

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 15, Number 8

August, 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, August 12, 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 99'ER CONNECTION BBS
24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 Baud, E71
(214) 233-1750

DTIHCG'S AUGUST EVENTS

- 12 DFWXCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: "Want to Know How to Clean Your Bits & Bytes"
Presented by M & M
- 12 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 14 VJ Day - 1945
- 25 NEXT STEP
JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)
1415 Molor Street, 5:15 PM



DTIHCG'S SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE
- 2 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale
Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM
- 4 Labor Day
- 10 Grandparent's Day
- 16 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: Visit to the Internet by Thierry Weber
- 16 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Who: All Officers and Chairpersons
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY meeting
- 29 NEXT STEP
JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)
1415 Molor Street, 5:15 PM

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COUNTRY GAL



by **Mattie Bush**

Guess who's back? That's right the old Gal herself with lots of NEWS for the 4A USERS. Everyone thinks that the TI-99/4A has been put out to pasture forever, well not true. I have some GREAT NEWS of what is out there New in the 4A world.

At this point I do want to say that I will to the BEST of my KNOWLEDGE keep ALL of our 4A Users in the group informed of what's new out there and the support that is STILL there for all.

Back in February of this year CaDD Electronics released the PC99 TI-99/4A Emulator, which runs on a PC. Those of you who really used the 4A software now can still use it on your PC. I am quoting from an article: "The emulator includes the TMS9900 processor; the TMS9918A Video Display Processor (VDP); the TMS9901 Programmable Systems Interface; and the TMS9919 Sound Chip in the 99/4A console. This addition the emulation includes the TI RS-232 card and its TMS9902 Asynchronous Communications Controller; the TI Disk Controller and its WD1771 FDC Chip; and the TI P-Code card.

I don't know what more one would want in an emulator. This is a great achievement of the highest order, not only because of the utility of the software but that's what was done by a handful of programmers working largely in all their spare time. All our hats goes off to Mike and Mark Van Coppenolle for seeing through to the end a great programming job.

According to the company representative both PC99 products include files representing the TI-99/4A Console's ROMS and GROMS; TI Disk Controller ROM; TI RS-232 ROM; P-Code ROMS and GROMS; and EXTENDED BASIC, EDITOR/ASSEMBLER, and the TOMBSTONE CITY modules. CaDD is licensed by Texas Instruments to distribute this copy-righted material.

The product Configuration is the equivalent of a TI-99/4A with Peripheral Expansion Box containing 32K Memory Expansion; TI Disk Controller, TI RS-232 Card; TI P-Code Card, three DSSD disk drives; together with TI Extended Basic, TI Editor/Assembler and Tombstone City modules, and that's quoted by Mike Wright.

The existing User Upgrade from PC99 Stage 2A to PC99 Stage 3 full product, costs \$7.00 if CaDD supplies the disks, \$5.00 if you the user returns the original disks. For a NEW purchaser, the full product is \$95.00, the light product, is \$47.00. For

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further information CONTACT: CaDD Electronics, 45 Centerville Dr., Salem, NH 03079, (603)895-0119.

TI CD-ROM project revived by KYLE CRICHTON who has 2000 disks of software for the project. This CD-ROM is filled with public domain TI-99/4A programs has received the wonderful feeling of NEW LIFE.

Kyle is waiting for his SCSI to come for the testing of the CD-ROM. His brother-in-law invested in a SCSI CD-ROM recorder with a "huge hard drive", which will eliminate some of the problems involved in having a CD-ROM made by a third party.

KYLE CRICHTON says that the CD-ROM will be available on a "subscription" basis, at the price of \$100.00. The Users will receive an initial CD-ROM. As new programs are added, the users will be able to return their CD-ROMS to KYLE CRICHTON and then in turn receive an updated CD-ROM with additional programs. The default player for the CD-ROM would be a true XA Multisession player. If anyone has a non-multisession CD-ROM player, Kyle CRICHTON says he can support it, but would need to have to add a media charge of \$10.00 for the person's update.

