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All advertising and other material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS must be received by the NEWS staff by the 10th of the month prior to publication. See deadline information below.

Circulation:

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for April
North Texas PC NEWS:
Tuesday, March 10th

Meeting Dates:

March Meeting - 1st Sat.(7th)
April Meeting - 3rd Sat.(18th)
May Meeting - 4th Sat.
(tentative)

*Thanks to our volunteers
for their continuing
efforts.*

Are you doing your part?

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

1. Article Style. Type all copy flush left without justification. This includes headings, bylines, and the first line of each paragraph. Place a credit byline (author's name) between the title and first paragraph. Leave a blank line between paragraphs.

2. Media. All copy exceeding 10 lines should be submitted via the NTPCUG BBS or on floppy-diskette(s) - (5.25" or 3.5" DOS formatted). If you want the disk returned please include a self-addressed return-postage-paid mailer. If you submit your article in hardcopy and expect us to transcribe it, bear in mind that we don't type so well. Most times, hardcopy-only-articles get filed in the Void.

3. File Formats. ASCII text files are preferred. Use .TXT extension for ASCII files. If formatting is crucial, Microsoft WORD and WordPerfect files will be accepted. Other word processor file formats may be acceptable but only if the article is accompanied by hardcopy and an ASCII file version of the article. Word processor files create a lot of extraneous work for the editors. If the article can be ASCII-fied, please do so.

3. Submitting Articles. You may use one of three methods.

a) NTPCUG BBS (Preferred). Log-on to the BBS and select (U)pload from the main menu. Your default file transfer protocol will be displayed. If you want to change your default protocol, use the (P)rofile option. Once you have set the file transfer protocol, select the (A)rticle option from the upload menu. You will be prompted for the filename to upload. Enter the filename (don't use drive or path name). The BBS will prompt you to begin the file transfer. (Refer to your communications software manual for instructions on transferring files.) After the file transfer has been completed, you will be prompted to, "press any key to continue..." You will then be prompted for a one-line description of the file. Enter the description. To exit the Article Upload Menu press ENTER until you get back to the Main Menu. (OPTIONAL - Send a BBS mail message to Douglas McQuaid regarding your submitted article.)

b) Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service). Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 10429 N. MacArthur, #360, Irving, TX 75063

c) SneakerNet. Track down one of the editors at the monthly meeting and give them a diskette with the article on it.

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Batch File Tips and Utilities

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The Adventures of PC Tech

A continuing saga by Ben Thar will return next month.

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Program for March _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Exploring Data Visually

CoWorks Corporation

Mark Dehner, President

CoWork's Time Series Library is a new tool for accessing, displaying, and manipulating statistical information. The product combines a core set of data that can be used on a day to day basis and software that makes it easy to do so. The core product includes international, economic, financial, environmental, social, and demographic data (including references) which takes up only 5 Mbytes of disk space. A familiar spreadsheet interface is used to navigate through and graph the data to see trends, correlations, and patterns. This product is useful for business and government users, as well as for teaching and research.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Aldus Persuasion for Windows

Aldus Corporation

Sharon Sullivan, Strategic Account Manager

Aldus Persuasion for Windows is a complete tool for creating top quality presentations - from simple black-and-white overheads to 35mm slides. It uses AutoTemplate technology to automate the creation of your presentation. Other features that will be highlighted include automatic organizational charting, numeric charting, outlining and many other features which consistently rank Aldus Persuasion the best presentation tool available. There will be a drawing for 5 free copies of software.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

The PC Darkroom

Micrografx Incorporated

Chip Grayson, Corporate Accounts Manager

Picture Publisher 3.0 for Windows is image-editing software which will satisfy the high-end standards of photo designers and business users. It supports most scanners and still-camera video capture devices, as well as any Windows-supported output devices (including 24-bit video boards). The editing features include enhanced masking tools, unique color mapping and shielding tools, special texturing effects, and the usual drawing and text tools. These features are also fast and easy to use. There will be a drawing for free copies of software.

* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

Prez Sez

The Printer Arrived

As you may have read in Reagan Andrews' column on COMDEX, the North Texas PC Users Group won an HP LaserJet III^P to be used for club business. The printer came with a 2MB memory module and a lower paper tray. I had the honor, in Las Vegas, of accepting it for the group, and I am using it for the 1,600 renewal letters and other group correspondence that come with the President's job.

I want to thank Hewlett-Packard again on behalf of the group for the prize and for their continued support of users groups. I think it would be a good idea to have HP talk to our group to explain LaserJet and DeskJet technology, as well as answer our questions

about their products. I know that where I work, we have practically every flavor of HP printer ever made, and we've only retired one original LaserJet, and the purchaser resurrected it.

The New BBS Software Arrives

Check elsewhere in this issue for a description of the new TBBS system that is being installed by the BBS committee to replace the old "Chairman" program. "Chairman" has not been supported in a while and as you know on the p.c. side of the world, where software updates come faster that you can load and debug the old ones, there are better mousetraps being built every day. (I know my copy of Grammatik is going to tell me that sentence is too long.) ►

State of the BBS

by Tom Prickett, NTPCUG Sysop

If you were at the February meeting, you probably found out that we are testing a new electronic bulletin board called "The Bread Board System", or simply TBBS. Perhaps you already knew about this, the new system had been in test for several weeks prior to this meeting. TBBS is a product of eSoft Inc., a Colorado firm headed by an old BBS stand-by, Phil Becker.

Wildcat! is another bulletin board system that we spent some time considering. Wildcat! suggests that either you dedicate one machine per telephone line and network the machines together or you use some sort of multi-tasker like DesqView. We are running three telephone lines and did not consider either of these options palatable.

It turns out that the TBBS system is a vast improvement over the bulletin board we were using called Chairman. Chairman was produced by Dynamic Microprocessor Associates. They are also marketing PC Anywhere, a product that finally gained a certain amount of popularity for DMA. Chairman didn't, and it entered the "no update" deep-freeze over a year ago with two other DMA dinosaurs - a communications package and a relational data base. No enhancements or fixes is a fatal flaw for software

when users are expecting reliable bug fixes and occasional new features. Other software vendors like Borland tend to "new release" you to death. Chairman's problem was that it didn't change fast enough. I certainly hope we will do better with eSoft, where TBBS is their primary product.

We are using the new TBBS 2.2 release. The main enhancements with this new release are a full screen message editor and the addition of the ZMODEM file transfer protocol. However, the NTPCUG is coming from Chairman, and TBBS itself is a much more drastic enhancement. From the various perspectives in this club, a new-user, one familiar with the old system, and from a system maintenance point of view, we all seem to be pleased. TBBS is really an improvement!

Of course, major thanks must go to Fred Williams. He has been raving about TBBS for several years now, but has actually implemented 2.1 and 2.2 in the last few months for the NTPCUG. Doug Gorrie provided a telephone line and a portion of his home for a spare machine that is owned by the club. Leroy Tennison is looking into member validation and many others have volunteered their time by calling up the new system. Kent Kingerey helped me look into the Wildcat! system. TBBS was the winner for us. Check it out!

We are planning to go to the new system forever on March 15 or earlier. I have grown to understand that

Prez Sez continued

Kudos to Member Emeritus'

This club has a category of membership called Member Emeritus. Our bylaws define it as someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the NTPCUG and, I feel, made the group better. The list, up to this point, included John Pribyl, Stuart Yarus, and Phil Chamberlain. At the January Officer's Meeting, we approved the induction of Jim Holsington to this hallowed chamber. Jim helped start this group ten years ago, he has served in many capacities including six years as either President or President-Elect. Jim continues to serve on the Board of Directors. The Member Emeritus title carries with it, lifetime membership in the NTPCUG and the admiration and gratitude of the group.

Philippe Kahn

The CEO of Borland International, Inc. and PC Magazine's Person of the Year is TENTATIVELY (as of newsletter press time) scheduled to speak at a special meeting of the North Texas PC User's Group on

Tuesday night, March 10th. Please check with our BBS, recorded message or at the March 8th meeting for the details.

Orientation

For many years I saw a listing in the back of the PC News in the 11:30 time slot for ORIENTATION. I was curious, but never enough to miss lunch. Finally, when I was SIG Coordinator, I had to keep the inside back cover of the newsletter updated. No one could tell me exactly what went on in Orientation, so I decided to sit in at 11:30. Jim Ratts was the speaker, and he told mainly new users about Infomart, how to find their way around, where the cafeteria was, what the North Texas PC Users Group did, and he answered their questions. Jim now has other commitments and I have taken over the job (yeah, right, like I had to fight a bunch of people for it).

I enjoy this half hour. I hope it is informative. And if I'm late, it's because I coming from the 11:00 business meeting, or I forgot.

Andy Oliver

■

you are never finished with software, and this BBS will probably always have something under construction. Please bear with us as we step forward.

So, with all of these "supposedly good" changes, is there anything that has not changed? (-: one might ask :-). Well, we have the same conference areas, and each user has their own mailbox if I could point to a few similarities.

Another thing that hasn't really changed is that NTPCUG provides basically a message board. You still won't find a download area of any consequence. The way to upload a file now is to send a message to the appropriate conference or individual and Attach the file (ASCII or binary) to the message that you want to send. Everyone who reads the message can also download the attached file if they wish.

The conference areas contain public messages to be read by anyone who calls in. One of the major features of TBBS is that it makes it real easy to see all of the messages that you haven't read yet. This means nothing to the new user but is quite valuable to those who frequent this place.

As a consequence of going to the new system, we will lose the message base from all of the conferences and individual users. So, if there is something dear to your heart, hold that thought, and repeat it on the new TBBS system.

Reviewing the conferences that we had in 1991, the BBS merged the "Business SIG" and "DAC SIG" into one called the "Bus/DAC SIG" early in the year. A new conference called "Ranting Raving" was started in May. R & R started out very popular but has been in decline ever since. The "Computer Law" conference was added in July. "Humor" hit its peak in January, 1991. "Politics" was most popular from April thru August. The summer months were very popular for conferences in general, especially the "Comm SIG" and "DOS SIG." "All" is/was the most popular conference every month. The "Assembler SIG" and the "C SIG" have been very popular in the last few months. The "Hardware SIG" and the "Pro SIG" are always in the top ten of the conferences. The most unpopular conferences were the "R:Base SIG", "Unix SIG", and the "Cryptan SIG."

What I have considered most popular is not really the message traffic, but how many times that conference was "Opened", or read by the users. This is often related to message traffic, but I feel the "looking" volume gives a more accurate picture of popularity. This will become harder to track with the new bulletin board, and perhaps message traffic will be the most accurate measure.

Another good thing that happened in 1991 is that the BBS went public. This means that a new user can call and read some of the conferences. They cannot get to all of them and do not have their own mailbox, but

they can read something while they are waiting to be validated as a member.

The new bulletin board is a breath of fresh air for me, and I hope it will be good for everyone who uses it. Thanks to everyone who helped me make it through the Chairman years, and also to those who helped us move to the new TBBS system.

Tom

A Warning About Your Personal and Conference Mail on the BBS...

Unless something changes, the BBS committee will convert to the new TBBS bulletin board system on or about March 15. The delay in converting is due to the club's desire to provide the membership with advance notice, including documentation about how to access the new system.

One item needs to be brought up now, in preparation for March 15. At that time, the old Chairman system goes away, and with it, all the mail and conference messages. Why? Because there is nothing we know of that allows a reasonably easy move of chairman mail to a TBBS system.

