

CoCo~123



Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.
Volume 34, Number 2

Carpentersville, Illinois
Summer 2014

CoCo ~ 123 Memory Map

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Upcoming Events:

The 24th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! April 25-26, 2015
Regular meetings every 2nd Thursday @ Schaumburg Library

G.C.C.C. OFFICERS

Here is the list of 2014 club officers and how to contact them.
If you have questions about the association call one of the
officers for the answers.

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	PRIMARY FUNCTION
-----	-----	-----	-----
President	Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	The buck stops here...
Vice-President	Chris Hawks	815-943-4690	Meeting planning, etc.
Treasurer	Geo Schneeweiss	815-832-4441	Dues and Purchasing
Secretary	Bob Swoger	630-837-7957	Records and Reporting
Director	Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	CoCoFEST! Organizer
Librarian	Brian Goers	708-805-1888	Software/Hrdwr Manager
Editor	John Mark Mobley	847-409-8604	Newsletter Production
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Tony Podraza



Chris Hawks



Robert Swoger



George Schneeweiss



Brian Goers



John Mark Mobley

CoCo~123 - A Glenside Publication Since 1985

CoCo~123 INFORMATION

CoCo~123 is the newsletter of the Glenside Color Computer Club. Your annual contribution of \$15.00 helps to keep our club going. Send your check to Glenside Treasurer:

George L Schneeweiss
13450 N 2700 E Road
Forrest IL 61741-9629

Our treasury provides newsletters and good times with fellow CoCo users at our Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! and Annual Glenside Picnic.

CoCo~123 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or would like to submit an article, please contact the CoCo~123 Newsletter editor:

John Mark Mobley
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Rolling Meadows IL 60008
johnmarkmelanie@gmail.com

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

John Linville
Tony Podraza
George Schneeweiss
Robert Swoger

G. C. C. MEETINGS

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets the second Thursday of each month at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:00 pm. If you need a map, see our Glenside Homepage at:

<http://glensideccc.com/splmap.html>

A social get-together always follows the meeting at a nearby restaurant, lovingly called, "The Meeting After".

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PLATEN

We asked John Linville to keep us informed on his progress of producing a Fahrfall game cartridge for the CoCo 3. As we have over 400 member readers, we thought we could aid John to get the word out on his endeavor. We trust you enjoy seeing his success. Until next time, I bid each and every one of you, "Peace".

Tony Podraza, President
Glenside Color Computer Club

TREASURY NOTES

We have \$6660.06 in checking. We have 88 paid members in 2014, down from 136 in 2011, and a total of 431 members to whom we send newsletters.

George Schneeweiss, Treasurer
Glenside Color Computer Club

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

In July our club librarian Brian Goers called a special meeting at the home of secretary Bob Swoger. The turnout was good. The purpose of the get-together was to go through the over 500 floppy disks presented to Glenside by the past president of the now defunct Wood Dale, Illinois OS-9 Users Group. We used LogiCall on two computers to record and print off the directories of each disk so that we could continue to build our Glenside Library. Brian was over 2 hours late because he forgot where I lived. We didn't get through all the disks at this one sitting but we did discover a few very important disks we thought we would never find and some we didn't even know existed. Our library now stands at 636 disks and disk images. We may try to continue this operation at the picnic on September 20 in Forrest, Illinois.

While working on the club library we discovered that we had 2 very different versions of Hangman, one by Jon Ruhnaw and a second by Snailsoft. The Snailsoft version has now been modified for LogiCall and installed on LogiCall's Vcc disk 21.

During our last reporting period we finalized the Hunt The Wumpus game on Vcc virtual hard drive disk 59 and disk image WUMPUS.DSK. If anyone finds any bugs now please let me know.

It was found that 28 game programs previously on the LogiCall Virtual hard drive could not run on Vcc because they were written to run only on Floppy Drive 0. John Mark suggested that we make a special disk on drive 66 that could launch these games from that instructed the user how to run those games. It works fine, John Mark - thanks for the idea.

