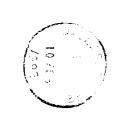
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TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP









DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 13, Number 2

February, 1993

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, February 13, 1993 at the Dallas INFOMART I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit

FIRST CLASS

DTIHCG'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2 Groundhcg Day
- 6 Sidewalk Sale
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 13 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
 - Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
 - Time 9:00 am
 - Program: First Draft/Final Copy with Dave Axberg
 - 1:00 pm MiniSiG
- 20 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 - Mr. Gatti's
 - Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
 - Officers: 2:30 pm,
 - Chairpersons at 3:30 pm
- 26 NEXT-STEP
 - JOJO'S On Stemmons at
 - 1415 Motor Streer, 5:15 pm



DTIHCG'S MARCH EVENTS

- 5 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
- 6 Sidewalk Sale, Ross at Central, 5 am
- 20 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
 - Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
 - Time 9:00 am
 - Program: GENEALOGY with Chester Johnson
 - 1:00 pm MiniSiG
- 27 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 - Mr. Gatti's
 - Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
 - Officers: 2:30 pm,
 - Chairpersons at 3:30 pm



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL TI'ERS!

Our January meeting was very well attended. We had 41 in attendance. For the month of February we have a very NEW program that will be given by Dave Axberg and that is on FIRST/DRAFT FINAL COPY. We are hoping that all will attend this meeting because this is the Word Processor program written by Art Gibson and has alot more features than TI-Writer. So mark those calendars for FEBRUARY 13 at 9:00 am, at Infomart Super Saturday. We are still needing a lot of chairpersons and if anyone is interested please contact one of the Officers. There will be a Mini-Sig in the afternoon and it is the continuing of TI-Writer with Jim Lesher and Butch Spill.

So don't forget mark those calendars for FEBRUARY 13 at 9:00 am sharp and get all the information on the NEW programs with Dave Axberg.

SEE ALL OF YOU THERE AND DON'T BE LATE! This is SHAKING THE BUSHES signing off and to all of 4A'ers: Keep on computering!

President Mattie Bush





Updating the Database

RENEWALS were received this month from several members—ED HARP, JONATHAN GUIDRY of New Iberia, LA, VERNON MARSHBURN of Olathe, KS, DAVE NOBLE (glad to see you back at INFOMART, DAVE!), and BUTCH SPILL. Thank you all for your continued support and participation in DTIHCG.

VISITORS at our January Super Saturday meeting include BERTHA MESTANZA of Peru, and J. LESLIE TURRIFF of Prosper. We hope to see each of you back again next month!

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER

The preferred format is plain ASCII without any carriage returns (except at the end of a paragraph) Please don't use columns or any organization of your words that would suffer by being squeezed into four and a half inches — the average width of the newsletter page — if at all possible. Most word processing will allow the output in ASCII, please select that when possible.

There are a number of ways to send articles for the newletters: typed, electronic mail, and on disk. Articles may be sent to the club address, uploaded to the TIBBS, dropped off at Next Step or at the Super Saturday meeting. If you use Star Text, CIS, or GEnie, arrangements can be made to use the email on those services as well.

QUICK ACCESS

BY BULL GLASKILL

Have you ever wished for an easy way to keep track of all the hardware and software you've purchased for your computer over the years? Well don't despair, because you can create such a system in TI-Writer or any of its clones without much work. Then, using the Extended Basic program that follows this article, you'll be able to access the data ir your inventory without ever loading it. Here's how.

Set up a table in the TI-Writer editor like the one shown below, paying VERY, VERY close attention to the column positioning of the ITEM, NUMBER, DATE, RETAIL, PAID and VENDOR fields. The numbers in the very first row of the first table shown below are included only for this illustration, as a column guide during setup. You should not include them in the file that you eventually save to disk.

The underline characters after ADVENTURE H NT BOOK must be part of the file because the Extended Basic program uses them as an end-of-file marker. All entries you make in the file MUST also be in between the dashes at the top of the file and the underline characters at the end of the file just as the five records are in the illustration. In other words, the underlines must always occupy the last record in the file.

When you are done setting the file up in your TI-Writer editor, set the tabs so you'll be able to

QUICK ACCESS

move quickly from field-to-field during data entry. Each tab would of course be set to the left-most character in the field. For example, the tab for NUMBER would be set at column 36, the tab for DATE would be set at column 45 and so on.

