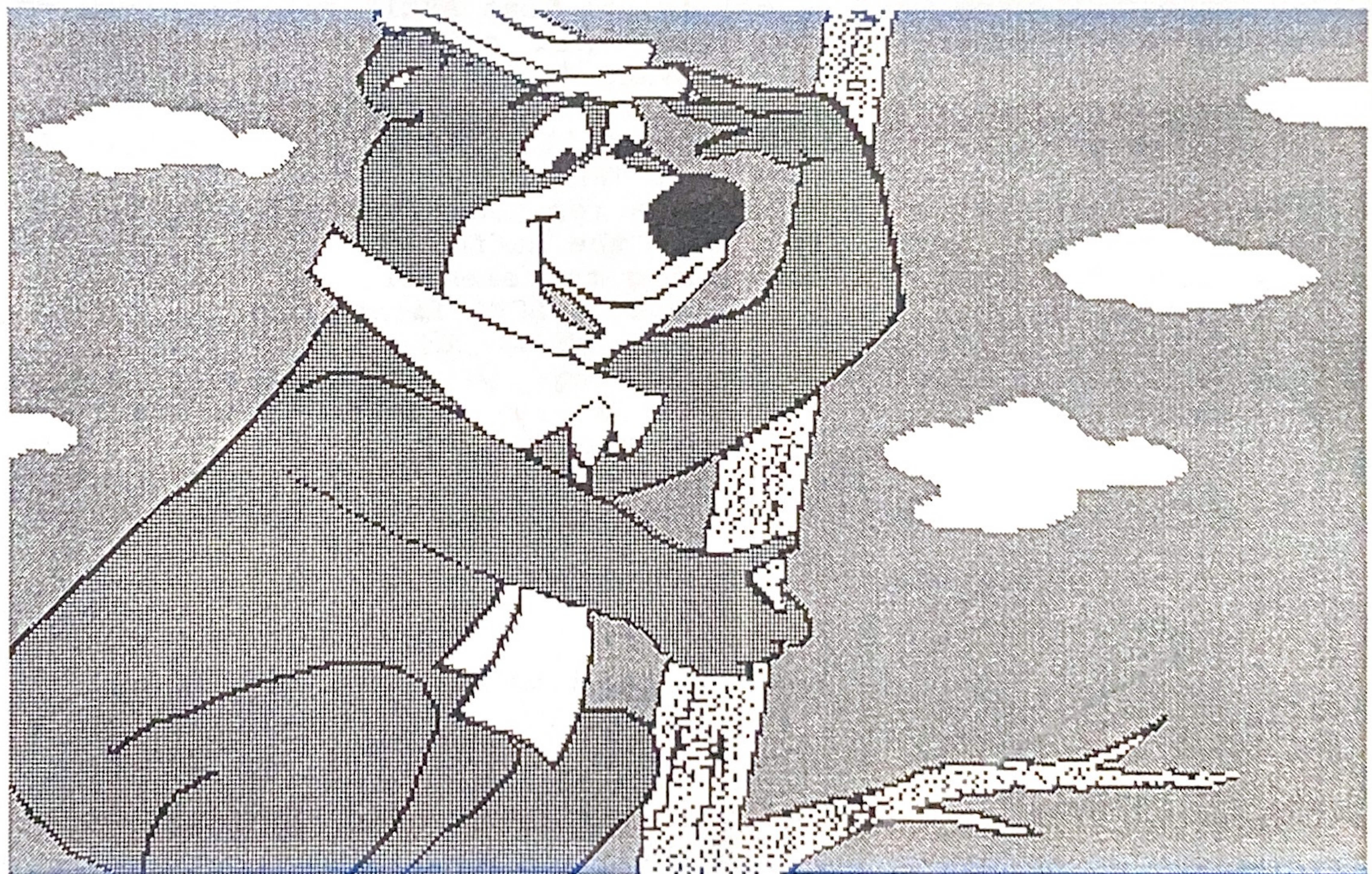


Island CoCo News

Volume: 5 Number: 4



Aug/Sept 1990



The Island CoCo Club

PC BBS

Long Island, New York

Summer Edition

(516) 795-5874

* For the Tandy Color Computer *

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From the Editor:

Hello again, from the Editor's desk..... this summer is really flying. Pretty soon, we'll have to clean the snow off of our cars, to get to the meetings 8).

I haven't heard from anyone yet, about the Editor's position. The earlier, you "sign on", the more "on hands training" I can give you before the switch (Feb/Mar issue of 1991).

