



## From the President's Platen

by Tony Podraza

Last month, you may have happened to notice a gaping hole on page three of the CoCo~123. Originally positioned there was the ad for the Radio Shack Computer Outlet Store in Villa Park, IL. As the newsletter was on it's way to the printer's, we received word that Tandy had pulled the plug, not only on the Villa Park location, but on all the outlet stores across the nation. Now, Tandy is free to do what they will with their business, and this article is not to be interpreted in any way as an attempt to criticize them. The closing of the outlets, however, does raise the fear that we, the users of the Color Computer, will not be able to find any of the software that had been removed from the regular stores and shipped to the outlets. Now the only place that MIGHT have any of the aforementioned soft- (and some of the hard-) ware will be the Express Order or Software Assembly divisions of Tandy. Now that is all well and good, if you know what the catalog number was (Anybody want to tackle a project? That of listing all the software Tandy has cataloged), but what of all the programs that were advertised by the developers and distributors that no longer have such a high visibility? What ever happened to... oh never mind! There's just too many to try to name. You fill in the blank.

What I'm getting at is this. Our support is disappearing. The market for the 6809 is shrinking. Those of us who want the continued support of the vendors need to give our support TO those vendors. There are still a few of them around. Some of them have fallen on hard times. (Read: don't have the profits that enable them to advertise as much as they once did.) Some of the authors have put their product into the hands of distributors who no longer advertise and hence, are greatly discouraged, hurt, and mad. Some have had so many unauthorized copies of their programs distributed that they just got out of the market. Go back into your older issues of the CoCo magazines. See how many of the vendors you can contact, today. Chances are that they have dropped out completely. If you are lucky enough to find any that still support the CoCo, let me know. If they have good products, we want to support them in the newsletter. The ads that you have

seen in the CoCo~123 are free to the vendors. And if you identify yourself as a Glenside member, you just might find yourself the recipient of a little extra good will in return.

As an example, in recognition of "The Glenside Plan for Advertisers" Glenside members receive a 10% discount from list price from *Howard Medical. COCOPRO!* has committed to a program, still under development, for Glenside. (Details to be published later.) *Hawksoft* has voiced an offer of 10% discount. Other vendors include: *Kala Software, N. Johnson Software, Eversoft, Frank Hogg Laboratories, IMS, Burke & Burke, Sub-Etha*, and we continue to add to the list.

Now, I don't want to give the wrong impression. Not all the above vendors subscribe to the 10% discount mentioned above, but the all DO recognize the efforts that Glenside is putting forth on their behalf and have made positive comments regarding their interest in "the Glenside Plan". We hope to be able expand this list to include the majority of the vendors that we have the opportunity to deal with, but we can only do this if you support the vendors by:

- 1) Letting us know who you feel has quality soft/hard ware that you have a need for.
- 2) Calling those vendors once you see their ads in the CoCo~123, and telling them where you saw their product listed.

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Glenside Color Computer Club

### CoCo-1,2,3 Information

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is a not-for-profit organization whose members share an interest in the Tandy Color Computer®. The CoCo-1,2,3 is the official newsletter of the Glenside Color Computer Club. The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois has no affiliation with Radio Shack® and/or the Tandy Corporation®. The opinions expressed by the authors of articles contained within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor, the Executive Officers or the actual Club membership.

We are committed to publishing a minimum of four issues and a maximum of twelve issues per calendar year. For an annual fee of \$12.00 you can become a GCCC member with full membership privileges. Persons wishing to receive the CoCo-1,2,3 newsletter without full membership privileges may receive this newsletter for an annual fee of \$14.00. Send your dues to:

**GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS**  
2801 S KILBOURN AVE  
CHICAGO IL 60623-4213

Here is the list of 1992 Executive Officers and how to contact them. The club has four strong SIGS, Tandy Color Computer 1, 2, 3 and OS-9. If you have questions concerning these computers or OS-9 call one of the officers. Area code C=312, S=708.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Tony Podraza	S428-3576	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Carl Boll		Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Gene Brooks		
Secretary	Howard Luckey	S747-0117	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	Geo Schneeweiss	C376-0126	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	David Barnes	S587-9820	Newsletter coordinator
VP Telecom	David Barnes	S587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
--GATOR---	Bob Swoger	S576-8068	Newsletter Exchange

