CoCo 123

ThePresident's /term

by Eddie Kuns

I't's now less than two weeks until the 'fest as I write this, and preparations are moving along well. There are already more than 16 vendors, two of whom are at a Chicago CoCoFest for the first time! We have a growing list of activities -- are you ready for laser tag? Our no minimum bid auction was so popular last year that it returns. We have a full list of seminars; now I just have to sit down and decide which one is at which time slot!

At the last board of directors meeting, in addition to 'fest business, we accomplished a lot of important club business. I thought I would like to let the rest of you know about our meeting. Ah, I see some of you are scratching your heads ... "Board of directors? Who?" The new Glenside bylaws formally name the board of directors as consisting of the President (that would be me), the Senior Vice President (Rob Gibons), the Secretary (Sheryl Edwards), and two Directors at Large, who are currently the other two Vice Presidents (Tony Podraza, and Tom Schaefges). The Board of Directors is responsible for setting general club policy, but is not responsible for micro-managing the club's day-to-day life.

We will usually only meet quarterly, although with the 'fest and with doing the work

to incorporate -- something we've been planning across three club presidents, now! -- we had more business than usual. What kinds of things does the Board decide? Ah, rather than give an item-by-item list, let me quote one small part of the by-laws:

The Purpose of the Board of Directors shall be to oversee the general operations of the Glenside Color Computer Club, and to set policy. The officers are responsible for day-to-day operations, not the Board of Directors.

I would like to get the entire text of the by-laws into all of your hands, but it's just too large to print in the newsletter. I will strive mightily to have copies ready at the 'fest for members who would like to take a look. (I'm having printing problems with LaTeX -- the typesetting language the by-laws are currently formatted in.) By then, I will hopefully have been able to find out how much postage it costs to mail the by-laws; it will take more than one 32-cent stamp. I know I said this last issue, but watch this space for further details.

So, where was I? Yes, our last meeting. We had two meetings in the past month, plus one special 'fest-planning meeting which wasn't a Board of Directors meeting. We've been busy!

(Or maybe we just like meeting for dinner at restaurants. Could that be it?) And we've

CoCo 123 Information

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization whose members share an interest in the Tandy Color Computer ●. The CoCo 123 is the official newsletter of the Glenside Color Computer Club. The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois has no affiliation with Radio Shack ● and/or the Tandy Corporation ●. The opinions expressed by the authors of the articles contained within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Executive Officers, or the actual club membership.

We are committed to publishing a minimum of four issues and a maximum of twelve issues per calendar year. For a fee of $15.00, for January through December, you can become a GCCC member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to:

GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS
RR #2 Box 67
Forrest, IL 61741-9629

Here is a list of the 1994 Executive Officers and how to contact them. The club has four strong SIGs, Tandy Color Computer 1, 2, 3, and OS-9. If you have questions concerning these computers or OS-9 call one of these officers.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Eddie Kuns	708-820-3943	The buck stops here
Vice-President	Rob Gibons	708-916-1118	Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	708-428-3576	● ●
Vice-President	Tom Schaefges	815-337-0117	● ●
Secretary	Sheryl Edwards	708-344-5632	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-5371	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Mike Warns	708-627-9561	Newsletter coordinator
Telecom	David Barnes	708-587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
Printer	Dennis Devitt	708-629-2016	Newsletter Exchange
Advertising	Bob Swoger	708-576-8068	Newsletter Ads

CoCo 123 Contributions

If you would like to contribute an article, upload a file to the Newsletter Submissions section of the Glenside's Cup of CoCo BBS. Ditto for ads and news about your group. Please include a name and an address or phone number. If you would rather submit your article on diskette, they can be accepted in ASCII form and unformatted in the following formats:

RS-DOS	5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks
OS-9	5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks
MS-DOS	Any standard format

Mail your articles to:

Mike Warns
31 South Edgewood Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148

Submission deadline for the CoCo 123 is the 15th of each month. Articles submitted after the deadline will appear in the next issue.

CoCo 123 Newsletter Exchange

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Color Computer or OS-9 user groups at no charge. Send your newsletter to:

Dennis Devitt
21 W 144 Canary Road
Lombard, IL 60148

Glenside Club Meetings

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets on the second Thursday of each month from 7:30 to 9:30 PM at the Glendale Heights Public Library. A social get-together always occurs afterward at the Springdale Restaurant.

