MEETING THIS FRIDAY,
JUNE 24

CHICAGO RAINBOWFEST REVIEW

Here is a brief look at what went on at Rainbowfest in Chicago.

As per Marty Goodman and Delphi, the big thing at this year's fest was Hard Drives and No-Halt Controllers.

Burke & Burke was doing great business with their hard drive hardware/software system. Frank Hogg was there with his full line of products, including Sculptor, which was selling for $120. Disto/CRC and Performance Peripherals were both doing a great business selling their No-halt Controllers.

Cercomp (Bill Vergonia) introduced an elaborate window system for RS DOS users called Window Maker. Diecom introduced a new game called ZENION. SRB Software (Steve Bjork) also introduced new games for the CoCo 3. The MINE RESCUE, which resembles Pitfall and a bust-out type game called BASH. These programs are all in the $20 to $30 price range.

In Marty Goodman's words, the single most intriguing new entry at the show was the soon to be released MAX 10 by Colorware. MAX 10 is a word processor and document creator. See the June 1988 Rainbow for more information on this new program for the CoCo 3.

Marty also pointed out that no one was selling 512K upgrade boards that were other than bare boards (no DRAMs in them) and that no one was selling 256K by 1 DRAMs. The current price is $12 to $15 per chip and they are continuing to rise in cost. Last November, these chips were selling for $2 to $5 each.

The next Rainbowfest is in Princeton on October 21-23, 1988

WHAT HAPPENED TO SPECTRUM PROJECTS??

Articles in a couple of CoCo Club newsletters indicated that SPECTRUM PROJECTS is in trouble. One newsletter in answer to a readers' question as to why no more advertising was seen by Spectrum, answered the question that the word from Howard Beach where Spectrum is located is that "things are on hold pending "litigation." Microcom Software in Fairport, NY is currently seling Spectrum Projects products.

GUESS WHO?

DISK SALE IS STILL ON!!

NEW COCO MAGAZINE?

I just received another complimentary copy of DYNAMIC COLOR NEWS Magazine from Dynamic Electronics, Inc. of Hartselle, AL, and it seems to be getting VERY impressive. The May issue (No.49) is 48 pages thick with many, many various articles from BASIC, machine language, and OS-9 programs to articles of ROM routines, colums on HAM Radio, letters to the Editor and Questions and Answers. They are also starting a listing of CoCo clubs and BBS's.

In the Editor's column, Bill Chapple, editor, writes "at least once a month we get a letter or a phone call from someone wanting to know if we are planning on continuing. The answer is YES. There have been many color computer magazines that have ceased publication and I guess this scares people. If we just had the magazine we might be in trouble. Since we have other products, subscribers and others purchase from us. This keeps us going."

In looking over the magazine, it really is looking impressive-- maybe just a bit too technical for the average CoCo hobbyist -- but nevertheless good. Just for the Questions and answers the magazine is good and it looks like it is going to get better. I remember couple of years ago getting a ouple single sheets stapled together with a couple of articles and now they even have a disk or tape subscription program.

Subscriptions to DYNAMIC COLOR NEWS are $18 a year with tape or disk subscriptions priced at $60 per year. Not a bad price. To subscribe mail check or money order to Dynamic Electronics Inc. P.O. Box 896, Hartselle, AL 35640. Telephone is (205) 773-2758.

andwers

MEETING THIS FRIDAY

MINUTES OF MAY 27, 1988 MEETING

Vice-President Roni DeGarmo called the meeting to order. The minutes will be accepted at the next meeting. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

OLD BUSINESS:
Disks are still available at fifty cents each.
The Library Listing is in the process of being compiled. Back-ups will be made of all library disks. Chet Belsky will donate a disk holder for the library disks.

NEW BUSINESS:
If the scheduled speaker cannot be at the June meeting Eric Rhyder will give a talk.
The meeting was adjourned and general discussion followed.

Submitted by:
Mary A. Brown

Tandy Topics

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

THE TOP TEN

MS-DOS BUSINESS/UTILITIES

1	25-1172	PFS:Professional Write
2	25-1174	Varsity SCRIPSIT
3	90-0431	Dac Easy Accounting
4	25-1184	Microsoft Works
5	25-1146	Quartet
6	90-3169	Dac Bonus Pack
7	25-1163	Microsoft Multiplan
8	90-3234	PFS:First Publisher
9	25-4110	PageMaker
10	90-3080	PFS:First Choice

MS-DOS HOME & EDUCATION

1	25-1304	The Print Shop
2	25-1311	Partyware
3	25-1186	FUNdamentals HX/TX
4	25-1151	Where/World is Carmen Sandiego
5	25-1216	Talking Reader Rabbit
6	25-1188	Typing Tutor IV
7	25-1218	Math Rabbit
8	25-1159	Managing Your Money
9	25-1161	Homeword Plus
10	90-3103	Quicken

6809 EXPRESS
PENN-JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER CLUB

A Computer in Your Home

Why you may want one...

Research has proven time and time again that the first and most influential teachers in a child's educational experience are his or her parents. The more time and attention parents give to reading in the home, the better are a child's language skills in school.

In a home where the parents are interested in and comfortable with computers, their children's interest level in computers may also be greater. For children who have access to computers at school, a computer in the home allows them to continue their computer learning outside of the classroom.

