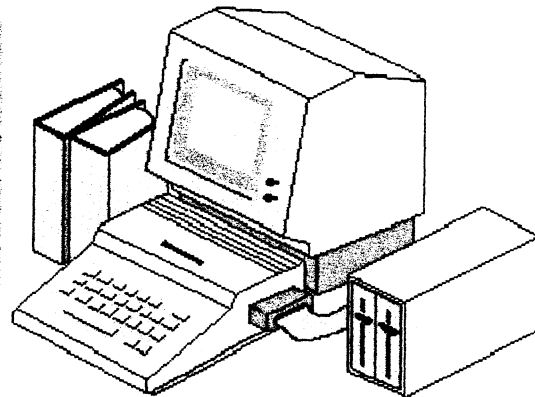


COCO~123

March, 1996 Volume XVI, Number 2



The President's /term

by Rob Gibons

While this February's meeting continued to be dominated by plans for April's upcoming club sponsored CoCoFest, one non-fest related issue was discussed, and I, as your President, would like to comment on that issue.

The issue was that of the distribution of so called "Orphanware". For those of us not familiar with the term, Orphanware is the name given to software that is perceived to be no longer available. Perhaps the original author or distributor has left the Color Computer market. Perhaps, now that there are so few sources of advertisement for such products, it is no longer being advertised as for sale.

Let's get one thing straight from the beginning, unless software is explicitly placed into the public domain, the rights to distribution remain with the author of that software or their designated distributor, for the length of their copyright. Few if any Color Computer based software has been around long enough to have it's copyright expire. There for the distribution of such software without the copyright holders express permission is Piracy.

We as a Club, by our constitution and by-laws can not engage in such distribution or associate with any group or individual that engages in such distribution. Enough said, time to get off the soapbox.

Now for the good news! One reason such acts of piracy occurs is through lack of information about the status of such software. Is it still available? Where can I get a Legal copy? Can anyone obtain a legal copy? Thankfully, one member of Glenside has been volunteered, whoops I mean has volunteered to, with the help of others, create a software database which is to include who has distribution rights etc. He will be working with, and/or contacting other individuals in our community who have also been attempting to create such a database. Hopefully, through his efforts and the efforts of these others, this will no longer be in issue in the future. Thank you Bob (Gator) Swoger and good luck!



Glenside Color Computer Club

A Glenside Publication since 1985
Your Voice in the CoCo Community

CoCo 123 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 123 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 the 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 a fee of \$15.00, for January through December, 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 a list of the 1996 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 these officers.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
President	Rob Gibons	847-776-9842	The buck stops here
Vice-President	Eddie Kuns	708-820-3943	Meeting Planning, etc.
Vice-President	Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	"
Vice-President	Sheryl Edwards	708-344-5632	"
Secretary	Paul Knudsen	708-755-3210	Records and Reporting
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-5571	Dues and Purchasing
Editor	Mike Warns	708-627-9561	Newsletter coordinator
Telecom	David Barnes	847-587-9820	Club BBS SysOp
Printer	Dennis Devitt	708-629-2016	Newsletter Exchange
Advertising	Bob Swoger	847-576-8068	Newsletter Ads

CoCo 123 Contributions

If you would like to contribute an article, upload a file to the Newsletter Submissions section of the Glenside's Cup of CoCo BBS. Ditto for ads and news about your group. **Please include a name and an address or phone number.** If you would rather submit your article on diskette, they can be accepted in ASCII form and **unformatted** in the following formats:

RS-DOS 5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks
OS-9 5-1/4" SSDD, 35 tracks
MS-DOS Any standard format

Mail your articles to:

Mike Warns
31 South Edgewood Avenue
Lombard, IL 60148

Submission deadline for the CoCo 123 is the 15th of each month. Articles submitted after the deadline will appear in the next issue.

CoCo 123 Newsletter Exchange

The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois is pleased to exchange newsletters with other Color Computer or OS-9 user groups at no charge. Send your newsletter to:

Dennis Devitt
21 W 144 Canary Road
Lombard, IL 60148

Reprint Policy

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 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 and send us your newsletter. We will then distribute it to 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 to 9:30 PM at the Glendale Heights Public Library. A social get-together always occurs afterward at the Springdale Restaurant.

Future meeting dates:

May 9, 1996
June 13, 1996

Editor: Mike Warns
Design, layout, graphics: Walrus House Enterprises

A special tip o' the hat to Dave Barnes and BARSoft Publishing, whose masthead page has been, uh, more than an inspiration for this issue's.

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These are your BBSs. Please support them.

