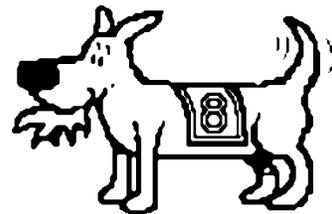


# The Zero Page

The newsletter of the Commodore Users of Wichita  
For the sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers"



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

Number 15, January 1995



## Random Access

by Dale Lutes

I'd like to start off this month's column by thanking everyone who put forth the extra effort to make our December meeting a fun and successful one. Special thanks to Mary Wilson who took charge of the refreshments, to those who brought extra goodies on their own (I personally taste-tested everything), to Nate Dannenberg for shooting *Video Byte* pictures of our members, to Mike Shook for the musical entertainment, and to everyone who helped clean up.

Marie, and I were kept very busy handling membership renewals. I am happy to say that most of our charter members will be back for another year! Don McManamey was on hand with the latest Disk O'Quarter plus a special Christmas disk. Jerry Shook also had a special disk full of holiday SID music. We didn't get an official head count at the meeting, but most of our members stopped by at one time or another even if for only a few minutes. It was great to see you all!

A couple of words about my GeoMines game which is on the latest Disk O'Quarter:

- ✓ First, I am waiving the shareware fee for all CUW members. The fee entitles registered owners to updates and additional software which I will be submitting to the DOQ anyway.
- ✓ Second, please, *please* read the docs or the help screens under the **geos** menu before your start. You will not get very far if you don't understand the hows and whys of planting the flags. I highly recommend setting the mine density to the minimum of 15% for people who haven't played this type of game before.
- ✓ Third, the small size of the squares can make positioning the pointer difficult for joystick users. Try adjusting your mouse acceleration to the minimum value using the Preference Manager. This won't be necessary if you are using a proportional mouse.

- ✓ Fourth, I sincerely appreciate the feedback I have already gotten from several club members and welcome even more. I have several ideas that will be incorporated in the next version.
- ✓ And finally, the program *should* run under any version of GEOS, but I was only able to test it with GEOS 128 v2.0. If you can verify that the program does or does not work under a different version, please let me know.

That's all I've got for this month. I hope you had a good time at the December meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you on January 14!

**Next CUW Meeting:  
Saturday, January 14  
1:00 - 5:00 pm  
1411 South Oliver**

Morris Shouse will demonstrate  
how he built an advanced  
home-budgeting system with  
Flex File.

## January 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 demonstration
4:00 - 5:00	Meeting over, informal gathering, equipment teardown

## Your CUW Steering Committee members are:

<b>Dale Lutes</b>	Chair & Newsletter Editor
<b>Marie Both</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Robert Bales</b>	BBS Representative
<b>Francis Catudal</b>	Public Domain Librarian
<b>Nate Dannenberg</b>	BBS Representative
<b>Arlen Gould</b>	Commercial Librarian
<b>Don McManamey</b>	Disk Editor
<b>Jerry Shook</b>	Quartermaster



## Jerry's Corner

by Jerry Shook

Well howdy gang! It is really great to see that you made it in to 95. I'm here to tell you that I was beginning to doubt that 94 was ever going to get

over, it wasn't a prime year for me and mine. Then again, I was very pleased with the way our club performed and I am looking forward to an even better year in 95. We have some great plans and ideas for our meetings, and some very dedicated leaders working for us. I do believe though that we have a lot of untapped talent and that all of us need to get involved in the running of our club.

In the coming months we will be getting ready for our election of the club's chairman and vice chairman. This is a most important time for us because it influences the course of the club. The only real requirement though, is a willingness to serve. They are not hard or difficult jobs though they do take a little more of your time. But we are very fortunate to have a group of veterans that are happy to help so that it wouldn't be job that you would be all alone in. What I am trying to say is that I think that it would be outstanding if we had 3 or 4 *NEW FACES* running these offices.

Well enough of the pep talk. Now for a little news about what I am up to. I have in the past talked to some of you concerning the 85 version of the CP/M operating system, and I didn't have much luck in finding it among our members. But Robert Bales came to my rescue a few months back with a FIDOnet (bulletin board) letter from a gentleman that has a copy and is willing to share it with anyone that is willing to pay the price of postage and a couple of dollars for his trouble. Well of course I jumped right on it, ahhh welllll, maybe I procrastinated a little while, but no more than 3 or 4 months. At any rate, I have sent off for the disk and for a sample of his on-disk magazine, and we should have it by our January meeting.

CP/M is a side of the 128 we don't get into much but there are a lot of good productivity programs for the CP/M operating system. This is the system that businesses used until MS/DOS came on the scene. The 85 version for the 128 allows the use of the 1581 drive and the REU expander cartridge as well as a few other improvements that allow us to take advantage of the Z80 CPU that is sitting quietly inside of this most remarkable machine called the Commodore 128.

