CoCo~123

Penn Fest '99---August 21 & 22!

CoCo ~123 HighLights

G.C.C.C. Inc. OFFICERS

Here is the list of 1999 club officers and how to contact them.
If you have questions about our club, call one of the officers
for the answers.   Area Code 708>754, 847>428, 603>837, 815>832

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Brian Goers	754-4921	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	428-3576	Meeting Planning, etc.
Secretary	Robert Swoger	837-7957	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	832-5571	Dues and Purchasing

CoCo ~ 123 INFORMATION

CoCo ~123 CONTRIBUTIONS

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Brian Goers---Tony Podraza---Rich Bair
George Schneeweiss---Bob Swoger

G. C. C. MEETINGS

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets the second Thursday of each month at the Glendale Heights Public Library at 7:30 p.m. If you need a map, see our WWW Glenside Homepage at:

http://users.aol.com/clubbbs/glenside

A social get-together always occurs at the nearby Springdale Restaurant.
Bob Swoger, Webmaster
Glenside Color Computer Club

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DISK

Welcome to the Eighth 'Last' Chicago CoCoFest. We have a few new people on the CoCo list and I hope they show up here to meet old/new friends. We have new products out now, The keyboard adapter, a SCSI interface, memory upgrades and the IDE interface.

The IDE project has been a long time in coming and I want to Thank everyone for their patience. I understand the concern over if it would ever be delivered. The club knew it would be a hard project when we started, just not this hard. The software proved to be the most difficult. Thank you, Eddie and Carl, for the long hours that you both put into the programs.
I would like to start another column dealing with robotics and

hardware, so if there are any topics in this area that you would like to know about let me know. Better yet we can have contributing writers.

It may make me write this column more frequently, the newsletter editor would like to not need to remind me to write my column.

As a note the next show is already being organized. So stay tuned in. And I'll see you at the show.

Brian Goers, President
Glenside Color Computer Club

The V-P's Platen

There has been a lot of activity going on around the various Glenside officers' homes as late, both CoCo- and non-CoCo related. There have been anniversaries, birthdays, varying work schedules, out-of-state trips, hospital trips, "births, deaths, infinities" (oops, sorry, Dr. Zorba). During that time, the plans for the Eighth Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! still had to be kept on track...they were and we had another GREAT TIME....wish you were there.

There was a songfest on Saturday night that was absolutely OUTRAGEOUS! We keep singing longer as the years go by. The "family dinner" was held in the hotel's restaurant and we enjoyed the Italian Buffet, or ordered off the menu. The food was pretty tasty, and the fellowship.....well, it couldn't have been better.
Glenside, years ago, when we started sponsoring these CoCoFESTs (following on the heels of Dave and Nancy Myers, who are alive and extremely well at www.mountainvalley.com), stated that there would be another 'FEST! if we didn't lose serioius money on the project. With the No Minimun Bid Auctions helping to bolster the funding (thank you very much, all you bidders), I can tell you that Glenside is commited to (and may very well be, before the year 2000 is done) sponsoring the

9th ANNUAL "LAST" CHICAGO CoCoFEST!

The dates are yet to be determined, but start planning to attend the

CoCo's 20th BirthdayBash.

See you there? I hope so.

Now, about the sub-heading on the front page,
"Well, Pilgrim", read on:

Penn Fest 99 - August 21-22, 1999
(Sat. 8am-4pm; Sun.8am-3pm)
Holiday Inn (near the Airport)
1406 Beers School Road
Comopolis, PA 15106
Phone 1-800-333-4835 for reservations today!
Room Rate =$89/night
ADMISSION: $5.00 per person per day
SPECIAL FAMILY RATE: $15.00-both days!
For further information, general or exhibitor, contact:
Ron Bull (RonBull@AOL.com)
115 Ann Street
Duncannon, PA 17020-1204
(717) 834-4314

Tony Podraza, vp
Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.

2

TREA$URY NOTE$

As of June 1, 1999, the balance in our checking account is $3765.53.

