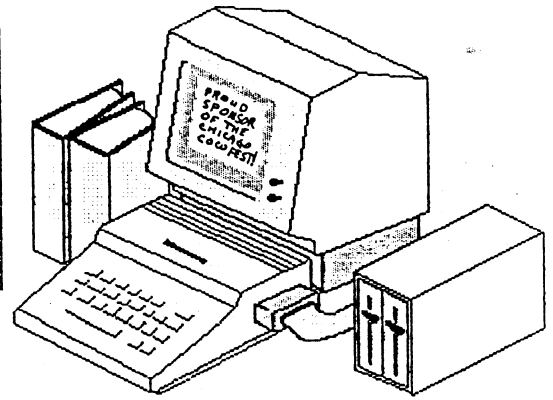


# COCO~123

AUGUST, 1996 VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 3



## The President's /term

by Rob Gibons

**f**or those of you that missed this year's fest, well you're in luck, as now there WILL be a 6th Last Annual Chicago CoCoFEST sponsored by Glenside! Watch the CoCo~123 for further details.

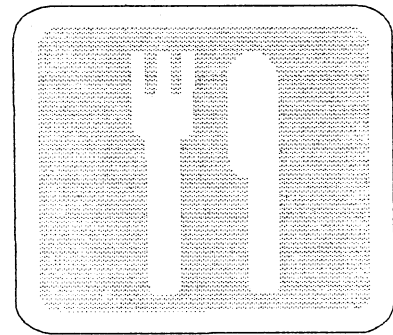
Well, I want to begin by thanking both this year's fest community members and members at large, that pitched in at the fest, helping out at the front door, the Glenside booth and with the various seminars. You all deserve a well earned pat on the back! I'd like to thank you all by name, but I'm afraid I'll leave someone out, so thanks to everyone, you know who you are.

As to this year's fest itself, while attendance and vendor participation were down from previous years, we all still had a great time and all the vendors present were interested in coming back! This year we sold out of Tee-shirts, so if you didn't get one at the fest, you're not going to get one. After that wonderful music/midi seminar, all the midi packs we had at the show were gone. If you did not get one and are still interested, I think we may have a few left that were not completed at the time. All in all, I consider this year's fest a success.

Now, as to next year's fest, we of course will be needing help throughout the coming year to get ready. As soon as the details are set, we want to start advertising (the sooner the better). We

need help in lining up seminars and a speaker. New vendors or representation for those that, due to distance, cannot get here would be great. If anyone is interested in helping IN ANY WAY, contact me, and I or next year's Fest Coordinator will be happy to put you to work. Let's make next year's fest better than ever.

PICNIC



PICNIC

It's burgers, brats, bun time, again. Bring your DTP (dish to pass), beverages, and bodies to Bob Swoger's home page (613 Parkside Circle, Streamwood, IL) and be prepared to have some fun, food and fellowship.

Dates: Sept 8, 1996, regardless of the weather. Time: 1:00 PM till...

Call Tony Podraza (847-428-3576), Rob Gibons (847-776-9842), or Bob Swoger (847-837-7957) if you need directions.

**Glenside Color Computer Club**

A Glenside Publication since 1985  
Your Voice in the CoCo Community

## 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 the 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 a fee of \$15.00, for January through December, 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 a list of the 1996 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 these officers.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Rob Gibbons	847-776-9842	The buck stops here
Vice-President	Eddie Kuns	630-820-3943	Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	.
Vice-President	Sheryl Edwards	630-344-5632	.
Secretary	Paul Knudsen	630-755-3210	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-5571	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Mike Warns	630-627-9561	Newsletter coordinator
Telecom	David Barnes	847-587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
Printer	Dennis Devitt	630-629-2016	Newsletter Exchange
Advertising	Bob Swoger	847-576-8068	Newsletter Ads

## CoCo 123 Contributions

If you would like to contribute an article, upload a file to the Newsletter Submissions section of the Glenside's Cup of CoCo BBS. Ditto for ads and news about your group. **Please include a name and an address or phone number.** If you would rather submit your article on diskette, they can be accepted in ASCII form and unformatted in the following formats:

RS-DOS 5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks  
OS-9 5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks  
MS-DOS Any standard format

Mail your articles to:

**Mike Warns**  
31 South Edgewood Avenue  
Lombard, IL 60148

Submission deadline for the CoCo 123 is the 15th of each month. 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 or OS-9 user groups at no charge. Send your newsletter to:

**Dennis Devitt**  
21 W 144 Canary Road  
Lombard, IL 60148

## Reprint Policy

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 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 and send us your newsletter. We will then distribute it to 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 to 9:30 PM at the Glendale Heights Public Library. A social get-together always occurs afterward at the Springdale Restaurant.

Future meeting dates:

**September 12, 1996**

**October 10, 1996**

Editor: Mike Warns

Design, layout, graphics: Walrus House Enterprises

A special tip o' the hat to Dave Barnes and BARSofT Publishing, whose masthead page has been, uh, more than an inspiration for this issue's.

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These are your BBSs. Please support them.

## Glenside CoCoRama BBS

**847-587-9837**

**At Least 9600 Baud**

**SandV BBS**

**630-352-0948**

**You want fast? This is FAST!**

## Glenside's Cup of CoCo

**847-428-0436**

**9600 Baud**

## Chi-CoCo BBS

**312-735-3355**

**14,400 Baud**

## Glenside East

**847-632-5558**

**2400 Baud**

**Hey, officers! Check your area codes (above)  
In some cases I guessed!**

# Excuses, excuses...

by Mike Warns

Some of you have noticed that there have not been any newsletters for a while. Some of you have even cared. Well, if you want a reason, have I got the excuses for you!