How many of you got your picture taken by Nate at our December meeting? My son Mike and I did and I was happy with the way that they came out with the exception of the back being almost as dark as my hat so that it just barely shows up. I haven't gotten around to it yet, but I was thinking that I probably could convert it into a file that one of my art programs could use then I really could start having fun. Just a little something that someone could look into just in case I have a little trouble getting to it.



## Library Lingo

by Arlen Gould

This is a new experience for me. I have never written an article for any type news

letter before, so here goes. In the Commercial Library for those of you who are new to the club, there is a wide variety of programs that are loaned for a two dollar fee. You get the use of a program from one meeting date to the next.

The programs of old include exciting games, both educational and entertaining, for all ages of participants. One can also obtain word processing programs, business accounting, utilities and many other assorted activities.

The club has recently acquired ten new games for your use. If you are a sports enthusiast we have baseball, racketball, boxing, car racing, arcade type games, and the *Blue Angels*. If you are a game enthusiast I know one will be found that will attract your interest. In addition to the new games we also have acquired a 64 version of *GEOS, 2.0*, and the *Big Blue Reader*, which is a program to translate files and convert from one type of format to another.

We are located in the office area just across from the kitchen, come back and browse. Make our services available to your family. Happy renting.

Arlen

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*The Zero Page* 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 provided that the author and the CUW are given proper credit.

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. If you have a modem, you may submit articles by logging on to the CUW's official bulletin board, Sherer-N-Place (529-2213), and mailing them to our newsletter editor, Dale Lutes. Submissions are also 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 articles to:

Commodore Users of Wichita  
c/o Dale Lutes  
11102 W. 17th Street  
Wichita, KS 67212-1187

In case you are interested, *The Zero Page* is produced using a Commodore 128 and geoPublish. geoPubLaser is used to print the final copy on a PostScript laser printer.

“But in our enthusiasm, we could not resist a radical overhaul of the system, in which all of its major weaknesses have been exposed, analyzed, and replaced with new weaknesses.”

---Bruce Leverett, “Register Allocation in Optimizing Compilers”



## Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

Have you thought of where computing has come in the last 10 years? Well, there is much I can't tell you but there is

some I can. Looking back at the January 1985 Compute!'s Gazette we can gain some great insight as to where we were then. The editor, Robert Lock wrote: "By now, or perhaps not by now, the Plus/4 and the 16 are making their long awaited debut across the retail frontiers of America. From what we can tell so far, this debut may well be an 'emperor's new clothes' phenomena, with lots of debut, and not much else. Our old friend Jim Dijon, a Commodore marketeer and survivor, was recently quoted as suggesting that if the marketplace so wished, Commodore would be happy to make the 16 and Plus series compatible with the 64. One would hope the marketplace wouldn't have to wish too hard for such compatibility, what with at least a million or so 64's out there. On top of this wishing, Commodore has somehow managed to devise an entirely unique plug for the Plus/4, thus ensuring that existing peripherals won't be compatible." He goes on to say, "Rumor has it that perhaps the 16 and Plus/4 are already being 'de-emphasized,' giving way in return to the even newer 128 series. Ah. More memory? Yes. Software compatible? Yes. Peripheral compatible? Yes. Plus, some new peripherals, notably a dual disk drive...now those are pluses we can applaud." Mr. Lock then shifts his thoughts to a machine called "Lorraine" which was the product of a company called "Amiga" which sold their company to Commodore. What Commodore, and I suppose most of the rest of the world didn't know was that Amiga also sold the machine design to Atari! Lock said "With the power of Lorraine: 128K RAM, built-in drive, 4096 colors, 68000 microprocessor, multicolored sprites, maximum hi-resolution of 640 X 200 pixels...the list goes on and on, including built in speech synthesis and built-in modem." The preproduction price was \$1200 - \$1400.

Moving on through the magazine I found that the Okimate 10 color printer had been released but due to software problems was still hard to acquire. Interestingly enough, one reader wrote in with the idea of a RAM disk. He/she supposed that with the price of 16K chips at Radio Shack "a measly \$1.99" that 2000K of super-fast memory would cost the same \$250 as a 1541 disk drive. If you ask me they didn't respond very nicely. Pointing out his errors such as the 16K chips being 16K bits, not 16K bytes which would inflate the cost to \$2000. They also pointed out that this was volatile storage where as a floppy disk is not. Consider that CMD now offers a 4 megabyte ram disk with a battery back-up for \$350 or a 20 megabyte hard drive for \$300. In 1985 10 megabyte hard drives could be had for as little as \$795. Today, IBM users can purchase a one gigabyte hard drive for less than fifty cents per megabyte. Look around and you can buy a used 10 megabyte drive for under \$10. Don't you wish you could hook one up to your machine? What a difference 10 years makes! I don't want to be too hard on CG as they did admit that guessing the future of computers is difficult at best.

