

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 14, Number 6

June, 1994

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, June 18, 1994
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS

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

DTIHCG'S JUNE EVENTS

- 18 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: BEHEMOTH

18 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Who: All Officers and Chairpersons

Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting

19 Father's Day

21 Summer Begins



DTIHCG'S JULY EVENTS

1 NEXT STEP

JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)

1415 Motor Street, 5:15 PM

1 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

2 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale

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

4 Independence Day—remember to Fly Your Flag!

16 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART

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

Time: 9:00 AM

Program: To be announced

16 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Who: All Officers and Chairpersons

Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting

OLD DSK1.

By Dan Lowe



Well, I've done it now; I think I must have evoked the anger of the "heat gods" by my references in the last two newsletters to the fact that even though it was Spring it was still cold outside (35 to 45 degrees). It sure isn't cold outside now, and if don't believe it, just ask my wife. After mowing the front and back yards yesterday she worked up quite a sweat (excuse me, women perspire and men sweat). You see, my wife just retired from the Richardson Independent School System after 21 years of feeding the little people of Springridge Elementary School. I think the real reason she retired was because I kept telling her how much fun it was working in the yard, all the fresh air and sunshine, to say nothing of the exercise. In other words, I think she was getting jealous. Now, after much arm twisting (my arm, her twist) I've decided to sacrifice myself to the cool confines of an air-conditioned house while she partakes of the fresh air and sunshine of the great outdoors. But, I did give her ample warning regarding the "heat gods", and her response . . . "Never fear, I'll wear a hat." Talk about dedication (makes me wonder if she knows how much fun it is to wash the car?)

TM DIRECT SAYS BYE

When I first got involved with the TI-99/4A the first catalog I received was from the TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING. I'd used it several times and always found their service to be very good. They usually had what I wanted and their turnaround time was fast. So, you can imagine my sadness when, on 25 May 1994, I received their LAST catalog with the following text on the front page:

"Dear TI-99/4A Owner:

As the old saying goes, all good things must come to end. And after 10 years of serving the needs of the TI-99/4A users, TM Direct's involvement must end, as well. The reason is simple; declining sales have made it impossible to continue to profitably support the TI community, as I have done for the past 10 years."

DTIHCG PROFILE:

by Mattie Bush

Charlice Althar has been a dedicated member of the DTIHCG since October 1982. She is currently in charge of being the group's NEWSLETTER EDITOR, as well as SECRETARY, a position she has held for a number of years. She has also been the group's Software Librarian, during the years when it grew from 60 to 300+ disks. Charlice has expertise in using TI-WRITER and the Microsoft Multiplan, and has led several MiniSIGs on these two programs. She has also given helpful and personal information forms called `HERE_IT_IS` for the Software Library

Charlice was born in Dallas, and has been in the area ever since, except for about ten years spent in California. She is currently living in Dallas with Skipper, her schipperke dog, which she adopted from the Irving Humane Society. She also has her son Tim with her.

Charlice is employed by Quality Review Services as a Nurse Auditor. Charlice describes her work as using her nursing background to audit hospital bills for accuracy. For years Charlice used her TI-99/4A for her audits, but had to go to the IBM system for the larger files she needs to do her work. Charlice for years used her 4/A for her tax keeping, and her personal correspondence, records and occasionally a game or two. She was one of the early supporters of our 99'er Connection BBS, and has been a subscriber to Startext, the videotext service of the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram, for almost as long.

About the DTIHCG Group, well, Charlice states that "the friendship and the help between all the members is so very fantastic. Most of what this non-techie knows about our computer comes directly from the members of the group. I've never ever known such a willing and eager group to help each other.

Charlice tells of her hobbies as reading, watching TV, calling the 99'er Connection and Startext, and of course playing with Skipper, the bouncing rubber ball.

