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Member of the

Computer Council of Dallas



LLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 12, Number 5

May, 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, May 23rd, 1992 at the Dallas INFOMART I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit

DTIHCG'S MAY EVENTS

1

NEXT-STEP

2	Sidewalk Sale	
В	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
10	Mother's Day	
14	Flag Day	
16	Armed Forces Day	
23	SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART	
	 Program: David Axberg presents 	
	 FIRST BASE & TI-BASE and the 	
	 general topic of spreadsheets and data bases 	
25	Memorial Day observed	
30	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	
	Mr. Gatti's	
	 Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane 	
	 Officers: 2:30 pm, 	
	Chairpersons at 3:30 pm	
	DTIHCG'S JUNE EVENTS	
5	NEXT-STEP	
	 JOJO'S On Stemmons at 	
	 1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm 	
5	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
6	Sidewalk Sale	
20	SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART	
	Oak Lawn @ Stemmons	

ЛЛL 3 NEXT-STEP

21

27

JOJO'S On Stemmons at

Officers: 2:30 pm,

Time 9:00 am

Mr. Gatti's

Father's Day

Program: TO BE ANNOUNCED

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane

Chairpersons at 3:30 pm

1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm



Shaking the Bushes by Mattie Bush

This is SHAKING the BUSHES wishing all our Ti mother's a VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY.

Ok, all you DTIHCG'ers do I have a big surprise for you ali; Yes we have a very big surprise for you this month. We have our very own DAVE AXBERG to give our program May 23, 1992 at 10:00 am. So mark those calendars and don't forget to be there. The program will be on FIRST BASE to TI BASE, so come on out and enjoy the show. Right?

Again our group showed a big turn out of 51 people at our April meeting and I was so very glad you were there. Our program was given by John Creviston on FILE COMPRESSION UTILITIES and he did a very good job. Thanks, John for a great job. I called upon him at the last minute and he was ready. The afternoon was a miscellaneous of different things: discussions, coping of disks and etc.

Again WELCOME to all our NEW MEMBERS: Robert Cox, Bill Gorsuch, John Hamje, Randy Petty, Maria Fekete. We are looking forward to seing you May 23, at Infomart.

There has been a lot of updates on some of our software such as Multiplan V4.02, Midi Master 99 V3.0, TI-PEI, also YAPP. Regena has a New Basic software for teaching the Alphabet and other new Basic programs. GOFER, Screen Preview Enchaned, Pix Pro,TI Mahjongg, Page Pro Font Sampler is released. So you see all our programmers and authors are still hard at work trying to help keep all our TI WORLD ALIVE and WELL. Barry Traver's prediction is true about staying ALIVE.



Shaking the Bushes, continued......

A part of the job of being President of the DTIHCG'S is answering the many questions such as phone calls, letters, and corresponding with the various BBS'S ,trying to stay in contact with all of our members and making sure that they receive their Newsletters. I even try to take care of the ugly things that happen within the club.

I would like for all to know that this is strictly a volunteer group and each and everyone has families, jobs, and many, many others things that they do in their own lives. We DO NOT get payed for doing these jobs. We do it because we want too. We want the friends and the fellowship that we get. We also want to learn from all those who have been apart of the club since day one. Their knowledge is so very valvable to all. Without them we would be lost. We in the TI WORLD of the TI99/4A are most grateful for our programmers, our authors and the many people that develop the hardware for this little machine. Isn't it great? We want it to stay ALIVE and WELL for many years to come. We DO NOT get payed for doing our jobs. Again it is strictly people who volunteer for the positions.

One of the things that gets so frustrating is when you order something and it takes forever to get. We know that is very upsetting to you who are new and old in the TI WORLD of computing. Also the information that is asked of the clubs by other members or new people wanting to know how to join or just to sell something. We all have to have patience with one another to get things done.

