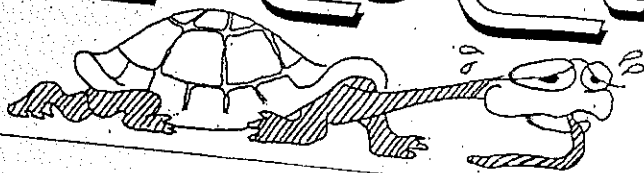


Niagara Regional COCO Club



6483 Kendale Court, Niagara Falls, Ont., L2H-1Z2, 416-354-7113
***** N E W S L E T T E R *****

NEXT MEETING: Feb. 14, 1988, 1:00 PM. CONFEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL, WELLAND

ISSUE: NL-53
PRESIDENT: Rob Lawson....354-7113
VICE PRES.: Tim Woodward.871-7235
OS9 GROUP: Steve Phillip.835-2079
STORES: John Hadley.....734-3061
EPROMMER: Bob Patty.....937-6794
GROUP LIST: Clem Faucher.934-1175
WELLAND: Russ Hall.....735-2136
FT.ERIE: Tim Woodward....934-1175
N. FALLS: Rob Lawson....354-7113
ST. KITTS: John Felker...682-2595

DATE: Jan. 12, 1988
TREASURER: George Dean.....356-8037
SECRETARY: Ken Halbert.....354-9061
TECHNICAL: Walter Jutting...641-0798
TESTING: Russ Hall.....735-2136
COCO III: Blair LeDuc.....646-3359

WELLAND: Goeff Lee Ott.....734-9246
PT. COLBOURNE: Jerry Bunz....835-8290
N. FALLS: Jackie Zufelt....357-3280
ST. KITTS: Ray Zason.....682-2081

FROM THE PRES:

I HOPE I'M NOT WRITING TOO LOUD!!! I'm listening to my Walkman and I can't hear a thing. These things are great! I can see the wives lips moving and her arms waving around and the kids running around crazy, but I can't hear them. I should have bought this thing years ago. The problem with Walkmans is that because the music sounds so loud, you have a habit of yelling when you talk. Many time I've scared the poop out of the dog (not to mention my wife) just by saying "SIT DOWN". If she would have bought me my COCOIII, I wouldn't have to yell like that.

Did anybody notice Loyd Hodges at the last meeting? How could you not notice. He was the guy who had all the computer stuff for sale. For a minute there, I thought I was in a Radio Shack store. It's amazing how much stuff you can accumulate over the years or in Loyds case, months. I started drooling when I saw his COCOIII for sale. I was going to ask if he would trade a slightly used Walkman for it (I'd even throw in a genuine Miami Vice Tshirt), but his wife was with him and she had that 'I want cash!' look in her eye. Loyd will probably bring back some of the stuff he didn't sell. This might be your chance to get a good bargoon.

I was surprised there was no COCII's for sale. Does that mean nobody got a COCOIII for Christmas? Tim (Mr. VP) said that people were hanging on to them for spares because they are such a good cmputer.

12K UPDATES:

ordered 10 512K updates (another benefit of joining our club) and they e all sold within the first hour of the meeting (2 boards are reserved

for 2 members). Clem dominated my "FOR SALE" table and put the boards in (another benefit of joining our club). Thanks Clem; you're a hero now!

\$\$\$\$ TREASURERS REPORT \$\$\$\$\$:

I almost had a heart attack when George Dean (Mr. Money) told me that we had about \$2,300.00 in the kitty. This is because we were paid for the 512K boards, but we still owe Clem (he put it on his VISA). That still leaves us with about \$1,100.00 which isn't all that bad. Now that we're rich, I'll buy 2 dozen coconut donuts for the next exec meeting.

TIMS TIPS: Did you know that you could flip a COCOII right over by hitting it real hard at the bottom of the keyboard with your fist?

PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS:

Three programs were suggested:

- 1) OS9 MULTIVIEW
- 2) PYRAMIX (128K)--like CUBER and CUBIX
- 3) VORTEX FACTOR--graphic adventure

Because we already have a COCOII version of PYRAMIX, we felt there was no need in buying another version of that game. As for VORTEX FACTOR, some kid really did a great con job at the last meeting. He pulled all the execs aside one at a time and told them what a great game it was. At the exec meeting I said I heard it was a great game and all the execs started yelling "YEAH, ME TOO, ME TOO". Good job fella, you should run for pres. OS9 MULTIVIEW is at the top of our list. As soon as the programs we have already ordered come in, we will get these two.

We are going to order a new set of diagnostic disks for Walter (Mr. FIXIT). This new set will even test the new Radio Shack double sided drives (another benefit of joining our club). We need them. They are a must.

AT THE EXECUTIVE MEETING:

For the past couple of months, nothing was getting accomplished at the exec meetings. They would last for about 4 hours and we would talk about everything EXCEPT THE CLUB!. Then all of a sudden, it was like BANG! BANG! Maxwells silver hammer came down on our heads (where'd I hear that before?). I was so excited about what had happened that I stayed up until 2:00 AM trying to put everything down on paper. A voice from above called to me and said "Rob, you've been given some good suggestions tonight. DON'T SCREWEETH UP! And by the way, eateth those last 3 coconut donuts before thy children seeith them in the morning". So I made myself another cup of tea, piled the donuts in front of me and started writing (and eating).

This is what happened. We had 2 guests at the meeting: Roy Fisher from Radio Shack (I knew it was him because he still had his name tag on) and Blair Leduc from St. Catherines.

Blair has volunteered to put an article in the newsletter about the COCOIII and OS9. I said "The only way you can put anything in MY newsletter is by becoming a club exec". He said "OK". (HA HA, he fell for it). Hence the new name at the top of the newsletter. Blair is very knowledgeable about the COCOIII and OS9 and we really appreciate having him on the committee (I don't know why. He ate 3 of my coconut donuts). I'm quite excited to

see what he has to say.

I was very glad to see Roy Fisher. Roy works at Radio Shack at Towers Plaza in the Falls. We asked him why some COCO accessories are only sold in the States. He said he would contact his District Manager. Who knows, maybe we can get some of that stuff over here. Roy had some good thoughts and suggestions for the club. Although he didn't actually volunteer for the committee, he didn't get up and leave half way through, so that must mean he's a bit interested. What do you think Roy; free coffee and coconut donuts!!!

