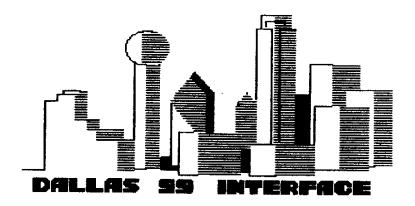


Dallas II Home Computer Grou PO Box 29863 Dallas, Texas 75229



Volume 8, Number 2

February 11, 1983

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

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP PO Box 29863 Dallas, Texas 75229

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 20, 1988

The Dallas Infomart

99er Cornection 3BS 24 Hours, 300/1200 Baud 214-272-2786

Fetruary Highlights

Meeting Day:

Software SIG: Certificate 99 Main Program: Printer Codes Special SIG: Workstation

Design

NEXT-S'EP Workshop: Friday, March 4, 5:15 pm Inside the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE:

Coming Events
The Fat Cat's Tale
Program Committee Report

Heard on the Bus

Next-Step and MiniSig Report ,

The Library Corner

CEOTICS

Membership Services

User Experience: Parallax Interface

Control Codes Funnyweb Farms

Cartridge Library Catalog

FIRST CLASS

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SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS						
EVENT		DATE			TIME	
INFOMART Meeting Software SIG reviews "Certificate 99" as hosted by Louis Guion		2/	'20 <i>/</i> "	'88 "	9:00	am
Main Meeting covers Printer Codes as hosted by Bill Pry. Be sure to bring your printer manual.		Ħ	Ħ	†1	10:30	am
Afternoon SIG covers design considerations for a TI workstatior. Hosted by David Martin.		11	11	Ħ	1:00	рm
Executive Committee		2/	27/	88	1:00	ρm
Committee Chairmen		**	19	**	2:30	рm
Meeting scheduled at Charlice Althar' on Kimble Ridge Drive	s					
Newsletter Deadline					Midni	
Scheduled at Charlice Althar's home.	+#	2/:	28/	88	2:00	pm
NEXT-STEP WorkShop at Wyatt's, Beltline and Josey in Carrollton	#	3/	4/8	88	5:15	Þm
INFOMART Meeting		3/	12/	88		
Hardware SIG – An introduction and an explanation of RAM-Disks for the novi	CE	11	П	71	9:00	am
Main Meeting on printing techniques for TI-Artist as hosted by Ricky May		**	•	"	10:00	am
Special Topic SIG features an ARCHIVER workshop - a review of the program and basic instructions		11	•	17	1:00	Þm
Executive Committee		3/1	9/8	RA.	1:00	Om.
Committee Chairmen		_, , II	ľ	11	2:30	•
MiniSiG covering the Infocom Adventures	+#	3/2	n/e	ıΩ	2:00	
NEXT-STEP WorkShop		3/2			5:15	
Newsletter Deadline					%idnig	

NOTES:

\$ = Attendance Fee

= DTIHCG Membership Required

+ = Reservations Required

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

Callas TI Home Computer Group

Program Schedule - Infomart

February 20, 1988

9:00 - 9:55 Review of CERTIFICATE99 Software

10:00 - 11:55 Main Meeting

10:00 - 10:30 Business Meeting

10:30 - 11:30 Printer Codes (bring YOUR printer manual)

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

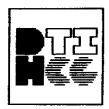
12:00 - 12:55 LUNCH BREAK

1:00 - 2:55 Design Considerations for a TI workstation

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

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

ONE DOWN, ELEVEN TO GO; COMMUNICATIONS IS KEY



FatCat's Tales: by Rio Dowling

There, we made it through the year's first meeting, didn't we? Yes, yes of course we dic. Now I remember. Not to say anyone was the least bit nervous about it.

Well, if anyone was he shouldn't have been. The great folks in the group proved once again how much talent there is around and how eager everyone is to share their knowledge with the rest of us. In the morning meeting. demoing some of the old standby cartridges, John Creviston and Louis Guion did a great job of their presentations. The other fella didn't do his homework and it showed. Have to do better than that next time yourgster. After all you don't want those old geezers to show you up.

