The Zero Page
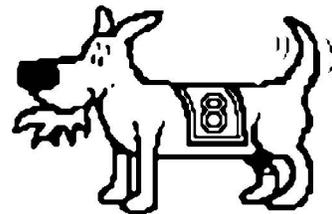
The newsletter of the Commodore Users of Wichita

"For the sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers"

Number 47, September 1997

Eight-bit keeps takin' a byte
out of Commodore computing

Rear View Mirror

by Moe Shouse

This time I am going to do something different. Instead of looking back, I think I'll look at the present and maybe look at what's ahead for 8 bit users. Even so, I'll still keep the title "Rear View Mirror." For a long time now, things have not gone well for Commodore 8 bit users. There have been only a few companies willing to support this addiction we have called Commodore. But I think things are looking better than they have for a long time.

Today I received the latest issue of *Commodore World.* It has some bad news and some good news. First the bad news. Doug Cotton says in his "From the Editor" column, that CMD was broken into and the non-Commodore system used to make Commodore World was stolen along with some other non-Commodore systems. However, everything was backed up, and safe. But it took extra time to recreate the things they needed. No one was at the offices at the time it happened. And no Commodore stuff was taken - these bad guys are sure dumb. Also, Doug talks about some changes in the magazine. These changes are not large, just adjusting the number of pages, up by 8. And they've reduced the number of columns to fit everything in, because some were a little larger than before. The magazine looks very good.

And now for the good news. Inside the front cover is CMD's ad for two NEW RAM Expansion Units. Yes, that's right NEW and manufactured by CMD. One is 512K for $99 and the other one is 2MB for $139. Features: Commodore REC controller chip - small size case - lower power consumption than most other RAM devices - compatible with Swiftlink and Turbo232 interfaces - supplied complete with utilities and documentation.

Our own Nate Dannenberg is listed on page 6 in "On the Horizon," a Commodore and Computer Industry News page. It includes Nate's **Sound Studio 128 v4.0** in a section listing Arkanix Labs Press Releases. It also lists a lot of other really neat looking stuff. The same column mentions a book called "The Internet for Commodore C64/128 Users, 2nd Edition."

On page 14, Mr. Dale Sidebottom does his second in a series called Commodore's Major Developer. What is neat is that in the title, the letters C M D are done like Creative Micro Designs logo. And the content of the article is great. One graphic shows a turtle teasing a lazy rabbit about a real race. I'll let you guess the brand name on each.

On page 46 is an article on changing a C64 from NTSC to PAL. If you don't know, NTSC is the standard for U.S. TV broadcast and PAL is the standard used in Europe. It shows that Commodore made their main boards so they could be put together to run either one. Doug Cotton shows how to change it to PAL if it was NTSC. All that is changed is one chip, the VIC chip, the crystal, and some jumper pads. However, there are five different rev. boards, but Doug does a good job of showing how to do it.

This issue is very encouraging, I think Commodore 8 bit users have a very bright future ahead. Happy computing!

**Next CUW Meeting:
Saturday, September 13
1:00 - 5:00 pm
1411 South Oliver**

You can access up to 16 Megabytes of data with electronic speed. Find out how whem Moe Shouse demonstrates **RAMLink** from Creative Micro Designs.

Your CUW Steering Committee members are:

Dale Lutes	Chair, Newsletter Editor
Jerry Shook	Vice-Chair
Marie Both	Financial Officer
Robert Bales	BBS Representative
Arlen Gould	Member at-large
Dwayne Howard	Public Domain Librarian
Don McManamey	Disk Editor
Morris Shouse	Member at-large
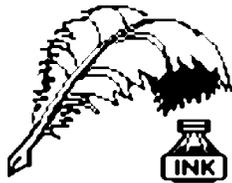
Don's Digest
by Don McManamey

Here we are back to school, football season upon us, and the weather is cooling down. The time has come to sit down, relax, and enjoy the easy life, right? Wrong! Dale is back to work as an official in school football, some of us are working copious hours in aircraft and my youngest has run off to school in Oklahoma and left me to carry his lawn mowing business. And we thought things would slow down. No way, Jose. With all the complications in my life at this time, what I really needed was to put together a Disk O'Quarter. Well, guess what? It is Disk O'Quarter time again.

