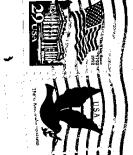
PHONE THE 99'ER CONNECTION BBS 24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 Baud, E71 (214) 233-1750

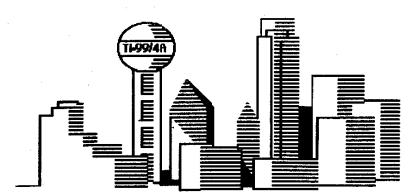


\*\*\*ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED\*\*\*

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP P.O. BOX 29863 DALLAS, TX 75229







# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 15, Number 3

March, 1995

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

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP P.O. BOX 29863 DALLAS, TX 75229

Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG and be complete.

\*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\*
Saturday, March 25, 1995
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit

FIRST CLASS

### DTIHCG'S MARCH EVENTS

25 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)

Time: 9:00 AM

Program: MEDITRAX by Jim Stewart & Charlice Althar

25 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Who: All Officers and Chairpersons

Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting

31 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE



### DTIHCG'S APRIL EVENTS

Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM

- April Fools Day
- 3 Daylight Savings Time Begins set your clocks forward
- 7 NEXT STEP

JOJO's aff Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E) 1415 Molor Street, 5:15 PM

- 9 Palm Sunday
- 14 Good Friday
- 15 First Day of Passover
- 15 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART

Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)

Time: 9:00 AM

Program: To be Announced

15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Who: All Officers and Chairpersons

Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting

- 16 Easter
- 28 NEXT STEP

JOJO's off Stemmens Fwy (I-35 E) 1415 Molor Street, 5:15 PM

### **COUNTRY GAL**

### by Mattie Bush



The Country Gal is on line again. Well folks we are into our third month and "WHERE ARE YOU FOLKS?". Seem's like Country Gal isn't doing too well to get all of you'ns to this computin meet'n. I guess'n I'm jus pure crazzy but I believe in all thes'n folks and into our groups. REALLY I DO!!

We really do miss'n seeing all you folks.

I like and see ALL of you'ns at this meet'n called MEDITRAX. These folks Charlice Althar and thisn feller calls himself Jimmy Stewart is a given it on March 25. These folks has two other fine programs that they have didn a spell back and they are really good. Miz Althar didn' one called "HERE-IT-IS" and this feller calls himself Jimmy Stewart did this'n on the "WILLS", thisn fer the time you go to the great beyond in life

The Country Gal is a gossip'n in the back scenes of yesterday and a time when our computer was and still is a GREAT computer. The TI-99/4A is indeed an amazing little computer with all of these amazing possibilities. This is because of the results of the software and the hardware developments in the years past, but the situation was true earlier. I'm about to say that there are people who are unfamiliar with the TI and think it is outrageous to continue supporting it.

When TI-99/4A first appeared, it was far ahead of its time, in so many respects and still is.

Those of you who own both TI-99/4A and the PC clone can testify to that there are still many things that the typical TI system can do that cannot be done by the IBM system.

More on the PC/TI Connection I know, "Comparsions are odious", but just bear with me on this for a while. Everyone knows of various advantages of owning a PC (and the advantages are very real), but not to everyone knows all these advantages of the TI-99/4A compared to the PC Clone. If I should do a program for the TI, I can make assumption about the capabilities of the typical TI disk system. These assumptions include the abilities to handle color, graphics, spites for the animation, multi-voice music with volume control, and then the speech synthesis. All the extras that makes the program interesting. However make the same assumptions (except for the color graphics), if I'm programming for the PC Clone.

Comparing the basic TI system with TI Extended Basic to the basic PC system even without color graphics may cost a lot more. Our TI can play Music with harmony and you can control the volume, whereas the basic PC has all it can do to carry the audio melody on its internal speaker. TI can handle 16 of its colors on screen at a time, but that it is not possible on the PC with the monochrome graphics card or the CGA color card. True PC's now are equipped with the VGA Color Graphics which is the standard, as in the business application, but the PC's can do real music using the Soundblaster Card.

What difference does this really make what computer a person uses as long as it does what that person needs it for and does what is in need. A lot of people still have their TI-99/4A for their businesses and won't change. It really makes a lot of difference if you are wanting a multi-purpose home computer that brings out the "WHISTLES and the BELLS", when you want them too. In general the TI-99/4A is able to handle the music, color, graphics and much much more, the features are not unimportant to many of the programs, education, recreation.

This little machine has a lot of energy left and is chugging right along with the education, music, graphics, games and much more. The people who still have their computer is from the young to the oldest (young) (grin!!). That's right!!

The TI had amazing possibilities from the very beginning, particularly for the amateur programmers. We are not limited to the capabilities of the just TI

XB; we have many excellent packages that have extended well past the original possibilites.

