

THE COLOR COMPUTER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

CoCoPS: C/O Rick's Computer Enterprises P.O. Box 276 Liberty KY 42539

Volume 1, Number 2



"The IBM PC maybe faster, but us CoCo users don't need to buy a new computer every two years!"

- Steve Bjork, Newsletter Editor

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second installment of the CoCoPS newsletter. This issue is a bit behind the planned schedule due to various non-CoCoPS related problems I (Allen Huffman) had in getting things together. Hopefully this won't happen again, as subscriptions have doubled since the first issue went out. Thanks to all who have signed up and are helping us see the CoCo to the Year 2000... and beyond.

FEATURED ARTICLE PennFest 2 Mini-Report

Ron Bull once again invested his own time and finances to host a CoCo gathering in Pennsylvania, this time in Harrisburg. The show included Bargeman Research Labs, CoCoPS, Glenside CoCo Club, Luckey Corner, Mike Guzzi, Monkoware, Nancy's Hot Pretzel's, Planet-9 Systems, Sub-Etha SoftWEAR, and Jim Davis. Jim represented items from CoCoPRO, Rick Cooper, Nick Marentes, Roger Hallman, and others. Ron represented RTSI (OS-9 archive CD-ROM), FARNA Systems, and others. A few extra tables were even rented by folks who wanted to sell off excess CoCo hardware.

Seminars included Boisy Pitre explaining how OS-9 can be put into ROM on a CoCo, Brother Jeremy discussing the history of the now released OS-9 Level 2 Upgrade, and Allen Huffman spoke on planning Fests to the year 2000. Many great discussions were had at this event, possibly leading to joining up with HAM radio fests or other classic computer groups.

Sunday the raffle was held and several complete computer systems were given away. The auction was also held and included many items which brought relatively high bids in the \$50-\$60 range, including a T-shirt autographed by T.Earles and M.Hawkins who worked on Super Extended Color BASIC at Microware for the CoCo 3.

Attendance figures were not available at printing time, but it is estimated only about 60-80 people showed up. However, about a dozen or so were first-time Fest visitors!

COCO PRODUCT NEWS

Mike Knudsen has updated the popular UltiMusE MIDI sequencer for both the CoCo and MM/1. The latest version, 9.11.1, can be downloaded free from the Internet by visiting: os9archive.rtsi.com. This update brings minor bug fixes and a new keyboard input feature allowing faster entry of sheet music. If you never checked out UltiMusE (which is an OS-9 Level 2 program) due to its cost when it was a commercial product, perhaps now is a great time to do so since the product is fully shareware (though do-

nations are most certainly encouraged!). Who says CoCo authors have stopped working on products?

Allen Huffman launched a 192 page book version of his seven years of Fest reports entitled *CoCoFest Chronicles*. The book is fully typeset and includes slightly edited and updated versions of Fest reports from the 1990-1995 AtlantaFest, 1992-1997 ChicagoFest, 1997 PennsylvaniaFest, as well as the 1993 IowaFest. Extra bonus material includes behind the scenes information, a history of CoCo music by Mike Knudsen, and Fest commentaries by Tony Podraza, Carl Boll, Terry Simons, Ron Bull, Ken Fish, James Jones, Brother Jeremy, Tim Johns, and more. The price is \$24.95 (which includes shipping). Pick up one of the remaining copies by sending a check to: Allen Huffman, P.O. Box 22031, Des Moines, IA 50325-9401.

Nick Marentes has released an anthology disk containing Nuetroid II, Donut Dilemma, Rupert Rhythm, Space Intruders, and Cosmic Ambush (\$7). Also, his arcade quality Pac-Man tribute (\$20) is still available. Contact the U.S. distributor, Jim Davis, at P.O. Box 1704, Nixa, MO 65714 (gearboxed@geocities.com) or see Nick's web site listed elsewhere in this issue.

Roger Taylor, of The Projector-3 (\$35) graphics viewer fame, has announced a new product, this time for OS-9, called VOX. He is also looking for folks to take over some of his other projects. Visit his web site (listed else where in this issue), or write P.O. Box 847, Magnolia, AR 71754-0847 for more details.

If you have a product you would like featured here, please let us know! Please make an effort to spend money with the few remaining CoCo software authors to ensure new products happen.

COCO ON THE INTERNET

Last issue we featured various CoCo related web sites (which can still be found at the CoCoPS web site). This time we begin highlighting a few vendors offering products on the 'net.

Taylor Graphics

<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Network/8004/>

Roger Taylor created The Projector-3 for a 6309 equipped CoCo 3. This is by far the most impressive graphics rendering product ever released for the CoCo. Not only can it view tons of formats, its modular design will allow future decompression engines to be added to allow new image types. His web site details how to get a FREE 6309 upgrade (by purchasing TP-3) and he also maintains The CoCoNut Directory which features a listing of CoCo users around the globe including e-mail and postal addresses plus web site links.

Roger still gets plenty of use out of his CoCo, but employs an inexpensive WebTV PLUS box to surf the internet — where do you really want to go today?