George Schneeweiss, Treasurer
Glenside Color Computer Club

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

March 11, 1999

Present were Brian Goers, Jerry Jeskey with daughter Nicole, Gene Brooks, Justin Wagner, Howard Luckey, Rich Bair, Eddie Kuns, John Chasteen, Tony Podraza, George Schneeweiss, Robert Swoger, and Brian Schubring, Carl Boll.

The regular meeting began at 8:05 p.m. Bob read the minutes of the previous meeting and George read the Treasures report.

Tony reported that the CoCo 123 newsletter went out March 5th. It contains all of the CoCoFEST information. He also reported that as of this moment only 3 vendors were confirmed.

John Chasteen, noting the comment in the minutes of our membership with SAMS Club, had a few questions to find out how he might benefit.

CoCoFEST shirts were again discussed. Brian Schubring would look into doing the art work with the help of Bob Swoger. We also will put a limit on the maximum cost of the shirt as we always take a beating on them.

Brian Schubring will look into some other way to provide an evening meal for the fest as we were unable to get the required 50 to have a sit-down meal like we had last year.

The meeting adjourned 9:38 PM to the Springdale Restaurant for the usual meeting after with 7 members again attending. This meeting included many door prizes that included two CoCo 3's, disk drives, software, and a high speed modem.

Robert Swoger, Secretary
Glenside Color Computer Club

April 9, 1999

Present were Brian Goers, David Gacke, Scott Montgomery, Justin Wagner, Howard Luckey, Rich Bair, John Chasteen, Gerald Jeskey, George Schneeweiss, Brian Schubring, and Carl Boll.

The regular meeting began at 8:05 p.m. Under old business Brian Schubring reported that meal arrangements were made with the hotel so that we would have a special location for our CoCoFEST group in the hotel restaurant proper. We will get to order off the menu.

Brian Schubring also reported that the shirt design was finished and Bob Swoger reported that the shirts were on order.

Brian Goers reported that there were now 19 exhibitors with the last one exhibitor in being CJB Enterprises and the IDE Project.

The Ivy A room will be available only on Saturday. Brian Goers will call to find out when the Exhibit Room is available for setup. In the past we were always able to set up on Friday Night.

Seminars: Scott Griepentrog on his telecommunication server and service and, perhaps, Linux.

Brian Schubring reported on the Music Men. There will be a Music Men seminar only if Mike Carey can come up from Tennessee.

Rich Bair will report on Y2K patches for OS-9.

Brian Goers will give information about interfacing hardware on the CoCo. This will be an open

discussion. Everyone may contribute and ask questions.

Gerry Jeskey informed the group of information on how to get those old VCR's to program properly in the year 2000. Set the VCR up to believe it is 1973 and your programs will be captured perfectly.

As yet there has been no schedule set up for Seminars and auctions.

George read the Treasures report and reported that the Fest exhibit room had been fully paid for.

We shall have another JAM Session at the fest this year - so bring your instruments and good voices.

Bob Swoger will do the show guide. Carl Boll reported that 50 IDE boards are completed. Tony will be contacted by Brian Goers about getting signs done.

The meeting adjourned 8:57 PM to the Springdale Restaurant for the usual meeting after with 10 members again attending. This meeting included many door prizes that included two CoCo 3's, disk drives, software, and a high speed modem.

Carl Boll, Acting Secretary
Glenside Color Computer Club

May 13, 1999

Present were Brian Goers, Howard Luckey, Scott Montgomery, Justin Wagner, Rich Bair, Tony Podraza, George Schneeweiss, Robert Swoger, and David Gacke.

The meeting began at 8:03 p.m.. Tony Podraza reported that the 8th "Last" Annual Chicago CoCoFEST finished in the BLACK!

Brian Goers will be the chairman of the next CoCoFEST. To improve the cost and location situation of the fest, Brian is looking at the Harvey Ramada Inn. This location is less than 1 hour drive from O'HARE airport as is Elgin - but it is south rather than west. This would mean almost an hour and a half savings in driving time for vendors and guests that drive in from all points east and south, including our Michigan guests.

The lower costs of the facilities at that location is also attractive.

David Gacke demonstrated the PS/2 interface for the CoCo.

