

**DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP  
AUGUST 1984**

Meetings: 7:00pm, 3rd Friday each month  
at Northlake College, Room B-206, Irving, Texas

>>> NEXT MEETING: Friday, 17 August, 1984 <<<

President: Robert Bayne  
Vice-President: Keith Althar (STARTEXT: 49530)  
Secretary: Richard Roberts (SOURCE: T13382; STARTEXT: 7772)  
Treasurer: Earl Bullock  
Editor: Robert Lee Hoffpauer (SOURCE: T13700; STARTEXT: 51547)

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving member/users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are invited to attend our next meeting or send a SASE to: DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, ~~2222~~ Irving, Texas 75061.

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A VERY SPECIAL AUGUST PROGRAM: Don Johnson

Don Bynum, whose credits seem endless, will be our special guest speaker at this month's meeting. Many of you may remember Mr. Bynum as the head of TI's home computer division from the development of the 4A. He seems to be the only TI honcho to come out of the crash with a clean reputation and the respect of the 99/4A community. What you may not know is that since that time he has not forsaken the home computer users. He is involved in bringing the TEXNET service of the SOURCE up to date (desperately needed and long overdue), has authored the new Terminal Emulator 1200 program, and has released a 4 channel audio-synthesizer card for the peripheral expansion box.

What marvels will spring from the mind of man? Only Time will tell; but maybe Don Bynum can give us a few hints.

All members are encouraged not to miss this program, and all former members, guests, and other interested persons are invited to attend.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Richard Roberts

Last month's meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was on July 20, 1984. The meeting was brought to order by club vice-president, Keith Althar. Robert Bayne, club president, had previously announced that he would not be able to attend the July meeting, due to business travel.

Keith then turned the meeting over to Don Johnson, club program director, who in turn introduced the speaker for the evening, Charles Durratt. Mr. Durratt, who is a member of the local FORTH Interest Group, presented an overview of the FORTH programming language. He discussed FORTH registers and pointers, definitions for certain FORTH words (or commands), and covered in detail the information contained in a hand-out that he brought to the meeting. While it may have been too advanced for a FORTH beginner, he did introduce us to ideas and concepts that one will probably remember when one gets deeper into learning the language.

We continue to pickup a few new members each month, proving, to me at least, that there is still interest out there for this "orphaned" machine we own. I would like to welcome these new members, and encourage you to decide on a date and help us to make the meetings more meaningful for everyone concerned. I would like to point out the accomplishment of one new member, Mark Dewess, who wrote an educational math program that has been published in more Computer Magazines. The program, which was cross-written for Commodore computers as well, can be found on page 35 of the August issue. The VIC-20 version was published in the previous edition also (Volume 4-2, page 113). Keep up the good work, Mark.

There was finally some good news from TI this past week. Our group had, at some point in time, been dropped by TI as an "active" user's group. This is the reason we didn't receive our copy of TI-FORTH. I have managed to correct this mistake, and we now have their newest release, the Advanced Assembly Debugger program. Like FORTH, this is being released as "public domain", so any member of the group will be able to copy it from the club library. Expected soon will be three more disks that everyone will be interested in. They are as follows:

1. TI-FORTH source code
2. TI-WRITER update, with modified FORMATTER, and true lower case in EDIT
3. MULTIPLAN update, with faster operation, and auto-repeating keys.

EDITOR/ASSEMBLER: Robert Lee Hoffbauer

Spring is long past, and the hot Texas summers are upon us (thank goodness for air conditioning), but things seem to be popping out all over. Member Eddie Knutson has just received the new spelling checker designed to run out of TI-Writer's UTILITY option. Eddie provides us with an excellent review based on less than a week's acquaintance with the program. Speaking of TI-Writer, Secretary Richard Roberts reports that TI is sending to the user groups an update which, among other things, will eliminate the annoying form feed when printing from the FORMATTER, and allows the user to set up a printer default which will not require the repetitive keying in of the device name.

COR-COMP's new 77000 Expansion system (an upgrade of the 7700 Expansion System offered by the same company) is advertised at \$469.95 w/o drives by TEX-COMP in an advertisement in the current issue of MICROpendium. A 1200 baud terminal emulator (TE1200) is now available. And Foundation (makers of the 128-K memory card) have announced imminent release of an 80-column display card for the TI Peripheral Expansion Box. The card, unfortunately but expectedly, will not work with software written for the TRS 9918A video display processor, but will come with a modified version of Companion word processor, and there are plans to release further software for use with the card -- we'll see what happens.

Two jobs needing doing for lack of a volunteer are: an official 'user-friendly-interface' or 'greeter' to meet members and guests at the door at meetings, and an "external-bus" to publicize the group to the general public. A word or two on volunteer work -- you do not need to be a computer whiz to function effectively in an organizational role, and the only way the group exists is thru volunteer effort. The more effort invested by more individual members, the better organization we have -- the better our organization, the more each member benefits. It's that simple.

A small bug inserted itself into part of the listing given last month in my article on setting up your FORTH system. This bug, however, doesn't cause any problem unless you try to use the new word defined at the bottom of the listing to print to the terminal the amount of free memory left. Correct line 13 on SCREEN 3 to read:

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13 : FREE SP@ HERE - . ; ( Displays free memory)
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I have just returned from a visit to the Hurst user group, and was most favorably impressed, enough so, that I joined the group. I am not, however, planning to leave the Dallas Group!!! I especially don't want to drive all that way -- they jokingly tell folks from Dallas that they are on I83 just before you get to California -- and it's TRUE! While there I fell in love. They have a COR-COMP DS/DD Disk Controller card in their P-Box. It's terrific -- I gotta have one (or two, or more!) I will review what I saw next month.

TI-WRITER SPELLING CHECKER: Edwin P. Knutson

Title: Spelling Checker  
 Publisher: American Software Co.  
 2606 Ponderosa Dr.  
 Omaha, Nebraska 68123  
 Price: \$49.95 + sh.

The Editor asked me to write a review of a very new program that just came on the market July 4th. (Ed.-finally!!) It's called 'Spelling Checker,' and, as you might guess, its prime function is to find all the misspelled words in a TI-Writer file, and allow you to correct them if you wish.