She has always encouraged everyone, especially new members, to come to the NEXT-STEP and not to be afraid to ask questions! "We were all beginners at one time or another and the people in this group are the greatest ever for helping one another with all problems no matter what they be. DTIHCG is one of the best things that ever happened to me!"

We admire Charlice greatly for her friendliness and for the job that she does so very well.

NEXT STEP REPORT

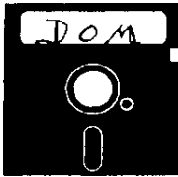
JOJO's was our usual gathering place on Friday evening, June 3, for our most recent NEXT STEP. We had a very lively group, with several people coming in somewhat later than usual, after other activities were completed.

CARL and JIM LESHER discussed the possibilities of purchasing U. S. Mint gold coins after a year or so at a local coin show, for a lower price than the original. JIM was also showing CARL a copy of his favorite weekly coin magazine, NUMISMATIC NEWS.

At the other end of our table, ROBERT JONES was helping ROBERT SMITH decipher the codes in the manual for his Epson Action 5000 printer. Robert likes the printer, he says, but the manual isn't nearly the size of his previous Epson manuals, and is more difficult to understand and translate to the codes necessary for use with TI-WRITER. After getting this help at NEXT STEP, he should be able to get all the special effects he's been looking for!

IMOGENE and JIM LESHER were comparing the merits of "plain old roller skates" versus in-line skates. To date, JIM roller skates at a rink on the east side of town, while IMOGENE goes for the new stuff on the sidewalks around North Lake College (remember when DTIHCG used to meet on their campus?) They're going to try to set a time to get together at one of the locations and have a "feet-on" demo of both types of skating. Don't forget to wear your protective gear, kids!













JIM STEWART, LOUIS, and CHARLICE continued their discussion on partitioning hard disks. We wished MATTIE a happy vacation, and congratulated CATHERINE on her retirement. And we wished more DTIHCG'ers were with us. Give us a try next time--July 1, at JOJO's!



DTIHCG ACTIVITIES

June 12 - July 23, 1994



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 12 George Bush's 70th Birthday	June 13 MAKE FLAG DESECRATI- ON A FELONY	June 14 <i>Star</i> Flag Day	June 15 	June 16 ● FQ	June 17 Dean Martin is 77	June 18 XCHANGE SATURDAY  9:00a 'til 2PM 1:00p EC MEETING
DTIHCG REUNION OCTOBER 29th - SPREAD THE WORD						
June 19 Father's Day 	June 20 5:31a Sunrise 8:31p Sunset	June 21  SUMMER begins Jane Russell is 73	June 22	June 23 ○ FM ●	June 24  Buy your disks & tapes from DTIHCG	June 25
FOR INFOMART MEETING SCHEDULE CALL 214-919-4980						
June 26 Jim Leshar is our Resident TI99/4a Dealer ☎ 821-9274	June 27	June 28	June 29 <	June 30 ● LQ	July 1 NEXT-STEP 5:15p Jo Jo's on Motor St 10:00p Newsletter D'line 10:00p Room Reservation	July 2  1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE Watch where you park! 5:35a Sunrise
COME TO NEXT-STEP FOR HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE HELP						
July 3 HAPPY BIRTHDAY  MARY LEARD	July 4  Independ- ence Day	July 5	July 6 Hawaii Territory 1898 John Elway is 34	July 7 Ringo Starr is 54	July 8 ● NM Don't drink and drive.	July 9 HAPPY BIRTHDAY  July 16th ROBERT WATTS
July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14 GERALD FORD - 1913	July 15 ● FQ	July 16  XCHANGE SATURDAY 9:00a 'til 2PM 1:00p EC Meeting
THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP						
July 17  CHARLES BROCK is a KEY MEMBER	July 18	July 19	July 20 1st MAN ON MOON 1969	July 21  Ernest Hemingway 1899	July 22 ○ FM	July 23  Get your software from THE DTIHCG LIBRARY
If you move let us know your new address, we care.						

