

# CoCo ~ 123

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER VI

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1993 ISSUE

*Glenside Color Computer Club*

## From the President's Platen

by Tony Podraza

In the last issue of the CoCo~123, we had a rather extensive write up of the Second Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! Many thanks to it's author and fellow club member, Alan Huffman, for the remembrances and chuckles, nay, outright belly-laughs, that he evoked. If Dave can find anything about it by press time, perhaps we'll have something about the PNW CoCoFEST 3 that took place in Port Orchard, Washington on June 25 & 26, 1993. It looks real interesting, what with speakers like Bob van der Poel and topics ranging from "Recovering Crashed Disks" to "Packett Radio".

It should be noted here, that Port Orchard is just about three steps and a hop from Eversoft Games and Burke & Burke. It should further be noted here that July 31 (as I have heard through the grapevine) has been set as the extended deadline for the advance orders of "The Rocket". Oh, what is "The Rocket"? Look for info inside. That's all I have about the Great Northwest. Best of Luck, PNW!!!! Now, what about Atlanta '93?

As I am writing, this is literally a FIRST! By the time you read it, though, you may have seen it elsewhere.

However, just yesterday, June 21, 1993, Newton White, President of the Atlanta Computer Society, finalized the arrangements with the Holiday Inn Northlake located at the intersection of the interstate beltway

and La Vista Road in Tucker, Georgia for October 2 & 3, 1993. The room rate will be \$52.00 plus tax per night (hmmmm, sounds familiar).

Seminars are being planned (volunteers?), suggestions for heightening the experience are being solicited, and GLENSIDE will be there representing YOU, the end user of this powerhouse 8/16-bit machine. For more information, contact:

ACS, Inc.  
c/o Newton White  
849 Willivee Drive  
Decatur, GA, 30033.

I'm anticipating a GREAT time!!!! Hope to see you there!!

(The following is extracted from the April CoCo~123)

At this time, I think that I'll throw out a little information and answer a few questions. Yes, I see that hand in the back of the room. Your question, sir? Yes, back issues of the CoCo~123 are available. The range of years? I can personally say that I know that

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### CoCo-1,2,3 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-1,2,3 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. Send your dues to:

**GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS**  
RR #2 Box 67  
Forrest, IL 61741-9629

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, F=815.

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	F832-5571	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-1,2,3 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-1,2,3 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 deadline for the CoCo-1,2,3 is the 20th of each month. Articles submitted after the deadline will appear in the next issue.

### CoCo-1,2,3 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 7:30 - 9:30 PM, at the Glendale Heights Public Library. Further info can be obtained from Tony Podraza at home 708-428-3576.

### FUTURE MEETING DATES:

August 12  
September 9

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

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

· Tony Podraza · Tom Schaeffges · Keith Bauer  
· Sheryl Edwards · Aron Hsiao · Karl Sefcik  
· Bob Swoger · Don Lambert  
· David Barnes

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**David Barnes**

**DESIGN, LAYOUT AND GRAPHICS:**

**BARSoft Publishing**

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Glenside CoCoRama BBS  
(708) 587-9837  
9600 BAUD

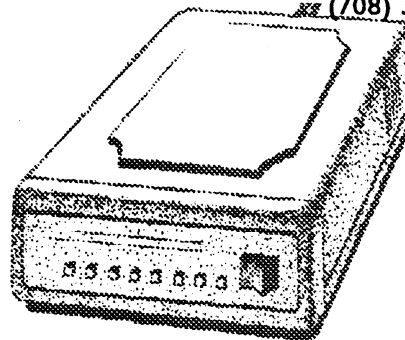
SandV BBS  
(708) 352-0948

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Glenside's Cup  
of CoCo  
2400 BAUD  
(708) 428-0436

Chi-Coco BBS  
(312) 735-3355

14,400 BAUD



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

## From The President's Platen

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from Vol. 1 issue 2 and on are available with maybe 7 omissions through Vol.3. From there to the present, the stream is almost uninterrupted. The CoCo~123 was published on as near a monthly basis as possible from 1985 through 1989. 1990 through mid-1991 were sparse in terms of the number of times the newsletter was published, but what it lacked in frequency, it made up for in length. There were four issues published per year during that period. From June '91 through the end of the year, we were back to a monthly basis, with one or two exceptions. There have been an average of 10 issues a year since then. The cost per volume? Hmmm. Never been asked that one before, but since duplication is now necessary, six dollars per volume for current members (a year's worth of the newsletter) plus \$2.00 first class postage should cover it. Non-member's will have to pay \$14.00 for past issues, shipping included. Contact me, Tony Podraza, (you have the address on the cover of this newsletter, and the phone number on page 2) as to what years you want. The monies you should send to George Schneeweiss, your treasurer. His address is also on page 2.