Once again our Dale Lutes has come up with some really great GEOS stuff. He has written more of those tablature fonts. You know, those funny finger placement things for guitar players who can't remember where to put their fingers for each chord! I'm sure the guys (and presumably gals) over in the UK will really like that. I had been wondering when we would get to run some of their stuff on the Disk O'Quarter and lo and behold Dale has included some great stuff from across the pond. Among the GEOS goodies is a complete listing of all the Star Trek programs. If you would like to know the title of a show and if it was before or after another show then search no longer. There is a listing for Star Trek, the Next generation, Voyager, the movies, and Cartoon Trek. Looks like you need to trek on over to your computer and check it out. While you are there, check out the GIF that was included on the geoSide as well. It is a picture from the Mars Pathfinder probe.

Now among the things you'll find on the front of the Disk O'Quarter is a game called the *Great Gianna Sisters.* This is a European game which was cracked and distributed in the USA. It has a few quirks but is pretty nice. This game was re-written and released as *Super Mario Brothers.* If you are familiar with the Commodore version of *Super Mario Brothers* then this game will be easy to figure out. We also have a promo with picture and sound. This cute artwork shows one of the Gianna girls running from some attacking mutants.

For those who are interested, I have planned some work on the Public Domain Library but to date haven't really done anything except plan. The PD Library should be out for people to use this month. My apologies for not getting it to last month's meeting. I left the Disk O'Quarter behind also. That makes me double sorry. Some people just say I'm a sorry person.

By the way, attendance has been down the last few months. If you were there last month you would have seen a demo on running Commodore software on other machines. It had been said many years ago that, "Any computer can emulate any other computer as long as speed, memory, and cost are not important." Well, computers have gotten powerful enough that emulating a Commodore 64 is no problem. It has been said that the only thing a person would want to emulate from a Commodore is the games. Well I have used *Microsoft Word* quite a bit and as nice and powerful as it is I really like *The Write Stuff* on my 128.

Well, it is time for me to go but be sure to come out and support the club. Until next time, think about this: Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways? To me, that does not compute!

Windows 95 Defined
author unknown

Windows 95: n.
32 bit extensions and a graphical shell for a 16 bit patch to an 8 bit operating system originally coded for a 4 bit microprocessor, written by a 2 bit company that can't stand 1 bit of competition.

This Mars Pathfinder photograph shows the Sojourner Rover taking an Alpha Proton X-ray Spectrometer measurement of the martian rock nicknamed "Yogi" by the Pathfinder team.

Random Access
by Dale Lutes

September is here and my brief respite from sports officiating is over. This means that I'll be absent from our next two meetings (or very late, at best). I'm confident that you will all take good care of the club while I'm gone.

September also means that it's time for another Disk O'Quarter. Much of the geoSide is provided once again by Dave Elliott. After seeing the article on building monitor cables reprinted in the July newsletter, Dave mailed me several related GEOS programs. These are essentially on-line instructions for building cables. Also included are several programs which list the episodes in the Star Trek, Next Generation, and Deep Space 9 series. Dave is the author of all of the cable-making and Trek programs.

RPN and RPN128 written by Robert A. Knop Jr. also come to us courtesy of Dave Elliott. These programs implement reverse-polish notation calculators for GEOS 64 and GEOS 128. If you've used the early Hewlett-Packard pocket calculators, you are familiar with R-P notation (I think current Hewlett-Packard models use algebraic notation). The source code is not included, but I have it available for anyone who would like a copy.

I found some time in August to complete work on four additional fonts for my Tablature Font Collection (DOQ #16). I also made a few modifications to the original four, so the entire set is present on this Disk O'Quarter. Thanks to Don McManamey for providing the set of guitar chord diagrams which allowed me to make these additions.

If you were present at the August meeting, you saw the club's new sign which was posted near the road. For those who missed it, the sign reads "Commodore Club Meeting Today" with an arrow pointing the way and the Commodore logo prominently displayed. The sign was professionally painted in red and blue, the logo colors. We owe a big thanks to Robert Bales for the idea, for locating & contracting with the painter, and for making the sign posts. Robert and I had several conversations about the sign and what it should look like. I am happy to say that the final result exceeded all of my expectations.

The steering committee has been working hard to come up with a schedule of meeting topics. We always try to plan things several months in advance. Right now, we have the meetings scheduled through January 1998. In closing this month's "Random Access," I want to take the opportunity to thank the committee members for all the effort they put into the planning and execution of our club activities.

