

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

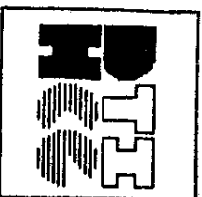
DALLAS 99 INTERFACE
Volume 11, Number 11 NOVEMBER 1991

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

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

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, NOVEMBER 16, 1991
at the Dallas INFOMART
Oak Lawn Avenue and I-35 East



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

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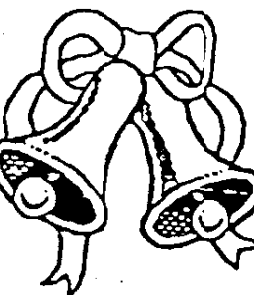


NOVEMBER

- 1 NEXT-STEP
JOJO'S 5:15 PM TILL...
1415 MOTOR ST. DALLAS, TX.
- 2 SIDEWALK SALE
- 10 CLUB BBQ
5 PM AT
BACK COUNTRY BBQ
6940 GREENVILLE AVE.
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY
- 16 INFOMART SUPER SATURDAY
OAK LAWN @ I-35 EAST
- 23 EC MEETING
MR. GATTI'S
WALNUT HILL @ MARSH LN.
- 28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL
- 29 NEXT-STEP
JOJO'S 5:15 PM TILL...
1415 MOTOR ST. DALLAS, TX.

DECEMBER

- 2 1ST DAY OF HANUKKAH
- 7 SIDEWALK SALE
- 14 INFOMART SUPER SATURDAY
- 21 EC MEETING
MR. GATTI'S
WALNUT HILL @ MARSH LN.
- 22 1ST DAY OF WINTER
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 27 NEXT-STEP
JOJO'S 5:15 TILL...
1415 MOTOR ST. DALLAS, TX.
- 31 NEW YEARS EVE



SHAKING THE BUSHES

by:Mattie Bush

Well, here I am again! Another month gone by and we just have 2 more months in this year. What do we do to get the TI World of Users to get with it and keep these groups going? I know that people say that there aren't any programs nor hardware available any more but are they ever wrong about that! Barry Boone's NEW Digitized Sound/Speech program is going to get released. The program plays digitized IBM files on a standard TI (even without speech synthesizer attached). The program is supposed to be out soon and be distributed by TEXAMENTS. Did you all read the Computer Monthly? Well, if you didn't, I thought I'd let you know that they gave Barry Traver more space for his article for the TI 99/4A. How about that, computer fans?

At this past Infomart meeting on Oct.19, Jim Stewart gave a very wonderful program on WILLS and it was so very good. Jim spent many, many hours preparing these programs. If anyone is interested and couldn't attend the NEXT-STEP, please let us know and we will get back with you. Jim, thank you again for a wonderful program and Mini-Sig that you gave.

This past month I had someone to call the 4A an OLD DOG and I got furious about it. This little machine can and will do anything that YOU want it to do for you. So take the time and ask questions before calling it something that it is not. I don't care if our TI is an Orphan, but it is a great little orphan and it can do things just like the other machines now. They have upgraded it to do more and more. Maybe I'm old-fashioned but I know what I see that is happening to it. We are far from being EXTINCT. I'm tired of the whining and the complaints about the 4A. It has come a very long way for its time.

We in the TI WORLD have seen what has become available in the world of TI Computing; it will just blow your mind to pieces.

Some of our authors are writing new programs all the time for the 4A and so are the hardware people also. Just check your vendors and see what is available.

Computer Buying World is a NEW magazine with hardware to add for your system. The cover price is \$6.00; but you can get it free by answering a questionnaire to obtain a free subscription. Computer Buying World; P.O. Box 3020; Northbrook, IL 60065-9847.

Well, I guess I had better close for now and I'll see all of you at the Nov. 16 meeting. There will be a GARAGE SALE for the MINI-SIG for the afternoon. This is SHAKING THE BUSHES signing off until next time.

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:   24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 baud   :
:           214-233-1750           :
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UP DATING THE DATABASE . . .