Tony broached the subject regarding the possibility of having Glenside distribute The SCSI System 2.2
by Matt Thompson. There are a lot of Disto 4 and 1 adapters as well as the Owlware, Ken-Ton and others for which the driver/descriptor package was written. Seems a shame that the package isn't being promoted. Tony will try to contact Matt to

see if we can go forward with the project.

Brian Goers asked the group; "How do you feel about other classics at the upcoming fest?." The general consensus was that no one had a problem with other machines being represented there as all users presented used more than just the CoCo at home anyway. Also, past classic visitors gave very informative and interesting presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM to the Springdale Restaurant for the usual meeting after with 9 members again attending.

June 10, 1999

Present were Brian Goers, Howard Luckey, Justin Wagner, Rich Bair, Tony Podraza, George Schneeweiss and Robert Swoger.

The meeting began at 8:18 p.m.. Rich Bair will prepare an article for the newsletter - Tony to pipe it up to Bob. Brian brought 20 IDE boards for the club to work on, 14 were finished before the night was out.

George paid the bill for the CoCoFEST calculators.

Brian and Tony gave the Penn Fest '99 information - money will be sent for the club table. Items for table to include Y2K disks and maybe Matt Thomson SCSI V2.2 Drivers provided by Tony.

OS-9 Group info will be letter from Goers.

Find more ways to get out next fest information.

Frank Swygert - Tandy's Little Wonder Book is looking for a Glenside Home. Tony will champion.

Election for officers in July.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. to the soldering of IDE p.c. boards. At 9:45 p.m. we moved to the Springdale Restaurant for the usual meeting after with 9 members again attending.

Robert Swoger, Secretary
Glenside Color Computer Club

FROM THE WEB

The CoCo 2,3 AT Keyboard Interface
designed by Dana Peters, produced by Cloud-9
The interface connects to the CoCo via the standard keyboard connector. Because it emulates a real CoCo keyboard at the hardware level, no special software drivers are required. This also ensures the PC keyboard will work with all software, even those programs which access the hardware directly (many do). Besides providing ordinary keyboard facilities, the interface
also sports a few extra features. The extra keyboard keys can be used as programmable macro keys. The macros can be re-defined at any time using the keyboard, and are stored indefinitely. The ability to reset the computer via the CTRL ALT DELETE key sequence is also provided to perform a CoCo RESET. This interface can connect to the CoCo II and III, and any 101 key PC "AT" keyboard. Please note that the older 84 key XT keyboards are not supported. The keyboard IS NOT included.
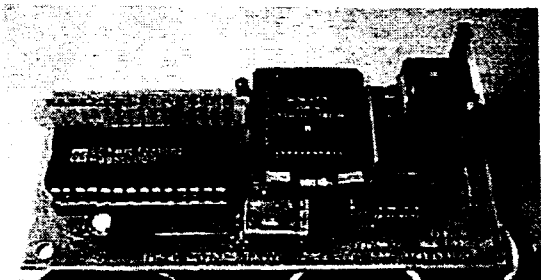The unit will ship with the following items:
1 - AT Keyboard Interface
1 - Installation/Operational Manual, eight pages.
1 - Schematic package
Cost is US $55 each, plus $4 shipping per order, UPS ground or USPS within the US. If you are outside of the US please indicate method of shipment desired and I will check into the added cost, if any. If you would like a different method of shipment please indicate. Ex: UPS-RED, BLUE, FEDEX, AirBorne, etc. These will all have additional shipping costs added to the base price.
For more information contact: mmarlett@isd.net
OR
Cloud-9
3749 County Road 30
Delano, MN 55328
612-972-3261 Between 7PM & 9:30PM M-F

SCSISYS 2.2 by Matt Thompson
To Be Available at the PENNFEST

For the first time since 1995, Matt Thompson's SCSI device drivers and descriptors will be available to the CoCo Community. The GLENSIDE Color Computer Club, Inc. will be offering the package to the FEST! attendees for $20.00, with all of the proceeds to be forwarded to Mr. Thompson.

The package will consist of the original files as they were distributed during the early 1994-1995 years. The 22 pages of printed documentation have been scanned and converted to two ASCII text files and are included on side two of a 5.25 inch "flippy" diskette along with Vaughn Cato's ASCII text-viewing and -printing utility, "VU".

