

CoCo~123



Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.

Carpentersville, Illinois

Volume 31, Number 2

Autumn 2011

CoCo ~ 123 Memory Map

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Upcoming Events:

The 21st Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! **May 19-20, 2012**
 Regular meetings every 2nd Thursday @ Schaumburg Library

G.C.C.C. 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	847-217-1299	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Chris Hawks	815-943-4690	Meeting planning, etc.
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	CoCoFEST! Organizer
Vice-President	Brian Goers	708-805-1888	Special Events
Secretary	Bob Swoger	630-837-7957	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-4441	Dues and Purchasing

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John Chasteen



Chris Hawks



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 Glenside 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:

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

John Chasteen
Phillip Kwitkowski
Jim Leonard
John Mark Mobley
Melanie Mobley
George Schneeweiss
Robert 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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DISK

Hello CoCoNuts. It will be Fest time soon, May 19th and 20th, and we are looking for you to be with us at the Holiday Inn Elgin, Illinois. We have arranged for a special Club discount (\$83.00 plus 10% tax (\$91.30 total) when you mention you are attending the CoCoFEST! Be sure and call early to reserve your room.

Check out the Club website (<http://glensideccc.com/>) for the latest information. Thanks to an addition to our website provided by Steve Bjork, you can now find additional information about the fest such as those who are planning to attend, our list of seminars and a list of vendors who plan to attend.

Our club is again very fortunate to have one of our Vice-Presidents, Tony Podraza, to organize the fest, be our MC and also our Auctioneer.

We shall have free WiFi at the CoCoFEST! so bring your other computers. Be sure to let Brian Goers or Bob Swoger know if you want to make a presentation so they can adjust the Fest schedule.

My plan is to help at the Glenside check-in desk. The plan is to have three inch Club Buttons with this year's CoCoFEST! logo.

Be sure and bring any computer equipment you wish to donate for the auction.

Also, let Bob Swoger know that you plan to attend this year's Fest and don't forget that we are planning to have dinner Saturday evening at Alexander's Restaurant before Brother Jeremy's Song Fest. Bob is always looking for articles for our next Newsletter. See U at the Fest,

John Chasteen, President
Glenside Color Computer Club

TREASURY NOTES

We have \$1,069.93 in checking, \$7000 in a CD. We had 136 paid members in 2011 of the total of 298 members to whom we send newsletters.

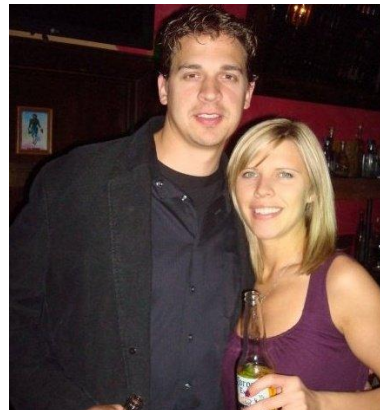
George Schneeweiss, Trea\$urer
Glenside Color Computer Club

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Since the 2011 CoCoFEST! our meetings have gone in a new direction. In the past the better part of our meetings were taken up by preparation for the next fest. Due to a suggestion by member Frank Pittel, we now spend a greater portion of our meeting time studying projects in which the attending membership have interest.

The past president of the Motorola Microcomputer Club, Bruno Russo, recently moved out west and donated his collection of CoCo goodies to Glenside.

Member John Mark Mobley, you will remember from our last two CoCoFEST!'s, collects various other manufacturer's vintage computers. This past summer John Mark acquired a Timex/Sinclair TS2068 computer complete with a third party LarKen Disk Operation System from member Phil Kwitkowski.



Phil attended CoCoFEST! until 1998. After attending college Phil worked overseas in computer related jobs.

This summer he returned state side and wed his long time sweetheart Oksana at the beautiful Morton Arboretum.

John Mark and others have for the past two years visited the Vintage Computer Festival Midwest in Lombard Illinois. To see what all goes on there, be sure to check out his article below.

