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PENN-JERSEY COLOR COMPUTER

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CLUB

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CHANGES IN PJCCC ON THE WAY?

by Rick Hengeveld

Ah! Another year in the old hip pocket! And the PJCCC is still here. Not as large as in the past, but still going strong.

I ask the members to keep their eyes peeled for new things to present at the upcoming meetings. Our next meeting will be on the 26th of February. Al Wagner is on the hook this month, I hope you'll find it an interesting presentation.

A suggestion has been made to open the PJCCC up to users of other computer systems. Many of our members are currently using systems other than the Coco, many former members have become inactive in the club since they've switched to an alternative system. Opening the PJCCC to these systems would hopefully help us to hold onto our current membership and possibly bring back some who have already left. This would be a major change, and it requires a constitutional change in the clubs structure. This change will be discussed further at the February meeting. You're invited to input your thoughts on this at that meeting!

Lastly a reminder to all that this years club dues can be paid to Clyde Gano our Treasurer. Dues are as last year, \$15.00, Still a bargain!

*BRING your friend
BRING your computer
BRING your knowledge
BRING your cash
BRING your ideas
BRING your energy
BRING your passion
BRING your love
BRING your hope
BRING your faith
BRING your courage
BRING your strength
BRING your wisdom
BRING your power
BRING your grace
BRING your mercy
BRING your kindness
BRING your compassion
BRING your empathy
BRING your understanding
BRING your tolerance
BRING your patience
BRING your forgiveness
BRING your love
BRING your peace
BRING your joy
BRING your happiness
BRING your success
BRING your fulfillment
BRING your meaning
BRING your purpose
BRING your destiny
BRING your destiny
BRING your destiny*

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Minutes of the meeting of January 29, 1993

Alan J. Wagner, Sr. Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Rick Hengeveld at 7:30 pm. Clyde Gano gave the treasurer's report which was accepted as read.

Clyde mentioned that the check sent to Chris Serino to register our copy of the ACCESS BBS has never cleared the bank. Al Wagner was instructed to find out what the problem is. A suggestion was made that Clyde send a special note to all the members that have not yet paid their 1993 dues to remind them. Clyde will see that this is taken care of.

It was also agreed that non-paid members' subscription to the 6809 EXPRESS would be carried until March 1993. The note would also include a reminder to that effect.

Clyde Gano made a motion that Rick Hengeveld be given membership dues free because he has volunteered to pay the phone bill for the MAVERICK bbs. This being equivalent to several years of dues, it was felt that Rick was already contributing enough to the club and should not be made to pay dues in addition. Though it was noted that Rick should technically not preside over such a motion, it was agreed by all in attendance that this was not a problem. Richard Kravitz seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Peter Unks brought up several ideas for saving money on the distribution of the 6809 EXPRESS. The ideas of bi-monthly and quarterly distribution were discussed. It was decided that we would try distributing the EXPRESS at the meetings and mailing out copies only to those members not in attendance. On larger issues this would save several dollars per month. Clyde Gano would continue to send out reminder postcards as in the past when the EXPRESS was not mailed.

Richard Kravitz announced that the room in the college was secured for the next several months.

Rick Hengeveld then broached a subject that has been discussed before. That is opening the club up to more than Coco users. Since this would require a change to the constitution and possibly the bylaws, it was decided that an announcement to the effect that this would be discussed.

The machine we were in search of had the following specs:
486 DX2/66 8 Megs, CD-ROM drive a large HD and a fax modem. A very nicely equipped system. Priced locally those specs brought price tags of around \$2300. Mail order fared somewhat better coming in around \$1800. I figured we could do better at a trade show and I think we did! Here's what we ended up with.

A new 486 DX4/100 This is truly a screaming CPU! Nearly as fast as the low end Pentium. A 420 meg HD. A double speed CD-ROM. A larger 15in f... screen monitor. 8 megs of Ram. A 14.4K baud fax modem, all packaged in a Mid-Tower case. Also thrown in with the deal was a sizeable chunk of software. Total price,,\$1500 plus tax. TAX?? TAX?? ,,hmmm That's how those politicians get to spend other peoples money,,,,Ahemm,,My fellow Americans! Blah blah blah,,,,,

Rick Hengeveld
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THE LIBRARY CAR By Al Wagner

Welcome once again to the Library car of the Express. This time I'd like to encourage all of you to tell us a little about how you use your computers. As an example of what I mean, many of us have other hobbies besides computers. I have model railroading and Rick has radio control airplanes and video taping. Rick has told us how he has used the Coco in his video hobby/business. I'd like to hear how, if at all, any of the other club members have used their machines in conjunction with their other hobbies.

