CoCo~123



Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc. Volume 25, Number 3

Carpentersville, Illinois Fall/Winter 2005

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Upcoming Events:

The 15th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST! April 29-30, 2006 Regular meetings every 2nd Thursday @ Schaumburg Library

G.S.B.A.A. OFFICERS

Here is the list of 2005 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	Howard Luckey	708-747-1735	The buck stops here	
Vice-Presiden	t Justin Wagner	630-363-0518	Meeting planning, etc.	
Vice-Presiden	t Tony Podraza	847-428-3576	CoCoFEST! Organizer	
Vice-Presiden	t Brian Goers	708-754-4921	Special Events	
Secretary	Bob Swoger	630-837-7957	Records and Reporting	
Treasurer	George Schneeweiss	815-832-6995	Dues and Purchasing	

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to the second second

Howard Luckey



Justin Wagner





Robert Swoger



George Schneeweiss Brian Goers





Tony Podraza

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Volume 25, Number 3 1 Fall/Winter 2005

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CoCo~123 INFORMATION

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

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

If you are unsure of when you last paid dues, look at the address label. The numbers to the right of your name indicate the last year you paid your dues.

Our treasury provides newsletters, local meeting room and good times with fellow CoCo users at our annual Chicago CoCoFEST!.

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:

Bob Swoger 613 Parkside Circle Streamwood, IL 60107-1647

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Tony Cappellini Howard Luckey George Schneeweiss Robert Swoger

G. C. C. C. MEETINGS

The Glenside Color Computer Club meets the second Thursday of each month at the Schaumburg Township District Library at 7:30 PM. If you need a map, see our Glenside Homepage at:

http://members.aol.com/clubbbs/glenside/

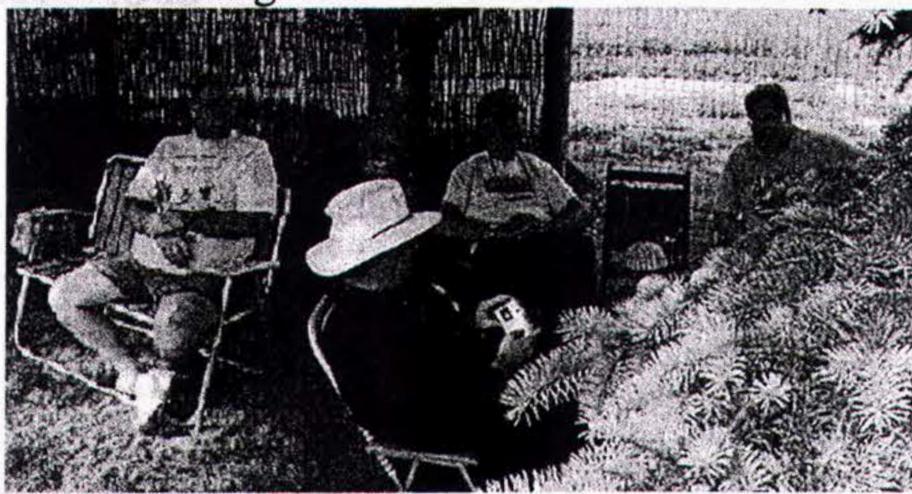
A social get-together always follows at a nearby restaurant.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DISK

Hello again folks. Since the last time on these pages the Glenside Color Computer had its annual picnic. That was on Sunday September 11th, 2005 at Chris and Nancy Hawk's place. The weather was comfortable and pleasant.



Brian Goers, Howard Luckey and George Schneeweiss
The company was a wonderful collection of
members and guests.