We are thrilled to welcome a 6 NEW MEMBERS this month! At INFOMART, BILL ADAMS of Ennis joined us. PRESIDENT MATTIE BUSH upgraded to Family Membership to include her Mother, GLADYS MCCRARY, who has already become a familiar figure at many of our DTIHCG functions. We're also very happy to welcome 4 members of the Mid Cities/FLUG Group as new DTIHCG members: DOUGLAS BEIGHTOL of Whitewright, SAM LEE of Arlington, MARTY MCCAIN of Grand Prairie, and DON STEVENSON of Lancaster.

Many of us have known these people through the years; I know SAM has been a DTIHCG member off and on, and DON is certainly a frequent participant on our 99er CONNECTION BBS. Welcome, BILL, GLADYS, DOUGLAS, SAM, MARTY, and DON! We'll be looking for you at NEXT STEP and INFOMART meetings, as well as on the Bulletin Board.

RENEWALS! We're glad to receive renewal dues from JOHN BUIE and SHAWN HACKNORTH, BILL BURRELL, KENNETH HANSEN, and a renewal of the family membership for JIM and SANDY OLDENKAMP! And DAVE AXBERG, we're glad we finally caught up with you, and to have your renewal. Thanks, everyone!

NEXTSTEP

by: Charlice Althar

The NEXT STEP REPORT was absent from the September newsletter due to personal difficulties, and wasn't in the October 99 Interface because of the scheduling of our INFOMART meetings. But we have a lot to report this month:

Friday night, October 11, was our second NEXT STEP at our new location, JOJO's restaurant on Motor St. If you haven't attended since our move, your next chance is November 1. We have a really nice private room, just inside the front door. The food is great--JOJO's menu offers a wide variety, so you can choose most anything from appetizers to a full meal, soups, salads, sandwiches, and an array of beautiful desserts. One of the best things is the service--no going through a line or carrying a tray, and the food is HOT when we eat it!

Thanks to JIM LESHER, we had one full system running, and here are a few of the things we did: configured FUNNELWEB V. 4.4, and put all the program files on one disk; talked about JIM STEWART's program on Wills, which he will present at INFOMART and then make available for actual use at NEXT STEP on November 1; discussed the Judge Thomas sexual harassment charges and hearings; read the "Road Kill Cafe" menu; transferred the DTIHCG treasury materials from Linda Way to Sharon Creviston; worked at configuring a RAMdisk; told tall tales about many things; and ate delicious pears grown and brought to us by JAMES HOYLE.

Probably the biggest single thing we accomplished at NEXT STEP this month was learning (and putting what we learned into practice) about assembling the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE. Editor RON FERGUSON had time commitments that would have made it very difficult to get the newsletter in the mail on time. Fortunately, he had the material ready to be printed, so JACKIE GUION handled that for us. NEXT STEP attendees collated, folded, inserted, stapled, labeled, stamped, and mailed it on the way home. The group had a lot of fun, and as a bonus received their copies that night, and DTIHCG saved a bit on postage! We also gained a new level of appreciation for the great job our fine editor has been doing. Thanks, RON, and thanks, gang!

As we were leaving, JIM STEWART said he felt like he'd enjoyed a family reunion, plus having had great fun helping to assemble the newsletter. I think his feelings were shared by all of us, and hope there will be more to share it all with us on November 1. That's what being part of DTIHCG is all about.

R.I.P. Legal Size by Jim Stewart

For those who purchased the "R.I.P.-Collection of Wills", the October DOM, you may decide to print using 8 1/2" x 14" legal size paper. This will work nicely if you change the .PL 60 instruction to read .PL 78. You will find this between lines 14 and 31 in files named BASCWILL#1, OTHRWILL#1, RANJHWILL1, DACEYTRUST, and SPECWILL#1. No other files need be changed.

These wills have been pre-tested and will print correctly, but I am available at any time to help anyone needing assistance. I feel everyone should have a valid will for the protection of their family. Thanks to all of you who paid such courteous attention and interest during my presentation last month.