HAVE YOU CALLED THE 99'er TODAY? (214) 233-1750 - 24 HOURS

BEGINNER PRINTER

Block Graphics #3 (Continued!)



Author's note: this is the 3rd and last of the BLOCK GRAPHICS, so am including the original beginnings for those who may have missed the others.

Welcome to the fascinating world of BLOCK GRAPHICS.

This program should work on most printers. The characters used to print the blocks may be different on some printers, so you can look in your manual and find the proper number to use for the solid blocks. Or you may prefer another character other than blocks. Here is where your imagination can flourish, try some of the other characters in you printer to make these larger characters. What about a nice OMEGA symbol etc.

For those who want to understand the mechanics of the program, this is what's taking place. Line 150 opens the file to read the contents of the file you have created. I think everyone knows by now what line 160 does. We put line 165 in there to save paper. After printing something in the left column, you can bring up the line in edit mode and place a number in place of the (00) to move your creation over to where ever you want. Line 170 "A" CHR\$(6) tells the printer to use a line spacing of 6/72 inch or 1/12th inch, which makes the blocks touch each other vertically. Line 180 puts the printer in the "unidirectional" mode, the reason is, the printer in this mode makes straighter columns. I tried it in bi-directional and it looks awful. Guess our printers are not precise enough to make straight columns in bi-directional, yet.

The remainder of the program is Greek to me, and don't understand exactly what was done. Fortunately I had some great help from John Creviston in writing this, so you can thank him for all of this!

```

100 REM PRINT DATA FILE TO PRINT
ER
110 DIM C$(27)
120 CALL CLEAR
130 ON ERROR 360
140 PRINT "ENTER DRIVE AND FILEN
AME " :: INPUT A$ :: IF A$="-" TH
EN GOTO 350

```

```

150 OPEN #1:A$,INPUT
160 OPEN #2:"PIO.CR.LF"
165 PRINT #2:CHR$(27);"M";CHR$(0
0);
170 PRINT #2:CHR$(27);"A";CHR$(6
);
180 PRINT #2:CHR$(27);"U";CHR$(1
);
190 ON ERROR 370
200 INPUT #1:B$
210 [-1
220 FOR D=1 TO LEN(B$):: F=VAL(S
EG$(B$,D,1))
230 IF F9 THEN GOTO 260
240 C$(E)-C$(E)SEG$(B$,D,1)
250 :F SEG$(B$,D+1,1)-" " THEN E
-E+1 :: D=D+1
260 NEXT D
270 FOR D=1 TO E
280 PRINT #2:CHR$(VAL(C$(D)))::
C$(D)-""
290 NEXT D
300 IF EOF(1)THEN GOTO 320
310 GOTO 190
320 PRINT #2:CHR$(10);CHR$(13)
330 CLOSE #1
340 CLOSE #2
350 END
360 PRINT "FILE NOT VALID" :: RE
TURN 130
370 PRINT "TEXT IN FILE" :: PRIN
T B$;" ";
380 RETURN 300

```

Below is the form of the file needed to work with this program. As before, make a template of all 224's and save it to disk for a permanent file, so you can use it over and over. As you can see, there must be a 10 13 at the end of each line, which is a carriage return and a line feed. You can make the lines longer, like out to 80 columns. I chose this length so it would fit in the

newsletter. This as you can see will print out a happy face. The best thing about this method is that you can print out on paper a template and draw a picture and if you make a mistake just print another and try again. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, a template can be made very easily, just type this:

```
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224
224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
```

Then use Ctrl 5 to copy as many lines as you wish. Here, we've copied it 14 times.

