

CoCo~123

A GLENSIDE
PUBLICATION
SINCE 1985

SPECIAL MAY COCOFEST ISSUE

VOLUME XII, NUMBER V

**BIG
EVENT!**

From the President's Platen

It is 1961. My mother just gave birth to my little sister last year. My days as an only child have ended. Now there are more chores for me to do, more ways that I am expected to "pitch in" around the house, i.e. taking out the trash, vacuuming my room, helping with the dishes, do a little "sister-watching" (or is that a "little sister-watching"?) while my mom goes out for a few minutes, etc. It is a time of new discoveries. I have been given both an ALLIED crystal radio kit and an electric motor/generator kit for Christmas, and (I remember, now) anticipation holds me so close in its grasp as I make the final connections to the newly wound armature that is going to spin within the fields (proving that electricity and magnetism are so very close to the same thing that the one cannot exist without the other) that I can barely hold the wire steady enough to thread it into the last attaching lug. Now it is time to close the genuine brass knife switch. As the space between the contacts grows narrower, my heart begins to pound a little harder, until the gap ceases to exist...contact is made...and VIOLA! Uh...wait a minute...It's not working...maybe I should have read the directions, word for word, instead of just looking at the pictures, eh? Oh well, there's still the radio kit. I'll do that tomorrow; I'll spend the rest of the afternoon over at my best friend, Tommy's, house.... Strike two. I forgot that Tommy moved to Sacramento, CA. last week. It sure is lonely around here. I am nine years old...

It is 1992. Last December, I decided to start and run a computer bulletin board system. The software was loaded onto a hard drive, the various subdirectories were set up. There were mandatory text files that the software required in order for the system to run that had to be typed in. There were menus to build and embed color codes into, give direction to when certain keystrokes are read by the system, a userlog to set up, message-bases to name and organize, files for downloading to be acquired, games to install and configure. NOW.....for the main configuration data file...let's see, is the initialization string supposed to be #RATS0=0&C4&D7H0=0M0, or #RATZ? #RATZ!!!! It isn't working. Maybe I should have read the documentation more carefully instead of scanning briefly, eh? #RATZ! Who can I talk to about this? It sure is lonely around here. I have been playing/learning/using the Color Computer for nine years...

I hope that brings a smile to your face, I had a good time remembering it. The sad thing is that I didn't have to make it up. I still haven't learned, after 39+ (but not yet 40) years of learning, (HA) to READ THE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY! I suspect that is true with many of you, too. I hope not, but by the questions that I am asked (and ask, myself) I have my suspicions. Isn't it great that we have someone to whom to ask? Here in the Chicago area alone, there are at least three active, CoCo-based BBS's that you can call and ask any CoCo related questions you may have and probably receive an answer within 24 hours. It may not be the one you want, but it'll be an answer, nonetheless. And if you can't logon to a BBS, you can call any of your fellow club members for an answer.

The other sad thing is that it IS getting lonely around here. Some of our most promising people have moved to Sacramento. That makes it all the more important for those of us remaining to read the directions. There are many, many discoveries awaiting us at every power up of the CoCo. All we have to do is make that connection. For instance, not long ago, the BBS I mentioned earlier was having some rather frequent phantom lock-ups. One of the BBS users, a MWFarrell by name, uploaded a file (thanks, Mark) originally compiled by none other than our good friend and fellow club member, ED KUNS, (and thank you, Ed!) that contained new OS-9 clock modules. I unarced the file, selected the module that was pertinent to my system, and VIOLA! no, it worked the first time, and I haven't had to reset the system in six days, now. Ya see, those brains of yours are working all the time. If we could only get them all in one place for a day or two...

That brings me to the rapidly approaching gala event! (Sneaky of me, eh?) Or, if you've only just received this copy of the CoCo~123 at CoCoFEST!...the present gala event. As you move through the main exhibition floor, remember that there are seminars being given for your benefit at the very same moment. You could be listening to the documentation from the people who 'make it work'. Spend some time in the seminars when you attend 'FEST. You'll be surprised at how simple some answers will be. For example...how do you use DSAVE? I can't make it work! (he

Glenside Color Computer Club

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CoCo~123 Information

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization whose members share an interest in the Tandy Color Computer®. The CoCo~123 is the official newsletter of the Glenside Color Computer Club. The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois has no affiliation with Radio Shack and/or the Tandy Corporation®. The opinions expressed by the authors of articles contained within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Executive Officers or the actual Club membership.