My plea is so very simple: We should spend a little time working on brand new software and hardware designed to extend even further the possibilities of the TI and more time realizing those possibilities. Let's ALL unite and keep this TI-99/4A going forever.

Until next TIme, why not see what you can do to see that armazing potenTlal of our computer is more than you fully realize.? (There's nothing to it but do it!!).

Our little computer in the TI-99/4A world is still chugging right along and we as users can keep this on track forever and let othes know of the ones just setting and not getting the steam to chug. Pull them out of those closets and get them all steamed up and start puffing that smoke with us as TI-99/4A users.

Let's continue to help others and keep in contact with the other users groups so we can chug along with full steam. Let's hear from you? I'd like to know your saying on this matter. This is the COUNTRY GAL signing off until next month.

KEEP ON COMPUTIN'.

### **SEEN ON THE 99'ER CONNECTION:**

RON FERGUSON, former member and Newsletter Editor

### TOM'S TRIVIA

#### by Tom Hall

When was the last time you cleaned your 4/A Console?



Fut the lint from your clothes dryer, outdoors where nesting birds can find it. Feeding birds during these last few weeks of cold weather will pay dividends later in the year when the birds stay around to decorate your yard and eat insects.

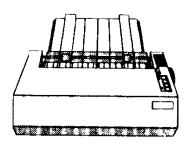
I don't knew where all these Incidental Laws on the reality of life come from - we have a talented group of contributors:

- Justice's Probability Postulate Random events tend to occur in groups.
- Smith's Dictum One should always prefer the probable impossible to the improbable possible.
- Axberg's Law of Teenage Opportunity When opportunity knocked, he had his headphones on.
- Creviston's Conference Principle The speaker with the most monotonous voice speaks after the big meal.
- The Bumper-to-Bumper Belief Traffic congestion increases in direct proportion to the length of time the street is supervised by a traffic control officer.
- Lesher's Law When attempting to open a locked door with only one hand free, the key will be in the opposite pocket.

I guess I am among the last to get Cable TV. In February we had TCI Cable connected to our home. The improvement in the quality of the picture, in the channels we were already getting, was astounding. If you like the news, weather, sports and historical trivia - I recommend it.

### **BEGINNER PRINTER**

by Jim Lesher

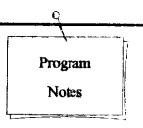


The PRINTER is off-line this month. See you in April!

Jim

### **MEDITRAX**

March's program will be the first presentation of MEDITRAX, by Jim Stewart and Charlice Althar. Continuing along the same line as our previous offerings of R.I.P. (WILLS) and



HERE\_IT\_IS, MEDITRAX is a means of tracking your (or your family's) medical expenses and bills, helping answer questions such as how much Medicare or other primary insurance paid on a bill, how much was allowed toward a deductible, how much paid by a secondary insurance carrier, etc. A second spreadsheet provides an easy method of recording medications prescribed, taken, and discontinued. MEDITRAX uses Multiplan on the TI-99/4A, so a basic quick-view of this fine spreadsheet program will be included. Our DOM, prepared by JOHN CREVISTON, will include templates for the spreadsheets demonstrated, and handouts will be provided. We hope this will be useful to many of our members.



## DTIHCG ACTIVITIES



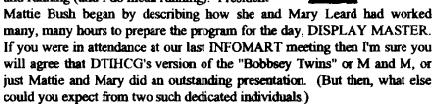
March 19 - April 29, 1995

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 19 MATTIE BUSH IS A KEY MEMBER	Mar 20  GRANG BEGINS SPREGE	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23 ⊕ LQ	Mar 24	Mar 25 XCHANGE SATURDAY 930a PROGRAM 1200p D O M
	IF YOU NEED D	DIRECTIONS TO A	MEETING CALL 33:	-4840		1.00p E.C. Meeting
Mar 26	Mar 27	Мат 28	Mar 29	Mar 30 ● NM	Mar 31 N/L DEADLINE Room Reservations	Apr 1 April Fools Day
		NEW DISK OF TH	E MONTH, AT MEE	TING OR BY MAIL		
Apr 2 Daylight Savings	Apr 3	Apr 4	Арт 5	Apr 6	Apr 7 NEXT-STEP Jo Jo's on Motor Strict 5:15p Come early, stay late	Apr 8
CAL	L THE BBS, FIND C	OUT WHAT'S GOING	G ON TODAYI		il	
Арт 9 Paim Sunday	Арт 10	Apr 11	Apr 12	Арт 13	Apr 14 Good Friday	Apr 15 XCHANGE SATURDAY
	BRING	AN OLD FRIEND T	OTHE MEETING			
Apr 16 Easter	Apr 17 Boomer Esiason is 34	Apr 18 Hayley Mills is 49	April9 Don'Adams is 69	Apr 20 Rodney Harrington is 54	Apr 21  → LQ  Queen Elizabeth is 69	Apr 22 FARTH DAY
			BIRTHDAYS			
Apr 23 Jim Lesher is our resident T199/4a Dealer	Арт 24	Жрт 25	Apr 26 ×	Арт 27	Apr 28 NEXT-STEP Jo Jo's on Motor Street 5:15p Come early, stay late	Apr 29  NM Get new programs from the DTIHCG library
<b>214-821-9274</b>	lf you	move, let us know y	our new address, w	e care	10:00p N/L D/Line	