A suggestion was made and I'm sorry, I don't know who made it because I was begging George Dean for money for stamps. I'm not sure if it was Roy or Russ and I apologize for not catching it right away but I started listening when Russ spoke up. He said that the clubs main function is to get people to use the computer, not just to play games, but to utilize it to it's fullest extent. Too many people join the club expecting free games and if they don't get games, they just wouldn't use their computers. The club should be a place to learn.

At each meeting, we're going to demonstrate a couple of programs that the club has purchased in the past. What a simple idea! Demonstrate the clubs programs! Why didn't I think of that. (I probably did, but I was too busy eating a coconut donut to suggest it first).

At the next meeting, we will demonstrate the club database. The database was written in basic by Russ Hall and he's very proud of it. If you'd like to copy it (yes we can copy it because we have the authors permission. It's the other stuff we can't copy) bring 4 double sided disks. They MUST be formatted! If you need help in formatting diskettes, call your group leader before the next meeting or call the guys at Radio Shack, they might know.

We will also demonstrate a disk utility program. This program is used to copy and maintain disk data files. It is a very useful program for disk users. There is a lot of people who have drives and don't know how to use them properly.

The good thing about these demos is that they will be part of the formal meeting, then Staves OS9 and Tims Basic specialty groups can do their own thing.

If you'd like to see any program that the club has purchased in the past demonstrated, let me know. This is what the club is all about...LEARNING! (another benefit of joining our club).

We'd like to start a COCO recipe database soon so get those little recipe cards out of your kitchen drawer and look up a few of your favorite ones. We'd love to have them on disk. We'll even give a prize for a couple of the best recipes and you as a member will have access to the clubs recipe database (another benefit of joining our club). I've got a winner (created it myself). I call it "CHEESY DONUTS". It combines supper & dessert into one.. Make some Kraft Dinner and pour it over a coconut donut. Wait 50 seconds while the Kraft Dinner 'coagulates' around the donut, then just pick it up with your fingers and eat it.

NOMINATIONS (it's about time!):

Yes, it's that time again. Nominations for next years executive committee

should be sent in now! The positions up for grabs are: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER and SECRETARY. All the other positions are volunteers. If you nominate someone, you must have thier approval first. You must sign it and put your membership number on it to be valid. This is a serious matter. It could very well determine the future of the club.

THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT! *****:

Whoever arrives at the school first and sees the caretaker, make sure he opens 2 classrooms for our seminars. It seems he forgot last month. This is the second month in a row that Steve Philips OS9 group didn't have a place to meet.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Jeff Collins won \$16.50 in the 50/50 draw (another benefit of joining the club).

There's a guy who lives on Sinniks Ave in the Falls and wants to come to the club but can't get a ride. If any one lives near Sinniks and would like to give him a ride next month, please call me.

I'm taking bets to see if TIMS TIPS will appear this month.

Think up a name for Blairs new column I'll give 5 silver dollars for the best name (we'll vote on it).

FORSALES & TOOBUYS:

FOR SALE: 8 MC10 computers \$30.00 each.
Brand new. Still in the boxes.
Great beginners computers to learn Basic.
4K, expandable to 20K with optional Radio Shack expansion board.
See Russ Hall.

FOR SALE: COCOII (64K) \$100.00. See the Pres. It's not mine. Somebody wants me to sell it for him (another benefit of joining our club).

FOR SALE: All Loyds stuff. See it at the next meeting.

ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE (neither does ROB):

I moved from my old house to my present house 2 years ago. My new address is at the top of the newsletter and for the last 2 months, 2 so called execs (no names) went to my old house for the meeting.

IN CONCLUSION:

- 1) Fill out your membership form for the club database.
- 2) Fill out the nomination sheet (go ahead, nominate yourself).
- 3) Bring a suggestion or two for the club.

If you have a portable TV that gets channel 15, bring it to the next meeting (FEB 14). When we do these demos, we will be transmitting the picture via a video sender.

Here's some food for thought. Did you know that they named the donut after the Colour Computer? Yes.....they couldn't call it a COLOURNUT DONUT so they called it a.....COCONUT DONUT! Remember me? I'm the Pres.

Rob

BUT NOT FOR LONG!!
Rob's Wife.

Tim's Tips

Question 1

How do you load the OS9 side of the Rainbow on Disk ??

This answer I obtained from the Rainbow Magazine under the section "RAINBOW INFO" which is printed every month with the subtitles :

What's a CoCo
Rainbow Check Plus
OS-9 and Rainbow on Disk
The Rainbow Seal

The information is always the same so you can refer to it anytime ,but I'll summarize it here.

The OS9 side of Rainbow on disk has two directories :

CMDS - containing executable programs
SOURCE - contains the ASCII source code for the programs

On this disk is also a file called READ.ME.FIRST, which explains the directories.

If a BASIC09 program is included on the disk it will be found in the Source directory.

To load ,use or copy the programs follow this steps: -

1. Load your master OS9 disk by typing DOS then pressing enter.
2. At the SHELL or OS9 prompt type LOAD DIR LIST COPY and press enter.
3. If you only have one drive, after the drive stops, take out your OS9 disk and put in the OS9 side of Rainbow on Disk.Type CHD /D0 and press enter.
4. If you have two drives, put the Rainbow on Disk in drive 1 ,then type CHD /D1 and press enter.
5. To see the READ.ME.FIRST file ,type LIST READ.ME.FIRST and press enter. On the COCO3's ,use CTRL W to pause the scrolling text.
6. Typing DIR will give you a directory of the OS9 side of Rainbow on Disk. To see what in CMDS type DIR CMDS and press enter or to see the SOURCE directory, type DIR SOURCE and press enter.
7. If you find a program you want to save to your own OS9 disk:
 - for one drive: COPY /D0/CMDS/filename /D0/CMDS/filename -s
 - for two drives: COPY /D1/CMDS/filename /D0/CMDS/filename

- where filename is the name of the program you want to save to your own disk.

Change CMDS to SOURCE if the program you want is in the SOURCE directory.

8. To execute a program from the CMDS directory, type the name of the program and press enter. If this gets an error try :

LOAD /d0/cmds/filename -for a single drive ,then hit enter

LOAD /d1/cmds/filename - for two drives , then hit enter

-where filename is the name of the program you want to execute. Then type the name of the program and press enter

All the commands above can be in uppercase or lowercase.

DON'T forget that this same information is in every issue of the RAINBOW under the title of "RAINBOW INFO".

Question 2

Is it possible to upgrade the CoCo 2 to 128k and if possible will they run certain 128k programs on it ??

