DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS

PHONE THE 99ER CONNECTION BBS
24 Hours, 300/1200/2400 Baud
(214) 233-1750

Member of the
Computer Council of Dallas

CCD Information line (214) 234-2667

Volume 12, Number 1 January 1992

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving the members/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

Reprint of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTHCG and be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, January 18th, 1992
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit

DTIHCG'S JANUARY EVENTS

1 New Year's Day
4 Sidewalk Sale
18 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
- Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
- Time: 9:00 am
- Program: BASIC

20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
25 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- Mr. Gatti's
- Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
- Officers: 2:30 pm
- Chairpersons at 3:30 pm

31 NEXT-STEP
- JOJO'S
- 1415 Motor Street
- Time: 5:15 pm

DTIHCG'S FEBRUARY EVENTS

1 Sidewalk Sale
18 SUPER SATURDAY AT INFOMART
- Oak Lawn @ Stemmons
- Time: 9:00 am
- Program: TELECOMMUNICATIONS

12 Lincoln's Birthday
14 Valentine's Day
15 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
- Mr. Gatti's
- Walnut Hill & Marsh Lane
- Officers: 2:30 pm,
- Chairpersons at 3:30 pm

21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
21 NEXT-STEP
- JOJO'S
- 1415 Motor Street, 5:15 pm

SHAKING THE BUSHES

by Mattie Bush

As we make our way to the beginning of 1992, it should be a year of great surprises and *new* things. In the air there is some *new* software and some *new* hardware that has been or will be released this year. As we have said before, this little machine is a great one. It's sure hard to kill something that is very good. We as users want to keep it going and going. This past year, the *TI-Accelerator* made the TI-99/4A go faster, and then there is *PC Transfer* to link the IBM with our TI-99/4A. We have Barry Boone's *Sound FIX*, Mike Maksimik's *Midi Master 99*, and Don O'Neil's *Digi-Port*which is a special cable and software. Then we have the new products such as *Gofer*, a set of utilities for *Page Pro* by Dan Gazsy. Asgard's new *Line Director*, by Edwin Hall, is a help for those of you with super-large text files. There's an exciting arcade game *Starbase Raiders* by Joe Delekto, *Video Tracker* by Larry Tippett, a utility to keep track of your video-tapes, and of course the *Mouse Development Package* for all the programmers that want to add support for the mouse. And here come the *Assembly C99*, *Fortran 99/9640* documented routines, with all source codes for this assembly.

Well, guess what? New games--- *Checkers*, *Colors*, *TI-Pei*, *TI-Casion*, *Boxensteine*, *Living Tomb*, *War Zone*, and *Infocom*, including 6 never-released adventure titles. You can get the new 1991-1992 ENTERTAINMENT CATALOG from Asgard.

We want to thank *MicroPendium* for their continuing support of the TI-99/4A, and all the fine articles and updates of software and hardware, so that we can keep up with the times on the 4A; Thanks also to Barry Traver who writes for *Computer Monthly* and has acquired more space there for our 4A. Thanks to all the other authors, writers,

and hardware developers who have not given up, so that we can have such a very good machine. These people believe and do so because we enjoy their work so well. The TI-99/4A is neither dead nor EXTINCT, but VERY MUCH ALIVE! ALIVE, PEOPLE, ALIVE!!!

Then we have all the Bulletin Boards across the country and overseas that allow us to be in constant contact with the TI world through our modems, another great invention for the computer world. There are bulletin boards such as TI FORUM on CompuServe, TI NET on Delphi, TI ROUNDTABLE on Genie, available at 1200 or 2400 baud. Telecommunications is at arm's reach for most TI'ers, as these boards are busy as bees with messages from other TI'ers as well as others, from across the country and around the world. Getting on to a Bulletin Board is an adventure for the day, and a load of fun. So you see, we aren't out of touch with the rest of the world--we have TI user groups all over the world! We want you to have some FUN with us!

