

DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 14, Number 3

March, 1994

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

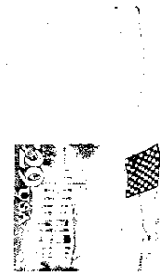
Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG and be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, March 26, 1994
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit



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

DTIHCG'S MARCH EVENTS

- 26 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
Program: To be announced
- 26 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY Meeting
- 27 Palm Sunday -- 1st Day of Passover



DTIHCG'S APRIL EVENTS

- 1 Good Friday
- 1 April Fool's Day
- 2 1st Saturday Sidewalk Sale
Ross Ave. at Central Exp., 5:00 AM
- 3 Easter
- 3 Daylight Savings Time
- 8 NEXT STEP
JOJO's off Stemmons Fwy (I-35 E)
1415 Motor Street, 5:15 PM
- 8 NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE
- 23 DFW XCHANGE SATURDAY at INFOMART
Oak Lawn @ Stemmons Fwy. (I-35 E)
Time: 9:00 AM
- 23 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Time: Following XCHANGE SATURDAY Meeting

OLD DSK1.

By Dan Lowe

VON RYAN'S EXPRESS



No, I'm not going to talk about the old Frank Sinatra movie in which he and his cohorts "retrieve" a cache of jewels, paintings, and other priceless treasures from the Germans in World War II. No, Von Ryan's express in today's lingo gives new meaning to the command "let's eat" or "chow now" or "pig out." Of course, I'm referring DTIHCG's Annual Family Dinner held at Ryan's Restaurant on Sunday, February 27, 1994. We had a great turnout with many members bringing their children, grandchildren, friends and relatives. The food was great (most everybody went back for "seconds", with Tom Hall and Robert Jones complaining that they had eaten too much), the conversation was stimulating (please pass the mustard), lots of fun visiting and a general good time had by all. Those of you who were not able to make this annual event should start planning now to make the next one. And, as always, we owe a great, big THANK YOU to Mattie Bush who did an excellent job setting this event up. It takes a lot of planning, telephoning, and eye-to-eye visits with the proprietors of Ryan's to pull this off. So, the next time you see Mattie, walk up to her, pat her on the back, and say "good job", "well done", or "when do we eat, AGAIN."

If you are a subscriber to MICROpendium, then I'm sure you've already read about the passing of Jim Peterson, proprietor of Tigercub Software. He was one of the stalwarts in the TI community for many years, and was a founding member of the Central Ohio User Group. He was very active in the TI world, author of many articles that appeared in 99/4A user group newsletters around the world. His presence and influence within the TI community will be sorely missed.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Those of you who use your computer and modem to participate in on-line services and BBS's around the country might be interested in knowing about a new publication called GUIDE TO PUBLIC ON-LINE SERVICES. This guide, from Galacticom Inc., contains a list of some of the on-line services in 50 states and several Canadian provinces. It lists both free systems and those that charge for on-line time. States are listed alphabetically with a list of on-line services. News services, vacation information, discussion forums, on-line shopping facilities, sample resumes, jobs, and many more. For more information, contact:

Galacticomm, Inc.
4101 SW 47th Ave.
Suite 101
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
(800)328-1128

(The above article originally appeared in the February 1994 issue of PC NOVICE.)

NEWS YOU CAN'T USE

And I just had to mention this (from the February 1994 issue of MICROpendium).

Seems there is a new computer about, known as the TI99/5A. That's right; this is a new machine, and its existence has spread in the TI community like crazy.

This machine was said to sell for \$999.99 and you could trade in your old 99/4A for \$1050. Too good to be true? Well, you're right; it was (and is) too good to be true. Turns out to have been a BIG JOKE. All I can say is someone sure does have a sense of humor; next thing you know they'll be telling us that Tonya Harding won the gold.