If you want further information, or to order, please CONTACT: KYLE CRICHTON at 350 Marcella Way, Millbrae, CA 94030. Competition Computer is where KYLE CRICHTON can be reached at 1-800-471-1600 or leave messages at: (415)697-1108 or for FAX: (415)697-7406. Kyle bought out Competition Computer and will remain in business under his ownership. The company offers a FREE buyer's guide to TI'ers who call its toll free line.

The Europeans have several projects under development which includes the TELETEXT Card for the TI-99/4A and the GENEVE, which is an assembly language Version of RISK and a program that gives speech to INFOCOM Adventures. To find out more about this send E-MAIL to Oliver @THORN.SWD.DE.

The Asgard Memory System (AMS) is now available though the Southwest 99ers P.O. Box 17831, Tucson, Arizona 85731. Or Contact the group on the CACTUS PATCH BBS (520) 290-6277. Prices are \$85 for 128K version, \$100 for the 256K Version and \$25.00 to upgrade the 128K Version to the 256K version.

Cor-Comp repairs have a New address, according to the North County 99ers newsletter. David Lynch, repairer of Cor-Comp products, can be reached at 1146 N. Gilbert, Anaheim, CA 92801. Or phone (714)772-1740.

TEXCOMP has the remaining cartridges in limited quantities. They still have one of the largest shareware libraries for the Texas Instruments Home Computer. Their

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address is TEXCOMP LTD., 425 E. Arrow Hwy. #732, Glendora, CA 91740 or phone (818)339-8924, or FAX (818)858-2785.

Well onto another subject of helping others. On Tuesday Aug. 2, Mary Leard got a cistress phone call for help. Mary and I drove out to the boonies and met with this young lady. She was having problems with her 4A system, well we saw right away that it was really dirty and the pieces were missing. So Mary and I took her system back to Mary's and we started dismantling first the console - PHEW!!!! What a mess; then the P-Box -- out came the cards and the full height disk drive and what did Mary find in the drive. Well, it was a dirt-lauber's nest with this little HE-MAN toy. That's right??? This young lady had big problems. Her console power supply was gone, first of all. We replaced it, working great, then Mary and I installed a pair of half-height drives and we were in business once again.

We checked the system thoroughly and it was working just great. We got together some other things on hand and headed back to this young lady's home. She was so amazed at what had been given to her she didn't know what to say. She loved all the goodies and said it would keep her busy for days. This is how our day started and we left her with a very happy face of appreciation. We closed our day with the smiling face of a young happy mother-to-be.

Well until next time this is the COUNTRY GAL signing off. OOPS! nearly forgot? Come one and ALL and watch the 2-M's do their number called "WANT TO KNOW HOW TO CLEAN YOUR BITS & BYTES. Come join us Aug. 12, 1995 at INFOMART. BE THERE!! This is the COUNTRY GAL signing off until next month.

PRES. BUSH

FYI

By Dan M. Lowe

Every time I attend one of our monthly user group meetings at the Infomart I always come away feeling . . . What a Great Meeting. Well, just when you feel you've seen it all and heard it all along comes someone like Thierry Weber who puts on a real "knock-out" of a program. Because of his work schedule Thierry is not able to attend as often as he'd like, but when he does, WOW! He really makes up for it BIG TIME. And last month's INFOMART meeting was one of those times.



Thierry works for Microsoft and, as such, is involved with their new program Windows 95. And although the release date for Windows 95 is scheduled for the 24th of August, 1995, Thierry gave us a sneak preview. And while DTIHCG is still a TI-99/4A User Group, it's also true that many members use other computers in their work and at home. (Sorta like owning two cars; one is a classic that you'd NEVER part with and the other is what you use at work.) Besides, what with all the hype Windows 95 has been receiving in the newspapers, magazines, radio and TV everyone wanted to know what all the fuss was about. After two hours of demonstration, explanations, questions and answers Thierry had really "told it like it is." Afterwards, everyone in attendance KNEW what all the fuss was about.

As stated above, August 24th is the date Microsoft Corp. will begin selling its new version of Windows, called Windows 95. It is described as a more sophisticated and easier-to-use software. It uses 32-bit technology which, with all else being equal, means a program will run twice as fast as before. And home users are likely to use it because of the many stylistic improvements and the more efficient way it organizes files. Windows 95 puts an attractive and unique graphical interface on DOS programs.