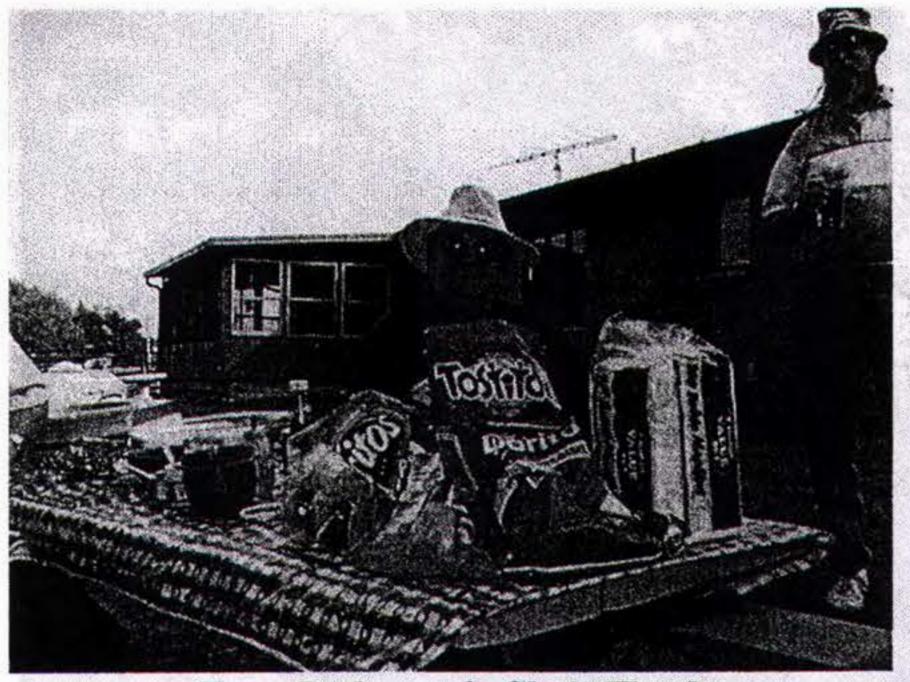


Brian Schubring, Tony Podraza, John Chasteen & Brian Goers. It is too bad more members were unable to be with us. Maybe more can make it next year.

From where I live it was a long drive and the directions posted on our web page were very inadequate until we, Brian Goers was my passenger, got near to where Chris lived. Fortunately, I had looked up the directions on Map Quest and made it up there okay.



As the day wore on I estimate that we had seventeen people attending including Justin's daughter Grace. And what a wonderful place to have a picnic, I think Chris said that he and Nancy have ten acres at a place located away from the big city.



Tony Podraza & Chris Hawks

On their land they have a very nice house, a pole barn, and coop and some animals to go with the land.

