Member of the Computer Council of Dallas



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TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP







# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 12, Number 12

December, 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, December 19, 1992 at the Dallas INFOMART I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit

### DTIHCG'S DECEMBER EVENTS

- 4 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 5 Sidewalk Sale
- 19 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
  - Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
  - Time 9:00 am
  - Program: Horizon RAMdisk, with Butch Spill
- 20 First Day of Hanukkah
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY
- 26 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
  - Mr. Gatti's
  - Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
  - Officers: 2:30 pm,
  - Chairpersons at 3:30 pm
  - 1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm



#### DTIHCG'S JANUARY EVENTS

- 1 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 1 New Year's Day
- 2 Sidewalk Sale, Ross at Central, 5 am
- 16 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
  - Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
  - Time 9:00 am
  - Program: To Be Advised
- 23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
  - Mr Gatti's
  - Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
  - Officers: 2:30 pm,
  - Chairpersons at 3:30 pm
- 29 NEXT-STEP
  - JOJO'S On Stemmons at
  - 1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm
- 29 Newsletter Deadline

# NEW SOFTWARE & HARDWARE by Mattie Bush

Bruce Harrison of Harrison Software has a program called SMART CONNECT- this program allows you to transfer files between a TI and a PC compatible. The STOR MOR which is New this year simple program that loads strings into low and high memory solving the problems of programmers running out of string space.

Beery Miller had a variety of software for the 9640 GenProg, Picture Transfer, Hypercopy, PC Transfer, MDOS source code, ABASIC source code and PSYSTEM source code.

Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software displayed New products, including Link — Terminal Emulator, Page Pro Composer, also Invoice Management, Mail Room, Music Maker Sampler and Font Sampler. The very biggest project that was of FIRST DRAFT, a New word processor program with a built-in spell checker. Available at the show was the New memory card for the 4A.

I could go on for hours about the WORLD of the TI99/4A and all the NEW products that are out there. I personally have talked with a lot of authors. These people are dedicated in keeping the TI99/4A VERY much ALIVE and WELL. We are still very Alive and well because of these people and others just can't

### .....New, continued

stand it why we are still going. It is because of the nachine itself. It is a little work horse and is still going and going.

Our little computer has advanced this year by far more this year and the NEW software and the NEW hardware that is out there is just waiting for the buyers. It has come a long way since 1982; am I not right on that subject?

To the authors and the programmers that are still working so very, very hard to keep the 4A WORLD ALIVE and WELL a very SPECIAL THANKS to ALL and a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU. ALSO A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We are still not EXTINCT by no means and have gotten better as the years go ahead. I wish with all my heart that ALL of our TI community the richest BLESSINGS and GOD's speed for this Holiday season.

# CHRISTMAS MEMORIES by Mattie Bush

Here it is that time of the year once again, that's right Christmas. That time of the year for all hopes and

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dreams. The time of remembering the beauty and the special magic of Christmases past and present. I myself still look forward to the season and the celebration of the Christ Child's birth. Some say that Christmas is for the young, but I think that no matter how old a person gets to be, there is always something unique to appreciate about Christmas.

I remember the joy of youth, the expectancy and the surprise. I remember the Yuletide tree with it's ornaments of red and silver and gold; I remember the gifts; a book, and a spinning top, especially the candy cane and the oranges and apples that filled my stocking, and I remember the delight on the faces of the grownups as they gathered around the Christmas tree. As a child, I could sense the connection that brought us all together. I could feel the rich serenity when all the family was back home again to be part of the holiday.

I have seen Christmas from all sides now. The warmth that you share and the pleasure from many years of sweet, Old Christmas memories.

I embrace my old hopes and dreams and relish in my memories--memories as bright as the winter sun and as soft as the glow of the moonlight.

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As Christmas approaches and you make your rounds of the shopping malls and make those lists of those who were naughty and nice, be sure to remember gifts for the family, friends and especially your computer friends far and near. At the top of the list why not join us the Dallas T! Home Computer Group here in Dallas, Texas, we would all love all of you. We have a very unique group of members. We have alot of software and hardware anew out there.

