

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP  
NOVEMBER, 1985

Meetings: 7:00pm, 3rd Friday each month at Northlake College, Room B-241, Irving, Texas

>>> NEXT MEETING: Friday, 15 November, 1985 <<<

President: Richard Roberts (SOURCE: T13552; 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, 1221 Mosswood, Irving, Texas 75061.

\*\*\* 99er CONNECTION \*\*\* TIBBS Bulletin Board (214) 353-0502

PRESIDENT'S SCREENDUMP: Richard Roberts

We're fast approaching the end of another year, and BOY, has it ever gone fast! As a group, we've done a lot of things this year, and we've seen lots of new, exciting things emerge for our beleaguered little 99/4A, as well as the promise of many more. It's almost time to start giving serious thought to next year, especially regarding the future of our Users Group.

In accordance with the group's Constitution, I will be appointing a Nominating Committee at the November meeting. This committee will be charged with the task of nominating a slate of officers to serve for 1986. The period of time from the November meeting until the Annual Meeting in January, when the elections will be held, is a most crucial period. You can make an impact on this process, by speaking out when opinions are solicited, or by volunteering yourself for those positions which will be up for grabs. A brief questionnaire will be handed out during the meeting, explaining the function of the Nominating Committee, and asking you for your input in this important decision-making process. The questionnaire will be collected the same night, and the results will be used by the Nominating Committee when it holds its meeting later in the month. I hope that each and every member who is concerned about our future will make every attempt to be there.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we should know something regarding the application we have filed with the Dallas Computer Council. We are seeking affiliation with the DCC, in order to broaden the scope of our ability to serve our members. While we have enjoyed the use of the facilities at North Lake College, it does seem that our status is on shakier ground now than anytime in the past. The use of the facilities must be renewed each semester, and it appears we could be squeezed out, due to an ambitious growth in night-time community courses. While it hasn't happened yet, the handwriting is on the wall. The Executive Board also feels like the lack of appropriate space to hold Special Interest Group meetings is a deterrent. If approved for affiliation with the DCC, we would gain access to the wide-ranging facilities at the Infomart, not only for the SIG meetings, but for our main meeting as well. It should be pointed out that our application with the DCC is non-binding. If we, as a group, should decide that this is not the right move, the application may be removed, and no harm has been done. However, if we were to defer the decision to some point in the future, the opportunity may very well be lost forever. The Infomart, as immense as it is, has a rapidly diminishing capacity, and it's expected it will be closed to newcomers very soon. There will certainly be some discussion of this at the November meeting, so once again, be sure to be there.

Concerning the program for the November meeting, things are still a bit undecided at this point. Assuming that there will be a great deal of discussion about the events mentioned above, there may not be much time for anything else, except for another installment of Robert Hoffpauer's continuing "Programming in BASIC" series. I have several "irons in the fire" right now, but neither of them are jumping forward, so perhaps they can be saved for another meeting. The raffle for November is another question mark. I have a couple of programs on order, but have not received them yet. We still have the two Adventure programs, but right now, I don't know what else will be available. Suffice to say, you will be pleased. The raffle is open to anyone in attendance, be they guest or member, and will only cost you \$1.00 per donation. You may enter as many times as you desire.

Remember, November 15 is the day, and 7:00 pm is the time, for our next general meeting. I hope to see everyone there. The next meeting of the Executive Board will be Saturday, November 23. The meeting starts at 1:00 pm, at Louis Guion's house. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.

NAVARONE MOVES TO DALLAS: Richard Roberts

Just since the October meeting, it has come to my attention that Navarone Industries has moved their corporate headquarters, as well as production facilities for their 99/4A software, to Dallas. It seems that Charlice Althar had some reason to call them, and did so, only to find out that they had a new number. Imagine her surprise when she heard that it had a "214" area code. Below are excerpts from my Startext TI Newsletter of October 28, that will give you more details concerning this move.