To answer the first part of the question, I'd have to say yes, a CoCo 2 can be upgraded to 128k and as much as 512k. The upgrades are sold through a number of companies, one of them being Spectrum Projects, which sold ThunderRam for the CoCo1, and Super RAMDisk for all types of CoCo2. The cost in American funds was anywhere from \$120 to \$200, which usually included some software to use the new memory.

The problem with these types of upgrades is that they were never excepted by all the software companies, so there was very little choice of programs. The best they were for was to store programs in for quick access. Another costly drawback was the fact that you also needed a Multi-Pak to use them on the CoCo2. The price of the Multi-Pak, back in 1985-86 ranged from \$240 to \$130 dollars, which made the cost of this kind of upgrade quite expensive.

Of course, back then we didn't know about the CoCo3, so they were an alternative to the limited memory of the CoCo2.

Now, to answer the second part of the question. Will they run certain 128k programs ?

I'm assuming you mean the latest 128k programs, because there really wasn't much software available for the upgrades I just told you about.

The answer is NO.

The latest 128k - 512k programs are written for the CoCo3, and because of the way the CoCo3 manipulates the memory, plus the use of the many new registers, which the new programs utilize, they WILL NOT work on the older styles of upgrades.

Scruffy's Scribbles

As with most computer companies, when making changes in their computer design, they try to keep downwards compatibility. This is true with IBM, where the IBM XT, their second computer, would run IBM PC programs, their first computer, and the IBM AT, their third computer, would run IBM XT and IBM PC programs, but not the other way around.

This holds true for the COCOs' too. The CoCo3 will run at least 95 % of the CoCo2 programs, the other 5 % being programs written by programmers not heeding Radio Shacks warnings of not to use a particular area of memory, that Radio Shack had designated for their own future use, which with the development of the CoCo3, they held true to their word and used it.

Unfortunately, the CoCo2s, will NOT run CoCo3 programs.

Well, I hope you all had a good holiday and a nice January seeing that this letter was supposed to be in last months newsletter. Well excuse me ,ROB.

Welcome to 1988, Our, if my memory is right, Sixth year as a computer club.

CoCo 3 Corner

This month we will look at 512K of memory for the CoCo 3. From what I see, a lot of people don't really know what 512K of memory will do. Tim's tips (Dec. 13, 1987) showed how to access 512K and the technical aspect of it, but here we'll just look at the user's end it--what it can do for you.

First thing people hear is that if they get a 512K memory board installed, they can have a **RAM Disk**. Now, what is a RAM Disk? Well, to put it simply, it's an area of RAM set aside by a machine language program, and this program then uses the set aside memory to mimic a disk drive. So, when you turn on your 512K CoCo 3, you'll first have to load the machine language program before you can use the RAM Disk. So, for example, if you had a large database, or even a game that access the disk frequently, you could BACK UP the file or game disks into the RAM Disks. The advantage to this is that the RAM Disk is much faster than the regular hardware because there are no moving parts which slow things down. The RAM Disks will load in programs almost instantaneously.

When you get 512K RAM, you also get a **Print Spooler**. SPOOL means **S**imultaneous **P**eripheral **O**perations **O**n **L**ine. This means that the print spooler temporarily stores the information that is sent to the printer in memory, and then sends the information to the printer while you use your computer to do other things. This is done by a machine language program (also on the disk that came with Disto's 512K RAM board, the RAM Disks and the spooler are in the same program) and it too must be loaded in after the CoCo 3 is turned on. An example is that you can list a program to the printer and work on it at the same time! This would be a big plus for those who use database programs.

Also, with 512K of memory, OS-9 level II is open to you. This is a dream to programmers, but also the users will benefit from it. For example, all programs that Radio Shack sells for the CoCo 3 are written under OS-9. As a user, you will notice the more memory because the program or game will be easier to run. For example, to run the game Rogue, you have to type:

```
ex rogue savedgam.sav -x
```

But with 512K of memory, you just have to type:

```
rogue savedgam.sav
```

Also, you'll be able to run programs that need 512K of memory, and it will be worth it! For example, Sub Battle Simulator, King Quest III, and Multi-View.

That's it for this month. Next month I hope to start into OS-9. If you have any suggestions, or wish a topic expanded, just leave your suggestion in the suggestion box, or ask me.

See you at the next meeting,

Blair Leduc

Blair Leduc

Name: _____ Member No: _____
Street: _____ Postal Code: _____
City: _____
Computer: _____ K Memory _____ Monitor ___ / TV ___ Printer Type: _____
16-64-128-512
Dos: 1.0 ___ / 1.1 ___ Disk Drive: ___ / ___ / ___ Tape User: _____
Check One 0 1 2
Mouse: _____ Graphic Board: _____
Special Equipment: _____

Comments: _____

NIAGARA REGIONAL COCO CLUB
EXECUTIVE NOMINATION FORM

YOU MUST HAVE THE PERSONS APPROVAL THAT YOU ARE NOMINATING.
YOU MUST SIGN THE NOMINATION FORM
YOU MUST PUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER ON THE NOMINATION FORM

PRESIDENT: _____

VICE PRESIDENT: _____

TREASURER: _____

SECRETARY: _____

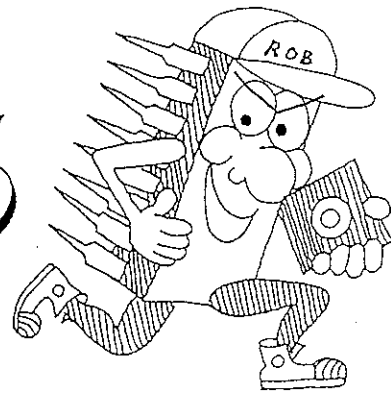
MEMBER FULL NAME: _____ MEMBERSHIP#: _____



Mark Pacan
1055 Chantler Rd.
Fenwick Ont.
LOS 100 08/88

100
100

Niagara Regional CoCo Club



6483 Kendale Court, Niagara Falls, Ont., L2H-1Z2, 416-354-7113

***** NEWSLETTER *****

NEXT MEETING: Mar. 13, 1988, 1:00 PM. CONFEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL, WELLAND

ISSUE: NL-54

PRESIDENT: Rob Lawson....354-7113
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DATE: Feb. 20, 1988

TREASURER: George Dean.....356-8037
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N. FALLS: Jackie Zufelt....357-3280
ST. KITTS: Ray Zason.....641-0777

FROM THE PRES...