We are committed to publishing a minimum of four issues and a maximum of twelve issues per calendar year. For an annual fee of \$12.00 you can become a GCCC member with full membership privileges. Persons wishing to receive the CoCo~123 newsletter without full membership privileges may receive this newsletter for an annual fee of \$14.00. Send your dues to:

GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS
2801 S KILBOURN AVE
CHICAGO IL 60623-4213

Here is the list of 1992 Executive Officers and how to contact them. The club has four strong SIGS, Tandy Color Computer 1, 2, 3 and OS-9. If you have questions concerning these computers or OS-9 call one of the officers. Area code C=312, S=708.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Tony Podraza	S428-3576	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Carl Boll	C735-6087	Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Gene Brooks	S897-9023	" "
Secretary	Howard Luckey	S747-0117	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	Geo Schneeweiss	C376-0126	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	David Barnes	S587-9820	Newsletter coordinator
VP Telecom	David Barnes	S587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
Printer	Dennis Devitt	S629-2016	Newsletter Exchange
Advertising	Bob Swoger	S576-8068	Newsletter Ads

CoCo~123 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, upload a file to the Glenside CoCoRama BBS with an extension of '.NEWS'. If you have an AD for the newsletter UPLOAD a file with the extension of '.ADS'. If you have NEWS to POST about your group, please use the message base.

These files are gathered by the BBS computer and downloaded to the Editor. If you need help contact the SYSOP by E-MAIL, mail, in person, or by phone:

DAVE BARNES
P.O. BOX 281
LAKE VILLA IL 60046

It is preferred that you call:

VOICE 708/587-9820 or BBS 708/587-9837

On DELPHI-DAVIDBARNES On CIS-73357,1324

Articles for the CoCo~123 will also be accepted on diskette in ASCII form and UNFORMATTED only in the following formats:

RS-DOS 5 1/4"-35 SSDD/DSDD 5 1/4"-40 SSDD/DSDD
OS-9 5 1/4"-35 SSDD/DSDD 5 1/4"-40 SSDD/DSDD 3.5"-SSDD/DSDD
MS-DOS 5 1/4"-40 SSDD/DSDD 3.5"-SSDD/DSDD 5 1/4"-1.2 Meg

Submission deadlines for the CoCo~123 are two weeks prior to each monthly meeting. Articles submitted after the deadline will appear in the next issue.

CoCo~123 NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Color Computer user groups at no charge.

Send your newsletter to:

DENNIS DEVITT
21 W 144 CANARY ROAD
LOMBARD, IL. 60148

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of any charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know in your newsletter so that we might do this for our members and keep our attendance up.

GLENSIDE CLUB MEETINGS

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets on the second Thursday of each month, from 7 - 9 PM, at the Glendale Heights Public Library. Further info can be obtained from Tony Podraza at home 708-428-3576.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

May 14
June 11
July 9

A social get-together always occurs afterward at the Springdale Restaurant.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Tony Podraza · Howard Luckey
Len Zielinski · M. David Johnson
Tom Kowalski · Gene Brooks
L. Todd Knudsen · David Barnes

Editor:

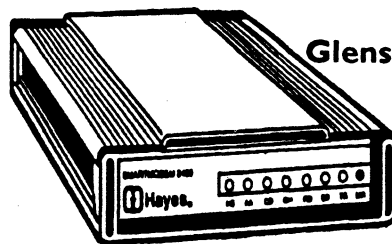
David Barnes

Design, Layout and Graphics:

BARSoft Publishing

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Glenside Club BBS's



Glenside CoCoRama BBS
(708) 587-9837

SandV BBS
(708) 352-0948

Glenside's Cup of CoCo BBS
(708) 428-0436

These are YOUR club BBS's... Please support them!!!

From the President's Platen

Continued From Page 1

said). The other night, I had to do some DIR transferring at a friend's house and I didn't have any of the CMDS from my system available, so I HAD to use dsave. Tried three times and failed. Then I got the book out. OH!! CHD to the directory that you want to transfer files FROM...then type "dsave /(current dir) /(target dir) ! shell (press enter)" WORKED LIKE A CHAMP!!! humph! now why didn't it work before? Truth to tell, I had entered the line wrong once, forgot to chd to the dir that I wished to copy once, and just plain got frustrated the third time. Now, however, the process is so simple to me, that I'll be able to use the CMD next time without the book. I think. Simple! It's starting to get a little less lonely around here, now.

Listen, stick around. Don't move to Sacramento just because Tommy, my best friend, did. Oh, I've visited St. Paul, Dallas, Sacramento, Philadelphia, etc., But the CoCo has been my first home, and I've had no reason to leave it for a prolonged period of time. I've always come home. Never been disappointed, either. If your job makes you visit, well, you need your tools to do your work. But home is where the heart is. I don't have to tell you where mine is, that is pretty evident. And the memories that we retain from our early years, whether in life or in experience with a particular item, will long be treasured. I hope to see you all sometime during the 'FEST. And I trust that your attendance experience will be one that will be treasured long into the future. Until next time, I bid you Peace.

