



# HUG

HOUSTON USERS' GROUP

JANUARY  
1987

## MEETING SCHEDULE

FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

(2nd Sunday if 1st Sunday

is on a holiday weekend)

HUG TIBBS - (713) 475-8909

24-hour BULLETIN BOARD

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## AT THE NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 1987 2:00 P.M.

St. John's School - 2401 Claremont

The January program will dealve into the exciting world of TELECOMMUNICATIONS. We'll discuss all the aspects of using your TI to communicate with other TI's (or any other computer for that matter), using Ma Bell's phone system. We'll discuss modems, software, uploads, downloads and a demo of actual operations with the HUG bulletin board.

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## 1987 HUG OFFICERS

President --- LARRY PIPKIN... 499-9991  
VP/Membership FRANK REIDY... 931-6848  
VP/Program --- BOB FLOYD 455-1467  
VP/S.I.G. --- SWELL BRIGHAM . 422-8616  
Exec. Asst. - TOM JAY ..... 250-0222

Secretary - TERRY LeFEBVRE 660-8776  
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Editors --- KIM PETERSON . 498-3047  
SCOTT MEDBURY 277-6266

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## TO ALL FELLOW HUG MEMBERS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and assistance-not only to myself, but to H.U.G. as well-over the last several years. I know many people, like myself have probably been discouraged since Texas Instruments pulled out of the home computer market. Many people we have had as members in the past have fallen by the wayside and have since left our group for one reason or another. The goal of this year's board is to bring back some of our past members and to provide all of you with some interesting and enjoyable programs at our "activity meetings" this year. I feel that H.U.G. can have as many members as we have had in the past along with some new members that can become as intrigued with the 99/4A as we all are. We need help from everyone to make this goal a reality.

If any of you know or are in contact with any past members as well as any potential new members please encourage them to join us at our meetings. Our program chairman, Bob Floyd has assured us he has plenty in store for us this coming year. At the January meeting he will present an activity on telecommunications with the TI.

All of us loyal TI'ers have kept our "orphan" alive for many years and have come to know what a great electronic miracle it is. Without you and all of the other TI User's groups around the world the 99/4A would have "expired" some time ago. I, for one, think it is still the best home computer ever made. Help keep it alive and well.

I am looking forward to the new year. I feel we will see many new improvements being made for our computer. Many companies are producing new software as well as hardware that will allow us to expand our systems beyond our wildest dreams. Long live the TI.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting on Sunday, January 11.

Sincerely  
Larry R. Pipkin  
H.U.G. PRESIDENT

### EDITORS KORNER

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As newly elected editors of the HUG Newsletter, both Kim Peteson and I will endeavor to place in your hands a (hopefully) timely publication that is both INFORMATIVE and INTERESTING. The focus of our efforts will be to keep HUG members abreast of present and future club activities along with those of other local users of the TI 99/4A. We will publish any informative article concerning the 99/4A, submitted by the membership and pass along any additional information that may be of value to all users of our invaluable machine, the 99/4A. We hope that this publication exceeds the needs of the club and welcome input to the newsletter at anytime. Should you have any comments or suggestions, please advise.

Scott Medbury  
Editor

## Asst-Ed's New Years Ramblings

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by Kim Peterson

Take a moment of your time and pat yourself right on the back. Go ahead, no ones looking, give yourself a great big pat! Why, you ask? Well, here we are three years after "Mom" (TI) left us on the proverbial doorstep and the keyboards are still klicking away, all thanks to a strong base of users who've banded together to help each other out. Also this is another new year, with new club officers and renewed hopes for furthering the uses of our machines. I have hopes, however, of encouraging the resurrection of some good old habits - from years past - those relating to user input from "ALL" HUG members.

As mentioned earlier, included in the "new officers" category are the HUG Editors, Scott Medbury and myself. Now, we are a bit light in the programming area, moreso myself than Scott, so we are going to need some help from the membership if we ALL really want to get something out of the club. I'm not talking of hours slaving over a bulletin board or a club library, (we've found a couple of ringers for those spots -t- grin -t-, thank goodness!). No, what I'm looking for are just a few Questions, Plights and/or Problems. Now most people have enough of these, and certainly that includes me. But here we have at our disposal a large user base, most of whom have had hardware/firmware/ software problems similar to yours at one stage of their user development or other. What I'm looking for is an active forum of ALL discussion of users on ALL levels of the 99/4A. If we could encourage everyone to spend even one hour month on 99/4A related info for the club, we'd all benefit.