CYC - THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TIKNOWLEDGE

I acquired my TI-99/4A Home Computer in the Summer of 1991. Wanting to learn as much as I could and as fast as I could, I joined DTIHCG in September 1991. At that time I had just learned how to connect my computer to the back of my 12 inch black & white TV, AND IT WORKED. Now, I've never thought of myself as a voracious reader but it soon became clear that the more I read about the TI (manuals, magazine articles, newsletters, etc.) the more I would learn about this little jewel.

And, as I'm sure you are aware, it's not always easy to find articles and stories about the 99/4A. If it weren't for the MICROpendium and other user group newsletters, it would be pretty barren indeed. And it was in the December 1993 issue of MICROpendium that I first read about Cyc. And what, you ask, is Cyc? Quoting from MICROpendium:

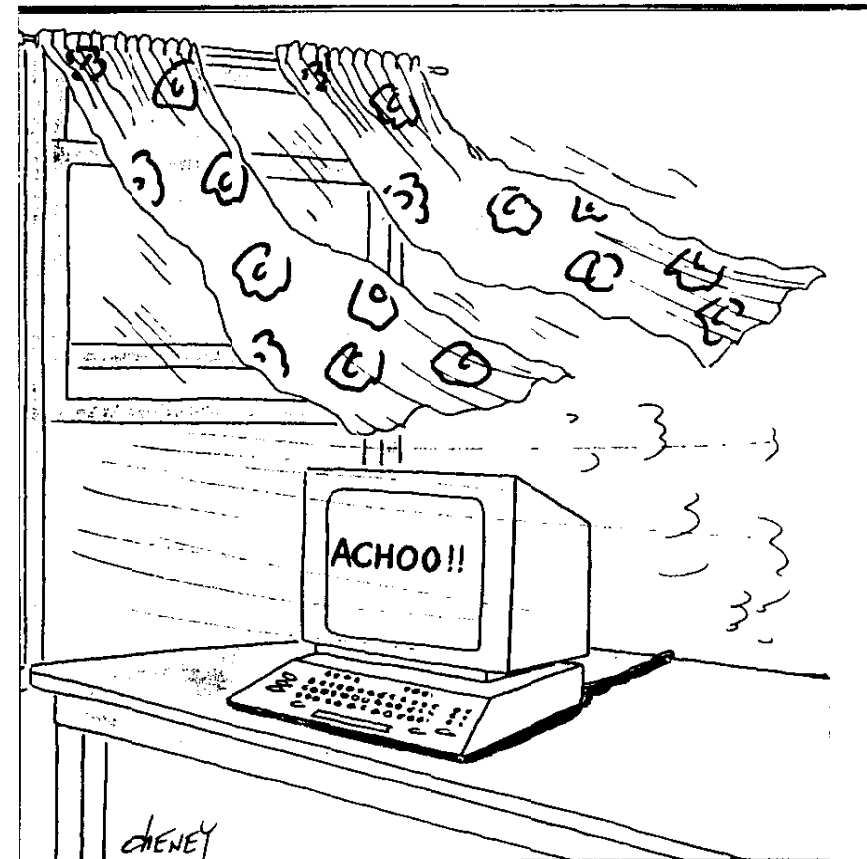
"The heart of the Cyc database is, perhaps, its indices of various publications that covered the TI, including THE 99er MAGAZINE, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME COMPUTER NEWS, COMPUTER SHOPPER, MICROpendium, and

ENTHUSIAST 99. There are also 26 alphabetical lists and one that lists items that are referenced by numbers. These lists include information from a variety of sources, including publications and catalogs."

All of which leads me to say if I had had access to Cyc back in the Summer of 1991, it would have sure helped me to learn about my 4A. As it is, I still have a lot to learn - so, I've sent to CaDD Electronics for the program. When I receive it, it will still have to be converted for TI use because, believe it or not, it's designed to run on a PC equipped with Word Perfect 5.1 or higher. But fear not, for Charles Good has kindly agreed to convert all to D/V80 files for running on my trusty 4A. And as soon as the conversion is completed and the disks returned I will present them as a program at one of our future Infomart meetings.