The mair meeting on the X-10 home control system by former President Bill Kauth was fascinating. Bill took the time to show us what was happening in that world while he had lots of irons in the fire with another group. We do appreciate your extra effort Bill, and would like to have you join us again soon.

In the exciting afternoon meeting our stalwart cartridge library chairman, Doug Garretson, refereed a bloody battle to the finish by cur club Munchman champions. First place was taken by Mikey and second and third place were taken by the OTHER TWO contestants. Funny money prizes were awarded to all. Did you see the MUC on those DTIHCG dollars? 'Nuff said.

We owe a vote of thanks to Louis Guion again for a super demonstration of several of the available utilities for our little orphan. The capabilites available prove once again that there is very little we can't do that anyone would ever need to do. Thanks also to Jackie for letting us invade her home. Just keep that tea rolling in Jackie.

My informants tell me that the Next-Step Workshop went well and created lots of homework for our techies, especially Guion the Lesser. Only problem was we just barely made our quota on food sold to the group to pay for the room. We all know why that was a problem don't we? El Presidente, Gato Gordo, couldn't make it so naturally food sales were way down. He'll make it up next time so don't get in front of him in the chow line.

The February Calendar is chock full of opportunities to learn, enjoy and gather so check your schedules closely so ya don't miss nothin. While you're there, note that this is the month of hearts and flowers and take care of that one special person that loves you even though you are always belied up to your 99/4A and staring at an electric box.

I am still hoping to get folks to give me lots of input on their views of the group and its strong and weak points. My way of serving cannot be mending member's broken toys since I am more talented at breaking them. However, I would like to help the group by being a clearing house of opinions and suggestions of any sort. Lemme have 'em.

A couple of comments I have heard lately have both had to do with the same subject. communication. I have heard someone who was trying to learn something say that they just dich't understand what was said, and I have heard someone who had been trying to teach something say they couldn't seem to get it across. It is my contention that there is very little in the day to day use of a T.I. that is beyond the comprehension of anyone in the group. The problem must be then with the communication between the parties. When both of them are trying so hard. how can this be? Especially when the carties are people who are used to giving and taking directions?

The trouble is we are an informal and social group and both teachers and students don't use the learning skills they would at their place of business.

If you are teaching a procedure to someone, one on one, don't you let them actually do the work while you advise and criticise? Don't you watch the trainee for signs of comprehension or the lack of it? Don't you have them repeat back to you what you have said or demonstrate their ability to perform the function? Don't you advise them to practice the procedure and report back if there are any problems? Sure you do.

If you are trying to learn a new skill or procedure don't you take notes? Don't you stop the instructor and ask him or her to repeat something if you didn't cet it the first time? Don't you realize that the most complicated functions are a combination of lcts of more simple ones, and that you must have the basics down to advance further? Don't you do your homework both before and after the session? Don't you make a list of the things that really stumped you after a sincere effort to solve the problem yourself so that you can ask relevant questions? Don't you thank your instructor for his help by finding a way to help someone else? Do you know if you can teach something to someone, even at a beginning level then you have really learned it yourself? Sure you do.

We all use these skills at work but perhaps we forget to practice them in the casual environment of a club function. Or perhaps we are embarrassed or do not wish to seem overbearing. So. the lesson must be taught again rather than a new one. So you all

promise to yourselves to do better in the future. I know I do.

I hope ya'll all have a happy Valentine's day and get lots of candy and such. If you get too much, bring it to INFOMART. If you don't have any extra come on downtown anyway. See 'ya there.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



Jim Stewart

With a powerhouse Program Committee consisting John Creviston, John Guion, Jon Hodges and Lynn Nidiffer. you PROGRAM COMMITTEE can look forward to many excell------ ent programs during this

year. Some will aim at the novice. and some at our most advanced members, but all should be entertaining and educational.

Last month Bill **Kauth** literally "turned us on" to the X-10 computerized electrical remote Other members control system. helped us re-examine the Household type modules dealing with "Weight Control and Nuitrition", "Personal Record Keeping", "Household Budget Management", and "Home Financial Decisions". As a wrap-up. the "Munchman" play-offs ended a challenging day.