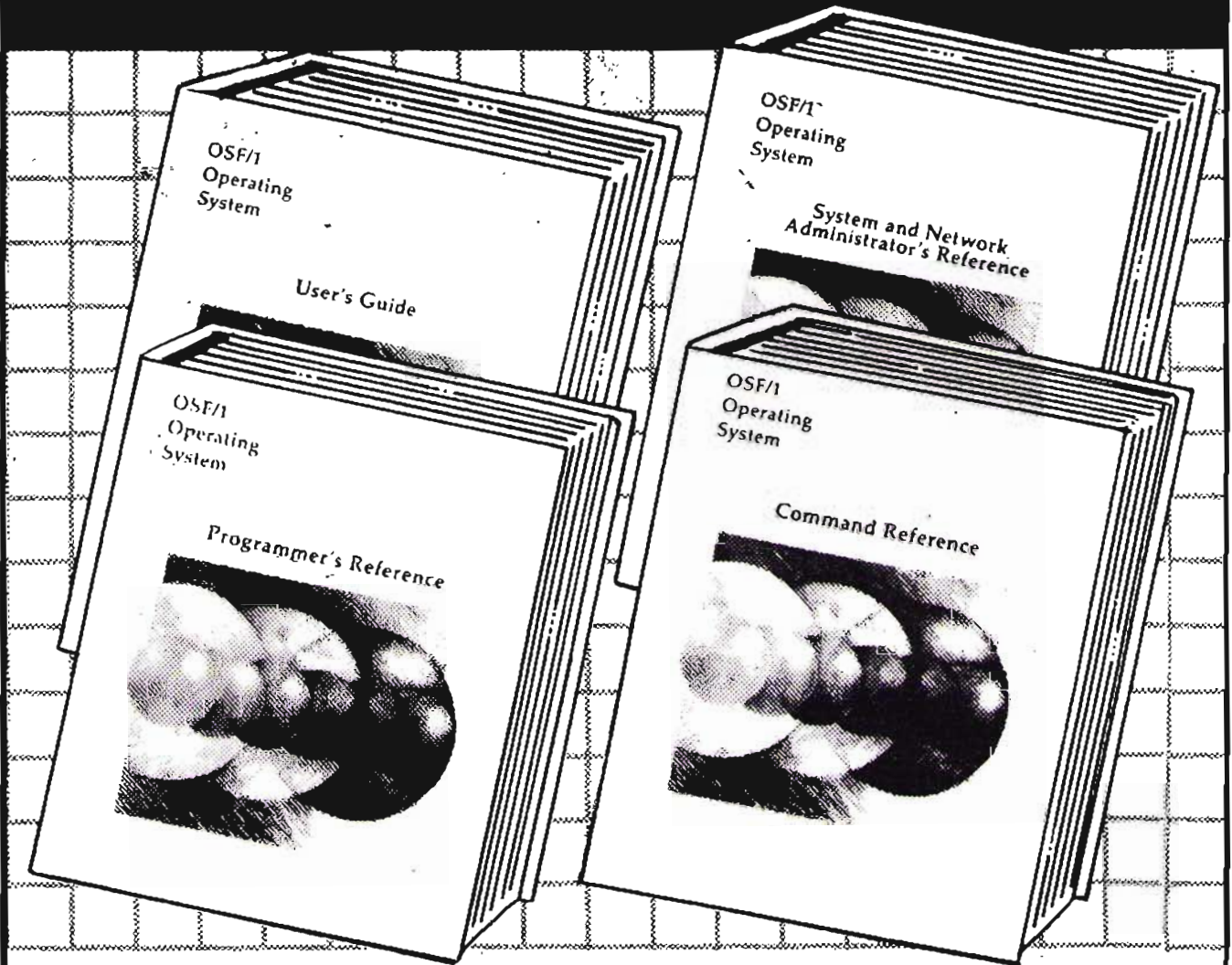
So, for all Chairman users and Conference monitors and SIG Leaders, NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

By Thursday, March 12, please review your personal mail messages and conference mail. If you feel any of it is important, and perhaps worthy of copying to the new TBBS system, you will need to capture the data via your communications software. Then, once the new TBBS system is operational, you can upload the important stuff into the appropriate conference/forum.

So, plan ahead!! We don't want anyone losing any message detail that they feel is important.

Doug Gorrie

OPEN SOFTWARE



The essential guides to one of the most exciting operating systems around: OSF/1. Whether you're an experienced UNIX user or neophyte, these authoritative volumes are the place to start. (Prentice Hall)

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OSF/1 Programmer's Reference

OSF/1 Command Reference

OSF/1 System and Network Administrator's Reference

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Using the NEW TBBS Bulletin Board System

An introduction to the new BBS, by Doug Gorrie

February 10, 1992.

Many of our NTPCUG membership are already aware of efforts to convert from the Chairman Bulletin Board System (BBS) to one that is more in tune with the times. Although there are several good BBS systems available, the ad-hoc BBS committee initially chose to examine The Bread Board System (TBBS), a product of eSoft. eSoft has a good reputation for support, a characteristic somehow lost to the makers of Chairman. In addition, TBBS is designed to allow the SYSOP to support the BBS support remotely, meaning that the SYSOP can typically maintain the BBS by dial-up line, rather than having to personally visit the BBS site. Given these and other features, as of this writing, we anticipate formally converting to TBBS on or about March 15, 1992.

The purpose of this article is to provide NTPCUG membership with some initial training on the new TBBS system. As we proceed, please note that this document was submitted on February 10th for issuance in the March PC News. Our TBBS system went through additional revisions in the month thereafter, so there may be differences between the details here and the final product. We anticipate publishing updated documentation and operational tips as we complete "Phase I" of the conversion. The most current user documentation may be downloaded from the BBS by selecting the "(D)ownload" option on the Main Menu, followed by the "(B)ulletin Board help files" option.

Throughout the TBBS system, help is often available. Where "(H)elp" is offered, enter "H" for help. In many places, entering "?" will provide help, even if not specifically offered. If in doubt, enter "?".

For new users of the NTPCUG BBS

For those of you that have not used a BBS, or have avoided Chairman (our previous BBS software), the following will hopefully serve to get you online with a minimum of fuss. If you are already using Chairman, you may wish to skip ahead to the section entitled "FOR CURRENT CHAIRMAN USERS".

To access the NTPCUG BBS, set your communications software to No parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and a modem data rate of 2400 bps or less. BBS phone numbers are listed in each month's PC News (inside back cover). You'll know the BBS has answered when your modem squeals (if your modem has a speaker), and you are presented with the usual

Roman column, Super Saturday meeting dates, and some general information explaining how to register as a NTPCUG member.

When asked to "Enter your FULL Name", enter the first and last name that you are generally known by (sorry, no aliases, please!). If all data entered is correct, reply "Y" when asked.

As of Release 2.2 of TBBS, we can (and did) establish you as using an IBM/PC terminal type, with 24 usable lines per screen, and 80 characters per line. If you wish to emulate a different terminal type, or to override the default values, changes can be made at the (P)rofile option on the Main Menu. Available terminal types with TBBS are:

```
<A> VIDTEX, <B> TRS-80 1/3, <C> VT-52, <D> ATARI,
<E> H19/H80/Z19, <F> IBM PC, <G> Televid 925,
<H> VT-100
```

When asked "Do you wish to have a pause after each display page (Y/N)?", enter "Y" so you have time to read any LONG messages. If you reply "N", messages longer than 24 lines will be difficult to read as the initial lines roll off the top of the screen. Also, be sure to enter either "Y" or "N", as there is NO default (at present). Pressing <CR> without an option will exit you from the mail reader feature.

When asked to "Please Enter a 1-8 character Password to be used for future logons", choose a password that you can remember easily, and enter it twice as directed. You can change it later if desired. **REMEMBER THIS PASSWORD.**

You will need it to log on again.

If you are accessing the NTPCUG for the first time, a series of questions are then asked, in order to determine whether your level of access within the BBS should be raised to "member" status. Answer these questions honestly, and, if you are a NTPCUG member, you should receive full access "soon".

In the details that follow, as the TBBS menuing system is discussed, please note that until your account is upgraded to "member" status, not all menu options will display. Also, non-members do not have mail and upload capabilities, and have only limited access to conference messages. All messages read by non-members are READ ONLY; messages cannot be initiated by non-members.

For current "CHAIRMAN" users

If you had an account on the Chairman BBS as of late December, 1991, your account information has already been transferred to the new TBBS system. After dialing in, enter First and Last name information as usual, followed by the password in effect last December. However, enter that password IN ALL

CAPITAL LETTERS, because your password in Chairman was actually stored in caps, whether you intended it that way or not. (Once into TBBS, you can change your password to lower case letters in the (P)rofile option, if desired.)

After identifying yourself, you are presented with a variety of menus that will guide you through TBBS. As you proceed through this article, please remember that it is being submitted for print a full month prior to the mid-March conversion date. The menus you see in March may be different than what you see here, due to ongoing development.

After verification, TBBS checks whether there is any mail addressed to you by other NTPCUG members. If there is mail, you are given an option of reading that mail immediately. If you choose not to read mail, or if there is no mail for you, TBBS presents you with the following Main Menu:

```

NTPCUG Bulletin Board Main Menu

(I) - (I)nformation - What is NTPCUG and this BBS
(M) - Electronic (M)ail
(C) - (C)onference select menu
(D) - (D)ownload files
(U) - (U)pload files

(H) - Hang-up after sending a message to the Sysop
(S) - Change Password
(P) - User (P)rofile change (permanent)

(T)ime, e(X)port, (-)Back one level, (:)Quick logoff

Command:

```

As you can see, each subject area of the BBS is identified on this "main" menu. Each area is preceded by a letter, number, or special character that, when entered, gains you access to the associated section of the BBS. For instance, pressing the letter "I" takes you to a sub-menu containing NTPCUG information options, while "m" takes you to electronic mail. Options can be entered in either upper or lower case.

Many of the menu options are "hot keys", meaning that the desired option can be accessed by pressing a single key, without a <CR>. This allows you to move more rapidly through the system.

Another feature of TBBS allows menu options to be selected at any time, even while a menu is being "painted", or displayed, on your screen. This is because TBBS accepts commands between each character being printed to your screen. On menu displays and command prompts, you don't have to wait at all for a menu to complete, or even for the end of a line. If you know which menu option you will enter next, enter it anytime.

Let's examine each portion of the board in overall terms:

Main Menu - (I)nformation

This menu provides you with a menu of allows you to get general information about NTPCUG and the BBS. When selected, sub-menu options are:

```

(B) - Information on this (B)BS
(C) - NTPCUG (C)urrent events
(N) - What is (N)TPCUG?
(S) - Information on TBBS

—Miscellaneous—
(T)ime, e(X)port, (-)Back one level, (:)Quick logoff

```

Pursuing the options in this section can provide you with some valuable insight about the NTPCUG, as well as specific features of TBBS, version 2.2. Option "N" is also the place to go to determine who leads each of the Special Interest Groups (SIG) that meet each SuperSaturday.

Main Menu - Electronic (M)ail

(M)ail takes you to menus which guide you through the receipt and generation of mail to and from yourself and conferences. Details are provided later in this discussion.

Main Menu - (C)onferences

Provides the user with read and write access to all conferences, whether (G)eneral or (S)pecific. You may select individual conferences from within these two groups separately, or have TBBS provide them to you in a (C)ombined fashion. When accessing either a General or a Specific conference individually, you can read and/or leave mail related to the conference you are in. In the Combined option, both General and Specific conferences are pooled together, allowing you to read and leave messages from/to any conference. One option available in the Combined mode is the ability to (U)nselect individual conferences from the combined group, thereby bypassing subjects that you have no interest in.

Main Menu - (D)ownload files, (U)pload files

These options take you to menus that assist you in Downloading bulletin board help files, and in (U)uploading files to the PC NEWS editors for publication. In addition, if you have certain responsibilities within the NTPCUG, there may be additional menu options allowing upload/downloads into file areas pertinent to your function. ▶

Main Menu - Change Pa(S)sword

This option allows you to change your password when desired. If you have a Chairman-like password (all capital letters), you may want to select this option to reenter your password in lower case.

Main menu - User (P)rofile change

If you need to change your default profile in TBBS, select this option. From here, you may modify such things as lines per page, characters per line, ANSI graphics capability, etc. You can view your options from here without making changes, so feel free to examine yours.

Let's Talk About Mail

Now, having covered the generalities, let's deal in the specifics of one topic -- Electronic Mail. The NTPCUG BBS emphasizes the value of mail over other functions. Hence, TBBS was chosen to replace Chairman in part due to its success in handling mail.

When you first call the BBS, TBBS will advise you whether you have any new mail in your mailbox to read. One line will display on your screen per message, indicating from whom the mail came, and what the "Subject" is. You are then asked if you want to "Read Now(Y/N)?" Generally, you will reply "Y" unless you prefer to deal with such mail later.

If you reply "y", you must then indicate whether you wish to have a pause after each message. If you answer "N", all incoming mail messages will roll across your screen without stopping. (Also, see the section below on "Reply Chains...") This is ideal if your communications program can capture the messages as they come across the screen. However, if you are not comfortable with this approach, reply "y" to force a pause between messages.

