

CoCo~123



Jan 1998 Volume XVIII Number 1

The Glenside Color Computer Club

A Glenside Publication since 1985
Your Voice in the CoCo Community

The President's /term

by: Mike Knudsen

As you read this, we are in the final month of preparation for the Seventh "Last" Annual CoCo Fest on April 18-19 at the Elgin Holiday Inn. It looks to be a really great one!

We have more vendors already paid up than we had last year! And this year's innovation, the CoCo Family Dinner, already has 47 of the required minimum of 50 reservations.

Attendees are already gearing up to make music after the Dinner, the old way, by hand and mouth.

Our featured guest speaker will be none other than the gaming great Steve Bjork.

Many thanks to the many Club members and their families who've worked to set this one up.

And more thanks to the IDE Hard Drive Interface crew – Carl, Gene, Eddie, and all the rest. The PC boards are already being etched, so look for a soldering party coming to a house near you.

On a personal note, this is my last Fest. My wife got promoted to a great new job in a remote corner of the country (Maine), so I will be leaving at the end of this summer. I've really enjoyed the Glenside meetings and activities over the past 15 years, and will really miss you folks. I'll try to stay connected by Email.

But that's way in the future. Right now, let's help make our Fest the best yet, and get those IDE boards out!

Your President,

Mike Knudsen

The IDE Project

by: Carl Boll

Well, finally we have tracked down all the problems and we are fairly confident that there are no more problems that can't be fixed from the driver.

What does this mean? It means that we've ordered the boards to be etched and that we'll begin building boards. We won't be able to ship the boards until we finish the utilities, drivers and documentation though.

Let me address each of the areas that are left. It is now March 22nd and we still need to finish a lot of things but the parts are now ordered, the boards are being etched and we will begin soldering the parts and testing the boards as soon as we get the boards from the maker.

Drivers. We still have to implement partitioning in a manner that will allow multiple partitions and access from DECB in some manner. We also need to implement Master and Slave mode. There are a few issues that make this a little harder than it sounds. Finally we want to try to get the interface to work with older drives too. This may prove beyond the scope of our project though.

Utilities. We are writing a utility that will help with changing the size of clusters to allow use of larger drives. We want this to be as painless as possible. At the writing of this article it is 90% finished. We also need to write a utility that will set up the partitions, similar to FDISK under MS-DOS. We may also at some point if time allows write a defrag utility.

Documentation. This is moving along too, slowly. There is still a lot to do though. Not having the utilities and drivers finished isn't helping move this part of the project along. It is also impossible to write certain parts of the documentation until we have the drivers and hardware finished. As much as can be written to date is finished and the rest is outlined.

CoCo~123 Information

The Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc. is a non-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, Inc. (hereafter known as GCCC). GCCC has no affiliation with Radio Shack ® and / or the Tandy Corporation®. The opinions of 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 12 issues per calendar year. For a fee of \$15.00, for January through December, you may become a GCCC member with full membership privileges. Send your dues to:

George Schneeweiss
13450 N 2700E RD
Forrest, IL 61741-9629

CoCo~123 Contributions

If you would like to submit an article for publication in the CoCo~123 you may upload it to one of the Club BBS's or send it directly on a disk to:

Carl Boll
6242 S. Menard Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638

. . The following formats are acceptable:

RS-DOS - 5 1/4" disk

OS-9 - 5 1/4" disk

MS-DOS - 5 1/4" or 3 1/2" disk

Email: coco123@chicoco.chi.il.us

All articles should be in straight ASCII format, not specialized word processing formats to facilitate importation into the newsletter.

Advertising is also accepted. If you are a vendor you may send an ad to the previous address. All ads should be "camera ready" art. Please limit the size of your ad to 1/4 page. If you wish you may submit your ad on a disk in the following graphical formats:

JPEG, GIF, BMP, WPG

Reprint Policy

If you or your club / user group desire to reprint any articles in part or in whole that appear in the CoCo~123 you may do so under the following guidelines:

1. Provide credit to the Author of said article
2. Provide credit to the CoCo~123

We encourage others to copy these articles and the newsletter and distribute it at you regular meetings.

