



# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE  
Volume 17, Number 6

JUNE 1990

*This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving the member/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

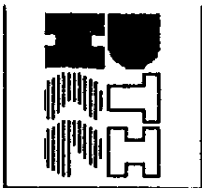
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**\*\*\*NEXT MEETING\*\*\***  
 Saturday, June 9, 1990  
 at the Dallas infomart  
 Oaklawn Blvd and I 35 West

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 \$ Phone the 99er Connection BBS \$  
 \$ 24 Hours, 300/1200 baud \$  
 \$ 214-233-1750 \$  
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**INSIDE THE INTERFACE:**

*Physics in France - Next Step Report*  
*Beginning Missing Link - The Big Blue TI*  
*Barry Traver's Report on the Lima Faire*

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Member of the  
 Computer Council of Dallas

CCD Information Line: 746-3297

FIRST CLASS



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 \* DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP \*  
 \* JUNE / JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*  
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JUNE 1990

- SATURDAY 2 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE
- FRIDAY 8 "MEET THE PROGRAMMER" DINNER  
 5:30 pm Welcome Dinner @ WYATT'S  
 Josey Ln @ Belt Line  
 Cris Faherty Guest of Honor
- SATURDAY 9 SUPER SATURDAY @ INFOMART  
 9:00 am Business Meeting  
 9:40 am Open Forum  
 10:00 am Main Program: Guest Speaker  
 Cris Faherty on TI Artist &  
 Display Master  
 11:45 am Social Hour / Lunch  
 Activities sign-up  
 1:00 pm Special Sig: Guest Speaker  
 Cris Faherty on TI Base
- MONDAY 11 CCD Director's Meeting
- SATURDAY 16 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
 @ Mr Gatti's at SE corner  
 of Marsh & Walnut Hill  
 1:30 pm Officer's Meeting  
 2:30 pm Chairman's Meeting  
 5:00 pm Recess & Pizza
- SUNDAY 17 FATHER'S DAY
- THURSDAY 21 FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
- FRIDAY 22 AT WADLEY MEDICAL CENTER  
 5:15 pm NEXT-STEP Technical  
 Assistance Meeting  
 10:00 pm Newsletter Article Deadline  
 10:00 pm INFOMART room request due  
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 JULY 1990  
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- SATURDAY 7 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE
- SATURDAY 14 SUPER SATURDAY @ INFOMART  
 Main Prog: Missing Link  
 by David Axberg
- MONDAY 16 CCD Director's Meeting
- SATURDAY 21 EC MEETING @ Mr.Gatti's
- FRIDAY 27 NEXT STEP Technical  
 Assistance Meeting  
 Newsletter Article Deadline

## OFFICERS

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NEXT-STEP CHAIRMAN	RJSS WHITMORE	(214)-352-3889
B-E-S-T BOOK CHAIRMAN		

These people are the Club's officers and chairpersons. They all are invited to, and most attend, the three hour Committee Chairmen's Meeting (the officers meet for an hour and a half before that!) on the Saturday one week after the INFOMART meeting. In addition to just belonging, they serve themselves, and you, by giving freely of their time to make this a better club for us all.

Thank them individually, if you have the opportunity.

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Jim Peterson released many Tigercub Software programs (with exception of the Nuts Bolts disks) for FREE DISTRIBUTION, providing that no price or copying fee is charged. (This is brand-new news: the new Tigercub programs are not included in the latest TI-PD catalog uploaded to this network. If you want more information, send \$1.00 to Jim Peterson, Tigercub Software, 156 Collingwood Avenue, Columbus, OH 43213, requesting his latest TI-PD catalog, including supplement #8.)

Harrison Software has a great new disk of music out, "Mozart Serenade," which includes "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" (K. 525), 2 piano sonatas (K. 311 and K. 331, the latter containing "Rondo alla Turca"), and 12 variations on "Ah! vous dirai-je, maman" ("Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star") (K. 265). (If you want a copy, send \$6.00 to Harrison Software, 5705 40th Place, Hyattsville, MD 20781, specifying whether you want it in DSSD or on a SSSD "flippy.")

William A. Shores, 5737 Glendale Drive, Pockport, NY 14094 introduced an Extended BASIC Module Expander, which gives you XB and 5 other cartridge selections all in one, with the hardware kit being available for \$25 plus \$3 shipping (although there is an important limitation: only modules with 16-pin groms can be used with the E/B Module Expander). (Before buying, you should also check out the module expander available from Gary Bowser, Oasis Pensive Abacutors, 432 Jarvis Street, Suite 502, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2H3.)