April Meeting Review

By Howard Luckey

Tony called the meeting to order at 7:39 PM. He had some membership cards to pass out, so he called out the names and the members present received their cards. He also passed around some pictures taken at the last meeting by Dave Barnes, the Editor of the newsletter, showing the various activities going on during the meeting. A second set of photos were sent to The Rainbow, so there is a possibility that there will be an article about CoCo clubs including the Glenside or an article about the Glenside club. Later in the meeting we did a round of introductions.

Tony made a number of announcements: BDS software sent a demo disk of their version of CF83 Forth System (There was a demo later.) and a reader program, the Twin Towers CoCo Club sent a set of programs, he passed out some free passes to the Computer Fair (held in the Orland Park Civic Center at 147th Street and LaGrange Road, Orland Park, IL), he showed a manual to the Tandy CM8 monitor and said that manuals are available from Tandy, and finally he passed out some new member's disks that contain a number of utilities.

Other announcements or rumors from the membership included: Eddie Kuns said he could get a dead terminal from work if somebody wanted to see if they could make it work, he said there is a rumor that update disks for the MM/1 will be out soon, there is a way to get the 4 Meg simms work on the MM/1. Supposedly some one called the Desert Fox on Delphi (Frank Swygert) is making lap top computer out of the CoCo. It might cost around \$900.00. (See the article "Lappin' It Up" later.)

Some members had some hardware items they offered to sell for a "reasonably" low price. Len Zielinski has a new 2400 baud modem and is offering his old one. Mark Farrell had two or three modem type devices, some of which sounded like they could be fun to play around with.

In reference to the up coming CoCoFest, Tony mentioned the necessity for the membership to help make the Fest a success. To that end he passed out sign up sheets for manning the booth, for helping in the hospitality room and for contributions of food, snacks, soft drinks, etc. for the Friday May 29th "Party for Marty". I hope all of us help as much as possible. Carl Boll announced that cups for the Fest will be offered by the club for sale and that if any member wanted to have a cup personalized with their name on it they should submit their name the way they want it on the cup, a sign up sheet was included with the other ones.

There was a question from the floor about the progress of the CoCoFest. Tony said that things are going about as well as can be

expected at this stage of the game.

An informal poll was taken concerning how many members own MM/1s. At least eight people associated with the club have them.

We then had a Question and Answer session. Len Zielinski said he is having a problem getting an echo to the screen with his new modem using Mickyterm. Several people from the audience gave out suggestions and Len said he would give it another try. Jerry Summer asked about printer drivers so he could get Mac Paint to dump to a DMP105. I don't remember the answers so if you have a suggestion for this question or any of them please write a note for the newsletter. There may be many others who need the same help. There was another question about locking up on a high speed modem and another one about getting an IE error (input past end of file) in a BASIC program and then not being able to trap it using the ON ERROR statement. There was a lot of discussion going on and it was hard to keep up with my notes. Of course, getting help like this is one of the great benefits of a computer club.

THE DEMOS

Tony was prepared to do a demo of Cyrus Chess. Cyrus Chess is a ROMPAK from Tandy for playing chess under RS-DOS. Chris Burke has written a program that takes the information from the PAK in such a way that you can play the game under OS-9. We started to do this but you need a VDG window to run the game and after we tried to get such a window we gave up. Then Tony asked Mark Farrell (He is good at windows.) to take a shot at it and after trying for short time he checked to see if VDGINT.io was in memory. It wasn't, and Mark said it was necessary if you wanted a VDG window. I have VDGINT.io in my boot file so it is always available to make such a window. I wonder if the module had been available some place if we could have loaded it and gone on from there. Thank you for the help, Mark.

Then Tony went on the demo the demonstration disks from BDS Software. One of these was a reader program and it can be used to read a text file under RS-DOS. It has some nice features, with the arrow keys you can move up and down through the file, you can dump the file or parts of it to a printer, etc. BDS also had a demo disk of their port of CF 83 FORTH language to the CoCo. None of members knew anything about Forth except the name, but a Mister Kennedy, a guest at the meeting, knew something about and gave a nice little talk about it. He said, for example, if you want to add two numbers you enter them like this: 3 4 +. and the answer 7 will be printed on the screen. Later we ran the program and it worked just as he said it would. Later I looked at the offering from BDS and they seem to be making a good port of the language.

Shortly after we retired to the meeting after the meeting (the restaurant).


Announcing
Icon Basic09
The next programming language for OS-9!

