



Glenside Color Computer Club

From the President's Platen

by Tony Podraza

It would seem that the weather in the Chicagoland area has been emulating the climate in the CoCo/OS9 community....hot and muggy! With the pre-emptive resignation of Jim Destafano as President of the OS9 User's Group (US), only 4 short months after his accession to the office, and only two months after the Second Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!, I can only imagine that the Community in the States and on the continent would feel a little like a lost child; an orphan, if you will; or a body whose head has decided to go off on its own because the body wanted to be nourished and all that the head wanted to do was think; not take the time to breathe and eat. In that type of situation, I submit, not only will the body be uncomfortable (an understatement!), but the head will have lost all credibility with the body in the future. If it were possible, the body would choose that which it could in order to survive until it could get back on its feet, again, and be very cautious as to its original head in the future. For those of you who are members, up, correction, were members of the OS9 User's Group (US), hang in there...I have a premonition that, contrary to written reports, there IS enough interest in the continuance of the organization by certain trustworthy parties, to warrant the reorganization of the Group and your continued participation in the future. NEVER

allow yourself to be swayed by the statements of just ONE person. Check for objective evidence, yourself. And be careful!!! ANYTHING CAN BE DOCUMENTED! Figures lie and liars figure. For the most part, I perceive that the OS9 Community is an eclectic group of HOBBYISTS, as far as the CoCo is concerned. With that in mind, any organization that genuinely attempts to assist the hobbyist should be supported by those that need the assistance, and who will, in their turn, assist others through that group. Now I know that sounds like I'm beating Glenside's own drum, and I don't want to give the impression that Glenside should be supported by everyone who needs help; however I DO want it to give the impression that if you have a local user's group that can support you and that you can support, than do it! If not, remember, you and one other person make a user's group. "If you build it, they will come." If there is not a local group, then by all means, find a national group and support it, and vice versa. You'll find information regarding other national groups and publications elsewhere in your issues of the CoCo~123 from time to time. Check

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Table listing contents: From the President's Platen 1, CoCo~123 Information 2, CoCo~123 Contributions 2, Future Meeting Dates 2, Contributors To This Issue 2, July Meeting Review 3, The 'Rocket' 4, Ethics For BBS Users 5, The CoCo Trader 6, Keep Me Dry 6, Basic Programming 7, Directions: Back

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. Send your dues to:

GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS
RR #2 Box 67
Forrest, IL. 61741-9629

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, F=815.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Tony Podraza	S428-3576	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Carl Boll	C735-6087	Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Gene Brooks	S897-9023	" "
Secretary	Howard Luckey	S747-0117	Records and
Reporting			
Treasurer	Geo Schneeweiss	F832-5571	Dues and
Purchasing			
Editor	David Barnes	S587-9820	Newsletter
coordinator			
VP Telecom	David Barnes	S587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
Printer	Dennis Devitt	S629-2016	Newsletter Exchange
Advertising	Bob Swoger	S576-8068	Newsletter Ads

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
P.O. Box 281
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 deadline for the CoCo-1,2,3 is the 20th of each month. 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
21 W 144 CANARY ROAD
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:

August 12
September 9

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

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

- Tony Podraza
- Howard Luckey · Chris Burke
- Tom Kowalski · Steve King
- David Barnes

EDITOR: David Barnes

DESIGN, LAYOUT AND GRAPHICS: BARSoft Publishing

Copyright © 1993 Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois and BARSoft Publishing

Glenside CoCoRama BBS
(708) 587-9837
9600 BAUD

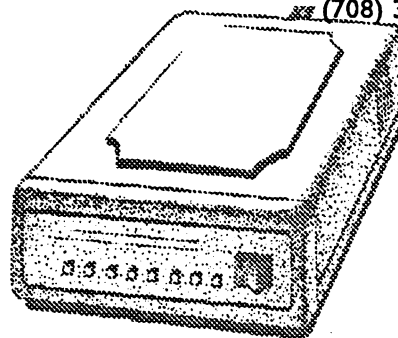
SandV BBS
(708) 352-0948

9600 BAUD

Glenside's Cup of CoCo
2400 BAUD
(708) 428-0436

Chi-Coco BBS
(312) 735-3355

14,400 BAUD



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

From The President's Platen

Continued From Page 1

them out and see what they have to offer.

Don't forget the annual picnic. See last month's notice for details.

We still have tee-shirts available for \$8.00. Large size only, sorry. Contact George Schneewiess to order them.

