

# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 15, Number 5

May, 1995

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, May 13, 1995  
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 MAY EVENTS

- 13 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART  
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)  
Time: 9:00 AM  
Program: PRBASE by ROBERT WATTS
- 13 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons  
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 14 Mother's Day
- 20 Armed Forces Day
- 26 NEXT STEP  
JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)  
1415 Motor Street, 5:15 PM
- 29 Memorial Day



## DTIHCG'S JUNE EVENTS

- 2 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE
- 3 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale  
Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM
- 6 "D" Day - 1944
- 14 Flag Day - remember to fly your Flag!
- 17 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART  
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)  
Time: 9:00 AM  
Program: Furnelweb 5.1 and Using .IF & .DP Commands  
by John Creviston & Charlice Althar
- 17 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons  
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 18 Father's Day

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## COUNTRY GAL



by Mattie Bush

Hello and Welcome to the Country Gal yet another month. I want to apologize for last month's article of mine. I just want to Thank each of you who came so very far to attend my mother's services. My family is so very grateful for all the cards, letters, flowers and the friends of the Group that attended. THANK YOU.

Thank you each one who attended our APRIL meeting and looking for you this month. There is one thing and I'm reaching out to you as members to get your views on some programs of you would like to DO or SEE? Please let us know what your feelings and thoughts are, Thank You.

As I was reading this month's newsletters and mail, my heart was really saddened to read and hear of the groups that are discontinuing sending their newsletters. This is what has kept All the TI WORLD going thru the years is our keeping in touch with one another. I wish ALL these GOOD LUCK!

MICROpendium is one of our greatest sources of knowledge for the TI-99/4A. In this month's magazine it tells of TEX-COMP being operated now by the NEW company name of TEX-COMP LTD., operated by CAREY HOFFMAN, a young man 24 years old who has been working with the 4A for 17 years. The NEW ADDRESS: TEX-COMP LTD., 425 East Arrow Highway, Suite 732, Glendora, California 91740-5684. Voice phone is (818) 339-8924 or Fax (818) 858-2785, also they can be contacted as TEX-COMP on the bulletin board of the West Covina 99'ers at (818) 339-1134. Mr. Hoffman says one project is to bring the DataBioTics line back to life. The company bought out the remaining DataBioTics stock and will be selling it. We wish Jerry Price GOODLUCK.

Jan Alexandersson of Transgund, Sweden has ended publication of his newsletter the PROGRAMBITEN. This was a very interesting newsletter to read. GREAT LAKES COMPUTER GROUP has a new address, it's 236 Wendy Ln., Bloomfield, MI 48302-1178. Also, the TR SOFTWARE has a new address: c/o Gerald D. Turner, 4009 Twilight Ave., Enid, Oklahoma 73703.

The Fest West '96 Fair will be held in Tucson, Arizona February 17, 1996 at the Quality Inn, 1601 Oracle Dr. You can contact the South-West Ninety-niners Users Group by sending E-Mail to TWILLS @ primenet.com. or the Cactus Patch BBS (520) 290-6277.

Ken Gilleland had his art show in California of the art he does. He's the one that has designed a lot of graphics, computers games for the 4A. We say GOODBYE to our OTTAWA TI99/4A USERS GROUP; they have shut down after 14 years.

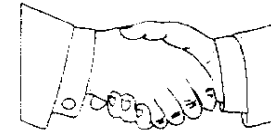
As I close this article my Country heart is saddened by all our friends going and those who have gone from life. They will be missed greatly.

On the positive side of things I have come a long way in the past 5 years. I can't emphasize this point enough, YOU could do the same thing, too, if you only WANTED to, and was willing to put the TIME into it. I do it because I wanted to. I'm doing nothing magical nor nothing new. The only thing I'm doing is DOING. Sure it's easy to sit back and watch others do the work; did you ever think it might be A LOT of fun?

The ONLY thing that sets myself aside from me is MY drive and MY love for MY computer and nothing makes me happier than MY TI-99/4A. Until we meet again, this is the Country Gal signing off until next month.

Keep on Computin!!

## "SHAKE HANDS with the NULL MODEM"



by Jim Stewart

I never met a Null Modem I liked...or understood either, as a matter of fact. I have used them, bought them, read about them, tried to understand them.....but I've never had a CLUE what a NULL MODEM was.

This week I found in The Brady Guide to Microcomputer Troubleshooting & Maintenance a paragraph that puts some real light on the subject for me. Before sharing these illuminating words, I should try to explain how I relate to this confusing subject.