I took my walkman to work with me. I've been working late quite a bit lately and it gets pretty lonely in my office at night. Now I can sit there rockin and a rollin to the music. It really helps the time go fast. I'm working on my computer, typing like crazy, the music was loud and I was hot! My eyes closed slowly as I kept up to the beat. My fingers started moving over the keyboard faster and harder! Pretty soon I was banging on my keyboard! I started humming and then singing out loud. I slowly opened my eyes and my screen was flashing ERRORS messages at me and the cleaning lady was running out of my office in a fit of terror. I think I'm in trouble.

REMEMBER THE NOMINATIONS? REMEMBER THE SURVEY SHEETS?

Or don't you people read your newsletter? You complain when you don't get them on time but you don't even bother to bring the sheets back. Do you think we enjoy wasting our time to have these things made up? NO! We do it for a reason; to get feed back from YOU! I got 2 nominations and 6 survey sheets back out of about 100 that were sent out.

PLEASE! Bring the nomination sheets and survey sheets back. The club database hasn't ben updated for quite a while. I'd like to get them back at the March meeting so we can compile them and elect new officers at the April meeting because May is the last meeting of the year.

BLAIRS BURNT OFFERINGS????????

And a very appropriate name at that. When Blair burns an Eprom, that's what he does, he really burns it. (so I hear). It's like a scene from an

old Frankenstein movie. Sparks fly, lights flash, Blair flashes and the smell of burning silicone flows through the air. I should know. I've had mine NUKED twice!

I thought that Blairs COCOIII column was excellent! I used to think that RAM disk was what you did to your controller when it wouldn't fit in the slot properly.

Blair promised he would keep his column simple and down to my level (See program run. Run program run). That's my level. Some bright young kid named Blairs column and won 5 silver dollars.

THE EXECUTIVE MEETING. Where was the Pres?

I was late for my own meeting. I was visiting a hospital in Guelph (on business, not as a patient) and I didn't get home until after 7:00. When I finally got home, the guys told me how the wife explained how happy she was that SOMEONE ELSE WAS GOING TO TAKE OVER AS PRESIDENT!

Anyway, in between the time they talked about OS9 and in between the time they talked about the COCOIII vs. the COCOII and in between the time they talked about everything else but club business, we resolved club business. It was suggested that we have a games contest. Stay tuned for further notice.

Clem had the nerve to bring his own coffee and donuts! My wife spent 2 hours making a pot of instant coffee and he shows up with his own! Rumour has it that Russ suggested that they all bring their own coffee and donuts as a joke but nobody else did, except Clem (HA! HA!) He even forgot to take them home. Four days later I noticed all this green fuzz coming out of the top. I didn't know coffee got mouldy.

Walter Wasn't there. I hope he and his wife are feeling better soon. I haven't heard from John Hadley for a while. Are you still out there John?

Ray Zason came out to the executive meeting. It was good to see him. He said he came out a a guest, but guests sometimes turn into executives.

WALTER
JUTTING.



"It looks like he was cleaning his computer when it went off."

NEW MEMBERS... WELCOME!

I'd like to welcome some new members to the club... Robert McLeod, Andy Rainville and Christopher Swick. The names at the top of the newsletter are the group leaders for each city. Give us a call if you need anything. We will be glad to help you with your COCO. Be prepared to show us your membership card We are all programmed not to do anything until we see that you've paid your dues. That goes for the rest of the club membership.

WE HAVE 2 MORE AUTHORS

There's TIMS TIPS. Tim's the VP. Vice Presidents soon get to be the President. Maybe Tim will follow this lifelong tradition. Any questions you may have about the COCO or programming, ask Tim. Some of the questions he gets are real stumpers, but Tim's a stumpy guy. He can answer anything.

Clem has volunteered to start a PEEKS & POKES column. I don't think Clem knew what a peek or poke was. If you catch him peeking in your windows at night, don't worry. He's just doing his homework.

AT THE LAST MEETING

Did you notice the HUGE colour monitor at the front of the room? It was Russ Halls. He said he has one bigger at home (gimme a break)! The thing had more jacks in the back than Tim has hairs on his face.

Russ did a great job in demonstrating his database and the disk utility program. I've been using that utility for 2 years and I didn't know all that it could do. Thanks Russ. That's what the club is all about. Getting to know your computer.

NEXT MEETING

We're going to explain how to use the computer around the house such as:
keeping track of bills
using spread sheets
word processors
databases, etc.

We're going to show you how to use the Cookbook program. This is a good example of a database. You don't have to use it for recipes. You can use it for anything. After all, a database is just a space with information in it. It doesn't care what you put in that space.

If you have any suggestions for programs you'd like to see demonstrated, give me a call. We need ideas.

WHATS A VIDEO SENDER?

The video sender is what we were transmitting the program to all the TVs in the room with. It's designed to transmit a video signal to any TV in your house from your VCR. We will use it again next month, so bring your TVs.

MISCELLANEOUS

Roy Fisher won the 50/50 draw (\$14.75). You can buy a few packs of diskettes with that Roy.

I need someone to run the 50/50 draw for me. All you have to do is sell tickets and collect money.

RADIO SHACK IS SELLING COCOIII'S FOR \$149.00!!!!!!!
(I think I'll take my wife out for dinner tonight).

FORSALES & TOOBUYS

FOR SALE: 64K COCOII \$75.00. Call me at 354-7113

FOR SALE: Loyds stuff. See it at the next meeting.

FOR SALE: MC10 computers \$30.00 each
Brand new. Still in boxes.
Great beginners computers to learn basic
4K, expandable to 20K with optional RS expansion board

See Russ Hall

FOR SALE: The club is selling packs of diskettes for \$6.00 each.
We'll have them at the next meeting.

IN CONCLUSION

Remember the nomination sheets and survey sheets.

Meeting dates: March 13 April 10 May 01.

See you all there. Remember me? I was the Pres.

GO AHEAD, SCRAMBLE YOUR BRAINS!

① SAND	② MAN BOARD	③ STAND I	④ WEAR LONG	1. 2. 3. 4.
⑤ R O A D S	⑥ T O W N	⑦ L E V E L	⑧ O M.D. P.H.D. M.S.	5. 6. 7. 8.
⑨ CHAIR	⑩ R E A D I N G	⑪ C Y C L E C Y C L E C Y C L E	⑫ I I I I O O	9. 10. 11. 12.
⑬ K N E E L I G H T S	⑭ D I C E D I C E	⑮ T O U C H	⑯ G R O U N D F E E T F E E T F E E T F E E T	13. 14. 15. 16.
⑰ M I N D M A T T E R	⑱ H I M H E' S S E L F	⑲ E C N A L G	⑳ D E A T H L I F E	17. 18. 19. 20.
㉑ G I C C C C C	㉒ B L O U S E	㉓ P R O G R A M	㉔ Y O U J U S T M E	21. 22. 23. 24.