At our December meeting we had the election of our 1992 Officers. Well, guess who is your president again? SURPRISE! You guessed it; that BUSH is back for another year. I do hope and pray that our 1992 year is an exciting one for all, and I hope to see us rise up--up--up in the world of computing. We have new members who have taken officer positions for the very first time, so we want you to take a chairperson's position and help for 1992. There is one important position still open, and we do need to fill it now. That is our NEWSLETTER EDITOR.

We as a club want to learn more and more about the programs, games, and the many, many new things that are out there. I want to WISH ALL A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 1992. See all at the January 18 meeting at INFOMART at 9:00 AM, with those smiles and grins on those faces, for an exciting day of FUN.

WE ARE ALIVE AND DOING VERY WELL (HURRAY!!!)

PRESIDENT BUSH

UPDATING THE DATABASE...

by Charlice Althar

In the past month, we've received renewals from quite a few members--DICK WEAVER, HUGH McKNIGHT, JOHN TEAGUE, JIM LESHER, and BLESSING OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRY. In addition, we've also received renewals from two of our "Remote Terminals", GREGORY HUDSON of Half Moon Bay, California, and VERNON MARSHBURN, known by many of us before he moved away to Olathe, Kansas, a few years ago. We appreciate the renewals, all of you!

At our December INFOMART meeting, we were glad to welcome former member BRIAN McINTOSH of Tyler, TOM and JEREMY COLLINS of the NET 99'ers, and PHILLIP BEIGHTOL, who attended with recent new member DOUGLAS BEIGHTOL. A big DTIHCG welcome to each of you, and we hope you'll come again and often!

BERLITZ LESSON?

by "Stan Marin"

Dear Sirs,

My name is Stanculescu Marin and I have one "TEXAS INSTRUMENTS TI 99-4A COMPUTER", but I have not soft.

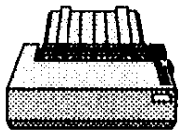
Please publish my name and address in your newspaper (journal) and tell that I need software applications for TI 99-4A COMPUTER (CASSETTE SOFTWARE, CARTRIDGE - COMMAND MODULE SOFTWARE, DISKETTE SOFTWARE, BOOKS).

Yours sincerely,

STANCULESCU MARIN,
STR. CIURULEASA, NR. 3, SECTOR 4,
OF.P. 7, COD 75445 - BUCURESTI
ROMANIA

Assistant Editors note: This arrived in our post office box this month. I believe the person is probably sincere and may deserve your help. On the other hand I always wondered what would happen if I ran a classified advertisement asking for strangers to send me $10 because I didn't have $10 or because I wanted $10. How many would fall for my plea? May I suggest some correspondence would be in order before luggin' all your treasures down to Federal Express to rush them off to Romania?

Louis Guion



BASIC PRINTING

By Jim Lesher

These programs are written on a Star Gemini printer and may or may not work on another brand. This is about the most basic programs for a printer. It could all be put on one line in Extended Basic.
"PRINTB" BASIC PRINTING

The printer must first be addressed with the OPEN #1 "PIO". You can use OPEN#2 OR #3 OR #99 as long as you use the same number in the PRINT # line. Notice the text to be printed is in quotes.

Just suppose you wanted to put these names or words closer together for some reason. Replace the comma with a semicolon ";". In fact it puts the words so close together you will need to have a space between the "Y" in DOLLY and the quote marks to have any space at all. Notice also we have a FOR NEXT loop in the program to print the name 5 times. If this were an address label printing program, it would print out 5 labels. Of course it would need a few changes.

```
10 REM "PRINTD" PRINT CLOSE        TOGETHER.
20 OPEN #1:"PIO"
30 FOR N=1 TO 5
40 PRINT #1:"HELLO DOLLY ";
50 NEXT N
```