Starting with the next issue, were setting up some feedback sections for Hardware, Software, and "Otherware" (ie. miscellaneous). Throw us some questions, let us hear 'bout some of the computer problems you've been having. If we don't have an answer right off, we'll find someone who does. Think of a couple of questions, write them down on the back of this newsletter and bring'em to this Sundays meeting.

In addition to all of this, we're also looking for some guest writers. If you've ever come across an item that you thought was great, send us a little blurb on it. If you're an avowed expert (or even an un-avowed expert) on a piece of hardware or software, send us an essay, or even a little cheat-sheet. You say you've got some tips and handy shortcuts for the 99/4A, just put 'em in print (or disc) and pass 'em by. All articles that meet the newsletters "stringent literary qualification proceses" (ie. if my dog doesn't wrench it out of my hand and chew it up on the way back from the mailbox), we'll put it in the newsletter. The list of topics are endless, however, keep the subject in mind, the TI 99/4A. Here are a few ideas, some of which have been mentioned by our Dallas sister group FLUE 99ers:

Reviews, Reviews, Reviews, of Hardware, Software and Books. Programming tips, and "I wish lists". Hardware and Peripheral Projects. Program customizing. Great Multiplan templates (anyone who's ever used the program has a few of these lying around). New uses for the 99/4A (paperweights and dust organizers excluded). A list of all the 99/4A software houses, or your favorite bulletin boards. What you like best about your system - what you dislike the most. Hot-off-the-wire-info on the latest peripherals or software, and the list goes on.....

Whatever you're interested in, 99/4A-wise, tell us about it, there are many eager ears. Everyone's a storehouse of information, put it on paper and pass it around.....

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**TROJAN TI PROGRAM ON THE LOOSE**  
By--Ralph Fowler--Author "TIBBS"

On November 3, 1986 a user (who I thought I could trust) uploaded a group of programs to this BBS. They were archived with the ARCHIVER2 program. The Archive was called STAR-ARC and was 95 sectors in length. It contained the following programs:

EXAMINER 4  
HELP 3  
LOAD 36  
LOAD1 54  
LOAD2 3

As usual, I moved them to a work disk and stored away my valuable TIBBS disks. After un-archiving the programs, I inspected them. I ran the LOAD program, which put up a pretty nice graphics screen. The system then dropped to Extended Basic- which signified that some assembly language subroutines had been loaded into my memory. I then loaded EXAMINER and tried to list it. It was protected with the Extended Basic protection. This seemed strange, since no one uses it any more. I unprotected it and listed it.

The listing said that program would play the standard TI chimes, then say something about reading all disk drives. It would then do two CALL LINKS and print a message to the screen. The message said:

Just when you thought TI's didn't have Trojan Horses. ARF ARF. Got you!

Interesting?

I remember this from over on the IBM boards, I thought to myself. I put EXAMINER on its own disk and ran the program. The disk was unusable afterwards. So was my RAMDISK.

MORAL: I was prepared for this. YOU should be, too. DO NOT trust ANY program for the TI until you verify that it is not trojan. Even the programs you get from this BBS. I will not be responsible for any damage they cause. I will not knowingly put any damaging program in the downloads.

The sick fool didn't even have the creativity to change the ARF ARF bit. It originally appeared on an IBM board named FIDO, hence the ARF ARF stuff. The user had the initials J.T. and I would like his comments on this.

ARF ARF- "You didn't get me!!!"

(Editors note-Ralph called the number the user used to sign on with, and of course it was wrong. SYSOPS-check ALL uploads to make sure you don't get burned with a program like this, and VERIFY your users to help weed out the JERKS like this guy)

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courtesy of FLUG

### TEXAS INSTRUMENTS PHONE NUMBERS

I haven't checked these numbers to see if they are all still in operation but I suspect they still are as TI has been very good about staying with their committment to support the 99/4A. If you have any feedback, please send it in and I'll share it with every one.