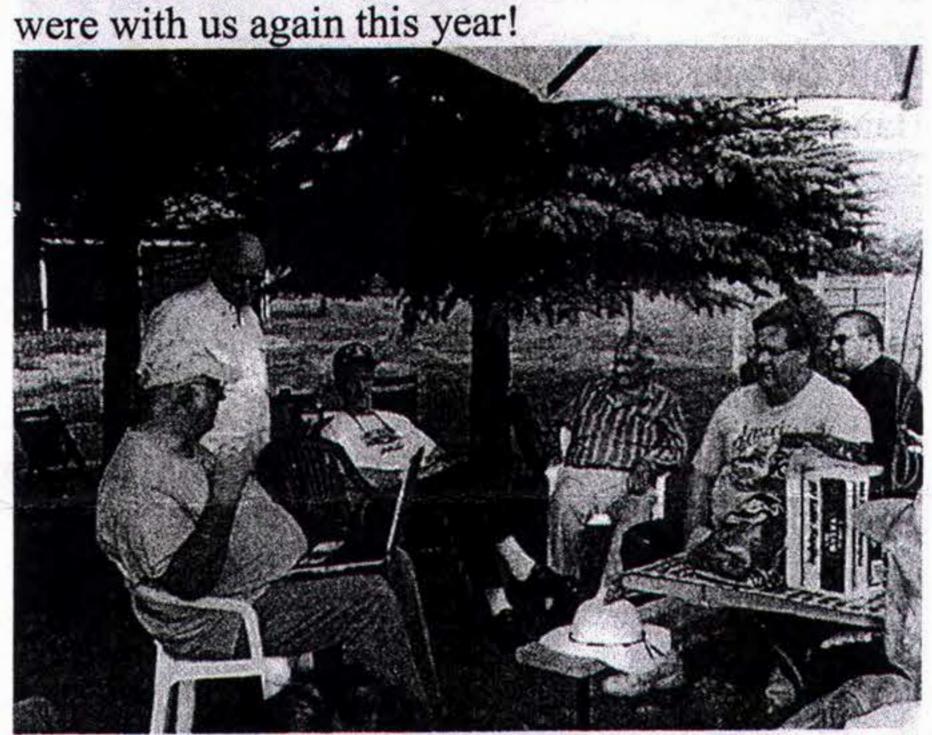


Larry Sauter with his wife Genevieve, above, and Bob Swoger with his wife Annette below, are the last two members of the Chicago Area Times/Sinclair Users Group still coming to our Glenside Annual Picnic.





Sandy and Rich were our newly weds this year, Congratulations to you both, we are so glad you



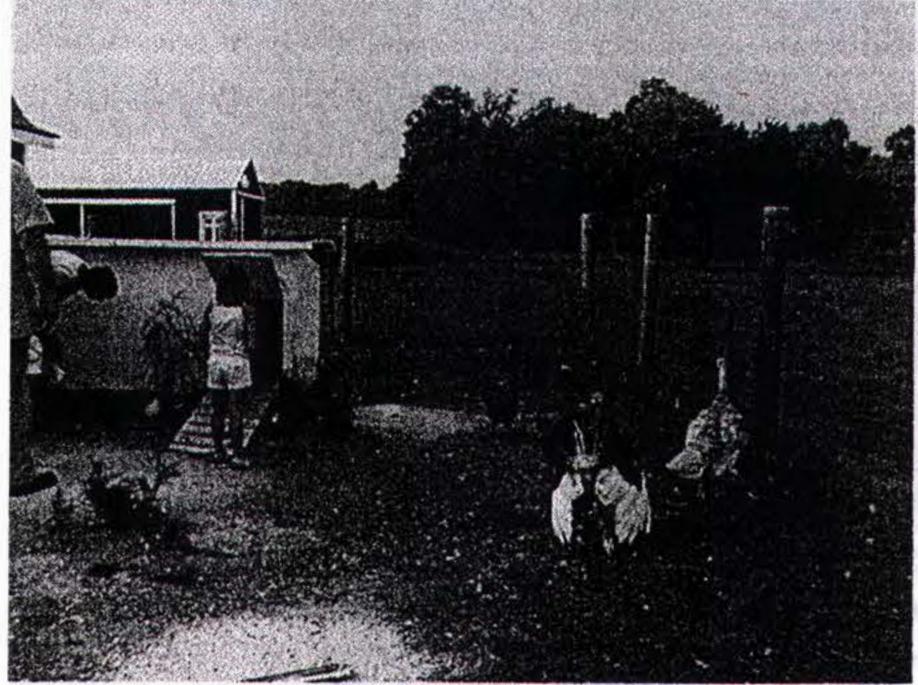
In addition to sitting under the shade trees we had plenty of food. We had dogs, brats and burgers, salads, and plenty of desserts.

Nancy worked for days to prepare extras delights of Lasagna, baked beans in meat sauce, and several deserts, all above and beyond that expected of a host. I brought some of my "world famous and delicious brownies."



They have a horse, some turkeys, and chickens. If I have left out any of the animals I hope they will

forgive me. Some of the younger folks attending had a chance to enjoy associating with the animals.



Bob Swoger was introduced to his namesakes Bandy chick GATOR.



The chickens and turkeys sounded off from time to time to remind us of our otherwise quiet farmland surroundings. Indeed, we were surrounded by corn and quiet.



