

CoCo~123



Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.
Volume 30, Number 1

Carpentersville, Illinois
Fall/Winter 2010

CoCo ~ 123 Memory Map

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Upcoming Events:

The 20th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! **May 21-22, 2011**
Regular meetings every 2nd Thursday @ Schaumburg Library

G.S.B.A.A. OFFICERS

Here is the list of 2011 club officers and how to contact them.
If you have questions about the association call one of the officers for the answers.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION

President	John Chasteen	847-352-0164	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Justin Wagner	630-363-0518	Meeting planning, etc.
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	CoCoFEST! Organizer
Vice-President	Brian Goers	708-754-4921	Special Events
Secretary	Bob Swoger	630-837-7957	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-6995	Dues and Purchasing

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John Chasteen



Justin Wagner



Robert Swoger



George Schneeweiss



Brian Goers



Tony Podraza

CoCo~123 - A Glenside Publication Since 1985

CoCo~123 INFORMATION

CoCo~123 is the newsletter of the Glenside Color Computer Club. Your annual contribution of \$15.00 helps to keep our club going. Send your check to Glenside Treasurer:

George L Schneeweiss
13450 N 2700 E Road
Forrest IL 61741-9629

Our treasury provides newsletters and good times with fellow CoCo users at our Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! and annual picnic.

If you are unsure of when you last paid dues, look at the address label on this newsletter envelope. The numbers to the right of your name indicates the last year you made your annual contribution.

CoCo~123 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to submit an article, please contact the CoCo~123 Newsletter editor:

Bob Swoger
613 Parkside Circle
Streamwood, IL 60107-1647

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

JohnMark Mobley
Melanie Mobley
Frank Pittel
Tony Podraza
Robert Swoger
Annette Swoger

G. C. C. MEETINGS

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets the second Thursday of each month at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:00 pm. If you need a map, see our Glenside Homepage at:

<http://glensideccc.com>

A social get-together always follows the meeting at a nearby restaurant.

TREASURY NOTES

We have \$2699.83 in checking, \$5000 in a CD. We had 33 paid members in 2010 of the total of 194 members to whom we send newsletters.

George Schneeweiss, Treasurer
Glenside Color Computer Club

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Our Glenside CoCoFEST! has become not only a place to upgrade your CoCo System, but also a great social event for CoCo friends to come together to reacquaint old friendships both in the ballroom and at the Saturday evening dinner at Alexander's across the street from the Inn. After dinner Brother Jeremy heads up sing along and Sunday morning his church service. We are social! Check out the photos. These are just a few of the CoCo friends on this side of the world.

And as for third party vendors, the talent is still out there! Roy Justus and Chris Hawks have helped us replace our CRT CM-8 and Magnavox monitors with flat screen TVs or Computer monitors. Mark Marlette and Boisy Pitre have led the way in CoCo upgrades providing more onboard memory and more storage. Last year we were shown how we could use our laptops or desktops as CoCo storage devices. What's next? Come to CoCoFEST! 2011 to find out what is new for CoCo owners.

Robert Swoger, Secretary
Glenside Color Computer Club

GHOSTBUSTERS BASIC Draw Program

By John Mark Mobley - johnmarkmelanie@gmail.com

Bob Swoger remembered a short program for the CoCo that generated the Ghostbusters logo printed years ago in the *Databus*, the newsletter of the Motorola Micro Computer Club. Rather than retype the program from the newsletter, Bob used his flat bed scanner and OCR software to get the file into text format. He then emailed the file to me to install in my CoCo. There were some issues with the OCR's choices of characters, so Bob emailed the scanner's digital photo to me.

I cleaned up the text and used Tool Shed to place the file on a virtual floppy. Once the program was working, I made a video of the running program using Chris Hawks' RGB-to-S-Video converter along with a video capture device and software. The resulting video file was a little large for email, so I placed it on Drop Box, a cloud computer on the Internet for file storage. I sent the Drop Box link to Bob so that he could view the video. I copied the video onto my Apple iPod Touch. I used the video in a YouTube video under the name tandyman2. <http://www.youtube.com/user/TandyMan2> I can email the virtual floppy file on request. The virtual floppy can be used by Drive Wire or an emulator. The file works well under Virtual Color Computer (VCC).

The main feature of the program is that the code size is small compared to a bitmap file. The program uses a combination of Draw, Circle, and Paint commands. The Paint command fills in the screen with a given color until a border is hit. Observing the screen slowly building the picture and filling in the colors is fascinating to watch.

Talking about this program with a former employee of Xerox led to a discussion about vector graphics. He stated that scalable fonts can be generated using vector graphics, with the major advantage being small code size. I think the BASIC Circle command of the Tandy Color Computer may be an early example of scalable vector graphics.