Also provided will be Mark W. Farrell's (PegaSystems) "Free8" utility, which will query the system to get the cluster size and correctly report the free space, total space and used space of the drive.

I have personally used SCSISYS 2.2 since September of 1995 and have been most satisfied with it's performance, relative ease in setup and flexibility (there are no real special considerations when using NitrOS9).

For further information, you can contact me at either of the below E-mail locations or you can snail-mail me at:
Tony Podraza
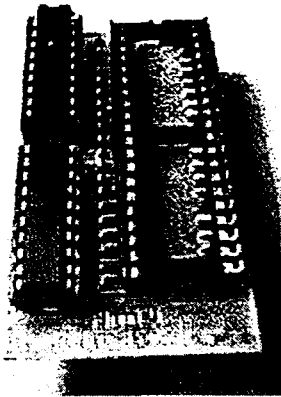119 Adobe Circle
Carpentersville, IL 60110-1101

All in all, a pretty good bang for the buck.

TonyPodraza@juno.com or @netscape.net

Cloud-9 Introduces THE PROTECTOR

CoCo 1,2,3 Processor Protector, Pro-Tector Daughter Board

New Product!

The Pro-Tector daughter board is ready to ship. This unit is a plug in device to the CoCo's motherboard after a socket is added. This device buffers the address lines of the processor. In the event of an external failure on the bus the processor is protected. I have used this device for years and has saved me MANY CPUs. Since the 63x09EP is getting harder to procure this adapter is a low cost alternative to always replacing the CPU. Cloud-9's 2 meg Memory/SCSI card will have this buffering already present. This product is for users that have other memory cards and would like to have a some protection. If you have a Y cable connected to your external cartridge port, this device can only help in that type of environment. Note the processor IS NOT included.

The unit will ship with the following items:

1 - Pro-Tector board
1 - Installation Manual
1 - Schematic package

Cost is US $18 each, plus $4 shipping per order. This will include shipping, UPS ground or USPS within the US. If you are outside of the US please indicate method of shipment desired and I will check into the added cost, if any. If you would like a different method of shipment please indicate. Ex: UPS-RED, BLUE, FEDEX, AirBorne, etc. These will all have additional shipping costs added to the base price. For more information contact:

Mark Marlette -- mmarlett@isd.net

Y2K and the CoCo

Richard Bair
Glenside Y2K Coordinator

Over the past year members of the CoCo community have become increasingly aware that the distinctiveness of our favorite machine may not spare us entirely from the millennium woes being suffered by users of more mainstream computers. Depending on how you use your CoCo, you may have no problems or you may have serious ones; at any rate, with scarcely six months to go, it's time to think about where you stand.

If the only face your computer ever shows you is a DECB or an ADOS face, you are one of the lucky ones. Both stock Disk Basic and ADOS are completely oblivious to time and date. No effort is made to keep track of time as the computer is running (except in the very limited sense of the TIMER command/function), and files saved on disks carry no record of when they were created or last modified. In this case at least, ignorance is bliss.

If you have installed a clock chip (SmartWatch or some other), your machine is no longer time-oblivious and problems are possible. Many of the clock chips are century-ignorant; their years run from 0 to 99 and the next year after 99 is 0. But you can still avoid any problems if you don't stray beyond the boundaries of DECB, ADOS, or Extended-ADOS. DECB, in fact, will pay no attention to the clock unless you add software extensions such as those sold by Robert Gault, and they work correctly within the limitations of the clock chip. Extended ADOS makes more extensive use of date/time data; it puts a stamp in the directory entry of any file as it is created. But the stamp is simply a 16-character ASCII string, with the year limited to two digits, so it is up to the person or software reading the directory entry to decide what century is implied. Extended ADOS does not run a software clock but reads the clock chip whenever it needs to know the date/time.

If you use OS9 on your CoCo, there are some things you will want to take care of in the next six months, as you already know if you have tried setting the system time to 23:59:59 on 99/12/31 and then using 'date t' a few seconds later. As a multi-tasking operating system, OS9 must be very attentive to time. In fact, its software clock keeps track down to 60ths of a second except when your halting Tandy disk controller screws up the process. It puts a date/time stamp on every disk when it is first formatted and on each file not only when the file is created but every time it is modified. It's a good system. But what happens on 2000/01/01?

