

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
FEBRUARY 1984

Meetings: 7:00pm, 3rd Friday each month
At Northlake College, Room B-206, Irving, Texas

President: Robert Bayne -- Vice-President: Keith Althar
Secretary: Richard Roberts -- Treasurer: Earl Bullock
Editor: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

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 send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, 1221 Mosswood, Irving, Texas 75061.

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EDITOR/ASSEMBLER: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Richard Roberts

Great News! The Editor can once again edit (rather than assemble) this newsletter! Yes, friends, I'm back on-line. I know that the problems I have had with my system have caused some concern among members who worried what they would do in a similar situation; and, unfortunately, although my problem is solved, I still don't know what the problem was, and neither does TI.

The first problem that developed, back in October, was a printer problem, quickly followed by the inability to access my disk drive(s). I spent hours on the phone to Lubbock, some at my own expense, and gradually replaced, again at my expense, the console, the F-Box and card/cable, the RS-232 card, and the disk controller. I hauled my system from my home (then in Oak Cliff) to the exchange center several times, waited weeks to receive from Lubbock a component that the Exchange Center didn't have, and generally found no help, guidance, or solution to my problem.

That is until I found Ross Williams at the Exchange Center. He is a TI employee whom I had talked to on the phone when he was in Lubbock. He had been reassigned to the Dallas Exchange Center as an experiment. Although, it was late in the game, this was a move TI should have made two years ago. I hauled my system to the Exchange Center two more times. The first time Ross and I thought that maybe it was the RS-232. It had been replaced once before and had had no use since replacement, but replacing it seemed to solve the problem -- until I got the system home.

We had spent hours trading components and letting the machine stay up to see if problems developed. When, after an hour, we had had no problems with the exchange of the RS-232 card, I took my system home to have it give me a disk error after two minutes of operation.

Continued on back ...

The last meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was on January 20, 1984, and despite the forecast of snow, was well attended by members and guests alike. In fact, out of about 40 people in attendance, 16 were registered as guests. That's 40% of the total attendance! And, nine of the 16 guests also paid their annual dues to become members. I would like to welcome each new member, and urge you to get involved in any way possible.

Robert Bayne, club President, called the meeting to order, and brought up several points for the membership to consider. He indicated he is planning on putting together a list of club members who would be willing to make their time and talents available to other members in an effort to promote a better understanding of their computer, as well as to help with problems, and share experiences. Also, the need for a Program Chairman was discussed again, with Robert promising to put together a program for the February meeting, but wishing to share the responsibility with another person for the long run. Another item mentioned was the meeting location, and the fact that a better and more centrally located facility would be beneficial in certain ways. I believe this topic should be put to a vote by the membership, and if a majority agree, then a search committee should be established to locate and recommend a new facility.

There have been a number of members who have reported that they are not receiving their newsletter. If this problem still exists after the February mailing, please let me know. There usually is a good reason, such as not notifying the Secretary of a change of address, or in not paying your annual dues on time. The club roster program keeps track of the date of your last payment, and will not print a label if that date is more than one year old. Typically, you should receive a renewal notice one month before the expiration date, allowing you to make your payment in time to keep receiving your newsletter.

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I called Ross back the next day, and he told me to bring my whole system in, again, the following day. He said to bring everything, even the TV-modulator. I did, and Ross had scrounged an entirely new system -- new console, transformer, modulator, P-Box, card, 32-K memory, RS-232, disk controller, disk drive, cables, the works.

I took my system home and have had no problems since (except that I had to take my printer back to Star Micronics to get it repaired, which they did. They now have a complete TI system at their DFW offices so that they can troubleshoot any problems that people with TI's have with their Gemini printers.

I want to thank Ross Williams, and, incidentally, TI for finally getting me back on line. I also want to thank Gregg at Star Micronics for his help.

Now, what was wrong?

Since the replacement of my system I have been reacquainting myself with my computer.

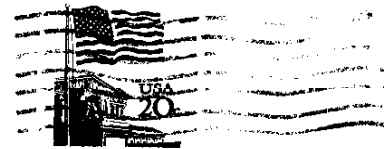
I have had a chance to experiment further, and refine my understanding of the ways in which TI-WRITER will manipulate my Gemini 10 dot-matrix printer. I have also had the opportunity to use my modem for communicating between members. Our Secretary, Richard Roberts, sent me his article for this month via modem. It was the first time I have received a file over the telephone and it was Richard's first time to send a file out that way. Works fine!

I have just discovered StarText, and am sending in my application; and, I also have membership in the Source. I would like to put together a 'directory' of those members who have accounts with various communication services, so that we could send electronic mail back and forth.

The directory I propose would only include the member's name and the service(s) and account number(s). I intend to propose that we do this at the February meeting. If you have an opinion on this proposal, please come.

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