

# Glenside Color Computer Club

A SUBSIDIARY OF 'GLENSIDE II'

EDITOR:  
EDWIN D.  
HATHAWAY

CO CO ~1,2,3

## NEXT MEETING OF THE GLENSIDE COLOR COMPUTER CLUB

Thursday, March 10, 1988 - 7:30pm  
GLENSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
25W. Fullerton Avenue  
Glendale Heights, IL.

**DIRECTIONS:** Glendale Heights is located between Glen Ellyn & Wheaton, IL and Bloomingdale, IL. Fullerton Ave. is West of Bloomingdale Road in Glendale Heights. The Library is about a half a mile down West Fullerton on the Left side from Bloomingdale Road. The meetings are open to all TRS-80 Color Computer 1, 2 & 3 users and owners.

Your Official Host  
Club for the 1988  
Chicago RAINBOWfest

## THE GLENSIDE COLOR COMPUTER CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Ed Hathaway  
462-0694  
VICE PRESIDENTS ELECT.....Rich Ekstrom  
885-2573  
Len Zielinski  
976-8791  
SECRETARY/TREASURE.....Greg Pietrucha  
830-1855  
VICE PRESIDENTS, BBS.....Dave Barnes  
307-1516  
Dave Lucas  
478-1398

## GLENSIDE BULLETIN BOARDS

CHICAGO.....(312) 463-8932  
ROSELLE.....Down for Repairs

## MARCH NEWSLETTER

If you are a CoCoVet of Glenside then you know just how I am going to start this months column. You see, it's March. The time where the Canadian Clipper gives way to the Santa Ana jet stream. The time where snow balls give way to Fast Balls. The time where cabin fever gives way to Pennant Fever. Oh yes, I'm talking about Spring Training; Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pies and the Chicago RAINBOWfest (or something like that!). It is comforting to know that once again we all have survived the chilling winter winds of the Midwest. There was a while there where the confidence level was running a little thin, but survival was the name of the game! Anyways, we can now look forward to night games at Wrigley Field and the Dan Ryan construction project. Well maybe winter was not all that bad after all!

To kick off this months newsletter let's look at a few upcoming or on-going Glenside projects. First is the Chicago RAINBOWfest. As we mentioned in last months column and at the meeting, we have been selected again to be the host club for RAINBOWfest. Our responsibilities will mostly consist of pre-advance work. Such as putting up RAINBOWfest posters and keeping track of where we placed them; Posting information about RAINBOWfest on local BBS networks; Putting out press releases to local community newspapers; And in general, talking up RAINBOWfest to every person we know that owns or uses a Tandy Color Computer. During the RAINBOWfest weekend we will be staffing a Club Booth. From this booth we will be handing out information about Glenside; selling the Club T-Shirt; selling RAINBOWfest T-Shirts and other RAINBOWfest products. Also at our booth, we will be showing our 1988 'THIS IS GLENSIDE' video. In addition to all of this, we will be helping Howard Medical staff their booth and David Barnes and I will be conducting a seminar on the DOs & DON'Ts of running a

Continued on next page...



OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Illinois Color Computer Club of Elgin

Although slow in starting on that cold February night, by 8:00PM enough members were present to hold the election of new officers. As nominations were opened, I was heartened to see new members take interest and volunteer for positions. Nominations and voting outcomes are as follows:

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| President             | Vice President       |
| Tony Podraza (6)      | Barry Ruchalski (7)  |
| Barry Ruchalski (5)   | Rich O'Grady (4)     |
| Secretary             | Treasurer            |
| Rich Issacson (5)     | Ray Dubel (4)        |
| Carolyn Ruchalski (2) | Carolyn Ruchalski(6) |
| Bob Kurgan (5)        |                      |
- Rich Issacson won a tie-breaking coin toss called by out-going Chairman Dave Barnes.

Our thanks to the former officers & congratulations to the incoming. Please feel free to offer constructive criticism, ideas, and questions to the above officers. Remember, the purpose of the ICCCE is to help all of us.