Now suppose you want to have more space between lines. Colons following the print line will give you this result. Each colon ":" will give one line of spacing. In basic the colons can be together ::. In extended basic they must be one space apart : : : : etc. Run this program twice to see the effect.

```
10 REM "PRINTE" MORE SPACE         BETWEEN LINES
20 OPEN #1:"PIO"
30 FOR N=1 TO 04
40 PRINT #1:"HELLO MATTIE ";
50 NEXT N
60 PRINT #1:" ": : :
```

This program has the option to print out anything you type in, up to 255 characters and spaces. And if you will notice, it too has extra spacing. We will get into some practical uses for this program later. Until next time, HAVE FUN. If you have any questions or comments call Jim Lesher at (214) 821 9274.

```
10 REM "PRINTF" INPUT MESSAGE.
20 OPEN #1:"PIO"
30 INPUT A$
40 FOR N=1 TO 5
50 PRINT #1:A$,
60 NEXT N
70 PRINT #1:" ": :
```

Have a good day, Jim.

"EVERYONE LOVES SOMEONE WHO IS GOOD AND KIND TO THEM"

by James Hoyle

As my Sunday School teacher said these words, my mind began to wonder. Did she realize she had just given the key to what everyone really wants? The bottom line is, everyone wants to be loved but few people really know how to get it. I am not talking about going to the store and buying a gift, or making a cake for someone, expecting reciprocation. I am talking about a nature or personality seeming to enjoy doing things for others without even thinking about remuneration. Can you imagine what this world would be like, if everyone thought more of others than themselves?

We all want friends, and we are told, "To have friends, one must show himself friendly." The way most people look at success is having lots of money, cars, boats, able to have parties, etc. But do they really know true friendship is worth more than all the money in the world? I once heard a man say, "If it comes down to a friend or a dollar, I will take the dollar every time." He did not know what true friendship really is.

Why is Christmas a time of joy for most people? Apart from the real meaning of Christmas (which most people do not know) the reason they are happy is they are giving and sharing with others. This is what brings joy! The Bible says, "Give and it shall be given!" This is somewhat like planting and reaping. Give this tiny seed to the ground, water it, and watch it grow. Then, comes the harvest. What was given back? Much more than the seed planted. This is the way it works in sowing good deeds, kindness, friendliness, and true love.

Let's look at it from another angle. One can have $10,000, put it into a box and bury it for ten years. Then, what will be found? Inflation has eaten most of it and what has it done? It must be invested or circulated to be beneficial. Love is not love at all until given away. Maybe I should say "planted" as it always comes back more than is given. Don't forget the watering, and the tender love and care that goes along with it. Follow these easy directions, and you will surely be loved, have friends, and be very successful in life.

J.E.H.

PUNN BBS LETTER

from Ron Mayer

PUNN BBS c/o Ron Mayer
6115 S.E. 13th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202
December 30, 1991

Mattie Bush, President
Dallas TI Home Computer Group
4422 So. Ottawa Rd.
Dallas, TX 75212-1122

Dear Mattie,

Many thanks for your prompt reply. In this busy holiday season I put the card aside until today.

Enclosed is my check for $29.97 which I hope will cover ten keyboards and parcel post charges.

A few years ago some TI keyboards showed up at Radio Shack stores for $3.95 but your offer is the only one I am aware of which is now available. I do appreciate your effort. Several of my consoles have bad keyboards -- the one temporarily in use on our PUNN BBS is bad. The letter Q won't work at all, and using the Myarc Disk Manager, the only way to get out of it is to hit Q. The alternative, to turn off console power, sometimes louses up the BBS program and a little data is lost. Just getting a proper keyboard on it will solve that problem.

Our PUNN (Portland Users of Ninety Nines) is still functional although like many UG's we don't have the number of members we used to have. Our December meeting was a dinner meeting and we had 29 in attendance. That is about the number we have at many of our regular monthly meetings. Our newsletter, Wordplay, is exchanged with many clubs. That is the real lifeline of UG's now. Several years ago when PC Pursuit allowed low cost calling around the country our BBS received much information and many new programs on a direct basis, but nowadays we don't have many out of area callers.