0123456789123456789 ITEM	123456789 123456789 NUMBER
A-MAZE-ING 123456789 123456789 12 DATE RETAIL PAID V	
06/923995 495 T 01234567891234567891 TEM	
ABC'S OF ASSEMBLY LANG 11234567891123456789112 DATE RETAIL PAID V	23456789123456789
07/84 10.95 0.00 T 01234567891234557891 ITEM	
AC CIRCUIT ANALYSIS DATE RETAIL PAID VI	PHT 6044 ENDOR
03/92 3.95 3.95 T	M

QUICK ACCESS

0123456789123456789123456789 ITEM	123456789 NUMBER
AC CIRCUIT ANALYSIS 1123456789112345678911 DATE RETAIL PAID. VENDOR	
03/92 3.95 3.95 TM DIRECT 01234567891234567891234567891	NUMBER
ADVENTURE HINT BOOK 123456789 123456789 123456789 1 DATE RETAIL PAID VENDOR	
02/92 .95 .95 TEXCOMP 0123456789 123456789 ITEM	NUMBER
123456789 1236789 1236789 1236789 1236789 1236789 1236789 1236789 1236789	23456789
When you are done with the file setuplike the one snown below.	n it should look
ITEM	NUMBER

QUICK ACCESS

DATE	RETAIL PAID	VENDOR

If it does, then save the file to a disk in DSK1 using INVENTORY as the file name. Make sure to use the SF function so the tab stops are saved with the file. That way you'll still have them for the next time you enter data.

When you do begin data entry, make sure to put zeros in the RETAIL and PAID fields where you don't have a RETAIL price or an amount that you PAID for the item. If you leave any entry blank in RETAIL or PAID the Extended Basic program will error out and fail to produce the desired results.

Sorting data in your INVENTORY file will have to be done with TI-Sort or J. Peter Hoddie's Sort Experiment, or your favorite sort utility. Modifying and deleting records is of course done quickly and easily right in the TI-Writer editor.

The Extended Basic program, which I have named QuikAccess, will let you total and display the RETAIL costs and purchase (PAID) costs in the entire file. You can also selectively search for and print records from the file using Product Name (ITEM data in other words), purchase DATE or VENDOR name fields. Likewise, you may print the entire contents of the file by selecting Product

QUICK ACCESS

Name search, and then pressing at the "Enterdata to find" prompt without typing in any data to look for.

All three search options (menu choices 3,4 and 5) include a "Purchase total" at the end of the printout. If you don't have a printer you can erase the printer name in the Set up Printer option and QuikAccess will print everything to the screen.

Lastly, the default Esc and Page Eject codes under Set up Printer are the codes for Epson and Epson compatible printers. If they don't work for you, then simply substitute the ones that do for your brand of printer.

If you want to avoid keying in this program check with your club's librarian. I sent the actual program along with this article and the I sting. If you have to key it in, omit the carets (the /\ symbols) when doing the keying. They only exist in this listing to show how many spaces exist between words.

NEXT STEP BY CHARLICE ALTHAR

It was a long time between NEXT STEPs this time around, but it seems to have been worth the wait!

January 29 was a cold and rainy night, but it didn't deter a big bunch of DT IHCG'ers & loyal Cowboy fans from gathering at JOJO's for our usual second

NEXT STEP

meeting of the month. Someone on JOJO's staff neglected to put us on their calendar for the room reservation, so we had a large space in the main dining room, by the aquarium. It was a nice change, and who knows, we might have raised some curiosity!

Due to our location, we made no attempt to set up a system, but there were several lively discussions during the evening. One subject was printing graphics with foil, silk screening, and laser printers, as well as new types and styles of papers available for various printers. We discussed articles for this newsletter, ways to correct programs, ways to load programs, and how to log on to STARTEXT. We talked about different kinds of monitors and the merits of each (as much as we knew!). Of course, we atemand felt guilty watching JIM LESHER as he ate only a SMALL hamburger---until he followed it with a big piece of cherry cheesecake pie! A bilingual discussion concerned the TV show of the previous night about the adoption of children in Peruby Americans. We talked about the TTECHO, and pictures of the family of JONATHAN GUIDRY in New Iberia, LA were passed around for all to see. We talked about house sitting. And of course, there was lots of talk about the upcoming Super Bowl game!