### CoCo-1,2,3 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, upload a file to the Glenside CoCoRama BBS with an extension of '.NEWS'. If you have an AD for the newsletter UPLOAD a file with the extension of '.ADS'. If you have NEWS to POST about your group, please use the message base. These files are gathered by the BBS computer and downloaded to the Editor. If you need help contact the SYSOP by E-MAIL, mail, in person, or by phone:

**DAVE BARNES**  
37218 N. FAIRVIEW LANE  
LAKE VILLA, IL. 60046

It is preferred that you call: VOICE 708/587-9820 or BBS 708/587-9837  
On DELPHI - DAVIDBARNES On CIS - 73357,1324

Articles for the CoCo-1,2,3 will also be accepted on diskette in ASCII form and UNFORMATTED only in the following formats:

RS-DOS 5 1/4"-35 SSDD/DSDD 5 1/4"-40 SSDD/DSDD  
OS-9 5 1/4"-35 SSDD/DSDD 5 1/4"-40 SSDD/DSDD 3.5"-SSDD/DSDD  
MS-DOS 5 1/4"-40 SSDD/DSDD 3.5"-SSDD/DSDD 5 1/4"-1.2 Meg

Submission deadlines for the CoCo-1,2,3 are two weeks prior to each monthly meeting. Articles submitted after the deadline will appear in the next issue.

### CoCo-1,2,3 NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Color Computer user groups at no charge. Send your newsletter to:

**DENNIS DEVITT**  
21W144 CANARY RD.  
LOMBARD, IL 60148

If you desire to reprint any articles that appear here, please provide credit to the author and this newsletter.

We encourage your user group to copy this newsletter and distribute it at your regular meetings to your members free of any charge as we believe that this will encourage better meeting attendance. If you are a user group that feels as we do, please let us know in your newsletter so that we might do this for our members and keep our attendance up.

### GLENSIDE CLUB MEETINGS

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:30 - 9:30 PM, at the Glendale Heights Public Library. Further info can be obtained from Tony Podraza at home 708-428-3576.

### FUTURE MEETING DATES:

December 12  
January 9

A social get-together always occurs afterward at the Springdale Restaurant.

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

• Tony Podraza • Tom Kowalski  
• Howard Luckey • Art Flexser  
• David Barnes • Paul K. Ward  
• The Tonkin Reader • Fred Fratto

### EDITOR:

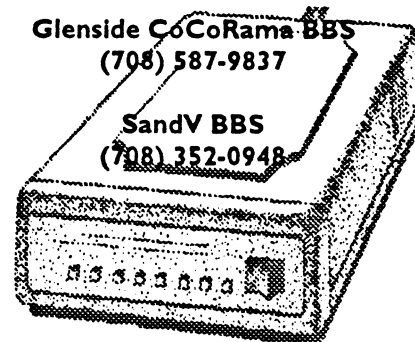
**David Barnes**

### DESIGN, LAYOUT AND GRAPHICS:

**BARSoft Publishing**

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and  
BARSoft Publishing



These are YOUR club BBS's... Please support them !!!

# From the President's Platen

Continued From Page 1

3) Tell us what you think of their products once you receive them so we can let the rest of the community know. As soon as you pass the word along, the process will have gone full circle, and we, at Glenside, will have accomplished what we set out to do, that is, support you, the user, in your support of the vendors in their support of the user. Kind of keeps going around, doesn't it?