One thing I found interesting was the amount of time saving technology used to revive this program. Much of this technology did not exist in 1984 when Ghostbusters was released. Further, one need never loan out his newsletter only to lose it. A club member in Timbuktu can scan a newsletter or magazine and send the file to someone in Yazoo City for further processing. I think many other programs could be revived in this manner.



Tandy Color Computer Generated Ghostbusters Logo
Ghostbusters is a copyright of Columbia Pictures Inc.

Vintage Computer Festival Midwest 5.0 Part 1

By Frank Pittel

As luck would have it, the Vintage Computer Group Midwest decided to host a one-day computer fest on September 18, 2010 in the suburb of Lombard (known as the Vintage Computer Fest Midwest 5.0 and Emergency Chicagoland Commodore Convention). John Mobley got wind of the fest and mentioned it to the Glenside Color Computer Club (GCCC), and we decided that the CoCo needed to be represented to the vintage computing community.

Taking the lead, John contacted the organizers and arranged for our participation, and got display space for GCCC to use. He then put together some very nice display boards outlining who we are as a group and why we do what we do. Like last year, he printed up a large number of business cards to hand out, which included information about the CoCo, GCCC, and the upcoming Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! in 2011. His work was well received at the fest and did the group proud!!

John, his better half Melanie, and I met at the location for the fest on Friday evening to set up the display boards he had made. I brought my easels to place his display boards on. To our surprise, the management of the facility made changes to the space we were first allocated. The room we were originally going to set up in was no longer available, and we didn't have immediate access to the room we were moved to. Since we didn't plan on doing any more than setting up the easels and signs, it wasn't a major problem. We were given space to leave our equipment overnight, and we left to return the next day.

The event was scheduled to start at 8 AM on Saturday, so John and I arrived a few minutes before then, loaded with our CoCos to put on display. John had his two CoCos (one doesn't work) along with a laptop and DriveWire cartridge to show off. I had my CoCo 3 along with my multi-pack interface (MPI), floppy drives, and SuperIDE (Integrated Drive Electronics), as well as a CoCo 2 to be used as a display. We quickly met with the organizers of the fest and were given space for our display. I was truly impressed with their ability to adjust quickly on the fly as well as handle 5-6 things at a time without blinking! I was

surprised at how quickly we were able to set up once given our five tables, space, and power!

Around 10 AM, Tony Podraza from GCCC showed up and had his CoCo setup that he once used to run a bulletin board system (BBS) for 10 years. Space was cleared for him and he set up an impressive collection of equipment. His setup and knowledge earned the CoCo a lot of respect from the attendees of the fest!

I'm not sure how to describe the Vintage Computer Fest itself. There were a number of talks, all geared to the Commodore – a nice machine, but not something I was ever all that interested in. For the most part, there were a lot of displays showing collections of other vintage computers of various types, with the most common being Atari and Commodore. There were also a number of people with home-brew projects and kits for sale. I, for one, intended to pick up an Altair clone kit. I didn't get one at the fest and am upset with myself for not getting one. From around 6-9 PM, the fest was locked down for dinner. At that time, Tony called it a day, and John and I went first to dinner and then to Fry's Electronics! Sadly, after we got back, it was time to start packing up to leave. It's funny how it always takes so much longer and so many more trips back to the car to pack up than it did to set up! By the time we left, I was exhausted and thinking about how it was a long day that went by so quickly! I had a great time and look forward to the next Vintage Computer Fest. Next time we shall be better prepared to show off the CoCo in the best possible light. I also hope that there will be more members of the GCCC in attendance. In the end I met a lot of very friendly people, and expect that we will be seeing some of them at GCCC meetings and upcoming CoCoFEST!s.



Mini Altair Clone Kit on Top of an Original Altair Computer

Vintage Computer Festival Midwest 5.0 Part 2

By: John Mark Mobley

<http://vcfmw.org/>

<http://www.vintage.org/events.php>

What I enjoyed most were the people I met. It is a wonderful feeling to meet someone with similar interests. To meet someone who can share and understand your excitement over seeing a particular computer system. To meet someone who can answer questions about terms and techniques used for a particular computer system. There is a type of energy in the atmosphere of the place where it is ok to be yourself. Most everyone there was a little strange and it made me feel much more normal.

I also enjoyed seeing numerous computer systems:

- Altair 8800
- Apple, Apple IIe, Apple IIc, Apple Lisa, Macintosh SE/30
- Atari 800, 800XL, 65X, 1040ST
- Coleco Adam
- Commodore Calculators, PET, VIC 20, Commodore 64, Amiga
- Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) VAX
- Hewlett Packard
- International Business Machines (IBM) AS/400
- Mattel Aquarius
- Sinclair ZX-81
- Tandy TRS-80 Model 3, TRS-80 Pocket Computer PC-3, TRS-80 Model 100, TRS-80 Model MC-10 Micro Color Computer, Tandy Color Computer 2 and Tandy Color Computer 3
- Texas Instruments (TI) TI-99/4A
- Timex Sinclair 1000
- Zenith Data Systems

There were a number of children present. The children were not interested in the computers, other than trying out a game. I like that they provided toys for children; for example, Legos.

