

COMMODORE USERS OF WICHITA

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

Number 1, November 1993

From the Editor

by Dale Lutes

Welcome to the first newsletter for the Commodore Users of Wichita. The CUW is a new club, but many of you will recognize old, familiar faces. This newsletter is going out to all of our new members plus a few who have expressed a past interest in Commodore computing. The CUW is dedicated to those users of "pre-Amiga" Commodore systems, namely the C64, C128, VIC, C16 and Plus/4. We want to provide meetings with a friendly, family atmosphere where new users and long-timers can shake hands, swap ideas, and have some fun while learning more about their machines.

Club offices have not yet been defined and first elections are tentatively scheduled for February. In the meantime, these members have volunteered to provide essential club services:

Jerry Shook,	Chairman & meeting facilitator
Robert Bales,	Bulletin board representative
Marie Both,	Treasurer & membership officer
Don McManamey,	Disk editor & guiding light
Judy Matthews,	Commercial lending librarian
Dale Lutes,	Newsletter editor & PD librarian

These folk are covering most of the bases, but we are still looking for someone who is willing to act as club Secretary and/or someone who can help coordinate activities at the monthly club meetings. It is important to note that these people do **NOT** constitute a ruling body as in some other clubs. We feel it is important for **ALL** club members to be informed and to have a vote in club policy decisions.

Whether or not you have ever belonged to a computer users group, we hope you will give us a try. We are looking forward to meeting you this Saturday afternoon.

A NEW CLUB IS BORN

by Fred Earley

On Friday, October 8, 1993 twenty users of the C64 and C128 met and formed a new club, *The Commodore Users of Wichita*. This club will meet the second Saturday of each month at the Wichita Water Department (see the map elsewhere in this issue). Dues have been initially set at \$10 per year for a family membership. Organizers of the effort were Don McManamey, Jerry Shook, Marie Both and other volunteers.

Another meeting was scheduled for Saturday, October 16th. On that day, six Commodores were operating at the same time, and fifteen users came and went between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Get Yourself Digitized!

by Fred Earley

At the November meeting Nate Dannenberg will bring his set up for displaying pictures taken with a camcorder and will bring his improved version of Battleship which can be played by two people via modem.

Letter to the Editor

by Fred Earley

It's quite interesting to see how many different viewpoints exist about how this new club should be set up and run. Very sincere people have experienced unpleasant conditions in other clubs and have come up with totally different ideas about how to make the club just one happy family.

OFFICERS

One sincere user with many years of computer club experience wants the officers to be limited to three: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Another equally sincere user, also with extensive computer club experience, thinks in terms of nine officers. At this point I suggest we follow the slogan of John F. Kennedy "Ask not what your club can do for you but what you can do for the club."

Dale Lutes has already volunteered to handle the newsletter. Let's give him all the help we can and let him do it as he sees fit. If someone is willing to handle the dues and keep appropriate records of names, addresses, phone numbers, expiration dates, and equipment used, let's allow him to keep the data in whatever form he wants even if it is with a spiral notebook and a ball point pen. If two or three users want to share these duties, by all means let's let them do so.

I have seen a case where someone set up an elaborate, sophisticated system of keeping a database and then turned it over to someone who had the equipment but did not know the program. The result was confusion and a loss of records. Instead of devising the system and then pressuring a volunteer to follow that system, let's define the objectives and let the "officer" handle the job in whatever way he wants to, so long as he can explain it and pass it on to someone else when he no longer wants the opportunity. In other words, instead of saying, "You should do the job this way", let's say, "I'm willing to do the following for the club."

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A Reply

In his letter, Fred Early raises a number of important issues: Club Officers, Procedures, Equipment and Finances. Each of these must be examined carefully here in our new club's formative period. Some of us who have worked to get the CUW off the ground see things in a different way:

OFFICERS

We do not envision the club having officers in the traditional sense of a policy or decision making body. We have seen, in other organizations, what can happen when an "elite" body cuts off the lines of communication with the general membership. We do not want that to happen to our club. What we see is a club where all members have a vote in determining club policy, perhaps with ad-hoc committees formed to examine issues and make recommendations to the membership.