Now, I must point out another vacancy in last month's newsletter. Those of you who have really sharp eyes may have noticed that *The Pinball Haven BBS* was not listed as one of the club's supporting BBS's. That was not an oversight, unfortunately. Due to an array of random events, PBH shut down operations at the end of November, leaving just two publicized BBS's left to support Glenside. I know that PBH's SysOp spent many, many hours in front of the monitor trying to keep the BBS interesting. At least twice, the system underwent a complete facelift in the course of two to three years. Pinball Haven never requested any "logon fees", much in the same vein as the Glenside CoCoRama and SandV BBS's have never operated as "pay BBS's". There have been, at times, opportunities

presented to the users to support the BBS in the acquisition of new equipment, and the name and address of the SysOp was always posted, should anyone care to assist in the support of the BBS. In as much as I was indirectly the cause of Pinball Haven (I gave the SysOp his first computer, an MC-10, back in '86) I also was one of few people to hear, firsthand, when problems came up and triumphs broke through, and when anyone responded to the opportunity to support the BBS. Those latter times, as opposed to the former two, came few and far between, but the SysOp never adopted the alternative, a pay BBS. Now, alas, partially due to a lack of support, we have lost the support of the BBS. As I have said, there were a number of items that led to the necessity of shutting down Pinball Haven. The other reasons are personal and will not be enumerated here. Indeed, I don't even know all of them, but that doesn't matter. All I know is that we've lost a place to gather. Now, at the time of this writing, we only have two published BBS's in the Chicago-land area that are affiliated with Glenside and the CoCo. We don't want to lose these. Pick a BBS and support it by your usage, uploads, and any other means you find in your pocket to show the SysOp that you appreciate their many hours and hard work to put together something that all of us enjoy.

## A Brief (HA) Postscript

While I'm on the subject of support, let me relate that to the subject to publications. Over the past ten-eleven years, publications have come and gone. I, myself, have been a charter subscriber to *The Color Computer Magazine* and *Undercolor*, both of which I thoroughly enjoyed...until they folded. I've seen *Color*

*Computer News*, *Hot CoCo*, *Spectrogram*, *Micro-80* articles, *Computer Shopper* articles, and onandonandonandon.... BUT none have held the CoCo Community's attention longer than the outgrowth of *Mr. Falk's* little newsletter. *The RAINBOW* is still shining brightly, albeit, for somewhat briefer periods of time. It still has the same well-written articles, reviews, and ads as it has ever had and still rates our support in continued and/or new subscriptions. (I would dearly love to report that every Glenside member is a subscriber, but I cannot...yet.) However, it is the ads (or lack of them) that is shrinking the bulk of the magazine, in my opinion. (Reasons? See the first half of this article.) I keep getting invitations to subscribe to other computer magazines, even for those computers that I don't even operate. How they even got my name, I'll never know, I never contacted them. They might do

better to invest their advertising dollars in the publishing of their periodicals over the course of time, instead. I'll seek them out for those other computer systems, if the time comes. Right now, give me my CoCo and the Rainbow.

One of the largest areas of support we have received from THE RAINBOW have been the Rainbowfests. (For those past experiences, Lonny, we give you our collective heart-felt thanks.) At the end of Chicogofest '90, the possibility of a '91 Fest was being

considered. Many of the attendees to Rainbowfest '90 speculated that we would not see another Rainbowfest in Chicago. But all we received in response to our queries was an enigmatic, Mona Lisa-like smile; charming, but silent, none-the-less. Glenside has had the privilege of being the Host Club for the Chicago Rainbowfests since 1987 (and have we ever had fun!). I feel I can safely say if any reassurance of support is needed from Glenside to prompt an announcement of an upcoming Chicago-land Rainbowfest, Mr. Falk, you have our assistance in any way we can give it. With over 90 members from across the country and around the world, we would be proud to have the opportunity to help you spread the word. The Color Computer advocates are listening for the sound of your voice and are ready to respond with our support.

*.... I feel I can safely say if any reassurance of support is needed from Glenside to prompt an announcement of an upcoming Chicago-land Rainbowfest, Mr. Falk, you have our assistance in any way we can give it.*

## Reminder



Due to a scheduling problem with the Glenside Public Library, we are rescheduling the February meeting to the *FIRST* Thursday of the month. This will take place only in the month of February. We hope that this notification is sufficiently early enough to enable you to make any adjustments to your schedules and regret any inconveniences that it causes.

# The SysOp's Twisted Pair

By Tom Kowalski

After reading Dave Barnes' article in the November issue of the "CoCo 1-2-3", I thought that I should write a few lines about my novice attempts with computer telecommunication, with the fond hope that it might encourage someone else out there to give it a try.