By the way, our congratulations to Barry & Carolyn. On Feb. 14, 1988, these two took a 4-year friendship and turned it into a marriage. To Carolyn, welcome to our CoCo family; to Barry, thanks for bringing Carolyn into our circle; to both, much happiness.

RAINBOWFEST MAY 20-22 HYATT REGENCY  
SCHAUMBURG, IL

3 DAY TICKETS-----CAN'T BEAT THE PRICE  
Come to the March meeting prepared to place your pre-paid order. This special price is offered through the host club-Glenside, so we need a count and the money early.

LEST WE FORGET-----  
Annual dues are payable immediately.  
Renewals- \$12.00  
New Memberships-----See the treasurer.

Next meeting will be March 16, 1988. CU THEN

TALKING CO-CO

Throughout the course of any given month, I receive phone calls or letters from any number of you. For the most part these get together are centered around general information requests or trouble shooting questions. It never fails during these talks that I hear just how you are using your CoCo and the applications you most commonly use. I can not tell you how valuable this information really is. It helps us to establish future meeting presentations, articles or helpful hints for this publication and in general opens up a positive line of communications. All of which could be of some help during the next call.

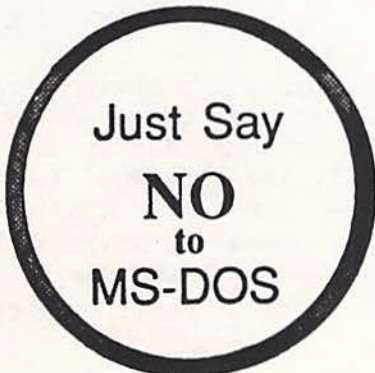
What we will be doing with this article is to print some of these phone conversations and the different letters we receive. Some will be about hardware or software modifications while others will be on how they use their CoCo either at play or work. If you would like to be apart of this column it will be quite simple. All you have to do is just keep those cards, letters and phone calls coming! Following is a letter received by club member Al Santini.  
Dear Ed.

Sorry this membership renewal is so late but you know what they say - the way to hell is paved with good intentions!!! And I had good intentions months ago. I guess better late then never. I have enjoyed my limited relationship with Glenside and would not like it to end. I even have intentions of attending a few more meetings then this past year.

Just a point of information regarding just what a few people have done with their CoCo computers. I have just received my copy of the 400 page textbook written by myself on a CoCo 1. About three years ago I began the writing of a text on automotive electrical systems, which is the subject I teach at the College of DuPage. It grew and grew, eventually filling 9 disks and was published by Delmar Publisher as "Automotive Electricity and Electronics". It is a post secondary professional automotive technician's textbook.

I get a kick out of people who say that the CoCo is a toy and not "powerful" enough to handle big jobs. Telewriter 64 and the CoCo are unbeatable. During the many re-writes and editing I never lost a single bit of data. Quite a computer.

Seen ya soon. Keep up the good work for Glenside. I know the silent majority appreciated it. Sincerely, Al Santini



## THE ORPHAN CO-CO

By: Ed Hathaway

Have you ever wondered just how long Tandy will support the Color Computer. Or, have you had second thoughts about buying that next software program or hardware equipment because of this un-answered question? When looking over your CoCo system are you thinking "Am I putting good money into an orphan system?"

Tough questions. I'm sorry to say that they do not come with easy answers. In today's world of micro computers there is probably only two things that you can bank on. 1) There will be another computer system built. 2) There will be another computer system orphaned! Anything in between is purely a guessing game. The ones who guess right go to the head of the class while the others just go and buy another computer.

If you have not read Lonnie Falk's article in the March issue of Rainbow and these questions remain un-answered, by all means READ HIS ARTICLE! Mr. Falk is responding to a reader who asked these very questions. In this article, Lonnie projects a very bright future for the CoCo. He is up-beat and very down to earth in his comments and gives good insightful reasons for being that way. However, please understand, he also has a business to run that is based in part on Tandy's Color Computer. NO CO-CO, NO RAINBOW MAGAZINE!

Believe me, that statement is not intended to question or doubt Lonnie's journalistic pen. It is just a point of fact. Quite frankly, I too feel that the future for the CoCo is very bright. In all fairness, I'll take Lonnie's comments one step further and say that I believe we will even see a CoCo IV, SOON! How soon you ask? Well soon in the micro computer field could be anywhere between tomorrow and the next decade. But rest assure, SOON!