How about trying to help a fellow club member? James Shera of 404 Comanche Trail, Altus, OK 73521-1510, is having trouble with Disk EDTASM. He reports that "Disk EDTASM does not boot under Extended ADOS-3 even using the disable and dload commands. Does any one have a fix for this problem?" If you have any insights for him, please pass them along.

(Back to the Present)

Now, can anyone help ME! I have, both, the 6309 PowerBoost package and the Disto 2-Meg upgrade. Either of the set of patches work on the system as they should, but...in trying to combine them, the system won't even boot. HELP!

So much for now. July meeting takes place on the 8th. There's so much to try to pass on, and only so much time and relative distance in space. Not only that, but I can't remember it all.

Till next time, I bid you peace.

## Speedy Hard Disks

By Aron Hsiao

TO: OS-9 Level II Burke And Burke Hard Disk Users.

This text file is for all Burke & Burke hard disk owners who set their hard disk systems up according to the parameters "recommended" by Burke and Burke in their CoCo XT manual (under OS9).

I am the owner of three IBM systems as well as two CoCo III systems. I have been EXTREMELY frustrated lately by the slowing down (and more slowing down) of my CoCos' hard drives. I noticed that most of the time was spent in seeking to tracks before the actual reads, while on my IBM machines (using two of the same drives), almost none of the work time was spent seeking.

I knew, having been the soul-proprietor of an IBM retail business, that no hard drive I had ever seen (Miniscribe, Seagate, IMI, CDC, Rodime, and many others) had ever stepped slower than 80 microseconds. I also remembered that when I had set up my hard disk, I had followed all of Burke and Burke's 'recommendations'. I looked up the step rate.

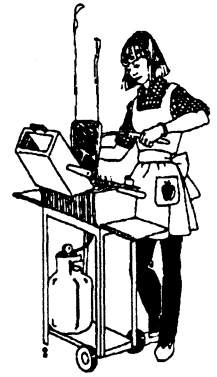
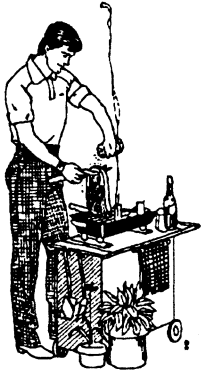
The speed they had recommended (and I had used without thinking) turned out to be 3 milliseconds! 3 MILLISECONDS! This is the speed of the average high-density floppy drive. This was NOT a hard disk step rate that I was aware of. I still have no idea why they included the 3 msec, 200 usec, or 70 usec speeds.

ANYWAY, I here's the table from the book. The step rate values are inserted into offset \$14 in the Device Descriptor:

- 0 - 3 Milliseconds
- 1 - 45 Microseconds
- 2 - 60 Microseconds
- 3 - 18 Microseconds
- 4 - 200 Microseconds
- 5 - 70 Microseconds
- 6 - 30 Microseconds
- 7 - 18 Microseconds

Almost every ST412 hard disk ever made will step to 45 Microseconds. Here's what I did:

```
ezgen /dd/os9boot
l d0
c 14 00 06
v
l dd
c 14 00 06
v
l d1
c 14 00 01
v
```



# GLENSIDE'S PICNIC ANNUAL

Saturday, August 14th

Rain Date

Sunday, August 15th



It's that time of year again for friends, fun and FOOD!!! So put down those pens, papers, keyboards and disks and hop, fly, jump, run, skip or just drive over to Bob Swoger's place in Streamwood.

Pull out your picnic gear and dust it off. Bring your lawnchairs, plates, silverware, drinks, a dish to pass and of course yourself, your family and don't forget that special friend. Glenside will provide meat and buns.

We're hoping for a good turnout so come and support YOUR CLUB! Mark it on your calendar today!!! Come early and lend a hand. (We need all the help we can get!)