Nancy Hawks saddled up Thunder to give Justin's daughter Grace a pony ride.



Grace got a pony ride on their very gentle pony Thunder led by her dad Justin.



The final event of the day was when Brian Schubring flew his Radio Controlled model Piper aircraft in the open field east of Chris's home which flew quietly and perfectly for all the viewers to see

Thanks, Chris and Nancy, for inviting the club to enjoy your hospitality.

Let me remind everyone that there will be another "Last" CoCoFEST! next year. The dates are: April 29 and 30, 2006. Come one -- come all.

New Topic:

I have a suggestion for members from around the country to join in on our meetings. The way it can be done, I believe, is to use a program called Gizmo, downloadable free from Gizmoproject.com. Anyone who joins can phone free to each other and we can have conference calls. My understanding is that other calls are around two cents a minute over the Internet. At one of our meetings I called Tony on his cell phone. He was sitting across the table from me. I

could hear him on my speakers but I couldn't talk to him through my computer because my mike wasn't working. Now I have a computer were the mike and the speakers work and at future meetings, starting in December, I plan to set up my computer for calls. At the moment I am unsure how calls to Gizmo members work. You can learn more by going to the site and there is a short article in the December issue of Wired magazine on page 046. I hope we can work something out.

Howard Luckey, President Glenside Color Computer Club

TREASURY NOTES

As of November 11, 2005, we have \$5,522.32 in the bank. We have 128 paid members. We also received \$84 in additional donations. We mail to 166 current and past members, IDE interface owners, past OS-9 User Group members and Dave Keil CoCo3 Emulator owners.

George Schneeweiss, Treasurer Glenside Color Computer Club

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

September 11, 2005

Howard Luckey called the meeting to order at 4:29 pm. Members present were Chris Hawks, Brian Schubring, Rich Bair, George Schneeweiss, Justin Wagner, Brian Goers, Tony Podraza, Bob Swoger and John Chasteen. Also present was Chicago Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group member Larry Sauter. Spouses present were Nancy Hawks, Sandy Bair, Marge Chasteen, Linda Podraza, Genevieve Sauter and Annette Swoger.

Bob reported that the newsletters had gone out to 176 members and 8 were returned, 3 with new forwarding addresses. Bob reminds members moving to provide Glenside with snail mail updates. The Last paid dues date was included to the right of the members name. Annette Swoger suggested that the color of that date should be something other than black ink so that it might stand out better for the recipient of the newsletter to take note.

A consensus was passed on last month's suggestions regarding helps to overcome our 2006 exhibition room price increase. George felt that we should not take any action at this time. Chris

Hawks felt that we need only do this for the future if we really experienced RED INK.

Nancy and Chris Hawks received a round of applause for putting on a great club picnic which provided no end of variety of picnic goodies, the entrée being hamburgers and Brats.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

October 13, 2005

Howard Luckey called the meeting to order at 8:29 pm. Members also present were Chris Hawks. Tony Podraza, and Bob Swoger.

Two of our members wrote to our secretary requesting to be removed from future mailings as they are no longer interested in CoCo Computers.

RC Smith was sent his requested Y2K upgrade disks by Tony Podraza. Thanks Rich Bair for supplying those disks.

Tony must work on vender contracts.

Howard suggested we wait one cycle for NL talk.

Bob reported that the newsletters will be sent out to those with new addresses. There are presently three such members.

Howard found PageMaker 6 to read Farna publications by Frank Swygert.

The group voted to make Bob Swoger our Secretary for the remainder of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

November 11, 2005

Howard Luckey called the meeting to order at 7:29 pm. Members also present were Chris Hawks, Tony Podraza, and Bob Swoger.

Treasurer George Schneeweiss reported that we have \$522.32 in our checking account and \$5000 in our CD for a total of \$5,522.32. Our CD will earn \$202.50 by June 10, 2006. The total CD will be available on March 9, 2006 to pay for the fest.

Bob Swoger read the October 13, 2005 meeting minutes.