Our February 20th meeting will begin at 9 am with Louis Guion

presenting "Certificate 99", now being purchased under a "group member buy". Be sure to bring your own printer manual with you, since Bill Pry will be speaking on "Printer Codes" at 10:00. business meeting will start at 11:00 and you are encouraged to conduct club business and tour vendor tables on the ground floor at 12. However, be sure to return at 1:00 if you have ever dreamed about a better computer desk. David Martir will discuss. "Workstation Ergonomics" dealing with design considerations for your ideal II computer set-up.

Looking ahead to the March 12th meeting, you can expect a TI-Artist Screen Dump presentation by Ricky May; an Archiver Workshop with audience participation, and "Ram-Disks for the Novice", by someone well qualified to be called a novice.

Please plan your time now to attend these meetings and join in the discussions and presentations, so we can all continue to benefit from this dynamic, friendly TI Support Group!

I THOUGHT YOU GUYS COULD EAT!



HEARD ON THE BUS Louis Guion

The NEXT-STEP MiniSiG held at Wyatt's Cafeteria the cther day (January 29, to be exact) was a real success for those that attended. had the usual ----- asscrtment broken printers.

disk drives and consoles to diagnose or repair. There is now an added benefit of having food available so that the family, and perhaps even a friend, can attend and have a reason to occupy space. Why is this a benefit? Being able to visit and have a leisurely gettogether while breaking bread is the added value of this cafeteria meeting format. Besides having your questions answered in a oneto-one manner or getting equipment fixed, you now have the added advantage of food.

This food is what "pays" for the room, as those of you that have attended these Wyatt's meetings know. The cafeteria charges us a fee of \$75 worth of food purchases to let us have the room for the evening. We cut it a little close last time with about \$100 in purchases. I'd like to encourage you to come on by next time, February 20th, and share in the relaxed atnosphere. food. fellowship. and information even if you don't have a problem or a NEXT-STEP.

Our new shipment of GROM-Port adaptors has arrived. They'll be in the parts service at the INFOMART meeting. The price is \$8.00. You ask, what is a GROM-Port adaptor? It is the piece of your console into which you plug your solid state software cartridges. You want to know now to tell when yours is in need of replacement, you say? The most common indicator is when you start having "trouble" with your TI Extended BASIC cartridge. When it fails to cause drive one to load programs. when the screen gets all sorts of weird flashing colors for no apparent reason, and when the Extended BASIC programs "lock up" by themselves, all indicate a dirty or defective GROM-Port adaptor. If you buy one (brand new, made by II) you can change it yourself, or you can bring it to the next NEXT-STEP for free installation. Of course you may have to sing for your supper, but the installation is free!

Rumor has it that the Databiotics people are shipping the GRANDRAMs, but I have not heard a single confirmed rumor that says anyone has received one of them. I frequent BBS systems from Boston to Seattle and from Houston to Chicago and have yet to hear anyone say he has received the one he ordered. My fingers are still crossed that the twelve pieces we have on order will arrive shortly.

Speaking Seattle, I understand that a company up there

has designed an IBM-like case to hold our present TI P-Box cards, the 9640 Geneve, and even a PC-Clone-on-a-card. They claim that the different processors can all share the same drives and other peripherals. What will they think of next?

One final rumor. Jackie Guion had made a plea for the return of the missing club silver. recall, it had supposedly been taken home to clean by some kind person after the BBQ cinner. Well. my spies report that the silver has been found, and is now formally back in the club's possession. A lady was cleaning her kitchen, and looked back under the shelves where her cookbooks sit. More properly, it is a sort of built-in desk arrangement like Jackie has between our den and the kitchen. You know the kind. Anyway, this person cleaned under there and found a strance. unremembered trown cardboard box, Naturally, she pulled it out and found..... Yes, the missing silverware! Now, here is the best part. The lady's name? Don't tell that I told you. now! Yes. it was Jackie.