Again, Mattie, thanks for everything.

Best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Ron Mayer
PUNN BBS
Portland, Oregon

B A S I C ! (It is not what you think!)

By Butch Spill

Hello everyone and welcome to this month's article from the Program Chairman. You may look at the title of this article and wonder what I mean. It is really very simple and in no way connected to language BASIC, that some folks may think I am talking about. So let us look at where we are with the TI-99/4A, and maybe you will understand a little better. During 1991 there was much promise and development for the little computer that we know and love. We saw a new 80 column device appear that was not vaporware and works very well. Software was released that gave us more tools and applications for graphics, sound and music. There are more options available to us now than there have ever been. It was an exciting year, but marred by the tragic loss of John Birdwell.

So we come into the year 1992 with high hopes that we can see the same progress for software and hardware. But are we missing something here? I think so, and this ties into my true meaning of the letters "B A S I C". *Beginners Are Some Important Company;* there it is plain and simple! What I mean by that is where will we be as a club, if not for the beginners? These people are the ones that are asking the questions, and to a large part getting involved. It is not enough to just pay your dues and come to the meetings that we have, we need involvement. People that are interested in learning more about their systems, experimenting with programs and applications. We need that to keep the club afloat in a world largely dominated by other systems.

The point I am trying to make doesn't just apply to the beginners of our group. It applies to each and every one of us, and we are obligated to give back to the group what we have taken. I came to this user group to learn more, and found friendship, warmth and understanding to be the most obvious strengths that so many people were willing to give.

Let me get off the soapbox and kick it back under the table. What is in store for the 1992 programs, you say? Let me share my plans with you. I thought it may be appropriate to get back to the normal users needs this year. That is not to say we won't be seeing any of the new whiz-bangs that come out, but that the primary focus will be on normal system. We will be recycling a lot of the presentations that have been done in previous years for the sake of the new users that have joined the club.

So do me a favor, let's get some enthusiasm, some interest and some input going here and make 1992 the year we will all remember. You make the group we belong to, and one person can impact the pleasure of many.

Using TI!,
"Butch"

FOR SALE

By Jim Lesher, (214) 821-9274

The CC40 (TI Compact Computer Model 40) now at a low, low $45 (regular $55) as you will see in next month's MicroPendium. Has 10 key pad, LCD screen, runs on 4 "AA" batteries, measures 6 X 9 X 1 inch. An RS232 and modem are available. Also an 8K CONSTANT RAM plug-in module similar to the Mini- Memory, battery backed, to store programs . Your program stays in the computer even after it is turned off.

STEP REPORT

by Charlice Althar

After all the excitement of Christmas, we were pleased to welcome a good crowd at NEXT STEP at JOJO's on December 27.

Although we didn't have any systems set up for hands-on work, a great many discussions took place, both one-on-one and in groups. Among the many topics were: how to use JIFFY CARD and JIFFY FLYER; single-sided versus double-sided disks and drives; DAN's problems with FAST TERM; production of our DALLAS 99 INTERFACE; the virtues of chicken fried steak and how many calories are in a hot fudge sundae (ask JOHN DIPRIMA); the new requirement by our illustrious lawmakers for bilingual auto insurance cards; recent MicroPendium articles and Barry Travers' article in Computer Monthly; ; functions and operations of the CCD. Mattie and Jim substituted for Sharon, and Jim Lesher brought his new ink jet printer, which several of our fellows worked on.

We had a lot of fun and enjoyed the food (especially the broccoli and the Tortilla Soup), and just wish more people would attend this group with us. If you want to give us a try, our next meeting will be January 31. Come on out, we start about 5 PM. We'll save a place for you!