TI HOME COMPUTER NEWSLETTER Monday, October 28, 1985  
by Richard Roberts (MC8762) COPYRIGHT 1985 STARTEXT

Navarone moves to Dallas

I talked to Will Hadley, Navarone's Director of Marketing, regarding their recent move from Silicon Valley to Silicon Prairie (Dallas). The reasons were purely economic. In the last several years, Navarone went through several moves, always necessitated by the rapid growth they were experiencing. In fact, they had become almost impossible to keep up with, they moved so often. Then, as happens with most up-and-coming companies, they reached a level that could not be surpassed without a large influx of capital. It was either level off, eventually to stagnate and die, or sell-out to a company that could provide them with the much needed capital to continue their upward expansion. It was, of course, the latter option that Navarone chose, entering into a stock-swap arrangement whereby Astro Techniques acquired Navarone. They seem to be very pleased with the position they now find themselves in. They have more phone lines than before, as well as a larger staff. They also feel like their production and distribution capabilities will be improved, as well.

I also asked about future commitment to the 99/4A product line, and was assured that this move was in no way a signal that they may shift away from it, although they report that certain software projects are on hold right now, for various reasons, one of which is a lack of quality machine language programmers. The results of the HYWAY program have been terribly disappointing, also. The final decision has not been made regarding the status of the HYWAY program, but they are not proceeding full speed ahead with it, either. The HYWAY program was started recently, and allowed registered User Groups to receive an evaluation copy of selected software.

All in all, I think Navarone's re-location to Dallas should have a beneficial impact on us, locally, and hopefully will provide the catalyst they need to serve the TI community even better than they have in the past. The new address and phone number for Navarone is listed below.

Navarone Industries  
11836 Judd Court, Suite 304B  
Dallas, TX 75243  
214-437-1118

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Louis Guion

October's meeting of the Dallas TI Home Computer Group was held on October 18, 1985. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in room B-206 of Northlake College by President Richard Roberts. The minutes from the September meeting were not available. Treasurer Earl Bullock presented his report to the group.

Three of the five visitors present joined our users group. They are Dennis Axberg of Carrollton, Harry Latham of Benbrook, and Blessings of the Spirit Ministries represented by Tom Carr and Mike Neu of Irving. The other visitors were Charles McFarland and Robin Llast, both of Dallas. Additionally we have had Thomas Gunn III of Dallas, And Walter Head II of Arlington join as members and Ellen Kramer of Ringwood, New Jersey, and Marion Swope of Dallas have joined us as newsletter subscribers.

NEW BUSINESS: President Roberts made a plea for a cassette librarian and the Secretary again explained the manner in which members should obtain copies of programs from the club's public domain library.

Robert Hoffpauer presented the 3rd in his series of "Programming in Basic" lectures. He discussed and reviewed the first two sessions held over the last two months and accepted suggestions from the floor as to the direction the group wanted him to take. From this input Robert expanded his previous explanation of records and files including OPEN/CLOSE and format.

In the monthly \$1 raffle, Harry Latham won, and chose Microsoft Multiplan from the three offerings.

An "Open Forum" was held. A couple of the highlights were the announcement by Lee Dean of a need for a 32K expansion card for his P-Box and someone else had a Parallax Interface unit for sale.

The second educational program for the evening was presented by Louis Guion in a mad frenzy to demonstrate the complete disassembly of a TI-99/4A console, a TI Peripheral Expansion Box, and of three perfectly innocent 2 1/3-height disk drives (which did not work anyway, so there was no danger there). First the console came apart, right down to the board level. Next the screws flew, and the P-Box was laid bare for internal inspection! Invited guest, Bruce Palmer of B K Computer Service (214-234-8628) was pleased to see what he believed was business in-the-making for his company, which specializes in TI repairs. Well, was he disappointed; when re-assembled the console and the P-Box worked fine, and best of all the intentional dropping of one of the disk drives restored its stepper motor to functionality. Louis had a rip-roaring good time, and hopes you did too!

