



The Atlanta Computer Society

— Presents —

COCO NUTS

Vol. #1 No. # 6

SEPTEMBER 1994

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PRESIDENT'S PRINTOUT
By Ken Fish

Picture if you will a man who has just realized that his article is late. Picture a man who races furiously to try typing fast enough to turn back time. Picture a man who has just entered THE LATE ZONE !!!

My abject apologies fellow members. After coming home from a trip to Florida, and getting back into the preparations for the upcoming 'Fest, I am very late getting my article in for Russ to do the newsletter. This is the cause for the lateness of your newsletter this month.

The fest is shaping up as expected, with things getting hectic as we get closer to the show date. It looks like at this point we are going to have as many vendors as last year with possibly more still to come in late. The tickets have already been done by Wynn Daughters. The T-shirts will be paid for and in our hands by

the 20th of September. And we are lining up speakers for seminars.

As you know, tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the show as well as pre-show at the meetings. And again as always, invite family, friends or anyone you know! We need a good attendance, and a good response to vendors to insure that we can have future fests. With out club members to work, or to attend seminars, or to talk to and purchase from vendors, this effort is a waste and would not be justified for the future.

The idea to me isn't to make a big profit. Yes, the vendors need to make money or they can't stay in business. But the ACS is a non-profit organization. Our purpose (to the best of my PERSONAL understanding) is to promote the interest in the Color Computer, and provide for the education of club members and non-members in the use of the computer. But we realize that the computer world has moved on to bigger and faster. This is for most of us, a HOBBY. It should be fun. That is what we want the fest to be, FUN!!!! Let's

not let a fun Hobby die while there are still efforts like ours, or Chicago's, or Pacific Northwest's fests. Come and have fun. Remember, we know the CoCo isn't the be all end all in computers, but there are new products out there to keep it going and doing all the amazing things that endeared this "toy" to all of us. So come on to the 'Fest. Maybe you will find an old program you were looking for, or maybe you'll talk to one of the "luminaries" of the CoCo world, or find that piece of hardware you had in mind, or be impressed with some of the NEW software that will be exhibited.

But no matter what,..... Come out and re-discover the fun!

See Ya There!

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SECRETARY'S REPORT
By Al Dages

Secretary's Report, August 23, 1994
Atlanta Computer Society, Inc.
meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President, Newton White, at 7:30 P.M.

There was a general discussion on preparations for the upcoming CoCoFest. Those attending were asked to sign up for work times at the CoCoFest. The Vice president will assign work positions and keep track of volunteers.

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MODULAR PROGRAMMING
By Carl England

Since most programs do many of the same things--clear the screen, print text, read a disk, etc., it is a waste of time to keep re-writing the same routines every time you write a program. The most efficient way of programming is to have several handy general-purpose routines available to build your main program around. This method is very useful when writing in high-level languages like BASIC. But its real value becomes evident when writing ASSEMBLY. Good, bug-free, modules won't crash your program; this allows you to devote your attention to the main routine.

Program modules should be as flexible as possible. If you have a module that only prints to the screen, then you will need another module to send data to the printer. It is better to use a module that will print to either, even

It was announced that there will be some extra seminar outside of the regular fest hours. Terry Simons will talk to all vendors at 9:00 on Friday evening and David Graham will host a meeting of vendors and software writers on Saturday evening after regular fest hours.

A discussion was held concerning Seminar scheduling, Wynne Daughters volunteered to contact vendors to determine if they would give seminars and what subjects they would like to talk about. He will also gather some background information on the vendor for inclusion in the Fest program. Al Dages gave a demonstration of Budgetware's TREK game. It's a great version of the old standby StarTrek that runs under OS-9.

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EDITOR'S ECHO
By Russ Keller

This is September '94 and the CoCo Fest is the First and second of next month. See ya all there!!! It was suggested last night to give advance notice of upcoming meetings so plans may be formulated for attendance for night workers to be off for meetings. NOTICE !!! Read your address label as all expired members will be deleted from the mailing list next month. Dues will be accepted at the CoCo Fest next month.

if you don't need the flexibility now--you probably will later.

DOCUMENTATION is important (in capital letters!). Give your module a name. Print what it will do. List the entry and the exit conditions. Don't forget to name any registers that are modified by the module.

To use the modules, you simply append them to your main routine, or if you are using DISK EDTASM, then you should use the INCLUDE command.

The following module clears the lo-resolution text screen:

```
00100 *****
00110 *
00120 *      MODULE: CLH
00130 *
00140 *  CLEARS THE SCREEN AND HOMES THE CURSOR
00150 *
00160 *  ENTRY CONDITIONS:
00170 *      NONE
00180 *  EXIT CONDITIONS:
00190 *      ALL REGISTERS ARE PRESERVED
00200 *
00210 *****
00220
00230 CLH      PSHS      A,X
00240          LDX      #$400
00250          STX      $88
00260          LDA      #96
00270 C1      STA      ,X+
00280          CMPX     #$600
00290          BNE      C1
00300          PULS     A,X,PC
```

Notice that there is no end statement. An end statement would cause the assembler to terminate prematurely. The only end statement you need is at the end of the main routine.

The following module prints to a specified device:

```
00100 *****
00110 *
00120 *      MODULE: PRINT
00130 *
00140 *  OUTPUT DATA TO SPECIFIED DEVICE
00150 *
00160 *  ENTRY CONDITIONS:
00170 *      REGISTER A = DEVICE
00180 *      REGISTER U = POINTS TO DATA TABLE
00190 *      DATA TERMINATES WITH NULL CHARACTER
00200 *  EXIT CONDITIONS:
00210 *      REGISTERS A & U ARE MODIFIED
00220 *
00230 *****
00240
00250 PRINT    STA      $6F
00260 P1      LDA      ,U+
```

```

00270      BEQ      P2
00280      JSR      [$A002]
00290      BRA      P1
00300 P2    RTS

```

Notice that instead of "re-inventing the wheel", I chose to use a general-purpose print routine already available to me. Address \$A002 is a documented routine called CHROUT (see your BASIC manual). It is always safe to use the documented routines, but be careful when calling an undocumented portion of ROM. Different versions of your BASIC ROM may have routines at different locations (this is especially true with disk routines).

Next I have a little program to test these two modules:

```

00100      ORG      $E00
00110 START LDA      #0
00120      LDU      #TEXT
00130      BSR      CLH
00140      INCLUDE PRINT
00150      INCLUDE CLH
00160 TEXT  FCC      /THIS IS A TEST/
00170      FCB      13
00180      FCC      /OF THE CLH AND/
00190      FCB      13
00200      FCC      /PRINT MODULES/
00210      FDB      $D00
00220      END      START

```

If you are using EDTASM+ or SuperPatched EDTASM+, then the INCLUDE command won't be available to you. In that case just load the PRINT and CLH modules before typing in the rest of the program.

Next month I will give you a general-purpose module for performing disk I/O.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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COCO FEST 5 at NORTHLAKE HOLIDAY INN OCT. 1&2
Next Meeting

SEPTEMBER 27, 1994 at Shoney's Jimmy Carter Blvd. Norcross
OCTOBER 11, 1994 Executive meeting 7P.M. at Wynn Daughter's home
OCTOBER 18, 1994 at Shoney's on So. Cobb Dr. Smyrna