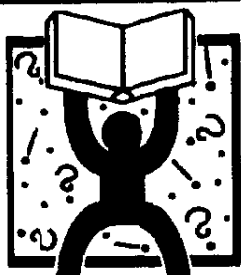
Gotta go now, running out of things to say. Or, to put it another way:

"If your mind should go blank, don't forget to turn off the sound."



TRIVIA

by Tom Hall



One cubic inch is 16.3872 cubic centimeters.

One cubic foot is .028317 cubic meter.

The birthstone for March is the BLOODSTONE, the birth flower, JONQUIL. The birthstone for April is the DIAMOND, the birth flower, SWEET PEA.

When regular cleansers do not remove unsightly stains from your stainless steel sink, try rubbing the stain with #400 wet-dry sandpaper.

Need a bookmark? Cut the corner from a used envelope and slip it over the page corner. Having two sides of the page to cling to and no protruding edges, this marker is not likely to become dislodged.

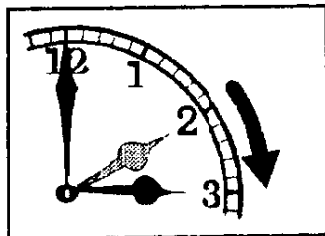
The next time you buy a box of staples, take time to dab the last few staples in each row with red nail polish. It'll only take a minute. These red staples make a perfect reminder that it's about time to refill the stapler.

Don't be so quick to toss a worn-out fountain pen. In most cases, you can fit the stub of a pencil into the cap and get some more use from the pencil.

UPDATING THE DATABASE . . .

by Charlice Althar

This month we've received renewals from MATTIE and PAUL BUSH, MARY and TOM LEARD, and BILL FRY. We're very glad to receive these, as well as a couple of updates of addresses on some of our members. Thanks, each of you!



**Daylight savings Time
begins at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, April 3!**

NEXT STEP REPORT

We did it again--had a great time at our NEXT STEP at JOJO's on Friday night, March 4. And the only time the room was quiet was when the food was served, which just goes to show that all that food we'd eaten the Sunday night before at RYAN's didn't last too long!

JIM LESHER brought and set up his system, as usual, (thanks, as always, JIM!), so ROBERT JONES was busy helping MATTIE understand the new program GENEALOGY PLUS!, which runs in TI-BASE, and "how to run" it. ROBERT also tested some 3.5" drives for CHESTER JOHNSON. CHARLICE was helping JAMES HOYLE solve a word processing problem, and TOM was continuing to make changes in his Mega-List Roster for our October HOMECOMING RE-UNION MEETING.

Lots of discussion centered on the recently completed Olympics, especially about the latest adventures between Tonya and her neighbors and the "unprovoked attack" on her. We also talked about the Channel 13 program "Memories of Dallas", which elicited comments from many of those present, and lead to discussions about current Dallas zoning difficulties.

We talked about mathematical possibilities and probabilities, also known as "How to Win the Lottery", and the use of computers in selecting numbers. And talked about scams--as in auto repair service, computer service, Presidents and other politicians, etc.

TOM brought his copy of "Best Pills - Worst Pills", and we talked about good and bad prescription drugs and some of our personal experiences with them. And we talked about pagers and cellular phones, and made a call on LOUIS' latest model.







JIM LESHER was "pooped" from his new job at Honeywell, LOUIS and JACKIE were beginning to feel the strain of LOUIS IV's upcoming wedding, and all of us were simply glad it was finally Friday!

We hope you'll be one of those present at our NEXT STEP on April 8, your next chance to have a great time with good friends and get that one-on-one help with your NEXT STEP in computing!