STEPPING OUT



Tom Hall

To the hail and hearty who braved the cold and windy weather to attend the January 29th NEXT-STEP Wyatt's, GREET-NEXT-STEP WORKSHOP INCS! After a

slow start. a ----- lot of folks drifted in and

the attendance was pretty good. Jon Hodges received a lot of attention with his efforts on a mouse. John Guion saw the insides of several consoles and ran some interesting diagnostic programs. Maybe some selected diagnostic programs would be a good subject for a DOM? #11 in all everyone enjoyed - the meeting and the food was an added attraction.

The next scheduled NEXT-STEP WDRKSHOP will be on Friday, March 4th, at the WYATTS on Beltline and Josey in Carrollton, 5:15 til about 8:30. You must be a member to attend, but you can join the club at the door. Bring your problems - Hardware and Software. There will always be someone who can give you some quidance. The fellowship is great toc. Plan to eat at the beginning of the meeting. We "pay" for the meeting room by quaranteeing to spend at least \$75 for food. Sc be sure to write DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP or DTIHCG on the back of your ticket, before you pay the cashier. Also, let her know you are with DTIHCG so we will get proper credit.

We do plan to have a future NEXT-STEP at St. Mark, if I can get in touch with Angela Parker to make the arrangements. So watch this column, for a definite data.



MINISIG REPORT Tom Hall

UTILITIES MiniSiG hosted by the Guions on January 24th was the best. If you missed this one. you missed the premiere MiniSig of 1988. There was stand------ ing room only and Louis wowed

us with his skills in using a number of TI utility programs.

Sunday, February 28th, 2pm, is the date and time of the PRINTER MiniSiC! This is your opportunity to find out what your printer will really do. You should bring your printer, printer cable and printer manual to the meeting. If there are special questions about using your printer with a particular program, you may want to bring the program too. We will have 2 systems set up. The SIG Leader is our own ingenious Jon Hodges. The Hostess, our gracious (and ever supportive) Charlice Althar. Be sure to sign up for this PRINTER MiniSiC at the INFOMARI MEETING on February 20th. Printed directions will te available. You can also sign up via the 99'er CONNECTION or by calling me. If you need directions mailed. I'll do that too.

There are tentative plans to have a MiniSiG on March 20th for INFOCOM ADVENTURE GAMES. Before these plans can be firmed up, we

must have a host and a SIG Leader. Please contact me if you can handle either or both of these jobs.

Up comming MiniSiG's will cover - a repeat of Communications SIG we had last year, thanks to Dan Johnsen. This is to be followed by an excellent opportunity to "visit" some II Boards via PC Pursuit. Plans are to schedule this meeting on a Tuesday evening, between 6 and 10 PM. If you are into Bulletin Board hopping, this will be a rare chance to see what is going on arround the USA in the TI World.

Future MiniSiG plans include -TI-WRITER and your printer. This will feature Transliterate Commands in TI-WRITER. How about combining graphics with TI-WRITER? Interested?

Is there enough interest for a MULTIPLAN MiniSiG in 1988?

How would a "Home Visit" sound to those of you who are shut-in or just can't bring your problem to a NEXT-STEP or MiniSiG? For example is there anyone who has a moden. and for what ever reason, doesn't have it in use? Well, you are a canidate for a "Home Visit." Let me know if this concept of a "Home Visit" is of interest.

I need your comments and suggestions. Volunteer SIG Leaders and host/hostesses are resperately needed. Call me at (Metro 267-5987) or Startext MC 116172.

LIBRARY CORNER

SOFTWARE LIBRARY:

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

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

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

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

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

CARTRIDGE LIBRARY:

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

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

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

ADVENTURE LIBRARY:

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

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

NEWSLETTER LIBRARY:

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

CART LIBRARY EXPANDS



THE CARTRIDGE CONNECTION Doug Garretson

The excitement surrounding the Cartridge Library this past month brings to the term mind that McDonald's used to describe their hamburgers before someone coined the ; 100% phrase

Beef': WHOLLY COW!