This year John Mark not only showed his CoCo3 computer using DriveWire 3, he also showed his Timex/Sinclair TS2068 computer with LarKen DSK400 LKDOS Interface and the LogiCall Disk File Management System.

Robert Swoger, Secretary
Glenside Color Computer Club

Annual Glenside Picnic 2011

By Robert Swoger

Treasurer George Schneeweiss was again the host of our annual 2011 picnic. As guests arrived, a circle of chairs was filled providing a central place for members and family to gather and socialize. John Chasteen, not present, had sent along five 5 ¼ Floppy disks in packages of 10. All five were sold, the proceeds going into our treasury. Many topics discussed included the past Vintage Computer Festival attended by five of our members in the town of Lombard.

Another topic was our 2012 CoCoFEST! and a challenge Steve Bjork had given us at the last CoCoFEST! regarding “publicizing our fest” as hard as he had done in the past from his California location using pod casts and other things (research this).



Melanie Mobley offered to write up a press release for the 2012 CoCoFEST! to be used for radio and newspaper ads.

Bob suggested creating a badly needed Disk File Management System for the CoCo now that many were using the DriveWire storage system. Bob felt that he and John Mark could rewrite LogiCall for the Sinclair to work on the CoCo. This might provide increased revenue for the fest selling LogiCall for the CoCo. The problem for doing this was time – would they have enough time before the fest to get the job done?



CoCo uses Microsoft BASIC, a corrupted version (dialect) of the original Dartmouth BASIC. The TS2068 uses Cambridge BASIC, which is very close to the original Dartmouth version. Also, CoCo’s string length is limited to 127 characters; TS2068’s limit is over 18000 characters.

This will require the CoCo to use a separate DATA file to be saved before exit and loaded again at startup. There is no PAUSE keyword in CoCo’s BASIC, requiring more processor usage. Nevertheless, Bob and John Mark felt they could write around these shortcomings.



Bob gave a demo of what the LogiCall Disk File Management System could do on the Sinclair TS2068 John Mark brought to the picnic for all to see. Rather than typing long strings of characters to accomplish loads, saves, file moving, copying, formatting, renaming, disk backup and such, only one or two keystrokes achieve these functions. Finding disks in a disk storage system is also addressed. A manual is not needed to remember these keys as a HELP file is provided. Andrew Weiler, Rich Bair and Tony Podraza seemed most interested.



Bob Swoger recently discovered that once again manufacturers are shorting us. In the eighties Bob would store his 4" thermal paper computer printouts in toilet paper tubes. This kept the printouts in good condition for a long period of time.

The paper used to fit in the TP tubes, but now it sticks out of the tube a ¼ inch. It turns out that TP makers have secretly reduced the roll by 500 square inches of paper by reducing each square from 4X4 to 3¾ X 3¾. Have you noticed how your present day TP rolls have all kinds of play in your TP holder?

Another topic discussed was the possible change of venue for the CoCoFEST!. John Mark and Frank Pittel pointed out that our present room costs us \$2400 for the two-day event. The Vintage Fest space cost under \$1000 for their two-day event.



Frank Pittel

Those who went to the Vintage Fest thought the tables were a little smaller, though the room space was nearly what we have now, but in an "L" shape configuration. We would also have to spend the evening at a next-door hotel rather than have our rooms in the same building as our exhibition room. Security would also have to be checked into. We will probably question our guests at the 2012 CoCoFEST! as to how they feel.



When the food arrived, it was taken immediately to the kitchen and we all went in to fill our plates.



The main course – Fried Chicken and Mirai Sweet Corn just hours from the field from Harvard, IL brought in by Nancy and Chris Hawks.



Homemade ice cream was one of the special desserts.



George brings out his latest mower to show us all. George is proud of his John Deere lawn mower, a real work saver.



John Mark has a ball riding one of Justin Wagner's bikes.



Betty Boop received a new paint job since our last visit.