Far me to try and describe would be, well, beyond my abilities. I'm not what you would call "knowledgeable" in the world of DOS, much less Windows 95. I'm still learning to use the TI-99/4A. However, I must admit I was impressed with Thierry's presentation. In fact, as I listened and watched I found myself wondering . . . "Am I missing out on something here? Should I be learning more about this Windows thing?"

Well, I did take notes of some of the things Thierry said about Windows 95:

Icons are no longer in a one-group area; access applications via menus; Windows "Explorer" replaces the file manager; 32-bit operating system; the Windows interface is no longer the main attraction being replaced by the operating system itself as the main attraction; the manner in which applications are multi-tasked has changed; the operating system creates separate areas for processing applications; and other features too numerous to mention here.

As I said, Thierry Weber presented a GREAT program as evidenced by the fact that every time I glanced around the room everyone was leaning forward and actually sitting on the edge of their seat. So, if you'd like to know more, talk to Thierry; he'll really "tell it like it is."

CD-ROM FOR THE TI-99/4A

How many times have you heard folks say "Yea, the TI-99/4A is a great little machine but I just wish they'd come out with something new for it. Well, would you

believe a CD-ROM? Well, believe it beloved. Imagine, all the public domain software written for the TI-99/4A available on one CD-ROM. That is what you can have at the end of your subscription to the TI-99/4A CD-ROM. According to Kyle Crichton, new owner of Competition Computer, for the price of 30 to 50 public domain disks you will receive 1900 disks initially (yes, 1900) and many more in periodic updates until you have 650 megabytes of TI software. Now that's a lot of software, Pilgrim.

Your first CD-ROM will be shipped to you four weeks after you have sent your order form, with check or money order for \$100.00 payable to Kyle Crichton, to:

Kyle Crichton
350 Marcella Way
Millbrae, CA 94030
(415)697-1108

User groups should contact Kyle for details about user group participation. For additional information and order form, see page 5 of the July 1995 issue of MICROpendium. (If you don't have this issue of MICROpendium, see Dan Lowe; he'll let you borrow his.)

THE GLOVED-ONE RETURNS

If you've always wanted to talk to Michael Jackson (and you know you have, come on - admit it) then here's your chance of a lifetime. For on August 17 at 7:00 PM, Michael will hold a chat session on all three major on-line services and the Internet ALL AT ONCE, ALL AT THE SAME TIME. All three major on-line services (America Online, Prodigy, and CompuServe) are predicting this to be the biggest chat session ever - approximately 20,000 subscribers. Will you be there? Maybe DTIHCG should fire up it's "collective" modem(s) and inform him of the wonders of the TI-99/4A, its "staying power," and all the wonderful folks who are members of this august collection of individuals.

THAT'S ALL FOLKS.

Gotta go now so I'll leave you with this:










"Tact" is a combination of sensitivity, consideration, and good manners. O.A. Battista said, "It's the ability to make a person see the lightning without feeling the bolt."