If you reply "Y", a message will be displayed, followed by a line of options:

```
<C>ubby, <F>wd, <D>el, <R>epl, <A>gain, <N>ext, or <S>top?
```

A help screen on these options can be requested by pressing "?" at this time, but a synopsis of each command's meaning is as follows:

<C>ubby - copies this message in your personal mail cubbyhole. This allows you to read and reply to it later, versus having to find it within the rest of your mailbox. Afterward putting a copy in your cubby, you should delete the initial message with the **<D>el** option.

<F>wd - allows you to forwards this message to someone else.

<D>el - deletes the message. This is the preferred action if you have no further reason to retaining the message.

<R>epl - helps you initiate a reply to the message's sender.

<A>gain - types the message to you another time.

<N>ext - skips on to the next message, leaving the current message in your "in-box".

In some cases, there may be other options listed with those above. They are :

<*>Replies - indicates that the message has some replies. This may be common when mail went to other users and/or a conference, with a copy to you. The replies may have come from one or more of the other recipients. You may read these replies at this time, or a later opportunity may also exist

<E>ncl - indicates that the message has a file "attached" to it. Select this option if you wish to download the file that is Enclosed within the message.

<-> - If you are reading one or more replies to a previous message, **<->** reads the previous message in the "thread".

<U>n-del - reverses the effect on the current message of a previous **<D>el**. Use this if the **<D>el** was a mistake.

Once you have read all incoming mail, you are placed at the Main Menu. However, let's pursue Mail some more.

Electronic Mail ...

After selecting (M)ail from the main menu, you will receive over a half screen of options and information. The predominant options are:

```
(R) - (R)ead your Mail
(Q) - (Q)uickscan your Mail
(L) - (L)eave Mail for other users
(S) - (S)earch for a Member's name
(D) - (D)elate Mail message
(U) - C(U)bbyhole messages
(C) - NTPCUG (C)onferences
```

```
(T)ime, e(X)pert, (-)Back one level, (:)Quick logoff
```

(R)ead, (Q)uickscan and C(U)bbyhole options all pertain to the reading of mail. (R)ead allows reading of new or previously read mail that was sent to you. (Q)uickscan, in contrast, allows display of general detail about all messages (who to and from, subject), and the ability to mark those which you wish to read later. "C(U)bbyhole Messages" takes you to your private cubbyhole. Copies of messages can be placed

there as you read them from your incoming mail, or from a conference.

When you're ready to send mail to members or conferences, enter (L) to leave them mail. And, if you need to search out the proper name to send your mail to, use the (S)earch option. To delete messages residing in your Inbox or Outbox, and no longer of value, use the (D)elete function. Finally, to read mail within conferences, select the (C)onference option.

Some general purpose options also exist here. (T)ime display the current time, as well as the time you logged on this session, and how much time has elapsed during the current session. The e(X)pert option allows you to select the level of expertise you have in using the TBBS system (beginner, intermediate, expert, super expert). The (-) will return you to the previous menu, while (:) will immediately terminate your TBBS session.

Electronic Mail -- (R)ead ...

When (R)ead is selected, you are presented with four options:

```
<I>n Box
<O>ut Box
<B>oth In and Out Boxes
<A>bort reading mail
```

Your <I>n Box contains all your previously read mail, as well as any new ones that have not yet been reviewed. The <O>utbox contains a copy of everything you have initiated and mailed to others, and to conferences.

If you choose the "I", "O", or "B" options, you receive another option list:

```
<F>orward or <R>everse Multiple
<N>ew Messages
<M>arked Messages
<S>elective Retrieval
<I>ndividual Message(s)
<A>bort Retrieve
```

This group of options is a little tricky, so hang in there as we describe their use...

For each of these options, you will generally be asked, at some point, whether you wish TBBS to "Pause after each message(Y/N)?" If you reply "Y", you will be given the option line

```
<C>ubby, <F>wd, <D>el, <R>epl, <A>gain, <N>ext, or <S>top?
```

after each message, just as they appeared as you read your incoming mail. However, if you reply "N" to the "Pause" message, the option line above will not appear, and there will NOT be a pause between message. Instead, a different group of options will appear:

```
For reply chains:
<1> Ask on Each
<2> Always follow
<3> Never follow
<?> for help
```

Since there will not be a pause between messages, this option is asking whether you wish:

- <1> TBBS to ask you about replies for each message
- <2> any replies to messages to AUTOMATICALLY follow each message
- <3> to let all messages display in their normal "first-in, first-out" order.
- <?> Enter "?" to get some detail about these options.

Select the option that best indicates how you want to see any replies to original messages.

Okay, let's go on. Select <N>ew to read any new mail that has not yet been read. TBBS will ask about the "Pause", then displays new mail, one message after the other.

To read ALL your mail (read and unread), select (F)orward to read mail in chronological order (oldest to newest), and (R)everse to read in newest-to-oldest order.

Choosing <M>arked Messages displays only those messages "marked" for retrieval. Marking is accomplished through use of the Quicksan feature within Electronic Mail.

(S)elective Retrieval allows reading of only those messages meeting certain criteria. You may request messages sent <T>o or <F>rom a specific person or conference, or having a specific <S>ubject. For the criteria selected, you may then request to read in <F>orward or <R>everse order, or <N>ew messages only.

Choosing <I>ndividual Messages allow you to indicate a specific message number that you wish to read. Of course, you must ALREADY know the desired number to utilize this option.

Finally, <A>bort Retrieve terminates the message retrieval process.

Electronic Mail -- (Q)uicksan ...

All the above options pertain to the Electronic Mail menu's "(R)ead your Mail" option. As mentioned previously, another option from the same menu allows a (Q)uicksan of messages. In Quicksan, submenu options are almost identical to those in the (R)ead portion, with only a few exceptions: ➤

1) A new option allows you to Mark any scanned message for later retrieval, and to clear any previous message marks. 2) If Marking is requested, each message listed will ask if you want to mark it. Response is "Y", "N", or "S" to Stop the Quickscan listing.

Using Quickscan without Marking results in a single line of information about each message, indicating message number, who from, who to, subject, and board name ("Mail" if personal mail).

Electronic Mail - (L)leave mail ...

Now that we know how to READ mail, let's talk about creation of mail.

At the Electronic Mail menu, select (L) to Leave mail for individuals. TBBS asks you to specify who the message is for, and what the subject is. If the user name you enter is not a valid name, TBBS will advise you so you might enter a different one. If TBBS offers to send it anyway, reply "N". IF A NAME IS NOT IN THE USERLOG, THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY "SENDING IT ANYWAY".

At present, only one user's name can be entered as a recipient of the message. However, you may Carbon Copy (CC:) additional members by placing a "CC:" line WITHIN your message. On the first line of your message, type "CC:" (without the quotes), followed by one or more user names. These names should be separated by a comma. Additional detail on this function may be (D)ownloaded from the (B)ulletin Board Help File area.

Message content can be typed online via either a line editor or a full screen editor. Alternately, you may prepare your messages at your leisure using your PC's word processor, then upload the file into a TBBS message. Preparing your message offline allows you more time to think about your wording, perform spell checks, etc. It also eliminates the possibility that a long message might have to be redone if your phone line connection fails, or if you somehow enter an erroneous command that "loses" your message.

After confirming the recipient and subject matter, TBBS asks if you wish to "Submit Prepared Message Text (Y/N)?" Here, any previously created text file can now be uploaded into your message. Replying "Y" displays a list of valid data transfer protocols, most of which will work in getting your PC file contents moved to your TBBS message area.

Select from the following transfer protocols:

```
T - TYPE file to your screen
C - ASCII with DC2/DC4 Capture
A - ASCII only, no Control Codes
X - XMODEM
O - XMODEM-1k
Y - YMODEM (Batch)
G - YMODEM-g (Batch)
S - SEAlink
K - KERMIT
W - SuperKERMIT (Sliding Windows)
Z - ZMODEM-90(Tm)
```

It is recommended that the three ASCII protocols NOT be used, except as a last resort, to upload files. They do NOT have any built in error detection and correction features to assure your data's integrity. Instead, choose any other protocol that is also supported by your communications software. Generally, ZMODEM is considered as your first choice (if you have it), with YMODEM considered as an excellent alternative. XMODEM and the KERMIT variations may be better choices if you encounter significant noise problems on your phone line, or have none of the others. Again, ASCII protocols are the LEAST preferred.

(At some point in the future, once you determine which protocol works best for you, consider going to the Main Menu (P)rofile option and making your preferred Upload and Download protocol permanent. From that time forward, TBBS will no longer request a protocol selection, but will use the one you have designated in your Profile.)

If you have no prepared text to upload, reply "N" above when asked. You are then offered the use of TBBS' full screen editor to enter your message, or, reply "N" to enter text a line at a time. The full screen editor is preferred over line entry, as long as your hardware and software can support it. For instance, when in ProComm Plus, the arrow keys will work properly when using TBBS. Other products, such as ProComm (shareware), Telix and Qmodem may not work as well. If you encounter such problems, review the Help screens available with the full screen editor. Ctrl key sequences are listed there that will allow you to move around within the editor. As specific problems are examined, we plan to issue messages and BBS download files to assist you.

We do expect some computers to have problems, but we are working on providing you with a fix if you will advise us when you have a problem.

Use of the full screen editor should be self-explanatory. If your arrow keys, page up/down keys, or others do not work properly, request Help by pressing Ctrl-Z. When through entering your message, press ESC to Exit. (In the line entry mode, ▶

carriage return <CR> by itself will terminate message entry.)

Once the editor (either type) has been exited, a new menu of options appears:

```
<L>ist, <V>iew, <E>dit, <R>cpt, <F>ile, <Q>uit, <S>ave, or <H>elp
```

<L>ist and <V>iew display the message on your screen ("List" numbers each line). <E>dit allows you to modify your message further through use of the full screen editor, a line editor, etc. Help is available here if needed to understand the options. <R>cpt requests that TBBS advise you when this message is read. The read receipt (probably) comes to you as a mail message.

<F>ile is a feature that lets you upload a file from your PC and attach it to the previously entered text message. (The recipient will read the text message, then see the phrase "<E>ncl" to indicate that a file is Enclosed within the mail message.)

<Q>uit terminates the mail message without sending.

<S>ave saves the message, along with any enclosed file, and forwards to the recipient's In Box.

<H>elp explains the above in more detail.

That's all there is to it. Feel free to send yourself mail for practice in sending and reading mail.

Electronic Mail - (S)earch ...

(S)earch lets you search for a member's name when you are unsure of a his/her name or BBS status. Your search may utilize a full or partial name string, or multiple partial strings. You may use either a single string or multiple strings separated by spaces or commas. To match your search request, a user name must match on all of the strings you enter.

Examples: "william<cr>" will get you anyone with "william" as part of their first OR last name. "will,fred<cr>" will list anyone who has the letters "will" and "fred" anywhere in either first and/or last name.

If a search results in a long list that you wish to stop, press "S" at any time.

Electronic Mail - (D)elele mail message ...

This option allows you to specify which of your mail messages can be deleted. The message number is required for each message you wish to remove.

Electronic Mail - C(U)bbbyhole Messages ..

This option takes you directly to your personal Cubbyhole mailbox, and provides you with the options needed to read, delete, etc., as discussed previously. Note that this option is different than the (C)ubby option that follows messages. (C)ubby places a copy of a message INTO your cubbyhole, while this C(U)bbbyhole menu option TAKES YOU TO your cubbyhole so that you might read any messages files therein.

Electronic Mail - NTPCUG (C)onferences Main Menu - (C)onference select menu

Choosing (C)onferences from the Electronic Mail menu is functionally identical to selecting (C)onferences from the Main Menu. When chosen from either menu, you will see:

NTPCUG Conferences

- (G) - (G)eneral Conferences
- (S) - (S)pecial Interest Groups
- (C) - (C)ombine All Conferences

-----Miscellaneous-----

- (T)ime, e(X)port, (-)Back one level, (:):Quick logoff

From here, you may request a list of all the (G)eneral or (S)IG conferences. From that list, you may indicate the specific single conference which you wish to work with. Or, you may ask to be placed into one large (C)ombined mailbox which includes ALL conferences. At present, there are about 11 General conferences, and about 22 SIGs. Selecting (C)ombined will merge all of these for you.

