

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 15, Number 1

January, 1995

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, January 21, 1995
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 99ER CONNECTION BBS
24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 Baud, E71
(214) 233-1750

DTIHCG'S JANUARY EVENTS

- 21 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: From .IF to .DP in TI-WRITER by Jim Stewart
(see additional info inside this issue)
- 21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting



DTIHCG'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

- 2 Groundhog Day
- 3 NEXT STEP
JOJO's of Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)
1415 Motor Street, 5:15 PM
- 3 Newsletter Article Deadline
- 4 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale
Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 18 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: To be Announced
- 18 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 20 President's Day - Fly Your Flag!

COUNTRY GAL

by **Mattie Bush**



I'M BACK!

Once upon a time, long, long ago, there was this fine computer called the TI-99/4A and then it disappeared. Well not really, it's still chugging along with other folks helping. There's this fine magazine called MICROpendium that's still going great because of all these folks continuing on with this fine computer.

Some folks got too big for their britches and moved on to these bigger machines that really take off in speed.

Well, friends it's happened again. In this month of December they nominated that Old Country Gal again to head up this round-up for 1995 again. How about that folks! So I reckon you won't mind me "Country Gal", being the head horse again. I appreciate it!

It's just great to head this group once again. All of you I'm grateful for the past few months for being there for me. THANK YOU.

I'm looking forward to great times and great programs for this year. We do need volunteers so "STEP RIGHT UP and HELP", to get this started off on the right hooves.

We have a great line up of programs set for this year, so come on out and see what they are. We'll have some surprises for you, too.

Is there a gift that can make more of a difference in the lives of your family than a Personal Computer?

A personal computer can be a business center or an entertainment center. It can help your kids with work from school and you with work from the office. It can keep finances in order and report cards in order. There's only one catch; you have to learn how to use it first.

TOM'S TRIVIA

by Tom Hall



FROM THE BBS:

A question came up about an analog to digital converter for the TI99/4A. Greg pointed out the MBP clock card has such a feature. There must be other cards? Does anyone have a schematic of a prototype?

This is a message from GURU Robert Jones on the subject of Analog to Digital cards for the 4A: "From the 1st paragraph of the 'Clock/Calendar/ADC Circuit' description in my manual that came with the proto board: 'The circuit shown is that of the PUBLIC DOMAIN circuit which was designed by Gary Emmich of the Northern New Jersey Users Group. The circuit was provided as a kit by a (sic) MBP and came to be known as the 'MBP Card'.....'. The ADC chip used is an ADC0809, which appears to have 8 independent inputs. There is nothing about programming the thing, but I know for a fact that the card, generally, decodes an unused mem block so that the elements of time/date are obtained by reading even locations from >8640 thru >864E. The ADC follows the same scheme, but I can't tell you precisely what address block without getting a severe headache, without which I'm doing very well today. As for availability of the proto board, I haven't the foggiest. It was designed and sold by John Willforth of the (I believe) West Penn 99ers during the mid to late 80's. If you can't get one [proto board] someplace, you might try stripping some gem that is, was, and will be totally worthless, like the P-Code Card, and build one on that board. You're looking at 12 chips, including buffers; only 11 if you don't care what time it is, but omitting the clock would decrease the wiring quite a bit. If you're seriously interested, leave your address and I'll try to copy this booklet and mail to you."

Dan Lowe reports that he is surfing GENIE, and trying to work up nerve to access INTERNET.

Dan says, GENIE is \$8.95 per month for 4 hours and \$3 for additional non-prime hours. Good luck Dan! You are doing what many of us have been wanting to do.

Delphi charges \$19 initiation fee plus \$20 per month for 20 hours connect time plus \$3 per month for INTERNET access plus \$6 per month for 9600 bps and extra for some premium services.

Reports are that Comp-U-Serve is cutting its monthly charges.

Bertha Marshburn, wife of long time member Vernon Marshburn, passed away on December 3rd, in Olathe, Kansas. Our Condolences to you, Vernon.

Looking for something new and different in BBS fare?

SHOTS FIRED is a police-oriented BBS in Rowlett and can be accessed at (214) 203-9274 or (214) 203-9282. You don't have to belong to a law enforcement group, although most on the BBS do.

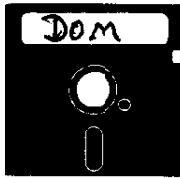
NEXT STEP REPORT

by Charlice Althar

We traditionally do not schedule a NEXT STEP 13 days after our December INFOMART meeting due to the Christmas Holidays, so there is not an official NEXT STEP to report on in this month's DALLAS 99 INTERFACE. But since 5 weeks seemed like a long time for some of us to go without contacting each other, an "unofficial NEXT STEP" was held Friday night, January 6, at the usual place and time.

As might be expected, we had a somewhat smaller group than usual, but we enjoyed the camaraderie that exists as a result of our years of DTIHCG membership, and of course we enjoyed feeding our faces!







Our next scheduled NEXT STEP will be February 3, at JOJO's on Motor Street, just off I-35 E, Stemmons Freeway. We'll be looking for you, anytime after 5 PM!