There are a lot of jobs that require extra time and effort from certain members. We can call them "officers" or "leaders" or something else entirely. We recognize the following service positions:

Meeting Chairperson	Newsletter Editor
Program Coordinator	Disk Editor
Membership Officer	BBS Representative
Treasurer	Software Librarian

One club member may perform several of these functions. Conversely, one job may be handled by a team of several members.

PROCEDURES

The club must keep records of its members, finances, and hardware & software assets. Fred suggests that each officer handle the job in whatever fashion suits him, be it electronically or with pencil and paper. We would like to promote a database maintained on club-owned hardware and software for these reasons:

- ✓ We minimize the chances that data will be lost or have to be re-entered when an officer steps down.
- ✓ Important club records can be easily and routinely backed up.
- ✓ We are a computer club. What better way to promote our machines than by using them for club activities?

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Letter to the Editor (continued from page 2)

If we have some old timers who have ideas about how the club should be run but who do not plan to participate personally, perhaps we should think twice before adopting their plans. To that end I hereby relinquish all ideas about a newsletter and let Dale handle it any way he pleases.

CLUB DUES

Let's have a vote on whether to have the dues at \$ 10 with no disk of the quarter or fifteen dollars with a disk of the quarter.

CLUB EQUIPMENT

How much equipment does the club need to maintain? If we are to provide disk copying services then we need to maintain the equipment for that. At Saturday's meeting there were six demos, none of which used club equipment. What club equipment is needed?

Fred Earley

A Reply (continued from page 2)

CLUB EQUIPMENT

Fred asks, "What club equipment is needed?" Some have suggested that the club needs none at all. We disagree for these reasons:

- ✓ Use of club-owned equipment ensures that our hardware capabilities will survive turnover in offices and membership.
- ✓ A club can be very demanding on its hardware. It is not fair to expect members to suffer wear and tear on their disk drives and printers for club services.
- ✓ An officer should not be expected to interrupt his personal activities during a meeting in order to update the club database or copy club disks.

CLUB DUES

At the first club meeting, the membership voted to set club dues at \$10.00 for a yearly family membership. This decision was made without considering the issue of club-owned hardware and several other operational expenses. We would like to propose setting the annual dues at \$15.00.

Assume a membership of 30 people. Approximate fixed expenses (postage & Disk O'Quarter) is \$7.60 per member annually. At the current dues rate, we have an excess of only \$2.40 per member annually for a total of \$72.00. Consider:

- ✓ Failure of a club-owned C64 or 1571 can cost \$20-\$75 for repair or replacement.
- ✓ How much commercial software (at \$15-\$30 per package) can the club afford?
- ✓ The club does not have a printer, although one is needed for membership cards, label printing, correspondence, etc.
- ✓ If it becomes impossible to reproduce the newsletter for free, it would cost us \$36.00 per year if we spend only \$0.10/copy.
- ✓ We have not allowed for the purchase of any miscellaneous office supplies.

Using the above scenario, we would increase our net cash reserve from \$72.00 to \$222.00 per year by setting the annual dues at \$15.00. Keep in mind that not a single attendee at our first meeting considered \$15.00 excessive. Here are the details of our proposed annual budget:

\$120.00	Disk O'Quarter
108.00	postage
70.00	hardware maintenance
50.00	commercial software
21.00	PD software
36.00	newsletter production
45.00	miscellaneous/emergency fund

\$450.00	total (30 members x \$15/year)

Fred suggests voting on whether or not the Disk O'Quarter should be included in the membership fee. This very issue **was** voted upon at our first meeting. We continue to support the DOQ project. For more on the Disk O'Quarter, we refer you to this month's *Don's Digest*.

A FINAL NOTE

Fred mentions "old timers" who do not plan to participate in club leadership. We respect Fred and recognize the contributions he made as a leader in the C&AUGW. We sincerely hope that he is not counting himself out as a leader in the new CUW.

Dale Lutes, Robert Bales, Marie Both
Don McManamey, Jerry Shook

Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

It has been brought to my attention that some are opposed to the Disk O'Quarter. The overwhelming majority of our members support it and so it will continue for now. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the DOQ, why it was started and what its purpose is.

