



DALLAS
TI
HOME
COMPUTER
GROUP

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 7, Number 4 April 4, 1987

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

> > > NEXT MEETING < < <

99er Connection BBS

Saturday, 11 April, 1987

24 Hours, 300/1200 Baud

The Dallas Infomart

214-272-2786

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

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Dallas TI Home Computer Group
PO Box 29863
Dallas, Texas 75229

TO USER GROUP EXCHANGE RECIPIENTS,
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

FIRST CLASS

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SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME
Infomart Meeting	4/11/87	
Programming SIG	" " "	9:00 AM
Main Meeting	" " "	10:00 AM
Hardware SIG	" " "	1:00 PM
Executive Committee	4/18/87	1:00 PM
Committee Chairmen	" " "	2:00 PM
Newsletter Deadline	4/24/87	Midnight
NEXT-STEP MiniSIG	# " " "	5:15 PM
Infomart Meeting	5/ 9/87	
Hardware SIG	" " "	9:00 AM
Main Meeting	" " "	10:00 AM
Software SIG	" " "	1:00 PM
Executive Committee	5/16/87	1:00 PM
Committee Chairmen	" " "	2:00 PM
NEXT-STEP MiniSIG	# 5/22/87	---TBD---
Newsletter Deadline	5/29/87	Midnight

NOTES:

- \$ = Attendance Fee
- # = DTIHCG Membership Required
- + = Reservations Required
- SIG = (S)pecial (I)nterest (G)roup

Dallas TI Home Computer Group

Program Schedule - Infomart

April 11, 1987

- 9:00 - 9:55 Programming SIG
- 10:00 - 11:55 Main Meeting
 - 10:00 - 10:30 Business Meeting
 - 10:30 - 11:30 Main Program: Software SIG
 - 11:30 - 11:55 Guest/New Member Orientation Meeting
- 12:00 - 12:55 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:00 - 2:55 Hardware SIG

Meeting room numbers can be obtained at our booth, or check the master list posted on the two overhead projectors, located just past the Registration 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.

FROM THE OVAL OFFICER: Louis Guion

I have thought that my choice of names for the NEXT-STEP MiniSiG was terrible. I have thought that my choice of names for the NEXT-STEP MiniSiG was excellent. The choice was terrible because it is not self-explanatory. It therefore causes confusion among newcomers. It was excellent because each and every one of us will take a "next step" with our machines. That next step may involve upgrading hardware or just simply getting a piece we already own back into working condition. The next step may be using or writing a particular piece of software. The next step may be learning to use a printer more effectively. The next step is different, perhaps, for each of us, but we have a common denominator among us. Perhaps we all move along different side routes, but we all tread a common trail -- the trail of the TI-99/4.

The NEXT-STEP MiniSiG was conceived so that we might offer, each to the other, whatever assistance may be needed. The NEXT-STEP MiniSiG is without structure so that any member may attend with any problem or with any question and receive assistance or advice. Since this assistance is offered freely by those of us that have trod further along the path of the 4/A, it may be of use to those just beginning their journey. Now, I think this is the beauty of it; one may be well versed in printers, for example, but be a complete novice at graphics. Another may be a whiz at graphics and an imbecile about printers. Each helps the other! Admittedly not a new concept, but a concept that has helped turn the NEXT-STEP MiniSiG into a virtual second meeting of the club each month.

I'd like to propose that we change the name of the meeting to NEXT-STEP Workshop. The replacement of the Minisig designator is past due because, if for no other reason, it has become anything but a "mini" meeting. By changing to "workshop" we will be implying that something gets done at the meeting. It is not a lecture or demonstration, but rather a hands-on experience at which members from the most experienced to the raw recruit all get to learn something about the next steps they plan to take.

Let me give you some examples of things I remember having been done at past meetings as a way of showing you how much of a workshop it has become. We have: (A) Repaired the transformer fuse in a P-Box. (B) Replaced transistors on ailing power supplies. (C) Instructed in the use of a mailing list program. (D) Checked out modems. (E) Advised concerning problems encountered by programmers in Extended BASIC. (F) Explained the differences between single/double/quadruple density drives to prospective purchasers. (G) Diagnosed P-Box and drive problems. (H) Changed programs to run with different printers/ports/modems. (I) Suggested programs that would fulfill a particular requirement. (J) Assisted novices in getting started with Fast-Term. (K) Answered TI-Writer and Multiplan questions. (L) Shown how to load programs. (M) Given advice on picking a printer. (N) Cleaned the heads on a disk drive. (O) Trouble-shot printer/modem cables. Of course this is just a sampling, but

it should give you the idea that no question or problem about the TI-99/4 is off-limits here. the NEXT-STEP Workshop is THE PLACE to come for assistance and advice with your 99/4 problems.