Give someone a gift of the New SCSI card or MEMEX card from Bud Mills Services. There is the TIM and the SOB that is the Son-of-a-Board from OPA. Ken Gilliland of Notung Software has a Disk of the Ancient Ones and a very New game called ARMOR.



SHAKING THE BUSHES by Mattie Bush

Once again we have come to the end of the year and once again it is that time of the year for the ELECTION of OFFICER's and CHAIRPERSON's. So mark those calendars for the 19th of DEC and come and hear Butch Spill doing a program on the Horizon Ram Disk

Again this has been another wonderful year as your

### .....Shaking the bushes, continued

President this marks 2 years now and I have enjoyed every minute of it. But by far the most enjoyment that is the people and meeting NEW members and helping in all their needs. This year I have watched this group grow and it sure is looking very good. I want to THANK each and everyone of you who have taken time for volunteering as officers and chairpersons, it's been really great. THANK YOU ALL.

To each and everyone THANK YOU for being a T199/4A USER and we hope to see each of you in 1993.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL IN THE T193/4A WORLD OF COMPUTERS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

All I can say is JUST KEEP THOSE COMPUTERS GOING. See all next year.

Mattie Bush President

# Recipes for Christmas Cookies

MORAVIAN MOLASSES COOKIES

1 pound light brown sugar 6 ounces margarine

### ...... Christmas Cookies, continued

- 6 ounces shortening 1 quart molasses (Juerto Rican, which is very dark)
- 2 rounded tablespoons soda
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 4 pounds flour (approx)
- 2 table spoons cloves
- 2 tablespoons ginger
- 2 table spoons cinnamon

Melt shortening and margarine until it bubbles and add to sugar. Stir in the molasses. Disolve soda in boiling water and add to mixture. Sift approximately 4 pounds flour. Add spices along with the flour.

The dough should be almost stiff enough to roll Cover and let set overnight. DO NOT refrigerate. On floured, cloth-covered board, roll dough as thin as possible. Cut with cookie cutters and place on a greased pan Bake in a 375 degree oven for exactly 10 minutes. Let cookies cool before removing from pans. Makes 3 dozen.

### EASY COCCNUT PECAN COOKIES

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 box coconut pecan frosting
- 2 eggs 1/2 cup margarine, softened

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well.

### ......Christmas cookies, continued

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto lightly greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Makes 3 to 4 dozen.



### NEXT STEP by Charlice Afthar

Our November NEXT STEP was held the night after Thanksgiving at JOJO's. We had about 22 in attendance, and none of us ordered turkey! It was a lively evening, with lots of fun.

ROBERT SMITH introduced us to BERTHA (pronounced BER-TA), visiting from Peru. Since she speaks very little English, ROBERT told us a bit about her country and home life, in his usual entertaining manner. BERTHA reads and understands more English than she speaks, and works in Peru as a school teacher of grammar and literature. We all enjoyed meeting her, and nope she'll persuade ROBERT to bring her to INFOMART

DOUG and EDITH BEIGHTOL and their sons were with us, they'll be moving to Missouri the end of December and we'll miss them. Until their arrival at NEXT STEP, no one was aware of another DTIHCG connection to BERTHA's arrival in Texas. EDITH, who will receive her B.S. in Political Science from East Texas State University this month, is doing an

internship working in Congressman Chapman's office, and did much of the paper work involved in bringing BERTHA to the United States. She had no idea she would ever meet the person whose papers she'd worked on. Small world we live in, isn't it?

GREG and JOYCE JUSTICE were able to attend for the first time in many months, and it was great to visit with them again. For us long-timers in DTIHCG, it's difficult to realize how much those "little kids" JEFFEREY and AMBER have changed! It's great to watch these youngsters grow into such nice young people.

ANN GRESHAM has taken up woodcarving, and brought an "unfinished" project to show us. Her bear is very recognizable and was greatly admired. We'll be following the bear's progress closely, ANN, and please handle those knives carefully!

Two hard copies of the messages left on the TI-ECHO from a local BBS were passed around for members to read. This is the TI-ECHO that MIKE PH LLIPS has been talking about recently. He has persuaded the BBS to accept calls from our group at 1200 baud; their usual speed is 2400. We appreciate MIKE's efforts in behalf of DTIHCG.