DTIHCG ACTIVITIES

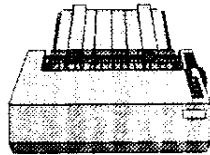
January 15 - February 25, 1995



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 15	Jan 16 ○ FM	Jan 17	Jan 18 ↓	Jan 19 Robert E. Lee's Birthday	Jan 20	Jan 21 XCHANGE SATURDAY  9:00 Meeting 1:00 EC Meeting
BRING A FRIEND TO THE MEETING						
Jan 22	Jan 23 ○ LQ	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28
THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO RE-NEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP						
Jan 29	Jan 30 ● NM FDR's Birthday	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 GROUND HOG DAY	Feb 3 NEXT-STEP Newsletter D'Line 5:15-8:00p Jo Jo's on Motor St	Feb 4 1st SATURDAY FLEA MARKET  It will be cold today
1st OFFICIAL NEXT-STEP MEETING OF 1995						
Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7 ○ FR	Feb 8  BOY SCOUT'S DAY	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 11
Feb 12	Feb 13	Feb 14  Valentine's Day	Feb 15 ○ FM ×	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18 XCHANGE SATURDAY 
If you move, let us know your new address, we care						
Feb 19 Jim Leshar is our resident T199/4a Dealer ☎ 214-821-9274	Feb 20 Presidents' Day	Feb 21	Feb 22  Washington's Birthday	Feb 23	Feb 24	Feb 25
FOR INFOMART SCHEDULE CALL 214-919-4980						

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

(14 ESC E) TI-WRITER AND YOUR PRINTER part 6



by Jim Leshner

This and future articles will be written with Funnelweb 5.0 and all references to TI-Writer will be synonymous with FW5, also all printer commands will be for the Gemini 10X. This is continued from the last newsletter.

This paragraph will be printed with the narrower 1/8" linefeeds. The manual says to use ESC n, n being one of 3 numbers, 0, 1 or 2. The ESC 0 is used for the 1/8" linefeed. So we put our command at the beginning of this paragraph, which is ESC 0.

(ESC 1) Remember, for the 0 you must stay in the CTRL U mode after pressing FCTN R then press SHIFT 2 for the zero and SHIFT A for the 1. Using the SHIFT ESC 1 should give even a smaller linefeed, almost 1/9", but the difference between 1/8 and 1/9 is too small to discern.

(ESC 2) So let's return to the normal 1/6" linefeed then we should see the difference. To return to the normal 1/6" the manual says to clear the printer by turning it off or use a keyboard command. Using the ESC @ will clear the printer or we can use the command to use 1/6" normal feed. Ok, now can you see the difference in the linefeeds?

(ESC 3 12) I know change is very small but it IS there. To really tell when there is a change in the LF let's go to the next page 130 and experiment with the n over 144" increments. As shown above press: CTRL U FCTN R FCTN D (for a space) SHIFT L CTRL U Then fill the space with a 3.

I purposely skipped over the section using the (ESC A n) because in my opinion, we have all the control of n/72" in n/144" increments, in fact twice as much. By now if you have tried printing this with this linefeed command, you can see quite a difference. The (SHIFT L) represents only a 12/144" linefeed, which incidentally is 1/2 normal linefeed.

If you need any help call or write to:

Jim Leshner / 722 Huntley / Dallas TX 75214 / or call 214-821-9274.

FYI

By Dan Lowe



Welcome to 1995 and the first FYI column for the new year. Each month I plan to write about people, places, and things of interest FIRST to the folks of DTIHCG, and SECOND, to the TI-99/4A community at large. Sometimes you'll read about new developments pertaining to the TI-99/4A and/or stories pertaining to other computer brand(s). Sometimes you'll read about individual members of DTIHCG and/or folks in other user groups. In fact, you might even read stories about subjects that may have little to do with the world of computers but still be of significant interest to readers, something akin to a "show and tell" story. For instance, some DTIHCG members are also members of coin clubs, genealogy clubs, photography groups, etc. Who knows, maybe some of these folks use a 4A to keep records of their coin collections and/or prepare their ancestral lineage, etc. (I already smell a possible program here.) In any event, I hope you'll find FYI interesting and worth your time. I'll do my best to make it so.

As I said in the beginning, "Welcome to 1995." I hope you had a great New Year's - celebrating, eating, parades, bowl games, etc. I still feel stuffed from all the turkey, ham, salad. And yes, I realize that by the time you read this New Year's Day will be just a memory, but I just couldn't pass up this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year even if I am three weeks late. As they say, it's the thought that counts.