To begin with, John Guion stepped forward with the generous donation of an 8K SuperCart! What a grand addition to the library! And three other members, Carol Tapia, Rose Urquhart, and Michael Chapman, donated a total of six new cartridges! Thanks to John Guion, Michael Chapman (Othello), Rose Urquhart (Jaworeaker II) and Carol Tapia (all the rest).

One would think that that would be enough excitement for one month, right? Well, hold on to your collective seats! About two days after the January INFOMART meeting I got a very unexpected phone call from one Mr. Jim Lesher. Some of you folks may recognize Jim's name as one who always brings an extra monitor, console, or whatever else the club may require to each INFOMART meeting. He also has his Own table setup in the INFOMART basement on every meeting day, and he peddles all kinds of wonderful goodies for the TI-99/4A, from cartridges to books to extra consoles to cables to a friendly

smile and a firm handshake. In addition to all of the above, Jim is a treasured member of our little ol' group! Anyway, Jin was or the phone explaining to me that he had some spare cartridges that he would like to donate to the Cartridge Library! He simply wanted to inquire of me what carts the Library doesn't yet have, and which ones we would like. Believe me, I was as surprised then as you are now, just reading about it. In other words, he caught me with my pants down! I had no idea which carts were available that were not yet represented in the Cartridge Library, so I asked if I could get back to him. He agreed.

I went to work digging through my old literature concerning the Solid State Software available for our machine. I found an old catalog that was put out by TI back in 1982, called "Texas Instruments Home Computer Program Library". On the cover is a photo of all kinds of II carts, and in the foreground is a II-99 set up in front of a II monitor, with none other than Bill Cosby holding a couple of carts and pointing to the monitor screen (this was obviously before he was anybody). Anyway, I flipped through the pages of this (then) complete listing and description of all the software available for the II. I jotted down any listing that came in cartridge form that lcoked like it might be a good candidate for the Cartridge Library. Then, I called Jim back with my list.

I told Jim that I didn't expect him to come close to the number of carts on my list, but that I thought he could use it as a guide and pick a couple of carts from his stock to conate. Jim obviously didn't hear this last part, 'cause he went hog wild and donated 18 (pronounced ATE-TEEN) new carts to the Cartridge Library! Is that incredible. or WHAT?

This is the list of carts that Jim donated: In the GAME category, A-MAZE-ING; Connect Four; Donkey Kong; Henhouse; Hustle; Incoor Sneggit; Super Demon Soccer: Attack: Tombstone City:21st Century: Tunnels of Doom; and Zero Zap. In the EDUCATION category. Multiplication 1: Music Maker; Reading On: and Scholastic. Spelling. Level 3. Ĭn the PROGRAMMING/HOUSEHOLD category, TI LOGO II: Mini Memory: and Tax/Investment Record Keeping. Jim also came through with a manual for Video Chess, which is already in the Library.

Count 'em up! Eighteen new additions to the Cartridge Library! And with the donations that were made during the INFOMAR? meeting, that brings the total donations for month of January TWENTY-FIVE! WHOLLY COW! Be sure and show your appreciation to all of the members who made donations. They deserve a great deal of thanks for making the Cartridge Library (and therefore the whole group) better all the time! See you all Saturday!

SYNAPTIC SYNOPSIS



CEDTICS Jim Lesher The Cutting Edge
Of Technology
In Computer
Science. NEURAL
NETS is the name
evolved from
"Network of
Neurons" which,
of course, is
found in the
brains of all

living creatures, even humans. This stuff sounds like sci-fi. Would you believe a company named "SYNAPTICS INC" is experimenting with multi-processor computers trying to simulate the brain? You may remember in an earlier CEOTICS, a man named Hillis was the first to build and program a multi-CPU. SYNAPTICS INC. says that NEURAL NETS is the next big step in computer design in the very near future (like 12 to 24 months). However, they say the military will be using the first fruits of this new technology. This Neural Net system can be programmed to recognize everything from flaws in beer cans on the assembly line to hand writing, faces or fingerprints and distinguish between American and foreign airplanes, ships, tanks, etc. We may see H.A.L before we think...