Oh, a reminder! Neither the club nor the person offering to assist or advise you can be held responsible for unforeseen results or problems. We'll all do our best to give you good information that will really assist you, but sometimes even the best laid plans of mice and men..... In short, it's is on your own responsibility that you apply the assistance offered or submit your hard/software to the well-meaning help of another.

What I'm trying to get over to you people that have never attended a NEXT-STEP Workshop, is that there can be assistance, information, and sometimes downright repair available to you for simply attending a NEXT-STEP Workshop. The NEXT-STEP Workshop is always held on the second Friday following the main INFOMART meeting. The location has varied in the past, so you should check the newsletter or the 99er Connection for the address of the current month's NEXT-STEP Workshop.

Come on out and join in the fun. Bring your problems. If you are having a problem with a piece of hardware, please BRING the hardware and all associated cables and cords. If it is a software problem, please bring a copy of the program, a print-out of the code (if appropriate) and an EXACT description of the trouble. It is terribly hard to diagnose a program without a copy of it, and it can prove frustrating to all involved in trying to fix hardware by remote control. If your problem revolves around a specific cartridge, you'll have to bring it. It would be impossible for the club to know in advance what cartridges might be required. Besides, maybe no one else has the particular cartridge except you! Did you ever think that it just might, maybe, be your cartridge that is giving you fits?

If you have no problems, please come on out anyway. The atmosphere is much more relaxed than INFOMART, making it a wonderful time to socialize. Besides, YOU might just hold the key to helping out someone else. We have to have the knowledgeable members there to do all of this wonderful magic, and you may be just the person we need at the NEXT-STEP Workshop.

The NEXT-STEP Workshop. Now I think I'm satisfied with the name!

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SECRETARY'S MINUTES: David Martin

Last month's meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was held on March 21, 1987. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Louis Guion.

CURRENT BUSINESS: President Guion made several announcements concerning the "open forum" which would be held

later in the day for the membership to ask questions and to make their own announcements, the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD) meeting for club representative Lynn Nidiffer to attend on March 23rd, and the officer and committee chairmen meetings to be held on March 28th at Dan Johnsen's house.

Members Mike Stanfill and Robert Jones were recognized for their recent awards in the Computer Shopper TI-Forum and FLUG TIBBS programming contests. Mike won second place in the TI-Forum's contest and Robert and Mike both won prizes in the FLUG contest.

Acting Treasurer Jackie Guion announced one last mass buy for Horizon RanDisks (HRD) for \$150.50 and a mass buy for a HRD upgrade to 256K of memory for \$30.00. For the upgrade, a \$20.00 assembly fee is being proposed for those that do not feel confident in their abilities to make the modifications.

Membership Chairman Chuck Long explained about the newcomers' meeting that is held after each meeting to answer questions for guests and new members. During that meeting, new member packettes containing a variety of information concerning sources of TI 99/4A software, hardware, catalogs, DTIHCG benefits, etc. are made available.

Tom Hall, MiniSiG Chairman, stated that the next "Next-Step" SIG would be held on April 3rd from 5:15 to 8:00 p.m. at TD-Industries in Farmers Branch, and that no MiniSiG would be held due to the limited time between INFOMART meetings.

Several members patted the organizers (the Justices, Johnsens, and Guions among others) of the spaghetti dinner for a great time. Fifty-plus members and guests participated and had a wonderful social experience.

The March Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) contains several programs developed by members of the club. Bob Veiring has an adventure game and a screen graphic of his favorite NFL logo, while Mike Stanfill provided a program for defining your own screen characters. In addition, a program for cataloging a software library, a Simon Sez game, and an X-Basic as well as a source code utility are included.

PROGRAM: The main program was a light-hearted presentation by President Guion and his able assistant, John Guion. They took the group back to those days of yesteryear when the 99/4 had real overlays, a unique keyboard, numerous, bulky, add-on accessories, and a very reasonable price (the console alone was \$1000). The jist of the program was just how far the home computer industry in general and the 99/4a in particular has progressed.

Nine guests attended the meeting with 7 joining the club.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:45 a.m.

FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Jackie Guion

As those of you who have been attending our meetings at Infomart know, the three different SIGs that meet there have rotating time slots. This is to give all of us a chance to see what goes on in the various groups. For our April meeting date, two of the SIGS will be giving programs on related topics. Since this will be the first time we have tried this concept, we would like to have some feedback from you letting us know what you think of the idea.