Lots of other new stuff was there as well (e.g., Brad Snyder's The Animator, available from Asgard Software, P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849), but I think I've said enough to show that there's lots of action going on, so keep on computin'!

## FOR SALE

\$ 250.00 ..... P-BOX contains:  
 1 - TI P-BOX controller card  
 1 - TI RS232 card  
 1 - TI 32K memory expansion card  
 1 - TI disk controller card  
 2 - Panasonic DS/SD internal drives  
 1 - quite fan installed

\$ 150.00 ..... HORIZON 256K RAMdisk  
 Please contact David Axberg at 214/416-3769

# THE FRENCH CONNECTION T WEBER

The year is 1990. The place, the University of Paris Sud. That same institution which, some thirty years ago helped make France one of the original five nuclear powers of the world, is still on the forefront of solid physics research. Although the primary subject of research has shifted from the highly controversial nuclear to all promising superconductivity, it's contribution to basic research has not dampened since the Sixties.

As you enter the brightly lit research laboratory, you are first amazed by the sheer number of bizarre instruments that clutter the many shelves around the room. That is until you are stunned by the familiar look of two silver and black keyboards that peer through the myriad of unfamiliar shapes that surround them.

What is a TI 99/4A doing there? ..... "It's really simple!" explains Professor Pierre Gavroche, "Because the TI 99/4A has a fixed operating system, it is more easily programmed." He goes on explaining that because of the nodular structure of the Peripheral Expansion Box, applications can more easily be developed. Yet it is accurate enough to keep track of our experiments. During our member's visit, a custom peripheral card built at the lab was directly connected to a host of measuring equipment, all of which were tracking an experiment on superconductivity. A custom program, also developed at the lab, was storing and analyzing the data.

Now this is no fantasy dream. Thanks to our member Dino de Fioramonti (one of my compatriots) who brought us a video tape of his visit to the University of Paris, we have more evidence that the TI 99/4A is still alive and well. It's also comforting to see it being used at the forefront of physics, where until now, most of us thought, it had long been replaced by Cray supercomputers and the like.....

Who knows maybe some major breakthrough might be accomplished on our "little" computer yet.....

But now I am speculating!

<TCW>

"What in the 4A world is happening?"

It seems to me there are more of members asking the same question, "Should I spend the money on new components for my 4A or should I make the long avoided move to DOS equipment?". We have witnessed the formation of an informal DOS Mini-SIG that meets in the afternoons of our regular 4A Super Saturdays at the INFOMART. Now, more and more of our DTIHCG members are owners of both 4A and DOS machines. Some members have even sold ALL of their 4A equipment and have continued to participate and support DTIHCG!

After talking to Bud Mills and Chris Bobbitt, I find that this is not a unique situation in the 4A community. Instead it is a trend that each of us must learn to deal with in our own way. It is amazing that by today's standards our "ole 4A" would be fairly competitive in the current marketplace vs such machines as the Commodore 64. However, if your machine has become more than a source of amusement ... your thoughts are now of more speed, more memory, and more data storage space.

I am not expounding the details of the death of the 4A, nor am I recommending the exodus to DOS machines. I am attempting to explain the transition that is taking place in our community. I have enjoyed and diligently used my 4A to its maximum capabilities since 1983. I currently have a configuration that pushes my 4A to its maximum performance level. My console has been modified with the 8/16 bit switchable bus, the onboard 32K memory expansion and the Rave99 keyboard interface board. My P-BOX has a CorComp DS/DD disk controller with the Miller Graphics EPROM; a CorComp Triple-Tech card with 64K print buffer, clock and speech synthesizer; a Horizon 1MEG RAMdisk, a DIJIT System AVPCard with 80 column and analog RGB display capabilities; a TI RS232 card with the DIJIT EPROM modification; and a P-GRAM card. I utilize a Magnavox analog RGB monitor, a Star NX-10 parallel dot matrix printer, and a DataComm 1200 baud modem.

The software available for the 4A for everyday applications are functional and inexpensive. Funnelweb for word processing, TELCO for communications, TI-Base for databases, TI-Artist+ for graphics, DSKUtilities for utilities, and Remind Me for calendar and appointment uses. And as I have mentioned in the past, text file inter-transfer between DOS machines and the 4A can be accomplished by a number of software packages. I have been enjoying the use of my 4A ... I ha run two (2) profitable private companies as well developed a U.S. patented software application in "c". The 4A has been and will continue to be a source of functionality for me; and for that reason only, I have continued to support and utilize the TI 99/4A.