DTHCG ACTIVITIES

August 6 - September 16, 1995



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 6 Jim Leshar is our resident T199/4a Dealer ☎ 214-821-9274	Aug 7	Aug 8	Aug 9 ✕	Aug 10 ○ FM	Aug 11 Dog Days of Summer end	Aug 12 EXCHANGE SATURDAY 9:30a Program 1:45a Disk of the Month 1:00p EC Meeting 
FOR DFW XCHANGE MEETING DATES, CALL 214-746-3365						
Aug 13	Aug 14  VJ Day - 1945	Aug 15	Aug 16	Aug 17 ○ LQ	Aug 18 	Aug 19 ★JIM OLDENKAMP IS A KEY MEMBER★ 
NEW DISK OF THE MONTH, AT MEETING OR BY MAIL						
Aug 20	Aug 21	Aug 22	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25 ● NM NEXT-STEP Jo Jo's on Motor Street 5:15p Arrive early, stay late	Aug 26 Our meetings are events at which minutes are kept and hours are golden.
IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS OR A RIDE CALL 276-0240						
Aug 27	Aug 28	Aug 29 Asking dumb questions is a lot easier than correcting dumb mistakes.	Aug 30	Aug 31	Sept 1 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE MAKE FUTURE RESERVATIONS, TODAY 	Sept 2 ○ FQ 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE Central at Ross Ave - arrive early 
Sept 3	Sept 4  Labor Day	Sept 5	Sept 6 Pres McKinley assassinated - 1901	Sept 7	Sept 8 ○ FM - HARVEST MOON	Sept 9
If you move, let us know your new address, we care						
Sept 10 GRANDPARENTS DAY 	Sept 11	Sept 12	Sept 13 ✕	Sept 14	Sept 15 Bring a friend to the meeting.	Sept 16 EXCHANGE SATURDAY 9:30a Program 11:45a Disk of the Month 1:00p EC Meeting 
WE ♥ OUR T199/4a - ☎ THE BBS TODAY FOR LATEST NEWS						

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

TOM'S TRIVIA

by Tom Hall



There has been continuous dialog about how to make our DTIHCG BBS ever popular. The BBS is our "NET" within the DFW Metro-Mess as well as our outside link with other TT'ers. If you have any ideas about how to broaden the BBS user base or if you haven't been on "The Board" is a while, let us hear from you via the BBS.

Various State Legislatures left us with a hodgepodge of new laws to cope with in the upcoming year. Some have already gone into effect. Texas with an alimony law!?!? Not to worry, this new law only applies to the middle and lower economic classes - so you rich folks don't have to worry. In INDIANA it is now a crime to shoot an arrow from a snowmobile. ENGLISH will become the official language of SOUTH DAKOTA. If we had that law in TEXAS, just think of all the printing costs that could be saved.

SMITH CORONA, last U.S. manufacturer of typewriters, has filed for bankruptcy. Too many computers and *Word Processors*.

Now that July 4th is past we can look for the price of gasoline to decline. Prices will decline even more after Labor Day weekend. For the 2nd week in July, a neighborhood gas station had 93 octane premium for \$1.199.

Think the Summer weather is hot? According to TU Electric, the average daily temperature is 3 degrees *cooler* than last year at the same time. AND, we have only had 5 of our 16 (average) days of over 100 degree temperature.

The majority of people in the USA, today, were born after 1960.

Middle class is defined, by our Gov't, as income over \$9,995 and less than \$60,000.

Seven of the 10 leading causes of death in the US are diet related. What to do? More exercise, less salt and less fat? More okra or more broccoli?

GET MORE FROM YOUR MEDICINES.

How and when you take your medications can make a big difference in how well and safely they work.

- 1) Antacids coat the stomach and interfere with absorption. So, take medications an hour before or four hours after antacids. The same warning applies to iron supplements which block absorption of many Rx drugs.
- 2) Take pills and capsules with a full glass of liquid, preferably water, this helps medication get to the stomach quickly. Soda and many juices are high in acid, which can cause some drugs to dissolve too fast. The exception is iron supplements. Orange juice and other juices high in vitamin C can help your body absorb iron more efficiently.
- 3) Stick with one Pharmacy. Many Pharmacies now have computerized systems for tracking customer drugs and potential interactions among various medications.
- 4) Make all of your Doctors (Dentists, too) aware of all medications and over the counter drugs, vitamins and other health supplements.
- 5) Never ~~ever~~ mix alcohol, even beer, with medications.



FILL IN THE BLANKS:

26 = L _____ of the A _____

88 = P _____ K _____

1000 = W _____ that a P _____ is W _____

64 = S _____ on a C _____ B _____

7 = W _____ of the W _____

1001 = A _____ N _____

12 = S _____ of the Z _____

52 = C _____ in a D _____

9 = P _____ in the S _____ S _____

13 = S _____ in the A _____ F _____

18 = H _____ on a G _____ C _____

Distinguished loyal member **Robert Smith** and wife **Bertha** of Carthage are spending a cool summer in Peru (it's winter there).

Distinguished loyal members **Carl** and **Imogene Osborn** are spending a cool summer in Colorado at their Summer home. Hurry back, we miss you.

