GREG were talking about a possible update (already!) to the TI-EMULATOR program we've been hearing about, while SHARON, JACKIE, MATTIE, and CATHERINE talked about making cookies for the REUNION, especially some good sugar-free types for our several diabetic members. RAZA and SHAWN required an occasional eagle-eyed glance from grandma MATTIE to make sure dinner was being properly eaten.

As we've planned and worked towards our REUNION, it's been a great opportunity for looking back and remembering the experiences we have shared through the years, the great times and the not-so-great, helping each other not only with computer problems but many other of life's difficulties. That's what has made DTIHCG mean so much to so many of us, and this upcoming event is another which will become part of the "glue" which holds us together so long after TI made us and our cherished little computers orphans.

Our excitement is continuing to build as the date for our REUNION gets closer, and we sincerely hope all of you will be present and enjoy it as much as we've enjoyed all the preparations. And we'd love to have more of you join us on November 11 for NEXT STEP at JOJO's, just east of Stemmons Freeway at the Motor Street exit.



NOVEMBER 8!

LOOKING BACK

by Bill Gaskill

(from Bits, Bytes & Pixels, Lima 99/4A Users Group, Oct. 1994)

MODULES WE NEVER SAW:

We'll never know the great software that might have been produced for the 99/4A and 99/8 had TI decided to stay in the home computer market. I have little doubt there would be many powerful applications available to us that would be at least as good as those that are available to the Commodore 64 and 128 owners. Most would probably be better, since we had a better machine to start with.



Even without that conjecture though, we know that several programs were in the advanced planning and production stages that were not released after TI's announcement. Major software companies like Imagic, Walt Disney and even TI had game and education modules planned for the 99/4A that we never saw. We know that they were planned, because working copies of the code exist. Several of the programs were all but complete and had such extensive code that they can be run out of one of the Gram devices like Gram Kracker. Here's a list of the programs that I have actually seen up and running.

WINGWARS:

Imagic's a fantasy type adventure with superb graphics along the line of Super Demon Attack. You are the central character in the adventure and you fly around the caves, caverns and battlefields on your winged horse, spitting out some type of fireball from the horse's mouth to defend yourself.

E.T. AND HIS ADVENTURE AT SEA:

Looking Glass - an educational game that uses a map of the world (which has superb detail) as a base. You must pilot your boat, in which E.T. is a

passenger, around the world, trying to get him to the secret landing site where a spaceship will come to take him home. All the while there is lightning, typhoons and other hazards that you must avoid.

MOUSE ATTACK:

Don Fitchorn and Sierra On-Line - a MunchMan type game where you steer through a maze leaving a marked trail that must cover all the corridors, while you try to avoid being eaten by the vicious mice. Nice graphics but the theme is a little worn.

VONDRAKES MOLECULAR MISSION:

Walt Disney Studios - one of the neatest educational games I have EVER seen. It has to be geared at the teen to adult age group though, because it teaches you, in a most entertaining fashion, chemical formulas for basic compounds and the like. It doesn't appear to be something that my 10 year old could conquer though.

PLANT GENETICS:

Texas Instruments - This one is not a game module. It is strictly for educational use. It is copyrighted 1984 by Texas Instruments, so I guess that's why it never came to market. WHAT A SHAME! Although it is mostly text, the program is just SUPERB!!! It is like going through the encyclopedia for information on the topic, only it's all here in one place, instead of having to do the research on it. If we could only convince TI to go back and make modules like this one again. Before seeing it in the flesh, I had never even heard of this program. If this is a sample of what TI had in the works for future educational stuff then we really lost out when the 99/4A was orphaned. The program contains three different levels of learning on the topic and it covers them in a simple, understandable manner. I learned more about heredity, dominant and recessive traits, phenotypes and genotypes in the few minutes that I spent with the program than all of the years I spent in school and college. Neat program!

DTIHCG expresses its deepest sympathy to Mattie Bush, whose husband Paul passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, October 5. Mattie served as our President for 3 years, and currently is our Treasurer. Although Paul didn't attend our INFOMART meetings, he always enjoyed our social events, was supportive of DTIHCG activities, and knew many of us by voice as he took our numerous calls to Mattie.

Memorial services were held for Paul on Friday, October 7, with many DTIHCGers in attendance. We offer our continued support and love to Mattie at this difficult time.



1994 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
VICE-PRESIDENT	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
TREASURER	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	IMOGENE OSBORN	214-252-5985

1994 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
DOM CHAIRMAN	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274

1994 LIBRARIANS

ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	ROBERT WATTS	214-353-9824
VIDEO LIBRARIAN	ROBERT SMITH	903-693-5588

These are your DTIHCG Officers and Chairpersons. They help themselves and you by giving their time and efforts to make this a better club for all of us. If you'd like to become more involved, please let our President, Dan Lowe, know what you'd like to do.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their jobs more rewarding.