Tony will work on vender contracts.

1st table -- \$35 Additional tables -- \$30

Exhibitors Passes -- \$5.00

Attendee Passes -- \$10 both days, \$7 Sunday only. First paid CoCoFEST! vender is Howard Luckey of Luckey Corner. Bob asks all to think about Logo and Theme for next CoCoFEST!

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Robert Swoger, Secretary Glenside Color Computer Club

Article

What did the Color Computer ever do for me? By West-coast GCCC member Tony Cappellini

During a 4 year enlistment in the Navy, I bought my first CoCo 1 from a guy in my squadron who had decided to buy an Atari 400. I didn't really understand much about programming then, and mostly only played the game cartridges. This was in 1981 or so. I had met another CoCo user in the Navy. Darryl was close to his discharge date, but we still kept in touch using a program which wrote text files to cassette. We would mail the cassette back and forth to each other, as a letter telling the other person what new things each of us had learned about the computer.

Approximately one year later I was honorably-discharged and moved back to Pennsylvania looking for a job. By then I had subscribed to Rainbow, 80 Micro Journal, Color Computer News, Hot CoCo, and just about every other CoCo-specific magazine I could find. I had also ordered my first floppy drive & controller from an ad in the back of Rainbow. I think I paid \$425 for the Tandy controller and floppy drive at that time. I remember my dad's eyes popping out when I told him how much that silver box and black plastic cartridge cost, but it was approximately \$99 or more less than Radio Shack's price.

I had spent many hours typing in programs from the magazines, as well as spending fractions of that time fixing bugs. Most of the time, I had no idea why the fixes made the program work, I was just happy to see the programs run.

One day, while taking the CoCo in to Radio Shack for the "free" upgrade which provided better ground connections on the cartridge port, I met a guy, Jerry, who was involved in a local computer group (not - CoCo specific). Over the next year or so, I had gone to several meetings and met a few other CoCo users. Jerry had eventually formed a CoCo SIG and I had attended as many meetings as possible. The CoCo SIG grew to at least 20 people or more. Since the economy was doing poorly (The Billy Joel song "Allentown" was all too true,

about my hometown), I had moved back to California about 1 year later looking for a job. I timed my move so that I could attend the FIRST-Original CoCoFEST! somewhere near Chicago. I don't really remember much from it though.

At my first job, a computer club eventually formed, of which I was the only CoCo-owning member: (The largest group was the C-64 group, of which my roommate was the host of many of the meetings. I endured many a trash-80 joke, but could boast that I was running a Unix-like OS with a windowing interface, 512K RAM disk, and 2 80MB hard drives. However, King of myperceived Castle, I was the only one in the castle. I had later joined a fairly large CoCo-users group called Color America, which was based in Monrovia, California. Steve Bjork was a member and frequently came to the meetings, with his larger-than-life ego following him. During one of the meetings, Steve added a free intro melody to the Sands of Egypt floppy, for anyone who brought an original diskette with them to the meeting. I still can hear that 4 bar melody in my head, but wish I could hear it again as an MP3. There were a few other not-as-prominent CoCo developers who attended occasionally, but many people showed their home-brew projects. It was amazing how much creativity that computer brought out in people. It was in this group that a hardware-savvy guy named Rick upgraded my 16k CoCo to 64K, for a paltry fee. I was terrified watching him wield the soldering iron over my motherboard, but could see he had done it before, and finished before I had time to faint. Now I could run several programs that I could not run before.

One non-commercial program that I fondly remember which was called 'Z' which was THE reason for getting the 64k upgrade. This program was similar to Xtree Gold on the PC, or today's Windows Explorer. On a floppy-based computer, having such a program for file manipulation was a real blessing. I cannot remember who wrote this program, but I wish I still had it:-) After a few years, Color America eventually disbanded, and I was a loner again.