There have been a couple of inquiries regarding the special pricing on the Hitachi 63B09E that the club had available. Are there any more interested parties? If we purchase the chips in mass quantities, we can get the better price, but we would like to have some idea of how many people want them. Call me..the number's on page two. Leave your name, phone number and how many chips you want. I'll let you know when we buy them, by phone, and how much they will be. If we can't get a good price, I'll let you know that, too.

Until we can meet again, I bid you peace.

July Meeting Review

By Howard Luckey

The meeting was called to order a 7:45PM.

Two color printers were on the table in front. One was a Tandy CGP-220 and the other was an IBM color jet printer 3252, model 2. Except for the CGP-220 having a serial and a parallel port while the IBM has only a parallel one, and the IBM having 2 Meg of memory and the Tandy doesn't they were the same printer.

Bob Swoger announced that he had a 13" composite video monitor to give out to any one who wanted to take it.

By now the Pacific North West CoCo Fest would be history. The report is that they had a good turnout. There may be a more complete report later. Mugs and T-shirts are available for ordering. Chris Burke's ROCKET, the hardware project to add the 68000 chip to the CoCo3, was presented at the fest. The project is still on and probably will happen.

A copy of the 6309 book from Burke & Burke which explains the use and the programming of the 6309 chip, was shown for members to look at. The price is \$25.00. Probably a good book to have if you want to get the most out of this chip.

The annual picnic was re-announced and plans for it were discussed. It is scheduled for Saturday, August 14th (or a rain date on Sunday, August 15th). All members, their friends, and other CoCo and OS-9 enthusiasts are invited and encouraged to attend and have a good time.

Eddie Kuns explain what is happening with the national OS-9 Users Group. The president of the group, after volunteering to run the group a few months ago, has unilaterally decided to resign and disband the club. Many of the members are very upset about this, and some of the members of the Chicago OS-9 Users

Group, lead by Carl Boll, have stepped forward to take action to keep the UG going. More news later. Bob Swoger made a motion to the effect that the local Chicago OS-9 Users Group should send a letter to the stating that any negativism is harmful and that if the president of the national group is negative he should step aside. The motion was seconded but it was mentioned that a process has already started to keep the national group going.

Bob also asked if there were any publications stepping forward to replace the defunct "The Rainbow." There are at least three that are being published or about to be published: 1) Uptime, 2) The Noname Magazine which if successful will have a name, and 3) "the world of 68' micros that should be coming out in July. Bob suggested that each of us do what we can to support these publications by either buying, or writing articles or both.

There are three copies of "The OS-9 Guru" on consignment to the club. They can be purchased for \$40.00.

There was a copy of the latest PCM magazine, and in it Lonny Falk welcomed The Rainbow readers. The club is considering running an ad in the magazine thanking CoCo vendors and others for their support over the years. The Atlanta CoCo Fest is definitely on for this year, October 2 and 3.

Bob Swoger mentioned that the Sinclair computer company is still alive and the company has come out with a new laptop. Bob said it has a lot of capabilities and very low price. A video of it will be shown at the picnic. A member mentioned having a problem accessing data on the Disk of the Month disk. Carl Boll wasn't present to comment about the problem.

THE DEMO

Tony demoed the Disk Drive Analyzer a product from J&M, a CoCo vendor from the past, which was donated to the club by Dave Barnes. This is a very good product if you want to test and adjust your floppy drives. Once the software is up and running you insert the Digital Diagnostic Disk, a precision disk, and put your drive through a variety of tests. According to the menu you can choose: 1) clamping test, 2) quick test, a test that runs through the complete set of tests and indicates passed, marginal, or failed, 3) spindle speed test, 4) index hole timing test, 5) alignment sensitivity test, 6) head alignment test, 7) directional seek test, 8) head rotation test, A) analog alignment aid, and C) change test parameters. Tony ran a series of the tests on a drive he had, and showed us the indication of successful or failed test. The manual that comes with the package explains the purpose of the tests and how to read and interpret the info given on the screen. At the moment I don't know if the package is still available or what would be necessary, if anything, to run it on a CoCo3. After the demo a bunch of members gathered around the table while Gene Brooks used the Analyzer to make adjustments on a drive.

The 'Rocket'

By Chris Burke

Several people have posted messages to the list requesting information about a CoCo 3 accessory called "The Rocket". I've tried to keep this note strictly informational...

The Rocket is a proposed 14MHz 68000 processor upgrade with OSK for the CoCo 3. It plugs into the 40-pin processor socket, and is mechanically designed for NTSC CoCos (will probably fit a PAL CoCo, but not sure yet). Right now, it's in the early prototype stages - one hand-wired prototype has been built, and Burke & Burke is debugging the hardware and developing software for this prototype. If there's enough interest from CoCo 3 owners (roughly 100 advance orders), The Rocket with OSK and on-board memory would sell for just under \$200.