We had several guests--ROBERT SMITH brought BERTHA MESTANZA with him, but since she's been

NEXT STEP

with us twice now, she's no longer a quest! But ROBERT's son, ROBERT E. SMITH III, joined us for the evening, along with his wife MARY ALLISON. ANN GRESHAM also brought her son and daughter- n-law, JAMES ROBERT and TRINA VANDYKE GRESHAM. Of course we were glad to have all of them with us. but especially so because we learned something most of us hadn't known before: DTIHCG has played a part in another romance! It seems that back in March of 1992, ANN told ROBERT III that his father would be at INFOMART on March 7, and suggested he come, too. Well, he did...and he met a very nice young lady...and by the time they left INFOMART, had arranged a date with her for that evening! Twenty days later, ROBERT III and MARY ALLISON were married! So you just never know what you might be missing when you don't attend a DTIHCG event!

We'll be meeting again for our NEXT STEP on Friday, February 26. We're back on the calendar for the private room at JOJO's, on Motor St. just east of -35E. There will be plenty of room for YOU to join us...we'll be looking for you, ready to give you that one-on-one help you've been needing to take YOUR NEXT STEP in computing!

Beginner Printer By Jim Lesher



REDFINE CHARACTERS

This program does the same thing as the one last

Beginner Printer By Jim Lesher

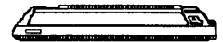


month but in a different way. And some other subtle changes as well. If you want to check the numbers in the DATA line 30, you find they are exactly like the ones last month preceded by a CHR\$. Also rather than typing CHR\$(42) to acess the download section of the printer we simply type "*" which does the same thing. And again in line 110 we use the "\$" rather than the CHR\$(36).

With this DATA line we can really make some neat characters. We can just type in 9 random numbers and then run the program to see what come out or you can follow the example on pages 115 and 117 to design some really creative characters and even design a whole new character set like the OLD ENGLISH set some of you may have seen.

10 REM COPYRITE 3 (93BCRITE)
20 CA_L CLEAR
30 DATA 28,34,73,20,65,20,65,34,20
40 OPEN #1:"PIO"
50 PR NT #1:CHR\$(27);"*";CHR\$(1);CHR\$(126);
CHR\$(000);
60 FOR I=1 TO 9
70 READ MI
80 PRINT #1:CHR\$(MI);
90 NEXT I
100 PRINT N
110 PRINT #1:CHR\$(27);"\$";CHR\$(1);
120 PRINT #1:"VVVVVVVVVVVVVV

Beginner Printer By Jim Lesher



If you have a Gemini SG 10 or SR10 the codes will be significantly different, so call or write and I will help you with it. Jim Lesher, 722 Huntley, Dallas $T \times 75214$, 21482: 9274

FUTURE PROGRAMS by Dave Axberg

There are three (3) things I would like to see us as a group accomplish this year 1) Develop hardware upgrade projects that will improve the performance and expand the capabilities of our machines, 2) Increase the overall WORKING knowledge of the most commonly used software programs, and 3) review new software releases and give them our own "treasure or trash" performance rating.

As for the upgrade projects, I think there needs to be a feed back from the users in general. This can be done via the "99er Conncetion" Bulletin Board Service (BBS), or letters addressed directly to the program chairman: David Axberg, 2517 Willowdale Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75006, or bring it up in the "Open Forum" session of the Super Saturday meetings at the INFOMART.

The kinds of things that can be done are: 1) the installation of 2 DS/DD half-height drives in the Peripheral Expansion Box (PEB), these drives can be 5.25" or 3.5" or a combination of both, 2) the installation of the 80 column display TIM kit, and 3) the installation of the RAVE99 "IBM" keyboard

FUTURE PROGRAMS

interface card in the console. We could also negotiate for discounts for volume buys of the products such as the TIM, RAVE99, PGRAM, and Horizon RAMdisks.

If one of the reasons you joined the Dallas Ti Home Computer User Group was to improve the performace of your machine ... now is the time to start expressing your interests. Workshops, Next-Steps, afternoon sessions at the INFOMART would and could be made available if there is enough interest expressed by you.

This years presentations will be designed to give you a working knowledge of the most frequently used software, i.e. FUNNELWEB, BOOT, DISKUTILS, TELCO, FASTERM, and DATABASE programs. In addition, presentations will review newly released software. Giving the presenter's opinion of it's worth for the money and the time ... is it "treasure" or is it "trash"?

John Creviston and I kicked off this year with DISK UTILITY PROGRAMS: A cursory review of DISKUTILS, DISKREVIEW, DM1000, and SECTOR (INE. DISK UTILS and DISKREVIEW were used as illustrations of the types of functions that could be performed. The "Find String" (to reset "boot" from DSK1 to another drive) and "Recover File" functions drew the highest level of interest. Since the demonstration system was an 80 column display system, the question of cost and availablity of the 80 column display alternatives was discussed.