LogiCall can be updated at any time from:

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/55520144/LogiCoCo.ZIP>

The theme of the next CoCoFEST! is "Back to BASICS". Two fests ago Aaron held a software contest that brought forth some good program writing producing some good utilities and fun games to play. We would like to keep this sort of thing alive. Some games I remember and still play once in while are Diego's Furious Felines and Jim Gerrie's Fest Quest. Present CoCo users don't write BASIC but use what has been written for their own pleasure. We at Glenside keep hoping users will again start writing again so that we can enjoy more new stuff.

Robert Swoger, Secretary - rswoger@aol.com
Glenside Color Computer Club

Fahrfall Cartridge Release?

by
John Linville

By now, most people that are still reasonably active in the CoCo community have heard of Fahrfall. Anyone who provides an exception to that statement may want to take a brief timeout from reading this article to consult the Google. Those whose Google skills are not up to the task might just go directly to "The Making of Fahrfall":

<http://fahrfall.blogspot.com/>

To summarize, Fahrfall is an action-oriented puzzle/platform game featuring a series of platforms that rise from the bottom of the screen toward the top, while the player's avatar (Fahrve) falls toward the bottom. The object is to keep Fahrve on the screen by landing on the platforms. However, flames at the top of the screen prove deadly to Fahrve should he reach them. The seemingly simple task of keeping Fahrve on the screen proves to be surprisingly challenging for most players, and very addicting to quite a few. Some have even described the feeling of playing Fahrfall as comparable to the feeling of playing the classic retro game Tetris.

I started writing Fahrfall in January of 2012 as part of the Retrochallenge Winter Warmup for that year. The Retrochallenge events occur twice per year and they bring together a group of people from all over the world who spend a month working on their own self-imposed projects and documenting their results with blog posts, YouTube videos, and tweets on Twitter. Anyone with even a mild interest in modern projects involving retro computers should be sure to checkout this bi-annual event. Anyway, Fahrfall was named one of the winners of the Retrochallenge Winter Warmup 2012.

Despite it's winning status, I never really considered Fahrfall to be finished. During the spring of 2012 I participated in a variety of retro computing and Mini Maker Faire events where I had Fahrfall on display. For several of those I implemented minor tweaks and improvements, including platform color changes as the game progressed and the addition of a "Hall of Fame" screen. I still had bigger changes in mind. But, I began feeling a bit burned-out on Fahrfall development and the real world had its own demands on my time. After a while I mostly let Fahrfall lay fallow, despite continuing to show it at various events from time to time.

When developing Fahrfall I had taken a great deal of inspiration from how arcade games had done things "back in the day". The title screen, the intro screen, and the "Hall of Fame" were all modeled after the arcade form. In my mind, this aesthetic also made Fahrfall an ideal candidate for a ROM cartridge -- an instant transformation of the CoCo into an arcade machine!

Making changes for the game code to run as a ROM cartridge was simple, but cartridges also need circuit boards and cases. Producing printed circuit boards seemed reasonably simple to me, but I did not know what to do about the plastic cases.

Homebrew cartridge releases are reasonably common in the retro computing hobby these days. But many (or most) of these releases have solved the cartridge case problem by cannibalizing cases from common vintage cartridges. While I am sure that very few people will miss a Personal Finance or Scripsit cartridge, it still feels a bit wrong for me to destroy something vintage to produce something new. Besides, recycled vintage cartridge cases still have some procurement costs and will still require some effort to remove dirt, labels, and such. There has to be a better way?

A little while back I funded a Kickstarter that produced a version of Star Castle for the Atari 2600. At some point I realized that those cartridge cases had been cast from plastic resin -- is this an answer to the cartridge case problem? Earlier this summer I started experimenting with plastic resin casting. There were some false starts and some expensive lessons. But, eventually I learned to produce usable two-piece cartridge cases for the CoCo.