For some time, the 8 bit people (64 and 128 users) have had little activity and few new things to get excited about. In an attempt to get things stirred up, the DOQ was proposed as one way to achieve this goal. The DOQ has certain legal restrictions placed upon it and so all programs contained in it must be in the public domain or shareware or released from copyright by the holder of that copyright. Does this mean that the programs are destined to be second rate? By no means! There are many great PD programs that most of us have never seen. What we need to do is look for them. With literally thousands of PD programs it would be nearly impossible for one person to comb through them all to find the good stuff. This is our chance to collectively do just that!

The first 3 issues will have included programs written by our own people and are being released to the world right here in Wichita! Make no mistake, these programs are not junk. All that aside, most of us have PD programs we think are pretty good and that everyone has. Fact is, what is old to one is new to another. This disk is an outlet for this and more. I covet your help.

Second, some have had trouble using the DOQ. While every effort has been made to make it as easy as possible to use, some will have trouble from time to time. We have come up with printed instructions on how to use the disk and will help all who request it by actually loading and running the disk. While all programs should run, not all programs will run on all machines. The disk editor cannot test every program, however, those who submitted them are assumed to have run them and checked the quality and usability of their submissions. In short, we want everyone to be happy with the DOQ. If you are not, tell us why and how we can improve. If you can't get your disk to run, bring it to the meeting and let's see what's wrong. Until next time, happy computing:)

THE HELPING HAND

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

Music

Modems/Telecommunications

Robert Bales
Nate Dannenberg

Programming

Nate Dannenberg
Dale Lutes

Astrology, Biorhythm

Marie Both

Printing in Color

Don McManamey
Jerry Shook

Art: Doodle, Koala Pad

Judy Matthews
Dale Lutes

Labels

Jerry Shook

Making Billboards

Titling Home Videos

Sue Harber

Christmas Cards, Posters & Signs

Fred Earley

Word Processing & Desktop Publishing

Fred Earley
Jerry Shook
Don McManamey
Greg Carpenter
Dale Lutes

GEOS

Greg Carpenter
Judy Matthews
Nate Dannenberg
Fred Earley
Dale Lutes

Helping Hand (continued from page 4)

Helping Hand Volunteers

Robert Bales 267-5626
Marie Both 652-7782
Greg Carpenter 263-2844
Nate Dannenberg 777-0363
Fred Earley 722-4044
Sue Harber 942-4884
Dale Lutes 721-0835
Don McManamey 265-2560
Judy Matthews 522-3146
Jerry Shook 776-2683

Let us know if we may include your name in future *Helping Hand* listings. Special thanks to Fred Earley for compiling this initial *Helping Hand*.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Commodore Users of Wichita. The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the CUW. Unless otherwise stated, articles in this newsletter may be reprinted without permission.

Meetings of the CUW are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. The deadline for articles is 14 days prior to the meeting day. Submissions are accepted on 1541, 1571, or 1581 formatted floppy disks. GEOWrite, ASCII, or PETASCII files are preferred. In a pinch, paper hard copy will work. Call Dale at 721-0835 or mail your submissions to:

Commodore Users of Wichita
c/o Dale Lutes
11102 W. 17th Street
Wichita, KS 67212

In case you are interested, this newsletter was produced using a Commodore 128 and GEOPublish. GEOPubLaser was used to print the final copy on a Postscript laser printer.

Follow the signs to the Old Cowtown Museum until you reach the three-way intersection of Central, Stackman, and Seneca. If you are coming from south of the river, keep to the left at every split in the road until you reach 1701 Sim Park Drive. there are 2 large red brick buildings on the left. The 2nd one has a chain link fence around it. There is a wooden sign at the road which reads:

1701 SIM PARK DR	WATER TREATMENT PLANT
WATER DISTRIBUTION	HISTORICAL COWTOWN MUSEUM
METER SHOP	BOTANICAL GARDENS
1703 WAREHOUSE	

On the east side of the building it says:

MAINS & SERVICES DIVISION
WICHITA WATER DEPT

This is the place. If the main entrance is locked, go to the back of the building. This door is never locked.

