

# EXPRESS

The Official Publication of the  
**PENN - JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB**

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Tom Roginski, doing what he loves best, selling disk drives.



Some of the crowd Friday night at the annual Rainbowfest held in Princeton, N.J.

## RAINBOWFEST OBSERVATIONS

by Reinhold Radke

My impressions of the recent RAINBOWfest in Princeton, N.J. indicate that there may be problems with repeating the same kind of event next year, although a couple of other RAINBOWfests have already been scheduled.

Nelson Russell and I went to Princeton Friday nights and found it to be a disappointment of sorts, i.e: the few vendors and lack of new hardware and software items. Although the new CoCo 3 seemed to be a hit, with one company selling them for \$169.95, the lack of software soured the acquisition of a new CoCo 3.

Although I was disappointed in the show in comparison to two years ago, I'm sure other Penn-Jersey Color Computer Club members, some of whom we saw Friday, enjoyed the show. It certainly was crowded Friday in the small room and many CoCo fans got "good" deals on a variety of items, disk drives and IC chips and IBM clones at the OWL-WARE booth, CoCo 3's at Computer Plus (\$169.95); miscellaneous Radio Shack software for the CoCo, Model 1 - 4 software and joysticks, etc. at the Radio Shack booth to special prices on monitors at the Howard Medical booth.

Microworld II sold CoCo 3's, monitors, multipaks, etc. All in all, I think everyone "got a deal" someplace and did enjoy themselves at the show, especially if they attended the numerous seminars, ranging from OS-9, Assembly language,

by Roni DeGarmo

On Sunday, October 19, I attended my first Rainbowfest in Princeton, N.J. My husband, Virg, and Al Krapf accompanied me to an interesting afternoon at the Hyatt. The trip down and back was a pleasure - 60 degree weather and mother nature in her most colorful autumn attire made the driving time fly.

At Rainbowfest, it was like being with friends. Many of our members were in attendance: Tom Roginski and his wife had their booth, Paul Eckhart, Dean and Ricky Moyer, Frank Tupper, Chet Belsky and daughter, Mary Brown and Clyde Gano.

I took advantage of some good deals on hardware and software. The Rainbow booth sold their first adventure book and tape for \$5.00 and their second adventure book and tape for \$8.00. I was like a kid in a candy store. I learned to wait awhile when purchasing T & D Software disks. Their Rainbowfest special was buy 4 and get one free - regularly \$9 a disk for \$5. Later they announced 3 for \$10. Darn! I could have saved \$5 and spent it on something else.

CoCo II for \$65 and CoCo 3 for \$169. I heard Microworld say that they will sell CoCo 3's for that price after Rainbowfest. So there's a lead for anyone thinking about it.

Virg hung around the Howard Medical booth waiting for reductions. None. So he asked about a 'deal' for the Star NX10 (which I have been pining for since Al's demo) printer

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**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS THIS FRIDAY**

## MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26 MEETING

President Roni DeGarmo opened the meeting by welcoming the members and guests. The August minutes and the Treasurer's report were accepted.

### OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter input was requested by our editor. Send your articles to Reinhold Radke about a week and a half before the next scheduled meeting date for the article to be printed in the newsletter.

Nelson Russell will give out \$2.00 discount tickets to Rainbowfest after tonight's meeting. They were sent to us by Spectrum Products.

Librarian Paul Eckhart reported that we now have the August, September and October issues of Rainbow in the club library.

### SIG REPORT

The Pascal group met on September 23rd. Next meetings: October 7 and 21. Check the Club BBS for any updates. The Hardware Sig is out of operation until someone else is willing to take over the leadership.

### OLD BUSINESS

See Paula Behler if you would still like to order t-shirts.

Charlie Ross reported that the disks that the club ordered have not arrived yet. They will probably sell for about \$5.00 for a 10-pak when they do arrive.

Rainbowfest will be held October 17, 18, 19 in Princeton. Rainbow on disk is now available (includes OS-9). If it is ordered before November 15 the price will be \$85 or \$90. More information will be given at the October meeting.

No one has seen the new CoCo 3 in the immediate area. It was reported that the CoCo 2 will be selling for \$99.

In answer to a question it was stated that the constitution is correct as it was printed in the 6809 Express.

The meeting was adjourned and after a short Random Access Paul Eckhart gave a talk and demonstration on the word processing program, Telewriter.

Submitted by  
Mary A. Brown, secretary.



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## COCO IN EDUCATION IS TOPIC THIS FRIDAY

LEARNING IS FUN is the topic of this month's meeting to be held this Friday, October 31 at Northampton County Community College.

Club member Mary Brown will discuss how the Color Computer can be and is used in the educational process.

Nominations for officers will also be accepted at this meeting and the November meeting with elections to be held during the regular November 28th meeting. See another story on nominations and qualifications for those officers.