### FYI

### By Dan M. Lowe

"Mary and I are running on sheer energy today and I do mean SHEER." With that opening statement the second DTIHCG meeting of 1995 was off and running (and I do mean running). President



In case you're not familiar with DISPLAY MASTER it is a graphics program that Mattie and Mary had loaded with TI Artist files. It allows you to create sayings, loads pictures, and you can pause, delay, loop the pictures around and other neat tricks. We saw displayed a series of images, pictures, some large while others were small, some in color and some in black and white. One of the pictures was of John Wayne who, as Mattie told the group, was a cousin of Mary's. (Now we know why Mary talks so slow, Pilgrim.) Again, congrats to both Mattie and Mary for providing us all with an entertaining program.

### OTHER ITEMS

During the business portion of the meeting President Bush asked for a volunteer to help in getting the meeting rooms ready for the Saturday user's groups meetings. Mattie said this person would be part of a team to help set up tables, chairs, and whatever else might be needed. Mattie stressed the importance of getting at least one volunteer from DTIHCG since the other user groups were also supplying volunteer(s). "Besides," Mattie said, "this is part of our contract with INFOMART, and if we don't supply at least one volunteer we could be in danger of losing our room." So, come on folks, somebody step up to the bar and volunteer. It would only take an hour or so of your time once each month (Saturday). And if you can't do the table and

chair set-up bit, then you can help the INFOMART crew in other, less strenuous ways. Please volunteer; we need your help.

Next, President Bush told the group about the Clearinghouse Bulletin Board, a bulletin board (BBS) devoted strictly to the TI-99/4A, which is part of a disk supplied by the CIN-DAY User Group. As I understand it one of the programs is a simulation of "how to's" as relates to BBS's in general and to the Clearinghouse BBS in particular. You use the program as if you were actually connecting to the BBS with your modern. It gives you hints on how to connect to a BBS, how to use the BBS, and other helpful suggestions.

Mary Leard told of talking to Harry Brashear and that he is still distributing Asgard software, but under his name. Copies of his latest catalog will be available at one of our upcoming meetings. However, until the latest catalogs arrive, you can still order from the older catalogs, and this is good news. It means that those great items, even thought they've been around for awhile, are still available. The last catalog I have is dated 1991-1992 and lists arcade games such as Colors, Balloon Wars, Karate Challenge, Rock Runner; Tris, and Starbase Raiders. Under the category of Strategy games you'll find listed Classic Checkers, Tournament Solitaire, TI Casino, and TI Mahjongg. And, if you are into adventure, you might want to try Zoom Flume, Witch's Brew, Wizard's End, Rattlesnake Bend, and Castle Darkholm. There are many others, but I'm sure you get the idea. So, until the new catalogs arrive, feel free to borrow mine.

### ON-LINE

In last month's newsletter I made a pitch for more participation in and use of our group's BBS. If you'll remember I stated what a shame it was to have such a large user group and only a handful of participants on our BBS. Well, I still feel that way because I haven't seen any new names on the board. And I'm still puzzled as to why. As I said last month there are plenty of used modems to be found at garage sales, thrift stores, infomart basement, etc. Could it be that you don't remember the telephone number (233-1750)? Or, do you need help in setting the parameters for FAST TERM (or TELCO)? Lots of folks in DTIHCG would be glad to help you get started; all you need do is ask! And, best of all, it's FREE, a part of your membership in DTIHCG; you might say it goes with the territory. And, it's educational! Where else could you come by such pearls of wisdom as:

- "My thermometer was wobbling back and forth across 27 degrees, which means if I have any plum jelly this year it'll come with a Smuckers label on the jar."
- "My barber represents those people who make it impossible
  to go through a supermarket checkout line without having a
  SPACE ALIEN stare at you from some "news" magazine.
  He's convinced that bizarre weather and space shuttle shots
  are connected."
- "It was just 83 years ago this month that Oreo cookies went on sale."
- "I have been playing carpenter, building a fence. Do you know why carpenters get all that money? THEY EARN IT!"
- "What was the name of Gene Autry's horse?"
- -"Are you one of those farm boys who was motivated by spending time in a cotton field?"
- -"Yes, I was motivated by several jobs including cleaning chicken houses and riding a one-row cotton cultivator."
- "A clean computer room is the sign of a vacant mind."

