

# EXPRESS

MINUTES

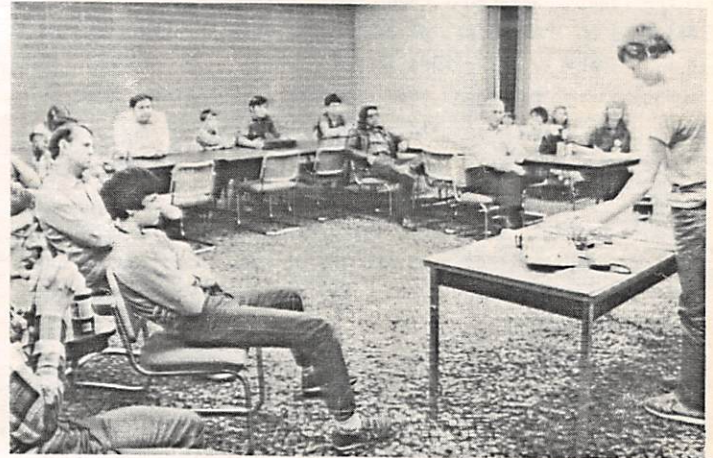
The Official Publication of the  
**PENN - JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB**

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 4

APRIL 1986



Jerry Behler discusses how to care for your modem.



Ricky Moyer discusses how to care for your software.

## "CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR COCO" TOPIC OF LAST MEETING

The PJ-CCC Hardware SIG (Special Interest Group) presented the topic of "Care and Feeding of your CoCo" at the last meeting of the Penn-Jersey Color Computer Club which was held Friday, March 21 because of the Easter Holiday.

SIG members Jerry Behler, Ricky Moyer, Robert Zugates and Reinhold Radke discussed how to take care of your Color Computer and accessories to give you years of service.

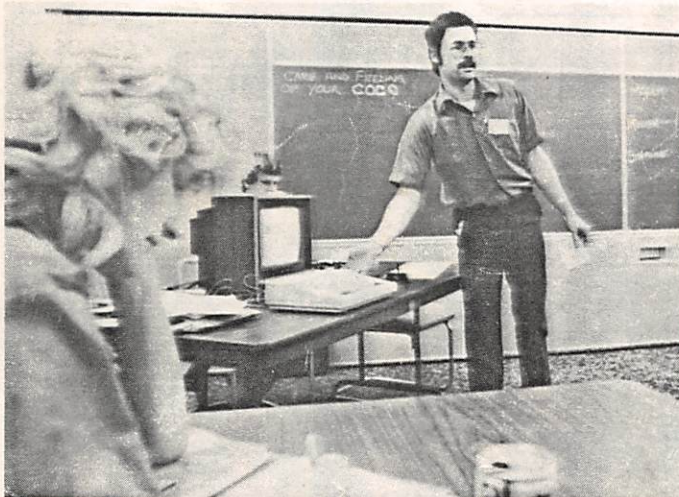
"This session is to prepare you for the proper care of

the CoCo and its peripherals," said Jerry Behler, and "to develop expertise in handling computers."

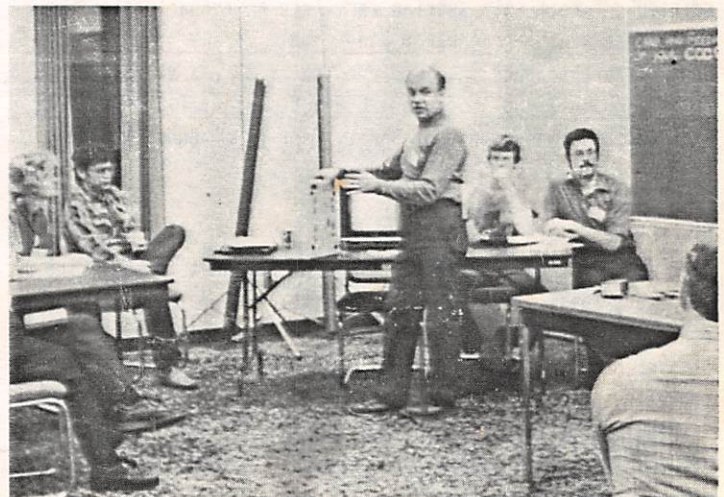
The typical computer system with the color computer at its center includes, joysticks, disk controller and disk drives, modem, printer, multi-pak interface and software.

The use of common sense and the how to care and what not to do for each item was discussed. Main items include avoiding magnetic fields for all hardware and software

Continued on page 8



Robert Zugates points out where multi-pak interface is plugged in.



Reinhold Radke shows cooling slots on CoCo.

**NEXT MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 25**

## OF MARCH 21, 1986 MEETINGS

Club Vice-President Jerry Behler began the meeting because President Roni DeGarmo was going to be a little late. The previous meeting minutes were approved as published in the 6809 EXPRESS newsletter. Treasurer Tom Castronuova presented his treasurer's report which was approved as presented.