On the BBS side, there are a couple of new items..... one of which of course is the new machines that are coming out plus Dave Myer's Atlantic CoCoFest. The other is the new version of the Offline Reader Mail System that is in place.... called TomCat! version 2.0 (this program is not to be confused with the new machine for the CoCo...program's been out for several years). TomCat! v2.0 is reached thru the Message Area via [N] for Net Mail. When you're in TomCat!, first make sure you config your message folders first, using [C], then [F]. The type of file that you, the CoCo user want to get is the Text ASCII one. When you're ready, the program will "get" all of your messages for you.....seeing a flashing or moving "pointer" to the left of the curser. When it's done, it'll ask if you want to receive your message packet.... enter [Y], then it'll ask what type...enter [F] for file. Wait for the program to TELL you it's ready for you to download. NOW, enter your commands for your terminal program, to receive the ASCII text file. Save the buffer to disk when you're done with the download. One thing to remember..... if you read all of the new messages one, by one (SLOW) first, there is nothing left to download using TomCat! v2.0. This program will save you ALOT of online time, by letting you read all of the new messages offline, at your own pace...using your favorite word processor. Log on again to write your relies or two cents. This process may sound a little long or difficult....but after one or two tries (done correctly), it'll be a piece of cake. This could mean the difference between 15 minutes and 30-40 or more by "reading" message by message, and then saving the buffer to disk.

Hope everyone that attended this year's Picnic enjoyed themselves.

Till next time,
Editor/PC BBS Sysop
D.K. Lee

Minutes of the May 14, 1990 meeting of The Long Island CoCo Club

The May meeting of The Long Island CoCo Club was called to order at 7:18 P.M. There were 15 members in attendance.

Old business: The President reminded the membership of getting the proposed by-laws documents back to the Board of Directors. This way the by-laws can be voted on and the club become "Official". A few copies were handed out and received.

New business: The dates for the June, July and August meetings were given. They are the 18th, 23rd and 16th respectively.

Mr. Angus explained how the club gets permission to use the facilities at the Levittown Library. By having by-laws the process is easier. He also asked for the members to bring in software for club demos. We are having more demos with OS-9 than RS-DOS. It really doesn't matter which software package you wish to demo, just bring it in a give it a try.

We received a great package from CoCo-Pro last meeting, along with a hand written note from Mr. Dave Myers. The contents to follow:

CoCo Pro
1334 Byron Avenue
Ypsilanti, Mi. 48198
(313) 481-3283

4-26-90

D.K.

Here are some prizes for your raffle. Sorry for delay- Has been a madhouse around here and it slipped my mind! P.D. disk will be forthcoming as soon as I copy them for the local club. TTYL

Dave

The Company that SAVES you MONEY!

CoCo Pro has a product list on PC-BBS, the board that D.K. Lee runs. Check it out!

There was a small discussion of the new CoCo 4's. Some material was sent to Mr. Angus and others about the TC-9 TOMCAT from Frank Hogg. It look like a great machine.

The treasure report was given and entered into the minutes. The raffle report was also given and entered into the minutes.

D.K. donated disk to the club. Thanks D.K. We also received subscription material from CoCo Clipboard along with a copy of the magazine.

Steve Gilbert gave a demo on Multi-vue and OS-9. It was done very well. Thanks alot Steve.

A reminder to all club members: Please return your copies of the proposed by-laws to the next club meeting. The cut-off time is the August meeting. If you haven't received a copy please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Club. Thank you.

The June meeting of the Long Island CoCo Club was called to order at 7:20 P.M. There were 18 members in attendance.

Mr. Angus introduced the members to the Mc Daniel family and Mr. Joe Ross, a new member. Welcome to the Club.

The raffle drawing was discussed. We are moving, but very slowly. Remember raffle donations go to the Club. There was some discussion of changing the raffle so that people would buy tickets. No decision was reached.

The July meeting will be on the 23rd. The August meeting is on the 16th (a Thursday). Please make note of the new dates. Speaking of dates,

the annual Club picnic will be on the 11th of August at Belmont Lake State Park. Rain date is the 18th of August.

There is a rumor that there might not be any more RAINBOWFESTS. As of this printing the rumor has not been confirmed. We did hear that Mr. Myers, of CoCo Pro, is making plans to have Fest in Atlanta, Ga. When plans are finalized, we'll let you know.

Vice-Pres, Gian has finalized the cut-off date for the proposed by-laws. It will be at the September meeting. The by-laws have a cover sheet and an end sheet. These are used to make any and all comments the members have. We are counting on all members to hand in the copies by the September meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

The newsletter was given out. If you did not receive a copy, then you are in for some bad news. Mr. D.K. Lee the editor of the newsletter is leaving us at the end of his term. We will be sorry to see him go. The president has asked for volunteers to take D.K.'s place. He will assist the new editor in making the transition.

Not only is D.K. the editor of the newsletter, he is also the publisher. It was brought up in the meeting that we will also need a new publisher. Steve Gilbert mentioned he would look into the cost of copying services.

The president opened the mail, old issues of the newsletter were made available. The treasury report was also given and entered into the minutes.