Whether you select one or all conferences, you will see the following command options (with two exceptions, noted with (*)):

- (R) - (R)ead combined messages
- (Q) - (Q)uickscan combined messages
- * (U) - Select/(U)nselect conferences
- (L) - (L)eave a message in a conference
- (P) - Reset "last message" (P)ointer
- (M) - Send Private E-Mail
- (U) - C(U)bbbyhole messages
- (S) - (S)earch for a Member's name
- * (C) - Return to single c(O)nference selection
- (A) - Return to M(A)in Menu

By now, you should be familiar with several of the above, including (R)ead, (Q)uickscan, (L)eave, C(U)bbbyhole, (S)earch, and M(A)in Menu. Let's describe them.

The (U)nselect option applies only within the (C)ombined conference. Choosing "U" will display a list of all included (Active) conferences, and allow you an opportunity to EXCLUDE any or all from the combined group. In this manner, conferences of no inter-

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 61 in a Series



Features or Fixes?

by Jim Hoisington

I just finished watching MISSING IN ACTION 14 on cable TV. That's the movie where Chuck Norris returns to Vietnam to retrieve his wristwatch that he left behind in 1968. As a pointless sequel, it reminded me of the increasing number of software upgrades and their increasing cost. It's getting hard for me to tell whether I'm getting any new features for my money or just bug fixes in existing features.

It used to be that if you found a bug in an existing product in the first six months it was on the market, the vendor would send you a product with the problem fixed or at least give you a work around. In fact, I can remember getting free, unsolicited, bug fix upgrades. Now, you the stock phrase seems to be, "Sir, that problem has been fixed in our next release. You should be getting the upgrade notice shortly." When the software release you're using has been on the market less than two months, something is wrong.

Errors or "bugs" in computer software are a fact of life. The more complex the code, the more errors there usually are in the software. It seems to me that software companies should either do more extensive beta testing (beta testing is where people who are not employees of the company test the software) or they should routinely ship bug fix updates free of charge.

Maybe software companies have discovered that they are pricing their software too low and they're trying to make up for it by selling us upgrades every three months. Buying a software package has almost become like getting involved with one of those chain letters.

And how do you know what you are getting when you get an upgrade. The press releases and upgrade notices are so vague, you're not even sure that they are talking about the same software. They leave you wondering how you could ever have used the previous release. These are the same features that they fell all over themselves praising in their previous release. Were new features added? Do they work? Who knows?

Maybe I'm getting jaded. After all, it's "Prime Chuck Week" on channel 21 and tomorrow night Chuck Norris will do it all over again.

Jim

■

Using the new BBS continued

est to you may be ignored, either for this session only, or for this and all future sessions.

To exclude or include a conference, merely enter the letter associated with the conference, then review the listing of "Active combined boards" follows to confirm your change.

(P)ointers in each conference can be reset so that you do not have to read any UNREAD messages. This is done by moving the "Last Message Read" pointer from the last message ACTUALLY read to the last message in the conference. Each user on the TBBS system has his own Pointers for each conference, so you are assured of being able to read any unread messages at your leisure.

The option to Send Private E-(M)ail lets you temporarily jump out of conference reading so you can

send a private message to someone. Once through there, you are returned to this same menu.

NOTE: One word of caution is in order here. When you are reading conference messages, any mail that you (L)ease or (R)eply to will become part of the indicated conference replies. Be careful not to say something embarrassing!! It is not always obvious that your mail is going into the conference, rather than as private mail. Use the (M)ail option to create private mail!!

With that, we conclude this lecture. TBBS is an extremely powerful and flexible system, such that not all features can be explained without virtually rewriting the TBBS manual. Work with it, read the BBS help files, read the "BBS Directions" conference, and ask the SYSOP questions on issues that you find confusing. We will continue to try to improve the system in the next several months.

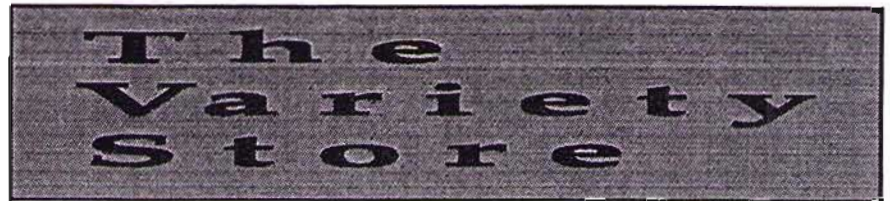
Have fun!!

Doug

■



Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.



A personal view of new or unusual hardware, software, and applications for IBM small computers and compatibles.

Real news during February from Maxtor, AMD, Compaq, Intel, Microsoft & Tandy

What's it all mean?

February and March are really weird months. It's the "rush season" for my business, for one thing. Period also seems to produce really strange PC-related announcements in the various media sources I rely on to produce this column.

Biggest news just had to be hardware price cuts across the board. If you can think of a major player in the PC market, I'll guarantee they have announced significant price cuts in the last two months. Even memory seems to be slipping somewhat lower, except for the 4M SIMMs.

That includes IBM and Compaq. Software doesn't seem to be (officially) headed in the same direction – except for upgrades from the competition's products.

Loyal users feel "had"

Software upgrade costs for loyal users (are you listening Microsoft?) are in many cases the same that a user of a competing product would have to pay to change over. Hear a lot of grumbling on this score, and see a lot of (formerly) loyal users really giving the competition some thought.

Describe, *Legacy* and *Ami Professional* may snare a lot of new customers this way. Maybe even *WordStar*.

Maybe it's the water

Got a comment at the last NTPCUG Meeting that kind of caught me off guard. I was asked if I "was not feeling too well lately" since I "seem to

have backed-off the vendors in this column".

Could be, I guess. I did say something nice about WordPerfect last month. Hmmm....

Back to blood! Same Disk Wars New battles looming

Maxtor Corp. may have touched off a new round in the very bloody PC disk wars this month. Maxtor announced, according to *PC Week*, the latest sortie into the 3.5" disk struggle with their *Cheyenne* 7213, 213M, 3.5" drives with 15 ms access time priced at \$395.

A disk with similar specs – the Maxtor LXT213S has been selling locally for \$750 in SCSI interface. List is somewhere in the \$1000 range. Wonder what the *Cheyenne* will actually sell for at

street level? Users will be the real winners here.

This may be start of another round of hard-disk bloodletting similar to that seen in 1989 - 90 that brought the demise of Mini-scribe and other disk makers. There was no comment on this move from officials of Seagate and Conner Peripherals, Inc., currently kings of the 3.5" mountain.

From cheap, Maxtor goes big

Still in the 3.5" arena, Maxtor went from inexpensive to huge with announcement of their new 1.24G, MXT-1240 drive. That's "G", i.e., 1,240 Megabytes, in an 8.5 ms access time drive with a data-transfer rate of 44 Mbps.

Price of the new drive was announced at \$1,795 (list). Now, with *Stacker 2.0*, that probably works out to approx. 2.2G or \$.81/M. Guess their market is new owners of *Windows 3.1* and *Word for Windows 2.0*.

AMD surprizes nobody at all As 486 chips due to arrive

Talk about blood – AMD is expected to announce their 486 chips before you read this. Real question isn't if, but when, and what will Intel's waiting fleet of attorneys do about it?

That's anyone's guess. Intel hasn't been successful at stopping AMD via litigation over the 386 chips, and industry insiders expect a repetition on the 486 front. May make all that

"486" advertising a little silly if the competition has them as well. However, the legal war on the 386 chips wasn't dead at time of this writing, so this piece may wind up being a "little silly" if AMD loses.

Another question is Chips & Technologies and Dallas' Cyrix planned entry into the 386-486 competition later this year. Impact of either coming into the 486 fray would certainly be interesting from the user viewpoint.

Intel surprises everybody – 30 New 486 chips announced

With the P5 waiting in the wings

Intel pulled out the big-bore in January and February to "shot-gun" the competition (read that as AMD & Chips & Technologies) with 30, count 'em, 30 new 486 chips. I think that may bring the total of 486 chip variations from Intel close to 50.

Also lurking in the wings is the widely-rumored "P5" chip (assumed to be the 586 in hiding) supposedly "due for release" in June or July. No specs – just rumors so far, but the rumors strongly point to increased use of RISC technology to enhance chip performance well beyond that displayed by the 486.

A real screamer 586 chip would really put a massive kink in the competition at the PC high end – and probably put a kink or two in the workstation arena.

Even more blood – Compaq declines As PC sales drop

Compaq reported a 51% drop in fourth-quarter profits in 1991. This resulted from a 13% decline in sales over the quarter. Until this year Compaq had been seen by the industry as the golden company that could do no wrong.

The report in the *Wall Street Journal* cited several reasons for the shift, chief of which was competition at the lower and middle tiers of the Compaq product lines where the Houston-based PC maker was lagging in pricing and features.

Compaq is expected to address this issue with a complete revision of their product lines from top to bottom over the next year.

Old habits never die – Xerox boosts US Mail, Irritation & competition

In a time when Microsoft, Borland and WordPerfect are competing to see how "friendly" they can make upgrades to their products, Xerox seems to be focused on playing a "contrarian" role.

I have an early version of *Gray F/X*, a superb grayscale editor written by Media Cybernetics and sold to Xerox at the end of its Beta test cycle. I know *Gray F/X* has been improved and, eager to get the latest version, I phoned Xerox for upgrade details. (Upgrades are positive cash flow – why did I have to phone Xerox and not the other way around?)

Got the info. Price was reasonable. But ... Xerox wanted the original *Gray F/X* program disk returned with the completed renewal form and a cashier's check. Original program disk? Cashier's check? They've got to be kidding!

I went through this garbage with the *Ventura Gold* (3.0) upgrades, and nearly switched to Aldus *Pagemaker* because of it. I know there are other grayscale editors out there, several of which may be better than *Gray F/X*. This policy makes them start looking quite attractive. Don't know if that's what Xerox really wanted, though.

Ventura 4.0 does finally Ship – long after taking Update \$\$\$ from users

Ventura's Publisher 4.0 began shipping in very late January. Media reports say the upgrade may be worth the \$129. That's nice.

But, this is another sore point with me – and lots of other users – Xerox's *Ventura* subsidiary began taking the upgrade money well before the product shipped. Xerox/*Ventura* isn't alone in this, they are just the most recent offenders.

There is a bright spot here, though. This Xerox subsidiary didn't ask for the original program disks with the upgrade.

Micrografx doesn't score PR coup in 3.1 upgrade

Gosh, I must really be feeling grouchy! Micrografx touched a sore nerve in December with their upgrade to *Designer 3.1* (?3.1A?). Among the enticements to upgrade were a lot of Adobe Type 1 fonts that came with the package.

I really wanted more (and more) fonts, and I like *Designer*. There were some improvements to several of the *Designer* modules that would have prompted the upgrade anyway, but the fonts were irresistible. Figured out the cost and mailed them my check.

Well, I didn't quite figure correctly since I missed, in a very small typeface, the \$10 shipping and handling charge. Micrografx sent my check back and requested another in the "correct" amount.

Not a good move. Really small-time.

What Micrografx should have done was either (1.) "eat" the handling charge since their spokesperson agreed it was real-

ly small type and a lot of people had complained about this, or (2.) send the upgrade and an invoice for the difference. I still wanted the type fonts, but had to struggle with my anger at Micrografx to pay the extra charge.

Growing Microsoft escapes PC industry gloom and doom Record earnings announced

This ought to make the FTC investigators real happy. Microsoft Corporation announced record profits for the eighth quarter in a row last month. One of the few PC-related companies that has remained highly profitable during a recession, Microsoft did downplay the record earnings.

What was more interesting, was a slightly later announcement that reported the exit of Microsoft's (current) President, Michael Hallman. Mr. Hallman will be replaced by a troika composed of Steven Ballmer, Michael Maples and Francis Gaudette, reporting directly to Microsoft Chairman, William Gates, III.

This is billed as part of the most current reorganization taking place among the corridors of Microsoft's Redmond, WA, headquarters.

Hallman's replacement by the Troika was seen by several media sources as recognition of de facto operational patterns already in play at Microsoft.

According to the Wall Street Journal article in January, decision to allow Mr. Hallman to seek personal growth elsewhere was made by Chairman Gates over the Christmas holidays.

Tandy gives a shot at Superstore operation

Tandy corporation announced that it will begin construction of a 160,000 square-foot "Super Store" in Oregon. Site for the Goliath will be in Willsonville, Oregon, a suburb of Portland.