On April 11, the Programming SIG will be held in the 9:00 a.m. time slot. Floyd Pemberton will be discussing his "Utility Management Program". This is an Extended Basic program he has written to help us track our utility bills. Since Floyd has written this program to be used with either disk drives or a cassette system, those of you without expanded systems should also find this to be a useful program. John Creviston tells me that he will be including this program on the April DOM and Floyd has also donated it to the DTIHCG Library so it should be readily available to those of us who wish to use it.

Our topic for the main meeting this month will be "Diagnostic Software". John Creviston and Robert Jones have agreed to help us understand which of the available diagnostic programs would be useful in different circumstances as we try to determine what type of hardware problems we may be having. They are not planning to teach us to use all of the various programs. Instead, they will telling us some of the advantages and the disadvantages of these programs. Some programs are more helpful in some circumstances than others so we should try to understand which ones are best for each type diagnosis. I understand that some of the programs they will be covering are "Explorer", "Advanced Diagnostics", the diagnostic programs that TI has released to the user groups (these programs are in our library), and the PDM cartridge by CorComp. I've been told that each of these can be useful and am looking forward to learning about them.

Jon Hodges' Hardware SIG will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. He's going to be teaching us about disk drives.

HARDWARE SIG: Jon Hodges

LAST MONTH: You know that saying about the best laid plans of mice and men? That would apply to last month's meeting quite well. As you may recall, last month at this time I told you that we had scheduled a look at new products, then a look at the Myarc 9640, then a review of the club's history. As most of you know, even that was replaced with a trip down nostalgic memory lane (except for me, of course. I'm not OLD ENOUGH to remember that stuff) with a look at the original expanded system using the TI FREIGHT TRAIN (also known as box-car) peripherals. My hat goes off to Louis and John Guion and John Creviston and anyone else who may have been involved for filling in for me on such short notice. What happened to these mis-placed programs? Well, the look at new products never was a program...it was just filler. The

Myarc 9640 will be demo'ed when we can get a production unit with instructions and working software. As Myarc claims that they are now shipping units, we may see one before too long. The club history was such a good idea we didn't want to do a half-baked job with it, so that will be used as a meeting topic at a later date. Now on to the good stuff.

THIS MONTH: We will be having another set of co-ordinated programs, this time on diagnostics. You can read about the main meeting topic elsewhere in this issue. You might also check out my article on troubleshooting rules. For the hardware SIG, we will be taking a look at disk drives. As you may recall, two months ago we looked at how the disk controller sets up information on a disk drive. The controller for each computer brand is likely to be incompatible with most others (except those designed for a "compatible"). On the other hand, the disk drive is a standardized item. There are two standard groups for the 5-1/4" drive, Apple and non-Apple. Commodore-Door and Atari are in the Apple group. All others (including TI) are in the non-Apple group. That means our drives are the same as the ones in a PC! About the only thing they have done to improve drives is speed up the "step rate" and cut down on the size.

What we will be doing is looking at the standard characteristics of a drive, how they work, how one tests drives, and how one alligns a drive. This program is not for everybody, I know, but several folks expressed an interest in how a drive works. To make it more interesting, I have decided to open the door for you to bring in your troublesome drives, and we will try to allign some right on the spot. As we have the 1:00 to 3:00 time slot this month, we will be able to run at a leisurely pace. See you there.

RULES OF THE TRADE FOR TROUBLESHOOTING! Jon Hodges

Many people have "tools of the trade" that they use in their job, that make the tasks easier. People who troubleshoot equipment for a living also have tools, but the most important one is rules. Following these rules allows a technician to locate the problem quickly and easily. If you ignore these rules, a simple problem can become complicated, you can end up chasing the wrong symptom, and you can get extremely frustrated.

Now before you other technicians jump all over me for working from a different set of rules, I have to say that these are general in nature and in a specific job other rules may take precedence. Lets look at the rules and how they would apply to a problem with a 2-drive system using a canned Assembly Language program to read names in a disk file and print them to the printer.

1. YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW THE EQUIPMENT IS SUPPOSED TO WORK BEFORE YOU CAN FIX IT. Could this be operator error? You can't know that unless you know how the equipment is supposed to work.

2. YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT PARTS OF THE SYSTEM ARE USED TO PERFORM THE PROCEDURE THAT FAILS. In this case the parts

would be: the CONSOLE, E/A, TIWR or X-BASIC CARTRIDGE, the PROGRAM, the DATA FILE, their DISKETTES, the PEE INTERFACE CABLE, the PEB, the 32K card, the RS-232 card, the DISK CONTROLLER, the DISK DRIVES, the DISK DRIVE CABLES, the PRINTER, and the PRINTER CABLE.

3. IF POSSIBLE, DISCONNECT THOSE PARTS OF THE SYSTEM NOT REQUIRED FOR THE FAILING PROCEDURE. If you have a voice synthesizer, RAMdisk, print buffer, or P-code card connected, remove it.

