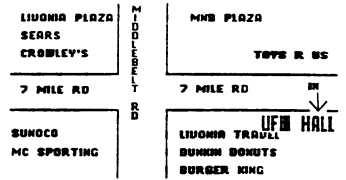


C.C.O.G.

COLOR COMPUTER OWNERS GROUP

NEWSLETTER JULY 1990



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PRESIDENTS COMMENTS:

In the meantime LOOK what my CoCo can do!!!!!! Let's not just sit around waiting to see what the TOMCAT-TCG and the MAMI are going to be like. We have in our possession a very powerful computer right now. Let's continue to use it. Let's continue to support it. Let's continue doing all those neat things that have been there all along. We have a very good base of all varieties of software thru all the various vendors NOW. Let us not allow the CoCo to die from lack of participation. I was very happy to see that we had 24 people at our June meeting.

Usually attendance drops in the summer. I would like to see our club continue to keep it's strong base of membership support. You are very good and likeable people. We share a common bond with the CoCo.

On June 28 at 7:00pm we had an informal meeting to plan future meetings for the club. The meeting was open to all and a notice was placed on the BBS. There were 8 of us in attendance. We have some exciting ideas for you in the upcoming months. We also expect to see some participation from YOU. We will still be asking for volunteers from the members at meetings. Also, from time to time individuals will be directly asked to demonstrate a piece of software or hardware they have or maybe some particular expertise. Please don't say no when you are asked. We will be doing more things with OS-9. This does NOT mean that we are abandoning OS-DOS. With the CoCos we can have the best of both these worlds. Bernie

COLOR COMPUTER OWNERS GROUP

This newsletter is a periodic publication of the COLOR COMPUTER OWNERS GROUP of Metropolitan Detroit.

Copyright for all articles in this publication remains with the original author. Permission is given to reprint for nonprofit publications so long as original article is intact with credit to the Author. Requests can be made for downloading articles thru our BBS from other CoCo Clubs wishing to reprint articles. Contact Bernie Patton (313) 283-2474 BBS (313) 292-4713

Minutes From the June 19, 1990 Meeting By Marcine Glowicki

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 pm. A motion was made and seconded to accept the May minutes. This passed. Some old business was taken care of, which was announcing that Larry was accepting money for Rainbow magazine renewals. Larry had several copies of PMODE 4's newsletter. This group was located in Tennessee. Those people who have subscriptions to COCO CLIPBOARD have not received an issue since February. No one really knows what is going on for sure. This will be the last month for the membership drive competition. With the top three winners receiving disks donated by Larry. So far Bernie recruited 1 person at Rainbowfest in Chicago, Jim recruited 2 at Rainbowfest, and Gus several from his advertising in the Observer newspaper. There were 25 people in attendance at the June meeting.

New business--Larry announced to the group that there would be no October Rainbowfest in New Jersey. Dave Meyers would be taking over and setting up a Rainbowfest of sorts in Atlanta, Georgia, October 5 and 6 of this year. As of the last meeting he had 20 booths already signed up. There was some discussion about BBS's being shut down by the Feds, but the consensus was that these were boards offering more than just public domain types of services. Bernie made a pitch to the membership to start some sort of OS9 demonstration. It was somewhat decided that summer is not the best of times for SIG type meetings. So this will be pursued later in the year.

There were several new faces in the crowd. Herb Kuhfal and Del Wiley. Welcome!

The raffle helped the VFW by raising \$21 this month.

A meeting for officers would be set up in the near future. This meeting would set up the format for future meeting topics. More about this later.

Officer Meeting Minutes By Marcine Glowicki

A special meeting was held at Bernie's. The officers were in attendance. A topic by month was established. This was the same theme that Rainbow Magazine used in the past.

January--Beginners	February-- Utilities	March-- Business
April-- Help	May-- Printers	June-- Sound Music Summer Fun
July-- Anniversary	August-- Games	September--Education, OS9 (bring in your system to get started)
October-- Graphics		
November-- Different types of communications packages		December-- Holidays

Some ideas talked about that would be of interest to the members were:

1. Start an OS9 tutoring group which would take approximately 15-20 each meeting.
2. Bring in your favorite oldie that got you hooked with the COCO.
3. Have members that use the library disks offer to demo some of the programs that they find useful. This would give others a change to see what we have available to them in our library.