Glenside Club Meetings

The GCCC meets every second Thursday of the month from 7:30PM to 10:00PM at the Glendale Heights Library. A social get-together always occurs after the meeting at a local restaurant.

Newsletter Exchange

The GCCC is happy to exchange newsletters with other clubs / user groups at no charge. Please send your newsletters to:

Dennis Devitt
21 W 144 Canary Rd
Lombard, IL 60148

These are your BBS's. Please support them.

Glenside's Cup of CoCo
847-428-0436
9600 baud

Glenside East
847-632-5558
9600 baud

Glenside's Officers

President: Mike Knudsen
630-665-1394

Vice President: Jerry Jeskey
708-449-2638

Vice President: Justin Wagner
630-393-7072

Vice President: Tony Podraza
847-428-3576

Treasurer: George Schneeweiss
815-832-5571

Secretary: Bob Swoger
630-837-7957

GCCC Email Address: gcc@chicoco.chi.il.us
or bod@chicoco.chi.il.us

The IDE Project Update

As each step of the project gets finished a little more of the documentation can get finished. Until a utility is finished and working we can say for sure exactly how it will work. The same is true of the drivers. We can't take pictures for how-to's until we actually have a real board to photograph. I think this pretty well explains why the documentation is moving slowly now.

Building the boards. This will be a group project. We can't build them until the boards and parts are all in our possession. Since we are going to socket the chips that adds an extra step in the assembly process. Unless you've actually built some boards you can't appreciate the logistics here. We are talking about 150 boards. There are 9 chips and 45 header pins to solder in along with 9 capacitors and 5 resistors. This gives a total of at least 227 solder joints. That's just one board. Chips also need to have their legs "straightened" and they need to be inserted into the sockets. The resistors and capacitors need to be bent and trimmed for insertion into the board before soldering.

All in all this portion of the project is enormous. Thankfully we have more than a couple of good soldering stations and people that can use them. Now that isn't all with the assembly of the boards either, they need to be tested. This means plugging them into a CoCo and actually running them. This will take time too.

Disks. After the drivers, descriptors and utilities are finished they need to get put on disk. Again, time. It takes time. Thank heaven we have extra hands. The disks need to get formatted and then copied. Labels need to be printed and put on the disks.

Packaging and Shipping. Finally, after all of the assembly work is done the boards need to go into shipping bags which along with the documentation and disk of "stuff" all goes into a box which gets labels put on it and a shipping ticket filled out for it. Some of this will be automated to some extent but it time consuming. Remember that at this point we will still need to ship out 150 boxes, give or take a couple.

Finally there is the refund. Yes, there will be a refund on the boards. We can't quote a final price until all of the prices have come in. Prices have been changing on us constantly so we can't make a final price until everything is paid for. Remember, this is a non-profit project. This means that a check goes out with each board for the difference between the cost and the amount paid.

So, there it is, that is the current status of the project. One last thing to be mentioned if you haven't been notified and you ordered a board (whether you paid a deposit or not). The balance is due >NOW<. The cost per board is \$58.00 with the shipping and handling. If you ordered a board and sent in your \$15.00 deposit that means you owe \$43.00 on the board. The reason we are doing it this way is we need money to get the boards finished. The size of the project and the upcoming Fest have dwarfed our treasury. The only way we can afford to start

building the boards is to get the money up front now. We are pretty sure that the finished, shipped board will actually cost less than the \$58.00 we are asking for so we will include a check for the difference (a refund) with the board when we ship it.