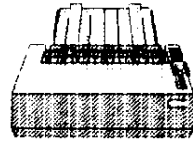
DTIHCG ACTIVITIES

March 20 - April 30, 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 20 ○ FQ 1st Day of Spring.	Mar 21	Mar 22	Mar 23	Mar 24	Mar 25 Annunciation Day	Mar 26  Xchange Saturday 1:00p EC Meeting
TRY A NEW PROGRAM ON YOUR 4a THIS MONTH						
Mar 27 ○ FM Palm Sunday	Mar 28	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31  Holy Thursday	Apr 1 April Fools Day Good Friday	Apr 2 ○ LQ 1st SATURDAY SIDEWALK SALE
Apr 3  Daylight Savings Easter	Apr 4	Apr 5	Apr 6 Marmon Church Organized - 1830	Apr 7	Apr 8 NEXT-STEP NEWSLETTER DEADLINE ROOM RESERVATION	Apr 9
Apr 10 ● NM	Apr 11	Apr 12 1st Colonist reached Pacific, 1811	Apr 13  THOMAS JEFFERSON b 1743	Apr 14	Apr 15 1st School for Deaf, 1817	Apr 16
DTIHCG NEEDS VOLUNTEERS see Dan or Mattie						
Apr 17 ROBERT JONES IS A KEY MEMBER	Apr 18 ○ FQ	Apr 19	Apr 20	Apr 21	Apr 22	Apr 23  Xchange Saturday
Apr 24 Jim Leshar is our Resident TI99/4a Dealer  Phone 821-9274	Apr 25 ○ FM Robinson Crusoe published 1719	Apr 26	Apr 27	Apr 28 JAMES MONROE b 1758	Apr 29	Apr 30 EC MEETING
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CALL Dan 276-0240						

HAVE YOU CALLED THE 99'er TODAY? (214) 233-1750 - 24 HOURS

BEGINNER PRINTER



PRINT94C -- by Jim Leshar

How many of us have run a program that displays the results on the screen and wish it would print them out to the printer? I remember the first couple of years of computing, that I wished a hundred times that some programs would send the results to a printer, as well as the screen. After learning the basics of adding a printer command to such programs, I have modified literally dozens of programs to do just that. Firstly, most, but not all basic programs will run in Extended Basic, which makes them run a little faster and makes them much, much easier to modify and change to our liking. So load your program in Extended Basic or better yet Super Extended Basic, if you are so lucky to have one. Then just to make it simple and as a rule of thumb, type this in immediately after the first line in the program, which is most of the time CALL CLEAR. If your program starts with the line number 100, type this; 102 OPEN#1:"PIO", then go to the line in your program which says PRINT "SO AND SO" and right under it type PRINT #1: "SO AND SO"

EXAMPLE:

```
10 CALL CLEAR
20 PRINT "HELLO YOU ALL"
30 GOTO 20
```

To make this print to a parallel printer this is how you can do it.

```
10 CALL CLEAR
15 OPEN#1:"PIO"
20 PRINT "HELLO YOU ALL"
25 PRINT #1:"HELLO YOU ALL"
30 GOTO 20
```

This will print HELLO YOU ALL till your paper runs out or you shut it off. So if you have more than one PRINT statement, you can do the same with them also. Now with Extended Basic you can duplicate the line you want to modify and just add the #1: and it's done. For those who may not have used this very helpful utility in Extended Basic, the REDO key presses are, type in the line number you want to copy and press Fctn X, press enter then press Fctn 8 and presto a duplicate line appears with the cursor over the line number awaiting your command. In the case of the above program, you would change line number 20 to 25 then use Fctn 2 (the

insertion key) and type in #1: immediately after PRINT and there you are, ready to put it all on paper.

Should you need any help call or write to:

Jim Leshar / 722 Huntley / Dallas Tx 75214 / or call 214-821-9274

REUNION

SPREAD THE WORD!



DTIHCG is planning a HOMECOMING REUNION of present and former members in October of 1994. We need everyone to spread the word. If you have access to free advertising (radio, TV or Newspaper) please help.

If you have one of the "preliminary" Rosters, that was distributed at the February meeting, please make all indicated changes and get it back to either DAN or MAT-TIE. A necessary part of the planning is that we have an accurate way to contact former members.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the REUNION MEETING.

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY:

to our President, DAN LOWE, and his wife CATHERINE, on the recent death of CATHERINE's mother, who had been in poor health in recent months.

Our condolences also are extended to GUY HUNTER, whose mother also recently passed away.