One day while driving home from work, I saw a license plate which had some letters about COCO computer or something like it. I almost jumped out

of my seat and nearly had an accident trying to flag down the lady driving the car. After convincing her I was just a computer weirdo, and not your run-of-the-mill weirdo, she eventually pulled over and we exchanged phone numbers. She told me her husband was the computer guy, and built a whole room just for his CoCos. Wowhe had three of them. A real power user. I couldn't wait to meet him. After getting home, I called his numbers and left several anxious messages on his machine. We eventually got in touch and spent many hours hanging around doing computer things. Interestingly enough, Marvin only had lived minutes from me. Marvin literally DID build a room for his CoCos. He had built shelves for all his magazines and documentation, and several slide-out platforms for the computers. This guy was more of a geek than I was, but I really wished I had a room just like his.

Being the handyman that he is, Marvin had built an L-shaped table for me which I used for my computers and synthesizers. He made this from part of an old waterbed frame that I had in the garage. I had used this table for close to 8 years before giving it away. It was very modular, and could be easily disassembled. Marvin and his wife and I are very good friends, and in addition to spending hours with them doing computer things, I would regularly go over to their house on Monday's to watch Star Trek: TNG, and eat Thai food. I had even lived with them for a few weeks after the Northridge quake, which was quite destructive. I can remember that we drove around trying to find some batteries just so we could watch Star Trek: TNG on a portable TV.

One of the most fun gadgets I ever bought for the CoCo was a sound digitizer cartridge from a Canadian company called Oblique Triad (Jeff Noyle and Dave Triggerson). I loved sampling various audio clips then re-arranging them for playback. Unfortunately there were some hardware problems with the device and I had to send it back for exchange, never to be seen again. This was the only time I was "ripped-off" because of the COCO. Oddly enough, this situation has a surprise ending, and the story will be told in another email.

Sometime between 1992-1995, I had sold all of my CoCo gear to a company in Ypsilanti

Michigan, (CoCoPro, I think), for approximately \$600. Not a bad deal, considering how long I had it and the fact that CoCo gear wasn't pulling top dollar. Many times since then I had regretted selling my CoCo gear. Now with the help of the Internet and the GCCC, I am happy to see the CoCo is still alive and products are still being made and sold for it. I wish I had the room for another computer and the time to spend with it. So I've opted for David Kiel's emulator hoping to get Nitros09 and some games running on it. However, I can't seem to make it work on my PC at the moment and haven't been able to get in touch with David.

Marvin and his wife eventually moved away, and I moved to San Jose for another job. I did visit them in their new location a few years ago, and I had some occasional contact with Jerry in Pennsylvania. We've all moved into the PC world, for various reasons, but I do not regret having started with the CoCo. Because of Tandy's machine, I've made many friends and have a lot of good memories because of it. I am currently living/working in Silicon Valley as a software engineer and would like to say that the CoCo and all the friends I made because of it have helped to shape my life and career. This is what the Color Computer did for me! PS: I freely admit that I never did solve Raaka-tu nor Sands of Egypt, but have probably spent hundreds of hours playing Robotron, Zaxxon, Donkey Kong, and Centipede on the CoCo.

COMMUNICATIONS

Oblique Triad: A real straight-shooter!

Tony, You're probably wondering why I am sending you a \$100 donation to the Glenside Color Computer Club. In the previous letter/article entitled, "What did the Color Computer ever do for me?", I made a reference to being ripped off by a Canadian company called Oblique Triad, for a product called Studio Works Pro, which was a hardware/software audio sampler for the CoCo. Oblique Triad was a two-man company comprising of Jeff Noyle and David Triggerson. (I was always impressed with the name, "Oblique Triad")

It all started approximately 12 years ago, when I had purchased Studio Works Pro from Oblique

Triad. The product worked fairly well, but there was some problem with it, which caused me to return it for a refund. After many weeks had passed I had not received my refund. So I had called Oblique Triad, and left several messages which were also not returned. Not knowing how to deal with a fraud case for a Canadian company, I had called something of the equivalent to The Better Business Bureau, in Canada.