Future meeting dates:

May 11, 1995
June 8, 1995

These are your BBSs. Please support them.

Glenside CoCoRama BBS
708-587-9837
9600 Baud

SandV BBS
708-352-0948
Faster than 9600 Baud, but I don't remember HOW fast! Real fast.

Glenside's Cup of CoCo
708-428-0436
2400 Baud

Chi-CoCo BBS
312-735-3355
14,400 Baud

Glenside East
708-632-5558
9600 Baud

The President's /term (Continued)

gotten a lot accomplished. Now that the club officially has a new constitution and by-laws, as has been reported in this space the past several newsletters, we were finally ready to incorporate. The paperwork to incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Illinois is in the mail and with luck (cross your fingers!) will be processed by the time of the 'fest.

Another very important piece of club business: I am very pleased to announce that we unanimously voted to grant honorary Glenside membership to Dave and Nancy Myers. This is our way of thanking them for their many years of service to our community, and for hosting the First Annual Last CoCoFest, a tradition we are very proud to continue. Dave and Nancy, you are not forgotten! Thank you!

To those of you out there who need or want a GIME chip -- we are about to buy several to see how many Glenside members need one. We are not trying to make money on this; we are simply supporting the community. We also have some 6309 and 1773 (disk controller) chips. If you need one of these chips, contact Tony Podraza (or me for the GIME chips). Contact us before you send money, as supplies are limited.

A 'fest surprise which I can let you in on (since this issue should arrive not long before the show) (Hey, don't tell Brian I told you about it!) is that we will have E-clock fix boards for the CoCo available as show giveaways. Brian Schubring did a lot of work to get these boards ready for the show (thanks!), and he had help from Tony to stuff parts.

I would like to remind vendors that ads are free in the CoCo-1-2-3. (Rhyme not intended!)

We have a limited amount of ad space -- we do not want to compete with magazines for advertising -- but we will put ads in as space permits. We have not used all the space we could in recent issues. Contact Mike Warns with your advertisements, he can let you know what kind of space we have available, and his address is on the second page of each issue.

And you know? This delegation stuff works! I would again like to thank the many members of Glenside who have done so much of the work preparing this upcoming 'fest. I could not have done it myself. Thank you.

A final word: If you are going to the 'fest and have not yet reserved your hotel rooms, CALL NOW! And remember to mention "Glenside" or "CoCoFest" when you make your reservation; you will get a lower rate.

Until the show, and then next issue, take care and keep your computers warm!

Editor's Corner
by Mike Warns

Whew! This issue went together in record time! But there is no reason it should not, with the high caliber of contributors we have. (and only being six pages didn't hurt, either.)

I want to thank all of the people who have submitted in the past few months and I want to reassure everybody who has sent in an article which has not been published that I will publish your's REAL SOON NOW, and not the way Jerry Pournelle means it. I am making an effort to get these out, if not monthly, then at least fairly often. (How's that for a commitment?)

If you have not sent something in, or if you have, please do it soon. I am running out of articles and want to publish a larger newsletter.

See you at the show and BUY LOTS OF STUFF! That's the only way we will have a Fifth Annual Last Chicago CoCoFEST!

KILROY HAS THE LATEST ON 1996!

April 12 £13th
Date change from those announced at the Fest!
More next time!

Livin' with the --Nets

by Rogelio Perea

I have been "modemin'" for about 3 years now, the days when I stumbled around with the DC Modem Pak are long gone, still, there were some things that had, at least in some way, made me slow down and grasp some fresh air. Being a frequent visitor in the CoCo and OS9 echoes there are terms used by a number of net-fans that used to confuse me... they remind me of my first encounters with Emoticons and the IMHO-FWIW-ROTFL kind of abbreviations.

So, to make life easier I decided to do some snooping around and have come with a list with explanations to the most used terms. Engage at Warp 6 to the "Net-Glossary":

ALIAS An assumed name under which users can post messages. The system usually provides a list with the real names of users under a certain alias. Some BBS may allow also anonymous message postings.

BITNET This is a network used by academic and research communities for E-Mail, File Transfers and Mailing Lists. With E-Mail you can access LISTSERV, a mailing list from BITNET.

CYBERPUNK The --nets equivalent of leather clad motorbikers and blue hairdos. Actually, some people define it as 4% science fiction, 7% Rock 'n' Roll rebel, 20% computer geek and 69% media hype.