September Meeting Agenda

1:00 - 2:00	Equipment setup, informal meeting
2:00 - 2:45	Business meeting
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 4:00	Feature demo: RAMLink
4:00 - 5:00	Meeting over, informal gathering, equipment teardown

4 Sale

Dale Lutes has the following Commodore 128 system for sale:

✗ Commodore 128 computer
✗ Commodore 1571 disk drive
✗ Commodore C2N cassette drive
✗ Seikosha SP-1000 VC dot matrix printer
✗ Smith-Corona TP-II daisy wheel printer w/interface
✗ 2 Epyx 500XJ joysticks
✗ Reference books & manuals
✗ Business, productivity and game software

The price is $80 or best offer. This is a great opportunity to upgrade to a C-128 system! Call Dale at 721-0835 if you are interested.
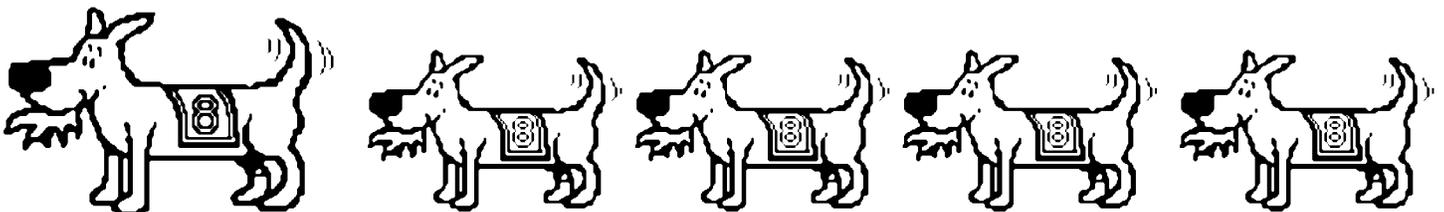
The Helping Hand

This column lists those users willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other club members.

Astrology, Biorhythm
Marie Both

Cards, Posters & Signs
Fred Earley

Family Roots
Maxine Ulrich

GEOS
Fred Earley   Dale Lutes

Internet Access
Shaun Halstead

Labels
Jerry Shook

Telecommunications
Robert Bales

Printing in Color
Don McManamey   Jerry Shook

Programming
Dale Lutes

Word Processing & Desktop Publishing
Fred Earley   Don McManamey
Jerry Shook   Dale Lutes

Helping Hand Volunteers
Robert Bales   831-0008
Marie Both   262-2338
Fred Earley   722-4044
Shaun Halstead   942-5809
Dale Lutes   721-0835
Don McManamey   265-2560
Jerry Shook   776-2683
Maxine Ulrich   838-8606

Let us know if we may include your name in future Helping Hand listings. If we don't have a category for you already, we'll add one!

The Commodore Users of Wichita is a club dedicated to "the sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers." Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 1-5pm at 1411 S. Oliver, one block north of the corner of Harry & Oliver. Anyone who owns or uses a Commodore computer system is welcome to attend.

Family memberships cost $15 per year. Members receive a monthly newsletter, a quarterly disk publication, access to an extensive library of public-domain software, and the right to vote on matters of club policy. Other membership options are also available. Contact any of the officers (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) for more information. We are looking forward to seeing **you** at our next meeting!
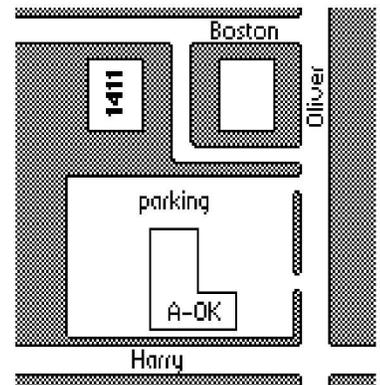
You may join or renew your membership by mail.
Complete this form and mail with a check payable to:

Commodore Users of Wichita
c/o Marie Both
351 E Marion CT, #2
Wichita, KS 67216

Type of membership:
❏ Family - includes Newsletter & Disk O'Quarter ($15 per year)
❏ Newsletter-only ($5 for 12 issues)
❏ Disk O'Quarter by mail ($12 for 4 issues)
❏ Disk O'Quarter by mail plus Newsletter ($15)

Name: _____
Address: _____
_____
City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____

List additional family members who are interested in participating:
_____
_____

What Commodore systems do you use? (please check all that apply)
❏ C-128   ❏ C-64   ❏ SX-64   ❏ VIC-20   ❏ C-16   ❏ Plus/4
❏ Other (specify) _____