HINTS, TIPS, PEEKS & POKES

RESETTING THE COMPUTER

WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH ONE PROGRAM AND WANT TO LOAD ANOTHER, YOU CAN PRESS THE **BREAK** KEY OR THE **RESET** BUTTON AND THE COMPUTER ALLOWS YOU TO LOAD ANOTHER PROGRAM INTO MEMORY AND RUN IT. HOWEVER, THE PROGRAM YOU WERE WORKING WITH PREVIOUSLY IS STILL WANDERING AROUND IN MEMORY. IF YOU LOAD A LOT OF PROGRAMS THIS WAY, STRANGE THINGS CAN OCCUR BECAUSE OF THE 'REMNANTS' OF THE PREVIOUS PROGRAMS. TO BE SAFE, YOU NEED TO TURN YOUR COMPUTER OFF FOR 15 SECONDS AND THEN ON AGAIN TO COMPLETELY CLEAR THE MEMORY (REMEMBER THE COLD START?)

BUT FREQUENTLY, TURNING OFF AND ON YOUR COMPUTER IS NOT GOOD FOR IT. A SOLUTION IS TO ENTER **POKE113,0** AND PRESS THE **RESET** BUTTON. THIS ACCOMPLISHES A COLD START, AS IF WE HAD TURNED THE COMPUTER OFF AND ON.

FOR THOSE OF US WHO WOULD RATHER WIGGLE OUR FINGERS THAN EXERT OURSELVES TO REACH AROUND THE MACHINE FOR THE **RESET** BUTTON, SIMPLY TYPE AND ENTER **POKE113,0:EXEC40999**.

PCLEAR1 BUG ON COCO1

WHENEVER COCO 1 ENCOUNTERS A **PCLEAR1** STATEMENT, A BUG IN ITS SYSTEM PREVENTS THE PROGRAM FROM RUNNING. WHEN YOU TRY TO RUN, YOU GET AN SN ERROR REFERENCING THE LINE CONTAINING THE STATEMENT. THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE - JUST TYPE **RUN** AGAIN AND PRESS **ENTER**, OR DELETE THE **PCLEAR1** STATEMENT.

DIRECTORY PRINTOUTS

ENTERING **POKE111,254:DIR** WILL PRINT OUT YOUR DISK DIRECTORY IF A PRINTER IS HOOKED UP.

THE COCO PRINTER PORT DEFAULTS TO A RATE OF 600 BAUD. IF YOUR PRINTER USES A DIFFERENT BAUD RATE, YOU CAN CHANGE THE COCO'S BAUD RATE WITH A SIMPLE **POKE**. TO CHANGE THE BAUD RATE TO 1200, ENTER **POKE150,41**. MANY RADIO SHACK PRINTERS ARE CAPABLE OF RUNNING AT 1200 BAUD. SOME CAN EVEN HANDLE 2400 BAUD. TO CHANGE COCO FOR THIS VALUE, ENTER **POKE150,18**. IF YOU OWN A SERIAL TO PARALLEL CONVERTER FOR YOUR COCO AND PRINTER, IT PROBABLY WORKS AT 9600 BAUD. JUST USE **POKE150,18**. IF YOU OWN A SERIAL TO PARALLEL CONVERTER FOR YOUR COCO AND PRINTER, IT PROBABLY WORKS AT 9600 BAUD. JUST USE **POKE150,1**. TO CHANGE THE COCO BACK TO 600 BAUD, USE **POKE150,87**.

ACCIDENTALLY PRESSING BREAK

IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY PRESS THE BREAK KEY, ALL IS NOT LOST. ENTER CONT AND YOU WILL BE RETURNED TO WHERE YOU LEFT OFF.

THE SPEED UP POKE

ENTERING POKE 65495,0 ALLOWS YOU TO DOUBLE THE COMPUTING SPEED OF THE NEWER COCO 1S AND 2S. YOU CAN USE THE POKE AS A DIRECT COMMAND OR IN A PROGRAM. OLDER COCOS CANNOT HANDLE IT, HOWEVER; SO IF A PROGRAM LOCKS UP OR FREEZES ON YOU, LOOK FOR OCCURRENCES OF THIS POKE AND DELETE THEM FROM THE PROGRAM LISTINGS. TO SLOW DOWN THE SPEED UP POKE, ENTER POKE 65494,0. THE COCO 3 SPEED UP POKE IS POKE 65497,0. THE "SLOW-DOWN" COUNTERPART IS POKE 65496,0. ALSO, DON'T TRY TO SAVE OR LOAD PROGRAMS FROM TAPE OR DISK WHILE IN THE HIGH-SPEED MODE. ALWAYS SLOW THE SYSTEM DOWN BEFORE PERFORMING ANY TAPE OR DISK OPERATIONS.

DON'TS AND DON'TS

FINALLY, TO REITERATE SOMETHING YOU ALREADY KNOW, NEVER PLUG IN OR REMOVE A PACK FROM YOUR COMPUTER WHEN IT IS TURNED ON, AS YOU WILL DAMAGE THE COMPUTER. AND NEVER TURN YOUR COMPUTER OFF OR ON WHEN THERE IS A DISK IN THE DRIVE, AS YOU STAND TO LOSE YOUR DATA. IF YOU DO EITHER, YOU ARE ASKING FOR A ZAP.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF COCOING! I HOPE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND WILL GET YOU STARTED ON THE RIGHT FOOT. FINALLY AND FOREMOST, READ AND REREAD THE MANUAL SUPPLIED WITH YOUR COLOR COMPUTER. THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS FROM PAGE 30 OF THE JANUARY 1988 RAINBOW MAGAZINE.

Blom Faucher

TIM'S TIPS

Don't forget that this column is for answering or trying to answer any Questions you may have. Following is some helpful and interesting pokes and hints I found in our past newsletters and other sources.

PEEKs , POKES AND HINTS for THE COCO

Condensed from Harry Van Dyke's Listing of the March 17, 1985 / ML-25 newsletter.
Somewhat modified and amended by Scruffy. (Harry will probably feel this as being sacrilegious.)

