

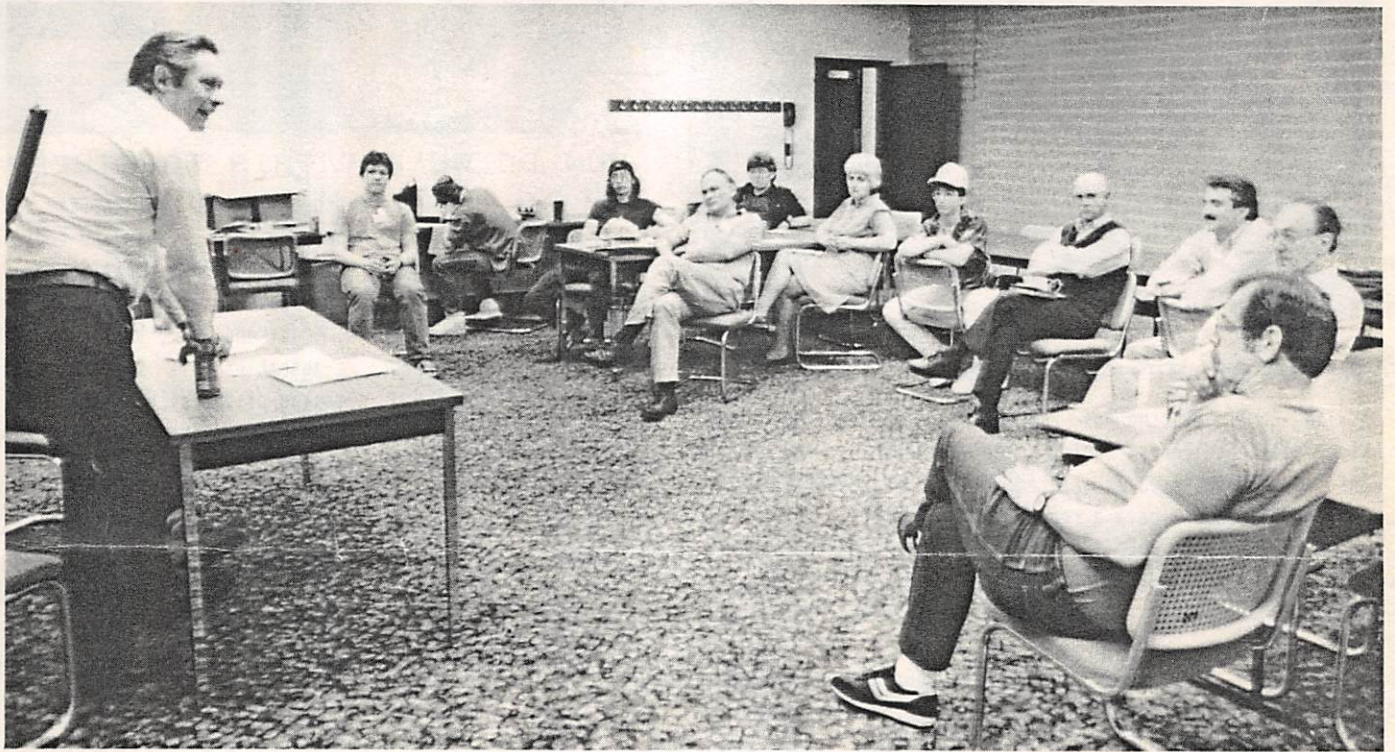
6809

EXPRESS

The Official Publication of the
PENN - JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 5

MAY 1986



Chester Belsky discusses BASIC with part of the membership at the last meeting of Penn Jersey Color Computer Club held April 25. Belsky explained the fundamentals of BASIC as used in the Color Computer.

CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION TO BE VOTED ON FRIDAY, MAY 30 MEETING

The Executive Committee will introduce for adoption at the May 30th meeting the newly amended constitution after having worked on the changes for a year.

The newly amended constitution is published here on pages 4-5 and all members are encouraged to read the constitution so that a vote may be taken at the May meeting. The executive committee has labored long and hard for a year to come up with changes to the old constitution which would make the club function more efficiently in coming years. There are a number of changes made to the old constitution to bring the club up to the present time and standards. The first constitution was ok for the start-up and first couple of years of existence with the small membership. But with a larger group, some changes were made to incorporate and expand the responsibilities to the larger membership.