Vintage Computer Festival Midwest 2011

By John Mark Mobley

Again this year, two weeks after the picnic, the Glenside Color Computer Club displayed their wares at the VCF. Attending this year were John Mark Mobley, Frank Pittel, Bob Swoger, Rich Bair and our President John Chasteen. The people we met at this fest were certainly friendly. Approximately 125 people were present. There were 6 main groups present: Commodore, Amiga, Atari,

Apple, CoCo, Sinclair, and others. We saw many computers we never knew existed. I have placed some videos on You Tube so that you can get a feel for the show. Links are below.

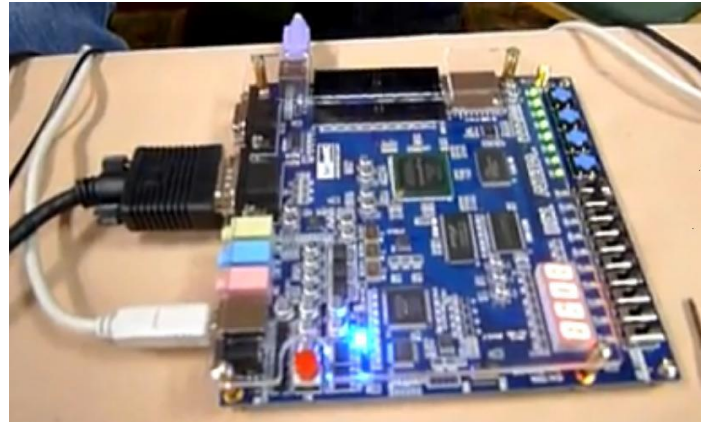
VCFMW: <http://vcfmw.org/>

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

YouTube BillDeg:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzAoTibN-1s>

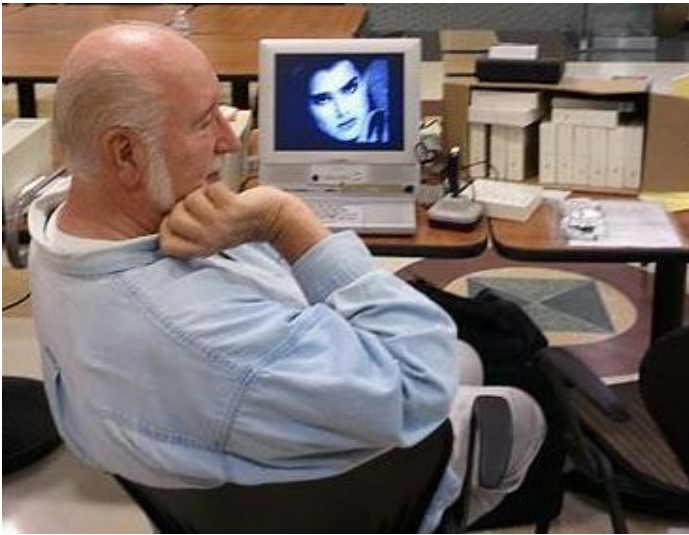


We displayed a CoCo using a DriveWire 3 set up to play Sock Master's Donkey Kong. Many young people who dropped by our tables enjoyed playing it.



Frank Pittel set up his CoCoFPGA virtual Tandy TRS-80 Color Computer 3 (CoCo 3).

John Mark also brought his collection of early Tandy machines, MC10 and Sinclair computers, a TS1000 with a 16K RAM pack and a TS1500 computer. He also brought his recently acquired TS2068 with over 120 disks loaded with programs including Bob's LogiCall Disk File Management System that handles disk management and program calls. The setup included a 128K RAM disk, a joystick and a Sinclair TS2050 thermal printer that used 4-inch paper. Bob brought along his silver 16-inch flat screen TV with Composite and Audio inputs that complimented the TS2068 nicely.



Bob Swoger piloted John Mark's Sinclair TS2068 that included the LarKen DSK400 DOS and LogiCall Disk File Management System. Bob, who hadn't touched a Sinclair in nearly 12 years, had a renewed exuberance for using this computer. Of the folks that dropped by the Sinclair setup were some past Sinclair owners, two of which from the UK. Young people who dropped by our Sinclair were shown "Hunt the Wumpus", an old Apple game Bob rewrote in the early '80's to teach ZX81 owners how to program and achieve smooth screen transitions and fewer keystrokes. Bob had ported it over to the TS2068 when he started selling LogiCall in North America in the mid '80s. The kids that dropped by enjoyed playing it. Their parents had difficulty breaking them away. ;>)



John Mark's TS2068 also came with a LarKen DSK400 Floppy Disk Drive Controller which can handle 4 floppy drives, a 256K RAM Disk and a Spectrum Operating System. The Sinclair Spectrum is TS2068's grandfather.



