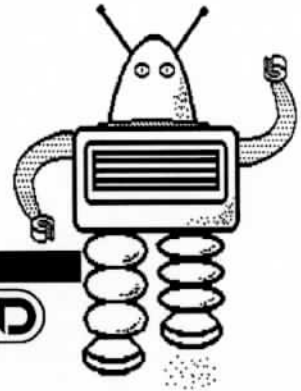


THE ROBOT COMPANION



The Newsletter of the Dallas Personal Robotics Group
October, 1989
Stan Spielbusch, Editor



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Ed Rivers, President

There was light turnout at our last InfoMart meeting on the 23rd. Kim Jindra came to the meeting to invite the club to make a presentation at "Longhorn SOG '89", a production of Micro Cornucopia magazine. A SOG is a 'Semi-Official Get-together' and they were started eight years ago by David Thompson, publisher and editor of Micro Cornucopia. Meetings will be held on October 13th and 14th. Most meetings will be held on or near the campus of Texas Woman's Univ. in Denton. The group will also be visiting the InfoMart on Saturday the 14th. I have asked Walter and Bev Bryant to help me with a Robotics presentation at 8pm on October 13th.

In addition to the demo in Denton, we have another demo coming up very soon. Our demo for Girl Scout troop 1380 is on Saturday, October 21st at 2pm. The demo will be given at the Western Heights Christian Church in Garland. The church is located at the corner of Jupiter and Lawler. We'll be talking about this at the next meeting.

October is already here, and that means that the end of the year isn't too far off. It's not too early to be thinking about club elections, which come up in December. I will not be seeking a second term as president, so it's up for grabs! We'll also be needing to find a new CCD representative.

I recently purchased the Heath HV-2000 Voice Synthesizer. It is a PC/XT (or compatible) expansion card that allows one to add voice to their programs. The interface is also capable of reading text files and data from a communications line with the supplied text-to-speech software. Because it uses the same voice chip, the interface makes your computer sound like a Hero 2000. For more info, check page 56 of the latest Heath catalog. The price is \$89.95.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

by Stan Spielbusch, editor

I was going to apologize for the lack of material in this newsletter, citing the fact that I'm busy getting ready for a business trip as my excuse. Then I realized that I don't need an excuse.

I'm the newsletter editor, not the writer. Except for a couple exceptional months, I'm still lacking the kind of input necessary for a decent newsletter. At first, I was able to fill the void with my own ramblings, but I have less time to do that now. I'm sure you're all tired of "hearing" about the mouse maze project, and would like to "see" some progress. Well, I would too. I'm waiting for articles on members' projects and ideas. I'm waiting for any kind of articles!

I know a lot of you became members because of the newsletter content. I have every intention of keeping up the quality of the newsletter, but I can't do it by myself. Hopefully I'll have more time to devote to it in the coming months, but I would really appreciate some input now. Please help.

CCD Access

CCD Access: Number 2 – October 1989. By: The Journal group.

Topics: A magical mystery tour, part one.

WHO IS THE COMPUTER COUNCIL?

We invite you to meet the CCD. Just who are they?

In short: a coalition of independent computer user-groups. By our last count, sixteen groups are currently affiliated. If you haven't walked in on a few, you've missed a lot. This month, let's start an "outsider's tour". Some general impressions and opinions, gleaned from our roving reporters:

C-CAD = Center for Computer Assistance to the Disabled

The C-CAD organization exists to help disabled persons in life and career with the aid of computers and computer training. They do all their non-profit work with money and equipment donations (NO government money!). They have placed well over 500 computers with their "clients", including special adaptations and software to suit the needs of the user.

They bring some demo equipment at meetings. The staff is very dedicated. New doors of independence open to people because of their efforts; the kind of results that fuel the whole user community. We're proud they're our newest member group.

DALACE = Dallas Atari Computer Enthusiasts

DALACE, in on the CCD's birth, has over 100 devoted members. They offer diverse support, primarily for the many ubiquitous home-oriented Atari machines. The ST camp here is small but has a great deal of vigor. The DALACE heart, though, is in its multitudes. Atari sold (and still sells) boatloads of console-type computers, such as the 400, 800, 130XE, etc. Each has sophisticated video capabilities and easy-to-use facilities. As a result, applications including graphics and sound get particular attention; note that there are serious gamers here. Also plenty of good general discussion and BASIC instruction; many interesting presentations.

All computer users are welcome here. Beginners and home users especially will appreciate the generous flow of creative ideas.

TIPRO = Texas Instruments Professional Computer Users

This 200-member group caters mainly to the users of the Intel based TI products such as the Professional and TI Portable Professional. But the talk is often much more generic and MS-DOS oriented (the TI machines are very close to XT's-- and better than them in some ways). Meetings are professional affairs, well-organized. Extensive disk catalog. Business applications, of course, predominate; these guys are very well-versed in all hardware aspects as well. The group takes care of its own, with ribbon-reinking and other valuable services to its members. TIPRO has also provided many man-hours for projects in the community. Whatever you do, don't miss their annual auction!

So far we've only covered three of the sixteen. Stay tuned, for we will continue next month. Should any of these groups sound like they practice your kind of fun, we suggest you find them for yourself. It is really a good experience to see other users and what they do. That's one of the CCD fundamentals: the interaction of users benefits all groups.

We are proud of the high caliber of our affiliate groups. Take your own tour-- you'll be pleased.

Any feedback, comments or suggestions should be forwarded to:

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