TI CARES .....1-800-842-2737  
TI RESPONSE.....1-800-232-3200  
TI SUPPORT.....1-800-858-4565  
BUSINESS COMPUTERS...1-800-847-2787  
SOFTWARE.....1-800-858-4075  
TECHNICAL.....1-806-741-2663  
MANUALS AND PARTS...1-806-741-3064

From the Lake Charles Users Group

HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM  
December 1986

0209           **TERMINAL CHESS\*\*TEII**

A chess game you can play via modem with another player. 29 sectors

0210           **TIC-TAC-TOE-3D\*\*EA/5**

A cute tic-tac-toe game played in 3-D. Written in "C". Comes with source code. 30 sectors

0211           **QUEST\*\*XB**

Another great adventure game from the Kirase brothers. 98 sectors

0212           **BASS FISHING\*\*XB**

A cute program that tests your skills in a bass tournament. 36 sectors

0213           **WHEEL OF THE CENTURY\*\*XB**

A great game released as "Fairware" by Bob Viering of Dallas, Texas. Comes with complete documentation. 101 sectors

3056           **# CONVERTER\*\*BASIC OR XB**

A screen-only number converter for integer-hex-binary conversions; any one input gives the other two output. Range is based on 99/4A address (word) limits and gives two-complement decimal addresses also. Submitted by Richard Lumkin. 13 sectors

3057           **MAKE-CHANGE\*\*BASIC OR XB**

A rework of the "ways" to make change for a dollar benchmark program; one file is straight Basic, and the second one is a greatly compacted but logically equal version using XB multi-statement lines. Submitted by Richard Lumkin. 10 sectors

4112           **NEW RELEASE OF DM-1000 V 3.5**

A new release of DM-1000. Has many new features. Also comes with two files to use program with GRAM KRACKER. 432 sectors

4220           **TI-DIAGNOSTIC\*\*XB AND MM**

New release from TI. A two disk set that allow you to check out your entire system. Comes with printed documentation from TI. Requires 2 SSSD disks. 632 sectors

4221           **NEAR LETTER QUALITY\*\*XB Printer rcd.**

A program that sets your printer to print out "Near Letter Quality". Prints out TI-Writer type files. To be used with Gemini 10X and 15X. Comes with complete documentation. 39 sectors

4222           **DISK INFORMATION MANAGER\*\*EA/5**

A Disk Information Manager that will initialize disks, catalog, or look at sectors. Comes with complete documentation. 57 sectors

4223           **MENUBUILDER\*\*XB**

A nice XB program that builds a load program for any disk. 29 sectors

4224           **MYTERM EMULATOR\*\*EA/5**

A 64 column Terminal Emulator program written in Nvcove Forth. 107 sectors

4225           **TI-WRITER PRINTER CONTROLS\*\*TI-Writer Printer rcd.**

Printer control codes for the TI-Writer by Jim Peterson. Can be printed using PF command from TI-Writer. 30 sectors

4226           **TI-UTILITIES\*\*CORCOMP TRIPLE TECH CARD**

A utility to be used with CorComp Triple Tech card. 9 sectors

**4227 VDP-SCREEN#BASIC OR XB Printer req.**  
A printer-only program which prints out a 132 column (condensed print) chart of all the addresses for the 32 X 24 grid of the BASIC screen. Submitted by Richard Luonkin. 11 sectors

**4228 REDISKIT#XB**  
A "Freeware" disk copying program by James Schroeder. Can be used with TI or CorCoop disk controller card. 57 sectors

**4229 DM1002#XB**  
A "Freeware" program by Steve Patterson. This is both a file reader and a disk manager. It also includes 2 files which produce true upper and lower case letters. Comes complete with documentation. 146 sectors

**4230 DISK HACKER#XB TI Disk Controller Only**  
This program will examine the format of each track on a disk. Program written by Will McGovern. Requires TI Disk Controller. 139 sectors

**4231 READ 64#EA/5**  
A 64 column file reader. This is a "Fairware" program by Jurgen Switalski. 41 sectors

**4232 MEMO CALENDAR#XB Printer reqd.**  
An useful program by Dennis Pfothenauer. This program will print out a memo calendar to remind you of important dates and events. This program will set up a data file that is 287 sectors. It is recommended that this program be put on a dedicated disk to allow room for data file. 32 sectors

**4233 MACRO ASSEMBLER#XB**  
A "Fairware" program by R.A. Green. An assembly language macro-assembler made for the TI. Comes with complete documentation. 693 sectors

**4234 KEYS#XB**  
This program allows user to define 36 keys to use as CTRL keys in typing a program. A E can stand for EOUS9, etc. Nice "Fairware" program by Wes Johnson. Comes with complete documentation. 41 sectors