**There will be games and fun for kids of all ages!!**

**We will have the whole day to talk about computers..... NOT!!!!!!!**

**Good times will be had by all.... Guaranteed!**

**DIRECTIONS:** Route 20 (Lake Street) - West past Barrington Road to Park Boulevard - North across Route 19 (Irving Park Road), take the first left which is Parkside Circle and go to 613. You can't miss it there's a big antenna tower in his yard!  
For more information and inquires contact Tony at (708) 428-3576 or leave E-Mail on the Cup of COCO BBS at (708) 428-0436

## Speedy Hard Disks

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The drives on my system are a Seagate ST225R (0) specified as a 28 microsecond drive, and the Miniscribe 3650 (1) specified as a 65 microsecond drive. You may notice that I actually set the 3650 to 45 microseconds, faster than its rating, but I learned while working with MS-DOS drive/controller combinations that you can often step faster than a drives rating by 15 or 20 microseconds with no problems and (hopefully) w/o shortening the MTBF.

Anyway, my BOOT time (B&B XTROM) after making the modification went from TWO MINUTES, FOUR SECONDS, to... JUST UNDER 30 SECONDS! The low, groan "skrrrrrch .. skrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrch skrrrrrch" of a slowly and often seeking drive went to the comfortable "beep beep ching beep" that I have come to expect from Miniscribe and Seagate drives.

Anyway, I hope this file helps you as much as it helped me, and remember (take it from someone with four years assembly and retail experience), OS9 is BETTER than MS-DOS! (and now that I have changed my drive step rate, diskwise, it operates about as fast as a 386).

Good luck! Happy seeking!

- Aron Hsiao (ask me on FidoNet's OS9 echo.)

*If you are looking for help with your Seagate drives, you can call Seagate Tech Services BBS at 408-438-8771. Parameters range from 14.4 Baud and down at 8-N-1 and they give you at least 100 minutes of time from application and 99 files for dloading. pretty neat, I think. That's what I call Support!!!!*

*Now I wonder why Tandy never thought to do that?*

## What To Do When You're Done With It

By Bob Swoger

It has been suggested that as we change from one computer platform to another that we pass off our old machines to schools or other institutions, maybe to get a tax break. Here is a little insight I got by being on the alumni board of a school. If you call the school, they will tell you that they are interested in used computers, but when they get them, they are usually thrown out as junk. They simply don't want to 'turn off' their 'givers'. Schools are really interested only in the later 'main stream' models and clones. Don't think that your beloved/trusty old classics will find their way into the hands of needy youngsters. They will most likely be junked and lost to the people who need them most!

So how can you better serve the classic computer community? There are people giving up on their classics only because they can't afford to fix them or can no longer find a place to get them fixed. The ads in this newsletter bare this out. Some of the long list of items are from people that had no back-ups. Donate your classic to a supporting user group, vendor or get it to a computerfest. You may not get a tax write off but you will probably make classic owners happy to get a back-up machine for when the inevitable happens and allow that classic user to continue on happily forever!

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP IT

You owners of classic machines, keep watching for opportunities to get back-ups for your equipment from these sources, don't be afraid to make even a ridiculous offer, for you will be surprised to find that there will be takers, they want the gear to wind up in good hands and out of their homes to make room for their new stuff!

## Resetting Track 0 and Other Tweaking

by Don Lambert

I wrote this originally a couple years ago and a recent conversation with Bob Swoger discussing resetting track 0 on a drive brought this to mind. While we both have successfully reset a Tandon TM 100-2A drive to track 0 again we both used different methods. While I haven't tried Bob's method I have heard/read of the set screw that locks the head assembly to the track stepping mechanism loosening which leads me to believe that his method might be best to use since you are moving the head back where it had been originally.

If a drive will FORMAT a disk and SAVE a file to it and can LOAD the files but no other drive will LOAD the files and this drive cannot load other drives' files than either track 0 is off or else speed is off. (In early days of computing some computer manufacturers deliberately set either track 0 or speed off so that you had to use their repair services and had to buy disk drives from them.) All drive resetting methods require the disk drive power supply, a few tools and a working computer and disk drive interface.

\*\*\* One word of CAUTION \*\*\* IF THERE IS NO TERMINATOR RESISTOR IN THE SOCKET LOCATED BETWEEN THE TWO I.C.s IN LINE LEFT TO RIGHT WITH TP13 NOT ONLY WILL IT BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SET SPEED BUT ALSO IMPOSSIBLE TO SET THE TRACKING.