Although not quite as large as some other mega-retail stores, Tandy believes this will be possibly the largest site devoted to electronics alone. Tandy plans to sell computers, programs, books, televisions, radios and appliances. The Dallas Morning News added "almost anything imaginable that can be plugged into a wall socket."

We've heard of starting small and growing large, but where does starting huge lead?

Back to GUI, Windows And big, fast monitors

Biggest new wave may be high-speed graphics boards. Lots of Windows users have been complaining about "slow" graphics with Windows 3.0, particularly in high-resolution modes.

Wondering around Comdex, that didn't seem to be a problem, though. An awful lot of these machines were running Windows on PC's equipped with so-called windows-accelerator graphics boards. Whose boards?, you may ask.

Saw a lot of Number 9 boards, otherwise unidentified, being used with large, high resolution monitors. Also saw a number of Hercules Graphics Station Gold cards being used. Dropped by Hercules' booth and saw their line of TI TMS34010 graphics cards ranging in price from \$495 to \$795, and Windows 3.0 capable. (That means Hercules actually had Windows 3.0 and 3.1 drivers available.)

Among the most interesting were the Rapix graphics boards billed as "The ultimate VGA Accelerator." A product of Hornet Technology Corp. of Placentia, CA, the Rapix line features a Weitek 5086 graphics accelerator chip, Phoenix View and addition of the CEG (Continuous Edge Graphics) RAMDAC introduced by Edsun in 1990.

Hornet showed the usual software display speed tests which were interesting, but non-informative. (Who carries around an accurate stopwatch at a trade show like Comdex?)

The Rapix did look very fast, and it was priced somewhat below the boards it appeared to be easily beating.

Reagan 

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SIG HAPPENINGS

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

Material for this column should be sent to K.B. Barton, SIG Coordination, before the 10th day of each month.

ACT! SIG

We announced the possibility of forming an ACT! SIG at the February 8th NTPCUG Business Meeting. The response was very encouraging. It appears many people are using ACT! and are all interested in learning to use it more effectively.

For those who haven't heard of it, ACT! is a contacts management software package which is used by sales people and others to help keep track of their clients, appointments, and other scheduling needs. It is fairly easy to use but, like most sophisticated software, working with others like we will in our SIG will help all of us use ACT! more effectively.

We will announce program topics as they are arranged over the next few weeks. We hope to get the manufacturer representatives to show the product as other software companies do their products.

If you are interested, or have ideas on how we can all be most useful to each other, please feel free to call me at 214-423-7585. Thanks.

Mike Hill

Alpha Four SIG

At the January NTPCUG meeting 17, interested persons gathered with Timothy Carmichael in an effort to see if there would be enough interest to form an Alpha Four SIG. After some gentle coaxing and encouragement from Timothy, the attendees decided that there was plenty of interest and enthusiasm for "taking that first step!" Before the meeting was over, Michael Moore and Ron Jackson volunteered to begin as SIG leader and Assistant SIG leader, respectively. Mac McKeethen and Mike Momen volunteered to assist in any

capacity as needed. So we are off to a good start!

Our next meeting in February was spent getting to know what we as a group would want in the way of programs, technical assistance and "networking" etc. A quick canvassing of those in the audience revealed that there is good diversity in the interests and talents of the group. There was a consensus of opinion that our meetings should be scheduled for 11:00 A.M., if possible. However, the February meeting was held at 1:00 P.M. because of insufficient time for coordination. Check the information boards at the next "Super Saturday" to see if the time has changed.

All Alpha Four users ... come on out and let's get started!

Mac McKeethen

Assembler SIG

Our February meeting featured Glynn Brooks with a continuation of his January talk on PC keyboard programming.

Our March meeting will feature a discussion of the ASM code used in the Standard Library and generated by a variety of C compilers, with special emphasis on the ASM string functions.

Some of the standard library code is very good Assembler. Looking to see you all there.

Frank Cavallito

CAD SIG

Our February meeting featured an informative presentation by Mike Firth on Generic CADD. During the next several months we have plans in the making for more such demos to include DesignCAD, CAD-CAM with

robotics and even an AutoCAD presentation to be held in the auditorium. We hope if you have a special interest in a specific CAD package that you will come to our next meeting and share that interest with us.

At our next meeting we will be discussing CAD VS. manual drafting. Is manual drafting faster? Some people seem to think so. This is a question that faces us today. It was presented to me in a recent discussion with fellow students. There were some excellent points brought forward and I feel they should be shared with all of us.

My special thanks to K.B. Barton for arranging for a new room. This now gives us the time needed to set up and break down equipment vital for our demos.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our March meeting.

Bill Sephton

Communications SIG

Our February meeting included a demo of Carbon Copy+ by Charles Jacobus (re-scheduled from December). Based on a room full of attendees, it was obvious that there was a lot of interest on the topic of remote control of PC's, which is Carbon Copy's forte. Thanks Charles for coming through with a great presentation.

Our March meeting will be centered around the introduction of new BBS software for our own club bulletin board. The software chosen is TBBS. We will do our best to show you why you will really like it over the older software package. We are hoping to have several representatives from the NTPCUG BBS Committee on hand to answer any questions you may have. Please plan to attend and bring any other communications related questions that you may have. We'll do our best to pull you out of the fog.

Bill Green and Doug Gorrie

C++ SIG

In February, we were fortunate to have a last-minute change of plans. Randy Haben of Borland (who discussed Borland's database strategies in the main meeting) was kind enough to stick around, and present some of Borland's new products that



are of interest to programmers. He spent most of his time on Object-Vision, with a brief demo of Turbo C++ for Windows squeezed in at the end. I told him to expect a lively and opinionated audience, and I don't think he went away disappointed. Many thanks to Randy for an enlightening presentation on very short notice.

Since the February presentation preempted our plans for a question and answer session, we'll move it back to March. Be sure to bring your toughest problems, and your most extreme opinions -- we'll have time for all of 'em.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

DOS SIG

Rumors and more rumors about DOS 5.1. Sharp-eyed participants at the recent (February, 1992) demonstration of Word for Windows 2.0 may have seen a little more than a great word processor for the GUI environment.

If you watched the reboot done toward the end of the demonstration, you should have seen some very interesting CONFIG.SYS items fly by. Yes, the Microsoft folks admitted (crowed) that it was Windows 3.1, but there may have been a little something else there as well.

Nuff said.

Well, not really. What was Windows 3.1 and what could have been DOS 5.1? May really be hard to tell the difference in the future since so many of the features are rumored to be one and the same as Microsoft begins moving the two products toward each other. So where's IBM? Wasn't OS/2 2.0 supposed to be running on something other than a VCR or 35 mm slide projector by this time?

We'll continue to look at DOS 5.0 and DR DOS 6.0 for the meantime, in absence of more concrete announcements from Microsoft, IBM and Novell/DRI. Good subject for March will continue to be making the current DOS product(s) perform the way they were intended. That will include the general Q & A session at the terminal side of the meeting.

Reagan Andrews

General Genealogy and PAF SIGs

Because of numerous requests to put this type of article in the Newsletter, this month's write-up gives the procedures for GEDCOMing PAF data to Brother's Keeper (BK) and printing out a report (with refinement of the data before printing as an option). *(Due to space limitations, "GEDCOM PAF DATA" will be included in the April issue. Editor)*

Al Sanford

LAN SIG

Last month we had a rousing session given by Ron Ogden, the local Business Development Manager for Artisoft. Thanks, Ron, for an excellent presentation of Lantastic. The "little RAMs" are cute, the tee shirts fit (if you're the right size), and the caps glow in the dark. Between Ron's lively presentation and the many questions asked, there was no chance of any of us dozing off!

During the March LAN SIG session we will have a time for general discussion led by Francis Bright. Bring your questions and see if anyone else has the right answers. Bring your answers and see if anyone else asks the right questions. Comments, observations, and industry rumors are also allowed.

See ya' there at 10am.

Bernie VanRoekel

Paradox SIG

The Paradox SIG has had a good run of programs of late. Overall I would rate 1991 much improved over the previous year.

1992 has started out well too, with an excellent January "walk on" program given almost extemporaneously by Cary Jensen, co-owner of Data Works of Houston, a Paradox consulting firm. He is the author of two Paradox related books, "PAL Made Easy", (Osborne/McGraw-Hill), and "Paradox 3.5 User's Instant Reference", (Sybex).

Cary gave a good demo and described in detail a Paradox Function Library he calls "Copytools". These functions greatly enhance the Paradox user's productivity when designing Paradox Forms and Reports.

The real high point of his visit was his generous donation of the complete Copytools function library to the NTPCUG for distribution as a Disk Of The Month. The disk was rushed to delivery and was available at the DOM table for the February meeting. Thanks again to the DOM Squad for the quick service.

February's SIG meeting was deferred to the main meeting presentation, which was conducted by Borland. The Borland presentation gave a preview of Paradox for Windows and provided a future view of things to come from Borland in the database arena. Things continue to look very positive for the future of Paradox. With the new GUI, improved network performance, and greatly enhanced functionality, Paradox looks like a sure bet to maintain the lead position in the desktop and network database market. The future looks even brighter as more and more interoperability will be built into future releases.

I fear that my time has been somewhat dominated by the new NTPCUG BBS implementation; so I have not lined up a program for the March meeting at this time. Right after Greg Kane volunteered for Assistant SIG Leader, he got married, and I haven't seen him since! Talk about taking up your spare time! Well, a belated, congratulations Greg.

Fred Williams

Personal Users SIG

This Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you!... if you consider yourself any of the following: ... a novice... a new PC owner... a beginner with PC's... a person curious about PC's... a soon-to-be PC owner... a personal (versus professional) PC user... or... a PC user needing to review some "fundamentals".

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the Infomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), we take a month off and then the entire 16-class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence, but you can take them in any



sequence convenient to your personal schedule.

The classes always start each month (except our month off) at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 pm. Since each class is a "stand-alone"... i.e. self-contained and NOT requiring any other classes as prerequisites... you can begin attending at any time convenient to your other priorities and schedule. In addition to receiving informative instruction from people very knowledgeable in their field and class topic, you also receive a set of handout notes for each class, to allow you later review. There are no homework assignments, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even have to be a member of the NTPCUG before you attend... **ALTHOUGH YOUR ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NTPCUG AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS.**

This 16-class curriculum of PC fundamentals is specifically designed to be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed... where you are accepted just as you are, and where you can gain knowledge without the hassles... and best of all... the classes are FREE!

Join us as we learn and review "THE FUNDAMENTALS."

The four classes for March 1992 will be:

9:00 AM	class 5.2 Fixed Disk Directories, Batch Files and Paths
10:00 AM	class 6.2 DOS Menu Systems on Fixed Disks
12:00 PM	class 7.2 Fundamentals of LOTUS 123
1:00 PM	class 8.2 Fundamentals of the "BASIC" Language

Bob Presley

PRO SIG March

Charles Sullivan did an excellent job presenting "Getting to know ADA". He convinced many of those present that C++ was out and ADA was the language of the future. For a change, the SIG was conducted on a very professional level. At least until Kent Cobb who had been sitting in the back row asked, "How many of you knew that ADA spelled backwards is still spelled ADA?" Well, it beats

seeing Mr. Ed videos played backward. For this and other interesting discoveries, stop by the Pro SIG.

Jim Hoisington

Quicken SIG

News from the February meeting: Billy Pitts fielded questions about uses of Quicken for personal, small business and investment applications. Surprisingly, since Quicken was devised primarily as an accounting program, many people are using it for their investment needs as well. Perhaps this is stretching the capabilities of the program beyond it's excellent handling of bank, savings, credit union and mutual fund accounts, but just what the program can do and what it can't do is what we're after.

So, as we progress through various topics as bank accounts, accounting categories, cash and credit cards, we will reach a discussion of investment accounts. Certainly, I would like to explore further the report capabilities which are marvelous for summarizing what went where and many of us are interested in business uses. Please offer your expertise in these areas.

In one of the later meetings, we hope to have a Quicken representative address the 5.0 upgrade, the transfer utility and how far Quicken is willing to go to accommodate investment tracking.

Some interest has been shown for a telephone or bulletin board exchange to help with problems. There has been a suggestion that those of you who wish to exchange information may want to make their telephone number available to the SIG. At the March meeting, you will have a chance to express your opinions on the subject.