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

99er CONNECTION BBS:

Fire up your modem and call 214-272-2786. The group BBS answers both 300 and 1200 baud, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Be sure to let the SysOp know i' you are a new DTIHCG member...

STUFF FOR SALE:

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

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

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

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

HARDWARE LOAN:

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

"PEOPLE SERVICES":

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

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

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

USER EXPERIENCE: THE AXIOM PARALLAX INTERFACE

What do you do if you want to use 4A to drive a printer but you don't have a peripheral expansion system ("P box")? For at least three DTIHCG members the answer was to use an Axion Parallax Interface.

Rip Dowling, Jon Hodges and Thierry Weber combine for about six years of comership and use of these devices. They feel that the Parallax interface is an inexpensive and reliable device, especially suited to the user without immediate plans for a "P box." Although the old standalone RS232 interface is also available, Jon points out that it does not provide a parallel port.

There are a couple of common complaints from Parallax owners, but most have to do with the design or operation of the interface rather than its reliability. The Parallax connects to the side of the 4A. just the old II standalone peripheral: additional devices are connected to the rear of the Axiom unit, however. All agreed that desktop clutter is desktop clutter. no matter which way it runs. For certain programs, some hadware setup (jumper connections) or software changes are also required. Rip notes that the interface has its own power plug, which can be a bit troublesome when you've already used up all nearby outlets!

Rip eventually acquirec an RS232 card in order to use a modem and retired the Parallax at that time. Jon found that his CorComp micro99 expansion system didn't get along with the Axiom unit and abandonded the Parallax. At last report, Thierry was still using his but had just gotten a "P box" and expected to move on the an RS232 card before long. While most users eventually do likewise, they all agree the Parallax is ideal for minimal systems.

The unit is reported to work with all parallel printers and does allow some unusual "file open" statements for additional printer control, if you do your own programming. The Axiom Parallax interface is an excellent, low cost entry point to the world of printing with the 99/4A.

CONTROL CODES

by Tom Damura

Control in computer terminology is defined as the direction or command of an electronic device to perform a desired function. Codes are systems of symbols that quickly communicate information that allow control of these devices.

Many devices are under the control of the computer user. Every time a disk drive or printer is used a command is sent to the device in order to access it. Most of the time the user is unaware of the use of control codes to effect this use.

Numbers are in actuality codes. They communicate information. They can indicate numbers, letters, or instructions to control external devices such as printers. The information communicated can be varied.

Alphanumeric characters struck on the keyboard turn up on the screen after a transmission by code to the computer. There are 96 characters that can be sent from keyboard to screen. Each of these characters is sent by code. Each character has a corresponding code number. Everything the computer does uses numbers. Everything is in code internally. For example an A typed at the keyboard is encoded as code number 65 and sent through the circuits of the the computer to the screen where charcter 65 (which has been defined to look like an A) is displayed.

Instructions to control external devices such as printers are sent in code as well. To tell the printer to perform one of its various functions it is necessary to encode the instruction. For example using TI-Writer with a Gemini printer it is possible to shift into compressed printing by first instructing the printer to turn on that mode before printing any characters. The control codes may be imbeded in the documents that are produced. The codes are actually numbers but appear on the screen as a variety of characters. The Gemini printer has capability for block graphics and user defined graphics. It is possible to instruct the printer to use these graphics in documents by the use of control codes.

Control codes are accessed by a variety of digital contortions on the keyboard. Codes numerically start with 0 and go to 255. Each code number performs a different activity. The numbers 33-123 are used by the alpha/numeric and special characters keys of the keyboard to be displayed on the screen. They are used, everytime a letter or number key is pressed.

Some code numbers are accessed by use of the Control or Function keys. There is a difference between Control and Function keys. TI-Writer by pressing the Control key along with key U the shape of the cursor will change. This allows access to the individual control codes that can instruct the printer to perform its various capabilities such as compressed, enlarged or subscript print etc. Each individual control code is created by keying in Shift+letter. This allows the control code that directs the printer modes to be imbedded in the documents created. The codes will appear on the screen as strange characters that will not be printed. The II-Writer transliterate function can also be used to send control codes to the printer. In this case a "normal" alpha/numeric character is converted to the code by TI-Writer before it is sent to the printer.