1. FOR MAXIMUM FREE MEMORY: (this will clear out all the graphics pages)

Poke 25,0:new <enter> - for disk systems, poke 25,6:poke27,6:poke29,6:poke31,6

2. TO SPEED UP THE CPU (the computer's Microprocessor):

poke 65495,0 <enter> - (1.2 mhz) - most programs will run at this speed.
- make sure you slow the CPU down again before accessing disk or tape.
poke 65494,0 <enter> - slows the CPU down after pokes65495,0 was used.

poke 65497,0 <enter> - (1.8 mhz) - this works on all the COCO's, but on the COCO 1 and 2 the screen, the screen will fill with garbage because the video display generator chip is not fast enough to handle the speed, however the CPU will function properly. Its good for long equations or reading data.

poke 65496,0 <enter> - slows the CPU down after poke 65497,0 was used.

3. TO FIND BASIC PROGRAM LOCATIONS:

start = print peek (25) * 256 + peek (26)
end = print peek (27) * 256 + peek (28)

4. TO FIND MACHINE LANGUAGE PROGRAM LOCATIONS:

start = print peek (487) * 256 + peek (488)
exec = print peek (157) * 256 + peek (158)
end = print peek (126) * 256 + peek (127)
(these are for cassette systems only)

5. TO PERFORM A "WARM START" AND RESET POINTERS:

poke 113,3:exec 40099 (this is not a cold start, to prove it, exec the exec address of the program that was in memory.)

6. CLEAR 200,32100 - this reserves 200 bytes for basic variables below 32100.

7. TO DISABLE THE "LIST" COMMAND: (to prevent anyone from listing a basic program)

poke 383,158 - to reenable the "list" command poke 383,0

8. TO DIRECT TEXT TO THE PRINTER INSTEAD OF THE SCREEN:

poke 111,254 - eg. poke poke111,254:dir will do a directory of a disk to the printer.

9. TO CHANGE PRINTER OR MODEM BAUD RATES:

poke 149,4: poke 150,0 = 50 baud
poke 149,2: poke 150,227 = 75 baud
poke 149,1: poke 150,246 =110 baud
poke 149,1: poke 150,153=134.5baud

poke 149,1: poke 150,110 = 150 baud
poke 150,150 = 300 baud
poke 150,87 = 600 baud
poke 150,41 = 1200 baud

poke 150,18 = 2400 baud
poke 150,7 = 4800 baud
poke 150,3 = 7200 baud
poke 150,0 = 9600 baud

10. TO SAVE or PRINT GRAPHIC SCREENS:

COCO 1 OR 2 - BASIC GENERATED SCREEN - run the game or program you want to save the screen from, and when the screen you want is displayed press < break >. The picture will disappear, but it is still in memory.

If you want to see it again type NEW to eliminate your program ,then type in this small program :

```
10 PMODE 4,1:SCREEN 1,1
```

```
30 GOTO 30
```

Run this program to see the picture and when your through press <break>.

To save a copy of a screen to tape ,CSAVEM "PICTURE",1536,7680,1536
 To save a copy of a screen to disk , SAVEM "PICTURE",3584,9727,3584
 To see it again later, CLOADM "PICTURE" for tape or LOADM "PICTURE" for disk and run the program above.
 To load two screens in memory at the same time :

```

10 PCLEAR 8
20 LOADM "PICTURE1" : LOADM "PICTURE2",6144
30 PMODE 4,1 :SCREEN 1,1
40 A# = INKEY# : IF A# = "" THEN 40 ELSE 50
50 PMODE 4,5 :SCREEN 1,1
60 A# = INKEY# : IF A# = "" THEN 60 ELSE 30
  
```

To use this program , run it and hit any key to flip between the pictures

The program will work with tape also if you change LOADM to CLOADM

Substitute the "PICTURE" in the above statements for any name of a graphic screen you have saved

COCO 3 HIGH RESOLUTION SCREEN - SAVE AND LOAD

The above programs and techniques will work on a COCO 3 for the PMODE 1 to 4 screens , but not for the 320 or 640 by 191 screens. This program ,which I got from COCO 3 Secrets Revealed, will both save and/or load a high resolution picture for you. It uses the memory above 64k to do the saves using the MMU registers.

```

10 CLEAR200,&H5FFF'RESERVES 8K OF MEMORY FROM $6000 TO $7FFF
20 ONERR GOTO 200
25 POKE&HE6C6,18:POKE&HE6C7,18 '**** DISABLE CLEAR SCREEN OF HSCREEN ****
27 CLS:PRINT (SAVE OR (LOAD A SCREEN ??)
30 A#=INKEY#:IF NOT(A#="S" OR A#="L") THEN 30
40 IF A#="S" THEN AC#="SAVE":A=0 ELSE AC#="LOAD":A=1
50 PRINT"ENTER FILENAME TO "AC#:"":LINE(INPUT FL#
60 IF FL#="" THEN END
65 C=INSTR(FL#,"."):IF C=0 THEN C=INSTR(FL#,"/")
67 IF C<>0 THEN FL#=LEFT$(FL#,C-1)
69 HSCREEN2
70 FOR X=&H00 TO &H33:POKE &HFA3,X REM THIS LINE POKES THE MMU REGISTER WITH THE 8K BLOCK OF MEMORY TO USE
80 IF A=0 THEN SAVEM FL#+"/"+STR$(X),&H6000,&H7FFF,&H6000
90 IF A=1 THEN LOADM FL#+"/"+STR$(X)
100 NEXTX:PRINT AC#:" SUCCESSFUL":END
200 OPEN"0",0,"":PRINT:PRINT"ERROR ENCOUNTERED DURING ";AC$:END
  
```

11. TO CHECK THE BASIC ROM REVISION - exec 41175

12. DISK DRIVE CONTROL:

- To turn on Drive 0 - poke 65344,1
- to turn on drive 1 - poke 65344,2
- to turn on drive 2 - poke 65344,12
- to turn on drive 3 - poke 65344,44
- any I/O will automatically turn it off
- to stop a drive instantly poke 65344,0 (you can use this in a program)

13. MISCELLANEOUS POKES AND EXECs

- Poke 359,60 - slow down program listing.
- Poke 65313,4 - cassette motor on
- Poke 65313,52 - cassette motor off
- Poke 359,57 : Poke 65480,0 - opens graphic memory dump
- Poke 65315,32 - audio on
- Poke 65315,36 - audio off
- Poke 65314,8 - black screen on orange

Poke 65114,7 - black screen on green
 Poke 359,61 - blank screen
 Poke 359,0 - screen back to normal
 Poke 360,162:Poke 361,191 - prints whatever you type, to the printer. Handy to map adventure program moves
 Exec 44313 - wipes out any basic program.
 Exec 44539 - same as < 10 A\$ = INKEY\$: IF A\$ = "" THEN 10 > (good to use in a program)
 - What it does is makes the CPU wait until any key is hit and then resumes it business.