A number of presentations were given for the Commodore 64:

- Web site hosting from an Ethernet-connected Commodore 64. I remember the excitement from the speaker as he proclaimed "its fun to develop web pages using this software".
- A USB device to interface a Commodore floppy drive to a PC and read and archive floppy disks. Also software was available to read copy-protected floppies.

One guy was selling electronic kits to build your own Mini Altair 8800.

There was a 16 mm film that was played on a 16 mm projector at one point in the day. Seeing a film on a 16 mm projector was a nice touch. The film tried to teach against software piracy. The film was supposed to be serious but

it came across as funny because the audience was more knowledgeable of the technology than the writers of the movie. Perhaps we should incorporate something like this in our CoCoFEST!

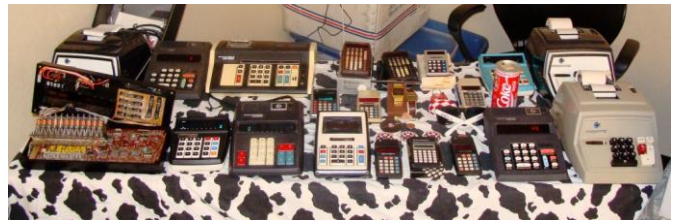
How did they pay for it? An individual put up about \$600.00 to cover the cost of the rooms for one day. There was no parking fee, no entrance fee, no presenter fee, and no table space fee.

I am looking forward to doing this again next year. It would be nice if more of our members could participate. Start planning now about what you could do. Perhaps you can reuse your CoCoFEST! display or presentation at a Vintage Computer Festival. Vintage Computer Festivals are held in Europe, New Jersey, Indiana / Illinois, and California.

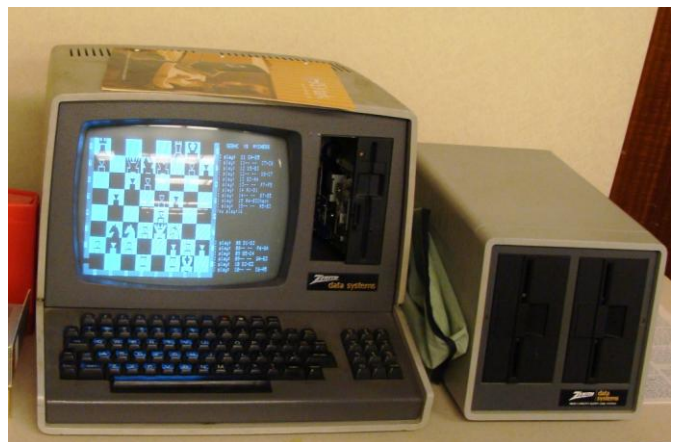
To see a video that I made at the fest, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TandyMan2>

This festival is not a replacement for the CoCoFEST!



Commodore Calculator Collection



Zenith Data Systems



Mattel Electronics Aquarius

Annual Glenside Picnic 2010

This year our picnic was held at the home of George Schneeweiss in Forrest, IL. Because there is so much to see, this article will focus on things around George's home rather than the attendees feeding their faces with plenty of great food. ;>)



Frank Pittel Manning the Glenside Booth



Snow White and the 10 dwarfs



Frank Pittel & Tony Podraza manning Glenside Booth



One of the many garden circles on the campus



Frank Pittel holding down the fort



The Betty Boop Memorial



Yet another garden circle on the campus

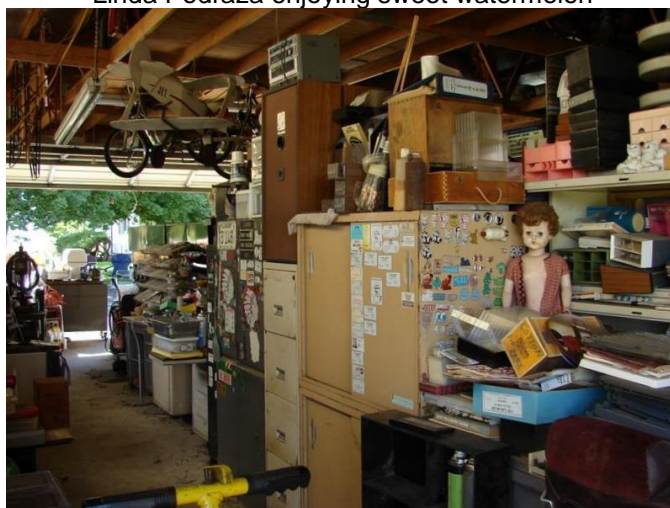
The trip to George's home is not a short one. For those in the Elgin area the one way drive is about 80 miles. That was felt to be too far a drive for our President, so he and Marge missed a wonderful sight. To make the travel more pleasurable, George catered the food centered around fried chicken. Chris & Nancy Hawks brought the Corn from Harvard, home of the sweetest in the country.