THE GENIAL TRAVELER by Barry Traver (reprinted from GENie) Well, I'm back from the Lima Faire (first TI faire I've been able to attend since Tucson), and I'm glad to report that things are alive and well with the TI-99/4A and Myarc 9640, and the Faire was a resounding success.

Speakers (in alphabetical order) included Chris Bobbitt, Gary Bowser, Charles Good, Bruce Harrison, Jim Forn, Irwin Hott, Harold Hoyt, Bill Hudson, Beery Miller, Bud Mills, Jim Peterson, Karl Romstedt, Paul Scheidemantle, Gary Taylor, and myself. (By the way, user groups - not individuals, please! - may order the three videotapes - including at least 16 hours of presentations - from Charles Good at cost by sending him either \$15 or three new blank tapes plus \$3 for shipping; his address is Dr. Charles Good, Box 647, Venedocia, OH 45894.)

I don't have a list of the vendors (and didn't have much of an opportunity to travel around, since I had a table myself), but it seemed like most major vendors were represented (which the list of speakers appears to confirm). In addition, a surprisingly large number of user groups had tables (more than last year, I believe), which is certainly an encouraging sign as to our continued survival as a TI community. (For example, one user group that I was glad to get to know better who had a table at Lima was the Kawartha 99ers User Group from Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.)

Here's some of the news relating to the Lima Faire:

Chris Pratt of ESD (Electronic Systems Development Corp.) announced plans to release a hard and floppy disk controller. According to ESD, the card will have "a new revolutionary design using surface mount parts." Reportedly, its "unique design eliminates heat problems on the card." Moreover, the card "features an EEPROM which allows future DSR upgrades to be loaded by disk," and "set-up information stored in the EEPROM eliminates dip switches on the board." (Modestly, ESD claims that the card is "designed by an electronics and computer corporation which supports its users." We'll see....)

At the show, Charles Good (at whose home I stayed while at Lima (Thanks, Charles) for the kind hospitality, and thanks to Ohio State University Lima Campus for their hosting of the "T.I. Computer Multi User Group Conference" on May 26, 1990) introduced version 4.3 of Funnelweb, which has some nice new features (especially for those who have 80-column cards).

**TAKE A BOW!**

By: Sharon Reddick

This month's volunteer recognition goes to - TERRY NOTLEY.

Terry Notley is a TI99/4A owner of over 3 years. He uses his 99/4A for lots of things, such as: entertainment, learning about computers, keeping the group's libraries up to date and copies to the backup library, providing a system and helping others at Next Steps, providing a system and copying disks at library swaps, and programming in assembly language.

He gives valuable input at Executive Council meetings. He also has presented programs at Super Saturday INFOMART on graphics and other topics of interest. His wittiness even helps make the programs he presents very entertaining.

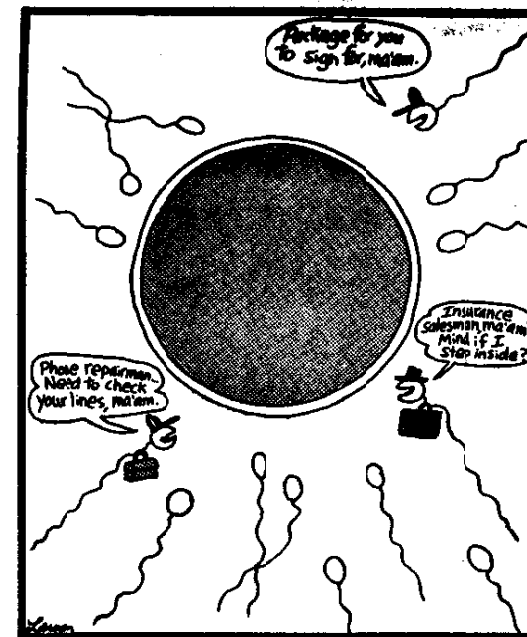
Terry is a key player! Keep up the great work, Terry. Your efforts are appreciated. Thanks and TAKE A BOW.

Re: SYSTEM FOR SALE  
To: ALL  
From: JOHN CREVISTON-IRVING, TX

A friend called last night and said his system is for sale. He is losing his sight and can't see the monitor well enough. There's a console, p-box with 32k, TI disk controller, RS232 and a printer. Included is an assortment of cartridges and a large collection of disk based programs. Worth much more than the \$275 asking price. The p-box has 2 1/2 height drives in it and an external drive is also included. Leave a message for me on the 99' Connection or call me at home for more details (594-0721).