4. TRY SIMPLE PROCEDURES TO CHECK OUT THE BASIC SYSTEM OPERATION. If you have diagnostic tools available, USE THEM. Can you read other disks? Can you format a disk? Do other A/L programs load? Can you print to the printer with other programs?

5. MODULE SWAPS ARE GENERALLY THE QUICKEST AND MOST ACCURATE WAY TO TEST A FAILING SYSTEM. It would be foolish to go right to a chip on a board and replace it before you are sure that the problem is confined to that board.

6. IF THE SYMPTOMS CHANGE AFTER A MODULE SWAP BUT THE PROBLEM DOES NOT GO AWAY, ASSUME THAT THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM WITH THAT SPARE MODULE. Also be on the lookout for extra problems that may stay behind after that faulty spare part is removed. If this happens, there may be additional damage to your system.

7. IF YOU HAVE TWO COMPLETE SYSTEMS TO WORK WITH, START YOUR TROUBLESHOOTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHAIN BY SWAPPING OUT HALF OF THE EQUIPMENT. If the failing procedure now works, the problem is in the half you swapped out. If you swap out the PEB and the program now works, the problem is in the PEB or one of its cards. On the other hand, if you swap out the PEB and the symptoms do not change, you can assume that the problem IS NOT in the PEB or its cards. The problem is elsewhere, like the console, the cartridge, program, data file, the diskettes, printer cable, or printer.

8. IF YOU PUT THE SUSPECT MODULE IN A GOOD SYSTEM AND YOU GET A FAILURE LIKE BEFORE, YOU FOUND THE BAD MODULE. If you try to print to the same printer from another system and it does not work, you can assume that the printer is the culprit.

9. TAKE NOTES AS YOU GO. This will be helpful for later diagnostics if this proves to be a difficult problem.

10. KNOW WHEN TO GET HELP. If you have gone around and around and still cannot find the problem, you may never find it. It's time to call in a specialist.

Guess what, sportsfans? These rules, with slight adaptation, can apply to diagnostics on most anything, from your car to the kitchen light! The major advantage that a technician has over his customer is familiarity with the equipment, which translates into experience. So next time you have a problem with something, take some time to diagnose it with the RULES OF THE TRADE.

SOFTWARE SIG: Bob Viering

This month I can't decide if I should write about our Software SIG or our Programming SIG. I actually didn't have anything to do with the Software program this month (I did handle the Programming SIG, however! I wasn't just roaming the basement all day!). At the Software SIG, Dan Johnsen gave us a demonstration of the new version of TI-ARTIST and it's companion programs, DISPLAY MASTER and ARIST EXTRAS. Since I missed most of his presentation, I'll just remind you that the group had considered a mass purchase of the programs and has, in fact, sent off an order. If you had signed up for one, your copy will be here soon. If you didn't reserve one, be sure to contact Dan so he can put one aside for you. The total price for the three programs is \$30.00. If you have any other questions, please refer them to DJ.

April's program should be a good one. John Creviston and Robert Jones will be teaming up to give us a demonstration of some of the diagnostic programs available for the TI, including ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS, CORCOMP'S PERIPHERAL DIAGNOSTIC MODULE (I think that name's right.) and TI's original diagnostic software. If there's anyone who can show you the in's and out's of these programs, it's Creviston and Jones. Don't miss this one. The Software Sig will actually be part of the main meeting this month at 10:00 am.

At this time, we've tentatively scheduled the May meeting to be a free-for-all of demonstrations. This isn't cast in stone so don't hold me to it. If you've got a program you've written or just something you'd like to share with the rest of us, be sure to bring it with you to the May Software SIG. I'll have more info on this next month, providing we actually go ahead as planned.

If you have any ideas on what you would like to see covered in upcoming meetings, be sure to mention it to me or my able assistant, Rip Dowling, as soon as possible. Also, let us know if you'd like to do your own presentation. We're always looking for good help.

PROGRAMMING SIG: Bob Viering

This month's Programming SIG consisted of a brief tutorial on using the TI99/4A ADVENTURE EDITOR. The meeting was presented by yours truly and was well attended.

The Adventure Editor is a software package that enables the user to modify or write adventure games that use the Adventure Command Module. The program can be quite complicated at times and I was only able to touch on the basic programming language and commands. I would have liked to have gone into a little more detail but judging by the number of sleeping people in the audience, I think I went on long enough.

In spite of the rather confusing documentation included with the program, if you are interested in learning to use it, it is possible to create an adventure without too much

trouble. I don't consider myself an expert by any means but if you would like to give adventure programming a try, I'll be glad to help any way that I can.