What directed my interest in this direction this month, is an article in the March 1995 issue of MODEL RAILROADER magazine. Once a quarter, they have an article called Computers in Model Railroading. This time the article focused on a contest of sorts that was held for the design of a corner module for a modular railroad using a CAD program. A modular railroad is one that is made up of modules that are about 2 by 4 feet in size and are assembled end to end to create a large layout when they are all connected. You may have seen such a layout as a display in a mall, as it is a popular way to setup a relatively large layout under such circumstances. A corner module is one that allows the layout to go around a corner (duh, that makes sense!). Four of these are needed in every layout to create a circle of modules that allow for continuous loop running.

Being as the idea of the contest was to get people to use their computers to create a design for these corner modules, there were several different CAD programs used. Two of the people didn't like what was available on the market in the price range limit the contest imposed, so they wrote their own CAD! I for one see that as quite an undertaking. Both of these either are or will be on the market soon, so it wasn't just for this contest that the software was written.

The five CAD programs that are currently on the market and were used in this contest are as follows: AutoSketch 1.0 for Windows available from Surplus Software International, CadRail 5.0

Disks for the copies will either be provided by the purchaser or a disk swap can be agreed to. Since no member will benefit monetarily in providing these files, it is important the purchasers remember to reimburse the file provider for his/her disks.

Files are available in the following formats:

Ms-Dos 360K, 720K, 1.2 and 1.44 meg

Coco 156K Single side.

Files included in the database that are already available on the Maverick's BBS may continue to be downloaded free. However a file donation will be expected when these files are passed on via the disk exchange program. I will not place files from the extended database on the BBS. This is due to the size of many of these files. Anything over 360K requires that the file must be uploaded, because of the BBS's restricted hardware and at 2400 baud this can be very time consuming, both for myself as uploader and the user as a downloader. This will also conserve precious hard drive space.

The whole purpose of this program is to raise funds and promote greater interest in the PJCCC. As a personal note I can say that a lot of work and time has been spent on compiling and editing this database. So please use this service. There are approximately 10,000 files listed in this database, so there is something for everyone.

Orders for these files can be made at regular PJCCC meetings or better yet via the Maverick's BBS. To order a file via the BBS be sure to request the EXACT file name as printed in the database listing along with it description. Files and disks can then be exchanged at the PJCCC meeting.

OTHER PEOPLES MONEY By Rick Hengeveld

I am here today to announce I'm a candidate for public office! What office? It doesn't really matter! You see I've tasted the power that our elected officials REALLY covet. And boy is it fun! No not helping my fellow man, nor solving problems encountered by the hard working people of my community. Are you kidding! I talking about the power of spending other peoples money! What fun!

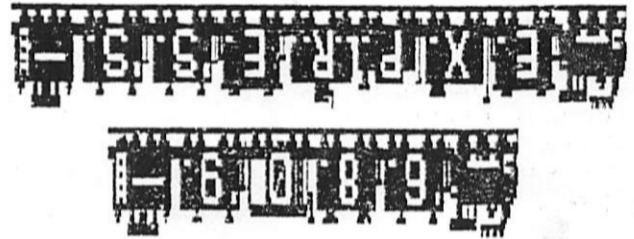
I was lucky enough to be asked to advise a friend who was looking for a new computer system. She had a very general Idea of what she needed and expected to drop about two grand on the needed hardware. With a budget like that I saw super system! So it was off to Stabler Arena for the Computer show, outa my way people I got somebody else's cash to burn!

For those who haven't been to a large show, they're a great place to find a bargain. With a number of system sellers standing next to each other each trying to curry favor with the potential buyer, well it becomes very much a buyers market! Sometimes just glancing over at a competitors stand invokes an immediate drop in the sellers asking price. At a computer show virtually no sellers asking price is etched in stone. The dickering that goes on is fast and furious!

GET ONLINE WITH THE MAVERICK
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H. Peter Unks, Editor

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Clyde

Gano