

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP  
MAY, 1985

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

>>> NEXT MEETING: Friday, 17 May, 1985 <<<

President: Richard Roberts (SOURCE: TI3552; STARTEXT: 8762)  
Vice-President: Dan Johnsen  
Secretary: Louis Guion (STARTEXT: 77536)  
Treasurer: Earl Bullock  
Editor: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

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, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Irving, Texas 75061.  
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PRESIDENT'S SCREENDUMP: Richard Roberts

It was good to see such a good turnout at the April meeting. Of course, it never hurts to have someone the caliber of Don Bynue and Harry Littlejohn to make it worth attending. There's still lots of interesting things in the near future, though, to keep your interest high, so plan on joining in on the fun.

As promised, the May meeting will offer a split program, one for computer novices and beginning programmers, and one for those with more advanced ideas in mind. Hopefully, this will address a problem that I have been hearing about, that of novice computer users coming to the monthly meetings, and being forced to suffer through a boring discussion of TI-FORTH, or assembly language.

Dan Johnsen, program chairman, has recruited the help of Mark Dewese to handle the program development for the novice group. The program during the May meeting will be mostly an attempt to find out what your needs are, so that plans can be made for the coming months. If you fall into this category, plan on taking part, and letting Mark know what needs to be done to make this a successful venture.

Several other Chairman positions have been filled this past month. First, Charlice Althar has agreed to handle the duties of Recruitment Chairperson. There are lots of things in this area that have long been neglected, to the detriment of the club, and it's growth. There are LOTS and LOTS of people out there that own the 99/4A, and don't even know there is a users group around. That will be one of the first priorities we will address.

Also, Bob Viering is now the official Equipment Chairman, having been responsible for the club's system anyway since the inception of the TIBBS board. Toting the system to the monthly meetings is a real chore, and he will need some help from time to time. If you are willing to help out, please let him know.

Everyone who was at the April meeting should have received their plastic name-tag. A big thanks should go out to David Martin, Hospitality Chairman, who worked on these prior to the meeting. If you took yours home with you, please don't lose it. I want to see a name-tag on everyone in attendance.

The proposed constitutional amendments will be voted on during the May meeting. This was postponed due to the lack of proper notice last month, and because of the special program at the April meeting. They are as follows:

1. Create a Chairman position for the newsletter editor.
2. Change family membership dues from \$5.00 per person, to a flat \$5.00 extra. Only one vote will be allowed on a family membership.

Growth of the TIBBS board has been excruciatingly slow. If the TIBBS service is to survive, much less prosper, we have got to have more support from club members. Many club members may not realize that you have free access to the TIBBS board, as part of your membership benefits. Your access rights are limited, but you do have access to many features, such as reading the club newsletter on-line (usually available before it arrives in the mail), as well as the message base and other bulletins and files.

Take advantage of this offer, and perhaps you will realize the benefits of full TIBBS membership, which will allow writing messages and program downloads. The annual charge of \$20.00 for full membership is a small price to pay for what you get, and is necessary to help cover expenses.

By the time of the April meeting, we will have two DSDD half-height drives to replace the one SSDD drive. We have been operating so far with the generosity of Bob Viering, Bob Stutes, and Bill Kauth, as they have donated personal equipment and money to establish the TIBBS, and ensure it's early survival.

If you are not currently a full fledged member of the TIBBS, yet own a modem, I want to hear from you. Is the \$20.00/year too much? Or is it something else. Let me know your thoughts about it, be they good or bad.

Last, but not least, are the plans for the May raffle. I was pleased with our first effort at this in April, and I'm sure Max Latham was pleased also, as the April winner chose Advanced Diagnostics for his prize. With very little publicity, the response was pretty good.

There will be two raffles started in May. The regular software raffle, which costs \$1 donation per entry, will offer the following three choices. The winner may choose ONE item from the list.

- > Return to Pirate's Island (can be used with console only)
- > TC-MAIL (a TI-FORTH mailing list program)
- > Adventure Editor (create your own adventures to use with the Scott Adams Adventure module)

The other raffle prize will be the club's SSDD disk drive, which will cost \$5 per entry. That's right, if you are lucky enough, you can come away from the meeting with a \$5 disk drive!

The winner will be chosen at the May meeting only if there are a minimum of 30 entries. The proceeds of this raffle will go towards paying for the two half-height drives, and if the response is not sufficient, it will be carried forward to the June meeting.

So, with all these activities in mind, you should definitely plan on making it out to the next meeting. I hope to see everyone there! (NOTE: Be on time, the meeting will start at 7:00.)

#### SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Louis Guion

April's meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was held on April 19, 1983. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by President Richard Roberts. Over fifty people were in attendance. The minutes from the March meeting and the Treasurer's report were not read due to the need to conserve time for the month's featured speakers.

Two of the six visitors present joined our users group. They are Gary Taylor of Dallas and Sam Meller of Denton. The other visitors were Gerry Myers of Fort Worth, Jim Rollins of Denton, David Schaller of Dallas, and Mike Maier of Grand Prairie. Quite a "metropolitan" group.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The president postponed a discussion and vote on changing the bylaws until a meeting when we have more time available. He announced that Charlice Althar had accepted his nomination as Chairperson of the Recruitment Committee. Both Richard and Charlice made it known that volunteers were being accepted to assist on the committee.