Mr. Dennis Zobel presented this month's club demo. A public domain game called Dungeons and Depths. This game has a feature not many other games do, it is in RS-DOS and OS-9 format. The RS-DOS version has digitized sound. Dennis said the game is well done and the author could have sold it. I agree. The OS-9 version was then presented. All in all, Dungeons and Depths is a very fine game.

After the demo, the club broke up into groups. The meeting ended shortly thereafter.

Well here it is again, time for another Club update for the newsletter. This article will be for the Aug./Sept. newsletter and it's time to think of the future of the Club.

First let me bring you up to date on our membership. We have had full member renewals from James McDaniel, Richard Spreen, and Thomas McArthur. Joe Scalia has renewed but the Pony Express (U.S. Mail) isn't cooperating.

We have had inquiries from as far as Louisiana to Lockport NY. Our Club is well known through the U.S. and Canada. Those of us that use D. K.'s board (PC-BBS) know how far our Club has gone with the Echo D. K. is hooked to.

The Sept. meeting will be the last chance to turn in your By-Law suggestions. Gian has asked that all returns be in so the committee can go through them. The committee has been putting a lot of time into the By-Laws and want to get them finalized and voted on by the Dec. meeting.

Nominations for office are coming in November. It may seem far away but it's time to start thinking of what you want to do for the club. The Club is only as good as the membership. Think seriously about it and come November submit your name.

As we all know D. K. is giving up his position of editor of the newsletter. His last issue will be the Dec./Jan issue. His first issue as editor was the Aug. '86 issue (Vol.1, #5). This isn't bad since he joined the club only a couple of months before. My point is that you don't have to be a seasoned member to help. Come on all, don't let all of D.K.'s work in the past go down the tubes. Call him or Gerald to get yourself information as to what you can do as the NEW editor.

One more thing, no Rainbowfest this year in Somerset. Dave Myers (CoCoPRO!) is running a Fest in Georgia. Best of luck to Dave. William Rosenfeld and his wife are registered to be going so the club will have a first hand report. Take pictures Bill.

Thanks for your patience in reading this.

Irv. Pereira

*** 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).

* Island CoCo Club - Phone Roster: Aug/Sept 1990 *

(Area code is 516 unless otherwise noted)

NAME	PHONE	LOCATION	INTERESTS
Gerald Angus	935-3511	Levittown	Club Pres., CoCo3, OS9II
Chuck Adams		Ellenville	OFA Member
Roy Arnold Jr.	203-633-6662	Connecticut	OFA Member
Larry Bigel	795-3035	Massapequa	ML, Sounds, Graphics
Vince Buccellato	242-5240	Deer Park	Ham Radio
Joe Castelli	788-7506	Bellmore	Founder, J&R Micro Computer
Patrick Dwyer	282-2575	Upton	CoCo3, Pen Pal East
Mrs. Susan Eckers	368-0636	E. Northport	VIP, Graphics
Steve Gilbert	867-6096	Freeport	OS9II HD, OS9 CoSysop
Ira Goldwyn	482-3049	Great Neck	Graphics, BBS'n
Joel Greene	692-5242	Huntington	WP, Graphics, Adv
George Hand	271-1268	Huntington	Utilities
Ronald Hand	271-1268	Huntington	Utilities
Ryan Hushion	798-7119	Massapequa	Games, Adventures
Chris Kenna	654-8626	Patchoque	Games, Adventures
Helene LaBonville	603-472-3369	Bedford, NH	OFA Member
D.K. Lee	795-5874	Massapequa	PC BBS Sysop, Editor
Sandy Leibstein	536-0617	Oceanside	Programming, Games
Gabe Licciardello	289-6212	Patchoque	CoCo3
Richard Mazzoni	718-373-1627	Brooklyn	OFA Member, CoCo2
Thomas McArthur	225-9309	Lindenhurst	CoCo 3, Programming
James McDaniel	718-493-0950	Brooklyn	Club Sec, OS9II HD
Dave Myers	313-481-3283	Michigan	CoCoPRO! Pres
Dennis Neary	326-9021	Elmont	Games, Adventure
Bob Olsen	546-8288	Merrick	CoCo 3, Symphony
Irving Pereira	868-4696	Baldwin	Librarian, CoSysop
Pat Pereira	868-4696	Baldwin	Club Treasurer
Gian Polizzi	794-4906	E. Meadow	V. Pres. Music, Graphics
John Gordon Reid		Woodside	Utils, ADOS3
William Rosenfeld	621-2292	Roslyn Hts.	Graphics, CoCo3
Joe Scalia	694-2219	Farmingdale	CoCo 3
Leo Serber	586-1718	Deer Park	CoCo 3, Utilities
Dean Serpico	794-2156	East Meadow	Pascal
Terry Simons	515-279-2576	Des Moines	Mid-Iowa CoCo, PC BBS west
Richard Spreen	334-2273	Westbury	Utils
Ray Steger	488-7272	Floral Park	Programs
Robert Terrano	358-7525	New Hyde Park	Adventures, Games
Eric Tilenius	271-8456	Huntington	Color Venture Pres, CoCo3
Michael Trammell		N.Y.C.	CoCo 3, Graphics, Co-Sysop
Jim Woods	623-5686	N. Merrick	CoCo 3
Dennis Zobel	698-6197	Centereach	CoCo 3, RAT Viewer, Gms

