

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

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Volume 11, Number 05

MAY 1991

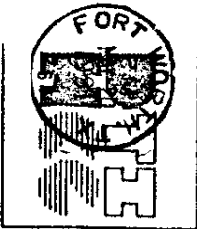
This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER USERS GROUP, a non-profit organization serving the member users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information

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 & be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, MAY 25, 1991
at the Dallas INFOMART
Oak Lawn Avenue and I-35 East



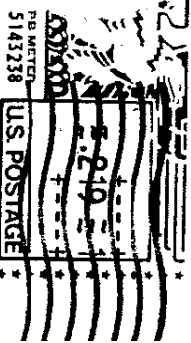
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214-233-1750



Member of the
Computer Council of Dallas

CCD Information Line: 746-3297



FIRST CLASS

MAY

-
- 4 SIDEWALK SALE 05:30 AM
5 MINISIG-MOV'S LINDA WAY - HOST
RSVP BY: MAY 3
(214) 528-8263
12 MOTHER'S DAY
18 EC MEETING MR. GATTI'S
WALNUT HILL MARSH LN.
OFFICERS 2:30 CHAIRPERSONS 3:30
25 INFOMART SUPER SATURDAY
9:00 to 9:30 BUSINESS MEETING
9:40 to 10:00 OPEN FORUM
10:00 to 11:45 PROGRAM
11:45 to 12:55 SOCIAL HOUR, NEWSLETTER
LIBRARY CHECKOUT MIX-N-MINGLE
1:00 to 2:55 MIN-SIG - THEIRRY WEBER
26 MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE

-
- 1 SIDEWALK SALE 05:30 AM
EC MEETING MR GATTI'S
WALNUT HILL MARSH LN.
OFFICERS 2:30-CHAIRPERSONS 3:30
7 NEXT-STEP WYATT'S CAFETERIA 5:15 PM
JOSEY LN. BELT LINE
14 FLAG DAY
15 INFOMART SUPER SATURDAY
9:00 to 9:30 BUSINESS MEETING
9:40 to 10:00 OPEN FORUM
10:00 to 11:45 PROGRAM
11:45 to 12:55 SOCIAL HOUR, LIBRARY
CHECKOUT, MIX-N-MINGLE
1:00 to 2:55 MINISIG - THIERRY WEBER
16 FATHER'S DAY
21 1ST DAY OF SUMMER
22 EC MEETING MR. GATTI'S
WALNUT HILL MARSH LN.
OFFICERS 2:30 CHAIRPERSONS 3:30PM
28 NEXT-STEP
WYATT'S CAFETERIA 5:15PM
JOSEY LN. BELT LINE RD.

Dallas 99 Interface

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MAY 1991

SHAKING THE BUSHES

HELLO AND WELCOME to the May "Shaking Of The Bushes". For those of you who MISSED the DISK SWAP really missed a good time despite the bad weather that we had. We had a very nice crowd of people and copied alot of disks and then we went to LOTUS restaurant and PIGGED OUT on the Chinese food. We even had one of club members show us how to walk with a plate on her head. I just want to THANK all the one who brought their 4A's and for the ones who copied the disks for the others. Also thank you visitors who sat and help sort the disk for the proper place. We just couldn't have done it without all our members. THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. SEE YOU AGAIN AT A DISK SWAP.

Well hold onto your hats people we have some new software and hardware for the 4A and our MAY INFOMART meeting is going to be one of those meeting to see this first hand. The program will be on the 80 COLUMN CARD for the 4A. So lets mark those calendars for MAY 25, at 9:00 am to be there for the program and none other than you guessed it BUTCH SPILL will be giving the program. He is back now for good.

I'm letting you know in advance that our next months, that is our JUNE meeting at INFOMART, we will have the INSTALLATION OF THE TIM THE SON-OF-A-BOARD for the program. So all please mark those calendars for the JUNE INFOMART meeting, because we want to have a real good show because it is the BIRTHDAY OF INFOMART and there will be alot people there so come early for parking places.

We are still needing chairpersons for different chair positions and would like those filled. Please if interested contact one of the officers of the club. Again I want the THANK all those who took their Sunday afternoon to do the DISK SWAP and for attending the PIG OUT. We had great fellowship together at the restaurant. Also, I want to thank those who came from so far away to attend and do hope you had a safe journey back home.