If you haven't sent in your balance due you need to send it as soon as possible. Make a check out for the balance due to: The Glenside Color Computer Club

Send it to:
The IDE Project
C/O Carl Boll
6242 S. Menard
Chicago, IL 60638

Again, all of us on the project wish you the best

Carl Boll

.....
Pulled from the CoCoList:

From: Robert E Brose II <bob@KUNK.N0QBJ.AMPR.ORG>
Subject: 1773's, etc
X-To: coco@pucc.princeton.edu
To: Multiple recipients of list COCO <COCO@PUCC.BITNET>
Status: RO

A while ago in response to a similar question, someone sent me the following:

Toad Computers, 570 Governor Ritchie Highway, Severna Park, MD 21146-2925
(Phone 410-544-6943 for info, 800-448-8623 for orders)
(Web: <http://www.toad.net/>)
(email: info@toad.net)

Both places should also have the standard 1772, as well. (In fact, Toad lists it in their latest catalog for \$5).

-- end of quote --

The 1772 is a drop in replacement for the 1773 with faster step rates. If you are running 6ms across the board (dos command, boot module and os9 cc3disk) you will see exactly the same behaviour as with a 1773. Besides the 6ms step rate, the 1772 has some faster rates.

Also, as I posted before, the ajax chip which is a high density 1773 clone will also work but I haven't got it to run in high density yet and it is much more expensive at \$35....

Bob

--
Robert E. Brose II / N0QBJ / Amateur Radio IP Address Coordinator for Minnesota

Amprnet: bob@n0qbj-uhf.ampr.org (44.94.9.9)
WWW (Amprnet only): <http://kunk.n0qbj.ampr.org/>
Packet: N0QBJ@WB0GDB.#STP.MN.USA.NOAM

MINUTES BY THE MINUTE

by Bob Swoger

September 11, 1997

Present were Carl Boll, Dennis Devitt, John Chasteen, Brian Schubring, Scott Montgomery, George Schneeweiss, Richard Bair, Mike Knudsen, Gerry Jeskey, Howard Luckey, Brian Goers, Bob Swoger, Justin Wagner and Tony Podraza.

The papers changing our registered agent from Sheryl Edwards to Richard Bair came in. These papers must now be recorded with the county recorder of deeds.

Bob Swoger once again invited all members to our annual September picnic.

Carl reported on the IDE drive project with the bullated points being Master/Slave operation, 100 plus customers, may stuff boards @ next CoCo meeting.

Tony Podraza announced the increase of fest room rates to \$65 plus tax for April 17-18-19 of 1998. The room signup deadline will be March 30, 1998. The Ball room is up 20% over last year. We will require \$10 show tickets, tables will be \$35 + \$5 limit 2.

A dissertation followed about the Jam Fest, the CoCo Family style dinner with Jam Fest after with Musical Interaction and Personal Participation.

Treasurer report \$2953

October 9, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by President Mike Knudsen. Present also were, Scott Montgomery, Justin Wagner, Tony Podraza, George Schneeweiss, Bob Swoger, Carl Boll and Brian Goers.

Carl Boll reported that the membership list for OS-9 membership list is still missing. He will try to contact Joel Hegburg for a copy.

The picnic report was given by Bob Swoger. There were 34 people present. Many people arrived and left at different times this year making games a bit hart to conduct. There was no flea market activity after the picnic but Frank Davis, a vendor of AMIGA and SINCLAIR products from Peru Indiana, sold Spectrum CDROMs and seven Multitech 14.4 FAX modems for \$12 a piece. Two members of the Q-BOX BBS from Michigan also attended as part of the Sinclair users present.

Carl also reported on the progress of the IDE project. Cold solder joints hampered the testing of the last prototype.

George made a request to see if anyone could get him copies of the Hoffinghams comedy radio programs. Bob suggested he try contacting collector Ken Poletic.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM

The demo this evening was to install a 6309E upgrade in a CoCo 3. The Job was not completed due to not having 40 pin IC sockets available other than one already mounted to PC boards.