A couple of compromises and breakthroughs have gone into the design/packaging of The Rocket.

Breakthroughs:

Motorola's 68306 integrated CPU. This is a full 16-bit data, 32-bit address 68000, with a 16.7 MHz maximum clock and on-board logic for interrupt vectoring, interrupt priority encoding, device selects, DTACK generation, and all of those otherwise troublesome 68000 support functions. The 68306 also includes a fully integrated DRAM controller which can multiplex any number of address bits from 16 (256K DRAMs) to 30 (giant, non-existent DRAMs). The 68306 also includes a DUART (dual serial port) and 16 parallel I/O lines on-chip. This is a 132-pin IC with pins 1/40" apart!

Burke & Burke's K16 Bus synchronization circuit. This circuit allows the 68000 to synchronize to the CoCo's 8-bit 2 MHz bus in realtime, to accomplish 8-bit, 16-bit, and 32-bit transfers. To the rest of the CoCo hardware, The Rocket looks just like a 6809E microprocessor. The entire CoCo hardware looks like a 64K block of memory-mapped I/O to The Rocket's 68306. Thus, The Rocket can access any CoCo memory location or peripheral, including the MMU and graphics controller, joysticks, keyboard, and anything connected to the Multi-PAK, through its 64K "window".

Microware's Industrial OSK. This version of OSK is much less expensive than a full Professional OSK setup. It's missing the development tools, a windowing system, the RBF disk manager, operating system manuals, and some utility programs. The Rocket adds back a compatible disk manager, a windowing system based on OS9 Level 2 windows, some of the missing utilities, and minimal development tools (editor / ASM-like assembler / reduced manual).

Fast 6309 emulator - software emulation of the 6809 / 6309 under OSK. Since we don't have to emulate the CoCo hardware too, this emulator is expected to run faster than others.

Compromises:

14 MHz Vs. 16.7 MHz clock speed - avoids memory wait-states with low-cost 100ns memory.

No DMA or coprocessor capability - to reduce cost.

One SIMM bank - sockets for two identical SIMMs, giving on-board RAM capacity of 512K, 2MB, or 8MB. The base price includes no memory; a version populated with 2MB would cost \$100 more.

Limited device drivers included - drivers for RS-232 pak, halt-floppy, Burke & Burke hard disk, DISTO SCSI hard disk, SC2 no-halt floppy, keyboard/monitor.

Limited expansion - No expansion bus. The on-chip serial ports and parallel I/O are brought out unbuffered to an expansion connector, along with power, ground, and reset. The serial port baud rate oscillator crystal is not populated.

No C Compiler included - The OSK version of GCC (not included) should work, but you'll need RMA / RLINK or equivalent (not included). We're also investigating a stand-alone Rshareware S C compiler, but there's nothing to report on this yet.

Other Issues:

Several people asked whether The Rocket can be used with 1MB and 2MB CoCo upgrade boards. Electrically, yes. Mechanically it is rather tricky. You pretty much have to install one on top of the other, and I can't recommend a specific procedure. Keep in mind that with The Rocket, this extra memory is accessed only through the 64K window - its main uses would be for a large RAM disk and for graphics screens. The Rocket has its own main memory on-board.

The board also has a 6809E / 6309E socket, and a jumper which lets either the 68000 or the 6809 run after RESET. This allows a CoCo with The Rocket installed to operate as a standard CoCo 3 when the jumper is installed.

This is a full 16-bit processor. A very early prototype shown at the Chicago CoCoFest used an 8/16-bit processor, the 68008, at 8 MHz. This very early prototype did not use any actual Rocket circuits (even the bus synchronizer was different, a K8 instead of a K16), but it demonstrated the concept of a 68000 installed in the 6809E socket. The actual Rocket is nearly twice as fast as, and has twice the memory width of, the 68008, for essentially 4X performance. It also has full 32-bit addressing vs. the 1MB address limit of the 68008.

Current status:

A lot of software must be written, and a lot of deals must be made, before The Rocket is a "product".

We're debugging the prototype - works well so far. Expect a live demo at the Port Orchard CoCoFest (25-26 June)

* About 30 advance orders / "letters of intent to purchase" have been received.

* Deadline for advance orders has been extended from June 30 1993 to July 31, 1993. The deadline is a courtesy to people who have placed advance orders, so that we don't tie up their money forever. If we aren't real close to 100 orders by 31 July 1993, anybody who "wants out" gets a full refund.