Nick Marentes' Color Computer Workshop

<http://www.launch.net.au/~nickm/coco/>

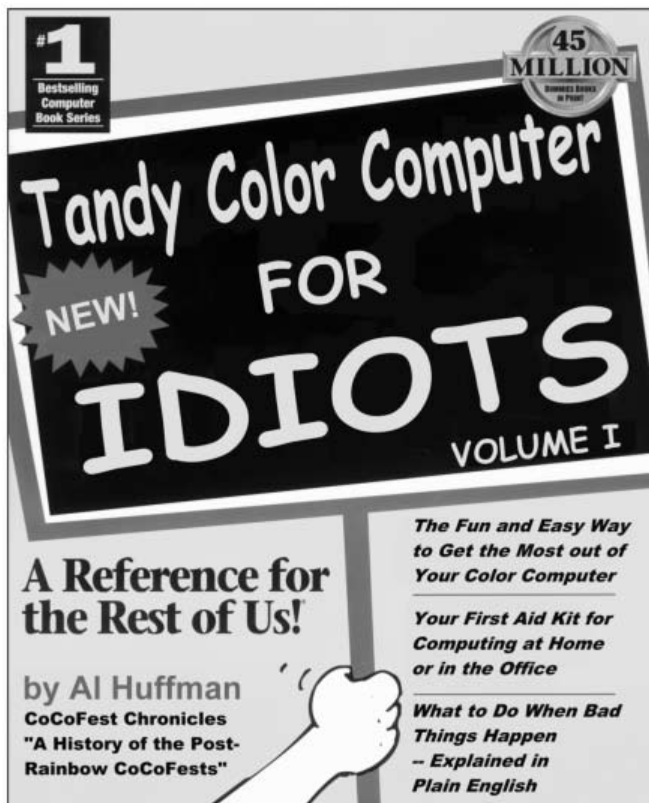
Nick had several of his games distributed by Tandy in his homeland of Australia. Today, he continues to bring out an occasional new CoCo game or product. His site contains downloadable versions of many of his classic games, as well as a new interview section with past CoCo programmers such as John "SockMaster" Kowalski and Glen "Sundog" Dahlgren.

For a listing of other CoCo related Internet sites, visit the CoCoPS home page at: <http://stg.net/cocops>.

PREVIOUS COCOFESTS

Dateline - Chicago's CoCoFest, 1998

For those who didn't make it to the 1998 7th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFest, shame on you! Though attendance was small (but vendor turnout was fantastic), the show was loads of fun. Steve Bjork presented the second version of his multimedia game programming seminar (including slides and videos) and gave us peeks at some things that never were. Brother Jeremy headlined a Saturday night music jam session with dozens participating on guitar, recorder, trumpet, flute, keyboards, and electric drums.



Al's next CoCo book? No, just his latest CoCo T-shirt design.

Highlights at Chicago

In Chicago, several new products were launched, such as a TCP/IP implementation for the MM/1 computer from HawkSoft. Could a CoCo version possible? Maybe, but it's not Chris Hawks who is working on it. Also at the show was the first U.S. appearance of Nick Marantez' excellent Pac-Man tribute game, and the new CoCoFest Chronicles book. (Editor's Note: The author of this must have "CoCoFest Chronicles", Allen Huffman was there with his unique CoCo buttons and t-shirts).

Food, Fun and Games in Chicago

Another ChicagoFest first was the Saturday evening dinner where practically everyone in attendance filled the two reserved conference rooms to dine on a dinner buffet at large round tables. Speeches were given, and laser tag games were played.

Going once, going twice, sold in Chicago

The Chicago auction held many rare items, and even some surprising ones such as two donated CD-i development systems and a few bottles of imported Coca Cola from Mexico (which, oddly, went for more than many of the hardware and software items). Many years of *Rainbow* magazines were practically given away and who can forget the paddle ball "contest" which was certainly more fun to watch than participate in.

More to come, in Chicago

It was generally thought that this would be the real, the final, and the truthful "last" Chicago CoCoFest due to lack of participation. Perhaps it should have been, but Tony Podraza said it best when he posted to the Internet CoCo list: "I must be crazy!" Yes, Glenside will do it again in 1999 and, frankly, this time I honestly think it will be the last unless we see significant improvement in attendance.

Dateline - PennFest

Highlights in Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, the os9archive.rtsi.com CD-ROM was brought out. Nick Marentes' new anthology disk of games was a mere \$7. New button and t-shirt designs were available from Sub-Etha SoftWEAR. The long rumored OS-9 Level 2 upgrade was finally released, and Boisy Pitre showed how to convert CoCos to boot OS-9 direct from ROM, replacing Microsoft BASIC completely.

Food, Fun and Games in Pennsylvania

At PennFest, dozens of us took over Eat'n'Park for dinner, then later celebrated Sam Podraza's birthday in the show room with cake.

At Ron Bull's PennFest 2 this past August 15th and 16th, groups of attendees visited the legendary Hersheypark and Chocolate World. A sweet time was had by all!