The Sinclair TS2068 has a 42 key keyboard versus the CoCo's 53 keys but on the TS2068, 36 of those keys provide 5 different functions, giving the TS2068 the equivalent of 184 keys. This provides a single key for each BASIC keyword and each DOS call. ROM and RAM space totals 72K onboard. This allows room to have a syntax checker that monitors each line of code at the ENTER press event, preventing bad lines of code from getting into the program.

I believe we may be able to port a version of LogiCall to the CoCo. Watch the video on YouTube and volunteer if you would like to be part of this project. You can Skype with Bob Swoger at robert.swoger about your progress on this project.



Let's compare the electromechanical adding machine shown in the photo above with another computer. The

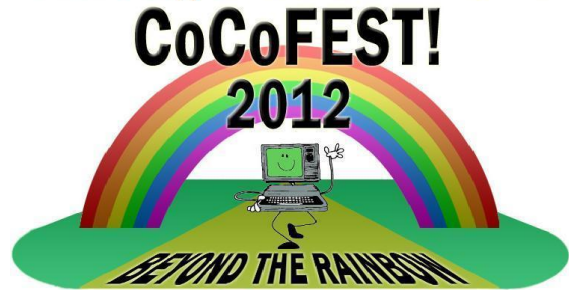
ENIAC could perform 5000 adds a second with just one adding module. The ENIAC cost almost \$500,000 (nearly \$6 million in 2010, adjusted for inflation). The electromechanical adding machine can perform one 4-digit add in 5 seconds. So the electromechanical adding machine is 50,000 times slower than the ENIAC but it cost less to build, required very little maintenance and used much less electricity to run. I am sure a normal mechanical adding machine is superior to the electromechanical adding machine shown here but the real advantage of this machine is its educational value. It offers a starting point on which to teach computational logic. The electromechanical adding machine uses rotary telephone dials as inputs. There are four dials, one for the thousands place, one for the hundreds place, one for the tens place, and one for the ones place. The ALU is made up of Strowger switches. (Other names for a Strowger switch are step-by-step, SXS, stepping switch, or stepping relay.) The Strowger switches use a solenoid to pull a ratchet that indexes the switch one step or position. The switch holds its state even without power. Each switch has ten positions numbered 0 to 9. The switch will index from 0 to 9 and back to 0. The series of pulses from the dialing action indexes Strowger switches. The output is made up of incandescent light bulbs. There is also a clear button to zero the output. You can see the device in action on the TandyMan2 YouTube channel.



Two of the individuals were trying to connect to a BBS from an acoustic-coupled modem. Bill Madden had the modem display. James Mazurek helped him set up the Voice-over-Internet Protocol (VoIP) for the demo. They had an acoustic-coupled modem going to a telephone going to a box that provided VoIP going to Ethernet, and somehow he can call a BBS using a telephone number. I believe he also set up a local connection between two computers, two modems, and two phones. I am not sure how far he got, but I know he had some success. Study the pictures in the VCFMW link and the photo above to see his setup.

We should increase our presence at the VCFMW. Please consider coming out and joining us at the VCFMW next year.

The 21st Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!



Proudly Presented By The
Glenside Color Computer Club
Holiday Inn, Elgin, Illinois
May 19th & May 20th, 2012

Here are the 5 "W's"

- WHO?** 1) Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.
PRESENTS
- WHAT?** 2) The 21st Annual "Last" Chicago
CoCoFEST!
- WHEN?** 3) May 19 & 20, 2012
(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:
\$83.00 plus 10% tax (\$91.30 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? 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 1/15/2012 and 4/23/2012 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 Robert Swoger GCCCI
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