Glenside CoCoRama BBS

847-587-9837

At Least 9600 Baud

SandV BBS

708-352-0948

Boy, is it fast!

Glenside's Cup of CoCo

847-428-0436

9600 Baud

Chi-CoCo BBS

312-735-3355

14,400 Baud

Glenside East

847-632-5558

9600 Baud

**Bob, I tried to download your ads,
but your board hates me.**

Meet the New Secretary!

by Paul D. Knudsen

I was born at Ingalls hospital in Harvey, Illinois. I am a son of Glenn and RoDonna Knudsen. I have a brother and 2 sisters. I am the youngest of them. I got interested in electronics and computers at the age of 5. It all began when I stuck the flat-head screwdriver in the wall socket. From then on, I was determined to conquer electricity.

In Jr. High School, I met a friend who said he would sell me a computer for \$50. This is when I got my first 64K CoCo 2B. I fell in love with the machine. I used my computer continuously for 2 years, until a fatal design of repackaging it, (I tried to use tin foil as a ground plane) which caused it fatal trauma. At this point, I was upset (ticked off was more like it) and didn't know what to do with myself. So a few weeks later, my father bought me a new toy! The Tandy 128K CoCo 3. (He bought me this machine, because I already had a few expensive accessories for the CoCo 2, i.e. Multipak and an FD-502 disk system.

A few years later, after looking through the Rainbow, I found Howard Luckey's phone number in the CoCo Clubs section. At this point I called him, got an answering machine and was disappointed (he, he, he.) So, I finally got a hold of him, and found out that he was treasurer of the Cook County Color Computer Club, which meets at the Park Forest Public Library. So, after a year or so, I became President.

Thing ran smoothly for a couple years, and then our club died due to lack of members showing up on scheduled evenings during the month. To this day, I still miss all the members who came every fourth Wednesday of the month to the 4 C's.

Now I am an active officer and member of Cook County's sister club Glenside. Right now, my CoCo's largest configuration is a 512k CoCo 3 (I'm STILL looking for a 6309 chip (I have the power boost software, I just

blew my old 6309.), hoping to soon get NitrOS9. RGB monitor with Sound Blaster speakers attached to both sides. I also have the Burke & Burke XT-RTC with a 20 meg hard drive (soon to go to 40 megs, my old hard disk is conking out), two FD-502's and a Zoom 2400 baud modem. Pretty nifty eh ? I am now fully employed at my local, friendly Steger K-Mart as a cashier (for which I would rather be using a CoCo as a register instead of a lousy IBM, that thing hates me!) As soon as I get enough cash, I will be repackaging my CoCo into a PC case, hopefully with aid of Glenside member Brian Schubring.

System specifications of Paul D. Knudsen
Personality:

Well I try to be nice to every one as I can. Most of the time I don't function well in large groups, they make me nervous. I try to read everyone, so I try to make sure that I don't "say the wrong things." I am an all out around happening guy. When introduced to new people, I am a little shy, but I can hold a descently strong conversation. I must warn all, do not try to engage in technical conversations with me, unless really necessary, I sort of get these technical ego trips, which makes me look bad, it ain't pretty. But all around though, I am a friendly person who looks to help anyone he can.

Speed:

Don't rush me, I enjoy taking a slow pace in getting things done, or I just might pop that last brain cell that I have been trying to work on, since graduation of high school.

Well that about wraps this up. At this point, I would like to thank Mike Warns, editor of this newsletter, for forcing me to do this. Just joking Mike! Well for anyone who doesn't go to Glenside meetings, who may attend in the future, look for me and just say hi!

February 1996 Club Meeting

by Paul Knudsen

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by President Rob Gibons. The meeting began with the introductions of the members that attended. Present were, President Rob Gibons, Secretary Paul Knudsen, Howard Luckey, Gene Brooks, Bob Swoger, Eddie Kuns, Bob Bruhl, Mike Knudsen, Sheryl Edwards, Brian Schubring, Tony Podraza, and Richard Bair. The latecomers were Mike Warns, Tom Schaeffges. George Schneeweiss also attended, but he went home sick. Get better George, and we hope to see you at the next meeting. We also had a guest, Lori Balas.

We began the meeting as usual with the old business, which we had discussion about the logo for the T-shirts for the fest. Tony Podraza was off in the corner of the room trying to get his demo ready, on how to program an eprom. We also discussed the idea on getting the vendors to the fest. We have a list of club members who are going to call them to see if they want to participate in this year's fest. We have word that the Adventure Survivors will be attending.