Producing CoCo cartridge cases became the basis for my entry in the Retrochallenge Summer Challenge 2014 event. I also returned to Fahrfall development. I added a mechanism to speed-up the gameplay over time, and I added some musical tunes. Now Fahrfall even plays music during the game, a very rare feature for CoCo games! I am not quite ready to close the book on Fahrfall development, but I am a lot happier with Fahrfall's current state than I had been at the start of this summer.

It is not a secret that I would like to produce Fahrfall cartridges for sale to the CoCo community. I have even designed a game box based upon a VHS tape case! The end of the summer and the early part of the spring have been busy for me, so I have not yet determined how one might order a Fahrfall package. I am still leaning towards using Kickstarter to handle those logistics, but nothing is decided as of yet -- time will tell.

Are you interested in getting a Fahrfall cartridge for your CoCo or Dragon computer? Then you should be sure to watch the Fahrfall blog at the URL listed earlier in this article. You also might join the "TRS-80/Color Computer" group on Facebook and you definitely should join the CoCo mailing listed hosted by Malted/Media. Further, you can get in touch with me via email or Facebook, or follow me on Google+ and/or Twitter!

Thanks, John W. Linville

Email: linville@tuxdriver.com Google+: +John Linville
Twitter: @JohnWLinville

**The 23rd Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!
by Bob Swoger**

Our last issue had plenty of information about what was going on at our 2014 CoCoFEST! but that was only half of it. We spend so much of our time at meetings during the year that it seems appropriate to show more of what went on at the fest. We do have a great time putting it on. This half is about the socializing that goes on much of the time. Check out all these interesting faces.



Welcome to our fest.



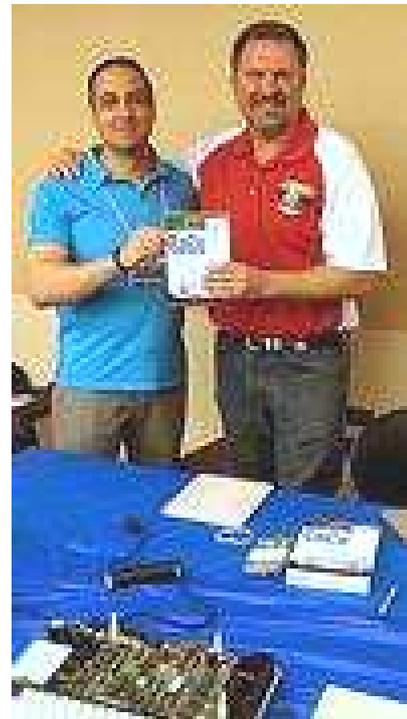
Sometimes this is all you could see of Mark Marlette from Delano MN for he it seems is one of the busiest at the fest.



Neil Blanchard of Welland Ontario Canada conversing with Sandy Wiemer of Delano MN. That is Mark Marlette looking up from his work.



Vice President Chris Hawks of Harvard Illinois going over the schedule of seminars and event times of the fest with President Tony Podraza of Carpentersville IL.



Boisy Pitre of Opelousas LA and Bill Loguidice of Burlington NJ co-authors holding their latest book; "CoCo - The colorful history of Tandy's underdog Computer".





Boisy Pitre from Opelousas LA with Aaron Wolfe from Palm Beach Gardens FL



Neil Blanchard of Welland Ontario Canada and Frank Pittel of Westmont IL talking with Boisy.



John Linville from Mebane NC telling us how he was proceeding with the development of Fahrfall for the future.



Carl England Sr looking over some of our exhibits.



More exhibits.

More exhibits?



Looking over more exhibits.



Because we had exhibitors in two rooms last year, some felt they missed half the show. This year we learned to keep all the exhibitors together for better socialization. There was still plenty of room.



These three pictures are a result of John Strong of Lansing MI setting up to take the group annual group photo Saturday evening before dinner.



Boisy Pitre informed us that Toolshed had been upgraded to handle function calls – a problem that gave us headaches when we were developing the LogiCall operating system.



Treasurer George Schneeweiss of Forrest IL and Vice-President Justin Wagner from Warrenville IL. As of late George has been hosting our annual Glenside picnic with help from Justin who has provided a Skype link to our members nation wide at the picnic.