Ten years ago, the hot programs included: *Zaxxon*, *Congo Bongo*, *Pitfall*, *Flight Simulator II*, and *Bank Street Writer*. The competition included: Atari, Coleco, IBM PC, and the Apple II series computers. A floppy disk cost about a dollar for no name disks and \$1.50 or more for brand name disks. The 64 was down to \$200 but the SX was \$799 and an 80 cps printer typically ran over \$200. Top of the line printers could deliver up to 180 cps and cost \$370 or more.

I hope you have enjoyed this look back 10 years and if we are lucky, some day we will be able to look back another 10. Until next time, may the blue bird of happiness eat all the bugs in your programs:)

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## New CUW Member Sets Distance Record

by Dale Lutes

I'd like to welcome a new member to the CUW. Karl Schenk hails from Yakima, WA, making him the furthest-removed member from Wichita. I recently received Karl's membership application along with a letter which reads, in part:

I use a 64 in my ham radio "packet" station, and sometimes write a short column for the Yakima Amateur Radio club. Kantronics has an excellent program called Hostmaster-64 which allows me to store buffer files on a 1541 drive from an integrated word-processor, then send them to the editor of our newsletter via radio link. It's fun - and it's free! If any of the Commodore Users of Wichita happen to be hams, they ought to try it, after all it's made in Kansas!...

Your newsletter mentioned Tech Star Computer Center. I had an SX-64 checked out there, and can say that they seem OK. They packaged the computer very poorly for the return shipment, and it was destroyed by UPS. So Tech Star replaced the computer at no charge...

If any of your club members know how to make an SX-64 compatible with an REU, or a CMD Ramdrive, or the Final Cartridge III, I'd sure like to know about it! That's why I sent the wretched thing to Tech Star in the first place. They finally told me that SX-64s just don't like cartridges...

P.S. My father, Karl M. Schenk, lives in Wichita and has some items that he would like to sell, cheap: VIC-20, joystick, wires, accessories, books. If anyone is interested, he can be reached at phone #722-6993.

So how about it, friends? Can anyone out there help Karl with his SX-64 questions? Karl doesn't have the benefit of a local user group in Yakima, so I am sure that he will be grateful for any assistance we can provide. Write to:

Karl A. Schenk  
7610 W. Nob Hill, #39  
Yakima, WA 98908  
(509) 965-6331

## The Helping Hand



This page lists those users willing to share their experiences and

knowledge with other members of the club.

### Music

Robert Bales                      Nate Dannenberg

### Telecommunications

Robert Bales                      Nate Dannenberg

### Programming

Nate Dannenberg                  Dale Lutes

### Astrology, Biorhythm

Marie Both

### Printing in Color

Don McManamey                  Jerry Shook

### Labels

Jerry Shook

### Titling Home Videos

Sue Harber

### Cards, Posters & Signs

Fred Earley

### Word Processing & Desktop Publishing

Fred Earley                      Don McManamey  
Jerry Shook                      Dale Lutes

### GEOS

Nate Dannenberg                  Fred Earley  
Dale Lutes

### Family Roots

Maxine Ulrich

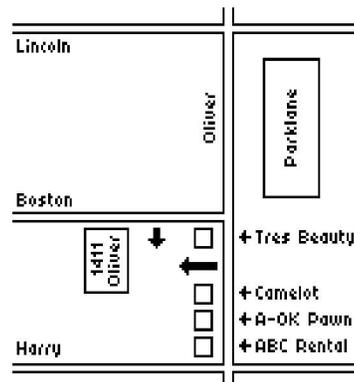
### Helping Hand Volunteers

Robert Bales	744-2580
Marie Both	652-7783
Nate Dannenberg	777-1037
Fred Earley	722-4044
Sue Harber	942-4884
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. 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. A newsletter-only membership is available for \$5 per year. Contact any of the officers (listed elsewhere in this newsletter) for more information. We are looking forward to seeing **you** at our next meeting!

If you own an Amiga computer system, be sure to visit our sister club, the C&AUGW. Contact Board of Directors Chairman, Pete Hein at 943-5215 for information regarding their meeting time and location.



You may join or renew your membership by mail.  
Complete this form and mail with a check payable to:

Marie Both  
Commodore Users of Wichita  
6606 Cottonwood  
Wichita, KS 67207

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

Type of membership:    Family (\$15)    Newsletter-only (\$5)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

List additional family members who are interested in participating:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_