COME TO NEXT STEP...WILL 'YA?

by Jim Stewart

I told you my Will Presentation R.I.P. wouldn't be exciting. Boy! Was I wrong. Just imagine trying to put on 3 programs by yourself (considering my skill level still wonders if the notch goes up in the drive or down.) When I powered up the DTIHCG system...no Horizon Ram Disk! No funnelweb! The disk with my first program showed no program file present. Nothing would load in drive 2, and I forgot to plug in my printer. Thank heavens John Creviston found the drive cable was not fully seated in the P-Box.

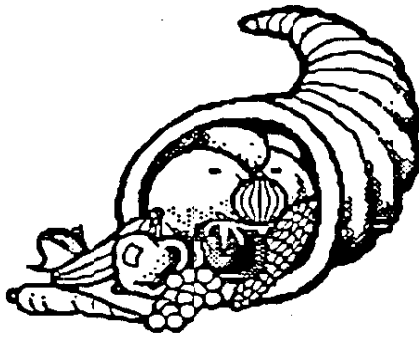
Other than these few minor glitches, things went rather smoothly. Fortunately I was taught to have back-ups for your back-ups, so the show went on with the help of John Guion's Super Disk and an ancient copy of TI Writer.

Our members showed a lot of interest and attention. I was glad, because a lot of effort by many people supported this subject. It is important for every adult member to have a simple but adequate will. This program let's you create such a document when you have the time at home, to think out your choices and select the best free-standing will or else a fully customized will for your family's protection.

We hope all of you will decide to take the NEXT STEP, on December 27th at Jo-Jo's on Motor Street just East of I-35. We begin at 5:00 pm and can stay til they put us out. The food is excellent and reasonable in cost. The private room is like a fraternity party, and the company is wonderful. This time our express purpose after dinner is to type out wills according to your previously selected 'wills and prompts'. We will witness each other's documents. These wills are fully legal in Texas and will cost you a fraction the usual amount, plus they can be easily updated any time you desire.

Both you and your spouse should join us Dec 27th, enjoying the DTIHCG values where we find help by sharing our common interest in the TI 99/4a Home Computer.

Be sure to attend this important event. You'll come..or we'll plunder your P-Box!)



CRITICISM AND COMPLAINTS

by James Hoyle

Why do we find criticism of others so easy? Most of the time it could be avoided if we would lend a helping hand to make the job easier and lots of times even better. Say, this is what life is all about anyway, helping one another to do the best job that can be done. I believe the correct word for this is "empathy". Having the ability to place ourselves in another's shoes.

There is an old Indian saying, "never criticize another Indian until you have walked in his moccasins for three miles." If we could only practice this, how much easier and better life would be. But it is so unfortunate the only way some know to try to lift themselves up is by knocking others down. This is not the way up, but the way down. I can truly tell you that the way to real joy and happiness is through helping others and lifting them up and in turn you too will be lifted up.

Everyone likes a hero! A hero is just an ordinary person doing an extra ordinary job (helping others) instead of knocking them down, or criticizing them. I believe we can and will make our club a better club and a happier group if we as individuals only practice this.

How about it? Will you pledge to do your part with me by striving to lift up instead of knock down, help instead of criticize? If so, I know you will be happier, the club will grow, because people just want to be around this kind of people. DON'T YOU AGREE WITH ME? If not, tell me so, and also if you do. One other thing I believe we should practice is to tell others that we appreciate them for what they are doing for us, and every chance we get, give a helping hand.

James E. Hoyle Rt. 5 Box 7108 Quinlan, TX. 75474

GARAGE SALE

Our After Lunch meeting on November 16, beginning at 1:00 PM, will be our annual DTIHCG GARAGE SALE and COMPUTER RUMMAGE SALE. Here's your chance to purchase those goodies you've wished for to make your TI-99/4A system bigger, better, and faster, as well as more fun! At the other end of the spectrum, it's your opportunity to bring any computer-related merchandise you are no longer using, to sell to others.

DTIHCG has only a few general rules for this annual affair. Items for sale do NOT have to be TI-99/4A-related, but DO have to be computer-related in some way (no patchwork quilts, please)! You DON'T have to be a member to buy, browse, wish, or sell! There's never an admission or parking fee at INFOMART meetings, no commissions charged, no charge for a table on which you may display your wares.