***** ATTENTION BBS USERS *****

You may have seen a form letter in our BBS (313) area claiming that Michigan Bell was requesting legislation which would cause all BBS use to be considered commercial in nature. All owners of BBS and all users of modems would be charged business rates. This form letter originated with Variety-N-Spice, a commercial pay for use BBS in the Grosse Pointe area. The information in the letter is either a deliberate attempt to misinform or represents a complete misunderstanding of how the telephone industry is regulated.

I have written directly to the President of Michigan Bell to obtain a policy statement, knowing full well that the enormous amount of rumor and nonsense stirred up by the above letter required clarification. Within two days of writing, I received a phone call from Charlene Hoffman, Staff Manager at Michigan Bell, who was more than happy to discuss the above. She subsequently sent in writing a policy statement, appropriate Michigan tariffs, and the form letter used by the Michigan legislature to answer the V-N-S letter. Pertinent excerpts follow.

"...Michigan Bell does not have a policy, nor are we seeking to institute a policy, that would require all computer bulletin boards to be classified as business services. And we have no plans to charge all users of modems business rates."

"The tariffs" (Michigan Public Service Commission) "require Michigan Bell to classify service based on the use to be made of the service. In the case of computer bulletin boards, if there is a charge associated with any level of access to the board or money is solicited in conjunction with the board, that is considered conducting a business within the meaning of the Michigan Bell tariffs."

"...if the board is not associated with a business and no charge is assessed or solicited for access to the board, the service may be classified as residence in accordance with the applicable tariffs."

Ms. Hoffman further stated that Michigan Bell is not nor does it have the facilities nor technology to monitor BBS or phone lines to see if modems are in use. That if a BBS asked for donations while allowing totally free access, this probably would not require a business classification, but advised not doing so.

Anyone who has had their BBS classified a business venture should contact the Michigan Public Service Commission 800-292-9555 or 517-334-6424 for an attempt at reclassification.

I hope this information will lay to rest all of the fuss created by the rumors.

Robert Gault, Corresponding Secretary, Color Computer Owners Group, MI
J&L's BBS (313)-292-4713

According to club member Karl Sefcik, he has indicated that additional information will be made available to CCOG club members regarding one of the COCO4 type of models called the MM1 by Kenneth-Leigh Enterprises whenever he receives it. He is now on their mailing list. He advised that he will post such information on the club BBS according to his recent message on the BBS; and also make it available to our club President Bernie Patton. So if any of you want to know the latest on this subject, contact the BBS. For new members information, the club BBS is J&L's COCO Corner electronic bulletin board system which the CCOG club supports through club membership dues. Most of the current information on the subject is in the April 1990 issue of the club newsletter by Bernie Patton. Be sure to read it to be current on the subject. Not only is this information there but lot's of additional information that supports our COCO hobby. If you are not using the club BBS you are depriving yourself of a key aid to your hobby which your dues help to support.

You may be interested in knowing how to use the Mickey Term program, which is in our CCOG club library, for telephone communication with the CompuServe information system assuming you are a member of CompuServe. In an earlier article, on page 6 of the March 1990 CCOG Newsletter, I indicated that I had unwanted characters appear in displayed messages while using Mickey Term with CompuServe. This did not occur when I used their comparable VIDTEX telecommunications program which in my opinion is inferior to Mickey Term. I obtained the correction for this error which now allows me to use Mickey Term without this type of hash in the message when contacting CompuServe. After log on and entering your ID (identification) number type a semicolon and the capital letters TTY and enter it. Like magic everything now works well using Mickey Term and I no longer need to use the CompuServe VIDTEX program. You also need to set your Mickey Term parameters to read full duplex, 7 bit word length, auto halt on, linefeed on carriage return (LF on CR) set to off (no), auto buffer set to off (no), parity set to even, and use of a one stop bit. So any of you CCOG club members, who are also CompuServe members, can also use Mickey Term to contact CompuServe without using the VIDTEX program.

To those of you who use the MUSICA2 program, club member Karl Sefcik has indicated that to play notes from the COCO keyboard you need only select the menu for setting options. Then enter any note you wish to hear and press the P key and the music can be heard for that note. In this way you can enter simple tunes upon which related chords can be included later. Therefore you can compose your own music on the COCO with this software.

At our previous club meeting it was emphasized that new members who want to learn to program their COCO should study their Basic COCO manual first. Then if you have any questions on this bring them to the attention of our more experienced members and you'll get them answered. That's what the CCOG club is all about. Support for our common hobby from other interested members. Here again is where the BBS comes in handy especially since it is available 24 hours each day. You should be able to buy a relatively inexpensive telephone modem through the CCOG club that will allow you to contact the club-supported BBS.