What are your interests?? Tell us at: Club Roster/Island CoCo Club
P.O. Box 426, Massapequa Park, New York 11762, and we'll put your
interests next to your name.

Next meeting:
Thursday, Dec. 20th, 7:30pm Levittown Library

Looking for the **BEST SERVICE, BEST SELECTION,**
and **BEST PRICES** on your CoCo shopping needs?

CoCo PRO!

At CoCoPRO!, we bring you the best **VALUE** for your CoCo shopping dollar. We carry a wide variety of **NEW** hardware products at prices *too low* to advertise, **gently USED** hardware products (with full 30-day warranty), as well as something you will find *nowhere* else. . . **gently USED SOFTWARE** at **INCREDIBLE** savings (30-80%) over full retail (easy on the *wallet*, easy on the *conscience*)!! Our inventory changes **daily**, and contains at least 120 of your favorite CoCo software titles at all times!! All legitimate copies, with full documentation!!

HOW can you find out what bargains await you in our current inventory?

Send \$3 (refundable with \$20 purchase) for our Catalog on Disk, or \$10 for 12 monthly issues.

*** OR ***

If you have a modem, call our BBS for the latest listing of inventory, with **ONLINE ORDERING** via VISA/MC!! BBS no. is (313)663-6207 (5 lines, 7-E-1, 3-1200. Type "coco" at login prompt.).

*Call or write TODAY. . . before someone else gets that
item you've been looking for!!*

CoCo PRO!

1334 Byron
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
(313)481-DAVE(3283)

We accept VISA, MASTERCARD, Checks, and Money Orders. Credit Card orders, please add 5% to total. All orders shipped same day via UPS Ground. C.O.D. orders add \$4.00.

BEGINNER'S CORNER by Robert Gault

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: DSKINI0,2. 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 DDS. (if your system, Dos 1.0, does not have the DDS 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.