Jo Johnston

Spreadsheet SIG

A representative from the local Borland office will be giving a presentation on Quattro Pro 4 and Quattro Pro for Windows. If your interested in learning more about the new features in Quattro Pro 4, read this month's Cells & Ranges column. The product is packed with a lot of great features, especially in the graphics

area. You will definitely want to attend this SIG meeting to get an up-close and personal look at Borland's new spreadsheet products.

Betty Brooks

Spreadsheet Developer's SIG

The Spreadsheet Developer's SIG's usual format includes a SIG member giving a 20-minute presentation about a tip or technique they have been using. This follows in the philosophy of the SIG, where we all participate and share questions, problems and ideas. The remaining time is spent on interactions between SIG members. Remember, if you are stuck on a particular problem with your macros, etc., this SIG is where to come for help. There is usually lots of sharing of questions and answers.

The SIG member planning to give a short presentation at the March meeting is Rick Beach who works for Ocean Spray.

Betty Brooks

Unix Sig

Well, what do you know. It's one of those rare occasions when I actually get to write this after the monthly meeting. Such events happen much too infrequently to let pass. So I guess I had better get on the ball and write something.

At the February meeting I gave an introduction to the vi editor (sometimes called "the Editor from Hell"). This editor is supplied with UNIX so it is the one editor that you can count on finding on any UNIX machine. Some people love it, other hate it. I happen to like it while Jim would rather use Emacs. The main complaint I have heard is that it is easy to forget which mode you are in. I don't have too much trouble with that (but then I know about the showmode option). However I do forget if I have Caps Lock on which can be just as much of a problem. But it still remains my editor of choice (in fact I'm using a DOS version of it to write this).

In March I will continue with the discussion of vi. I will talk about using tag files, macros and using regular expressions.

Doug Scott



Word SIG

The February demonstration of Word for Windows 2.0 was super. Microsoft showed the new product at its best, and with a sense of humor as well.

But, there are still some nagging questions that were left unanswered at the demonstration. One of which we'll address in the Word SIG for March — those things easily done in the DOS product that are hard to accomplish (if possible) in the Windows version of MS Word. Example is the use of 0-width frames to incorporate transparent graphics images with text.

This is a significant feature in Word 5.0 for adding logos, letterheads, borders and other graphical matter to text documents rapidly and painlessly. We'll demonstrate this technique at the March SIG Meeting using both TIFF and EPS graphics. We'll also look at flowing text around (and through) a frame using the same techniques to produce more interesting page designs for newsletters and brochures.

The March Word SIG Meeting will end with the usual Q & A session to look at day-to-day problems users are encountering in making optimum use of their PC's and word-processing software.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

Ever needed to use the trademark symbol or a fraction in a document but could not figure out how to do it?

These special symbolic characters, called "dingbats", have to be created. You can create SOME of these dingbats by using the Compose feature of [Ctrl]2 (not [F2]). After pressing these two keys (you won't see any prompt), type the two characters you want to use to create a new, totally different character.

Compose a slash and a 2 to get the 1/2 symbol. Compose a slash and a 4 for 1/4. Combine an e and the accent to get the correct character for

rsun. Get a variety of bullets using two asterisks, an asterisk and a period, an asterisk and a capital O (not zero), or with a lower case O.

Not just any two characters can be composed. You have to know which will work and which will not. A capital L and a dash gives you a British Pound but a lower case l does nothing.

To insert a character in WP51 for Windows, choose the WP Characters Option found under Font. A window with several options appears. Click on the Set that's listed (it will probably say ASCII) and scroll through the list. When you find the dingbat you need, click on it to highlight it. Then click on the Insert (or Insert and Close) option. It will be positioned at the point of the cursor.

There's much more to the Compose feature than is mentioned here. For instance, you can use keystrokes known as the Literal feature. But we'll expound on that another time.

In response to the questionnaires you have been filling out, we have lots of ammo to send your way. From the basics of quick cursor movement and formats to advanced graphics. Taking two of the topics from the most wanted list, we'll concentrate on formats and labels for our March meeting. Even if you're familiar with these topics, we may have some tricks up our sleeve that can get you even more productive. As always, bring your Q & A's on any topics. We always have a computer handy for particularly complex problems. Bring the problem on a 3" diskette and we'll look at it after class time.

Oh, by the way. Have you figured out how to create the trademark symbol? Compose T and M. Don't be concerned that it shows up as a "plug" on the screen (for non-Windows users only). When you print or view it, you really will have a trademark symbol.

Lori Quinn

MS Works SIG

January

The first meeting of the MS Works SIG was well attended and many topics were explored. Ralph Logan

signed on as backup for Mike Firth SIG Leader and a total of 20 people signed the roster. Besides being interested in Microsoft Works, people also had AppleWorks, Works for the Mac, Works for Windows and Lotus Works, which are programs that deal with similar tasks in different ways. Early topics in the meeting were comparisons of the various products people had used and the relationship of other Microsoft products, such as Word and Excel, to Works. Also, features added and missing in the Windows version of Works were discussed. Other topics covered briefly included graphs in word processing, templates, saving files the first time and with a new name, and columns.

February

Nearly thirty people attended the February meeting of the Works SIG. We do not yet have a computer that will take the overhead projector, but we are working on it. We did have a computer with both Works for Windows and DOS available. Five of those attending indicated they have Works for Windows, most with DOS Works also.

Topics explored in the meeting included: Loading files automatically when Works is started and making a backup copy of the MACROS.INI file (after I lost mine during the month). We discussed Lotus Works and how it differed from MS Works and continued the discussion as the overall features of Works and compares with 1-2-3, Word, and Works for Windows. We discussed the directory structure of files with respect to the WORKS directory; I have my files as sub-directory of WORKS. We noted that Works must be started from the WORKS directory. We explored the differences between selecting a working range before doing a command (as Works does) and selecting the range after the command is stepped through (as AppleWorks does — we have 5 or 6 former users of AppleWorks, including me.) We also spoke about converting imported data, including a downloaded list, so prices could be used.

Mike Firth

CELLS & RANGES

- an eclectic collection of spreadsheet information

by Betty Brooks

Quattro Pro 4.0 is going to escalate the spreadsheet wars!

I have had a chance to work with a beta copy of Quattro Pro 4.0 and am very impressed with the new features Borland has added. In this article I'll relate as many of these features to you as space allows. By the time you read this, the product should be shipping or close to being ready.

This DOS based spreadsheet is looking more and more like a windows product, especially since there is a SpeedBar which acts like the SmartIcon bar in 1-2-3 for Windows. The SpeedBar is the former mouse palette all grown up and is easier to look at, use and customize. The SpeedBar options change when you go into edit mode, giving you a new set of options more appropriate to the editing environment, such as access to a menu of @function names, macro command words, a list of block names, the mathematical function keys (+,-,/,*, etc.), the absolute key and the calc key. Using the SpeedBar with the mouse can save you going through several layers of menus. The default SpeedBar has the cursor keys (which act like you have first hit the end key and then the directional arrow) for fast movement around the spreadsheet. There are also buttons for erase, copy, move, style, align, font, insert, delete, fit, sum, format, character mode, and wysiwyg mode. The sum button works like the ones in 1-2-3/W and Excel in that they sum the nearest column or row. If you have designated a block, then it will sum the row or column in the block. The sum button gives the sum of the best guess or it allows you to tell it which block, so this is a versatile function. Borland has called this function TurboSum. The character mode and wysiwyg mode buttons are a quick way to move between the two different display modes.

Borland has added the convenience of dialog boxes to several of the menu choices. The most obvious area of improvement with this feature are the graph menus such as graph customize. Now you can have a screen with all your options in a dialog box which marks the current choices as well as showing all the alternative choices. The mouse is easily used to make changes to several different options in each of the dialog boxes. I find it very helpful to be able to

see a list of all the choices on the screen at once for things like fill patterns and color. It makes figuring out your choices much easier. Another place where I like seeing all my options on screen at once is in the print layout menu and this, too, has been added to Quattro Pro 4.

All spreadsheets allow insertion and deletion of rows and columns, but now you can insert and delete blocks in this new version of Quattro Pro. I tried deleting a block of data from the middle of a chart set up in one of the sample files that comes on the disks. I did not delete the row of sums at the bottom of the block, just to see what the effect would be. The bottom row of sums was moved up to replace the top part of the block that was deleted and the blank area under was also moved up to fill in the area deleted. The sums, by the way, turned into ERR's which is just what you would expect. The information to the left and right of the deleted area was not changed. This new function could prove to be quite useful to people who develop spreadsheets and then need to change parts around without affecting other areas. If I had chosen to insert an area into the spreadsheet, the existing block of data in the target area would be moved down to accommodate the new data. The movement down and up with the insert and delete related to the fact that I had chosen Insert/Delete Block-Rows rather than Block-Column in the menu. The movement would have been horizontal instead of vertical had I chosen Block-Column in the Insert/Delete menu.

When I create block names in my spreadsheets and for macros, I sometimes end up with a long list of names which, later on, become less meaningful as to why they exist. Borland has added a feature which allows you to add notes to your block names. These notes can be up to 71 characters long, just long enough to give you a reminder of the use for the block name. If you create a block name table, the notes will also be listed, which helps with documentation of your spreadsheet. This is a feature which I could have used a long time ago. Some of my spreadsheets and the macro programs with them have hundreds of block names. Since they were created over a period of time, even with using "meaningful names", I could use a few reminders of their use via notes.

Several times I have received calls from new spreadsheet users who set their databases up vertically instead of horizontally, then wanted to be able to sort the columns. Until now, this has not been possible and I had to tell them to transpose their database so the records were on rows instead of in columns. Quattro Pro 4 allows sorting of columns as well as the usual row sorting. There are a lot of applications where this new feature will prove to be very useful, especially in tables of data where you might have a

matrix of information, but want to change the order of the columns.

One of the reasons people are using products like Baler, the spreadsheet compiler, is that they do not want other users to destroy the formulas in the spreadsheet. When an application has been created for another user, the developer is always concerned about the user accidentally deleting or changing one of the underlying formulas. The new version of Quattro Pro has an option which allows password protection of the formulas. Once the formula protection has been enabled, the user can not copy, move or edit the formulas. This is a very welcome addition!

Sometimes there is a need to be able to copy just the contents or just the formatting of a block of cells to another part of the spreadsheet. This is possible in the windows spreadsheet products, but until now was not a feature of any of the DOS products. Borland has added this ability to Quattro Pro 4. I can think of many times I could have used this feature in the past during spreadsheet development, so it will be well used in the future.

Like the wysiwyg mode in 1-2-3, Quattro Pro will now allow you to pre-select a block and then indicate several different operations to be performed. This is very useful when you want to apply several different formatting features to the same block. It saves a lot of time and helps you to be more accurate since you do not have to keep re-selecting the block for each different menu sequence.

The help features now allow you to hit the F3 (name) key after hitting the F1 for help. The F3 key will bring up an alphabetical list of help topics. You can then scroll through the list, highlight the desired topic and press enter to read the related help screens.

As would be expected from a product which already has great graphics features, there are quite a few new enhancements to graphing. There is a new graph type called bubble graphs which lets you float bubbles of relative sizes in an XY graph. The bubbles vary in size according to additional series which helps compare data points by their position and relative size. Analytical graphing, where you can analyze data according to your specifications and graph the results without making changes in the actual spreadsheet, is a major enhancement to Quattro Pro 4. There is a sample data spreadsheet included, which has daily data on it. This data can be graphed according to weekly, monthly and other time periods. You can also choose to show the data in an aggregated period and by functions such as sum, average and minimums, etc. The new analyzing features allow you to do moving averages, linear fits, exponential fits, weighted averages and more. You can now show multiple relationships in one graph like the average sales and the maximum sales over a weekly series in the time period, which was entered

as daily on the actual spreadsheet. This is an impressive move ahead in the graphics capabilities for any spreadsheet. While you are viewing a graph, you can also zoom and pan into selected areas of the graph for a closer look at the data points.

There are a couple of additional analytical tools added to Quattro Pro 4. There is an auditor feature which allows you to trace the dependencies of the cells in the spreadsheet. The Auditor is a welcome addition, because it helps you find the root of a circular formula problem as well as some other common errors in spreadsheets like reference to labels in formulas, etc. I would like to see it include a list of the spreadsheets formulas, too. Using the Auditor to list all the formulas is great for documentation purposes. The dependency option even can display a tree type description of the cells dependency path. Also added is an Optimizer which allows you to find the best solution for complex arithmetical problems. The Optimizer is in addition to the Solve For feature already in past versions of Quattro Pro. It replaces the Advanced Math Optimization command in the earlier versions and allows you to define and solve complex nonlinear problems which may have multiple variables and multiple constraints.