I will try to do the best I can in getting out the



Shaking the Bushes, continued.......

information that is asked of me and the other things that goes with the job. Well it's time to close my scap box and just say to all JUST KEEP ON COMPUTIN YOU TI'ers. We love each and everyone of you. SEE YOU AT INFOMART MAY 23, 1992 at 9:00 AM.



Updating the Database

WOW! What a month! FIVE NEW MEMBERS! We're tickled pink to have so many new enthusiasts of our beloved TI-99/4A join our group. Please help us welcome the following: ROBERT COX of Euless (joined as a Family Membership), MARIA FEKETE of Ft. Worth, BILL GORSUCH of Rowlett, JOHN HAMJE of Dallas, and RANDY PETTY of Arlington. We hope to see all of you at each DTIHCG INFOMART and NEXT STEP meeting!

Two members have upgraded their memberships to Family status--DAN LOWE, and GUY HUNTER.

RENEWALS are also important, and we're glad to have received them this month from DMETRO ANDRYCHUK, JOHN DIPRIMA, LOUIS & JACKIE GUION, TOM HELM of Georgetown, and ROBERT O'TOOLE of Lindale. Thanks, all!

Begininer
Printer
By Jim Lesher



These programs are written on a Star Gemini printer and may or may not work on another brand. These are about the most basic programs for a printer. Some of these programs could all be put on one line in Extended Basic.

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 line to be printed is in quotes.

This is a demo in "TABS". Notice the "TAB" command is on the same line as the "PRINT #1:" lines. After you see what this program does, lets use our imagination and make other designs, maybe even some pictures.

10 CALL CLEAR
20 PRINT "TABD"
30 OPEN #1."PIO"
40 FOR K=1 TO 72 STEP 6
50 PRINT #1:TAB(K);"JACKIE"
60 NEXT K
70 FOR N=72 TO 0 STEP 6
80 PRINT #1:TAB(N);"JACKIE"
90 NEXT N

Send your creations to:

Jim Lesher 722 Huntley Dallas Tx 75214 The Parable of The TI
By Dick Warburton



(from the TISHUG NEWS DIGEST, Sidney, New South Wales, Australia)

Once upon a time there were some little computers who lived with their parents in America. One of them became an orphan because his parents did not want him anymore. Lots of people tried to look after him, but because they did not get much help, they had to work things out for themselves, and people did not ever expect them to grow up. Their parent companies had lots of other new computers whom they trained to take the places of the older computers. The little computers were very smart, but the old ones grew lazier and lazier because their parent companies did lots of things to keep them happy. They just kept on doing the same old things, and because they had slick advertising to support them, they just kept on going as they were. People who looked after them paid lots of money for the privilege, and bought them all sorts of expensive toys to play with. Some of these toys were very old, and were hard to operate.

People kept on locking after them, and these machines paid for their keep by performing for their masters. Some of them could only really play games and amuse people, but one was very good at school, and came to have lots of friends. Unfortunately, his parents died too, and he became an orphan. Then almost nobody wanted him because he was only good at schoolwork. The other one went to work in as office, and he learned lots of things to do. Unfortunately, he was not very versatile, and even though people spent lots of money writing simple instructions for him, he didn't always do what he was

TI Parable



continued......

He was also hard to look at, and did not have nice colors. He was very slow and some people thought he was stupid. Most of his owners got fed up with him and locked him away in a cupboard, and bought a shinin gnew model with lots of new functions and shiny new color monitors and things. These new machines were called DOS machines. DOS stand for DAMNED ORRIBLE SYSTEM. DOS machines are very good at making their owners feel really helpless and frustrated, and are often used as paper-weights or typewriters.