ONE'S OWN VIEW

by Mattie Bush



Hello again. Well spring has sprung and summer races toward us. As memories of some of our Users Groups who have had to disband. We are very sorry to hear about the NET 99ers of Ft. Worth, Texas going their way. We will truly miss them. The Johnson Space Center TI-99/4A User Group will no longer publish their newsletter, this group is east of Houston, Texas, they have discontinued as of now.

The person that we are missing is our very good friend that has gone on before us and that is Jim Peterson of Tigercub Software. Jim's Memory Full will be greatly missed by all the newsletters and MicroPendium. I love using his programs.

To ALL you 4/A Users the SCSI small computer system interface hard disk peripheral card is now shipping for the TI-99/4A and Myarc Geneve 9640. Also New from Western Horizon Technologies and Bud Mills Services is an A-T Keyboard and ROM upgrade for the 4/A. Want more details get your MicroPendium and see all the GOOD THINGS that are coming.

You see I've been reading all this HOGWASH about TI-99/4A User Groups going PC. Well doggies, How about that? I don't know beans about a PC and don't want to know because as you can probably tell I'm a 4/A User all the way. The things that the 4/A does was DONE before the PC's. Sure I understand that people have had to move on because of their business. Well, why move everyone? What suits one might not suit another. The 4/A has the hard drive, Horizon RAMdisks and the New SCSI system. It has the Rave Interface. The upgrading of a system is ONE'S own choosing. If they want to stay simple that's their choice, or if they want to go to the future it is not for us to say.

I have had my system since Oct. 1989, got it at a garage sale, and boy did I get a lot of things. I learned real fast how, what, when, where and even how-to. This was and still is an experience in itself. Then in 1991 I was made President of the DTHCG User Group and held this position for 3 years. I felt like a stuffed toad for weeks, learning, installing, corrupting disks. You see I stayed as President because I love the 4/A and most of all HELPING OTHERS. Sometimes I went through things that I really didn't know, but worked together with others and made it work. Face it the TI is so very easy to program and use.

The reason that USER GROUPS have survived for as long as they have are the caring programmers, assemblers, hardware, software. These people really care what happens. It is up to us as User Groups to support these people. I wish I could do some of this but unfortunately, I'm a user. I like doing what so many others have

developed. The only contact that we have to the members is through our Newsletters, our Computer Fairs, and the Swap Meets.

In order to keep our Users Groups ALIVE, if we are down to 5 people, is to meet in a community center, or one's own home. We can advertise for NEW MEMBERS. Around here I have been getting systems donated to us. In return I have found homes with the young people. One system that I sent to another state the young woman writes short stories and does games. She used only a console, cassette, and a TV for a monitor for years. Now she has a P-Box. I feel like an old hen haiching TI-99/4A's. If we can just keep one or two people going we can others.

I know a lot of our Newsletter Exchanges have had to quit, but this is what keeps our user groups in contact with each other. The knowledge that is shared in these are going forever and continuing all the time. This is a very great source of information in most, some are not. All these things are done by volunteers and then it becomes a real job (I know)(grin!).

In order to keep our members it means to give very informative, interesting meetings and to try and invite guests that are 4/A authors, software, hardware or past whatever with the TI-99/4A.

Once a year hold a get-together for all the members to discuss events of the future. Have a disk of the month that has old and new programs, have doorprizes, and drawings. How can I express how important it is to HELP all our members together as 4/A USERS.

I guess my thoughts and my mind has just gotten away with things, but I love the TI-99/4A, the newsletters and the User Groups from everywhere. I correspond with lots of them.

I got two very special gifts for this past Christmas from Mike Goddard of the UK. I shall treasure them forever. It was two booklets that their group and Mike wrote on the working of the 4/A. I would love to correspond with all the groups all over the WORLD. The User Groups across the waters are going FULL FORCE, don't let our US Groups die.