My hearing is so bad 50% of my conversations consist of "What's That?". Not that I can blame her, but my wife Lynne rarely speaks to me head on. Instead she will start talking into the cupboard while cooking dinner and I'm reading a book 40 feet behind her. If I can see that she is talking to me, my comprehension goes way up. Or to say it another way, we talk towards each other, but we don't communicate because our messages don't "shake hands" or determine if the line is busy. Now I have figured out that Lynne is the DTE and I'm the DCE in our family, I come a lot closer to understanding how Mr. Henry Beechhold describes Serial RS-232 connections.

"The confusing part of (RS-232) is the terminology, TRANSMIT and RECEIVE, you have to think of the terms this way. In DTE, TxD is outgoing and RxD is incoming, but in DCE, on the other hand, TxD is incoming and RxD is outgoing. A CROSS-WIRED ARRANGEMENT TO ACHIEVE THE-DESIRED MATING IS CALLED A NULL MODEM. If you wanted to transfer files between two computers in physical proximity, you could do so by connecting the two serial ports with a null modem cable, forcing one of the computers to act as DCE to the other's DTE." There you have it. It's really simple when it's explained that way. Right?

Oh Oh! Here comes the DTE looking for the DCE to do some WOR....k??? I'm out of here!"

## TOM'S TRIVIA

by Tom Hall



THE TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES has been busy, you might say they have turned a new leaf ;-). Now, TEXAS vegetables are protected from verbal abuse! This is no laughing matter, too many TEXANS go around disparaging TEXAS produce, such as asparagus, okra, pooh-poohing pinto beans, giving peas a black eye, thumping watermelons, berating broccoli and verbally assaulting defenseless legumes, tubers and leafy things. There is a lot of lettuce at stake in this matter. This new law to make it illegal, to speak unflatteringly of TEXAS vegetables and fruit, is long overdue and the law may be thought of as the Vegetable Political Correctness (VPC) law. So before you vent any displeasure over TEXAS produce, remember the TEXAS VPC laws! BTW, TEXAS is the 8th state to enact VPC laws.

Over heard at lunch -

Q: You know the difference in a pig and a fox?

A: About 4 beers.

*Old Age* is when your computer has more memory than you do.

*Smoke and mirrors* - that's the way to feel younger.

Don't smoke and don't look in mirrors.

*A perfect world* - Prostates would shrink and wallets would bulge.

The cost of Texas automobile insurance is out of sight. There are several ways to lower the annual cost - but you will never see them all published in one place. Even asking your Insurance Agent doesn't guarantee you will receive all entitled discounts. Some of the more common discount involve air bags, anti-lock brakes, anti-theft devices, Classroom instruction like drug and alcohol awareness or defensive driving. This isn't a complete list.

We've all seen this bubble wrap plastic stuff that is used in packing breakables. If your garage is like mine and you can't get the car under shelter when a TEXAS hail storm blows up - try taping a big sheet of the bubble wrap over the flat surfaces of your car to protect it from hail damage.

It is with a great deal of pleasure, I can report that former Newsletter Editor and *Distinguished Former Member* **RON FERGUSON** is running for **MAYOR** of Anna, Texas. Voting will take place on May 6, so let's hope that by the time you read this Ron will already be **MAYOR** of Anna.

While I was enjoying the April 15th XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting - I realized that there are people and there are **real people**. DTIHCG is and has been blessed with a large group of **real people**. DTIHCG may be in the twilight years of our user group, but we still have an active core of **real people** who make it a real pleasure to attend a Group meeting.

One way to make sure that crime doesn't pay would be to put the government in charge of it.

When politicians complain about others getting money from special interests, it seems to me their biggest objection to tainted money is, "T'aint mine". Do you think we will ever see "Term Limits"?

Does it seem that our society is getting less "normal"? Consider this fact - the 1955 population of all State Mental Asylums has shrunk by 88% . That is to say, almost 9 out of 10 former mental patients are now out on the streets.








In case you haven't been on the BBS lately, you have missed (among other things) some interesting talk about INTERNET.