The new version of Quattro Pro allows you to create and save a group of style attributes such as font, line drawing, shading, alignment, data entry and numeric format into a custom style. This proves very useful when you are setting up a spreadsheet and want to use the same types of features in many different areas. Once the custom style is created and saved, it can be applied to different areas of the spreadsheet, edited and cleared from a block or removed from the spreadsheet entirely. Even though Quattro Pro has quite a few numeric formats included in the core product, you can now further customize the display of numbers, dates and times. This is done in the same manner as creating a style. You can do this in Excel (notice the fact that it is once again a windows product being copied). Borland has also added newer, faster Bitstream fonts as the system default. They can be discerned by the -SC at the end of the name on the menu. I noticed that when I used the font button, I could now use the bold, underline and italics attributes separately from the font size and type description as in the past. This is something I was very glad to see since it brings the function closer to that of the wysiwyg in 1-2-3. I wish that Borland would include a symbols font like the one in 1-2-3, since I have found many uses for those dingbat symbols.

While on the topic of 1-2-3 files and wysiwyg, Borland has included enhanced 1-2-3 compatibility by supporting FMT and ALL file formats as well as WK3 files. This means your 1-2-3 3.x files and 2.x files and all the formatting can now be read by Quattro Pro 4. There are a few things not supported in this transla-

tion such as external graph files such as CGM and PIC files that were embedded in the 1-2-3 FMT files. But, on the whole the translation works fairly well. I tried several of my more complicated wysiwyg files and they looked ok. Harvard Graphics files are also supported, but not the newest version, unfortunately.

The Network support enhancements allow you to perform several network tasks without exiting Quattro Pro if you are working on a LAN running Novell NetWare software. Since I have no networking here in my home office, I can't tell you anymore about it, but the person who I spoke with at Borland was very excited about the new network enhancements, so they must be quite useful. According to the upgrade guide, you can log on to network file servers and map to volumes on those servers, print to print queues, and run a print-queue monitor.

Printing is always a problem area for many people using spreadsheets. Borland has added some additional enhancements in the area of printing which hopefully will help users have fewer frustrations with printing. There is now a print spooler which will allow you to get control of the computer back sooner, while the printing operation goes on in the background. There is a queue monitor where you can check on the status of the print jobs and even allows you some control over them. In wysiwyg mode you can indicate the print block and page

breaks onscreen. There are now more laserjet and Canon font cartridges supported in this new version.

Last but not least, there is now support for add-in @functions. There are two new @functions related to these add-ins. They are @isaff and @isapp. The add-in files have an extension of .QLL.

I have tried to discuss all the new features in Quattro Pro 4 in this article and hopefully given you a feel for the scope of them. The product seems to be very robust even in the beta version and I think it will be a big hit in the DOS spreadsheet market. The other spreadsheets have their development work cut out for them since all the new features are ones that users will find useful in many situations. Some of the features such as the column sort and block insert and delete are things you will wonder how you ever did without. I think from a spreadsheet application developer's point of view, the ability to protect the formulas is the most important new feature, in Quattro Pro 4, but it's hard to decide! You will definitely want to get a closer look at this new product when it is available on the market.

Betty □

Betty has a spreadsheet and database consulting business called Records & Ranges. She can be reached at 214-618-1608 (4312 Bragg Place, Plano, TX 75024) if you have any questions or suggestions for this column.

Membership Application

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

The NTPCUG is a non-profit independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information, call (214) 746-4699.

Member # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (Check Preferred No.) Home _____ (_____) _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___

Work _____ (_____) _____ (Ext) _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___

Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below:		
Payment:	Membership Classification:	Application Status:
Cash _____	Regular (\$24.00) _____	New Member _____
Check _____	Student (\$12.00) _____	Renewal _____
Credit Card _____	(full time with ID)	Address Change _____

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066
(Make checks payable to NTPCUG)

Please Initial here _____ If you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

NEW DISKS



...from the DOM Squad

Disks released at the January 1992 meeting.

Disk 689. AM-Tax 1991, 11/18/91 - 1991 Tax Preparation Software for the IBM Personal Computer and compatibles. Copyright 1985-1991 by: AM SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 25010, Kansas City, MO 64119. Phone orders: (816) 426-8361.

AM-Tax is a software program designed to assist you in the preparation of your 1991 federal tax return. There are several versions of AM-Tax, a shareware program and several advanced versions of the registered program. This disk contains the shareware version of AM-Tax. It can prepare a complete tax return consisting of the Form 1040 and Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, R, and SE. Form 1040 cannot be filed as it comes from the printer (you'll need to transfer the figures to an official form 1040), but all of the other Schedules print out in a format accepted by the IRS. For simple tax situations, the shareware version may be all you need to use. Registration to use this version is \$20.

The advanced versions, called "Personal-1" (\$40) and "Personal-2" (\$65) and "Professional" (\$125), support more additional forms with each increase in cost, with support for printing a "fileable" dot-matrix 1040 at the \$40 level, and laser printer support ("T" cartridge req') with the \$65 and \$125 packages.

AM-Tax is easy to learn since it's designed around the Federal 1040. Supporting documents are accessed by pressing the F6 key when you're on a line calling for one of the schedules or forms included in the AM-Tax program. General-purpose worksheets are also available to enhance your record keeping. You'll find many other useful features after reading through this manual and trying the program.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or compatible; DOS 2.0 or later; at least 220K of available memory (up to 512K for advanced version); one 360K drive or hard drive (hard drive required for the Professional version).

****WARNING**:** This and other tax preparation programs should be thought of as fast and semi-smart adding machines only. The IRS will hold you responsible for all errors in your return, whether mathematical or substantive. Reliance on a tax program will probably not save you from penalties (including fraud) or interest charges, if you claim some tax benefit you are not entitled to. Use this and other tax programs for preliminary calculations and "what if" scenarios to check the tax effects of making or not making IRA contributions, etc. Thoroughly check the instructions that the IRS furnishes with each form to be sure that you are entitled to use the form, and that the data is properly entered and that all adjustments and limitations have been applied. Be sure that you are not required to fill out additional forms or schedules not included in this package. And manually check all calculations, and table lookups to be sure that the figures are correct. There could always be obscure errors that do not show up in trial runs with sample data. The prudent user would also check with AM SOFTWARE to be sure that errors have not been discovered and fixed after the date of this software release.

This software was downloaded and donated by the author.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(1/92).

Disk 690. LHA 2.13, 7/91 - File Compression Utility, July 20, 1991 by Haruyasu Yoshizaki.

The purpose of a File Compression Utility is to minimize the amount of space a file will take up on a disk, or to minimize the amount of time it will take to upload or download a file. When space gets REALLY tight on a DOM Disk, LHA is the utility we reach for.

This program is the "Editor's choice" winner in the compression software category in the "Best of 1991" PC Magazine issue. (See the Jan. 14, 1992 issue: Vol. 11, no. 1, p. 146.) The PC Magazine review of version 2.12 this program appeared in the Oct. 15, 1991 issue (Vol. 10, no. 17, p. 294, 316-317).

LHA will shrink a text file by a factor of 3; a spreadsheet, database, and some graphics files by a factor of 6. This is an improvement of 7 - 10 percent over PKZIP. LHA self-extracting files use a module that takes up less than 2K!

LHA.EXE 243 is the new version of LH 1.13C. The name was changed because Microsoft's DOS 5.0 has the interior command LH (for Load High).

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS - DOS 2.x or higher.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Kenneth Loafman (1/92).

Disk 691. JJB Scores Too, 11/91 - Student Information System by John James Broderick, P.O. Box 551563, Dallas, TX 75355-1563. (214)341-1635 Individual License Fee: \$129.

A Gradebook program - and much more. Manages 8 classes, up to 50 students per class, and up to 60 assignments per class. Can handle special needs such as ignoring lowest grade, grade not averaged, extra credit, lates, incompletes, automatic weighting, excused and unexcused absences, tardies, and alphabetic sorting. Rosters can be imported, exported or transferred.

Several reports are available for individual students: assignments with weighting and averages, incompletes, average computation with total points, and complete gradebook history. Class reports: average with total points, average with absences and tardies, gradebook history, points for assignments and tests, and roster. Classroom reports by student ID codes can be posted. Reports to parents can interface with a standard word processor text file.

The program is extremely friendly and can be used on a minimal system, using either floppy or hard disk. It can also be installed on a network for sharing records among teachers. Site licenses are available; cost is based on total enrollment. Help is always available using the F1 key. Help is also displayed on the menu screen for each item as it is highlighted. A tutorial can be accessed directly from DOS by typing STT. The user can vary the speed of the tutorial. Function keys are available for frequently needed operations and pull-down menus for the various screens.

Other nice features include ease of: error correction, adding or deleting students, adding assignments, and options for entering grades as percentages, points, or letters. When entering or viewing grades, the description of the grade (i.e. Weekly Quiz, or Worksheet 3) is displayed as the column is highlighted.

The source of this software was the author, John James Broderick.

This review prepared by Virginia Saller, edited by Kathryn Loafman (1/92).

Disk 692. Install-Pro 1.60, 11/91 - Automated Installation System by DB/Soft Publishing Co., 3200 Truxel Road, #199, Sacramento, CA 95833. Registration Fee: \$32.50.

Install-Pro is an automated installation system for software developers. Its primary purpose is to enable software developers to quickly develop installation programs and procedures for their applications.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS-IBM PC/XT/AT with at least 200K of available memory, DOS 3.0 or higher, and CGA/Hercules compatible monitor (EGA and VGA monitors will work properly. The developer will also need a text editor to edit script files.

Install-Pro provides a professional look and feel, customized multiple welcome screens, support for up to 999 installation disks, support for an unlimited installation files, support for split files, zip file support, developer defined directory prompts, naming of installation disks, run external commands to perform complex functions not supported by Install-Pro, optional installation components, VGA/EGA 50/43 line text mode support, and a whole lot more.

If you need an installation module for any application or program that you create, Install-Pro should fit the bill.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(1/92).

Disk 693. What's In That Box?, 6/91 - Computer Tutorial, by Jeff Napier, Another Company, P.O. Box 298, Applegate, OR 97530. Registration Fee: \$3.00.

"What's In That Box?" is a really good tutorial about the workings of a personal computer. The program covers many topics, and is very easy to use.

The tutorial covers following subjects: introduction, a peek inside, motherboard, IC chips, bits and bytes, BIOS, disk drives, display boards, monitor, and scan pattern. There is also a section titled "Catalog" which is a list of other software available from Another Company.

After starting the program, all of the menu options are shown at the bottom of the screen. The user moves through the screens one by one, or can jump to a section by selecting the GOTO menu option. The user can also change colors of the screen. The screens are easy to read, but since they use graphics they cannot be printed out by using the PrintScreen command.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS -IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with at least one floppy disk and a color monitor.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(1/92).

Disk 694. Book Librarian 1.0, 12/91 - Book Database Management, by Lemuel D. Turner, TurboSystemsCo, 3595 Canton Road, Ste A9-268, Marietta, GA 30066. (404) 516-8575 Registration Fee: \$34.95 +\$4.00 S/H.

Book Librarian is an easy to use book database program that is ideal for personal, professional, church, or business library. The program basically becomes an on-line card catalog for your books, magazines, and journals. The database supports cataloguing features such as ISBN number, author, title, subject, and a short memo field.

The database includes 16 information (database fields), seven fixed format reports, self-designed reports, context sensitive help, mouse support, screen saver, browse and find features, good searching capabilities, and can hold over 2 billion titles depending on disk space. Approximately 900 titles can fit on a floppy disk.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS - IBM PC/XT/AT, PS/2, or compatible with at least 512K of RAM, color monitor, and DOS 2.1 or higher.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(1/92).

Disk 695AB. Men on Women, Women on Men, 11/91 - An Electronic Book by Micro Computer Resources, Division MCR Agency, Inc., 6116 Merced Avenue, Box #81, Oakland, CA 94611. Registration Fee: \$149.00 (special price of \$99.00).

Men on Women, Women on Men is an electronic book that contains quotes and ideas about men, women, sexes, husbands, wives, and love. Each of these subjects is broken down into eight sections including essence, opposites, insight, positive, negative, advice, poetry/prose, and jokes. It is clever and enjoyable to read and browse.