Next to Linda Podraza of Carpentersville IL sits Daniel Chin of East Dundee IL with his daughter. This is a thing we really like to see at our fests, kids gaming on our CoCo's. Here we see Music Man Brian Schubring of Hanover Park IL looking on.



Richard Bair of Glencoe IL, Brenda Crislip of Norton OH, Linda Podraza of Carpentersville IL and John Strong of Lansing MI enjoying dinner.



Dr. Eddie Kuns of Glen Ellyn IL with Vice-President Chris Hawks of Harvard IL. Chris and his wife Nancy have a nice little farm there. Harvard IL was

the home of Paul Galvin who started MOTOROLA. Also found in Harvard can be found Mirai (mee-rye) sweet corn, said to be the sweetest corn in the world. All info at <http://www.twingardenfarms.com> We've enjoyed it at many Annual Glenside picnics.



Dr. Eddie Kuns of Glen Ellyn IL was one of the developers of the Glenside IDE Interface.



Neil Blanchard of Welland Ontario Canada

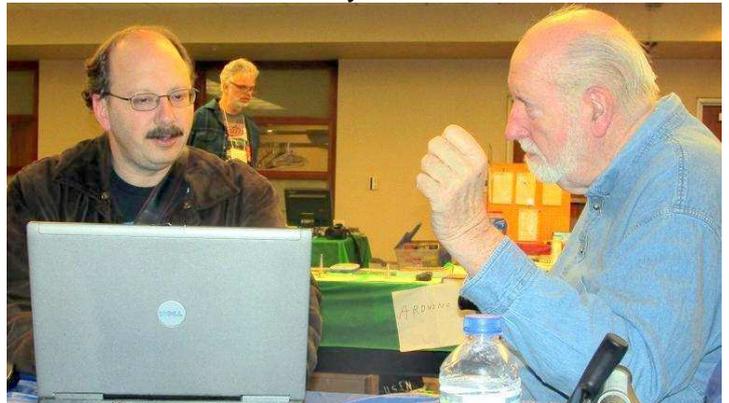


Karl Sefcik from Frisco TX is one of our few fest Charter members. He was the first to drive to the fest in his hybrid car. We depend on seeing him each year. What a great face, lots of character! He is usually one of the first to sign up each year. On

the right is Dan Keller from Downers Grove IL. Dan collects other kinds of 8-bit computers and sells art at the fest to help his collecting financed. We know he has a complete operational CoCo 3 disk system.



Rich Crislip of Norton OH receiving instruction from Bob Swoger on all that the LogiCall operating system ensemble can do to make the CoCo easier to use. One fact we found out recently was that CoCo users who have gone home with LogiCall did not use it when once they arrived home.



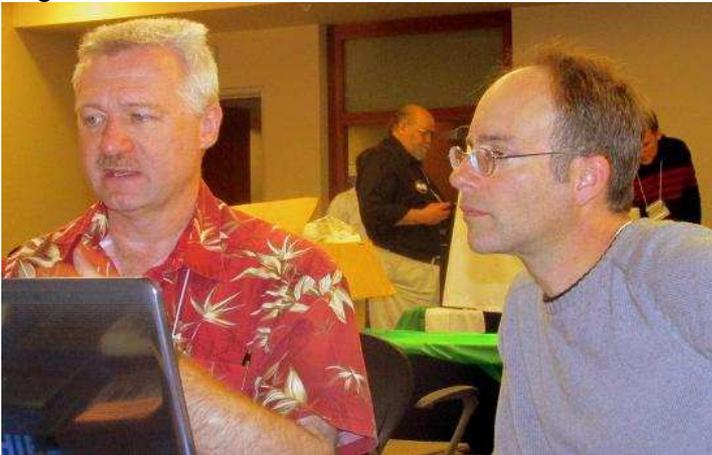
Dr. Eddie Kuns has been a Glenside member since 1985 but has missed the last 4 fests. I felt privileged to show him the LogiCall Operating System Ensemble. In one minute he renamed the main system program, then erased it from the disk essentially making the system unusable then saving a new copy to the disk, again, all three together in under 1 minute! He smiled. LogiCall makes all disk management very easy.