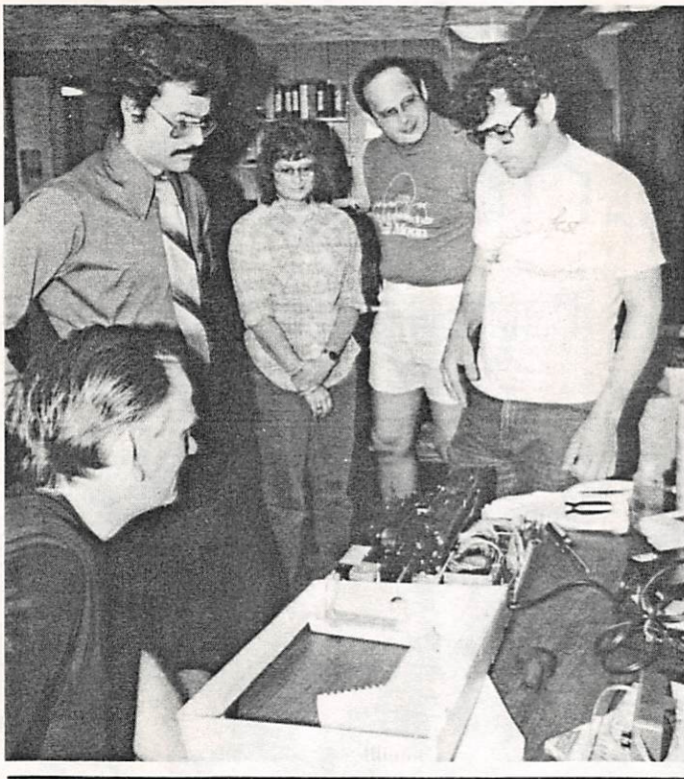
Basic changes made were: Article II - limiting the membership to owners of Radio Shack Color Computers, Color Computer II and Tandy Color Computer. In Article III - some minor grammar corrections to the membership qualifications and defining a new member "who will be deemed as one who has not been a member the previous calendar year.

Article V - Election of officers and responsibilities of officers involved numerous changes and your are asked to read them carefully.

Article VIII - sets for the dissolution of the club and how the assets will be distributed to the members after the outstanding bills are paid.

Please, read the constitution carefully so that you may make a good judgement when a vote is taken this coming Friday, May 30.

May meeting Friday



HOW DO WE PUT THIS TOGETHER?

That's what the Hardware group seems to think at their April meeting when "cleaning your printer" was the topic of the evening. Checking out the Newsletter Editor's Gemini 10X printer (left photo) is, from left, Frank Tupper, Robert Zugates, Lee Ann Keeler, Al Krapf and Jerry Behler. In the top photo, Frank Tupper re-assembles his DMP 105 after giving it a thorough cleaning of the mechanism and print head. In the background, Al Krapf gets help with his Epson. After cleaning the print head on my Gemini 10X, the descenders are again printing correctly if you noticed the newsletter. If you really want to see what difference a cleaning will do, compare this newsletter to the March issue and notice the descenders (j, g, y, etc.) The May hardware meeting involved fixing a cassette recorder.

MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 1986

The April meeting of PJ-CCC was opened by Club Vice-President Jerry Behler. The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as printed in the 6809 EXPRESS.

Tom Castronuova gave a report on the summer picnic. The date is Sunday, July 27. Because of low response and it being too late to make reservations, Tom suggested just selecting a place with members showing up and doing their own cooking.

At the last meeting, President Roni DeGarmo mentioned the use of club funds to purchase books, magazines or a monitor. Tom questioned whether we really had a surplus since money has to be available for the rest of the year for the newsletter, etc. A discussion followed. To raise money the following were suggested: making copies of public domain software and selling them to club members, a candy sale, 50/50 raffle, collection box (volunteer basis). The discussion was tabled until the Fall.

NEW BUSINESS

Club Treasurer Tom Castronuova gave his report. Tom Roginski questioned whether the sale of soda was a convenience or a fund raiser. The group agreed to a higher price rather than selling Brand X soda at the current price.