Door prizes handed out this evening were syringes of thermal compound for heat sinking of transistors of ICs to heat sinks and stickem equipment feet for all those present. Also given away were 8K X 8 Static RAMs.

November 13, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by President Mike Knudsen. Present also were, Brian Schubring, Mike Warns, Howard Luckey, Dennis Devitt, Justin Wagner, Tony Podraza, George Schneeweiss, Bob Swoger, Gene Brooks, Carl Boll and Brian Goers.

As our treasury was reported to be a bit low, Treasurer George accepted 1998 dues.

Gene Brooks reported his son Dan leaving the IBM MIDI Program CAKE Walk and returning to the CoCo based Ultimuse by Mike Knudsen. What Gene wanted to report was that Ultimuse was just easier to use! Gene had no problem setting up the CoCo for Dan to use Ultimuse again. Mike Knudsen added that he wanted to add a keypad input feature to Ultimuse.

A fest task list was generated at the request of Mike, Tony and Bob. Some names assigned were not present to accept but it is hoped that based on past services, there folks will again participate. On a volunteer basis:

- 1.) The COCO Family Dinner - Brian Schubring
- 2.) Nuts & Volts ad - Justin Wagner
- 3.) Extra Tables if needed - Tom Schaeffges
- 4.) Fest Shirts & button art - Brian Schubring
- 5.) Security - Tom Kowalski
- 6.) Ticket Printing - Brian Schubring
- 7.) Point of Sale set-up - Tony Podraza
- 8.) Cleanup after fest & vender 8.5 X 11 cleanup information sheet - OPEN
- 9.) Vender mailing - Tony Podraza & Justin Wagner
- 10.) Buttons - We hope that John Chasteen can provide this service this year.
- 11.) Show Guide - Carl Boll
- 12.) Seminars - Mike Knudsen
- 13.) Ron Voll's Pennsylvania vender list Sole Master & Paul Someone
- 14.) Vender signs installed above tables - Bob Swoger
- 15.) Auctions - Mike Knudsen
- 16.) Goodies bags at entrance - OPEN

If your name is on the list and you wish to have it removed, please contact Mike Knudsen, Tony Podraza or Bob Swoger.

In regards to the CoCo Family Dinner, Brian Schubring has contacted the Holiday Inn and feels that we must reserve a

MINUTES BY THE MINUTE

dual room for the occasion. For the use of a single room we must guarantee 50 people. The cost of the dinner would be \$15 per person which would include gratuity and room use. If we go over 50 people, we would require the second room and the club would incur an additional cost. Tony make a motion to permit Brian to negotiate for the second room which could be released at the last moment if not needed. Brian can be reached for comment at theschu2@juno.com or theschu3@aol.com.

Carl Boll reported that the membership list for OS-9 User's Group is still missing. This list is required to allow us to send newsletters to the OS-9 user portion of our group required by the transfer of funds from that group.

Carl also reported on the progress of the IDE project. Cold solder joints hampered the testing of the last prototype.

The motion for the meeting to adjourn was made by Howard Luckey, seconded by Bob Swoger at 9:20 PM.

The demo was a pass around 40 meg IDE hard drive purchased by Carl Boll through Nuts & Volts Magazine for \$15. The drive was only 1.3 inches square!

Door prizes handed out this evening were 3 small 40 & 80 Meg Hard Drives and copies of Nuts & Volts Magazine.

Treasurer report \$1300

December 11, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM by President Mike Knudsen. Present also were, Howard Luckey, Justin Wagner, Tony Podraza, George Schneeweiss, Bob Swoger, Carl Boll, Brian Goers, and Richard Bair.

Tony Podraza made a motion to move the nominations for officers this year to February and March with the election to be held at the April fest. The motion was seconded by Rich Bair and carried unanimously.

President Mike must get a count of the fest attendees, those that want to participate in the Glenside Family dinner and a count of vendors that are sure to come. Please send your count to Mike Knudsen at his Email address.... mknudsen@lucent.com

Carl Boll will place an article to this affect in the coming newsletters and update Justin's phone number to 630-393-7072.