The control codes for each printer ability are indicated in the printer's users manual. Printer codes usually start with a 27 which is the escape code that tells the printer control information will follow.

CERTIFICATE99 ARRIVES

by Tom Hall

The CERTIFICATE 99 Programs have arrived and will be distributed at the February INFOMART Meeting. Rip authorized the purchase of 4 extra programs. So, if you failed to order this outstanding program - you may wish to talk to Rip.

MENSA MATERIAL?



FUNNYWEB FARMS Mike Stanfill Hiya Sportsfans!
This month's
TINYSRAM is a
classic (unlike
this year's
STUPDR BOWL!).
It's based on an
old and familiar
parlor game
called "Pegjump"
where you have a
series of pegs

laid out in this fashion (the "X"s are the pegs):

XXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXXXXXX XXX

The 'o' is an empty space. The idea of this game is to jump one peg over another, always landing in an unoccupied space, remove the jumped peg and continue doing this until you have but one peg remaining. Sound simple? Dream on cherub! I'm told that the truly Mensa-material types can accomplish not only the final objective of the game but have that final peg resting in the originally empty center spot. I've tussled with it for awhile but have only been able to end up with three pegs left. It IS a challenging little monster!

Type in, SAVE and RUN the program in X-BASIC. On the screen you'll see the black pins, an empty central spot and a red peg. The red peq is a sprite you control with the arrow keys. When you place the red dot over the peo you wish to move press the 'Q' key, whereupon the dot will turn white. At this point press the arrow key indicating which direction you want the dot to jump. If your move is illegal the dot will turn red again, if not the peq under the dot will have jumped the desired peoleaving a blank space where the jumped peg and the original peg were.

Sound confusing? It isn't. You'll get the hang of it quite quickly. Enjoy, fellow pigeons! (And if anyone knows how to end up with a single peg let me know. It's driving me, even further, banaras!)

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* 1 !********TINYPEG******
     ***** TINYGRAM*****
     ***BY MIKE STANFILL**** *
    **DALLAS TI USER GROUP* *
*____*
* 2 CALL CLEAR :: X.Y=18 :: CA *
* LL CHAR(88,"003C7E7E7E7E3C") *
* :: PRINT ." XXX":." XXX":. *
* "XXXXXX":,"XXXOXXX":,"XXXXXXX *
* XX":," XXX":," XXX"::: *
*_____*
* 3 N=79 :: GOSUB 8 :: GOSUB 7 *
* :: X=P+X :: Y=U+Y :: IF K<> *
* 18 THEN 3 ELSE GOSUB 8
*____*
* 4 CALL GCHAR(X,Y,C):: IF C<8 *
* B THEN 3 ELSE GOSUB 7 :: CAL *
* L GCHAR(P+X,Y+U,C):: IF C<88 *
* THEN 3 ELSE W=P*2+X :: Q=U* *
* 2+Y :: CALL GCHAR(W.D.C)
*____*
* 6 IF C<>79 THEN 3 ELSE CALL *
* HCHAR(X,Y,N):: CALL HCHAR(X+ *
* P,Y+U,N):: X=W :: Y=Q :: CAL *
* L HCHAR(X,Y,88):: GOTO 3
*____*
* 7 CALL KEY(1,K,S):: P=(K=5)- *
* (X=14)-(K=0)+(X=22):: U=(K=2 *
* )-(Y=16)-(K=3)+(Y=24):: IF S *
* THEN RETURN ELSE 7
*____*
* 8 CALL SPRITE(#1.88.7-(K=18) *
* *9.X*8-7.Y*E-7):: CALL SOUND *
* (N,440-(K=1E)*N.O):: RETURN *
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These people are the club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the two and a half hour Committee Chairmen's meeting (the officers meet for an hour and a half before that!) at the President's house on the Saturday one week after the INFOMART meeting. In addition to just belonging, they serve themselves and you by giving freely of their time to make this a better club for us all. Thank them individually if you get the charce.