This electronic book was created by the Idea Savings Bank that includes a storage system for user to store paragraphs about a subject, a reader to publish the books, and a tutorial (namely this program). The Idea Savings Bank is also available for registration.

This is a two disk set

Disk A is Part One of Men on Women, Women on Men.
Disk B is Part Two; containing additional subjects such as Sex, Courtship, Marriage, Affairs, Divorce, Singles, Clothes, Beauty, Age, Money, and Strife.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS - IBM XT/AT, PS/2 or compatible with 640K RAM (\$25K must be free), DOS 2.0 or higher, and a hard disk with at least 1.7M of available.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman(1/92).

DOM Mail Order Form

Mail to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order | Specify disk size:
P.O. Box 780066, 5.25" 3.5"
Dallas, TX 75378-0066 |

Disk No.	No. of disks	Title/Description

TOTAL DISKS _____ @ \$2.00 each \$ _____

SHIPPING & HANDLING @ \$1.00 for each 5 disks \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ORDER \$ _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews

I would like to make a special plea to ALL our members ... When you renew, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE study the application form carefully and take time to check off volunteer areas of interest that appeal to you for the coming year – even if you checked them off the previous year.

We need your help and we'd like to call you. If you check off a volunteer area on the current application form, then your name will stay current on our volunteer rolls and will make its way to some of our folks who are in need of your services. Sometime during the year you will probably get a call from us asking for your assistance.

If you don't check off a volunteer area, you may get dropped from our volunteer rolls and we'll end up missing your services. But, worst of all, you'll end

up missing the time of your life (or at least a very good time). Ask Ralph, the sleeve-puller, or Paul, the memo-person, or Chris, the ticket-pusher, or Judy, the envelope-stuffer, or Randi, the phone/fax person, or ...!

THANKS for taking the time to help out.

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers listed below who served for the month of JANUARY (also, DOM volunteers who served for DECEMBER). In addition to those listed below, our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers, newsletter exchange, and BBS SYSOP and staff are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

PLEASE remember to say thanks to our volunteers!

INFOMART Liaison
Stuart Yarus

BBS Champions
Fred Williams
Doug Gorrie

Vendor Setup/Breakdown
Kenneth Breedlove
Michael Griffin
Homer Glascock
Richard Rushing
David Slavik (Anchor)

Presentation/Equipment Setup
and Breakdown
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Jung
Christopher Carmichael

Information/Registration Booth
Conley Andrews (Anchor)
Harvey Andrews
(Anchor/extra duty)
Dianne Arnold (Anchor)
John Arnold (Anchor)
Ralph Beaver (Anchor)
Randi Boucher
(Anchor/Scheduler)
Martin Chartier
Loyce Coolidge
John Ferguson (Anchor)
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)
Hank Holt (Anchor)
David Huckabee (Anchor)
Ed Kelg
Pehl, Lee
Wade Mayfield
Claude McClure (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Brenda Simmons
Pat Sims
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Everett Turner (Anchor)

Peyton Weaver (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM)
(for December & January):

DOM Desk Crew:

Joe A. Allen
Charles Amy
Mike Ashley
Roy Bales
Ralph Beaver
Robert Bender
Stan Berlin
Ken Branscone (extra duty)
Jim Brunke
Gene Carleton
Charles Cashion
Jay Chambliss
Bill Chambliss
Judy Griffiths
W. Carey Hardy
Howard Harkness
Karen Harkness (extra duty)
Kent Haven (much extra
duty)

Pat Henley (extra duty)
Bob Karleback
Kathryn Loafman
Nancy Ogden
Bob Post
Virginia Salter
Ed Snuggs
Elaine Stephens
Jerry Stone
Brenda Templett
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston
Bob Wilgus

With Spedal Thanks to:

Set-Up Crew:
Stan Berlin
Jay Chambliss
Bill Chambliss
Mark Gruner
Howard Harkness

Karen Harkness
Kent Haven
Pat Henley
Kathryn Loafman
Jerry Stone

Shift Supervisors:
Joe A. Allen
Charles Cashion
Judy Griffiths
Bob Karleback
Kent Haven (much extra
duty)
Pat Henley
Nancy Ogden
Virginia Salter

Inventory and Take-Down
Crew:

Charles Amy
Ralph Beaver
Charles Carter
Shawn Dunn
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman
Virginia Salter
Brenda Templett

DOM Desk Scheduler:
Charles Cashion
Kathryn Loafman

Disks-for-Review Manager:
Howard Hamilton

Disk Production:
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (214)387-2751, (214)387-2752 or (214)263-9036 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

2. Meeting day: Sign up at the Information Booth or DOM Booth to work those areas in a coming month.

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations Timothy Carmichael	661-4628 (w)
DOM Booth Activities Bill Drissel	264-9880 (h)
DOM Software Review Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
Information Booth and General Information Connie Andrews	828-0699 (h)



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Exploring Data Visually
CoWorks Corporation

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Aldus Persuasion for Windows
NTPCUG Business Meeting

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

The PC Darkroom
Micrografix Incorporated

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Group Meetings

For possible time changes, check the Bulletin Board just before the meeting and the overhead display in the lobby at INFOMART.

9:00 - 9:55
Assembler - DOS
General Genealogy
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Quicken
Software Review
Windows Applications
WordPerfect

10:00 - 10:55
Basic Programming
CAD
dBase for TI Pro
Fox Pro Database
Local Area Networks
PAF - Genealogy

10:00 - 10:55 cont
Paradox
Personal Users
Unix/Xenix

11:00 - 11:55
Basic Programming
Community Service
Family Roots - Gnlgy.
MS Works
Roots III - Genealogy
Spreadsheet Developers
TI Pro General Mtg.
Windows Developers

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
C++/Advanced C

12:00 - 12:55 cont
Communications
Computer Law
Investors
OS/2 for End Users
Personal Users
R:Base

1:00 - 1:55
Beginners C Language
Business Apps./DAC Easy
LOTUS
OS/2 Developers
Personal Users
TI Pro - New Users
WORD

2:00 - 2:55
Advanced Programmers

SIG Coordinator	K. B. Barton	(214)349-9690 h (214)747-0209 w
ACTI	David Thrash	(214)616-4130
Alpha Four	Michael Hill	(214)423-7585
	Michael Moore	(214)228-1646
	Ron Jackson	(214)278-3661
Assembler	Frank Cavallito	(214)423-8221 h
Basic Programming	Kent Kingery	(214)317-0308 w (214)317-0125 h (214)271-2292 h (214)205-2215 w
	Steve Dixon	(214)775-1503
Beginners C Lang.	Stan Milam	(214)233-8353 w
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)343-3862 h
C++ / Advanced C	Kent Cobb	(214)341-1890 w
	Tom Cook	(214)618-6002 h
Communications	Doug Gorrie	(214)464-7942 w (817)731-1908 h
	Bill Green	(214)827-5751 h
Community Svc	Jay Shilstone	(214)361-9681 w
Comp Aided Design	Bill Saphron	(214)298-1799 w
Computer Law	Debra Rangel	(214)635-9379 h
	Marin Moonmaw	(214)437-0322
DAC Software	Patt Shaw	(214)669-9633 w (214)235-2559 h (214)418-3101 h
DOS	Jim Holsington	(214)628-0699 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)644-7536
Fox Pro	Kevin White	(214)278-7888 h
Genealogy	Al Sanford	(214)681-0202 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee	(214)937-9876 w (214)837-5851 h (214)458-9158
	Gary Johnson	(817)481-4120 w (817)451-4540 h
Investors	Nash Kappoor	
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel	
LOTUS	Francis Bright	(214)964-8174 h
	Mark Gruner	(214)271-4911 h
	Pat Henley	(214)229-9216 w (214)618-1608 h (214)827-7734
MS Works	Betty Brooks	(214)279-1738 h
OS/2 Dev	Mike Firth	(817)962-4598 w (817)481-4966 w (817)481-6625 (h)
OS/2 for End Users	Bob Fernier	(214)492-1315
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)299-9318 h (214)241-3307 w (214)867-1679 h (214)422-4269 h (214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h (214)416-3101 h (214)291-5720
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)404-8400 w
Programmers	Bob Russell	(817)467-4581 h (214)352-0888 h (214)495-4410
	Kent Kingery	(214)271-4911 h (214)229-9216 w (214)964-8174 h (214)821-4788 h (214)634-2360 w (214)348-3786 h (817)267-0758 h (817)878-0367 w (214)596-7807 h (214)804-2441 w (214)618-1268 h
Quicken	Jim Holsington	(214)828-0699
	W L Harris	(214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h (214)255-0555 w Metro (817)481-6453 h (214)823-9837 w
	Rex Gifford	
R:Base	Richard Hauslein	
Roots III	Don Branham	
Software Review	John Wyllie	
Spreadsheet Dev.	Pat Henley	
TI Pro	Mark Gruner	
	Betty Brooks	
	James Corbett	
Unix/Xenix	Kurt Krider	
	Doug Scott	
Windows Dev.	Jim Staffworh	
WORD	Anhur English	
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
	David McGehee	
	Dorothy Berline	
WordPerfect	Loni Quinn	
	Mitch Milam	

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Phone (214)746-4699 for recorded information about the User Group and meeting dates.

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM or any other Corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to IBM Personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and send it with \$24 membership dues to the Membership Director whose address is shown below. A subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership. The Group meets once each month, usually on the second Saturday. See cover for date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.

Board of Directors

Andy Oliver, Chair
Reagan Andrews
Jim Holsington

Doug Gorrie
Mark Gruner

NOTE: To access the BBS Metro line from outside Area Code 214, use Area Code 214. (This is NOT a toll call from Area Code 817.)

NTPCUG BULLETIN BOARD (214)387-2751
(214)387-2752
(214)263-9036 (Metro)

SYSOP: - Tom Prickett
Asst. SYSOP: - Maggie Moomey
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa
User Relations: Kent Cobb
Information Mgt: Doug Gorrie
Technical Services: Leroy Tennison

Officers

President Andy Oliver (214)223-4044 h
(214)871-5750 w

President-Elect Doug Gorrie (214)618-8002 h
(214)464-7642 w
(214)661-4626 w

Program Chair: Timothy Carmichael
Treasurer Raymond Reyes
Secretary David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir. Jim Holsington (214)416-3101 h
Advertising Dir. John Pribyl (817)275-4109 h
Publicity Peyton Weaver (214)462-7980
Disk of the Month Kathryn Loafman (214)596-2539
Group Statistician Connie Testa
Volunteer Coord. Connie Andrews (214)828-0699
BBS Tom Prickett

Address Changes, etc...
Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to

NTPCUG Membership Director
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date.)

Members Emeritus

Phil Chamberlain Jim Holsington
John Pribyl Stuart Yarus

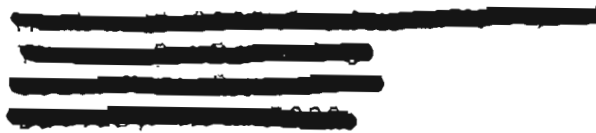


North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
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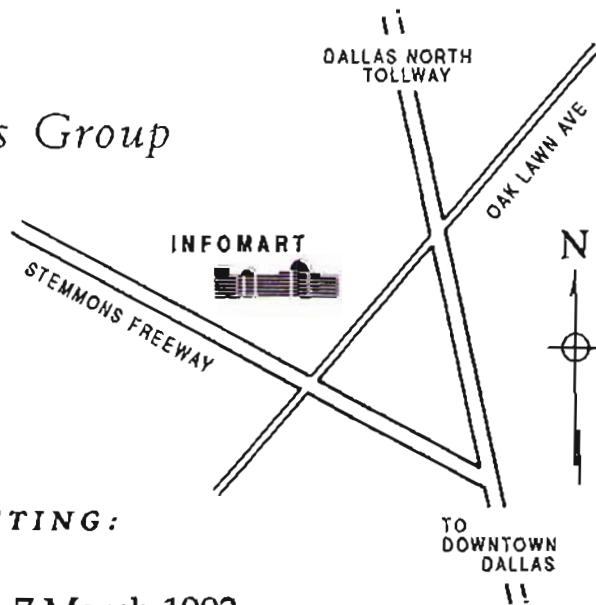
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Address Correction Requested.

11.3



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

7 March 1992