Icon Basic09 is a graphical user interface (GUI) to Basic09, which will make programming easier than ever! Icon Basic09 takes an innovative approach by using graphic representations, or icons, to represent statements and keywords for writing Basic09 programs and procedures. Instead of constantly typing while writing a program, the user can simply point & click to choose the desired statement!

Icon Basic09 can also be very useful in studying procedures and programs written by others to learn how they operate. The package contains a full set of icons...or, you may edit or create icons using the included icon editor. Icon Basic09 requires a CoCo-3 with at least 256k, mouse or joystick, and OS-9 v 2.

\$20

Dual hi-res joystick adapter (RSColorware)	\$40
Hi & Lo-res joystick adapter	\$27
HAWKsoft keyboard extension cable	\$25
Domination ("Risk"-like wargame!)	\$18
MyDOS full-featured DOS extension	\$15


Hawksoft
PO Box 7112
Elgin, IL 60121-7112
(708) 743-3084 even & odds

US and CDN \$&M always included. Terms: MO, check, or COD.

Lappin' It Up

By Len Zielinski

Recently, while browsing in the CoCo SIG of Delphi, I picked up a post from Frank Swygert, a Glenside member. In it, he describes a Laptop CoCo he is developing. It will basically be a conversion of the existing CoCo.

When developed, the "POCO" buyers can supply a CoCo to be converted, or buy a parts kit. The kit will most likely cost about \$500; a completely converted model would be less than \$900. Frank figures that, most likely, OS-9 users would be interested in "POCO".

He currently estimates he will have a working model late in '92. If "POCO" intrigues you, and you want more information write Frank at:

904 2nd Avenue
Robins AFB, GA. 31098-1029

Or leave a post on Delphi; his username is DSRTFOX.

MODULAR PROGRAMMING

by M. David Johnson
BDS Software

"The computer is an automaton that executes computational processes according to precisely specified rules. It usually possesses only a limited repertoire of elementary instructions that it 'understands' and is capable of obeying, but these instructions are executed with tremendous expediency and reliability. The essence of the computer's power and wide applicability lies in its ability to execute extremely long sequences of instructions containing an almost infinite combination of elementary actions. The act of incorporating such instruction sequences into 'recipes' representing certain classes of computational processes is called PROGRAMMING."

Niklaus Wirth, 1973

Unfortunately, those who do programming have also learned that extremely long sequences of instructions usually contain extremely hard to find bugs. Thus, the concept of modular programming has become very popular: we write SHORT sequences of instructions, debug those sequences, and then combine the debugged short sequences into longer sequences.

For example, here is a short Assembly Language routine which capitalizes a string whose starting address is in SADDRS and whose length is in SLNGTH. The routine is relocatable.

```
7F00
00100
ORG $7F00
7F00
00110 SADDRS RMB 2
```

```
Start Address
7F02
00120 SLNGTH RMB 2
```

```
Length
7F04 3416
00130 SCAP
PSHS A,B,X
```

```
Save Registers
7F06 EC8CF7 00140
LDD SADDRS,PCR Load Start Address
7F09 E38CF6 00150
ADDD SLNGTH,PCR Add String Length
7F0C 830001 00160
SUBD #1
```

```
Point to last char
7F0F 1F01
```

```
00170
TFR D,X
```

```
Counter
7F11 A684
00180 LOOPR LDA ,X
```

```
Get Character
7F13 8161
00190
CMPA #97
```

```
Less than 'a'?
7F15 2506
00200
BLO LOOPE
```

```
Go if Yes
7F17 817A
00210
CMPA #122
```

```
Greater than 'z'?
7F19 2202
00220
BHI LOOPE
```

```
Go if Yes
7F1B 8020
00230
SUBA #32
```

```
Capitalize
7F1D A784
00240 LOOPE STA ,X
```

```
Store Character
7F1F 301F
00250
LEAX -1,X
```

```
Decrement Counter
7F21 AC8CDC 00260
CMPX SADDRS,PCR Done?
7F24 24EB
00270
BHS LOOPR
```

```
Go if No
7F26 3516
00280
PULS A,B,X
```

```
Restore Registers
7F28 39
00290
RTS
Return
00300
END
```

And here is a BASIC program which loads and tests that routine.

```
10 CLEAR1024,&H6FFF
20 FORI=&H7F04 TO&H7F28
30 READA$:A=VAL('&H'+A$)
40 POKEI,A
50 NEXTI
60 CLS:PRINT"INPUT A STRING"
70 PRINT"??";
80 LINEINPUTB$
90 B=&H7000
100 B1=INT(B/256):B2=B-B1*256
110 POKE&H7F00,B1:POKE&H7F01,B2
```

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