The Adventure Editor is available from Tex-Comp and can be ordered by calling their 24-hour order line at 818-366-6631. The price is \$29.95 plus \$3.00 s&h.

This month's program will be a presentation by group member Floyd Pemberton who will be giving us a demonstration of a program he wrote that is basically a utility bill manager. It will act as a data-base and number-cruncher and even includes bar-graph capabilities. I haven't seen the program yet so my description is based on my conversation with Floyd. I hope I got that pretty close, Floyd! Anyway, come out and see it for yourself. The Programming SIG will begin at 9:00 am. Don't be late!

I also want to mention that the Programming SIG is still in need of a chairman. The person who fills this position does not have to present the meetings and doesn't even have to know anything about programming. Their main responsibility will be to organize the meetings and seek out others who can do a presentation. If anyone is interested in this position, please contact Jackie Guion asap.

NEXT-STEP REPORT: Tom Hall

This month is unusual because there are two future NEXT-STEP meetings to report. And no past meeting since the regular INFO MART Meeting. The NEXT STEP is April 3 (Friday) 5:15pm, at TD Industries. Followed by another April NEXT-STEP on April 24, 1987 (Friday) 5:15pm at TD Industries. These meetings are really a second monthly meeting, except they are unstructured, and small groups with similar interest (or needs) kind of group together and do their thing. We are indeed fortunate to have such a host as GREG JUSTICE, to provide the Club with a marvelous meeting place. For those of you who can't make the regular Info Mart meeting, NEXT-STEP is there so you can keep up with what is going on in the TI99/4a world. If you have a special problem, software or hardware please let me know so an expert will be there to help with your special problem. On the subject of special problems - I have what I think is the source code for 'TRACKC'. It's a Share-ware program. I thought, when I sent the requested donation, I would get an executable program. So, would one of you Assembly Language Gurus please help me with this program?

Even if you don't have any problems - the fellowship is great. And maybe there will be someone there who will benefit from your presence.

MINI-SIG REPORT

I hope everyone has done there Income Tax, by now, and is ready for another MINI-SIG! The last FUNNL WEB meeting was so successful that a repeat has been requested. Plans are to hold this MINI-SIG on April 12th. Ron Schwab is

sponsor/host. This date is the Sunday, after the Info Mart Meeting. Directions and everything will be discussed at the regular meeting and on the 99er CONNECTION. If you are going to attend you need to bring those special programs you want configured to your FUNNLE WEB Disk.

Future **MINI-SIG** plans include a May meeting on **SECTOR EDITORS**. I have a prospective sponsor/host for this one. There will be a sign up sheet at the INFO MART. I need some member input on this one. The dilemma is should we cover several Editors or concentrate on just one? If one, which one?

Dan Johnsen's presentation of **TI ARTIST** at the March meeting was interesting and well accepted by the audience. Some members signed up to buy the program package at the special Club rate. The point is, if our programs arrive in June, is there enough general interest to hold a **MINI-SIG**? Another question, who will volunteer to be the sponsor/host?

LIBRARY CORNER: Charlice Althar

We're continuing the work of adding programs to our library of public domain/freeware/shareware programs. Several members have contributed new material in recent weeks, which we are always appreciated!

To date, only a couple of people have told me of disks they received at our recent Disk Swap Party which apparently didn't copy properly. New copies are being made to replace these. Again, if anyone else has received a disk that doesn't work, please let us know, so we can make it right!

Remember, disks are available any time. The charge is \$3 per disk, which includes the disk, mailer, and postage. If you wish to supply the disk, the charge is only \$2. Just let me know what you need!

VOLUNTEER COLUMN: Imogene Osborn

GREETINGS,
I am glad to report that I've had nine people sign up for the Telephone Committee. Walter Pearson will call new members in the Metroplex; Chuck Long will call new members in the Fort Worth area, and Tom Hall via TIBBS to Brian McIntosh for those in Tyler. We have Joyce Moore, Simone Fioramonti, Mike Chapman, Rod Paulson, Jim Stewart, Ruby Hardin, and me. I will be calling these people to assign their group of names. This is great, but we still need more people, so each will have an equal share and not so time consuming.

NEXT STEP, APRIL 3rd, we will need 4+ **SYSTEMS**. I have one signed up now, 3+ to go! Call me, or leave a message on the **DTIRCG** or **LONGHORN TIBBS**. I would really like to encourage those of you who have not brought a system, it would be a nice way to thank all of our "Always Come Thru" members! Please remember, **VOLUNTEER EFFORT** is what makes our club activities possible.