The year is recorded in OS9 not as 2 digits, or 4 digits, but as a single binary byte. This byte is the first of a standard 6-byte packet containing one byte each for year, month, day, hour, minutes, seconds (all binary). All the disk and file stamps are subsets of this standard packet. But since a binary byte ranges only from 0 to 255 (if unsigned), the year byte (in this century at least) is understood to count years since 1900.

The OS9 way of using the year byte can be looked at in two different ways: either it represents the value of the last two decimal digits of the year, in which case it should revert to 0 in 2000, or else it represents the year minus 1900, in which case it should equal 100 in the year 2000. There has been considerable discussion on the CoColist as to which is the better way.

If the first interpretation is chosen, there is immediately the problem that a disk or file date stamp dated in 1990 would be indistinguishable from one dated in 2090. So it would be necessary to define some as-yet-unused byte in disk identification sectors, file identification sectors, and OS9's direct-page memory to be a century byte. The advantage of this choice is that it could solve date problems for the next 25,500 years. In addition, if it can be verified that the century byte was always set to zero when it was unused, then there would be backward compatibility (assuming 0 = 1900's). But this choice would involve MAJOR repairs to many modules in the OS9 constellation, including setting up at least two new system calls.

The second interpretation involves far fewer modifications. There would be no change to disk

identification sectors, file identification sectors, or direct-page memory. Backward compatibility is automatic. No new system calls are needed. The only disadvantage is that it hits a wall in the year 2156. How bad is that? – Well, it's a judgment call, complicated by the fact that the whole Y2K mess was caused by people whose time horizons were too limited.

About six months ago this writer, as an officer of the Glenside Color Computer Club, decided that the club ought to step in and establish a standard Y2K response, to avoid a division of the OS9 community into competing formats. Two arguments tipped our decision in favor of the second interpretation above: first, it appears to be Microware's original intention; second, if OS9 is still alive and kicking in 2155, a repair similar to the first option (but using a binary MSB instead of a century byte) could still be applied with no more hassle than the first option would require now. So better to put the problem off for 156 years, since we can.

Given the decision, what things need to be fixed?

First, some good news: shell v. 2.1, with its ability to put the date in its prompt, is fine. DeskMate 3's calendar DMCALN is fine. MultiVue's calendar gcal needed only 1 byte changed. And if you don't have a hardware clock chip, the OS9 clock module is fine.

These modules needed fixing, but the work is done and patches are available on the official 'Glenside Y2K OS-9 Patches' disk:

    setime
    date
    dir
    free
    asm (Level 1)
    login (DevPack)
    fstat (MultiVue)
    gcal (MultiVue)
    DMTIM (DeskMate 3)

For the above repairs, the standard was that the routine must correctly and intelligently deal with any year in the range 1900-2155. No 6309 instructions are used.

These modules remain to be done:

    gclock (MultiVue)
       DMMENU (DeskMate 3) for the 'status'
choice
       in the 'files' menu
    DMALT (DeskMate 3)
    basic09/runb (for the date$ function)
    clock (for hardware clocks)
    what other software? You tell us.

Hardware clocks force us to make one last decision. The ones that count years only from 0 to 99 cannot correctly deal with all the years 1900-2155, so I am establishing by fiat the following subsidiary standard:

Software setting or reading hardware clocks, to be Glenside-approved, must work correctly in the year range 1980-2079. In other words, a clock year of 80 or more should be interpreted as 19xx, while 79 or less should be taken as 20xx. Maybe by 2079 we'll all have smarter clock chips.

The Glenside patch disks mentioned above were distributed free at the May CoCoFest, and will be available at the Glenside booth at PennFest. If you would like a disk mailed to you, send me $4 for S/H ($3 if you're a paid-up Glenside member). We'll also arrange to have the files on the club BBS, (847)428-0436.

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Better yet, offers of help? Contact me at:
MGDoc@delphi.com

335 Jefferson Ave
Glencoe IL 60022

(847)835-1309 eves 7-9 Central Time