Currently, I am working on a project that will allow me to share common components between the 4A and a DOS machine. This "transition configuration" will facilitate common input/output (I/O) devices; i.e. keyboard, monitor, printer, and modem, thus maximizing the current equipment investment and minimizing the expense associated with inclusion of the DOS processor in the current equipment configuration.

It is common knowledge that Mr. Hugh McKnight and myself believe that a man (or woman) without toys is a man without sunshine in his life. The DTIHCG and the 4A have given me much fun and enjoyment since the first meeting I attended in 1984 at Northlake Community College. It is my intention to continue that relationship for a long time to come with both the DTIHCG and the 4A!



How the human egg is often deceived.

## MEET AN OFFICER

Thierry Weber

Thierry Weber, our club president, was born in Thionville in the Lorraine area of France and has lived in the United States since 1977.

Trained as a professional waiter, he has worked as a waiter, maitre d' and sommelier (wine steward). He used his TI to keep the wine inventory at the Old Warsaw, one of Dallas' foremost restaurants. He later became the assistant club manager at Stonebridge Country Club. Last fall the knowledge he acquired with the TI landed him the position of Food Beverage Controller at the country club, where he keeps track of inventory and sales on computer worksheets that he designed.

Thierry first got his TI in '82 because it was a good buy at the time. A friend told him about the Infomart meetings, and he liked the people and the presentations so well that he became a member.

When Thierry is not counting wine bottles, he uses the TI to generate titles for his videos. He also enjoys playing computer games, reading science fiction, and listening to classical and New Age music. To see an example of Thierry's programming talents, check out the astronomy program in the club library.

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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!
!!           ATTENTION INFOMART SHOPPERS
!!           =====
!!
!! STARTING WITH OUR APRIL 12TH MEETING
!!
!! WE WILL START OUR MEETING AT
!!
!!      999999      000000      000000
!!      99 99  ::  00 00      00 00
!!      999999  ::  00 00      00 00
!!      99       00 00      00 00
!!      99  ::  00 00      00 00
!!      99  ::  000000      000000
!!
!!           INSTEAD      OF      9:30
!!
!!           BE THERE !!!!!
!!
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

```

## THE MISSING LINK BEGINNER by Jim Leshar

This Missing Link program is for us very beginners. It is important to know that you are working on a grid with 192 rows and 240 columns of pixels. A sheet of graph paper with 1/4" squares on an 8 1/2 by 11" sheet works quite well, counting 6 pixels per square. This will help you see exactly what numbers to use. For example to draw a line from one point to another. A much shorter program could be written to do what this one does but this one will be more illustrative. If you have trouble with it call me. Jim Leshar 821 9274.