This optimistic outlook does have a few flaws in it. Flaws that up to this point have been addressed only on their own merit. When put together, well, 'Nightmare on Elm Street' could seem like a G-Rated movie. To simplify matters I have created four areas of system responsibilities; THE USER; THE DEVELOPERS; THE MANUFACTURE and THE RETAILER. Each one has a uniqueness in of it self, however, none could survive alone. There is a very fine line between these areas and the slightest tip of the scale could result in the CoCo becoming the next orphaned machine. Lets look at these areas and see how each one depends on the another.

To start off, Tandy is the manufacture. Their responsibility is to build and support the CoCo. Tandy overall deserves very high marks in this area. The CoCo has stood the test of time because the manufacture put together a quality product. To Tandy's credit, they have maintained one generation compatibility on every CoCo up-grade they have produced. I know that Apple or Commodore can not boast about this kind of support. This allows the end user to 'step-up' with out having to buy all new software or connected hardware. In many instances, people are using the same hardware and software on their CoCo III that they bought for their CoCo I. However, there is a flaw in this system. Because the CoCo is a non-industry standard system (i.e. MS-DOS), we are at their mercy for hardware improvements and retail available software. This puts the end user somewhat behind the old eight ball. With this type of an arrangement it forces you to either pay their going rate for the things you want or buy mail-order. Quite frankly, I'm not a big fan of either one of these arrangements.

This brings us to the Retailer. Since Tandy is the manufacture, then obviously Radio Shack is the retailer. For the most part, Radio Shack is a safe haven for your CoCo purchase. That is providing you know exactly what you want to buy. One of the benefits of buying Radio Shack anything is service. If something should go wrong with your CoCo equipment, there probably is a Radio Shack store in your neighborhood. You don't need the aid of the Yellow Pages to find an authorized dealer for repairs or up-grading service. Another major point to understand is because Tandy and Radio Shack are one in the same, the CoCo standardization was established on the drawing board. Not by some here today, gone tomorrow, outside vendor. The flaw in dealing with a general electronic retail outlet is education and in-store system support. Most Radio Shack store personnel know very little about the CoCo. It seems that locating the -ON- switch is major discovery! And finding a disk drive based system that is running a demo program is indeed rare. This setup always surprises me because historically the CoCo out sells Tandy's MS-DOS systems during the holiday seasons. WHY? Better yet, HOW? Just how many more CoCo's and CoCo related products could be sold with at least the starting knowledge of DeskMate? The Color Computer has survived throughout the years despite these known

flaws. This in of it self is fine providing if all you want to do is survive!

Now, lets look at the CoCo Developers. Within this category you will find third party vendors of software and supportive hardware, publications and system experts. The outside support for the CoCo has been excellent. Without these people the CoCo would have been orphaned years ago. In every system support area you will find first rate fully compatible equipment from these developers. They alone can take a lot of the credit for the continued success of the CoCo. They have provided quality and affordable alternatives to system support that can not be matched by Tandy. If you happen to experience a problem with their products, generally help is just a phone call away. In addition, most developers provide answers and/or offer assistance without the aid of a sales receipt. The CoCo Developers epitomize the 'electronic cottage industry' that Alvin Toffler talked about in his book, The Third Wave. "Small-Within-Big" and "Do-It-Yourselfers" are chapters in this book that have become trade marks of the developers. Yet despite all these acknowledgments, the CoCo Developers do have flaws that never seem to go away. The most aggravating one is the need or feeling of need to embed crazy write-protection schemes into their software programs. Or packing a hardware project with paraffin wax; scratching off the serial numbers on chips that they use or producing and advertising an inferior product at exorbitant prices. All of these questionable business practices border on fraud, greed, paranoia or any combination thereof. With the size of the CoCo Community these questionable companies seem to be exposed only after they have juiced your pockets or filed Chapter 13. Yet over all, the system works and I know there is a constant effort by key individuals to make the CoCo Developers a pristine group. A group of example if you will.