Now boys and girls I ask you; where else could you glean such mind-boggling, earth-shaking pearls of wisdom except from DTIHCG's BBS? It sure beats going to night school and is a whole lot cheaper. So connect that modem and give it a try at (214)233-1750.

Since I'm running out of space and things to say I guess I'll be on my way. I leave you with this thought:

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away;

An onion a day keeps everybody away."

### **NEXT STEP REPORT**



### by Charlice Althar

JOJO's, March 3, 5:00 PM — the place, date, and time of our most recent NEXT STEP, and a great fun evening for all concerned! In addition to participating in a couple of activities which appear to be high on the list of priorities of most DTIHCG'ers, eating and drinking iced tea, a whole lot of other things were going on. To get the evening started most appropriately, we were asked for some help with a problem JOJO's was having with their computer system, and we think we were able to answer with some good advice. CARL, DAN, and CATHERINE discussed the advantages of investing in "sure thing" adventures. CARL told of having the opportunity of investing in an unknown company back in 1952 called EDS. At the time, the owner (Ross Perot) tried to talk CARL into investing, but HE SAID NO!!!

A lively group centered their conversation around the listings of TI personalities on the INTERNET in the February issue of MICROpendium, and also their article on PC99. DAN continues to expand his knowledge of using GEnie, and has developed an interest in becoming a "surfer of the net".

GREG and JIM worked on a sick clone to see if GREG could repair it, or at least access some of the information on its hard disk. He was actually able to resurrect the old XT to some extent, using no tools, not even a DOS disk! How? He came up with a real "high-tech solution" to cooling down some overworked and overheated chips by balancing a glass of ice water on top of the chips, and actually got the previously dead hard drive to communicate!

TOM brought IMOGENE some games on a disk for the grandkids, and MATTIE handed out copies of some neat articles from her brand-new March MICROpendium which were fun and interesting to read and discuss. JIM, CHARLICE, and JOHN did some work and exchanging of disks and information about MEDITRAX, which will be presented at our March meeting at INFOMART.

JACKIE told us about her recently completed 1600 mile trip to west and south Texas. LOUIS brought his 3.5" diskette punch, and ROBERT attempted to make 1.44 disks from 720 disks. He's absolutely certain he succeeded in making several 0.0K diskettes. Meanwhile, LOUIS studied up on

TOM's "Murphy's Law" sayings calendar for use at work. Down the table, talk was going on about favorite cars, trips we've made, and IMOGENE and CARL told us about their new parrot and the fun they're having teaching him to talk. And of course, all of us talked about the horrible weather we've experienced in the past month or so. MATTIE, TOM, and ROBERT haven't been able to get their garden planting going. ROBERT declined to eat the mixed vegetables which came with his dinner, saying he prefers to eat his veggies separately, as he grows them!

More "high-tech" moments occurred when the "free time" of 8:00 PM arrived. Where else (and who else but DTIHCG'ers???) would you find telephone conversations going on between persons sitting three feet across a table from each other? Since two cellular phones were in attendance, they were passed up and down the table and all of us had the opportunity to talk to each other on two different types of cell phones. Thanks for the experience, LOUIS and JOHN!

JIM told us of an upcoming program to be presented by the United States Air Force Air Training Command Band at Berkner High School in Richardson. The program is "Dimensions in Blue", featuring the big band sounds of Glenn Miller. Several DTIHCG'ers plan to attend, DAN attended their concert last year and can't say enough good about it! The price is right, free, and if you don't have a ticket in advance the doors open to the public at 7:20 PM. Date is Monday, March 27, so if you want to attend an evening of great music, come on out, you'll probably see a lot of your friends there!

Our next NEXT STEP will be April 7, and comes at one of the few times during the year that we have only 3 weeks between our INFOMART meetings. That means we'll be getting the newsletter out that same week, and could use your help in doing so at JOJO's. We always have fun doing this as a group effort, and of course as our mothers used to tell us, "many hands make light work". We'll be looking for you to join us and take part in the fun. That's at JOJO's, Friday night April 7, starting about 5 PM.

ROOM 1061 AT INFOMART IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR US ON MARCH 25.

CHECK OUR LOBBY KIOSK FOR OUR MEETING LOCATION!

## 1995 OFFICERS

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

## 1995 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS'& JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	<b>GUY HUNTER</b>	214-375-5424
DOM and DISKETTE SALES	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KOSK	JIM STEWART	214-625-0922
MEMBERBHIP/ MERCHANDISE	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5967
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	IMOGENE/CARL OSBORNE	214-252-5985

## 1995 LIBRARIANS

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

These are your DTIHCG Officers and Chairpersons. They help themselves and you by giving their time and efforts to make this a better club for all of us. If you'd like to become more involved, please let our President; Mattie Bush, know what you'd like to do.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their jobs more rewarding.