The little orphan had a hard time, and had to work hard to survive. He was able to do lots of things. He was not very big, but he was intelligent and learned quickly. He was very efficient for his age and size, and because he was only small, he had to learn lots of tricks to get jobs done properly. People who looked after him, liked him. and helped him grow up into a very sophisticated computer. He could do almost everything that the other three computers could do, and was much more obedient. His instructions were much easier to give, and he had users who liked him. They did lots of things to make his job easier. Some of his users gave him a beautiful color monitor, while others liked to see how fast he could work providing a RAMdisk. He kept on growing stronger, and stronger, and better. The other computers almost stopped growing. Because he is made so well, he can be fixed up if he gets sick, and hospital bills are small. His friends like to help each other, so they are able to do things to expand him much more cheaply than other computers. This makes them happy in a time when costs are high, and there is not much money. This

T'I Parable

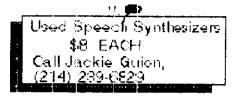


continued......

little orphan expects to live for long, long time. He has friends all over the world who care for him, and who help to keep him growing. They keep making things for him which give him bigger muscles, and let him run much faster. His owners are very proud of what he can do when all costs and comparsions are made.

A simple story, but with much truth. TheTI can do so many things well. With RAMdisks and EPROMS to help it along, itis efficient, user friendly and will do almost everything you could want of yourcomputer. It is cheap to run, cheap to expand, and has a great bunch of users world wide who help each other. It is a fun machine for real computer users. Through club membership, owners can become proficient in a number of ways. They can get help with programming, using a wide range of software, buying up-to-date software, and getting help for hardware problems. Costs for club members are kept to a minimum. Members can learn about computer hardware, add accessories cheaply, and expand their machines at minimum cost. When your membership falls due, RENEW so our orphan can continue.

We as members want to keep this TI99/4A ALIVE AND VERY WELL. It's really a great little orphan. I LOVE YOU.



Fest West Report By Don O'Neil Mid-South 99 April 1992







The doors opened at 9:00 Saturday to an enthusuastic crowd. As the vendors did their last minute setup (myself especially), the crowd gathered around the tables to see the array of new products and demos. Among the most "shocking" demos present were those by The Taylor Co. run by Chris Talor, WHT and Crystal software. TTC was show casing their innovative operating environments in Wycove Forth using the RAMBO memory expansion. Crystal was demoing their latest release of Midi Master 99, and occasionally sneak peeks at version 3.0. Finally, WHT was demoing their new product Digi-Port.

All in all it was a very successfull gathering, at last count around 250 visitors passed through the doors. Even ESD decided to show up, and contributed a IDE controller and Hard Drive to the raffle on Sunday. Here is a short list of what each vendor was promoting for the weekend:

Bud Mills Services (Horizon):

All the usual stuff, Horizon 3000 RAM disks, PGRAM's, RAMBO upgrades, and Memex cards. Among their new products shipping within a month, Digi-port and 4a Memex.

Comprodine:

Many amazing new games from Quinton Tormanen- His new releases of WAR ZONE II, MINE FIELD, and BACKSTEINE version 1.2. Also there was ARTIST CARD SHOP, a new utility for generating greeting cards.

Newsletter corrections:

Tigercub article from Genie, author Genial.Al

Fest West, continued









Rave 99:

Rave was showing their PE/2 expansion Box, and the new speech adaptor KIT.

9640 News:

Beery Miller was selling the new version of LGMA Fortan, GEME, Windows 9640 and a host of other 9640 and 99/2a related software packages.

Asgard:

New products from Asgard this year were Ti-PEI, and a new version of Yapp.

ESD:

ESD showed up and brought along an early prototype of their new HD controller; unfortunately, it was not functioning for a demo. ESD anticipates an April 15, 1992 release date for a new IDE controller. Negotiations have taken place and Barry Boone will be writing the DSR. Prices are in the \$160 - \$300 range depending on floppy and hard drive configuration. An IDE controller with 40 MB drive was priced at \$220.

The Taylor Company:

Chris Taylor's newly founded company was present to show off the capabilities of the 99/4a with Wycove Forth and the RAMBO memory addition. His demo's included an incredible graphics operating system with pull-down menus and windows running on a standard 99/4a with RAMBO. He has many promising new products that will hopefully come to the market soon.