Going once, going twice, sold in Pennsylvania

At Ron's show, a dual-6809 computer from Japan, the FM-77, was auctioned off, as well as many rare CoCo items such as RAM paks, no-halt drive controllers, trackballs and Gravis joysticks.

More to come in Pennsylvania?

For PennFest, the lights were going out, yet the spirit of the CoCo Community has encouraged Ron to attempt a summertime Fest in the year 2000 if all else fails. Will you make plans to attend?

Where will you be in 1999? Think about it, then let Glenside know. Trust me, it can be one of the most fun weekends you'll ever have.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Send \$5 (U.S.) for four issues per year (predicted), quarterly, to: P.O. Box 276, Liberty KY 42539. Make checks/money orders out to "CoCoPS". The CoCoPS newsletter gives continued thanks Rick Cooper for handling subscriptions and providing printing/mailing services.

THE FUTURE OF THE CoCoPS

Other than occasional e-mail from the cocops@stg.net mailing list, very little feedback has been received about the direction CoCoPS is heading. Please take a moment to drop us your comments with what you'd like to see, or with anything else you'd like to convey to the members.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS?

We welcome all suggestions and comments on what you'd like to see in future issues of CoCoPS, as well as what we can do to make this newsletter more enjoyable.

Please contact us using one of the following:

Mail:
CoCoPS
c/o Rick's Computer Enterprises
P.O. Box 276
Liberty KY 42539

E-Mail: cocops@stg.net
(forwarded to all involved)

WWW: <http://stg.net/cocops>



A true diehard CoCo user at a Fest, complete with his CoCo wear T-Shirt. Who else else but Allen Huffman!

COCO CLUBS AND SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

UPDATED: Atlanta Computer Society c/o Al Dages

4894 Candlewood Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30088-1606. 770-469-5111. BBS: 770-939-1246

NOTES: Due to lack of participation, the Atlanta Computer Society (former host of the Atlanta CoCoFests) is dropping its P.O. Box. Al Dages will be the new contact at the A.C.S. The club BBS number also changed this past year.

NEW: West Coast CoCo Gathering

10020-A Main St. Suite #116, Bellevue, WA. 9804

Contact: Jim Cox (jimc@amc.com or miba51@nwlk.com)

NOTES: Jim wants to get some sort of West Coast gathering going.

Rick's Computer Enterprises (CoCo Friend's Diskletter and CoCo Report newsletter).

P.O. Box 276, Liberty KY 42539. 606-787-5783

Cost: \$30/four issues by mail (quarterly), \$30/three YEARS by e-mail.

Contact: Rick Cooper (rcooper@kih.net)

Web Page: <http://www.voicenet.com/~swyss> (info, how to get a FREE copy of CFDM, and CoCo software to download!)

NOTES: Newsletter on CoCo disk format, hard copy, or CoCo emulator .DSK image format.

Adventure Survivors (Great gaming newsletter with GREAT CoCo News).

24 Perthshire Drive, Peachtree City, GA 30269.

Cost: about \$7/year. Contacts: Nan and L.E. Padget

NOTES: These two fine folks are also a great source for Beanie Babies.

Glenside CoCo Club (sponsor of Chicago CoCoFest), CoCo-123 newsletter.

31 South Edgewood Avenue, Lombard IL 60148.

BBS: Glenside CoCoRama BBS - 847-587-9837

BBS: SandV BBS - 630-352-0948

BBS: Glenside's Cup of CoCo - 847-428-0436

BBS: Chi-CoCo BBS - 312-735-3355

BBS: Glenside East - 847-632-5558

Cost: \$15 for January - December membership (and Fest admission discounts!)

Contacts: Brian Goers (bgoers@ais.net), Tony Podraza (tonypodraza@juno.com).

NOTES: Glenside is about to ship the new CoCo IDE hard drive interface, and may bring out AT keyboard interfaces as their next project. Contact them for details. Brian is the new club president this year, since Mike Knudsen is moving to Maine.

The world of '68 micros, CoCo/OS-9/etc. mini-magazine.

FARNA Systems PB, Box 321, Warner Robins, GA 31099. Phone 912-328-7859

Cost: \$24 for 6 bi-monthly issues.

Contact: Frank Swygert (dsrtfox@delphi.com)

NOTES: Frank is turning the publication to Stephen Disney, but rest assured, he fully intends to continue publication until 2000. Care to lend a hand? Subscribe and submit an article.

If you know of other clubs or publications that should be listed here, please let us know!

UPCOMING FESTS

What?	The Eighth Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!
When?	Saturday and Sunday, May 1 & 2, 1999
Where?	Holiday Inn of Elgin (Same great location as past years.) 345 W. River Road Elgin, IL
Directions?	A city block from I-90 and IL-31.
Reservations?	(847) 695-5000 (Ask for the "Glenside" or "CoCoFest" rate.)
Cost?	To Be Announced.
Contact?	Tony Podraza (tonypodraza@juno.com) (847) 428-3576 (voice) (847) 428-0436 (Glenside's Cup of CoCo BBS)