At the '90 Rainbowfest in Chicago, I spent a good amount of time talking to the representatives at the Delphi booth. I listened to what the others were asking about, trying to make some sense out of strange, new words, like "bits", "parity", and "baud rates". Much of it was over my head. So I asked, "what exactly, and in plain English, do I need to get on line with Delphi?" I told them what equipment I had; then I was told (by Marty Goodman, I think) that all I would need would be an RS-232 PAK, a terminal software program, such as MikeyTerm, or GregETerm, a MPI, and a modem capable of a minimum of 300 baud.

I had managed to buy a MPI at my local Radio Shack on a close-out price about a year before, so I put together a shopping list for the remainder of the equipment, and went shopping at Rainbowfest. At the CoCoPro! booth, I got the RS-232 pak; at the Microcom booth, I got a 1200 baud modem at a good price; at the Public Domain Software booth, I picked up some terminal software programs.

I returned to the Delphi booth to see if there was anything else I needed - I did: a connector to go between the RS-232 pak and the modem. I then got a money saving tip from Marty; make your own cable by going to my local Radio Shack, buying two connectors, a length of cable ribbon, and assembling it myself. Marty also offered to download a copy of the current version of MikeyTerm from Delphi, to help me get started.

I returned on Sunday, and went over to the Delphi booth with a blank formatted disk. I told Marty that I would like to take him up on his offer of the terminal program. He did do what he offered, but the Delphi booth was experiencing problems with their phone lines, and, unfortunately, the program I received was defective, in that it refused to boot up.

There was a ray of unknown help for me: this was also the year that I joined Glenside C.C.C. I found out, after attending my first meeting, that two of my "distant" neighbors were members; Bob Swoger and Bob Fitzpatrick. I explained my dilemma to Bob Fitzpatrick, and he gave me a copy of GregETerm, and urged me to log on to the club BBS at Motorola. I did, a few times, but was having problems "moving around" in this strange new world of the BBS. I think I might have even crashed it! So I contacted the SysOp, Bob Swoger, who helped me immensely - he walked me through many, many sessions on the BBS, and helped me to upload my first file, a simple ASCII file transfer, to be published in the club newsletter. Thanks, Gator!

Since the demise of the Motorola BBS, I have switched over to the CoCoRama BBS. There, again, I learned new things; Xmodem file transfers, and how to post messages on the bulletin board. I have learned quite a lot from this BBS. I am now at the point where I am comfortable and confident with it. Thank you, Dave, for running this BBS, and for putting up with my pesky phone calls because I didn't know if I was doing something correctly.

I have found a whole new world, filled with friendly folks, out there on the BBS. The public message area is, indeed, a "magic"

area where you can ask a question and have several answers within 24 hours. I am truly amazed by it.

My next step will be with one of the commercial BBS's, namely Delphi. I have been going over my back issues of "Rainbow", concentrating on Eddie Kuns' (and others, in the older issues) Delphi Bureau columns, picking up hints on how to move around on Delphi.

As I have said earlier in this writing, my main purpose of this is to urge any CoCo user who reads this to get involved with computer telecommunication. This, linked up with Glenside C.C.C. (or any other CoCo club for that matter), SUPPORTING our vendors by purchasing their wares, and the "Rainbow" magazine, will help to make an unbeatable combination to help keep the CoCo alive and well!!



## Letters to the CoCo~123

Editor:

I read with interest the letter from Bob Bruhl in the September/October issue of the CoCo~123, in which he recounted difficulties in obtaining *Extended ADOS-3* from Microcom Software, and inquired if it was still available from SpectroSystems. I am writing to assure your readers that SpectroSystems is still around, and intends to sell and support our *ADOS* products into the foreseeable future. Our address and phone number remain as usual;

1111 N. Kendall Drive  
Suite A108  
Miami, FL. 33176  
(305) 274-3899.

Mr. Bruhl was apparently given incorrect information when he was told by Microcom that *Extended ADOS-3* was "on back-order"; as of this writing, we have had no orders from Microcom since February.

Thank you for sending me your interesting and informative newsletter. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

Art Flexser

Owner, SpectroSystems/Author of *ADOS*