Scruffias Scribbles

While I was perusing the Old newsletters to find the previous information, I came across some other interesting POKES. These pokes aren't for the computer ,but are a poke in the funny bone.
 By the way they also were contributed by the WIT of HARRY VAN DYKE and his wife KAREN. They date back from the March 1983 newsletter to last year.

1. Remember - there is a mighty big difference between good, sound reason and reasons that sound good.
2. Tact is the ability to tell a man he is open minded when he has a hole in his head.
3. To err is human. To blame it on someone else is even more human.
4. The trouble is, when your ship does finally come in, the government is there to dock it.
5. If everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
6. How long a minute is ,depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on.
7. The trouble with doing something right the first time ,is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was.
8. If basic is so simple ,why does it take a computer to use it!!
9. There is no such thing as, "I'm going to mess around with my computer for a few minutes before dinner, Dear"
10. A computer can do a lot, but it still can't scratch you where it itches.

11. REMEMBER WHEN ?

a COMODORE was a nice man who run a ship.
 a BYTE was what happened when you teased a dog.
 ROM was a museum in Toronto.
 a PET was a warm animal that welcomed you home.
 SYNTAX was money you paid the government for booze and cigarettes.
 DIM was what you did to the lights on a hot date
 and GRAPHICS was how you told your friends about it.
 MODE was something you ate a la pie.
 MEMORY was something you lost before a test.
 a CHIP was a greasy snack.
 OUTPUT was what you did with the garbage.

and a COMPUTER was something you never, never, ever learn to use.

12. HARRY'S DICTIONARY

ABSOLUTE ERROR - to buy a computer.
 ACCESS - a large painful boil on the chips from too much hacking.
 BLOCK MOVES - what happens when a hacker rents a house on the street.
 BUFFER - nude programmer
 BUFFER AMPLIFIER - one who brags about it.
 CARRIAGE RETURN - what you did when you decide not to keep the kid.
 CURSOR - a hacker who screws up a lot.
 DIP - abbreviation for hacker.
 DOUBLE DENSITY - really dumb.
 END USERS - hackers that sit down a lot.
 EXECUTION TIME - the time it takes to strangle the salesman that sold you the computer.

FATAL BUG - to have a Volkswagon drop on you.
FLOPPY DISK - serious curvature of the spine.
HACKERISM - A disease for which there is no cure.
HEAD CRASH - a collision with a PORTA-POTTY.
INCREMENT - what computers do to produce decrement.
LIGHT PEN - minimum sentence prison.
LINE FEED - "I've never met anyone as interesting as you before," etc.,etc.
LOGIC - the act of going wrong with confidence.
MEMORY - the part of the computer where data is placed prior to destruction.
MENU - an itemized list of ways to make a mistake on a computer.
NETWORK - what fishermen do when they are not fishing.
NIGHT MODE - computing in pajamas.
OAM - where the heart is.
OUTPUT DEVICE - a word processor who can't say "NO".
PERIPHERAL - anything that costs a lot of money and is remotely associated with computers.
PROGRAM - a random collection of bugs.
RAM - where most of the bugs are kept.
ROM - where you put the bugs that don't fit in RAM.
SILICON - a foolish prisoner.
SOFTWARE - what hackers wear under their hardware.
TIME SHARING - what you do when only one of you has a watch.

Harry's Wit didn't stop here ,but to keep the size of this newsletter reasonable ,I must.
Thanks Harry for all the LAUGHS.
See you all at the next meeting.

Tim Woodward SR.(alias Scruffy)

Blair's Burnt Offerings

New Name

First, I like to thank Mike Lawson for this article's name and since most of you voted on, I will run under the assumption that it is a great name. Funny how the president's son won. Hmmm... How much did you guys get paid, anyway?

OS-9: Who's it for?

To start things off, let's answer a few questions that most of you may have in the back of your minds. Is OS-9 for me? Personally, I would say that OS-9 is for everyone, but my opinion may be biased, so let's see if you would like it.

The first, obvious question is, what does OS-9 really do. OS-9 is an Operating System. An Operating System is a program that controls and manages the computer and everything connected to it. It also controls the way the computer communicates with the program and the way the program communicates with the user. So, what all that means is an easier environment for you and the program. OS-9 is device independent, which means that every peripheral looks the same to OS-9. For instance, you can list a file to the printer, to another file on the disk, through the phone lines or even to a Speech/Sound Pak. OS-9 allows multitasking, too, which permits you, the user, to run more than one program at once! With OS-9 comes the ability to redirect the input (<) or the output (>). This puts the device independence into play. For example, as above, `list book >/P` will send the file "book" to the printer. `list chapter1 >chapter1.backup` will send the output of "list chapter1" to the file "chapter1.backup". `list program >/T1` will send "program" to a remote terminal. Finally, `list talk >/SSC` will send "talk" to the Speech/Sound Pak and it will be spoken.

However, what would you do if you wanted to send the output of one program to the input of another? Well, OS-9 provided pipes (!) for this purpose. Here is an example of the use of pipes, `list essay | upper,case | tee file1 /P /SSC`. What this line does is it 'pipes' the output of "list essay" which is the file "essay" to the program "upper,case" which, in this example, converts "essay" all to capitals. "Essay" then goes to the program tee. Tee takes the input, which is taken from the 'pipe' we set up, and copies it to the outputs that follow it. In our case, it is "file1", the printer, and the Speech/Sound Pak. All of these features make OS-9 very helpful, however, OS-9 is not too user friendly. Radio Shack is selling Multi-Vue, which will make OS-9 very friendly, and very easy to use.

Next, is the question, does it make programming easier? YES! I could not stress it more! As I've said before and I'll say again, OS-9 is a programmer's dream come true. Why? Well, mainly because OS-9 has many features already programmed into it. For example, keyboard input, Joystick input (both standard

and Hi-Res), all the graphic functions, windows, the list could go on and on. Also, the device independence allows the need for only one routine to output the information anywhere you want it to go. OS-9, on top of all that, even scales all graphics to a 640 x 192 grid, no matter how small the window is. This means if the screen only has 320 across by 192 down, or 128 across and only 64 down, the picture will look the same, if drawn with OS-9 drawing commands. Also, the environment is so friendly to the programmer; is not too friendly to the average user, however.