For the new business, we received in the mail from the Atlanta Computer Society a survey which asked questions on how they feel about the Atlanta Fest. We felt that this survey should be answered in a "survey" format. Rob had asked the questions publicly to the group, and everyone had their own opinion on how to answer each question. As the secretary, I wrote several answers down, and then created a nice formatted answer sheet to show how a percentage of a group can relate to each question. In a sense, this should give the Atlanta Computer Society a better idea on how festgoers see them. We also have some shocking news in the community, Mid Iowa

& Country CoCo club might be in a lawsuit for distributing "orphan-ware." Orphan-ware is software written by authors whose companies still exist, in which pirates, think its okay for them to distribute, because they think that they have fallen off the face of this planet.

Orphan-ware is not okay, piracy of any form is illegal, and there are a lot of authors who still do exist in, which MI&CC is passing around freely. A motion was made at the meeting to refuse any dealings with MI&CC with upcoming fest. They will not be allowed to have a table/booth for which to vend with. Another motion was made to put the definition of piracy in regards to MI&CC and to spell out any and different forms of piracy, whether orphan_ware or not. That wraps up the minutes of this meeting, afterwards, we retired and went to the meeting after the meeting.

Sra Concepcion
730 Suwannee Road
Box 1826
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403

March 2, 1996

I've been an unconnected CoCo-ists for years and years, and am trying to rectify this. Little by little I am spreading the wealth, as it were, by trying to support as many CoCo publications as I can. My intent is to learn as much as I can, and for every one thing I learn or learn about our little machine, there are twelve or so other things that I would like to know.

My main interest has always been hardware (electronic and otherwise), and I've finally started to tinker with the little bugger which is responsible for over a million hours of entertainment in the last few years. And I am learning.....

I ordered some hardware from Small

GRAFX, Etc. and received, among other things, a copy of CoCo 123. I read it and it seems to be pretty cool. This issue (Oct. 95 - Vol. XV, No. 4) mentions a MIDI Pak, which is of great interest to me, especially if it is going to be able to take input from a guitar or bass, or even a microphone.

My dream system seems to be coming closer to fruition if this is the case. I fancy myself a musician, and it would be oh so cool to hook some hardware to my CoCo and record the different components of a song, mix them, and store them on disk as the master!! I can almost envision what it would be like. Heck, if it has a quarter-inch phono jack (for input), and two RCA jacks (left and right - for hookup to stereo) I'd be hard pressed not to want one. I'd even be willing to write a review for it when/if a) it becomes a reality, b) I get one in a timely manner, c) you'd be agreeable to a novice writing such an article. I'd also be willing to advise or give input on what I'd like (as a Musician) it to be able to do.

Also, in that very same issue, it mentions an e-clock-fix board. Is this applicable to a CoCo2? If so, which back-issue is its schematic in? Is a back-issue list available? Is there a list of hardware obtainable through you available? Is a parts list for this e-clock-fix board available?

I guess I saved the most important thing for last, enclosed is a check for one year's worth...

I hope my enthusiasm wasn't too forward.

Thanks in advance,
Cep

Dear Cep,

*First, I do not believe that the E-clock fix pertains to the CoCo2. Second, the MIDI cartridge will not accept input from a guitar. In fact, Dr. Mike Knudsen, who knows as much about making music on a CoCo as anybody, remarked that it would be better named KIDI, for **Keyboard** interface. Third, how could enthusiasm be anything but positive. It is **welcome!***

A Portable CoCo?

by Mike Warns

I love portable computers. Correction: I love the **idea** of portable computers: Taking my computer everywhere I go, whipping it out to jot down some ideas for an article, working on work projects in my underwear with no fear of being fired. You know, freedom.

I found the reality to be different: Anybody who takes an expensive and sensitive product with moving parts to the beach is insane. I get more ideas while driving, and I usually forget them before I get anyplace I could use the portable. Very few portables are as powerful as my work computer, and none of them have a nineteen-inch display! Worst of all, the freedom provided by a portable computer is an illusion. I found myself concentrating so hard on battery life that I would forget what I was working on.

I was happy to sell my portable for what I had paid for it.

What I did then was make an assessment of my needs. I do not spend much time at the beach, and I do not intend to spend that little bit of time working on a newsletter. My "jotting down ideas" plan would be better served with a tape recorder. "Work" work is best done at, well, work. On the other hand, it is sometimes too cold in the basement to use the "big" computer for any length of time. I can keep a better eye on the kids while working in the kitchen than in the basement. I may **want** portability, but I do not **need** much of it. I do not need battery power or a fancy color display. All I really need is something I can plug into the wall and do simple word processing.

As I looked around my collection of too many ~~obsolete~~ well-broken-in computers, I realized that I could make a computer which would fit my needs, and I think you can,