Here is my favorite: I was preparing for the Olympics. You see, the athletic-types aren't the only people involved in the olympics, and I went two better than them: I got paid for not running around Atlanta in the middle of summer. I did not even have to go to Atlanta, missing the weather, the crowds, the rip-offs, and the other unpleasantnesses there.

So, beside starting a home CAD business, I continued with my other sideline: fixing and selling cruddy old IBM computers. This, along with the need to build a new and faster CAD system, left me with long stretches of time with as many as eight computers, not one of which was operable!

Oh, and there were my usual excuses of day job and family.

There were kind offers to take over the job for an issue, but, silly me, I kept thinking I would be able to find the time Real Soon Now. I was wrong, and I apologize.

So, even as I tried to make good on my commitment to publish a newsletter every once in a while, the project seemed doomed. My terminal software refused to download articles from Tony's BBS. The utility I use to strip extraneous characters from the downloaded files (possibly to only use of SNOBOL in the Chicago area!) crashes on my new computer so I had to transfer the files to an old one temporarily (it pays to keep a few of these things around the house for just such a situation!). The new computer hates the old SVGA Windows driver for my old video card, so I am back to plain VGA 3.0. Like I

said, I was doomed. But I soldiered on.

Things have calmed down, at least for now today this moment (the CAD stuff leaves me pretty much "on call.") but I will try to be more realistic about my time and be open to the kind, kind offers of help. In the mean time, submit something for publication!

There is something that anybody who makes a submission can do that will help me out a lot: Do not format your article. No tabs, no margins, no centered lines, no nothing. Straight ASCII, left justified, infinite line lengths, and a blank line between paragraphs.

Let me tell you why, to quote Ross Perot: A typical 4000-byte file takes about forty-five minutes to strip out extraneous characters added by the rather complex process of taking a CoCo file and sending it over a modem to a PC, delete the ten characters in the left margin, delete another five spaces that used to be the tab at the beginning of each paragraph (conversion to ASCII does that), put in a real tab, un-center lines (conversion to ASCII puts in spaces to make it still look centered. ASCII likes spaces.), and delete the carriage returns at the end of each line left over from when the original file was formatted with eighty-character lines.

This doesn't count the time doing the real editorial work: spell checking, little modifications to syntax, etc. By the time you get your newsletter, each article has been through four separate software packages (telecomm, SNOBOL, word processor, and publisher. Anything you can do to make this faster reduces the time between newsletters. Of course, if you cannot, submit anyway. There is no newsletter with no articles.

So, I look forward to simply ripping through the formatting of your next article. Again, I want you to know that your writing ability is not important. It is my job to make you look good. I only ask that you spend a little time on your end taking out all of the formatting that made your article look so good on your eighty-column, monospaced printer.

# March 1996 Club Meeting

by Sheryl Edwards  
& Paul Knudsen

I was running late to tonight's meeting, and Sheryl Edwards recorded it until I got there. I am going to try to make this as accurate as possible, considering that it appears that most of Sheryl's notes were written in Assembly. Someone is going to have to teach me on how to read her machine language mnemonics.

The meeting began at 8:00 P.M. with introductions of the members, starring Rob Gibbons as the president, George Schneeweiss, Bob Swoger, Brian Schubring, Eddie Kuns, Gene Brooks, Howard Luckey, Don Yehling, Mike Warns, Sheryl Edwards, guest starring with her, were Dave and Heather. Also featuring in tonight's performance were Richard Bair, Bob Bruhl, Tony Podraza, Mike Knudsen, Carl Boll, Justin, Paul Knudsen, also introducing Lori Balas as a guest of Paul.

Tonight's old business began with free computer equipment lying on the back table to any member who wanted it. One of the items was an early keyboard that required several strange voltages to make it work, according to Gene, the unit used "hall effect" switches that made it work. Pretty neat device actually.

There are 13 vendors, including George. We have a verbal commitment on 16. (For the FEST!)

Show guides, tickets, buttons and shirts will be available for sale at the Glenside booth.

Tickets will be at the door and there will be a list for people who have paid.

New business began with Eddie Kuns withdrawing from his V.P. role. Mike Knudsen is stepping into his place.

Brian Schubring has news on his MIDI project. The cost to make the boards alone is going to be around 6-\$12, this is not including parts.. These are good quality double sided copper boards. There will be no plated holes on

them, this helps keep the cost of the boards down. Brian is pushing to have them available and ready for the fest.

\*\*\* News Flash \*\*\*

(Editor's note: Somehow, it seems this news flash should be on the History Channel, or with Walter Cronkite intoning, "And you were there.")

THE NEXT CLUB MEETING IS 2 DAYS BEFORE THE FEST!

Howard Luckey also made an announcement, that Comdex will be in Chicago starting June 3 through the 6th.

In the Spring, Dayton will be have there world's largest computer show.

Brian Schubring made an announcement that he has an internet address. He can be reached at THESCHU@delphi.com

(Editor's Note: The April meeting was so chaotic, with the Fest just two days later, that it looks like nobody took notes. Therefore, we jump to:

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# May 1996 Club Meeting

by Paul Knudsen

The meeting attendees were (not in any particular order,) Bob Swoger, Richard Bair, George Schneeweiss, Bob Bruhl, Brian Schubring, Gene Brooks, Howard Luckey, Tony Podraza, Miles Westbrook, Mike Warns, and myself.

During this meeting, Tony was filling in for Rob as President. It has been announced, that there will be another CoCoFest next year. The date has also been decided as well. The next fest will be on the 5th and 6th of April next year in '97. Some had also mentioned, that next year, there will be 2 CoCo's in PC cases on display as a demo next year. A quantity of 24 MIDI-Paks, that were built by Brian Schubring, were sold to