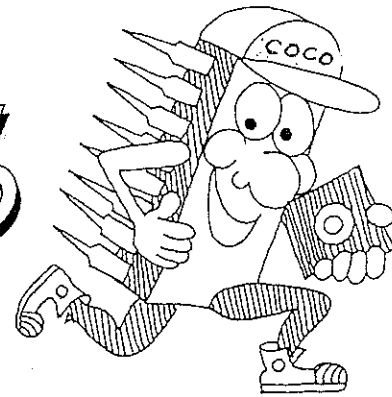
Do you need more than one disk drive to really get your use out of it? This answer is plain and simple, if you don't have 2 or more disk drives, you will be severely limited. There is a hope though, for you 512k owners. There is an OS-9 RAM Disk (remember last month?) that is available. Then you will have more than one disk drive, a hardware one and a software one. It is nice to have, and I personally recommend, that you use more than one drive. It will make you OS-9 experience much better and easier!

Do you need 512K to use OS-9? No, but things may get a little tight, as far as system memory goes. In a 128K machine you get about 56K of free system memory. This may seem like a lot, but it goes awfully fast. In a 512K machine you will have about 440K of free system memory (now that's a lot!). You see, whenever OS-9 loads a module (program or data block), OS-9 will allocate 8 192 bytes for it, because OS-9 uses memory in 8K chunks, and that is why memory goes so fast. Also without 512K, you can't have a RAM Disk, which will make thing even worst for you one disk drive owners out there. However, programs that Radio Shack sells will run with 128K and one disk drive. Yes, Multi-View and the Sub Battle Simulator will run with only 128K (contradicting to last month, but I've seen Sub Battle Simulator with my own eyes, so trust me on this one.) As far as I know, King's Quest III still needs 512K to run, but who knows, it may also run on a 128K machine.

Suggestions

I was disappointed to find out that there were no suggestions in the box this meeting. I mean, you guys pay the dues, and you get the privilege of making suggestions. (Remember: Membership has its privileges!) This club would not exist with out you, this newsletter would not exist with out you, and this article would not exist with out you. I think, if you willing to pay for the club, that you'd also be willing to give some input, so we can make this club the best ever. So let's get those suggestions in next month's box! I'd really like to hear from you.

Niagara Regional Coco Club



6483 Kendale Court, Niagara Falls, Ont., L2H-1Z2, 416-354-7113

***** NEWSLETTER *****

NEXT MEETING: APR. 10, 1988, 1:00 PM. CONFEDERATION HIGH SCHOOL, WELLAND

ISSUE: NL-55

PRESIDENT: Rob Lawson....354-7113
VICE PRES.: Clem Faucher.934-1175
OS9 GROUP: Steve Phillip.835-2079
STORES: John Hadley.....734-3061
EPROMMER: Blair LeDuc....646-3359
WELLAND: Russ Hall.....735-2136
FT.ERIE: Tim Woodward....871-7235
N. FALLS: Rob Lawson.....354-7113
ST. KITTS: John Felker...682-2595

DATE: Feb. 20, 1988

TREASURER: George Dean.....356-8037
SECRETARY: Tim Woodward.....871-7235
TECHNICAL: Walter Jutting...641-0798
GROUP LIST: Clem Faucher.....934-1175
COCO III: Blair LeDuc.....646-3359
WELLAND: Geoff Lee Ott.....734-9246
PT. COLBOURNE: Jerry Bunz....835-8290
N. FALLS: Jackie Zufelt....357-3280
ST. KITTS: Ray Zason.....641-0777

FROM THE PRES.(for another year).

What a meeting! You could actually hear the people talking at the front of the room (there was enough of them). What am I talking about, you ask? THE NEW MICROPHONE! The old mike finally bit the dust so we bought a new one for \$30.00.

THE NOMINATIONS ARE IN.

Well almost! A few were brought back. Well actually there were no new nominations, so here's the executives for next year.

President.....Rob Lawson (I don't feel good.)
Vice President...Clem Faucher (a chocolate bar for everybody.)
Secretary.....Tim Woodward (lick stamps Woodward!)
Treasurer.....George Dean (I guess he didn't get caught yet.)

The other executive positions are delegated and without these other guys and gals the executive committee wouldn't be anything.

SPECIAL THANKS TO KEN HALBERT.

For the longest time Ken has given a lot of his time to the club. I think he was one of the best secretaries we have ever had (in fact I think he was the only secretary we have ever had). Anyway, on behalf of the club, I would like to thank him for all his help in making the club what it is today. A special thanks goes to his wife for putting up with us for all these years. Ken is quite involved with other clubs so his talents won't go to waste. As the song goes "ANOTHER ONE BYTES THE DOST!"

WHATS A HIGH RESOLUTION JOYSTICK INTERFACE?

Roy Fisher (through Radio Shack) ordered a case of these joystick interfaces. They were only available in the States, but Roy pulled a few strings for us. I think he has a few left. People were in such a scurry to buy one that I grabbed one right away. There's only one thing. What the heck does it do?

50/50 DRAW.

We have a new volunteer to help with the 50/50 draw. Besides being pretty, this girl sure is smart. I don't know how she did it, but she graciously volunteered to start at the next meeting. Guess who won \$20.25 this month? Her husband, Joe Sovar. I don't know how she did it but she did it. By the way, her name is Linda Sovar. Watch out for "LUCKY LINDA"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

I would like to welcome 5 new members to the club..

Robert Montgomery
Heinrich Kellershohn
Don Nelson
Debby Atkinson
Lillian Mobey

To the new members; the people at the front of the newsletter are there to give you any assistance they can. Call them if you need anything.

512K UPGRADES AGAIN?

We are going to order 10 more 512K upgrades for the COCOIII again. They are about \$120.00 each. Call me if you want one. I'll need the cash up front.

NEXT MONTHS DEMO.

The program demonstrations worked out so well that Chef BoyR Woodward volunteered to demonstrate COOKBOOK! This is a recipe database program (for filing recipes on diskette). It will give you a good idea what a database is and what it can do. Although it's called COOKBOOK, you can file anything on it.

Russ will talk about the various word processing programs and the database programs we have in the library and the difference between each (some are complicated and some are easy).