BEGINNER'S CORNER by Robert Gault

Repeat the process as follows:

```
build drived1
```

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

```
modpatch drived1
```

```
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 `DD_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.

BEGINNER'S CORNER by Robert Gault

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.

THE SOFTWARE STORY
HOW TO TALK TO A COMPUTER AND HOW TO USE IT

(6/25/90 Talk to Roslyn Retired Executives and Professionals.)

by Bill Rosenfeld

Don't take the subject title too literally or else the man in the white coat will come to get you, should he learn about it from someone who might overhear you.

To start off, your computer is Deaf and Dumb. It wants a Boss to do the thousand and thousand of things it has the potential to do. The act of "Talking to a Computer" is actually that of conveying intelligent, simple instructions to the computer which relays them to its accessories. When it responds to your instructions, and /or commands, it performs tasks in a fraction of the time it would take to do them in the normal longhand way.

I don't pretend that this single session will enable you to master the technique of computer operation. My aim is to dispel some of the exaggerated mystiques of computer use and to instill confidence that with instruction and practice you will have a handy multipurpose tool that will be easier to master than learning Contract Bridge, Chess or a Musical Instrument.

"SOFTWARE" is the term for the different ways and means you can use to instruct and command the computer to perform a wide variety of tasks. I'll elaborate on that later on.

The equipment assembled here is the "HARDWARE" which Harold Bass spoke about so brilliantly and understandingly on May 7th.

To identify these units: Computer with Keyboard, Disk Drives, Monitor (Visual Display Unit), and Printer. All these units are cabled together to interrelate with one another. Their power cords are controlled by one master switch. All units have power cords that plug into receptacles. In this case, the receptacles are on a separate plug-in unit controlled by one switch which is the master switch. When turned on, all units are simultaneously powered.

You, the User, manage and handle the Software.

There is a well-known saying among millions of Users: "To err is human; but use a computer to really screw up". But that is a gross exaggeration! You won't go wrong if you follow simple rules I will touch on. If do you make an error, it usually is harmless and correctable. The computer will spell out a message on the screen and display a text message about your having made an error. It will suspend further operation until you have made the necessary correction which usually involves a spelling mistake by you of a command or the Floppy Disk placed wrong side up in the Disk Drive, or other types of harmless departures from proper procedure. The computer reacts to your input. If you make a mistake, it does not have the capability of guessing what you have in mind. Operation rules are simple enough. Every mistake you make will be a learning experience so don't let making goofs floor you.

I selected a program with the File Name "Finance" most retirees might be interested to see. The computer will figure out current value of Bank deposits in saving accounts or certificate of deposits.

typical demonstration of a computer using Software to do its thing. The Chart on the Right shows what I type on the Keyboard. The Chart on the Left shows what appears on the Screen (VDU Monitor).

First, Switch on the Power. All units are made operative with putting on the Master Switch.

This is a Floppy Disk. (I'll explain the wherefors and whyfors after the demonstration).

I insert the Floppy Disk in the lower slot of the Disk Drive and turn down the latch, which unseen by you, lowers a magnetic reading head.

The program "Finance" is stored in this Floppy. The label on the Floppy disk sleeve lists the programs. To double check, I type "DIR" and press <ENTER> What I just performed is called "Input". In other words, I put in a command in the language the computer understands. The command "DIR" made the computer show a DIRectoru listing on the Screen of all the programs, also known as files, that had been previously been Saved, or recorded, on the disk.