This is what it looks like when you print it out:

```
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
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224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
```

Draw in the figure you want to print over the printed template. Load your template file again, and everywhere that your drawing touches a "224", change it to a "239". Then save it with a different filename. Below you can see how it looks after we changed it:

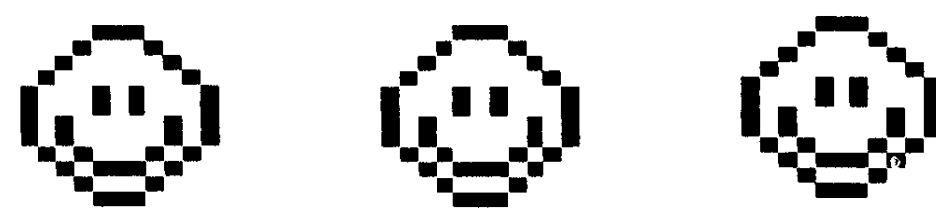
```
224 224 224 224 224 224 239 239 239 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 239 224 224 224 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 239 224 224 224 239 224 239 224 224 239 224 224 10 13
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224 224 224 224 239 224 239 239 224 239 224 224 224 224 10 13
```

```
224 224 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 239 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 239 239 239 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 224 10 13
```

One more thing, it takes a while for it to print out your picture, so have patience. You can have as many lines as you want, but the longer the lines and the more lines you have the longer it will take to print. This one takes about 2 minutes to complete. Have fun!! :)

If you need help, as always you can write or call:

Jim Lesher / 722 Huntley / Dallas TX 75214 / or phone 214-821-9274.



TOM'S TRIVIA

by Tom Hall



The Pearl is your birth stone if you were born in June, and your flower is the rose.

Most cars two years or older, with air conditioners, use a refrigerant commonly known as R-12. This refrigerant is chlorofluoro-carbon (CFC) and will no longer be manufactured after 1995. The price of R-12 has more than doubled. If you have an air conditioned car that uses R-12 you should have your A/C System checked and fix any problems. The cost of doing this will never be less than it is today. If you plan on selling your car, a non-functioning A/C will reduce the value of the car.

At a recent **NEXT-STEP** meeting, I was surprised to learn how many TI-99'ers were unfamiliar with *PLATO*. *PLATO* is a premier Educational series covering subjects from pre-school to College level. Running *PLATO* requires a *PLATO INTERPRETER CARTRIDGE* and a disk drive. (All lessons are on disks.) If you are interested, bring up *PLATO* at a future Meeting.

If you own a **CASABLANCA FAN** manufactured between January 1981 and September 1993, you should know all of these fans have been recalled due to a safety defect that might cause the fan to fall from its mount. Write to: Casablanca Hotline, PO Box 424, City of Industry, California. 91747. Tell them your name, address, telephone number, the number of Casablanca fans you own, model numbers, serial numbers and whether the fan is mounted on a flat or sloped ceiling. You may expect a repair kit and with later models the company will arrange for the kit installation.

You should sit at least "arms length" from your **MONITOR** in order to avoid any possible electromagnetic radiation fields generated by your Computer and Monitor.

When reciting The Pledge to the Texas flag, face the flag, place the right hand over your heart, remove any hat or head cover, reciting The Pledge with pride and patriotism. The Pledge is:

"Honor the Texas Flag.
I pledge allegiance to thee,
Texas, one and indivisible."

There have been previous pledges. Due to "Civil Rights" politics of the 1960's, the 59th Texas Legislature adopted this new pledge in 1965.

COMMODORE - On 4-29-94, Commodore International announced that they would cease production and sale of Commodore Computers.

If you are thinking of a **TEXAS** vacation, call 1-800-452-9292 for free map, event and lodging guide.

While doing some work on the upcoming **OCTOBER 29th REUNION Meeting**, I was sorry to learn that former member **ANDREW TUMA** had passed away.

1994 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
VICE-PRESIDENT	TOM HALL	817-267-5887
TREASURER	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4837
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	IMOGENE OSBORN	214-252-5685

1994 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
DOM CHAIRMAN	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8857
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5887
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274

1994 LIBRARIANS

ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	ROBERT WATTS	214-353-9824
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, Dan Lowe, 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.