Fest West; continued











WHT showed its new version of the Digi-Port software and hardware. Pricing and delivery for this product was announce, and will be shipped through Bud Mills Services. WHT showed its prototypes for the 4a Memex memory card and Accelerator. Flyers were distributed explaining other service WHT provides, like PLD and EPROM programming.

Notung:

Notung was present to promote their Disk o' Dinosaurs, and new MIDI Master songs.

MS Express:

Showed their sliding blocks puzzle game.

Crystal Software:

An amazing demonstration of the capabilities of Midi Master 99 and Midi Album. Along with Mike's two keyboards, I brought along my expensive keyboard and we filled the house with amazing music that had Tom Freeman dancing in the aisles!

Regena:

Regena was there to promote her new BASIC software for teaching the alphabet, and other new BASIC programs.

OPA:

OPA showed up to show their new POP (File of Programs) catridge that allows you to hold up to 2MB of cart's in one. They also announce a new EPROM for the Geneve that automatically boots the 9640 into a TI mode

Fest West continued









WITHOUT A DISK!!! Also announced was the Ros 9 series for the Horizon 3000 Ramdisks; this ROS is an EPROM based ROS instead of a RAM based one.

After Saturday's event was the Vendor forum, hosted by myself. Here are the two documents that arose ffrom that event, one describing its purpose, and the other the results.

VENDORS FORUM

A meeting of the minds. Hosted by Don O'Neil of WHT

This open discussion between the consumer and the supplier is aimed at reconciling differences of "wants and needs" to help reinforce the continuing support of the 99/4a. We hope that business can take the suggestion and complaints from the public to help the current vendors serve you better. This discussion is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and we hope that you will join us! Topics of discussion this evening will be:

- >SOFTWARE, where is it going?
- >HARDWARE, when should you buy, and what?
- >SUPPORT, what is support? who has good support?
- >OPEN SYSTEMS, why should we share information, and when?
- > OPEN DISCUSSION, put your PRAISE and complaints on the table.

TONIGHT AT 7:30 pm in the DEMO ROOM.

Fest West, continued......



The National Committee for TI Standards (NCTIS)

Committe proposal, generated at Fest West 1992, Phoenix Arizona.

To form hardware, software and configuration standards to extend the life of the 99/4a and bring order to the community.

In these hard times, The TI community need a direction to go. In the past other committees have been formed, such as ANSI to generate standards for hardware and software developers to follow. The standards set forth by NCTIS will aid the users and developers in providing a better software/hardware solution for you. Once standards are set, it is recommended that all current and new software is labeled as standard #1.... compliant. These standards should have acronyms for easy recognition.

The following guidelines were discussed at a "Vendors Forum" on Febuary 15, 1992 in Phoenix Arizona. These are recommended standards for the community to ponder upon until Mayy 1992 at the Lima Fair, at which time the standards will be decided and publicized.

LEVEL #1: TI 99/4a Console, 32K memory expansion, cassette and EA/5 loader (EA,Supercart, Ti Writer, Multiplan, etc.)

LEVEL #2: Level #1 system PLUS: RS232, and DSSD Disk drive and controller

fest West. continued......









LEVEL # 3: Level #2 system PLUS: at least 128K of CPU RAM, bankable at the >6000 space.

Level #4: Level #3 system PLUS: 9938/58 VDP with 192K VDP RAM.

PLEASE remember that these are recommendations generated by this first meeting, and are by no means locked in stone. We are presenting these ideas to you, the user, the developer, the market. Please take out recommendations and think carefully about them, and forward your ideas to your local user group, and then on to the Lima fair.

We appreciate your support.

Overall it was a very successfull show. Please, distribute the information about the NTISC to your local users group for feedback.