Again I want to say what a great group of club members that we have and they are always there to help with anything you need. As I said before we are going to have alot of new things in the months to come, so want you come on out and see what we might have to offer for new things for our TI99/4A it's still a great little ORPHAN and well worth its use.

This is your favorite person (HA) from SHAKING OF THE BUSHES signing off until next month. SEE YOU AT INFOMART MAY 25,1991. DON'T FORGET TO MARK THOSE CALENDARS. PRES. BUSH

NEXT STEP REPORT

By Charlice Althar



Our April NEXT STEP was held at a location different from our usual meeting place. The evening before our April INFOMART meeting, we received word that Wyatt's Cafeteria where we've been meeting would be closed for renovations. We quickly made arrangements with a place we've met a couple of times in the past, another Wyatt's, but it's name and format have changed. Still affiliated with Wyatt's, it is now the BLUE RIBBON BUFFET, at Belt Line Rd. and N. Central Expressway in Richardson.

The consensus of those present was that the food was absolutely delicious. For \$5.95, you may help yourself as many times as you wish to a lovely salad bar, 2 serving areas of entrees, another area of hot vegetables, and a fantastic dessert area. Included are hot rolls cornbread, soup, tea, coffee, and a variety of soft drinks. We all felt this was about the same price we've been paying at Wyatt's, but with better food and a much greater selection. As we always say, those who didn't come really missed out on a good deal!

In addition to stuffing ourselves, we had two systems set up. We worked at loading and running several disks obtained at our recent Disk Swap, and became more familiar with the popular TIPS (TI Print Shop) program. We also looked over some newsletters from other groups, and talked about the MiniSiG planned for May 5 to protect our systems from the thundersorms.

At this time, we are not sure where we will meet for our "May" NEXT STEP, which will actually be held on June 7. We'll be letting you know, and hope you will join us.

NEW FRIENDS AND OLD FRIENDS

Make new friends, but keep the old;
 Those are silver, these are gold.
 New-made friendships, like new wine,
 Age will mellow and refine.
 Friendships that have stood the test -
 Time and change - are the best;
 Brow may wrinkle, hair grow gray,
 Friendship never knows decay.
 For 'mid old friends, tried and true,
 Once more we our youth renew.
 But old friends, alas! may die,
 New friends, must their place supply.
 Cherish friendship in our breast -
 New is good, but old is best;
 Make new friends, but keep the old;
 Those are silver, these are gold.

- Joseph Perry -

submitted by : Mattie Bush

THE TOP GUN OF ENTERTAINMENT

BY: JOHN CLARY

About a year ago I did an article for the Dallas TI Home Computer Group on various flight simulators for the TI-99/4A. Well I have another simulator review, but this one is not hardware compatible with the TI, or any other computers. I went to the Air Combat School in Arlington, a place claiming to be the "Top Gun of Entertainment", to fly their simulators.

What I Did

I got wind of the school from an article in the Desert Storm section of the Dallas Times Herald. I was intrigued, and as I had a wedding anniversary coming up I made sure the wife (a real treasure of a woman) knew all about it also. I was able to convince this wonderful woman that a trip to this simulator would be the perfect anniversary gift. I was unable to convince her to join me, as she gets airsick watching my computer fly. I contacted Sam Cooper, member of Chapter 168 of the EAA, and we made plans to go there together.

Where We Went

After making an appointment Sam and I went to 1912 E Randol Mill Rd. in Arlington (just off 360 and I30) where the Air Combat School is set up in an office/industrial park. There we paid our \$35 plus taxes, and had a look around while the rest of the program was set up.

We first had a ground briefing. Since Sam and I have both flown before, we got a shortened version of the ground briefing, but we got more on ACM and radio usage, and more on the actual conduct of the "flight" than non-pilots would. This took about a half hour, maybe a little longer. Then we got suited up in Nomex flight suits and gloves (Genuine Military Surplus) for protection from leaking hydraulic fluid and grease, and went to the F-106 Ejector Seat Trainer. This is another military surplus item, and was used to teach the proper head and arm position before sending candidates to the bigger Rail Chair type of trainer. Sam went first and had no problem, but because of my greater width (!) I had some small difficulty with my arm position. But I made it without injury. Then we actually got into the simulators, and yes, you do "get into" these simulators. The simulator I "flew" was an actual nose section of an A-4 Skyhawk, and Sam's was the same of an F-8 Crusader. Both were mounted on "motion bases" and had large screens in front of them. I was reminded of why I failed my flight physical and washed out of AFROTC when the A-4 canopy hit me in the head, and I couldn't see through the gunsight, but by scrunching down, and making like Quasimodo I was able to fly the simulator. I wouldn't have been able to fly the real airplane in that condition, so perhaps it was just as well I didn't push too hard to get in the AF to fly. After getting all the flight gear on, including the parachute and helmet, we closed the canopies, hooked up the radio gear, and proceeded to start the simulation.