Al Krapf will also have the candy bars the club will be selling to raise funds for additions to the club's computer systems. So make sure you attend and also get in on the 10 disks for \$5 dollars offer as mentioned in another article in this newsletter.

## RAINBOWFEST

Continued from page 1

CoCo SIG and getting the most from your CoCo 3.

I would like to have some of the people who attended the seminars write a short review and let me publish it in the 6809 EXPRESS.

One final word on the RAINBOWfest on a personal note. I stopped at the Computize booth to ask about some of the problems I have with their "Hardcopy" graphics program for my Gemini 10X printer. They not only gave me some information to correct the problems (with the Botek interface and Hardcopy), but also gave me a free updated version of the 10X software (after checking their customer list to make sure I was a legitimate customer.)

marked \$260. We walked away with the printer and interface for \$307 - a savings of \$21. Yah!!!! I got my printer. It paid to wait until the end of the day.

It was a fun day but murder on my pocketbook. Don't you wish you had attended? Next Rainbowfest - hurry up and get here!

## 6809 EXPRESS

PENN-JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB

The "6809 EXPRESS" is the official monthly publication of the PENN-JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB. The club is based in the greater Lehigh Valley area of Northeastern Pennsylvania including sections of Northwest New Jersey. Any club or non-profit organization may reprint any part of the newsletter as long as credit is given. PJCCC will gladly exchange newsletters with any other computer club. For any written correspondence send your request to EDITOR, 6809 EXPRESS, Penn-Jersey Color Computer Club, P.O. Box 2742, Lehigh Valley, Pa. 18001.

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## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS THIS FRIDAY

Nominations for election as officers of PENN-JESREY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB will be accepted at the October meeting, Friday, Oct. 31.

Nominations are in order at the October and November meetings with elections to be held at the regular November meeting set for November 28.

According to the PJ-CCC Constitution, an amended version adopted earlier this year, a nominee for office MUST be a member for a minimum of THREE months in GOOD standing. No member can be a nominee for more than one office.

Nominations must be with the consent of the person nominated.

The responsibilities of officers are described in the following ARTICLE VI taken from the club constitution.

### ARTICLE VI Responsibilities of Officers

#### Sec. 1-- Responsibilities of President are:

- a. Preside over monthly meetings.
- b. Appoint and approve committees as needed.

#### Sec. 2-- Responsibilities of Vice-President are:

- a. Assist the president as needed.
- b. Preside over meetings if president is unavailable.
- c. Assume presidency if office becomes vacant.
- d. File membership applications and inform the newsletter editor of member changes within 30 days.
- e. Provide an updated membership list quarterly to each executive committee member.

#### Sec. 3-- Responsibilities of Treasurer.

- a. Handle all funds to and from the club treasury.
- b. Recording of all income and expenditures.
- c. Provide a treasurer's report at the monthly meetings.
- d. Provide a replacement at monthly meeting if unable to attend to carry out the treasurer's duties.
- e. Have records available for audit as requested by the executive committee.

#### Sec. 4-- Responsibilities of Secretary are:

- a. Record and keep the minutes of scheduled monthly and executive committee meetings.
- b. Provide a summary of the monthly meetings to the newsletter editor.
- c. Provide a replacement at monthly meetings if unable to attend to record the minutes.

#### Sec. 5-- Responsibilities of Publicity Officer are:

- a. Handle all publicity of the club and its events.
- b. Supply news media with releases of monthly meetings and special events.

#### Sec. 6-- Responsibilities of Newsletter Editor are:

- a. Publish and distribute monthly newsletter to each member.
- b. Handle all paid advertisements from vendors for printing in the newsletter.
- c. Provide excerpts of the newsletter to the BBS operator at the discretion of the editor.

Continued on page 4

## DISK SALE AT NEXT MEETING

The Executive Committee has decided to sell the double-sided disks the club had ordered and which have arrived, for 10 disk for \$5. This would make it easier to handle the sale of the disk and give the club some additional funds. SO BRING YOUR MONEY FOR THE DISKS to this FRIDAY'S meeting.

In addition, the executive committee also approved the sale of Candy Bars as a fund raiser for computer equipment. The candy bars will be the same as we sold last year through Al Krapf.

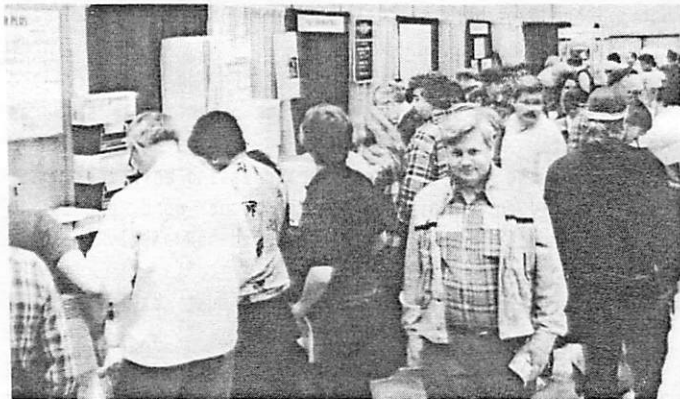
Items suggested to be purchased from those candy funds, include CoCo 3, color monitor, joy sticks, mouse, etc.