Obituary

John Force, a former member of DTIHCG, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 1992. Many of you will remember him as Lynn Nidiffer's friend, accompanying Lynn to many DTIHCG functions while Lynn served as Newsletter Editor and CCD Representative for the group. John, a retired airline executive, always served as a magnet for swapping humorous stories; he could top anything you had ever heard or done. John loved good music, with

John Force, continued

his home supporting one of the most impressive stereo systems around. He was owned by show-quality Persian cats, but, fearful of disease, he did not show them in area cat shows. John and Lynn hosted several DTIHCG MiniSiGs in their DeSoto home; Their hospitality was as memorable as were the plentiful and delicious treats served afterwards. He was a charter member and Vestryman of St. Anne Episcopal Church. Memorials may be made in his honor to St. Anne, 125 Executive Way, DeSoto, TX 75115



THE TIGERCUB NUTS & BOLTS DISKS

What are they? The Nuts & Bolts Disks are collections of 100 or more subprograms in merge format, ready to merge into your own programs.

And what does that mean? Well, TI-99/4A Extended Basic allows the use of user-written subprograms. And what are subprograms? You know them well. CALL COLOR, CALL SOUND, CALL HCHAR - those are all subprograms which are built into the Basic language. You can write your own subprograms, to do anything that Extended Basic is capable of, and tack them onto the end of your program to be CALLed whenever you need them.

To put it another way, using a subprogram is almost like running one program from another - except that you can access it much faster, you can pass along any



Tigerclub Software, continued

values you want to, and you can return to where you left the first program.

Also, with a disk drive you can save programs in MERGE format and then MERGE them into a program in memory. Providing that the line numbers are different, the program which you MERGE in will be added to the program in memory.

The variables used in a subprogram are entirely separate from those used in the main program, therefore libraries of utility subprograms can be developed in MERGE format, and MERGEd into any program without conflict.

The Nuts & Bolts Disks are libraries of such subprograms. The first disk contains 100 subprograms, plus a tutorial on using them. Disk No. 2 contains 108, and Disk No. 3 contains 140 more in 114 files. Nothing like them has ever been offered by anyone else for the TI-99/4A computer.

These 348 subprograms have been consecutively line-numbered with high line numbers so that they will not overwrite your program line numbers, and so that any number of them may be MERGEd into a program without overwriting each other.

Advanced programming techniques have been used to make these routines as compact as possible, averaging hardly more than 3 sectors each, so that a hundred or more could be crammed onto a disk and so that they would add very little to the length of a program. If you are learning to program, you might learn a great deal by studying these subprograms.

Each disk is accompanied by several pages of printed documentation, explaining the use of each subprogram and listing a short demo routine which you can key in, run, and experiment with.



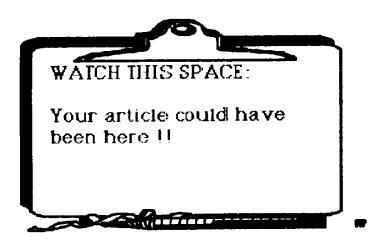
Tigeroub Software, continued...

Many of these subprograms

can be used by persons with almost no programming knowledge, to modify existing programs. For instance, a program written in Basic, which crashes with BAD VALUE when run in XBasic, will run with a simple CALL BXB, and CALL KILLQUIT will disable the infernal QUIT key. Many different screen character styes are available, as well as colorful wipes to replace CALL CLEAR.

However, it is the programmer who will find these disks truly invaluable. Even if you have the skill and ingenuity to develop these routines for yourself, wouldn't you rather just pay five cents apiece for them?

The Nuts & Bolts Disks originally sold for \$19.95 each, later reduced to \$15 each. They are now available for just \$5 each, postpaid. However, if supplies of printed documentation are exhausted, it will be supplied on disk. Order from Tigercub Software, 156 Collingwood Ave., Columbus OH 43213.



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NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	DOUGLAS BEIGHTOL	903-989-2673
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5 pm)	214-293-1410
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.