STANFILL'S STALL: Mike Stanfill

FROM THE NEWS-LETTER RUMOR MILL --

Paul Charlton of **FAST-TERM** fame is supposedly busy writing a new terminal emulator program that will be 'Revolutionary'. Good luck, Paul!

FASTTEXT 80 help: Are you the proud owner of one of those inexpensive **FASTTEXT 80** printers and peeved at the skimpy manual? No sweat! Richard Corder of the West Jax 99er's has whipped-up a printer set-up program. No bit-map capability as yet but Richard hints at one in the future. Go Rich Go!

No more Cleveland jokes: In the Cleveland Newsletter Deanna Sheridan gripes about her IBM clone. Ah, such bliss. Also within is a program that lets you cheat at **TI-RUNNER**. (You dont have to pick up items to climb the ladders) Source code by Dave Talan.

Speak to me: Would you like to have your TI answer your phone? Well, if you have a Speech synthesizer and an answering then the **TI-D-BITS** newsletter has the program for you!

How low can you go? Think 110 is the lowest frequency the TI can handle? Think again!

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: FOR X=0 TO 99 :: T=109.4*1.059463094^X ::
CALL SOUND(400,40000,30, 40000,30,T,30,-4,1):: NEXT X
```

Still interested? Check out the Sept/Oct Breadboard newsletter.

What an I saying?! Check out the entire newsletter library! At a users group meeting near you! Toodles.

FUNNYWEB FARMS: Mike "TinyMind" Stanfill

Welcome, kiddies, to Uncle Mikey's Journal or 'Program Til You Puke'. We got some serious TI-fu to encounter, but foist:

I'm a modest lad. No, really! So I was, inwardly, a trifle astonished to find that other newsletters were printing my stuff! Neat-o, I thought. But on second glance there is a problem which I will direct directly at you newsletter editor types, the first thing concerning doc. As an example someone, who shall remain nameless for various litigational reasons, printed a listing of my 'Tinyfuse' game without telling anyone how it was to be played! It's true that it's not the most complicated game in the world, but is that any reason to omit instructions?

Secondly, I worked up a **GRAPHX** picture of a diagram of a disk-drive power supply. I signed it and gave full credit to the fellow I got the original idea from. Well, not only did another nameless editor not mention the **ORIGINATORS** credit line, but he went to all the trouble of scissoring my name

off the art- work! (!!!)

I bring these examples up only as cases I know something about. Lcrd only knows how many other poor, beslighted, authors are getting the short shaft. So, to sum things up, I'm asking that you hard-working editors (and hard work it is!) please think of your newsletter as something more than just a compilation of files but more like a real, honest-to-gosh journal of the collective TI-mind. Thanks!

Now, the good stuff. Remember last month I mentioned Jim Peterson and his wondrous, and lamented, 'Tips From the Tigercub', files? Well since I like his stuff so much (and the short schedule played havoc with my program writing time) I've decided to use one of his this month. It's the first musical 'Tinygram' I've run and it's a goodie! Versatile too! Type it up and run it and you'll hear a hammered-dulcimer version of "The Wildwood Flower". But that's not all!

```

1 !*****DULCIMER*****
*****A TINYGRAN*****
*****BY JIM PETERSON*****
2 CALL CLEAR :: DIM S(26) ::
F=262 :: FOR N=1 TO 25 :: S(
N)=INT(F*1.059463094 (N-1)):
: NEXT N :: READ N :: C=S(N)
:: D=S(N)
3 RESTORE 7 :: FOR J=1 TO 63
:: GOSUB 5 :: NEXT J
4 U=U+2 :: CALL SOUND(-200,S
(N),U,C,U,D,U):: IF U>27 THE
N U=0 :: GOTO 3 ELSE 4
5 READ N :: CALL SOUND(-550,
S(N),0):: CALL SOUND(-550,S(
N),0,C,9):: CALL SOUND(-550,
S(N),0,C,9,0,19):: D=C
6 C=S(N):: RETURN
7 DATA 5,6,3,8,10,13,5,5,6,5
3,3,5,3,1,1
8 DATA 5,6,8,8,10,13,5,5,6,5
3,3,5,3,1,1
9 DATA 8,13,17,17,17,15,13,1
3,8,8,10,10,13,10,8,8
10 DATA 1,1,1,3,5,5,8,5,3,3,
5,3,1,1,1
    