CYBERSPACE A "realm" in which people and computers "live" together. BBSs, InterNet, FidoNet and so are examples of this world.

DOOR A program that allows access to files and other programs not built in the BBS.

ECHO This is a public discussion group that extends over several BBS via echomail.

ECHOMAIL The system by which an echo is transmitted.

EMOTICON Sometimes called also "Smiley". This term comes from two words: EMOTion and ICON, and are used to express emotion in an otherwise emotionless medium (see Cyberspace). To read an emoticon turn your head 90 degrees counterclockwise and you will see. Try this -> :-) :-D :-O >:-(

FAQ Frequently Asked Question file. They are designed for the beginners as to avoid directly answering over and over the same questions posted when they first try a system, program or net.

FLAME A verbal conflagration in the message bases. The person engaging in such is called a "flamer" and the message intentioned to start such "wars" is called "flame bait".

FREENET Community based BBS supported by the National Public Telecommunications Network. They provide E-Mail, echoes, local information and even Internet connection.

FREQ Also known as File REQuest. This is FidoNet's ability to transfer files back and forth between BBSs automatically.

FTP File Transfer Protocol. This can be the TCP/IP protocol that enables the copying of files from a machine to another in the InterNet; or the UNIX application that uses the protocol; the actual command to evoke the transfer and the "action name" of the transfer as in: "You can FTP that file here".

INTERNET A network of over 45,000 interconnected networks (give or take a few) in 70 countries that use the TCP/IP

networking communications protocol. Needless to say, it is the largest network of computers in the world. Period.

LISTSERV   This a program that responds to user requests like add or delete to a mailing lists currently active. This program started on the BITNET.

LURKING   The action of a given user when all he does is just read the mailing lists or echoes without posting any from himself.

MODERATOR A person that monitors message postings to assure they comply with the SIG or echomail group guidelines.

NODE   An individual BBS or network device that can be addressed by other devices with information and control information that are switched and transmitted together.

SHOUTING   When a message is written in ALL-CAPS mode. This makes the text difficult to read and is somewhat annoying, echomail etiquette goes for more subtle expressions in lowercase.

SNAILMAIL   A joke term referring to the USPS.... compared to E-Mail, a letter/message via USPS seems to move at a snail speed.

SIG   Short for "Special Interest Group". This can be a conference, echo, mailing list or discussion group on a single BBS.

TCP/IP   Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. A series of protocols that work together to interconnect networks, and provide services as E-Mail, Remote Login and File Transfers.

THREAD   Series of messages related to a single discussion subject. Some BBS SIGs let you follow a thread through all the messages posted, or avoid reading the messages of a particular thread.

UUCP   Unix to Unix Copy Program. Software and protocol that copies files from one Unix computer to another. UUCP is used by systems that don't have TCP/IP.

This is not a full list of the most often used terms. If any of you still have some questions, feel free to contact me or better yet: write a letter to the Glenside Cup of CoCo Club or log-in at GCCC BBS (the info is in page two of the CoCo 123 Newsletter). Those of you who wish to contact me please do so to the following address:

/ Rogelio Perea

U.S. | 252 N. Grand Avenue Apt 169

\ Nogales, AZ 85621

/ Rogelio Perea
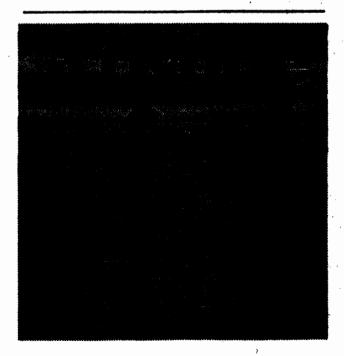
HomeBase | Porfirio Diaz 170

\ Nogales Sonora MEXICO

84000

CompuServe: 72056,1204

INTERNET:
72056.1204@COMPUSERVE.COM

Why We Do This

It started out with a single message...

To : Tony Podraza
From : Len Zielinski
Subject : COCO Repair
Date : 95/03/01 23:11:11

Tony:

Need a favor. A friend I met at a NICOL meeting has a COCO that he wants to put back into service, but it needs repair. I will appreciate anything you can do for him. He lives in Skokie, if you don't have the time to handle the job, perhaps you know someone who can.