Carl Boll has been hearing from vendors that interest is waning in the CoCo community. He turned the tables on them by asking them why they refused Carl's offer to give them free advertizing space in our newsletters? The result was six new vender ads for the newsletter.

Bob Bruhl sent money to Andre LaVelle for two 5.25" floppy drives. Tony Podraza will search for the drives. Bob

Bruhl also send 2 20 MEG hard drives to Carl Boll for advise as to why the drives seem to quit after some time in a session. Carl is not familiar with the RGB DOS systems which makes each drive look like 256 floppies. He shall try to address the problem before the end of the year.

Carl had no new news on the IDE Hard Drive project.

Tony said that we would be renewing our Sam's Club membership. Two extra \$10 Sam's membership cards are still available. See Tony if you are interested.

The meeting ended at 8:30 PM and the Demo began... Research on the IDE Hard Drive Project. Two prototype IDE boards were exercised.

Robert Swoger,
Secretary,
Glenside Color Computer Club

THE MONITOR SECTION

Use a CGA Monitor with a CoCo

By Marty Goodman

Tom Lindo asked about using a CGA monitor with his CoCo3.

You can hook most CGA monitors directly up to a CoCo 3 by hooking like-named video signals (r,g,b, h and v sync, and ground) straight thru between the CoCo video port and the monitor's 9 pin port, and (in MOST cases) get an image.

The image will show, however, only SIX colors and black and white...NOT the 64 colors (actually about 58 colors plus shades of gray) that the CoCo is capable of generating.

Of course, you can convert a CGA monitor into an analog RGB monitor... but if you have to ask how, you should not be trying to do it.

Pin out for CGA:

(for the DB 9 connector)

1,2 ground 3,4,5 r,g,b 6 Intensity 7-not used
8,9 H and V sync respectively

NOTE: the PIN NUMBERING for a DB9 is DIFFERENT from the pin numbering for the 10 pin dual in line

connector on the CoCo RGB video port!!!!

1,2,3 r,g,b analog

DB 9:

6,7,8 ground lines for r,g, and b respectively

1 2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9

10 ground line for digital (sync) signals

13,14 H and V sync (respectively)

With that info, it should be trivial to hook your NEC 3D up to the CoCo 3, right?

CoCo dual in line 10 pin video connector:

1 3 5 7 9
2 4 6 8 10

You should use ribbon cable, and put all active signal lines separated by a ground line. You can run all the ground lines together at the CoCo 3 connector (or near it) to send them to pins 1 and 2 of the CoCo RGB connector.

What I do is use a 9 wire flat ribbon cable, putting the four ground lines between the five active lines. I use that for the 4 or 5 or 6 foot run of the cable. Then I take a 10 pin dual row connector (CoCo RGB connector) with about 9 inches of ribbon cable attached, and hook the ribbon cable of the two together, using heat shrink on each connection and on the outside to make it all look nice and be mechanically sound. That way MOST of the length the signal travels on a every other wire ground flat ribbon cable, which preserves video signal quality almost as well as sending R,G, and B on separate coaxial cables.

Thus a straight thru cable WILL NOT WORK!!!

---marty

Hook A Multisync to a CoCo

By Marty Goodman

---marty

Editor's Note: *This is a message from Marty to me on the CoCoList about hooking the older NEC (and other) Multisync analog monitors to a CoCo.*

OK, now you have the pinout for the standard lines of VGA micro 15 DB connectors.

Editor's Note: *Just to clarify. I was specifically asking Marty about hooking up an NEC 3D to the CoCo. This is an extremely versatile monitor and the display looks excellent. This particular monitor is also capable of displaying 1024 by 768 resolution on a PC (interlaced). If you find one of these monitors I suggest you pick it up.*

***** ANNOUNCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT *****

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