Past President, and distinguished loyal member **Thierry Weber** put on the July 15th Program. This was one of the more outstanding presentations we have had in a long while. Thanks Thierry, and hurry back to the podium.

CHARLICE'S LAW OF THE UNSPEAKABLE: As soon as you mention something -

if it is good, it goes away.

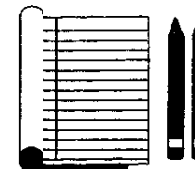
if it is bad, it happens.

(It is because of the accuracy of this LAW the expression "KNOCK ON WOOD" originated).

MATTIE'S LAW OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION: The most heavily traveled streets spend the most time under construction.

CREVISTON'S LAW OF NEW FANGLED GADGETRY:
The most expensive component is the one that always breaks.

NEXT STEP REPORT



by **Charlice Althar**

DTIHCG held its monthly NEXT STEP on Friday night, July 28 at JOJO's. Biggest topic of conversation was the still-ongoing discussion of last month's program presentation by Former President **Thierry Weber** on Windows 95.

TOM brought two different types of bulk tape erasers and magnets which prompted many comments and questions about reformatting tapes, disks, etc., as well as tape backups and the need for making same. **ROBERT** brought his meter to test three of **CHARLICE'S** touch-control light dimmers, **JAMES** joined in diagnosing the problems and ended up taking them home for possible repairs. (Next morning he called and said two of the three are now working! Thanks, **ROBERT** and **JAMES**.)

DOC SMITH had sent in a broken HFDC cable and a program that doesn't work properly; these were also taken home for further work.

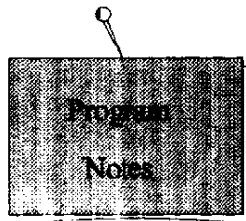
VIRGINIA and **JAMES** told us they are about to hit the road again, back to Woodbury, Tennessee where **JAMES** will be doing the electrical wiring for another new church; they won't be back for a couple of months. We'll miss you both, but we know you won't miss this hot weather!

DAN was asked "do you have your clone system up and running yet?" and had to admit that "No, I'm still trying to get re-established after putting in a new floor in my computer room." What excuse do you suppose **DAN** will come up with next month? We already know from **CATHERINE** that painting the house is NOT a valid excuse!

JIM told us a bit about a new company he's working with; he had to leave early to attend another meeting but it was good to see him. **THIERRY** arrived after he left, so they were unable to work on a program **JIM** has been having difficulty with, but they'll get together and transfer some files to each other via the BBS. **THIERRY** talked to the rest of us at some length, following up on his presentation last month, and we talked him into putting on another program for us at our September meeting. So here we are, giving you advance notice to mark your calendars; this is one you won't want to miss. Tentative plans are for **THIERRY** to continue talking about Windows 95,

and also to give us an introduction and demonstration tour of the INTERNET! Some of our members are already exploring the possibility of using their cellular phones to make the connection with his modem for this demo. What else can we say? BE THERE! That will be September 16, at INFOMART.

There's always room around the table for more DTIHCG'ers and we hope you'll try to be one of them on August 25. Remember, we start arriving about 5:00 P.M., eat (those who wish to do so) whenever we get hungry, and usually leave around 8:30 or 9:00 P.M. It's a very informal, relaxed get-together; just come and leave as your own schedule permits. JOJO's is just East of I-35 E at the Motor Street exit, just 2 exits north of INFOMART. We'll be looking for you!



Our August program will be "Want to Know How to Clean Your Bits & Bytes", presented by M & M. This promises to be an informative and entertaining talk and demo you won't want to miss. August 12 is the date.

September 16 will be our first official visit to the Internet, presented by Former President Thierry Weber, as a continuation of his July presentation, one of our best in a long time. We look forward to this additional information and demonstration by Thierry.

UPDATING THE DATABASE

LYNN NIDIFFER renewed his DTIHCG membership this month, for which we thank him! And KEN HANSEN has given us a correction in his 9-digit zip code. Thank you, KEN, this will help us help the postal service get your newsletter to you promptly.

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

1995 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
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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.