```

Lets say you wanted to hear another tune. Easy! This program puts a two-octave scale in a 25-element DIMension. That's what the 'DIM S(26)' is all about in line 2. All you have to do is Take the tune you want to hear and break it down into its respective parts (Ex, C, B#, etc.) then use the chart below to match it to its DIMensional value:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
C	C#	D	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A	A#	B	C	C#	E	D#	E	F	F#	G	G#	A
23	24	25																			
A#	B	C																			

Now put these numbers into the DATA statements. You can

make the DATA files as long as you like, the program doesn't care. Each of these numbers is approx- imately one quarter note long. To make a note longer just list it twice. (Ex. DATA 3,3,3,3 will play twice as long as DATA 3,3. Get it?)

Finally, count all of the numbers in your DATA statements and alter the FOR-TO statement in line 3.

ERRATUM: The 'TINYCHAR' listing in the March newsletter had an error in it. Steps have been taken to eliminate such errors and it won't happen again! I SWEAR IT on a stack of pancakes! Here is the correctior:

Line 7: change P(Q(X,Y)=N to P(Q(X,Y))=N

Thats it! The end! It's a wrap! 86 the word-processor! Help!

THE STAFF OF THE DALLAS 99 INTERFACE
(by Mike Stanfill)



"STUBBY"



TOM HALL



MIKEY



BUFFALO BOB



IMOGENE OSBORNE



GOOEY LEON



JON HODGES



CHARLICE ALTHAR



GREG JUSTICE



MS. GUION

Computer Council of Dallas NEWS: John Pellet

CCD had another successful User Forum in March. There were a total of 59 tables rented, an increase of two compared to February. Additionally, 96 meetings were held across the many rooms at INFOMART.

CCD needs contact information from each Affiliate so that when requests are received between meetings, a valid referral will be possible. This information will also be used to update INFOMART Resource Center information, since they also receive information requests.

In order to maintain a neat appearance, and reduce littering in the lobby, all periodicals will now be distributed downstairs in the vendor area.

C-CAD (Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled) will be presenting "Hi Time for Hi Tech for the Disabled and Elderly," April 2-4 at INFOMART. Free passes are available through Tina at 640-6613 (as guests of JR at CCD). Several Affiliates are planning programs.

INFOMART will be hosting an electronic publishing show on April 9 from 9AM to 4:15PM. Admission is \$35. Call 746-INFO for information.

INFOMART is establishing a referral data base for consultants, with seminars planned for August. Fee for inclusion of Affiliate members will be under \$50.

The Talented and Gifted Magnet School wants to meet with us in April and/or May. They feature programming competitions between students. Details here as they are available.

Atarifest will be held at INFOMART May 8 and 9, the latter overlapping the May User Forum. In addition to 6000+ square feet of exhibit space, seminars are planned on topics ranging from educational software, to desktop publishing, to computer art and music. Tickets for the full show will be \$5 at the door, but are available in advance to Affiliate members for \$2. Details here as available and at the April User Forum.

Proposed dates for the rest of 1987 are: 4/11, 5/9, 6/11, 7/9, 8/13, 9/12, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10.

Proposed dates for 1988 are: 1/9, 2/13, 3/12, 4/16, 5/14, 6/11, 7/9, 8/13, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10.

As always, dates beyond 60 days are tentative.

THE TRADING POST: Any DTIHCG Member

FOR SALE: John Creviston has available several standalone peripherals that were Gene Mouse's. If you are interested in purchasing them contact John at 214-256-2721.

The TRADING POST is a service provided for any non-commercial entity, to buy, sell, or swap any computer related product. Currently the service is available free of charge, and limited only in size to what is reasonable subject to space limitations. Ads will be printed ONCE per request. The deadline for requesting space is the same as the other newsletter columns, two weeks before the Infomart meeting.

C E O T I C S 3THE CUTTING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE:

SOME MONTHS AGO AN ARTICLE ON HIGH PRECISION FOCUSING OF ELECTRON BEAMS TO CUT CIRCUITS IN A SILICON CHIP ONLY A FEW ATOMS WIDE. YOU MAY KNOW THAT AN ELECTRON IS ONLY 1/1800 THE SIZE OF A HYDROGEN ATOM, SO IF THEY CAN FOCUS THE BEAM TO ONE ELECTRON WIDE, IT WOULD BE LIKE CUTTING A GROOVE IN A FOOTBALL FIELD WITH A HOE. BUT WHAT HAPPENED WAS, THEY DISCOVERED THAT ROWS WERE SO CLOSE TOGETHER THAT WHEN THE CIRCUIT WAS OPERATING, THE ELECTRONS IN THE CIRCUIT BEGAN TO SPILL OVER INTO THE ADJACENT CHANNELS. SO OUR MINUTORIZATION OF THE CIRCUITS ON SILICON CHIPS HAS ABOUT REACHED IT'S PHYSICAL LIMITS.