# DTIHCG ACTIVITIES

May 7 - June 17, 1995



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 7 ○ FQ	May 8 HARRY TRUMAN - 1884	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13 <b>EXCHANGE SATURDAY</b> 9:30a Program 12:00p D.O.M. 1:00p EC Meeting 
<b>NEW DISK OF THE MONTH, AT MEETING OR BY MAIL</b>						
May 14 ○ FM  <b>Mother's Day</b>	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18 Pope John Paul is 75 today	May 19	May 20 <b>Armed Forces Day</b> Hug a Vet
<b>IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS TO A MEETING CALL 337-4840</b>						
May 21 ○ LQ	May 22	May 23	May 24	May 25	May 26 <b>NEXT-STEP</b> Jo Jo's on Motr St 5:15p Come early, stay late.	May 27
<b>BRING A FRIEND TO THE MEETING</b>						
May 28	May 29 ○ NM <b>CONFEDERATE HEROES' DAY</b>	May 30	May 31 CLINT EASTWOOD'S BIRTHDAY	June 1 ANEY GRIFFITH IS 69 TODAY	June 2 Newsletter Deadline Room Reservations	June 3  <b>1ST SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE</b> Ross at Central
<b>CALL THE BBS AND FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING</b>						
June 4	June 5	June 6 ○ FQ <b>'D' DAY - 1944</b>	June 7	June 8	June 9	June 10
<b>IF YOU MOVE, LET US KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS, WE CARE</b>						
June 11 <b>Jim Leshner is our resident T199/4a Dealer</b> ☎ 214-821-9274	June 12 ○ FM PRESIDENT BUSH IS 71	June 13 	June 14  <b>Flag Day</b>	June 15  <b>WADE BOGGS IS 37</b>	June 16	June 17  <b>EXCHANGE SATURDAY</b>
<b>FOR DFW XCHANGE MEETING DATES CALL 214-746-3365</b>						

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

**FYI**

by Dan M. Lowe



If you were one of the fortunate "few" in attendance at our last DTIHCG meeting then you'll remember that we met in room 1059, a first for us all. We'd gotten so accustomed to our old quarters (room 1061) that many of us mistakenly went there first, only to be told we were in the wrong room. "Why, this is where we always meet" was uttered by many of the old timers. But soon, they too realized that THIS meeting was happening in room 1059, certainly for this Saturday FOR SURE! Well, surprise surprise - turns out that most DTIHCGers found this new location was not so bad after all. As a matter of fact, even though it was a little smaller that what everyone had become accustomed to, turned out it fit like a glove. As a matter of fact, we're going to try for it again for the May meeting (Saturday, May 13, 1995).

And if you're wondering why we met in a different, and smaller, room last month, you will find the answer in my first sentence above - the word "few" says it all. When we only have a few people in attendance then we cannot justify meeting in a large room (such as 1061). And that's too bad, because we should have a much larger attendance at our monthly INFOMART meetings. However, that can be easily corrected WITH YOUR HELP. We need to get a better turnout at these meetings, and that means YOU - YOU need to come if only to warm one of the seats. We won't even call on you to do anything but, we will welcome you with open arms and give you the glad hand. So mark your calendar now for our next meeting, Saturday 13 May 1995. Let's fill the room to overflowing so that INFOMART will have to put us back in our old room.

**COMPUTERS, COMPUTERS, EVERYWHERE COMPUTERS**

Jackie Guion presented last month's program entitled, "Could You, Would You, Do You." She made a unique presentation that made us all stop and think just how pervasive computers have become in our daily existence. She focused on the premise that we're all affected by computers in our everyday life in just about everything we do. We arise each morning and look at our digital clocks, fix the coffee in a maker controlled by a chip, drive to work in a car with computer-controlled ignition, get checked out at the grocery store with the price scanner, and on and on and on. She had each of us describe how we've been affected by computers in our daily lives. It was really amazing how we all come into contact with computers all the time and never give it a second thought. Good show Jackie; maybe at some future meeting we can get her to instruct us on how to program our VCR.

**COMPUTER CRYOGENICS**

Of all the techniques/approaches used to solve computer-related problems, the one demonstrated at a recent Next-Step meeting would have to rank right up there near the top of the list. You can do a lot with screwdriver, pliers, hammer and punch but, if you're a real pro, you'll use the procedure of servicemen the world over - the ice compress. As Mattie Bush was heard to say . . . "Sometimes you have to cool the components down to make 'em work right."

And that's exactly what Greg Justice did when he "resurrected" a hard drive with an ice pack applied "just so." If you want to know more about this procedure and how it was performed, then go back and read Jim Stewart's description on page 12 in the April 1995 issue of the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE, it's a classic.

## JERRY PRICE BOWS OUT

Just read in the April 1995 MICROpendium that Tex-Comp's TI-99/4A has new owners as of April 1, 1995, according to Jerry Price, Tex-Comp vice president.

Price began his company as a mail-order business for the TI-99/4A in 1981 when he noticed a need for a source of software other than the popular titles then carried in department stores.