For some reasons which I cannot remember now, they could not help me with this problem. Over the following months I had tried calling Oblique Triad many times, still not having any success. So I gave up on my pursuit to get reimbursed, and forgot about it over the years.

After having discovered the GCCC's web page, and innocently following a trail of links from it, I came across an email dated 2003, from Distant Systems, the company which Jeff Noyle was working for, granting permission to put one of their CoCo games into the public domain.

I had sent an email to the address from Distant Systems, but it was returned. I had then tried substituting Jeff's name then adding the domain for Distant Systems. This time the email was not returned, but I had not received a reply.

A few days later, I had found an email from Paypal regarding payment from Jeff at Distant Systems, accompanied by the following letter.

"Subject: Refund for Studio Works Pro Hi Tony,

I deeply apologize for how long you've had to wait for this, and I am impressed by your perseverance!

I recall getting an email from you about 12 or so years ago and consciously ignoring it at the time because I didn't have \$100 to my name. I said to myself "I'll pay him back some day" and promptly (or conveniently) forgot.

Anyway, here's the \$100. I hope paypal works for you. If not, please let me know at the <email address removed> address and I'll send a check or whatever you'd prefer.

Apologies again,

-Jeff (and Dave in absentia)"

I was really happy that this problem had finally been resolved. It wasn't so much about getting my

money back, but just having a confirmation and admission of the problem by Oblique Triad.

So I am donating this \$100 to the GCCC to help with their expenses, since because of my involvement with the CoCo from their web page, I was able to finally get this issue resolved.

Tony Cappellini
A West Coast member of the GCCC

HERE WE GO AGAIN!!! ARE YOU READY FOR THIS??? WILL IT NEVER END???

FLASH *** FLASH *** FLASH *** FLASH *** FLASH

Here are the 5 "W's"

WHO? 1) The Glenside Color Computer Club, Inc. presents

WHAT? 2) The 15th Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!

WHEN? 3) April 29th & 30th, 2006

(Sat. 10am-5pm; Sun. 10am-3:00pm or whenever)

WHERE? 4) HOLIDAY INN & SUITES ELGIN 495 Airport Rd.

(A city block North of I-90 & IL-31) Elgin, Illinois, 60123

(Same great location as last year,!)

Overnight single occupancy room rate:

\$79.00 plus 10% tax (possibly less)
Call 1-847-488-9000 for reservations.

Be sure to ask for the "CoCoFEST!" rate.

!!!!! THERE IS A LIMITED SUPPLY OF ROOMS BLOCKED OUT FOR THE FEST !!!!!
!!!!! RESERVE YOUR ROOM EARLY - THESE ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED !!!!!
!!!!! REGULAR RESERVATIONS ON APRIL 15, 2006 AND WILL NOT, !!!!!

IIIII INOT! BE AVAILABLE TO THE FEST ATTENDEES

>>>>> 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 to the CoCo Vendors

C. To provide educational support to new users.

D. TO HAVE AN OUTRAGEOUSLY GOOD TIME!!!!!

And now, the "H" word.

HOW MUCH? 1) General Admission, ALL ATTENDEES:
\$10.00 whole show - \$7.00/Sunday only

****** Children 10 and under - FREE ******

Advance ticket sales available between 2/15/2006 and 4/01/2006 from:

GEORGE SCHNEEWEISS

13450 N 2700 E ROAD

FORREST, IL 61741

Include a Self-Addressed-STAMPED-Envelope (SASE)

For further information, general or exhibitor, contact:

Tony Podraza, Secretary, GCCC Brian Goers, VP, Spcl Evnts, GCCC

847-428-3576, VOICE 708-754-4921, VOICE

tonypodraza@juno.com bgoers@ais.net

Be sure to visit GLENSIDE"S Website:

"http://members.aol.com/clubbbs/glenside/"