I'm closing my trap once again, my heart was full and I just wanted to express my thoughts. I love seeing the faces of those who ask me "How does this TI-9/4A system work? Where can I get this or that?" I will fight for my TI-99/4A and keep our User Group going. There is a chance and YOU can make it so. Keep up the very good work to all. We are ALIVE - ALIVE - and still going - going - going. (The pink bunny)! We are going to STAY ALIVE. RIGHT!!!!

This is my thoughts only and no one else's. ---MATTIE BUSH

JIM PETERSON, THE TIGERCUB

by Dick Beery

From the C.O.N.N.I. TI-99/4A Users Group, Columbus, OHIO

On the morning of Wednesday, January 12, 1994, James Warren Peterson died in his sleep. The death was considered to be a normal event, and no autopsy was performed. Many readers will remember reading his Tips from the Tigercub, which appeared in user group newsletters worldwide. They may also remember the advertisements for Tigercub Software that regularly appeared in Micropendium until fairly recently. Jim was a brilliant man and a gifted programmer in Basic and Extended Basic, whose programs ranged among: games, music, utilities especially those for the printer, music for Mike Maksimik's MidiMaster99, programming tips such as those mentioned above and as embodied in this disks of Nuts & Bolts, screen and printer fonts, a program to convert Extended Basic into music for MidiMaster99, etc. About a year ago, Jim switched from the Tigercub line to presenting and sharing his vast collection of public-domain and shareware disks from many authors. He sold these for a nominal price and mailed catalogs to those who requested them.

What readers may not realize is that he was particularly fascinated by mind-bogglers and brain games, some of which he produced and sold. Nor that he was active in the growing of cacti in his backyard greenhouse and was considered an authority in that field. Nor that he had, over a period of many years, amassed a superb collection of military medals. Nor that, having decided about a year and a half ago to trace his family's roots, he amassed from relatives and others such vast amounts of data that he found it difficult to keep up with the flow while typing them into the computer.

Jim was born in 1924 in northern Minnesota. During 1945-46 he served with the U.S. Army in the 27th Infantry Division and in General MacArthur's Honor Guard. His service was with the Army of Occupation in Japan. He took his discharge in Japan and served as a civilian employee of the Army between 1946 and 1959, living in Tokyo. He was employed by the U.S. Civil Service in Minnesota and Columbus, Ohio, following his return from Japan. Taking disability retirement for emphysema in 1978, he taught himself computer programming on the TI-99/4A and rose to the position of admiration and respect now according him by many.

He was an active participant in, and supporter of, the Central Ohio Ninety Nines (C.O.N.N.I.), often discussing programming options and news from the TI world with the members. He corresponded extensively with other programmers and user groups and exchanged newsletters with many. He was always ready to teach a class, provide a demo, or in any way possible be of help to the group.

Jim is survived by his wife, a daughter and her husband, two grandsons, and a son. He will be greatly missed by the TI world in general, by members of C.O.N.N.I., and by his many friends.

May he rest in peace.

May we remember Jim, always as "Mr. Tigercub".

1994 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
VICE-PRESIDENT	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
TREASURER	MATTIE BUSH	214-637-4937
SECRETARY	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	IMOGENE OSBORN	214-252-5985

1994 CHAIRPERSONS

BBS SYSOPS	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
DISKETTE SALES	GUY HUNTER	214-375-5424
DOM CHAIRMAN	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274
HISTORIAN	DAN LOWE	214-276-0240
LOBBY KIOSK	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN	MARY LEARD	214-524-8057
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	CHARLICE ALTHAR	214-337-4840
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	LOUIS & JACKIE GUION	214-239-6829
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	TOM HALL	817-267-5987
NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE	JIM LESHER	214-821-9274

1994 LIBRARIANS

ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822
SOFTWARE LIBRARIAN	ROBERT WATTS	214-353-9824
VIDEO LIBRARIAN	ROBERT SMITH	903-693-5568

These are your DTIHCG Officers and Chairpersons. They help themselves and you by giving their time and efforts to make this a better club for all of us. If you'd like to become more involved, please let our President, Dan Lowe, know what you'd like to do.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their jobs more rewarding.