In the listing is the file name "FINANCE". Now I can proceed with the 'loading' (or transferring) the program to the computer RAM (Random Access Memory) allowing me to run (or operate the prrogram) . If I am certain the program is on this floppy, I can proceed without typing DIR.

I type-< LOAD "Finance"> - and press <ENTER>. The word 'LOAD' is the key command. Note that the file name must be in quotation marks. A red indicator light glows onthe Disk Drive. When the program is loaded, the red light goes off and the screen shows "O.K." and a blinking small rectangle, called the cursor, appears prompting the User to type in the next command. This means the Floppy has loaded the program in the computer and I can now run it. So, I type "RUN", another key command word, and press <ENTER>.

Lo and Behold! The Screen says:

"SELECT THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED:"

"<A> LOAN PAYMENT"
" FUTURE VALUE"
"<C> PRESENT VALUE"
"<D> COMPOUND INTEREST"
"<E> END"

This is known as a User Friendly program because it prompts you and gives you a choice of different financial activities. The listed items from which you can choose is logically called a "MENU".

I want to figure the value of a \$1,000 bank deposit at the end of 6 months compounded daily at 9% interest. So I press <D>. Now press <ENTER>

The screen shows:

"COMPOUND INTEREST"

"DEPOSIT \$? (Note that the '?' is blinking which means the computer wants you to type in the amount. You type '1000' and press <ENTER>. Then another line appears)

"ANNUAL INTEREST %? - Type "9" and <ENTER>. This causes

COMPOUNDS <A>DAILY: MONTHLY : <C>QUARTERLY : <D>SEMI-ANNUALLY
<E> ANNUALLY.

Type <A> for " Compound Daily " and
<ENTER>. Next line appears.

NUMBER OF COMPOUNDING
PERIODS?

Since 6 months has 183 days, Type 183.

The program has asked for all the necessary data needed to figure the value of your deposit at the end of 6 months, compounded daily and you have given it all the answers (or 'DATA'). Now, without any further help from you, the program activates its embedded mathematic logic and in a split second you see displayed (another way of saying "shows on the screen"):

A DEPOSIT OF \$1000.00
AT 9 % INTEREST ANNUALLY
OR 0.0250% INTEREST EACH DAY
WILL HAVE A VALUE OF \$1046.81
AT THE END OF 183 DAYS
ANOTHER <Y> <N>?

If "N" is typed, the original Menu appears to permit you to use one of the other Finance programs or to END this File which clears the computer to accept another File load. The "Y" would repeat the same Compound Interest format to handle other values of principal, interest rate, etc. "N" signifies "No". "Y" signifies "Yes" to repeat the same program.

After ending the program, you now remove the disc before turning the power off and then switch off the power. Never allow the disk to remain in the Drive Slot when you turn the power off. The power cut-off removes the "Finance" program from the computer RAM memory but the program is retained in the Floppy Disk and will constantly remain there if properly stored. When you want to run this program again, you load it in the manner I described above.

You have now seen the application of Software in the form of a Floppy Disk. The Hardware, the computer and its accessories, also known as its peripherals, read the program and when the user tells it by way of typing in the instruction to RUN, the computer is guided to display the text and to perform the mathematics that is made available in the Software program. It only will perform when you give (type in) the Data the prompts request.

While operating this program, the results can be printed on paper. This is known as "Hardcopy", not to be confused with "Hardware". The operation of the printer is a topic requiring separate discussion. Many programs are written to automatically print the text which appears on the display screen

The display screen and printer are known as Output devices. The Disk Drives, Keyboard are known as Input devices. The reasons for these names are obvious.

You don't have to know the technical details about how a computer does its thing. All you have to know is how to run the software. Just keep in mind that most people can run a car without knowing beans about its motor's valves, pistons and other mechanical parts.