Up Up And Away

After "buttoning up" the communications gear was activated, and we simulated a start of the jet engines in the two simulators. After receiving clearances to taxi, we went to the active to hold for takeoff, then went to Military Power for takeoff. Both simulators practiced formation flight with our flight leaders, then practiced tracking with the gunsight on the flight leaders.

After a couple minutes of that we went in search of "targets" in the area called the "Air Combat Arena" which is what goes on in some of those MOA's on the Aviation Sectional Charts. Sam had targets fast and furious, but because I was flying the ground attack plane I got to go drop a bomb. I had an island of about 10 acres to aim at, but because of not being properly behind the gun/bombsight I managed to miss the entire island. I ran low on fuel during the bomb run, and my next thrill was an air to air refueling. This was tricky, even though the Air Force method of the flying boom was used instead of the Navy's probe and drogue. After refueling I went back to the ACM arena for more "jinking" and "turn and burn", while Sam kept shooting at anything that got in the way. I got in a few licks against F-111's, F-14's, A-10's, and A-7's.

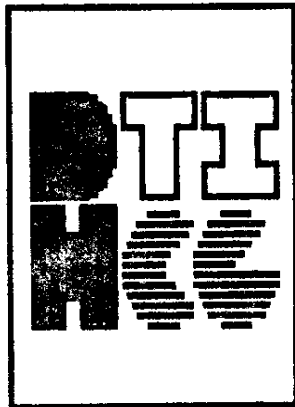
Then it was time for the 1 on 2 dogfights, where the two simulators, Gunfighter Flight, and Mongoose Flight, would take on the other flight and flight leader. Holding formation was not easy, especially with the guy in the other simulator trying to fry your tailfeathers, but it was great to reverse roles and return the favor to him.

Home Sweet Home

After all this we had to get back to "home" after sunset, with a T-storm over the airfield. This was no real problem except that the lightning caused a momentary loss of vision, which mad finding the runway an experience.. I made it just fine, but Sam's simulator took a lightning strike, caught fire, and had flameout on final approach. Nervous time in the F-8! Sam made a deadstick landing in a supersonic fighter, which I'm sure is something he will want to tell his kids about when he gets married. After shutting down the simulators Sam and I posed for a picture in front of the F-8 simulator, and got a cassette copy of our radio transmissions during the "flight".

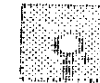
Picking Nits I have very few complaints, all of them very minor. The simulators had a great deal of "deadband" in the control response, which made it difficult to set up fo a gun run at first. Also I could have used a removeable cushion on the seat o the A-4 to make it easier for me to fit. Third, only one picture was taken of he two people who flew the mission, and only one cassette was made. Lastly the cassette was of low quality and jammed after the second playing. Over all I would give the Air Combat school a grade of 75%, Passing, but they could dc better. Seeing the things they have coming up, I expect the next grade to be higher. Where To Go, Whc To Call Air Combat School 1912 E Randol Mill Rd. #304 Arlington TX 76063

(817)265-3233



ATTENTION.....

IF FOR SOME REASON YOU RECEIVED A DISK FROM THE DISK SWAP THAT DID NOT WORK PROPERLY, PLEASE BRING IT WITH YOU ALONG WITH THE YELLOW SLIP TO INFOMART ON SATURDAY AND IT WILL BE RE-COPIED FOR YOU.



Squirrels preparing for winter:
Much ado about *nutting*.

□

An optimist is a person who
won't take woe for an answer.

□

Enthusiasm is a lot like measles;
if you don't have it, you can't give it
to anyone.

□

If you're ever robbed of virtue,
you'll find it was an inside job.

□

While some people never know
how to say goodbye, most people
don't know *when* to say it.

□

If you want your children to
follow in your footsteps, don't wear
loafers.

HARDWARE AND HACKING

From The Hardware Chairman



There is an answer to the question of "What is available for my TI/994A that is new and exciting?" I have installed Oasis Pensive Abacutors 80 column device into my console. This is the answer to this question. We will explore a brief history of OPA, and what the TIM and Sor of a Board provide to the standard TI/994A system.