Also at the previous meeting, it was indicated that it would be interesting to see a demonstration of a word processing program that Bob Gault uses. A lot of people like to use their computers to do word processing. Hopefully Bob will be able to demonstrate his word processing program at a future meeting. I think a lot of the newer members would be interested in seeing it.

It looks like we have a lot of different interests in our computer hobby. Some want to learn programming using BASIC or OS9, others are interested in word processing, and/or computer art, COCO games, utilities to handle taxes or home budgets, etc. So it will be interesting to see what our committee on arranging future meeting agendas has decided. This will likely be discussed at our next club meeting.

A reminder especially for new members of the CCOG, the VFW uses your money donations from our club in it's many charitable activities especially concerning unfortunate hospitalized veterans. It's all going for a good cause. The Livonia VFW also collects used books and magazines to give hospitalized veterans.

So if any of you want to contribute such, which you would otherwise discard, give them to the VFW bartender to make some unfortunate veterans happy. Also we owe some thanks to the VFW bartender because he volunteers his time to open the VFW Post for us and serve us drinks. He gets nothing for providing us this service so let him know you appreciate his efforts for us whenever you can.

Getting started in OS-9 seems to intimidate many people without cause. It is really quite simple if lengthy. Also it does not matter whether you have an older model Coco 1&2 or a Coco 3. It is best to use OS-9 Level II on a 512K Coco 3 but any combination of Level I, II and Coco 1,2 or 3 is more powerful than the standard Tandy Dos. Two drives are however almost a necessity.

I have heard some comments that people have had trouble with Level II and the 128K Coco 3. I don't remember that to be the case and ran a test for this article. To run the test, I removed my 512k RAM and replaced the original 128K. (You mean to tell me you didn't save your old RAM?!)

It is interesting that the small capacitors did not need to be remounted on the board. The Coco ran just fine without them with the 128K reinstalled. Also no problems were experienced in creating a new OS-9 system disk. Here's what you need to do.

First make backup copies of the original OS-9 disks. (I am going to assume you will use Level II.) When you make backup copies, you don't need to be in OS-9. In fact, contrary to the OS-9 instructions, you should not be to limit wear on the disk.

Place write protect tabs on the originals. Format two fresh disks as follows: DSKIN10,2. Don't forget the ",2". This tells DOS to set the spacing format used by OS-9 and the disks will work better for it. (Tandy for some reason did not do this with the originals.)

Now BACKUP the originals and place the originals in safe storage.

You are now ready to enter the world of OS-9. Place the duplicate system disk in drive0 and enter DOS. (If your system, Dos 1.0, does not have the DOS command, run * on the BOOT disk.) The BOOT message should appear and then the copyright message. Enter the date and time as requested.

I will assume you have only 128K RAM, but do have 40 track double sided drive(s). You will now want to create a working System Master to your own specifications.

The first thing you need to do is tell the system that you have good drives. Tandy still assumes we use 35 track 30 ms (slow) drives. You could use CONFIG (on the BOOT/CONFIG disk) to set up for 40T 6ms double sided drives, but that would take twice the time of the method below.

You will need to write three files to be used with MODPATCH. We will use BUILD to write the files as that is easiest for beginners. Type in the following code:

```

build driven0
l d0
c 14 0 3
c 18 23 28
c 19 1 2
v
(ENTER)  ie. enter on a blank line

modpatch driven0

```

There will be ? for prompts while you run BUILD. When you run modpatch, the program will use the file driven0 to change the operating system.

Repeat the process as follows:

```

build drivedi
l d1
c 14 0 3
c 18 23 28
c 19 1 2
v
(ENTER)

modpatch drivedi

build drivedd
l dd
c 14 0 3
c 18 23 28
c 19 1 2
v
(ENTER)

modpatch drivedd

```

By now you should have noticed how much faster your drive is working. You are now ready to create a custom 40 track 6 ms double sided system disk.

Enter `format /d1` (if you have two drives which I will assume) or `format /d0`. You will be prompted to swap disks on single drive systems. Format a fresh disk and name it as you please; R.Gault's OS-9 System Master (for example.)