The three most common types of Software are Recorder Cassette Tapes, Floppy Disks and the Keyboard. Software is the heartbeat of the computer's vitality. Without Software, the computer is only a piece of purposeless

machinery.

Demonstration:

Cassette - very slow in loading program. But the least costly way to store and run programs using recorder audio tape.

Floppy Disk - extremely fast in loading a program. Seconds.

Keyboard - Input (typing) by User supplies instantaneous Software.

Some computer scientists call Software the "Tail that wags the Dog".

The "Dog" is always obedient. It will always do what you command it to do but the rules governing the usage of Software must be followed.

You can not do any harm to the computer or to the Software as long as you follow the basic rule of removing the Floppy Disks before you turn off the power or improperly storing your Floppy Disks. They should be stored in a Disk case, straight up (not stacked on top of one another) and kept at a distance from any other magnetic fields generated by radios, VCRs, motors, etc.

The system you see here is the most powerful Color Computer of Tandy RadioShack. It is called COCO 3 - 512K - Extended Color Basic

COCO is derived from the first two letters of each of the two words- CO lor CO mputer.

I started with an early model of COCO in 1982 and have constantly upgraded it. This one is 32 times more powerful than my first. I've stayed with COCO because it has a great choice of programs, it worked faster than most low cost computers and the tremendous network of Radio Shack stores for service and supplies..

Fundamently, all computers use the same Basic software language. The word Basic is an acronym for Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. But because of differences in the electronic engineering of different makes, programs written for one make can not be run on a another make, unless the two different makes are claimed to be "compatible" and at that one can not run 100% of the others programs.

The command words for COCO are about the same as programs of other makes but unless the makes are not compatible, the program written on, say, a Commodore will not run on a MacIntosh.

Generally speaking, there has been a lack of universal standardization in the computer industry.

But when you stay with the make of your choice, as I have with the Tandy Color Computer, there is a large selection of programs available to home users. In addition, new current programs are always being introduced.

This does not hold true for involved technical and complicated business records. But the average home user is not concerned with high-tech equipment and finds a system like Tandy Color Computer more than adequate at an affordable price for the average person..

Today, the IBM PC (personal computer) selling at top prices with built-in internal disk drives and embedded programs has more or less become the industry

standard but new developments are constantly being introduced making the older, I'll use the term, - High-Tech models obsolete. The simpler models like Tandy COCO, Commodore, Apple MacIntosh can satisfy the needs of plain Ms. or Mr. Home Computer User for years to come.

There are four (4) major categories of computer softwear.

- Home/Hobby - Word Processing for ease of editing, neatness and storage. Financial Records. Personal Files. Games. Music. Security Systems.
- Education - Tutorial Instructions such as Foreign Languages, Card Games, Children Pre-School Reading, etc.
- Business - Basic bookkeeping. Balance Sheets. Profit & Loss Statement
- Professional - Report preparations. Graphic Comparison Charts. Calendar and Appointment entries. Mailing Lists.

Software Programs that are copyright protected can run very high in cost. However, there is a large selection of Software known as Public Domain which is not copyrighted and can be legally copied. The cost of Public Domain software is low, if not free. Computer clubs maintain Software libraries. Members can borrow Disks. I belong to the ISLAND COCO CLUB which meets monthly at the Levittown Public Library. The Club library has at least 5,000 programs available to its members. There are clubs for most makes. The clubs are known as SIG or Special Interest Group for their particular system.