The "afternoon workshop" was conducted by Jim

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Lesher. It was an extremely informative session reviewing the capabilities of TI-WRITER and the FUNNELWEB clone. Many of the "ole timers" were pleased and surprised to learn more about the software they had taken for granted. The afternoon workshops are great opportunities for a "hands-on" learning experience.

In FEBRUARY I will review a new program called FIRST DRAFT/FINAL COPY. This program is a word processor with "pull down" menus similar to those used in TELCO, which makes it very easy to move from one function to another. Another unique feature is the spellchecker which is incorporated in the program. Though it is not any faster than the Dragon Slayer "Spell Checker"; it does illustrate the word in question by flashing the word in reverse video. Also it allows you to view the word in context. If you have an 80 column display, this feature is very sophisticated.

The program is available in both 40 and 80 column display mode software configurations. A freeware menu program is also provided with the program; however, it is not required if you are currently using MENU or 800T. The important thing to remember about this program is that if you are not using a RAMdisk it is S-L-D-W!!! This is due to the size of the programs; it must perform a number of I/O's to bring up the different functions. This is done in much the same way FUNNELWEB is configured. However, FIRST DRAFT system configuration is not as envolved and tedious as

FUTURE PROGRAMS

FUNNELWEB.

There is another feature that is very helpful for the user, PAGE VIEW. This program allows the user to view the format of the page text as it would appear after it is printed. There is a "HOWEVER", associated with the program. The user must use the expanded "." command set. It is similar to the ones used by TI-Writer and FUNNELWEB not the same. Page HEADERS, FOOTNOTES and TEXT CENTERING have much more accurate page placement but are not compatible to use with the FORMATTER of TI-Writer or FUNNELWEB.

The program is retail priced at \$42.00. I would strongly recommend the use of a RAMdisk (at least 256K) with this program. It can be used in conjunction with and accessed through FUNNELWEB or loaded through its own menu

IN MY OPINION: For the serious wordprocssor users with 60 column display capability and a RAMdisk (at least 256K), this is a "treasure". For the occasional wordprocessor users without a RAMdisk; the program may be acceptable, but I feel the majority would find it entertaining but tedious.

In MARCH we will take a look at a new program about GENEOLOGY. This will give you an idea about database programs and their practical application.

Currently, I have targeted five(5) program presentations:

1: FUNNELWEB SYSCON, walking through the FUNNELWEB SYStem CONfiguration program. This is

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- a "How-To" for the user. The intent is to take the mystery of the menus, color options, internal programs such as DISKREVIEW. This program os scheduled for APRIL.
- 2: "WINDOWS for the TI 99/4A," a review of the CShell99 program. The presentation is an illustration of the program and its capabilities. It is written in C99 and its speed of operation is impressive. This program is scheduled for MAY.
- 3: "COMMUNICATIONS with the TI 99/4A," a review of the communications programs (TELCO, FAST TERM, MASS TRANSFER, and TE II) available for the TI 99/4A. This program presentation is a comparison of the programs and the advantages and disadvantages of each. The program will also include the 80 column version of TELCO. The program is scheduled for JUNE.
- 4: "TIME MANAGEMENT with the TI 99/4A," a review of the calender programs REMIND ME, and SCHEDULE MANAGER) available for the TI 99/4A. This program presentation is a review of the operation of each program. The program is scheduled for JULY.
- 5: "GRAPHICS with the TI 99/4A," a review of TI Artist 2.0 and YAPP graphics programs. This is intented to be a "How-To" for the user. The program presentation will include the use of Barry Boone's GIF display program and will incorporate both the

FUTURE PROGRAMS

40 column and the 80 column display capabilities of the TI 99/4A. Also included in the presentation will the use of the "mouse". This program is scheduled for AUGUST.

These programs may be moved to make room for quest speakers, product demonstrations by vendors, or by special events. However, it also leaves room or our users to request a program that they want that is not listed. I strongly urge you to take this opportunity to submit your request ... NOW!

Also, I would suggest that the best way to learn about a particular program is to pesent it in a program. I am accepting volunteers for any of the about mentioned programs. I will be happy to provide a personal tutorial for any of the programs and spend as much time as you need to get comfortable with it. It is not necessary that you be an accomplished public speaker or have an in-depth knowledge of computer operations to present one of the programs.

Typically it is more informative and interesting if someone simply shares their experience in operating the software and identifies their likes and dislikes about its performance.



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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. They attend the Executive Committee Meeting held the Saturday afternoon following the INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's portion of the meeting.

If you'd like to become more involved in helping the group, please let our DTIHCG 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 job easier.