George Bethea of Elmsford NY has had LogiCall since 2012 fest yet this is the 1st time he's used it.



Newsletter Editor John Mark Mobley of Rolling Meadows IL in front of a real CoCo 3 running LogiCall with DriveWire 4 attached.



John Mark giving Brett Gordon of Lancaster OH demo of APL running on CoCo users.



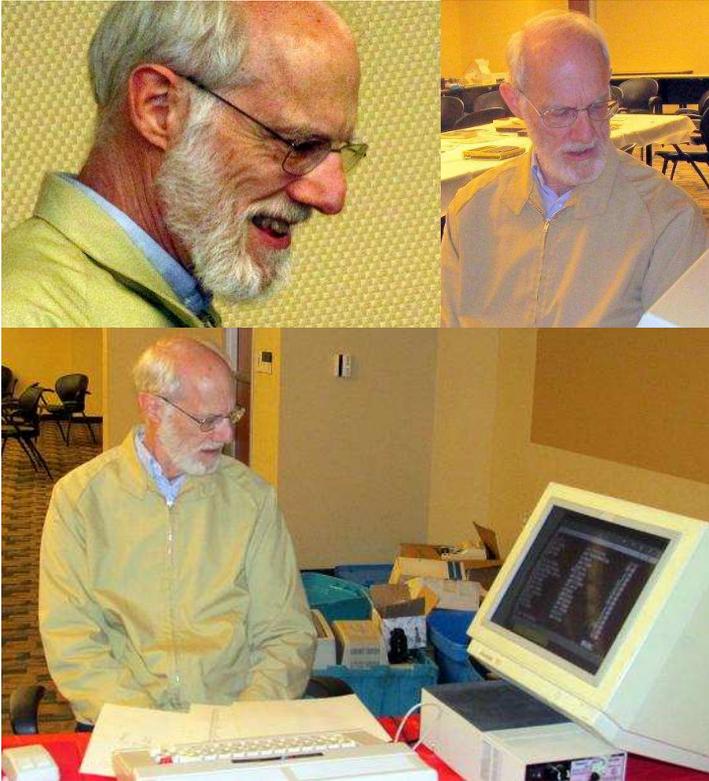
Andrew Weiler of Schaumburg IL receiving personal LogiCall instruction from John Mark Mobley. John Mark wrote the Move, Copy and Format routines for both the CoCo and CoCo using DriveWire. LogiCall can determine which system it's on and calls the correct version automatically.



Aaron Wolfe of Palm Beach Gardens FL. It was Aaron's work of inspiring others to start writing software again last year for the software contest that put in our minds this year's theme "Back to BASICS".

Though we had more than 50 members present, we just didn't get pictures of them all. Here are the many we missed.

- Camillus Blockx of Knox, IN**
- Greg Castora of Elmhurst, IL**
- Dan and Cora Chin of East Dundee, IL**
- Carl & Kacie England Jr of Calhoun, GA**
- Carl & Donna England Sr of Calhoun, GA**
- Tim Franklin of Darien, IL**
- Salvador and Noemi, Garcia of Broadview, IL**
- Brian Goers of Steger, IL**
- Brett Gordon Lancaster, OH**
- Wally Grossman of Cleveland, OH**
- Max Jackson of Cincinnati, OH**
- Randy Kindig of Lebanon, IN**
- Kip Koon of Manning, SC over Skype**
- Keith Kounovsky of Bethpage NY**
- Eric Kudzin of Chicago, IL**
- Steve Laisch of Lombard, IL**
- Jim O'Keefe of Worth, IL**
- Frank Pittel of Westmont, IL**
- Mike Rowen of Hebron KY**
- Tom Schaefgas of Madison, WI**
- Bob Smith of Knox, IN**
- John Strong of Lansing MI**
- Jeff Teunissen of Hudsonville MI**
- Jason Timmons of Prospect Heights, IL**
- Richard Tucker of Woodstock, Ontario**



Rich Bair from Glencoe IL is the man to contact for OS-9 2K updates. He is great doctor of BASIC code and OS-9 coding. It was Rich that repaired my granddaughters "WINNIE THE POOH IN THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD" which included recovering corrupted disks and updating OS-9 files the result of his work is now on LogiCall Vcc .VHD disk 43.