**4235 DSKU#EA/5 Printer recommended.**  
A sector utility program released as "Fairware" by John Birdwell. Version 2.0. Utilities aid in disk management. Comes with complete documentation. A \$10 donation is requested. 72 sectors

**5250 SANTA#XB**  
A new version of an old classic by Bill Knecht. This version of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" has an excellent sound and some super graphics. 23 sectors

**5251 CHRISTMAS CAROLS#XB**  
A cute Christmas music program by Wayne Jobe. 50 sectors

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**A NEW BOOK!**

-----[ THE ORPHANS SURVIVAL HANDBOOK ]-----

**ANNOUNCING THE NEW  
ALL DIFFERENT BOOK**

**BY  
RON ALBRIGHT**

**"THE ORPHANS SURVIVAL HANDBOOK"**

Ron Albright reports...

"The first book, "The Orphan Chronicles", was ABOUT you-the Texas Instruments 99/4A enthusiast. Now, there is a book BY you. The "Orphans Survival Handbook" is the one-stop information source for the TI user.

"The "ORPHANS SURVIVAL HANDBOOK" was both easier and harder to put together than was the 'Orphan Chronicles'. Easier in that it was already written! It is an anthology of material gleaned from literally hundreds of users group newsletters and hundreds of hours of downloaded files from bulletin board systems. It is the "Best of" you-the TI user group members, hackers, programmers, and newsletter editors. Why, then, was it difficult? There was so much quality material available! The hardest thing was not finding enough material, it was deciding what I could leave out!"

"The "ORPHANS SURVIVAL HANDBOOK" is a 200-plus page compendium of TI material. It is filled with schematics, hardware hacks, programs, tips, and tutorials from all across the country. Where to call, where and what to buy, and what to read. Moreover, it contains new, "never-before-seen" material from some of the brightest minds in the TI community (too numerous to name them all). Looseleaf, and three hole punched, the manual can be placed conveniently in a binder for easy access. And updates (which are planned for registered owners) can be easily incorporated into your "Handbook" as new insights and developments become available. While I can't guarantee the "Handbook" will have "everything you ever wanted to know", I can assure you that it has most everything I could think of, NOW AND LATER. This handbook will continue to grow..in comprehensiveness and its personal value to YOU!"

Projected retail price is \$16.95..

**PUBLISHED BY:**  
Disk Only Software  
P.O. Box 244  
Lorton, VA 22079

1-800-446-4462. At the tone, enter 897335 for message.  
Voice information is (301)340-7179

courtesy of FLUG (Forest Lane Users Group)

Helpful Hints

**BINARY TO DECIMAL:**

```
10 INPUT B$::FOR N=1 TO LEN(B$)::X=X+(2 (LEN(B$)-N))$VAL (SEG$(B$,N,1))::  
NEXT N::PRINT X
```

**DECIMAL TO BINARY:**

```
10 INPUT Y::FOR I=7 TO 0 STEP -1::X=INT(Y/(2 I)):: Z=X=1::  
Y=Y-((2^I)$ABS(Z)):: C$=C$STR(X)::NEXT I::PRINT C$
```

MEETING DATES FOR 1987

The following is a list of HUS meeting dates for the new year. These have all been "carved in stone" and will take place "Heck or high water"..... (Now that we've identified all of the gullible members of the club, I will continue). As mentioned on the cover page, meetings are usually held on the first Sunday of the month (2nd Sunday if 1st Sunday falls on a holiday weekend), at St. Johns School, 2401 Claremont (actually the NE corner of the intersection of Buffalo Speedway and Westheimer). The listed dates are pretty much guaranteed for now, but as with everything else, they are subject to further notice.

Month	Day	Reason for Delay & Rescheduling
January	11 t	Holiday weekend - New Years Day
February	8 t	School facilities not available
March	1	
April	5	
May	3	
June	7	
July	12 t	Holiday weekend - Independence Day
August	2	
September	13 t	Holiday weekend - Labor Day
October	4	
November	1	
December	6	

Both Ed's (Scott Kim) will make a honest effort this year to keep everyone abreast of any meeting reschedulings. Be sure to come, as you are the one of the clubs biggest assets - a continuing user of the 99/4A.

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PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE NEW ADDRESS

KIM P. PETERSON  
13107 BAFING  
HOUSTON, 77099

FIRST CLASS

DATED MATERIAL  
DO NOT DELAY