Reinhold Radke discussed some of the items received in the mail in the absence of Publicity Chairperson Nelson Russell.

### OLD BUSINESS

President DeGarmo then took over the meeting and reflected on the renewal of memberships. She noted that "we lost 21 members, but gained four."

Roni also reminded the members that the next (April) meeting would again be held on the LAST Friday of the month, not like the March meeting which was moved up one week because of the Easter holiday.

Paul Eckhart discussed the value of items in the club library. He said that with all the different software and books along with magazines, he estimates the value of between \$1,000 and \$1,200.

Jerry Behler discussed the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). He mentioned that there was no interest shown in the OS-9 SIG so that SIG is dropped. The Pascal SIG is meeting every second Tuesday at Jerry's house and has four club members who have attended all the meetings so far. He pointed out that the group is again starting from the beginning of the book and anyone still interested is welcome to attend. Jerry then pointed out that the Hardware SIG is meeting and will present the program on the "Care and feeding of your CoCo" later in the evening. He said that the group will meet April 19 and will be doing maintenance and cleaning of the SIG member's printers. He invited anyone else to come and bring their printer and manuals if possible. The Hardware SIG meets once a month.

Tom Castronuova discussed the idea of the club picnic which is the scheduled meeting date of Sunday, July 27. He pointed out that it's getting very late to actually plan the picnic and wants to know how many people might attend. He would like the members to contact him if they are interested in the picnic as soon as POSSIBLE. He will then see if arrangements can be made at Dorney Park or at Bushkill Park in Easton.

### NEW BUSINESS

President DeGarmo discussed the resignation of club secretary Sally Lanshe because of family commitments and asked for volunteers from the floor, after a little hesitation, Mary Brown then volunteered for the position as secretary.

Roni asked for volunteers to give the presentation on Basic at the April meeting and Chester Belsky offered to give the Basic presentation.

Jerry Behler mentioned that Jim Mangan, Club BBS Sysop, has ordered a package of 20 disks of public domain software from an ad in the April issue of the Rainbow and after he gets it he will donate the software package to the club

library. "The package includes 240 programs, ranging from tools, music to picture disks," said Jerry. He pointed out that he is mentioning this so no member would spend the \$80 for the package by ordering it themselves since it will be donated to the library by Jim Mangan.

President DeGarmo asked the members to think of what they would like to see as the next purchase for the club, since we now have a CoCo, disk drive and cassette recorder. Tom Castronuova suggested books, magazines or even a monitor for the CoCo. He also said a special fund drive can be set up just for such a purpose to keep it separate from the regular treasury. Tom Roginsky, owner of Owl-Ware, said he will donate another disk drive to the club. "A full height drive," said Tom.

Jerry Behler discussed the "Buttons" Jim Mangan is making for the club members for a \$1 fee with part of the dollar being given to the club. The item was written up in the last issue in the 6809 EXPRESS. There are several colors available with the member's name and club logo on the button. "Those who have ordered them," said Jerry, "will get them at the next meeting."

Paul Eckhart, club librarian, asked members for empty cassette boxes or cases to store the cassettes in the library which presently do not have a box. He said he could use about a dozen at the present. Paul also asked for volunteers to index the cassettes since some have no labels to indicate what's on them.

The meeting was then adjourned on the motion by Reinhold Radke and seconded by Paul Eckhart. The topic of "the Care and feeding of your CoCo" was then presented by the members of the Hardware Special Interest Group (SIG). The members participating in the presentation included Jerry Behler, Ricky Moyer, Robert Zugates and Reinhold Radke.

Submitted by  
Reinhold Radke

## NEXT MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 25

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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## FRANCE USES ELECTRONIC PHONE BOOK

France is reportedly the first country in the world to use an electronic telephone directory for people to look up the phone numbers via videotex.

The French National Electronic Directory is replacing telephone books throughout France. Instead of the telephone book, homeowners can choose a free "Minitel" videotex terminal - basically a keyboard, video monitor and smart modem. They can use the terminal to call up about 1,000 specialized videotex services and the National Electronic Directory. Available nationwide the directory holds all 25 million French phone listings and handles four million inquiries a month.

Three things that make this electronic directory attractive to the French is that it can find names of people anywhere in France; it uses a simple command structure and is updated daily.

It has cost the government about \$250 million to provide the free terminals, but so is the cost of printing the phone directories and providing directory assistance according to a French official responsible for the telephone system.

Although the directory calls are free, there is a charge for each minute a call is made to the Electronic Kiosk - the digital telephone switch that connects the caller to other videotex services. The charges of about \$6 an hour show up on the user's telephone bill.

The most popular part of the service is the interactive electronic games and quizzes which is the most heavily used at this time. The average of 20,000 calls and over 2,000 hours of access time is logged on every day.