This is little Reagan Heidi today, she just turned 6.



William Astle from Calgary AB CN provided a seminar all about his LWTOOLS V4.10 set of cross-development tools first released in 2009.



See you next year: April 25 & 26, 2015
HERON POINT CONVENTION CENTER
 645 West North Avenue
 Lombard, IL 60148
 665 Building on the lower level
 Saturday 10 am to 5 pm, Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Calendar of Events
 by
John Mark Mobley and Salvador Garcia

Saturday & Sunday, September 13-14, 2014
 Emergency Chicago land Commodore Convention (ECCC)
 Lombard, IL, USA
 Link: <http://starbase.globalpc.net/eccc/>

Saturday & Sunday, September 13-14, 2014
 Vintage Computer Festival Midwest (VCFMW)
 Lombard, IL, USA
 Link: <http://vcfmw.org/>

Saturday, September 20, 2014
 Annual Glenside Picnic
 Forrest, IL, USA

Sunday, September 28, 2014
 Retropalooza
 Arlington, TX, USA
 Link:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Retropalooza/171779462982186>

Saturday & Sunday, October 18-19, 2014
 Portland Retro Gaming Expo
 Portland, OR, USA
 Link: <http://www.retrogamingexpo.com/>

Saturday & Sunday, November 15-16, 2014
 Syntax DemoParty
 North Melbourne, Australia
 Link: <http://www.syntaxparty.org/>

Saturday, December 6 2014
 World of Commodore 2014
 Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 Link: <http://www.tpug.ca/2014/08/world-of-commodore-2014/>

Be sure to visit our Website to see up to date information on upcoming events. <http://glensideecc.com>

The 24th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!

**BACK TO
 BASICS**

2015 CoCoFEST!

**Proudly Presented By
 The Glenside Colour Computer Club
 Fairfield Inn, Lombard, Illinois**

Here are the 5 "W's"

- WHO?** 1) Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc.
PRESENTS
WHAT? 2) The 24th Annual "Last" Chicago
 CoCoFEST!
WHEN? 3) April 25 & 26, 2015
 (Sat. 9 am-5 pm; Sun. 9 am-3 pm)
WHERE? 4) Fairfield Inn & Suites Lombard
 645 West North Avenue
 Lombard, IL 60148
 (Near the intersection of IL-355 and North Avenue)
 (Same location as 2014!)

Overnight room rate:
\$84.00 plus 11% tax (\$93.24 Total)
 Call 1-630-629-1500 for reservations.
 You must ask for the Glenside "CoCoFEST!" rate.
 >>> YOU MUST REGISTER UNDER "CoCoFEST!" <<<
 >>> TO GET THIS RATE <<<

- WHY? 5)**
 A. To provide vendor support to the CoCo Community
 B. To provide Community support for our CoCo Vendors
 C. To provide educational support to new users.
 D. TO HAVE AN OUTRAGEOUSLY GOOD TIME!!!

And now, the "H" word.
HOW MUCH? All Attendees - General Admission
 Saturday & both days: \$5.00 1st - \$5.00 2nd & more
 Sunday Only: \$5.00 1st - \$5.00 2nd & more
 ***** Children 12 and under - FREE *****

For further information, general or exhibitor, contact:
Tony Podraza, GCCCI **Robert Swoger, GCCCI**
 847-428-3576, VOICE 630-589-4692, VOICE
tonypodraza@gmail.com **rswoger@aol.com**

Please note the new starting times, 9 am, not 10 am.

3rd time's the charm - this is the last \$5 fling as this will be our last visit to this location. The Fairfield has been good to us.