Two of our most loyal smiling faces were missing this month: JIM LESHER and MATTIE BUSH, which has hardly ever happened before! JIM, we know there were good reasons for your absence, but be assured you were missed, and we'll expect you back in January! PRESIDENT BUSH'S husband PAUL and one grandchild were sick, and MATTIE couldn't leave them. We're glad to hear that all is well again at her house.

We also missed LISA, our favorite smiling waitress at JOJO's. She's been unable to work for several weeks due to an accident. Hope you'll be back in January, LISA!

Due to Christmas, we won't have NEXT STEP in December, so our next gathering will be JANUARY 29. That gives you pienty of time to mark YOUR calendar, so you can join us that evening, anytime from 5 PM on, at JOJO's, on Motor Street, just east of I-35E. See you then!



Lots of RENEWALS were received this month! A big thank you to BILL ADAMS, BILL & BLANCHE BURRELL, RIP DOWLING, NICHOLLE DOWLING,

## ......Updating the database, continued

GREG HUDSON, HUGH MCKNIGHT, DAVID MARTIN, BILLY MONROE, and L.M. & JIMMIE KENNEDY. Wow!

WELCOME and WELCOME BACK to our newest member, ROBERT WATTS. Robert is an old member who has found his way back to Dallas and to DTIHCG, and we're very happy to have him.

Thank you to all who have given us address and phone corrections, which help us to get Newsletters to you in a timely manner, and to keep our Membership Roster up-to-date.

# TRIBUTE TO JUM LESHER By Louis Guion

Jim Lesher announced this month that he is ceasing his long-standing practice of showing his TI-99/4A hardware and software offerings in the monthly Super Saturday at INFOMART Show. This show is held each month in the basement area of INFOMART. For as long as the Dallas TI Home Computer Group has been a member of first the Dallas Computer Council, and later the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD), Jim has faithfully rented a table to display his wares and to support the Council through his monthly fees. He also comes in early to help the vendor staff with the setup

### ......Tribute to Jim Lesher, continued

of the area in which the show is held. There MAY be a vendor with a longer term commitment than Jim had, but I don't know of him. Jim cites the slowly decreasing volume of business he receives at the show as the most prominent factor in his giving up his show table, It just won't be the same down there without you, Jim!

Micropendium has carried Jim's ads for a number of vears, and he reports that he still gets good support for his business from the mail order side. He carries almost every piece of hardware made for the /4A as well as for the Texas Instruments CC-40 Computer, and plans to offer them by mail and by phone in the future, His software offerings include much of what TI released for the machine as well as a stock of large numbers of items carried on behalf of current after-market houses such as Asgard. He sells a lot of brand new merchandise as well as some that has been extensively test-driven to insure its reliability. Jim promises to come to the DTIHCG meetings in the future, and you can hob-nob with him there about what he still has available to enhance your favorite computer. For you DTIHCG members living in far off places (and there are quite a few of you) you can reach Jim at (214) 821-9278 or you can write him at 722 Huntley, Dallas, TX 75214.

# Beginner Printer By Im 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. 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 character to be printed is in quotes.

This is a demo in block graphics, taken from the Gemini 10x user's manual page 105, which has been modivied to run from the TI-99/4A. Also the DATA has been altered to print TI. Line 60 tell it to read 8 lines of DATA and line 70 tells it to read 12 elements per line. If you look on page 237, you will see that chatacter #224 is a blank and #239 is a solid block. So with these we can make an endless amount of designs. Then we can change the 239 to any character we want to make even more. Those of you who are artistic may make some very nice pictures with this method of drawing. NOTE on some models of Star printers, the 06 in line 30 may need to be changed to 24 or 36.

10 REM READ DATA TI
20 OPEN #1:"PIO"
30 PRINT #1:CHR\$(27); "3"; CHR\$(06)
40 FOR J=1 TO 08
50 FOR I=1 TO 12

## ......Beginner printer, continued

60 READ A 70 PRINT #1:CHR\$(A): 80 NEXT I 90 PRINT #1: 100 NEXT J 110 DATA 239,239,239,239,239,224,224, 224,224,239,224,224 120 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224 224,224,239,224,224 130 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224. 224,224,239,224,224 140 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224 224,224,239,224,224 150 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224. 224,224,239,224,224 160 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224, 224,224,239,224,224 170 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224 224,224,239,224,224 180 DATA 224,224,239,224,224,224,224 224,224,239,224,224 190 END

Send your programs to: Jim Lesher, 722 Huntley Dallas Tx 75214

# MESSAGES, PAST & PRESENT on GIFS From the TI Roundtable on GEnie

Category 9, Topic 3 Mon Mar 27, 1989 DSD at 22:30 EST Sub: Gifdecoder/encoder for the 4A!! Actually you need an 80 column card....but lets see what Barry will say! 7 message(s) total.