So bring some extra money along to buy those candy bars since they are very G O O D. We also encourage those who can to take a case along with them and sell to your friends and co-workers in order to benefit the club.

## RAINBOWFEST '86



The CoCo 3 hooked up to a Sakata monitor at Microworld II booth.



What's Nelson Russell looking for??

# NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS THIS FRIDAY

Continued from page 3

Sec. 6-- Responsibilities and powers of the Executive Committee are:

- a. Oversee the overall operation of the organization including the general conduct of meetings following Roberts Rules of Order.
- b. To enforce the article of the constitution.
- c. Plan and execute monthly meetings and any other club projects.
- d. Settle any complaints at its discretion.
- e. Request a yearly audit of the treasurer's books.
- f. Designate member(s) to pick up and distribute club mail.
- g. Approve expenditures of items up to a maximum of ten per cent (10%) monthly of the club's general checking account without membership approval.

Sec. 7-- Responsibilities of Librarian are:

- a. Storage of all books, magazines, and software.
- b. Provide a quarterly inventory of all library materials for members.
- c. Make recommendation to the membership for the disposition of unusable, duplicated and outdated material in the library.
- d. Distribution and collection of materials at monthly meetings.
- e. Provide for a replacement at monthly meetings if unable to attend and carry out the librarian's duties.

## OBSERVATIONS by Clyde Gano

At times we become so engrossed expecting difficult answers so our computer problems that we overlook the simple solutions.

This recently happened to me.

My wife, Ruth, asked me to use our Logo to print a series of post cards announcing a forthcoming Church Bake Sale. Remembering that I had seen a post card program in an earlier issue of RAINBOW, I searched for it and found it in the May 1984 magazine. I carefully loaded it from Rainbow-on-Tape and announced to her that I could now fulfill her requirements. NO WAY!!!

With that program, I discovered that I could type and print cards with exclamation points and the bodies of the cards would consist of a good number of sentences but all the sentences would have been contained in only one large paragraph. The finished card looked pretty awful. It was just a series of sentences strung together--no paragraphs, no spaces. It just didn't have a neat appearance. No special set-ups allowed!!

Then, of course, came the simple and logical solution. Most of us have word processors. Most word processors allow us to set margin and line parameters before printing so that we have built-in post card programs already at hand. We can even select our type style.

If the program has a variable text feature, each card can be personalized with individual names and special messages. I use this idea to make a series of cards to notify church members of their up-coming duties such as baby sitting and ushering.

Factor fed 4x6 cards are suitable for post cards and 3x5 file cards can be set up for many other uses such as recipes, etc.

I had the same problem with addressing envelopes until Paul Eckhart, during his dissertation about word processing at last month's meeting, demonstrated how easily the same methods can be used in that instance.

If there is a moral in all this, it must be, "Keep it simple!"

With out a doubt, many needs have complicated solutions but, a great many cases, the easy answers are found closer to home than we could ever imagine.

Let's look for them--

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**ED JUGE**

## Tandy Topics

By Ed Juge  
director of market planning  
TANDY Corporation/ RADIO SHACK

### TANDY TELEPHONE SUPPORT

Judging from the mail we received following a recent mailing to customers -- the one telling you about the \$20/monthly telephone support fee -- some clarification is in order.

First, an explanation. Please look at the economic realities of the support issue. Computer manufacturers can't package "lifetime support" with each CPU. The growing customer base requires ever-expanding support, and those costs have to be covered somehow. Almost all personal computer manufacturers are charging for on-going support. They have to.

Industry watchers are identifying a strong trend toward third-party support... manufacturers leaving long-term support to firms who do nothing else, and who obviously charge for this service. Tandy is bucking that trend, and it's an advantage for our users. Hardware from "Company

### COCO 3 DISK PROBLEMS

Tom Roginski, PJ-CCC member and owner of OWL-WARE, and a PASCAL SIG member, demonstrated the CoCo 3 at the recent meeting at Jerry Behler's house.

The various color hues and the upper and lower case characters in the 40 - 80 column format look impressive. But for present owners of older CoCo's, a problem could result if you try using older disk controllers with the new CoCo 3.

OWL-WARE sells controllers to be used for the CoCo 3, but some of the older Radio Shack, current J & M and Disto Controllers DO NOT WORK. So if you plan on getting a new CoCo 3 also plan on buying a new disk controller. (Check with Tom Roginski at OWL-WARE.)