Not only does a computer in the home supplement the work your child is doing in school, but it also opens up whole new avenues of subjects not explored in school. Your child can explore subjects such as astronomy, weather, music composition, animation, and much more. Plus, a computer can become an educational, creative, productive, and entertaining outlet for the entire family.

No two children are the same — they learn at different rates and in different styles. For children who are faster learners, a computer in the home offers them the opportunity to work ahead, which minimizes boredom. For children who need a certain subject presented more slowly or repeatedly or with a lot of structure and direction, a computer in the home can become a private tutor and help your child keep up.

Another important feature of the computer is its infinite patience. By presenting example after example, it allows children to work at their own pace. For children who sometimes feel frustrated with the demands of schoolwork, a computer can give them a sense of confidence and independence by letting them take charge of their own learning.

How you can get one...

With so many computers on the market today, prices have dropped significantly. At the same time, their capabilities have increased dramatically. In fact, there is a computer for just about every lifestyle and every budget.

If you're having trouble trying to figure out how a computer could fit into *your* budget, here are a few tips:
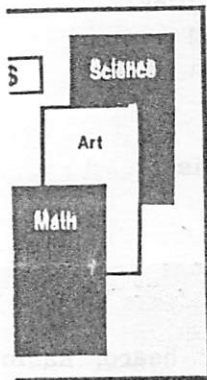
• **Feel comfortable.** There's no rush; just take your time. Talk to teachers. Talk to your friends. Visit a number of computer stores. Most importantly, involve your children.

• **Try out a computer.** A few schools even lend computers for short periods. Such a program gives a family the opportunity to try computing at home.

• **Read all you can.** There are plenty of books and magazines on the market that give reviews and compare the various computers. Read as many of them as you can.

• **Shop around...for hardware, software, and service.** Check and compare features and prices. Although it would be nice to have the same computer at home that your children use in school, it's not always necessary.

What's most important is that the software that best suits your family's needs is available for the computer system that you buy. A computer without software is like a car without gas. Although there is an enormous amount of software available for the principal families of computers, all software is not written for all machines. Make sure the software you want to use runs on the machine you intend to buy.

It's important to feel comfortable about where you buy your computer too. Find out if your salesperson will provide training and service. You'll also want to be able to come back for advice as your needs change. A reputable store should accomodate you.

• **Find out about financing.** Many computer stores, department stores, and computer companies have attractive financing programs.

• **Check with your tax advisor.** If you are able to use your computer for business, all or a portion of the expense may be tax deductible.

• **Talk to your child's teacher or to your employer.** Many schools and even some work places have programs that allow you to purchase computer equipment through them at discounted prices.

MS-DOS ENTERTAINMENT

1	25-1156	King's Quest III
2	25-1181	Marble Madness
3	25-1183	Thexder
4	25-1150	Space Quest
5	25-1182	Earl Weaver Baseball
6	25-1219	Gunship
7	25-1137	Star Flight
8	25-1191	World Tour Golf
9	25-1196	Chuck Yaeger's Adv. Flt. Trainer
10	25-1125	F-15 Strike Eagle

COLOR COMPUTER'S BEST

1	26-3046	Downland (ROM)
2	26-3095	Color Baseball (ROM)
3	26-3272	Sub Battle Simulator (Disk)
4	26-3109	Color SCRIPSIT II (ROM)
5	26-3093	Dungeons of Daggorath (ROM)
6	26-3072	Thexder (ROM)
7	26-3273	Home Publisher (Disk)
8	26-3242	Flight Simulator II (Disk)
9	26-3288	One on One (Disk)
10	26-3201	Color Math (Tape)

RAM PRICING

As you may have seen or heard, Radio Shack has increased the prices of RAM upgrades. The reason is a severe shortage of chips in the industry, which has caused tremendous increases in the prices of chips to equipment manufacturers and distributors.

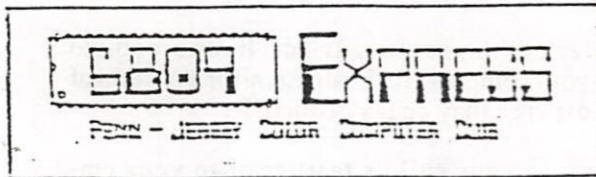One of the first companies to raise prices issued a press release saying their cost on RAM chips had increased from 100 to 300 percent! The result was an increase of 10 to 15% in the price of their computers, and substantially more on RAM upgrade options.

As I have suggested in the past, Tandy and Radio Shack have worldwide parts sourcing capability which should minimize the effect of increases on our prices. And in this case – believe it or not – that happened. We have not raised the prices of our computers, only the upgrade kits. We had many cases of people buying RAM upgrade kits from us for use in other brands of computer, since our prices had become about the lowest around. We actually had been approached by at least one firm who wanted to buy RAM chips in 6-digit quantities!

I can't promise you that computer prices are immune to this type of cost fluctuation, but as of this writing, we've held the line.

My media contacts are beginning to tell me that Korean sources are about to "flood the market" with RAM chips at considerably reduced prices. Before this becomes a cure-all (if it happens), the industry will have to be sure the quality is good.

During my ten years in the PC industry, I've watched RAM prices approximate a sine wave curve. Shortages cause prices to rise. Vendors see an opportunity to increase production and take advantage of the higher prices they can charge. Production meets, then exceeds demand, and prices fall again. When they fall far enough, vendors decide there's no profit in them, and curtail production. When the supply dwindles, we're back to shortages again.