----- Category 9, Topic 3 Message 1 Sun May 14, 1989 J.CREVISTON at 11:D1 CDT There haven't been many messages posted here on this topic, but there are many more GIF pictures in the downloads than MS DOS pictures to be un-archived (whose topic received many replies). So, the question is: Is there a GIF display/decode program (ala. MacFlix) in our future. Would it show the pixs in color? And allow TI-Artist files to be made from details? Curious mains want to know, JCC ----- Category 9, Topic 3 Message 2 Sun May 14, 1989 BARRY.B [Barry Boone] at 13:34 CDT I know of at least 2 people who plan to attempt a GIF decoder for the standard 99/4A (I already have written the code for a 9938)... the 99/4A is rather challenging simply because of its color density (only 2 colors per row of 8 pixels)... needless to say, the 99/4A will sacrifice a lot in the conversion process I'd like to see it done, I'll eventually be getting around to it

Barry

------ Category 9, Topic 3 Message 3 Sun

(but I have several other projects to work onfirst...)

## .....Messages, continued

May 14, 1989 J.CREVISTON at 16:19 CDT Barry, I plan to buy a DIGIT card. Is there a GIF display program available for it? jcc

Category 9, Topic 3 Message 4 Sun May 14, 1989 BARRY.B [Barry Boone] at 16:26 CDT The one I'm working on works just fine with it... (the GIF decoding part of my program is done, I am working on adding other features to it prior to releasing it... you will not regret the purchase of a DIJIT card! I don't knowwhat I'd do without my 80 col card)

### Barry

Category 9, Topic 3 Message 5 Sun Jul 16, 1989 D.LORENTZ at 17:39 EDT | am looking for a GIF decoder. What can | do? | am also in need of writing a ANSI Title screen for a BBS | want to put on-line Sept 1, 1989. Thanks.

Category 9, Topic 3 Message 6 Sun Jul 16, 1989 BARRY.B [Barry Boone] at 18:02 EDT Depends on what machine you have... if you have a stock 99/4A, you cannot display GIF pix at this time (tho there are a couple of people working on it) If you have a 99/4A with an 80 col card, there will be a GIF decoder available soon (mine). On the Geneve, it is already possible to view GIF's using Paul Charlton's Fairware GIF2.EXE program or his commercial

## .....Messages, continued

Picture Transfer program. Hope this helps... as to ANSI, there are a few:TI BBS's which have ANSI titles... not sure how they were created tho.

### Barry

Source:

GEnie, to be continued in January

newsletter. Subject is MBX

### DECEMBER DOM .....

The December DOM will be provided FREE to all DTICHS members attending the December 19th meeting at the Infomart. The DOM will contain Christmas music and graphics, plus a program to help write that letter to Santa.

### **OFFICERS FOR 1992**

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE-PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
TREASURER	Vacant	
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	WILLIE GUPTON	214-375-9575

### **CHAIRPERSONS FOR 1992**

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	BUTCH SPILL	817-461-6217
MINI-SIG CHAIRMAN	Vacant	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	LISA SHAFFER	214-383-5211
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
CCDREPRESENTATIVES	JACKIE & LOUIS GUION	214-239-6829
MERCHANDISE/HARDWARE	E MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214 239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
D-O-M CHAIRMAN	LISA SHAFFER	214-383-5211
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	TIM ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEXT STEP CHAIRMAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	SHARON CREVISTON	214-594-0721

### **LIBRARIANS**

CART/TAPE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5	pm)214-293-1410
NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	Vacant	. ,
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5	pm)214-293-1410
VIDEO LIBRARIAN	ROBERT SMITH	903-693-5568
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.