## WORLD EXPERT IN STATIC ELECTRICITY

Ike Rupe of Indianapolis is the king of static cling with a makeshift laboratory sandwiched between an hair salon and an optometrist's office. He never set foot in a college classroom. During World War II he dropped out of high school to join the Navy and his only diploma is from a special school for veterans. Yet, Rupe is world-renown for what he knows about static electricity. In fact he is a U.S. Government defense contractor and he has taught himself most of what there is to know about the subject of static electricity.

Rupe developed "Rupe's Ike Probe," which tests how certain surfaces resist electrostatic build-up and sells internationally. In the last four years, he has written a number of technical papers of static electricity and last summer was awarded a six-month contract with the U.S. Army to develop tests that will measure static electricity in uniform fabrics.

"This is a rather obscure subject," said Rupe, "but very important."

Static electricity sits on a surface instead of flowing along circuits as normal power would. "Everybody has it on them," Rupe said. "Because of the insulating properties of the materials involved, especially synthetics, there is no path for the electricity to flow through, and sometimes it's

very difficult to neutralize. It just sits there and presents a hazard to many things."

Electrostatic discharge costs this country over \$1 billion a year in busted microcircuits insists Rupe. The amount of electricity it takes to make your pants stick to your socks is more than 50 times what it takes to mess up the microscopic wiring that now operates everything from calculators to heavy machinery.

"Unless you build up more than 4,000 volts on yourself, you won't feel it," he said. "But the most sensitive microcircuits can be ruined by as little as 100 volts of discharge." Rupe has hundreds of photos taken by electron microscope showing circuits blown to bits by static discharge.

He also has proven that the jolt you get when you walk across the carpet and grasp a metal door knob may also be screwing up the computer terminal in the next office.

At Cape Canaveral in 1963, Engineers rotated a rocket under a plastic cover and generated enough static electricity to spark the trigger mechanism that ignited the rocket. The blast killed three people.

Rupe's job for the U.S. Army is to study uniform materials that won't hold any static charges. "The Army wants to have a special purpose uniform that won't hold electrical charges to be worn in an explosive environment," Rupe said. "They don't accidentally want to set off weapons."



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### NEXT MEETING

### IS THIS FRIDAY

### APRIL 25

### AT 7 P.M.

# COCOTEST

David J. Stretch

Here is a program I use to check the color, alignment and tone on my TV set. It is also an interesting random display.

```
90 REM "COCOTEST"
92 REM FOR TRS-80 COLOR COMPUTER
100 CLS0
102 FOR H=14 TO 49
104 FOR V=6 TO 25
106 SET(H, V, 7)
    : NEXT V, H
108 C=RND(8)
110 A=RND(30)
112 B=RND(16)
114 XX=RND(5)
116 YY=RND(3)
118 X=A+13
120 Y=B+5
122 FOR H=X TO X+XX
124 FOR V=Y TO Y+YY
126 SET(H,V,C)
    : NEXT V, H
128 S=A + B + C + X + Y + XX + YY
130 IF T=1 THEN 132 ELSE 138
132 FOR SO=S TO S+S STEP A+B+C
134 SOUND SO, 1
    : NEXT SO
136 T=0
    : GOTO 108
138 FOR SO=S+S TO S STEP -(A+B+C)
140 SOUND SO, 1
    : NEXT SO
142 T=T+1
    : GOTO 108
```

## COMPUTER NOTES

The NEC Corporation of Japan earlier this year took the lead in annual worldwide semiconductor sales with \$1.98 billion in sales to top Texas Instruments, which held the top spot since the 1950's. Texas Instruments dropped to third behind second place Motorola Inc, with \$1.85 billion in sales.

## "CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR COCO"

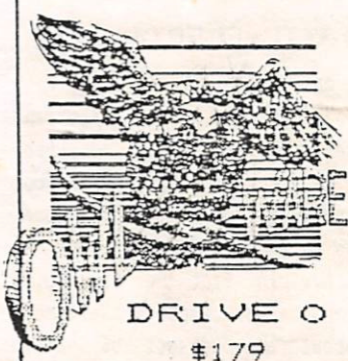
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items. Also try to avoid dirt and dust, heat and cold and control humidity in order to control static electricity.

Other subjects discussed include avoiding rough handling with the equipment by using excessive force in unplugging and plugging in accessories; keeping liquids and foods away from computer equipment and especially avoid snooping by opening the covers, etc. of your computer equipment if you don't know anything about it.

Especially emphasized was the power ON/OFF sequence. Turn all your peripheral equipment on FIRST then your COCO and then make sure to turn the COCO OFF FIRST before turning the peripheral equipment off.

Apparently this was one of the most informative programs for the general membership due to the nature of questions asked during the question and answer period.



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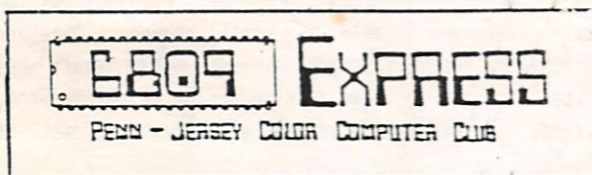

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