ENTER THE MOLECULAR CHIP. ACCORDING TO SCIENTISTS AT THE CENTER FOR MOLECULAR ELECTRONICS IN PITTSBURG'S CARNEGIE-MELLON UNIVERSITY, POPULAR SCIENCE DEC. 86, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE MIND BENDING.

ACTUALLY THESE THINGS ARE CARBON BASED BIOLOGICAL MICROCHIPS, IF YOU DID'NT ALREADY KNOW, THAT MEANS THEY ARE ALIVE. THE SCIENTIST ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH BACTERIAL PIGMENT OBTAINED FROM THE SALT MARSHES OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY.

THE SCIENTISTS ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF A REDUCTION IN SIZE OF 1000, AND RATHER THAN BEING IN 2 DIMENSION LIKE SILICON CHIPS, THESE CAN BE STACKED TO PROVIDE DENSITIES OF 100,000 TIMES MORE THAN SILICON, AT THE SAME TIME A THOUSAND TIMES FASTER AND A HUNDRED THOUSAND TIMES LESS POWER. THE STORAGE CAPACITY OF A DISC MADE OF THESE MOLECULES COULD STORE A THOUSAND TIMES MORE THAN A LASER DISC, AND READ AND WRITE IN 10 TRILLIONTHS OF A SECOND PER BIT, THATS 1/10,000,000,000,000 OF A SECOND, LIGHT TRAVELS ABOUT 1/000 OF AN INCH IN THAT AMOUNT OF TIME.

DTIHCG Resource Recap: Dan Johnsen1. **User group meetings.**

- A. **Main meeting.** Combination of short business meeting, announcements, 'open forum' and main program; followed by infomal new member orientation and time to purchase hardware or 'Disk-of-the-Month', arrange for library checkout, sign up for activities, etc.
- B. **Special Interest Group meetings.** Hardware, Software and Programming SIGs meet the same day and location as our main meeting.
- C. **NEXT-STEP meetings.** Designed to answer questions and solve problems, these meetings are held apart from the main meeting. Bring the hard/software that is giving you problems and let us help out; or, come and give a hand to other 4A owners! A good chance to meet fellow users on a more informal basis, we generally descend on some unsuspecting pizza emporium afterward.
- D. **MiniSIG meetings.** These meetings are held to address a specific topic at various locations throughout Dallas and may be attended by any active group member. Topics range from customization of software or modification of hardware to complete, open (PIG-OUT!) access to the software library; there may be a small charge for participation in some MiniSIGs.
- E. **Social Meetings.** These events may be held in conjunction with one of our other meetings and range from Spaghetti Dinners to Family Picnics to holiday parties!
2. **Libraries**
- A. **Software Library.** This collection of public domain and freeware software is available to any active member. Copies of complete disks made on your disk are \$2 or we'll provide the disk for an additional \$1.
- B. **Newsletter Library.** Checkout newsletters from other groups and organizations on a one month basis.
- C. **Adventure Library.** A wide variety of these games are available for one month checkout. See the Adventure librarian to sign up for your favorite.
3. **Disk-of-the-Month.** Each month a different selection of new, interesting and useful programs is offered for \$3.
4. **99er Connection BBS.** Features 24 hour operation at 300 and 1200 baud, an active message exchange and program downloads. No fees, call 214-272-2786.
5. **Good buys.** The group maintains a small supply of miscellaneous hardware to help keep your 4A up and running; whenever interest warrants, group purchases of major hardware items, software, blank disks, etc. are arranged. Members may buy/sell/swap among themselves during the 'open forum' at main meetings and free ads may be placed in the newsletter. Members may also purchase from vendors present at Infomart.
6. **Dallas 99 Interface newsletter.** Not much to say here! You just finished reading it.

Club Officers		
President	Louis Guion	214-239-6829
Vice-President	Dan Johnsen	214-494-6770
Secretary	David Martin	1-214-370-3268
Treasurer	L. M. Kennedy	214-823-6590
Board Member at Large	Robert Jones	214-954-0365

Club Chairpersons		
Newsletter Editor	Greg Justice	214-240-6647
Special Projects	Greg Justice	214-240-6647
Software Library	Charlice Althar	214-337-4840
Program Director	Jackie Guion	214-239-6829
Material Distribution	Walter Pearson	214-943-2439
Disk-of-the-Month	John Creviston	214-256-2721
SIG - Hardware	Jon Hodges	214-690-4428
Mini-SIG Meetings	Tom Hall	817-267-5987
Volunteer Organizer	Imogene Osborn	214-252-5985
CCD Representative	Lynn Nidiffer	214-228-4820
99er Connection SysOp	Dan Johnsen	214-494-6770
Newsletter Librarian	Mike Stanfill	214-320-2293
Membership Committee	Chuck Long	817-534-0990
Software SIG Leader	Bob Viering	214-???-????