We DO ask that you leave items for sale in your car until shortly before 1:00. If you absolutely MUST bring them in earlier, please keep them boxed and out of sight until then, to eliminate the temptation to arrange private sales during the morning main meeting and program. We suggest marking your products with prices, so potential purchasers have a "starting point" for negotiations. And be prepared to make change, as our Treasurer will not be able to play "banker" for this affair!

This annual event has always been an enjoyable time for DTIHCG'ers, and we're looking forward to a big sale this year. If you haven't started dropping hints to the Santa in your life, start now, then plan some good Christmas shopping on November 16!

-----MID-SOUTH 99-JUL.1991-----

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

----- by Christopher Pratt
West Penn 99'ers; May 1991

As promised, this month the *Confidential File* has been reopened. Everyone in the TI community will be pleased to hear the report that Tony McGovern, co-author of Funnelweb, has delayed his move to the Amiga for the time being to pursue some rather large Funnelweb programming projects!

Funnelweb is well known to the TI community and has been for quite some time. The versatile program has seen many updates and revisions. Funnelweb is not simply a cute, TI Writer package anymore, it has developed into a complete applications package well suited for even the most tame TI users. The current version, 4.31, is stock full of enhancements this editor now takes for granted! (My most favored is the 8K col. support.) But there is still more to come.

Tony McGovern is currently concentrating his programming efforts on the Funnelweb Editor. Tony plans a complete re-write of the editor which should prove beneficial to the efficiency of the files to say the least.

Tony has also wanted to add hard drive support to funnelweb for quite some time. Currently there is limited support which allows one to load Funnelweb from a hard drive sub-directory, but it is a far cry from what Tony envisions as his completed work. Given up hope on the Myarc HFDC, Tony has turned to the new Electronic Systems Development Corporation H/F Controller card. Shane Truffer, CEO/President of ESD, has been quoted as saying, "I will personally send Mr. McGovern any equipment and technical information he may need to complete his project." Some of what ESD will be providing includes a new brand name 40MB MFH hard disk and of course the new H/F Controller card. The hard drive support would include file support in the editors and hard drive access in the DiskReview program.

As a TI user for many years I am very excited about the continued support by programmers like Tony McGovern. The TI is quite a computer and it will continue to be my computer for a very long time.

-WP*

LETTERS, LETTERS

----- by Tony McGovern
from: Cleveland Area 99
User Group
May, 1991

LETTERS, LETTERS

Dear Frank and the NC99 Group,

Thanks for your vote of appreciation for our Funnelweb efforts. I suppose I would have done some of Funnelweb anyway still it has been the letters from people all over that has been the spur to new developments and even just polishing of programs.

I'll enclose the latest modifications to FW. I recently turned up some bugs in the error paths of the various object loaders, so I've fixed these and improved the error handlers,

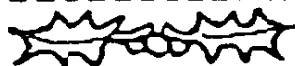
-----MID-SOUTH 99-JUL.1991-----

especially in Script-Load. I've sent these off to Charles Good, but here is one direct. I'll make it the full set of files on DSDD just for completeness.

This came out of the current project to rewrite the 88-column editor. So far this is in the "several steps backward before going forward" category. The bugs introduced so far have been truly horrendous ... or maybe I'm just getting older and slower.

All the best for the TI-99 in Cleveland.

Tony McGovern
215 Grinsell St.
Kotara, NSW 2289
Australia



*The family of
Charles S. Stubbs, Jr.*

*acknowledges with grateful
appreciation your kind expression
of sympathy*

*Thank you for your
thoughts and prayers
during the illness and
time of death of my husband,
Charles's father.*

Olivia Stubbs

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These people are @DTIHCG officers and chairpersons. They help themselves and you, by giving much of their time in working to make this a better club for all of us. Most attend the three hour Committee Chairmen's Meeting (the officers meet for an hour before that!) on the Saturday following the @INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's Meeting.

Thank them individually, when you have the opportunity.