You are now ready to put some code on the disk. On single drive systems it will be tedious. Insert the copy of the BOOT/CONFIG disk in drive 0 and type:

```

chd /d0; chx /d0/cmds
config

```

Follow the prompts. Use the "help" prompts as needed. Since I have assumed you only have 128K, I advise you not to overload your boot file. You won't often be using windows (not enough memory,) so limit yourself to W and W7 and select `TERM_VDG`. Also select the `D0_40D`, `D1_40D`, and `DDD0_40D` drive descriptors. These are not set for 6ms and you will have to correct that later. If you have a printer be sure to include P.

When you get to the point where you are asked what commands you'll need, select "NO", you will add your commands by a different method. Replace your backup system disk in drive0 and type:

```

chd /d0; chx /d0/cmds
dsave #20k /d0 /d1 ! shell

```

When DSAVE finally finishes, you will have a new custom disk. However, you will still need to correct the drives for 6 ms (fast) action and set the baud rate for your printer.

Put the new disk in drive0 and push the reset button. If all goes well, OS-9 will reboot and you will be asked for the date and time. Now you must remind the system that you have fast drives. You can use the same files you created above. Put the disk with the modpatch files in drive1, and type:

```
modpatch /d1/drived1
modpatch /d1/drived0
modpatch /d1/drivedd
```

Now adjust your printer. I'll assume you have an adaptor for 9600 baud. Type:

```
xmode /p baud=6
tuneport /p
```

When running tuneport, your printer should be on. You may and probably will see garbage printed. Enter new numbers, changing them by 1 each time until the text is correct. You may need to increase or decrease the values. Continue until you get garbage again, then enter the middle value.

For example on my system, the numbers started at 17. Correct printing occurred between 18 and 22. I picked 20.

Now get a fresh disk and run FORMAT as above. When done type:

```
cobbler /d1
```

When cobbler is finished, you will repeat the dsave operation as above:

```
dsave #20k /d0 /d1 ! shell
```

Finally you now have a custom OS-9 disk which is set for 40 track, 6ms, double sided drives and correct printer baud rate.

If the above seems like too much work, you will need to learn OS-9 first before you can make it simpler, "catch 22." If you have OS-9 Level I, you can patch the Level II CONFIG disk to correct the drive and /P descriptors and get a custom disk in one pass. Level I has the SAVE command left out of the II package.

Alternatively, you can download some OS-9 utilities from the BBS which can make the job easier if you are not a novice.

Finally, you could live with the Tandy defaults of 35 track, 30ms, single side drives until you learn OS-9. Your money, your choice.

***** ATLANTA CoCoFEST *****
October 6-7,1990
Holiday Inn Northlake

As you may know, the traditional Fall gathering of CoCo enthusiasts has been cancelled...BUT, you can make plans NOW to join your favorite CoCo vendors, online pals, and CoCo fans from far and near at the 1st Annual Atlanta CoCoFEST!

Join us in the sunny Southeast this fall for two days of:

- > Exhibits and demonstrations (and special show prices) from leading CoCo vendors. A GREAT opportunity to "try before you buy" those items you have had your eye on!
- > Introductions of striking NEW products, such as the long-awaited MM-1 from KLE/IMS!
- > Free, informative seminars conducted by leading CoCo experts ... covering MANY areas of CoCo interest!
- > Free chances to win valuable door prizes, courtesy of participating vendors and the Atlanta Computer Society!
- > The opportunity to turn unwanted/unused CoCo soft - and hardware into CASH!
- > Fellowship and fun with hundreds upon hundreds of CoCo enthusiasts JUST LIKE YOURSELF!

Tickets for the Atlanta CoCoFEST are available NOW at a special advance sale price of \$10 for one day, \$15 for both days. And, as an extra bonus...the first 125 people to reserve onsite hotel rooms through us (at the special show price of \$49/nite + tax, single or double) will receive a FREE one-day admission for each night's lodging purchased! To receive the special room rate, your reservation MUST be placed through CoCoPRO!

For specially discounted airfare and car rentals (starting at \$17.95/day with unlimited mileage), contact Lisa at CoCoFEST affiliate Travel Bank of Atlanta - 1-800-477-9191.

For tickets, hotel reservations, or further info, contact us at CoCoPRO! - 1-313-481-DAVE <3283> (1-8 P.M.. 7 days). Modem users may place ticket/room orders using VISA or MC, by calling our BBS at 313-663-6207 (3 lines, 7-E-1, 3-1200 on all lines).