Copying a Public Domain disk program is even simpler and faster than duplicating a VCR cassette tape or an Audio Recorder cassette tape.

The Knowhow to do all the procedures I have touched on are covered in explicit detail in Operating Instruction Manuals that accompany the computer and related accessories. Many Software programs have printed documentation. And many programs show instructions on the screen the way the newer models of VCRs display instructions on the television screen.

To keep up with current trends, there are excellent Computer magazines published monthly and available on the newsstands.

I recommend the following books for both beginners and experts which are available at public libraries.

Time/Life "Understanding Computers"

"Computers: An Introduction" by Roger Ford & Oliver Strimpel.

I also have some brochures on permanent Computer exhibits which you can take with you. One is "The AT&T INFOQUEST CENTER" at 550 Madison Avenue, New York, NY. The other is "The Computer Museum" which just opened a new division in Boston. It would pay to make this a focal point when you visit Boston. It is a living classroom for people of all ages housed in 53,000 square feet of space in the downtown area. You can enter a Walk-Through Computer which is fifty(50) times larger than life format and see how it handles data.

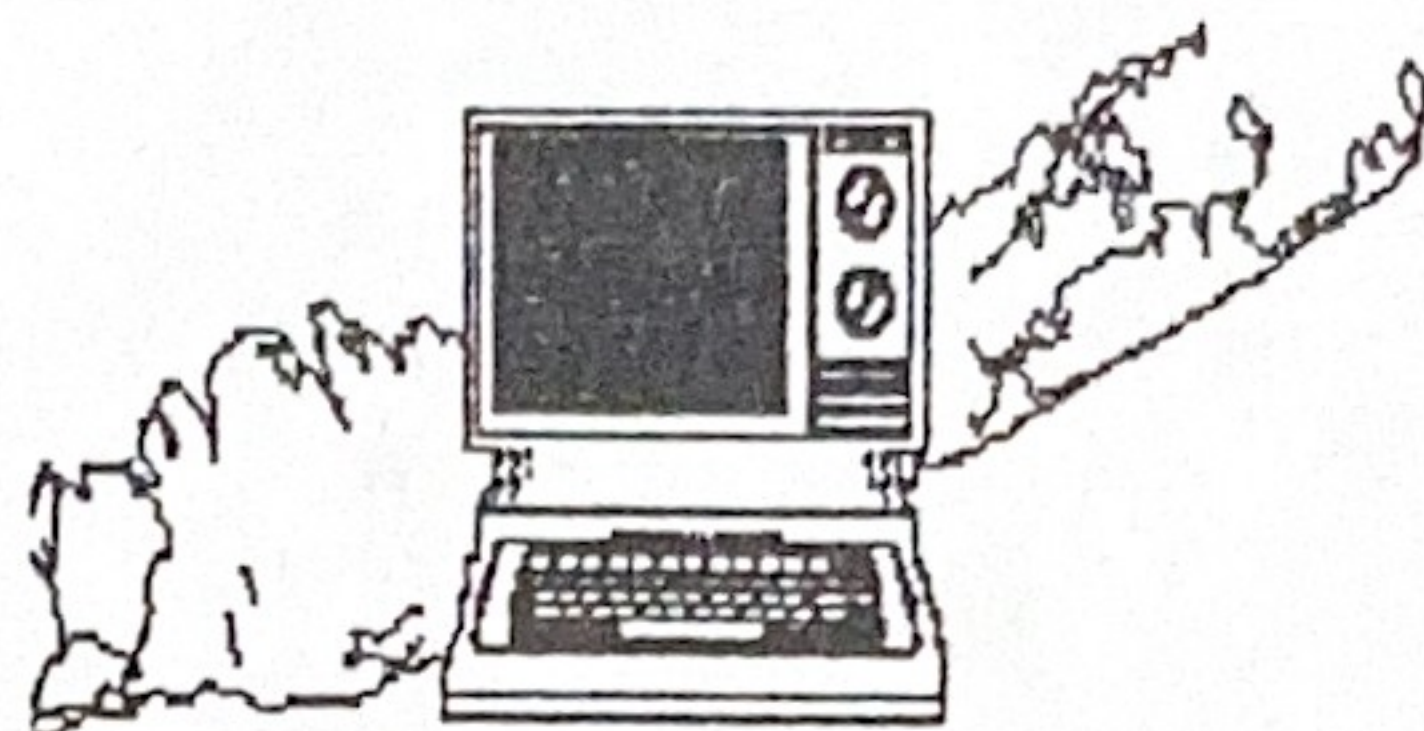
You can start shooting questions at me but don't be too technical. They say there is nothing new under the Sun but that saying was made before the advent of computers. As Will Rogers said "I only know what I read in the papers". But I haven't read all that's readable about Computers. There is no end to the road of continuous amazement and mental stimulation. Keep in mind - "No matter how much you know about your computer, there is more to learn".

Thank you.

*** ATTENTION ***

If you live on Long Island, this is the User's Group for you !!!

- * Monthly meetings in Central Long Island
- * Meet other Color Computer User's in your Area
- * Large Library of Public Domain CoCo Programs
- * Large Newsletter, Discounts on Merchandise, Helpful Members



The Island CoCo Club **Become part of the Club TODAY!!**

*** * Membership Form * ***

YES! I wish to join The Island CoCo Club - Long Island's User's Group for the TRS-80 Color Computer. I have read and signed the statement below and am enclosing dues as follows:

() New Member \$35.00/yr () Renewal Member \$20.00/yr () OFA Member \$15.00/yr
() New Family \$45.00/yr () Renewal Family \$25.00/yr () OFA Renewal \$7.50/yr

Family Membership covers everyone in your Family with ONE VOTE & ONE Newsletter.

OFA (Out of Area) is for CoCo Users out of the L.I. Area as well Users that can never make a meeting, with Newsletter mailing and no Voting (Public Domain Library list is available).

MAKE CHECK payable to: Pat Pereira, Club Treasurer. Mail this form, along with payment to; The Island CoCo Club P.O. Box 426 Massapequa Park, New York 11762 or bring this form with you to a meeting!

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

TOWN, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: () _____

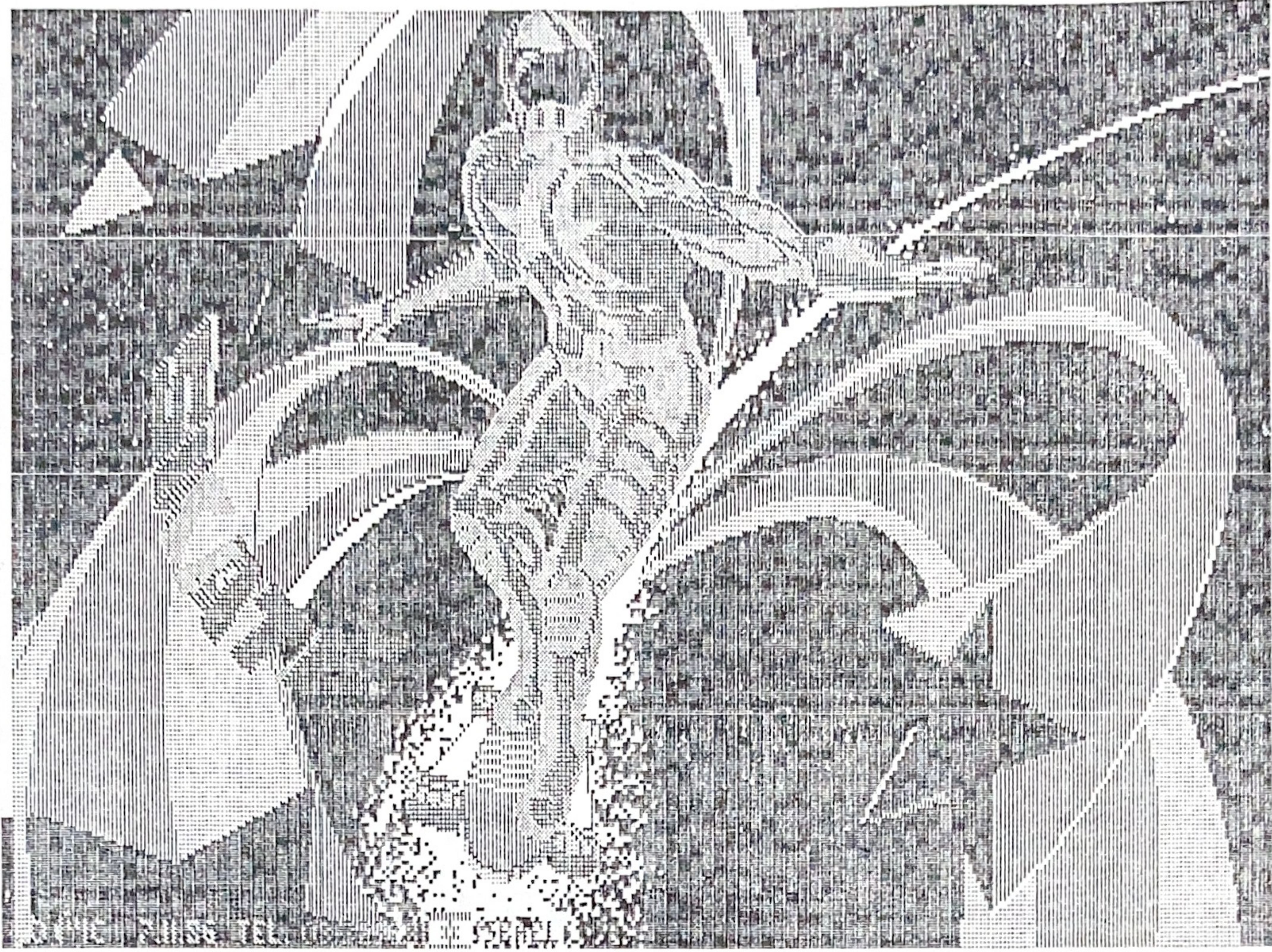
Your CoCo Setup: CoCo 1 (), CoCo 2 (), CoCo 3 (), 64K (), 128K (), 512K ()

Monitor (), TV (), Modem (), Disk Drives (), OS9 (), Printer ()—specify _____

"I do hereby indicate my desire to join The Island CoCo Club. I agree to abide by any rules the Club passes, and I understand that all programs in the Club Library are for Member enjoyment and trial use only. I promise not to copy, give, or pirate any software package borrowed from the Club. I further agree to hold the Club, and its Officers blameless for any actions, or consequences of any action, taken by the Club. I realize that failure to comply with Club Regulations may result in my expulsion without reimbursement of dues." YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES COMPLETE AGREEMENT !

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____



From: The Island CoCo Club
P.O. Box 426
Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762