```

5  ! STIX
10 CALL LINK("LINE",00,120,192,120)
20 GOSUB 100
30 CALL LINK("LINE",30,186,162,54)
40 GOSUB 100
50 CALL LINK("LINE",96,024,096,216)
60 GOSUB 100
70 CALL LINK("LINE",30,54,162,186)
80 GOSUB 100
90 GOTO 10
100 CALL LINK("CLEAR")
110 RETURN

```

NEXT STEP REPORT  
CHARLICE ALTHAR

May's NEXT STEP was not as well attended as some have been, but enthusiasm ran high as we gathered for our monthly get-together in the cafeteria of the Morton Hospital on the campus of the Blood Center at Wadley. As usual, Jim Leshner brought us something to munch on, as us, Jim, but we love you for it!

Here's some of the activity that occurred:

1. Sold 1 Y-cable.
2. Discussed the HFDC and a possible group purchase of same.
3. Saw some of Jim's work and doodles with "The Missing Link".
4. Asked a lot of questions and got a lot of answers.
5. Had a review of Slymoids and Tennis by Shawn.
6. Wrote a newsletter article.
7. Demo'd a laptop computer for sale.
8. Worked on the club's activity calendar.
9. Discussed installing 2 external disk drives.
10. Planned publicity for the upcoming programs by Chris Faherty.
11. Found the club's missing silent fan.
12. Discussed a DOS sig for July.
13. Talked about printers.
14. Answered questions about TI-WRITER.
15. Played with a Toshiba portable computer.
16. Discussed sources for printer paper and ribbons.
17. Ate too much at Dunston's!

We sure did...but how can you not eat too much of those great hamburgers, to say nothing of Blue Bell Ice Cream? We're sorry more of you weren't with us, you missed a great time! Remember, this is the time and place to get one-on-one help with your problems, and answers to most of your questions! Your next opportunity for this kind of technical assistance will be on June 22. Give it a try!

## LATCHKEY

by Jim Stewart

We are always happy to acknowledge new DTIHCG members, but we wish we had time at the meetings to get acquainted so we have a better idea what specific interests each seek to satisfy. John Di Prima of Cedar Hill, Texas joined us April 14th. Jennifer Hall is a delightful young lady from Meeker, Oklahoma that John Creviston and I have tried to help by mail. Jeffrey Kuhlmann wishes he had learned of our group earlier, since he will be stationed in Germany for the next year or so. He promises to stay in touch and send us some German programs for the TI 99/4a. Robert Smith just returned from overseas, and asked for the issues of our newsletter he had missed, which we were happy to provide. We were also pleased to greet James Crosson as a Guest, since he is so busy with the Net 99'er Group in Hurst.

We think we have come up with a helpful introductory gift for our new members just joining DTIHCG. Your dues payment will now entitle you to place a one time order from our Most Useful Diskette List - for each one you buy at our regular \$3.00 price, you get another one free. If you can't get to our meetings, we can arrange to mail them to you. Some newcomers did not understand our Library Catalog well enough to judge which disks would interest them most. This is just one more way of saying "Thank You" for joining and supporting the Dallas TI Home Computer User Group! Remember we have two meetings a month: Infomart and Next Step. If you can't be at the next meeting, find someone to take your place. We'll be looking for you!

## 1990 PROGRAMS

by David R. Axberg

## "Conversations with Chris Bobbitt

I called Chris Bobbitt of ASGARD Software this last week. The conversation was informative and entertaining. Chris stated he would be interested in making a presentation to our group in September of this year. I will be in Washington, D.C. next week and have plans to meet with him at that time to work out some of the details and terms of his visit. Pending the approval of the executive committee, Mr. Bobbitt will be on the agenda for our September program.

My impression of Mr. Bobbitt after our conversation is that he is quite a salesman. His presentation should be very entertaining. He stated that he had made a large number of public presentations and that with his experience as an editor, producer, distributor, and coordinator of 4A products and information, he would be able to provide us with an informative and insightful presentation. He also will bring a full array of his product line .... FOR SALE, of course!! Products such as SPELL II, the new serial mouse, and the Mechatronics 80 column "sidecar" card.

## "As for the Faherty's"

As of this writing, Chris Faherty is scheduled for the JUNE program. This should be a great program because he is so informative and insightful. Dennis Faherty ("Dad") is the author of TI-Base, the first fully functional "dbase II"(c) look-a-like in the 4A community. Our group was one of the first to use the program and our own Jon Hodges literally rewrote the user manual for Dennis. Jon Hodges and Jim Stewart have both given presentations on the use and the applications of TI-Base at our Super Saturday meetings. Jim Stewart ran a column in the Dallas 99 Interface called "TI-Bits" for a number of months giving hints and information on the use and operation of TI-Base.

As Chris is able to make the trip, the author of TI-Artist, TI-Artist+, Display Master, and Movies will show the secrets of graphics using the 99/4A. This will give us the opportunity to ask those questions about the operation of TI-Artist+ we couldn't figure out .... I know I have a FEW!!!!

## "What are we going to do in JULY and AUGUST?"

Right now I am working on two possibilities: 1) CALENDAR PROGRAMS i.e. Remind ME, Schedule Manager, and Calendar - Looking for volunteers, or 2) MOVIES with Butch Spill and Rip Dowling presenting. In either case, it will be GREAT!!!

For the month of AUGUST, the controversy of the MYARC (H)ard and (F)loppy (D)isk (C)ontroller may be reviewed by Butch Spill and John Creviston; and if we are able to get the information from Bud Mills, a comparison on the new hard disk controller that is supposed to be announced and/or demonstrated in California this week .... or a review of the Local BBS' and subscriber services i.e. Startext, GENie, and CompuServ.

I issued a request for suggestions for programs last month and as of to date I have received some exciting ideas from Rip Dowling and Jim Stewart. Let's keep it rolling. Remember you can contact me on the 99er Connection (David Axberg), GENie(D.AXBERG), CompuServ(76566,2534), or on my voice recorder (214/416-3769) 24 hours a day ..... Lets get busy!!!