The new company, Tex-Comp Ltd., is operated by Carey Hoffman. Carey will be aided in the venture by his father, Larry Hoffman of the West Covina 99ers. Address of the new company is Tex-Comp Ltd., 425 East Arrow Highway, Suite 732, Glendora, CA 91740-5684. Voice phone is (818)339-8924 and Fax is (818)858-2785. In addition, callers can contact the company under the user name TEX-COMP on the bulletin board of the West Covina 99ers, (818)339-1134.

## WHAT IF?

Read recently where Texas Instruments earnings jumped 72 percent because of a robust worldwide market for personal computers, cellular phones and other electronic equipment. With that kind of clout and growth makes me wonder where the TI-99/4A would be today if the company had continued its manufacture. Food for thought.

Until next time I'll leave you with this:

**Fish may seem stupid, but have you ever seen one spend hundreds of dollars on equipment to try to hook a person?**

## NEXT STEP REPORT



by Charlice Althar

April 28 was our most recent NEXT STEP, and a great time was had by all who attended. Amidst all our normal (?) pigging-out and joking with each other, some serious discussions were carried on. JIM STEWART brought his ? new ? system, lovingly referred to as a "Frankenstein" because it has been created from so many parts from a myriad of sources, all at less than minuscule cost. :-). It's a DOS system, and he's trying to use his old faithful Star Gemini printer, his original printer for his TI-99/4A, with this computer. He's had no luck so far, but MARY LEARD has apparently been successful with a similar setup. Unfortunately MARY wasn't able to be there Friday night to help JIM, but we know he'll keep on trying till he either succeeds or knows why it's impossible! Several other member offered JIM suggestions; he thinks the solution may lie in the printer cable.

ROBERT JONES and TOM HALL were talking about 1-2-3/Phase 220 volt current, and inspecting a really nice torx screw/washer from a Hewlett-Packard computer. TOM also was busy exchanging some mysterious pieces of (junk?) trivia with LOUIS GUION, who was also offering explanations for JACKIE's muscle stiffness. She's been busy as a bee, planting a 22 container garden of tomatoes, peppers, onions, and herbs.

JOHN CREVISTON expressed great fright and apprehension re: SHARON's announced intent to drive him home. Of course, the fact that JCC had just come from the ophthalmologist's office where his eyes were dilated had little to do with it! JOHN also was displaying his recently acquired 1976 Canadian uncirculated coin set. SHARON gave her birthday information to ANN GRESHAM, who has been compiling a database of DTIHCG birthdays, and we were all kept in stitches over ANN's tale of obtaining a new driver's license without relinquishing her picture on her old license! And after we'd all stuffed

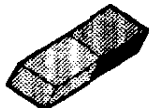
ourselves with goodies like Southwestern Salad and Chicken Fried Steak, ANN purchased a beautiful fresh strawberry cheesecake pie, garnished with kiwi, which she shared with everyone present. Yum, yum, delicious! Thank you very much again, ANN!

Predictably, other discussions centered around the recent bombing in Oklahoma City. We all expressed our sympathy for those concerned, and hope all the perpetrators will soon be apprehended.

DAN announced his entry into the DOS world after purchasing a used system at a charity garage sale (the charity didn't benefit much from that sale, did it, DAN?) Much support was offered him by all in attendance; however, we're afraid DAN still went home confused. JOHN and CHARLICE talked a bit about the program they will be presenting at our June INFOMART meeting.

Friday, May 26 will be the next time we'll meet at JOJO's for NEXT STEP. We hope you'll try to join us.

## UPDATING THE DATABASE . . .



RENEWALS were gratefully received this month from RIP DOWLING, BILL GORSUCH, LOUIS & JACKIE GUION, TOM HALL, JOHN HAMJE, and GUY HUNTER. Great! Thanks, everyone, and a special big welcome back to RIP, who listed his address as "Arlington, TX, USA, Earth"!

Our apologies to ANN GRESHAM, who renewed back in January, altho she wasn't due until May! We failed to "update" & she received another renewal notice in April. Sorry, ANN, please forgive us! Just proves computers are only as good as their operators.

'Twas nice to see former member TOMMY GRIFFIN at INFOMART. He's reached the time to part with his TI-99/4A system, and is looking for anyone interested in his hard/software. We also had ALLEN HARBAUGH as our guest at INFOMART, and hope he'll return to visit us again.

## 1995 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE-PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
TREASURER	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274

## 1995 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-8829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
DOM and DISKETTE SALES	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	JIM STEWART	214-625-0922
MEMBERSHIP/MERCHANDISE	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-8829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	MOGENE/CARL OSBORNE	214-252-5985

## 1995 LIBRARIANS

ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
VIDEO LIBRARIAN	ROBERT SMITH	903-693-5568

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, Mattie Bush, 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.