Newsletter Editor Reinhold Radke gave the newsletter-publicity report. He demonstrated a letterhead carrier that could be duplicated by members.

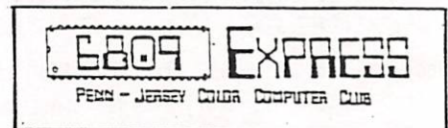
A hand vote was taken, after a discussion, on whether to allow other type of computer owners into the club. The majority voted no.

Paul Eckhart, Club Librarian, thanked those members who helped with the cataloging of some of the club cassette tapes.

RANDOM ACCESS

Paula Behler will take names of those members interested in purchasing Club T-Shirts. Tom Roginski asked about

NEXT MEETING THIS FRIDAY
MAY 30th AT 7 P. M.



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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ED JUGE

Tandy Topics

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

fairly short if possible, as the objective of this newsletter is to try to cover a lot of varied items to make it as interesting to as many people as possible. Unfortunately, some folks' interests get left out completely each month... usually due to a lack of material.

This newsletter is written on a Tandy 2000, using Scripsit. So, I can use almost any ASCII file on a disk the 2000 can read. Or make it easier and dump it to me on CompuServe EasyFlex (70007,1365). Or... send it to Tana Grubb (76703,2041), who spends most of her days on CompuServe, and is in the office next to me. My checkins to the system have dwindled from twice a day to twice a month in recent months. The newsletter will be much more interesting to more people if we get input from users! Is everybody listening?

QUESTIONS/CRITICISMS

Many people don't realize that most magazine editors today don't print every "letter to the editor" they get... especially those in which it appears the writer has some personal ax to grind, or is experiencing some specific problem which is likely to be unique to him/her. Many of the publications simply forward the letter to the vendor involved, to take care of the situation for the customer. I recently received one such letter from a gentleman in Colorado, who happens to be associated with a couple of user groups up there. And although his tone was highly agitated,

Continued on page 8

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following are excerpts of the TANDY newsletter mailed to the club each month. Excerpts of interest to CoCo owners and other general items will be published under this column. Articles relating to other Tandy or Radio Shack Computers will be omitted. Anyone wishing to see the complete newsletter should check with the club library, since the librarian will now have them on file.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Bill Drennon, president of the Sacramento CoCo Club wrote to ask... "Would you like to have items submitted on disk, so you can edit them without having to type in the whole item? Bill... we'll take 'em any way at all! Keep them

DIRECTORY MENU FOR COCO

By Steve Kronschnabel and Phil Daley

Originally published in the October 1983 issue of MICRO Magazine

The CoCo version of the menu program offers a choice of a directory menu or a directory backup onto the unused portion of track 17. With this program it is possible to back up your directory whenever you want and restore it to its former state should a sector become damaged. This program will save up to 48 directory entries, enough for most full disks; you would have to have a great number of short programs to fit more than 48 on one disk.

After it is determined whether you wish to back up the directory or run the menu program (line 30), lines 60-150 read the directory and store the names of the entries in N\$() and the extensions in E\$(). Lines 170-250 print out the

directory names two across, then the program waits for a choice to run. All BASIC programs will work with this menu; machine-language programs may or may not work depending on their loading address.

Lines 370-400 determine whether the directory is to be saved or replaced due to a disk crash. Lines 410-430 perform a fail-safe prompt, in case of a mistake, because the replace will cause a loss of any programs saved since the last backup. Lines 470-560 do the actual work. The same FOR-NEXT loop is used for saving or replacing the information.