REUNION

If you are a subscriber to MICROpendium then I'm sure you've seen the excellent coverage given DTIHCG's REUNION held last October 29 at the In-fomart in Dallas. If you haven't seen this latest story, then I suggest you get your hands on the December 1994 issue and turn to page 6. Not only did MICROpendium print all of the text submitted, word-for-word, but they also included the picture of Mike Stanfill dressed as a TI-99/4A. Mind you, this was the THIRD mention of our REUNION (September, October, December issues). Talk about the "third time as being a charm." I think the better term here is "Kudos" to John Koloen (Publisher) and to Laura Burns (Editor) for their help in publicizing not only DTIHCG's REUNION, but also for their

great support of the entire community as well. They deserve a BIG pat on the back. As one of the other user groups (K-Town 99'ers) so aptly put it . . . "John Koloen and Laura Burns have consistently served all aspects of our tribe, from TI Basic to Geneve, letting us know what is going on, feeding us with new ideas, and keeping us in touch with one another." As far as I can tell, MICROpendium is the only monthly publication still around that supports the TI-99/4A and the Myarc 9640. What would we do without MICROpendium. Thanks again John and Laura.

AH, FRESH AIR

You knew it was coming and now it is here - vehicle emissions testing. As of Monday (01/02/95) area residents began participation in the State's latest efforts to clean up the air we breathe by identifying "cars that pollute." One testing facility tested about 40 cars, with most passing on the first test. The emissions test must be done before a vehicle's registration can be renewed.

An inspector checks to ensure the vehicle has a gas cap, working exhaust pipes, and safe tires. Any oil leaks or transmission or radiator leaks are also checked. During the emissions test the vehicle's drive wheels sit on a treadmill type machine to simulate normal driving conditions. It is during this process that the vehicle's emissions are checked.

If the vehicle fails the test, a report is given to the owner describing the failure and what repairs need to be made. After repairs are made, a second test is given free.

The entire procedure takes approximately 15 minutes and costs \$21. Any repairs are borne by the owner.

If you have any questions concerning the test, a hot-line has been established for your convenience: (800)460-1200.

TIPS

In the December issue of the DALLAS 99 INTERFACE I wrote an article entitled The Stuff Merchant, describing Raymond Frantz of Phoenix, Arizona. In this article Raymond described himself as a "Broker of 99/4A Stuff" on a worldwide basis. Raymond is now offering for sale a 52-disk set of more than 6000 TIPS images. The disks are categorized according to

topic. Images of cats and dogs, for instance, support two disks, while religious images are together on a single disk. Files are numbered consecutively so that users have a numbered filing system they can use. Raymond is offering the entire 52-disk set (with index and four-column printer) in either single or double-sided format for a price of \$49.95, including shipping. Checks should be made out and delivered to: Raymond Frantz, 502 N. 51st #2, Phoenix, AZ, 85008.

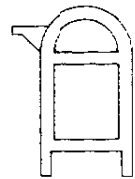
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

As I depart these pages I leave you with this thought:

"Out of every negative situation there's always something positive to be learned."

UPDATING THE DATABASE . . .

by Charlice Althar



DTIHCG is here to stay -- we're always alluding to this, but this month we received absolute proof of it. Our newest member, JANICE E. BROOKS of Sharon Hill, PA, joined us with her membership paid through January, **1998!** JANICE has been in contact with MATTIE for some time, exchanging information and programs, and finally decided to become an official DTIHCG'er. Welcome, and we're very glad to have you, JANICE, and hope to continue hearing from you often!

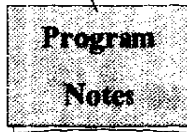
Our Mailbox was full this month with RENEWALS! These very, very welcome envelopes (and their contents) were received from MATTIE BUSH, JONATHAN GUDRY, ANN GRESHAM, JIM LESHER, HUGH MCKNIGHT, and DAVE NOBLE! Wow, what a great bunch of DTIHCG'ers! Thanks, everyone!

From .IF to .DP in TI-WRITER

....OR....

Hands on explanations how to merge 3 files at once (Sort Of)

by Jim Stewart



TI Writer is amazingly contemporary when compared with other Word Processors. The January 21st INFOMART meeting will give Jim Stewart the time and opportunity to show other members how the .IF prompt and the .DP prompt make 2 and 3 merges at the same time with TI Writer. It will also be a step-by-step review of "RIP - a Collection of Wills".

Particularly if you have an existing Will, and even vaguely plan to re-do it some time, this program can save you the embarrassment of not understanding the \$5 dollar words; remind you of things you might wish to cover, but never think of when a Lawyer's clock ticks away at \$150.00 per, and those who don't fall asleep will learn how to write a Texas legal Will in the privacy of your own home where family records are easily accessible. Our own James Hoyle has proven himself a real legal eagle and good neighbor, preparing over 60 wills for his friends, and no sign of him giving it up yet!

REPLACEMENT PARTS AVAILABLE!

Remember to check first with DTIHCG when you need replacement parts for your TI-99/4A. We'll do our best to either help you through the group, or steer you to the best qualified, reliable source elsewhere. See MARY LEARD for additional information. She has plenty of the following parts in stock, plus others not named here:

- ½ height DSSD disk drives
- P-Boxes
- Joystick Cables
- Consoles
- Keyboards
- GROM ports

1995 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE-PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
TREASURER	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274

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BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
DOM and DISKETTE SALES	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	JIM STEWART	214-825-0922
MEMBERSHIP/ MERCHANDISE	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274

1995 LIBRARIANS

ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
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, Mattie Bush, 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.