OPA has been around for some five years, and the first product of theirs that I used was the Tri-Artist-Slide-Show otherwise known as TASS 2001. This software is part of the Phoenix 2001 series. Other software from this series includes Recallit 2001 which was developed to utilize the Rambo program space available to HRD owners. Rambo was a joint effort with Bud Mills Services, and was released in 1990. Diskodex 2001 is also produced by OPA, this program allows you to make a master catalog of your disks. Gary also achieved some visibility with the ROS 8.14 that Bud Mills is presently shipping with all his new 300C series Horizon Ram Disks. OPA has begun making available OPAnews which offers more information about products offered and services available. I will try to have copies available at the next meeting for anyone that is interested in finding out a little more about OPA.

For some time I have been looking into an 80 column accessory for my system. One of the first things I did is look into all the 80 column adaptors that have been available for some time to the TI community. My impression was that they where expensive, required modifications to the console or RS232 cards, and where hard to come by. When Gary Bowser began promoting his newest addition to the OPA line of products, it was only natural that I was interested in seeing if these devices filled the need I had for my expanded system.

On the surface, the TIM seemed to meet some requirements I had for my system. At 179 dollars, it seemed slightly less expensive than the AVPC or any other device that was available. It also came packaged with the Son of a Board, this is a device that replaces two of the grom clips in the console to provide a modified operating system and other features that I will discuss. So I decided to take advantage of one weekend while I was in New York and drove to Toronto to visit Gary and see what the products actually where capable of doing.

The trip to Toronto was scenic, and uneventful. I appreciated the 100 kilometer per hour speed limit and to a certain extent felt like Canada was no different than the USA. Toronto was overwhelming! I had no idea that it was so large and had doubts if I would ever find OPA's headquarters, but I had a map and was determined to go back with some information about TIM and Son of a Board.

We finally found Jarvis Street, nestled in the shadow of downtown Toronto. From the outside the building seemed to be a nondescript apartment building. We gained access and I finally got to meet Gary Bowser and his father, Hank. They welcomed us in and we talked of Texas, and New York for a while. Both Gary and Hank where quite friendly and their small apartment was neat and filled with different computer systems, and menentos. Gary seemed very pleased to demonstrate the TIM, and I was impressed with the features that it seemed to offer. We talked of the future products, and past software like TASS 2001. All the time while we talked I was wrestling with the decision to buy TIM or not. We booted up Funnelweb, and my mind was made up. After seeing all 80 columns and not having to put up with the windowing of 40 column Funnelweb, I was sold. We covered the instructions, and I inspected his console to make sure that the modifications that where necessary where not beyond my scope. Hmm, three chips to pull, and two wires to solder, I could handle that! I left Toronto with a happy heart and a new friend.

TI-WRITER WORD PROCESSOR

TI-WRITER REPLACE STRING

BY: JIM LESHER

Replace string is a very versatile time saving function of TI WRITER. For example: if you know you are going to use a certain word several or many times, rather than typing it out all those times, use a standalone letter like Q OR X OR Z, then use replace string. Lets use the word "periodical". We could type Z in place of that word and then when your article is finished, select RS and it would look something like this: / Z / periodical / notice there is a space on either side of the Z so that if you had Zebra in your article it would not replace it. Now if you dont have a Z standing alone in your text you can press All at the prompt. If you do have a Z, ther you can press Y or N for yes or no, you do or don't want that letter reassigned. The T: WRITER will re-adjust everything to make the new words fit. By now many of you are way ahead of me. Yes you can even use whole phrases. For example you were extolling the virtues of the TI 99/4A PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX, and you were going to use the phrase several times, again use any character, J would be good, it is under your right fore finger, / J / TI 99/4A PERIPHERAL EXPANSION BOX /. Or suppose you had your text littered with underlined words and you decided you would rather have them double struck, the same principal applies, even for the special characters or page 146 of your TIW manual.

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:   Phone the 99er Connection BBS   :
:   24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 baud   :
:   214-233-1750                   :
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EDITOR	RON FERGUSON	M817-481-3904

These people are DTIHCG officers and chairpersons. They help themselves and you, by giving much of their time in working to make this a better club for all of us. Most attend the three hour Committee Chairmen's Meeting (the officers meet for an hour before that!) on the Saturday following the IIFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's Meeting.

Thank them individually, when you have the opportunity.