The meeting adjourned to Crystal's Pizza at around 9:45 P.M.

#### HOLIDAY DISKETTES: Louis Guion

If you have any holiday season programs you would be willing to share with the group, please bring them to the November meeting. We will be making a Christmas Disk for the club library. If you would like a copy of the resulting diskette, please bring an initialized disk and a stamped mailer to the meeting so we can mail you a copy of the Christmas Disk.

To obtain copies of other diskettes in the library, bring an initialized diskette and a written request as to what disk numbers you wish copied. Your copies will be returned to you at the December meeting, or if you prefer, include \$2.00 per diskette requested (on your disk, remember) to cover the cost of a mailer and postage. Additional copies of the abbreviated catalog will be available at the meeting.

#### Getting Down to BASICS: Robert Lee Hoffpauer

This month's topic is conditionals. There are many times when, depending on some condition, we would like to take one or another of two actions. For instance, in a payroll application, when an employee has logged more than forty hours in one week we will want to pay time-and-a-half for those hours over forty, but only straight-time for those hours up to and including forty. Conditionals let us test and decide in our code what to do. We have been using conditionals all along, but we need to look at them directly, as their use can be critical to our success in programming.

The *User's Reference Guide* (TI) covers the IF...THEN...ELSE statement beginning on page II-51. As always, the *User's Reference Guide* is the primary reference source for programming in TI-BASIC (console BASIC).

The primary conditional structure in BASIC is the IF...THEN...ELSE statement. The programmer sets up a condition to be tested (IF X=0...). If the condition evaluates as true, the program will perform the action indicated by the *true-branch* (... THEN 360 ...). If, on the other hand, the condition evaluates as false, the program will not perform the *true-branch*, but will either 'fall through' to the next statement or perform the *false-branch* (... ELSE 730).

What, exactly, do we mean by 'evaluates to true,' or 'evaluates to false?' Try the listing on page II-52. This short program allows you to enter a value for X from the keyboard, then tells you whether the value you entered will

evaluate to true or false. As you will discover, zero will evaluate to false while all other values will evaluate to true. We can evaluate very simple expressions or quite complex expressions, and these expressions can be evaluated alone or evaluated across a relational operator.

There are several relational operators:

=	EQUAL TO	<	LESS THAN
>	GREATER THAN	<=	LESS THAN or EQUAL TO
>=	GREATER THAN or EQUAL TO	<>	NOT EQUAL TO

Additionally, BASIC provides the ability to test (in one statement) whether both of two expressions are true, whether one of two expressions (or the other or both) are true. These are the logical AND and the logical OR functions. For instance, in a payroll application, we might have our program look at the hours logged for a particular day, and test whether the hours worked were more than eight OR whether the hours worked for that day plus the hours worked so far that week were greater than forty -- in either case we will need to pay overtime.

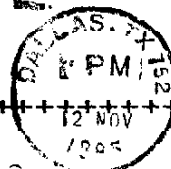
```
IF (HRSDAY>8)+(HRSDAY+HRSWK>40) THEN ....
```

The plus-sign (+) is the OR operator, the times-sign (\*) is the AND operator. This may seem a bit clumsy at first, but it is easy to get used to. You will notice in the example given above that the two conditions are isolated by the use of parentheses. The plus-sign between the two conditions is read as 'OR'. Likewise, we could have used 'and' to test if both conditions were true.

At the October meeting, those in attendance expressed their interest in file handling, so at the November meeting we will continue with that topic. I have a fairly short program that creates a file of memo records, and orders these memos in very interesting way called linked lists. I also will have a challenge for those who are not 'advanced' programmers, yet.

**FOR SALE: C-ITON "Gorilla Banana" Printer and AXIOM "Parallax-TI" direct connect Parallel interface, \$150.00. Printer and interface is less than one year old and is identical to the AXIOM GP100, still sold for \$250 by Tex-Comp. Call Jon Hodges at (214)690-4428 evenings**

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