This brings us to the users, the final stage of this chapter. The end user is where the biggest system responsibility lies. They are not only called upon to support the CoCo, but to pay it's way too. If the system is as good as the CoCo then this job can be quite easy. The end user like the software developers will be the first to tell the manufacture if a system should be orphaned. No sales, no system! No support, no system! It is also our job to see that Radio Shack is reminded just how good the CoCo is as an

all-around computer. We really don't need to remind Tandy, they already know. A quick look at their P&L sheet will answer that question. Educating the manufactures retail outlets is the key in keeping the CoCo from being orphaned. It is not an easy task, but remember, the CoCo is a non-industry standard system. So constant reminders are necessary if not required. Another area where the end user shines is our ability to gravitate to one another and form user groups. In this setting we can learn and see first hand just how good that CoCo something really is. To get answers to our problems within hours and to pass along our experiences to others in need. Being apart of a good user group could mean the difference between a CoCo as a computer or as a door stop! Yet despite all of this do-gooding, the user is not without flaw. The sins of software stealing is a major problem within the CoCo Community. A MAJOR PROBLEM! Every time we except or give away a commercially available program, we might as well be pounding a nail into the CoCo coffin. If we do nothing more then clear-up our end of the deal, then a lot of the above mentioned flaws would quickly disappear.

This article was put together in order to inform you that there is indeed a tomorrow for the CoCo. Providing that the four groups of responsibilities work together. It's not a hard job, it just might mean doing a little extra work. If we don't commit to this task at hand then Wayne Green's production that the CoCo is a dead computer will come true (it just took a few extra years for it to happen). Think about it!

**FOR SALE**

**Tandy 128K Model 4**

**Comes complete with 2  
single sided disk drives,  
printer cables and a  
wide assortment of  
software (VisiCalc, Desk-  
Mate, Pascal, Profile3).**

**Call Ron Steinberg  
at (312) 307-0466**

**\$400.00**

THE MINDMASTER'S DOMAIN  
(A GLENSIDE SUPPORTED B.B.S.)  
312-463-8932  
300/1200 24 HOURS 7 DAYS A WEEK  
8 BITS NONE PARITY

SYSOP---DAVID LUCAS

As I said last month I will explain how the department section works. The department menu is where all the user (you) can download public domain programs, view the want ads, check the answers people gave from the tell me section & check the update section for the latest news. Below is a look at how the department menu should look from the user's system.

The MindMaster's Domain Department menu

<M>AGAZINE	<G>ALLERY
<B> COCO 3	<D> COCO 2
<A>NSWERS	<S>OUND
<W>ANTED ADS	<U>PDATES
<E>XIT THE BBS	<T>OP LEVEL

<M>AGAZINE - This is the section in which you would find articles such as the current GLENSIDE newsletter, additional want ads, etc!!

<G>ALLERY - This is where you will find all the graphic files for the COCO 1,2 & 3. All the files will need to keep the original file names since some work on graphic editors such as CoCo Max 2, ColorMax3 & CoCoMax 3

<B> COCO 3 - This is the section in which you will find all the CoCo 3 programs. A couple of the programs use's a file archive program called tc3 (for CoCo & 2 user's use tc12 to unarchive the files in the CoCo 2 section).

<D> COCO 1,2 & 3 - This section is where you will find all the CoCo 1, 2 & 3 compatible files. Also any files with an extension .arc in this section use the tc12 or tc3 to uncompress them.

<A>NSWERS - This is where you will find the response people left in the tell me section.

<S>OUND - This, as you might of guessed from the name is where you will find the music files.

<W>ANTED ADS - This is where you can see all the ads that were left on the board. This is also a great place to sell an item you might not want anymore. This is open to all items not just computer stuff. If you wish to place an ad use the advertise prompt in the top menu. Ads are free and does not cost anything also please do not leave ads in the

message base.

<U>PDATES - This is where you can read about about latest news at.

<E>XIT THE BBS - The correct & had better be the way you exit my board.

<T>OP LEVEL - This will put you back in the main menu.