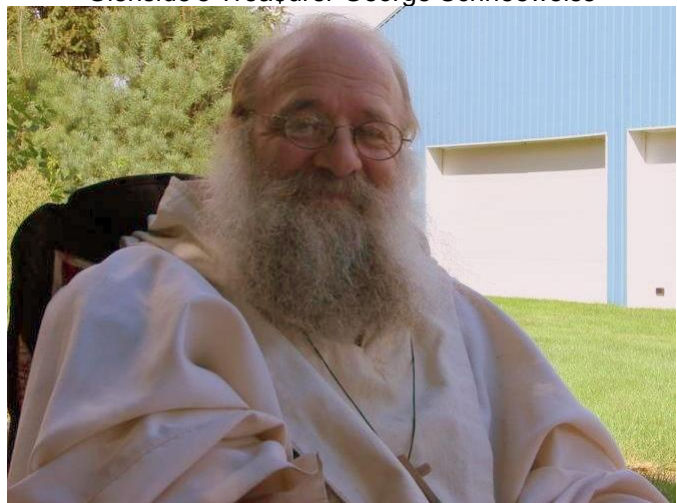
Linda Podraza enjoying sweet watermelon



Glenside's Treasurer George Schneeweiss



The door to the pole barn opens to a wondrous sight ...



Brother Jeremy soon to return to the UK

Attendees also included Justin Wagner, Tony, Chris and Linda Podraza, Frank Pittel, John Mark Mobley, Gene & Kathy Brookes, Brian Goers, Brian Schubring, Richard & Sandy Bair, and Bob & Annette Swoger – 18 guests in all.



... goodies everywhere!



Totes containing thousands of reel-to-reel tapes & thousands of cassette tapes.



The records amount to a total of about 60,000 items consisting of 33, 45, 78s, including antique Edison 78s ...



... and two 33 rpm transcription disks from 1920.



Very little from the '60s on up.



Americas best President, Ronald Reagan, my kids say. (My granddaughter's name is Reagan after the Pres. Ed.)



President B. J. Clinton & wife Hillary (I know what you're thinking, but, NO – B. J. stands for Bill Jefferson.)



More Record Albums



The lathe George got for \$125 about 15 years ago.



The Coca Cola telephone he got for \$1 didn't work right.



Transportation for the road. (The three bicycles are by Harley Davidson, with sound!)



Transportation for the barn? The scooter no longer works, bad control, He paid \$1.00 for it.



Transportation for the grounds. The #2, red Golf Cart was priced at \$575, he got it for \$350.



Communications from a reliable radio manufacturer.



Socializing in round table fashion.



Becoming an annual event, Brian Schubring provided us with Radio controlled flight entertainment to culminate the picnic.



The Edison machine is one of three and a half he has.

And now the information for our 2011 20th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!

Here are the 5 "W's"

WHO? 1) Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.
PRESENTS

WHAT? 2) The 20th Annual "Last" Chicago
CoCoFEST!

WHEN? 3) May 21 & 22, 2011

(Sat. 10 am - 5 pm; Sun. 10 am - 3 pm or whenever)

WHERE? 4) **HOLIDAY INN & SUITES ELGIN**

495 Airport Road

Elgin Illinois 60123

(A city block North of I-90 & IL-31)

(Same great location as last year!)

Overnight single occupancy room rate:

\$82.00 plus 10% tax (\$92.20 Total)

Call 1-847-488-9000 for reservations.

Please ask for the Glenside "CoCoFEST!" rate.

>>> YOU MUST REGISTER UNDER "CoCoFEST!" <<<

>>> TO GET THIS RATE <<<

WHY? 5) **A. To provide vendor support to the
CoCo Community**

**B. To provide Community support for
our CoCo Vendors**

**C. To provide educational support to
new users.**

**D. TO HAVE AN OUTRAGEOUSLY
GOOD TIME!!!**

And now, the "H" word.

HOW MUCH? 1) **All Attendees - General Admission**

Saturday & both days: \$15.00 1st - \$10 2nd & more

Sunday Only: \$10.00 1st - \$5 2nd & more

******* Children 12 and under - FREE *******

Advance ticket sales available between 1/15/2011 and 4/23/2011 from:

Bob Swoger

613 Parkside Circle

Streamwood IL 60107

Include a Self-Addressed-STAMPED-Envelope (SASE)

For further information, general or exhibitor, contact:

Tony Podraza, GCCCI

847-428-3576, VOICE

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