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

by Jackie Guion

Why do our meeting dates keep changing? I've heard this question a number of times lately, especially from our newer members. Perhaps a little background information will help you to more fully understand why things happen the way they do.

When DTIHCG was formed, meetings were held at the same time and place each month. When we joined the Computer Council of Dallas, that changed. Like the other user groups that form the CCD, we began to meet on the Saturday that INFOMART was available to the CCD.

More people became aware of us because we were meeting at INFOMART with the other user groups. In fact, our membership doubled during our first year of INFOMART meetings and has remained stable ever since. The disadvantage of meeting at INFOMART is that we do not always meet on the same Saturday of the month. The meeting dates we now have are firm only 120 days in advance due to the contract the CCD has with INFOMART. I've heard some of you ask why the CCD is willing to accept a contract that lets INFOMART change the dates. The reason is simple.

In return for allowing INFOMART to change our meeting dates if they are offered another booking, we get a substantial rent reduction. This arrangement has benefits and drawbacks for both the CCD and INFOMART. They have more flexibility in booking shows. The CCD has excellent meeting facilities that accommodate more people with a larger variety of interests than any other coalition of user groups I've heard about.

I've also heard some of our group ask, "Just what is the CCD, anyway? And why should we care what it does?" The CCD is a not-for-profit corporation. It is not a part of INFOMART. Instead, it is a group of affiliates made up of various user groups. In order to become part of the CCD, a group must meet certain requirements and must apply for membership. One of the things required of affiliate groups is that they provide volunteer workers to the CCD. One of the unique things about the CCD is that all of the planning that goes on to make things happen on Super Saturday is done by volunteers. That's right! The room assignments, the Super Saturday Program, the meeting room setup and teardown, meeting room signs, information for the overhead projectors, vendor area setup and teardown, and all of the off-site work done for both the upstairs user group things and the basement vendor area is done by volunteers. The user groups that are affiliates provide several hundred man-hours of volunteer time each month just to put on each Super Saturday. In return, they get free meeting rooms, the chance to visit other user groups, and access to more vendors than any single user group could attract. That's a major advantage of meeting with over 2500 other users.

"If the user groups don't pay rent, who does?" The CCD pays INFOMART. The money comes from the income from the table rental in the basement vendor area on Super Saturday. That's why you have two reasons to visit the vendors in the basement area -- to help pay the rent and to save yourself money. You can find a lot of computer-related merchandise. Jim Lesher is there every month with TI-99/4A merchandise. But Jim isn't the only vendor who has things you can use. All computer systems can use printers, printer ribbons, paper, labels, modems, cables, books, disk drives, power strips, memory chips, printer supplies, etc. Because there is a lot of competition for customers, you can find merchandise for less than you might pay otherwise.

OFFICERS FOR 1992

PRESIDENT	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
VICE-PRESIDENT	DON STEVENSON	214-372-7014
TREASURER	SHARON CREVISTON	214-594-0721
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	WILLIE GUPTON	214-375-9575

CHAIRPERSONS FOR 1992

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN	BUTCH SPILL	817-461-6217
D-O-M CHAIRMAN	RIP DOWLING	817-467-0369
D-O-M ASSISTANT	JIM STEWART	214-461-6217
MINI-SIG CHAIRMAN	Vacant	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Vacant	
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	MARY LEARD	214-563-1257
MERCHANDISE/HARDWARE	MARY LEARD	214-563-1257
CCD REPRESENTATIVES	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
HISTORIAN	Vacant	
LOBBY KIOSK	TIM ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEXT STEP CHAIRMAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	SHARON CREVISTON	214-594-0721

LIBRARIANS

CART/TAPE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5 pm)	214-293-1410
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	JOHN DIPRIMA (after 5 pm)	214-293-1410
NEWSLETTER LIBRARIAN	Vacant	
ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822

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 Executive Committee Meeting the Saturday afternoon following the INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's portion of the meeting.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their job easier.