Thanks
Len

To : Tony Podraza
From : Chuck Roman
Subject : COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/03 01:35:00

HI TONY

I'm a friend of Len Zielinski's. Len gave me your BBS phone no. yesterday when I mentioned to him that I was looking for someone other than Radio Shack to repair my COCO 3. I also recall seeing your name very frequently on Dave Barnes' BBS.

I got my first COCO in 1982, a 32K marvel (what power.) I went through various new COCO's and upgrades, ending up with a COCO 3 that I upgraded to 512K before switching allegiance to the PS. I didn't want to cope with OS9.

My COCO started giving error messages on anything I tried to input several years ago, but for sentimental reasons I would really like to get it running once again.

Len said that you might be able to take a look at my COCO, and if you don't, you might know someone who might help me out. I'd really appreciate it if you could get me running again. Please let me know if you're willing to help.

Regards, Chuck Roman

P.S. I like the looks of your board...I'll be revisiting it. Drop me a line on E-mail. Looking forward to your reply.

To : Chuck Roman
From : Tony Podraza
Subject : Re: COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/04 14:14:35

Welcome, Chuck. A friend for the Kosher on the board. RE: the CoCo, was the error message too dark to set keyboard environment? could be is simple as dirt, head cleaning or disk controller card edge cleaning. If it is the main board, still could be simple. The Glenside club meets at the pipside Public Library in Glenside Heights the second (THIS) Thursday of each month. If you'd care to try to make it, we could begin, and perhaps think, the healing process as I demo on computer repair. Let me know what you think.

To : Tony Podraza
From : Chuck Roman
Subject : Re: COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/04 11:49:55

Hi Tony,

Thanks for the prompt reply. I would like to take you up on your kind offer, and will come to your next meeting of Glenside. I'll come with Len Zielinski - he can act as my navigator to the Library in Glenside height.

In answer to your question regarding the error message, I believe they're due to keyboard commands rather than disk I/O because I first thought it was the repair facility in Downers Grove. They kept it about 3 weeks and told me there was nothing wrong with the disk drive. Then why I don't want to use the keyboard out to them. At any rate, I'll bring the keyboard and Disk Drive to the meeting with me.

Regards...Chuck Roman

To : Tony Podraza
From : Chuck Roman
Subject : COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/06 10:39:26

Hi Tony,

I was wondering if there is anything else I should bring with me to the meeting on Thursday besides the COCO keyboard/cpu and the disk drive. Would a monitor be available for instance, to see the error messages I'm getting (mostly syntax error messages), or would I have to bring a monitor too?

Thanks again,
Chuck Roman

To : Chuck Roman
From : Tony Podraza
Subject : Re: COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/06 22:52:41

There will be a monitor....no problem...syntax errors, eh? hmmmmmmm wonder if there is a break in the flexible connector to the keyboard itself..do the correct letters appear on the screen when you type them in?

To : Tony Podraza
From : Chuck Roman
Subject : Re: COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/07 14:41:29

Yes Tony, the correct letters appear when typed in from the keyboard, such as "DIR", "LOAD" etc. but I always get SN ERROR. Does it sound serious to you ?

Chuck Roman

To : Chuck Roman
From : Tony Podraza
Subject : COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/07 14:51:57

I just noticed another feature regarding my COCO's behavior which may be of help to you in diagnosing the problem. When I type in WIDTH 80, I get the 80 character screen without problem. Same thing when I type in WIDTH 40.

The SN ERRORS all seem to appear when I try to access the disk drive, Drive 1 and Drive 2.

Hope this is of some help to you.

Regards....Chuck Roman

To : Tony Podraza
From : Chuck Roman
Subject : COCO REPAIR
Date : 95/03/11 13:54:42

Hi Tony,

I'm sorry I didn't get to meet you at the COCO Computer Club meeting last Thursday, but I would like to thank the young man named Brian (I don't know his last name) who immediately diagnosed the problem with my COCO and took the disk controller card apart and cleaned the contacts with a pencil eraser. Voila !, the machine sprang into action, and the several 5-1/4 disks I brought with me became fully accessible. As a matter of fact, the assembly was most interested in a program I wrote that displayed one Polar Graphic after another, and the program became a demonstration to the group right after the intermission. Please convey my sincere thanks to Brian. It is most heartwarming to see a group of enthusiastic people so devoted to the lowly COCO. We met for a snack afterwards at Springdale(?) restaurant and devoted most of the talk to the COCO and the lowly COCO community.

I hope to make more of your meetings in the future.

Regards...Chuck Roman