\*\*\*\* A Special note. The procedure for downloading works on all the download sections \*\*\*\*

To download a program you check the menu for the file you want and you get the number that is in front of it, then you simply enter 'f' for file at the prompt that you see after the menu display is over with and you enter the number of the file you want to download. After that the bbs will display how many blocks the file is and how many seconds it will take to download and then it will display the following prompt;

<L>IST,<D>OWNLOAD,<X>MODEM,<T>IMELIST,<A>BORT. This prompt is explained further in detail below.

<L>ist - This will list the file so you can read it.

<D>ownload - This adds an open and close buffer command to the file. It works on a number of terminal programs like Colorcom/E rompack or disk.

<T>imelist - This works just like the List but gives you about 5 seconds at the begin and end of the file. That may be helpful if you have to open and close the buffer manually.

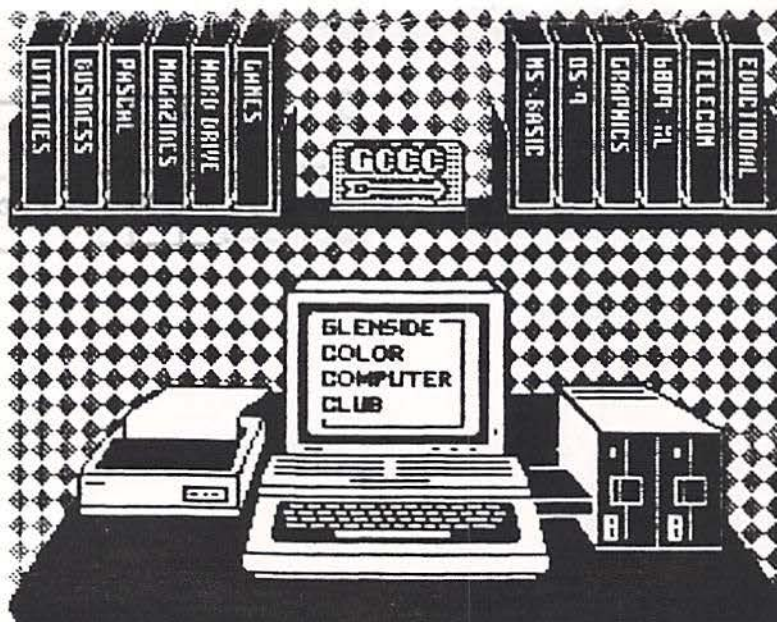
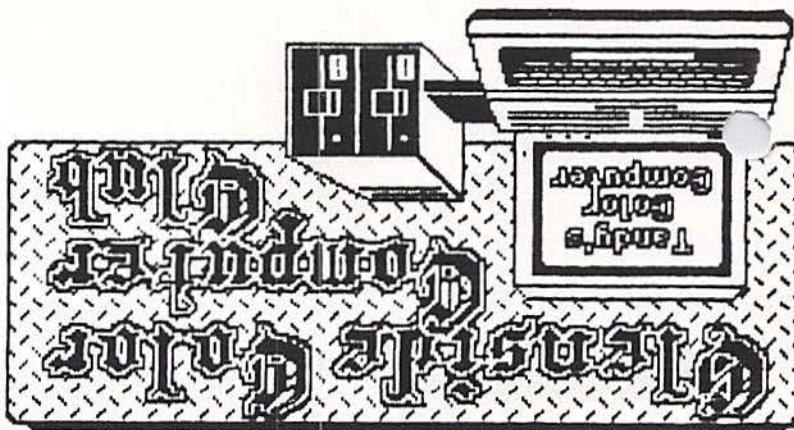
<X>modem - This is another error checking protocol used by Miketerm, Ultimate term and others.

Well that wraps it up for the department menu.and I would just like to add that if you have any further questions about the BBS then feel free to leave me E-Mail on the BBS.

\*\*\*\*\*happy modeming\*\*\*\*\*



John (Tony) Podraza  
119 Adobe Circle  
Carpentersville IL 60110



Location

Glenside Public  
Library  
Fullerton Ave.  
Glendale Hts, IL  
7:30 to 9:30 pm

call: 462-0694  
for more  
information

Monthly meetings every **SECOND THURSDAY**