This program, although simple in concept, works great and will save your sanity if your disk system crashes. Also, the menu program can be added to your disk to make it easy for beginners to choose a program to run.

```

10 CLEAR2000:CLS
20 DIMN$(72),E$(72)
30 PRINT@64,"MENU OR DIRECTORY"
40 A$=INKEY$:IF A$="" THEN40
50 IF A$="D" THEN370
60 CLS:PRINT@64,"reading directory"
70 FORX=3TO11
80 DSKI$0,17,X,A$,B$
90 IFASC(A$)=255 THENX=11:GOTO150
100 C$=A$+LEFT$(B$,127)
110 FORN=OTO7
120 N$(X-3)*8+N)=MID$(C$,N*32+1,8)
130 E$(X-3)*8+N)=MID$(C$,N*32+9,3)
140 NEXTN
150 NEXTX
160 CLS:PRINT@10,"directory"
170 FORX=OTO72
180 Y=Y+1:A$=""
190 IFASC(N$(X))=255 THENX=72:GOTO250
200 IFASC(N$(X))=OTHENY=Y-1:GOTO250
210 GOSUB340
220 PRINTX$ " N$(X) ",E$(X) " ";
230 IFY/28=INT(Y/28) THENPRINT@480,"";
    INPUTA$:PRINT@32,"";
240 IFLEN(A$) <> 0 THEN280
250 NEXT
260 PRINT@480,"";
270 INPUTA$:IFLEN(A$)=OTHENY=0:GOTO160
280 A=VAL(A$)
290 IF E$(A)="BAS" THEN320
300 IF E$(A)="BIN" THEN330
310 CLS:PRINT"CAN'T RUN THAT PROGRAM":END
320 LOADN$(A),R
330 LOADM N$(A):EXEC
340 X$=STR$(X):X$=MID$(X$,2)
350 IFX < 10 THENX$="0"+X$
360 X$=LEFT$(X$,2):RETURN
370 CLS5:PRINT@32,"SAVING OR
    REPLACING DIRECTORY?"
380 A$=INKEY$:IF A$="" THEN380
390 IF A$ <> "S" AND A$ <> "R" THEN380
400 IF A$="S" THEN450
410 CLS7:PRINT@64,"ARE YOU SURE THAT YOU WANT TO
    REPLACE THE DIRECTORY?"
420 INPUT"YES OR NO? ";A$
430 IF A$ < > "Y" THENCLS:END
440 X1=10:X2=0:GOTO460
450 X1=0:X2=10
460 E=0
470 FORX=2TO8
480 DSKI$0,17,X+X1,A$,B$
490 DSKO$0,17,X+X2,A$,B$
500 DSKI$0,17,X+X2,C$,D$
510 DSKI$0,17,X+X1,A$,B$
520 IFC$=A$ AND D$=B$ THEN560
530 E=E+1:IFE=1 THEN470
540 CLS5:PRINT@64,"TOO MANY READ OR WRITE ERRORS
    CANNOT CONTINUE..."
550 END
560 NEXTX
570 CLS1:END

```

he does raise some questions which might be of general interest. So, I'll quote some of it here, but the writer shall remain anonymous...

"Does your magazine believe that its advertisers should practice the moral principle of truth in advertising? If so, then you should closely examine Tandy's latest advertisement for their line of printers. It appears that Tandy is selling a CGP220 capable of 16 color graphics from a CoCo. Were this not enough it would appear from the ad that the CoCo itself is capable of displaying 16 color graphics! "Perhaps this is the long awaited 'Super Coco' that Ed Juge of Tandy has so long denied the existence of..."

Ouch! Well, I responded three weeks ago, and to date have heard nothing from this gentleman. My answers were that the ad in question didn't say anything about 16 colors. Instead, it named the seven colors the CGP220 produces.

Ed Juge has never denied the existence of another CoCo, in fact I've said there will be future versions, since that family isn't going to die any time soon. What I denied was that you'd see one this Spring. By the way, the CoCo in the ad was a CoCo 2, just like our stores sell today.

My correspondent also questioned our software support for the CoCo, and I pointed out that "Our newest catalog lists 188 offerings. It's not utopia... fifty times that number

wouldn't satisfy every user. But if making available 188 software packages for a single CPU constitutes 'little or no support', then we along with just about every hardware manufacturer and the vast majority of PC retailers are guilty as charged."

To my knowledge, no other hardware manufacturer or retailer supplies anywhere near this number of packages for a single machine. Sure, there are several machines for which thousands of packages are available on the open market. Why isn't this true for the CoCo? Because, as one software retailer told me a few months ago, "We can't sell to CoCo or Model 4 owners... they want to buy only from Radio Shack. If they'd buy from us, we'd carry some software for 'em."

The message??? We'd like your business as often as we can earn it. But do patronize third-party vendors too!



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Reinhold Radke, Editor