Closer examination of the case indicate a knock-out hole for further expansion of the new CoCo and the new RGB monitor connector is on the bottom of the computer, not in the back where all the other connections are made.

Local Radio Shack stores and dealers now have the CoCo 3 in stock but the new RGB-analog monitor for the CoCo 3 has yet to be delivered to the dealers.

Anyone having a CoCo 3 is encouraged to write about the new computer, mentioning the positives and negatives for the next newsletter. Either call me on the phone or mail the story to the club's P.O. Box 2742, Lehigh Valley, PA 18001

X", software from "Company Y", printer from "Company Z" posed enough problems sometimes... now we've added support from "Company W". If this third-party trend continues, Tandy may be the only place you can go to a single supplier, it's much easier to go to one place and say "Make it work".

Now, the good news. We didn't take away free support. The Fort Worth customer service telephones are still free, as they have always been. Yes, they are crowded. No, you probably won't get them on the first try. Yes, it may be frustrating at times. And that's why we have responded to our business customers and established about 60 Area Training and Support Centers (ATSO) around the country, supporting only business products. That's the service that's free for only 30 days, after which it costs \$20/month (available in 3, 6, or 12-month increments only.) Our business customers asked for a business-oriented service which would have some cost to discourage unnecessary calls and therefore be easier to reach.

While the minimal charges help, they don't offset the expense of furnishing the service. Your \$20 per month brings you unlimited call privileges. Our charges are among the lowest in the industry. IBM, last report I had, charges \$40 or \$50 per call, meaning you get 2 or 3 months of unlimited calling with us for the cost of one call to Big Blue.

A recent report in Esther Dyson's "Release 1.0" newsletter detailed charges by a number of major software firms, and they extended into 4 and 5 digits for yearly service.

At any rate, we do want you to realize that we didn't remove something free... we just added a second service which costs. For your information, the support system today fields over 100,000 calls per month! Some 90,000 of those are taken through the ATSO locations.

Continued on page 6

### INEXPENSIVE PLOTTER

Although he is unable to attend many of our monthly meetings because of his work, Mike Skuczias still has the Club interests at heart.

He contacted us the other day to describe a good and inexpensive plotter which he recently purchased.

It will plot 8" wide in .004" increments. It operates with the CoCo through a Centronics parallel port and is controlled by Basic. It costs \$159.00 and is available from California Digital in Carson, CA.

Anyone needing more information should contact Mike who is usually home during the morning hours. His phone number is (215) 367-7859.

Clyde Gano

# Tandy Topics

Continued  
from page 5



## ANOTHER "SUPPORT" ISSUE

I'm sorry, but I gotta say it. Sometimes computer owners cause their own problems. A recent club newsletter I received included a story billed as "Another Hall of Fame Radio Shack Horror Story".

It seems a local technically-competent CoCo owner asked a Computer Center employee for a plug to fit an old Line Printer II. That was fine, but he went on to explain that he was connecting the printer (parallel) to his CoCo (serial only)... which apparently he had figured out how to do.

The Radio Shack employee warned the customer of the "incompatibility" of the CoCo's serial output and the printer's parallel input. He reported the employee's un-cooperative attitude and incompetence in not knowing the connection was possible. So he went to another store.

Repeat performance. Except that this time the new store called the Center our owner had just left, to ask if this connection was possible. Well, obviously anything is possible if you know how. But the majority of our customers would be getting themselves in trouble trying a connection like this... and we'd be blamed for not warning them. So, in my opinion both store employees were doing their jobs exactly right.

The bottom line is, this technically capable customer could have just asked for the desired part. He didn't have to explain he was doing something that normally won't work. Once it came up, a simple "Don't worry, I know how" would have solved the problem. Is this a horror story? Not to me. Could it have been avoided? Sure, but

then there wouldn't have been a good story to tell the local club members.

Now before I get flooded with mail, let me state that this is one case. I recount it only to suggest how the problem might be avoided. Our sales people aren't engineers. Most aren't even computer hobbyists. Nor are they perfect. If you're a hobbyist or programmer, you are normally more knowledgeable than they are.

We've tried to separate after-the-sale support from the sales function, to provide a pool of folks who are better equipped to furnish that service. And so the person who is helping you is interested in your problem... not worrying about making his or her next sale.



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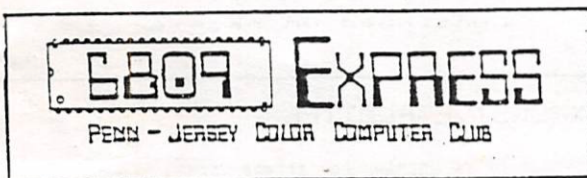
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Reinhold Radke, Editor