A new meeting place and time were announced for the Assembly Group. It is now hosted by Penny's Regional Offices through arrangements made by Vice President and group leader Dan Johnson. Sign-up sheets were available at the rear of the hall.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Was deferred to make way for our program.

Harry Littlejohn, who designed the TI 99/2 as a "starter" computer that would provide the basis for an upward growth path for novice computer users, was the first speaker on the program. Don Bynum, former TI Vice President, commented further on the TI 99/2 and made a presentation covering the TI 99/8 computer. Each TI computer system was present for demonstration. After the formal part of Mr. Bynum's talk, he held a question-and-answer session covering both systems and had club member Jim O'Flaherty play Munchman to demonstrate the TI 99/8's multiple operating speed capabilities.

The raffle (for a choice of three software packages: an Adventure module; T-C Mail; or Miller Graphics "Advanced Diagnostics") was won by Max Lathan.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30.

LIBRARY NEEDS DONATIONS: Louis Guion

The club's software library is being overhauled! For the last two months the library field module has undergone dissection to make it easier to use, easier to understand, and easier to find what interests you. We have fixed those programs that didn't work, and deleted the ones that we couldn't fix. While the project will last for one more month before it is completed, the time has come to ask YOU for donations to the library. We now have over 700 files and I'd really like to announce that we have over 1000 files when the project is completed. Can't you see what a tremendous resource this would be for you as well as for potential members?

Some of you have old catalogs of the library which will tell you what we had, but don't let the lack of an exact catalog stop you from donating to the library. It is very simple for me to delete duplicates, too--so don't assume we have something; make SURE we have it by donating it yourself. Please copy any donation, or preferably several donations, on single sided, single density (SSSD) diskettes, and bring them to the meeting on May 17th. I'd really appreciate a note with the filenames, the names of the programs, languages, and a one-line description of what the programs do. Nothing fancy--handwritten is very acceptable.

We need games, utilities, word processors, household helpers, data-base managers, educational, tutorial, music, graphics, and all of the other categories that exist. The club especially wants programs you have written as well as public programs authored by others. We really want software of interest to women. The sky's the limit!!! Make our library the best in the country. Copy now and bring to me at the May 17th meeting, or if it is more convenient mail them to me at 11933 Quincy Lane, Dallas, TX 75230. All diskettes will be returned to the owner if you put a small tag on EACH ONE with your name.

Please act now! Prompt submission will allow them to be included in the initial release of the "NEW", improved library. Thanks!

Oh, yes! I almost forgot. If you have a program that will write club minutes or one that will create articles for the newsletter, please send them to my PERSONAL attention. I need all the help I can get!!!

Th' EDITOR: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

This month I have a mixed bag of extraneous comments. First, thanks to member Roy Willis for the loan of the p-code card and software. Also, thanks to Bill Kauth for the loan of the manual. I am now somewhat experienced with the p-System and am available if anyone is looney enough to try to use it. My own feelings are that without a hard-disk the p-System is so slow as to be useless. This is because major segments of the system are kept on disk until needed, then loaded; so, you spend most of your time waiting for things to set-up. Further, I think the input/output from the system is far too slow to be usefull. Maybe this is because the p-code generated by the compiler is interpreted at run-time; however, Basic is interpreted, and it seems to be much faster. I have wanted a p-code card since I first got my 99/4A. I still would like to have one, and will offer \$3.17 for the card, software and manuals if there are any sellers out there.

I have uploaded selected portions of last month's newsletter to TIBBS, for those who have been looking for it all month. Sorry, folks! I just got behind the 8-ball during the weeks leading up to finals and haven't gotten out from behind, yet -- even though the semester is over. I don't know what file name it will be listed under, so just peek and poke around.

A modified version of the FORTH disk is now available which loads from the Extended Basic Module. This modified FORTH includes two (2) new editors, a debugging tool, and several other changes, additions, and deletions. I have borrowed the disk from Glean Ashe and will have a full review next month. I am also going to try to develop a system in FORTH of reading and writing standard TI files (DIS/VAR80) to enhance the usefulness of FORTH for developing applications and utilities. However, there is no time frame for this last development.

I would like to encourage you to join the Assembly Language project. If you have an expanded system (32k,disk,etc.) you may find Assembly Language easier than you think, especially if you have fellow travellers to keep you company. The Assembly Project is not so far along that you can't join, but it will be, if you wait much longer.

See notes on TI-Writer...

The editing functions on the keyboard (i.e., CTRL-K for delete to end of line, CTRL-I for tab, and CTRL-U for special character mode) work just as well on the command line of the editor and the formatter. For instance, if you make sure your tab is set at space 5, when you go to the command line (FCTH-9 or CTRL-C) to, say, load a file, and if you do not want to load the file previously loaded, you can just CTRL-I to tab past "DSK?" and begin typing the file name. Or, if you would like to remove many, but not all of the carriage returns, you can go to the RS (replace string) command line, type the first slash, type CTRL-U, type SHIFT-M (for carriage return), CTRL-U again, type the second and third slashes, and hit enter. The various editing functions are listed in the TI-Writer manual, at the bottom of the pages in the tutorial section. Try them, you'll like them.

As usual, I must apologize for the newsletter getting out late. I hope it arrives in time for you to make the meetings and, as usual, I intend to do better next month....



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