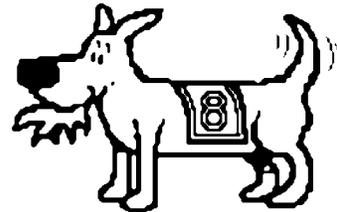


The Zero Page

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 39, January 1997



Random Access

by Dale Lutes

One of the most satisfying things about being chairman of our club is getting to know so many people. I frequently get calls or letters from Commodore users who are trying to solve a problem. Sometimes these calls are from club members, but just as often they are from people outside of Wichita.

I recently got a call from Velda Sipes in Elkhart, KS. I've spoken with Velda several times over the past few years. She has relied heavily on Harv Harris' tax program. Through the CUW, we were able to make special arrangements with Harv to get her the software at the club price. Later, when we revised our membership options, Velda became one of our first long-distance members. After Harv announced that he was dropping support for his program, I helped Velda track down an alternate tax program for the C64. So what was her latest call about? Just an expression of appreciation, and her best wishes for our continued success with the club.

We can all be proud of stories like this. As we enter our fourth year promoting the "sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers," let's all remember to emphasize the "sharing" and "learning" parts of our club slogan.

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 demo
4:00 - 5:00	Meeting over, informal gathering, equipment teardown



Advertising and PD Library top Committee Agenda

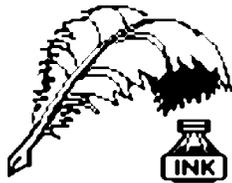
by Dale Lutes

I don't often report on the Steering Committee's work in the newsletter. Usually, you see the results at our monthly meetings in the form of demos, disk sales, and so forth. At our last committee meeting, issues concerning advertising and the Public Domain library were discussed at length and I couldn't wait to report them to you.

Advertising has been hotly debated from the earliest days of our organization. The major hurdle that a low-budget operation like ours faces is the expense. Low-cost ads in *Penny Power* and the *Eagle* classified section have been tried with little to no measurable return on our investment. The latest idea is a cooperative effort between the CUW and Z-Software for an advertisement in the Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages. All of the details haven't been worked out, but the plan in general has received full support of the committee.

We have recognized for some time now, the need to better organize and update our Public Domain library. As a former librarian for the club, I can testify to the enormity of this task. The real challenge, then, is how to get enough people involved so that one is not overwhelmed by the job. Don McManamey has proposed a solution that will make it possible for CUW members, for the first time ever, to take home parts of the library in exchange for reviewing the contents of those disks. We should be ready to implement this as early as next month.

If you would like to know more about these topics, be sure to join us for the business portion of our regular club meeting on January 11. Remember that all club members are welcome to attend steering committee meetings. These are typically held about a week in advance of the regular meeting. Just let a committee member know and we'll inform you of the time and place.



Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

Claims about computers and software flow freely. One never knows what to believe. You must consider the source but that is not always a safe bet. Just

because someone is a trusted friend and well educated in computers does not mean they are giving reliable information. Recently I was told that I could save a lot of time making copies of the Disk O'Quarter if I used *Maverick* and a RAM expander (REU). This in spite my claim of speed using my fast load cartridge which has a copier built in. I decided to run a test to see which was best. Now one must understand that best is not confined to speed alone but this is one way of measuring value.

The comparison is of *Maverick's* one drive and REU fast copy, *Warp Speed's* two drive nibble copy and *Fast Hack'em's* two drive 35 second copy. The DOQ #14 side 1 was used as a master and copied to a fresh disk. I will make some personal notes afterwards but first the speed ratings.

	<i>Maverick</i>	<i>Warp Speed</i>	<i>Fast Hack'em</i>
Boot time	:24	:07	:14
Working thru menu	:06	:06	:16
Loading master	:53	NA	NA
Time from power-up to end of first copy	2:32	1:10	1:22
Average copy time	:57	:45	:45
Average copy time including disk change and all key strokes	1:06	:51	:52

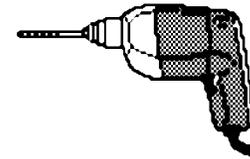
Things to note are that *Maverick* is handicapped by having to load the master into the REU. *Maverick* does fully verify both the original and copy, *Warp Speed* performs only a write verify and *Fast Hack'em* does neither. *Warp Speed* allows you to view the directory of both the original and copy with one key stroke. *Fast Hack'em* allows viewing the directory of one disk or the other and the default is the source. *Maverick* does not allow you to view the directory afterwards without losing the master in the REU. All three give some indication as to disk errors with the most timely being *Maverick*. When making copies of the Disk O'Quarter all I really need to know is that the copy is good and I do like to view the directory of the copy from time to time. On occasion both *Warp Speed* and *Fast Hack'em* have crashed. At least I assume the problem was in the copy program. *Warp Speed* has the advantage of remaining a part of the computer and being available with one key stroke after a reset. In the case of a lock-up I need only reset the computer and I'm running again.

The times above do not show looking for the copy program disk but rather having the disk already in the machine as the fast load usually is. Keep in mind that I make 50 disks each quarter which is 100 disk sides. Speed is a major factor. The ability to copy the geoSide is a must but all three do this well. There is one advantage to using *Maverick*, wear and tear on the disk drives. If you only had one drive the REU would act as the other drive for the

faster two drive copy but if you have two drives you need only run one. That's one less drive to have go out of alignment or whatever. Needless to say much of *Maverick's* advantage is lost if you are only making a very few copies. The long and the short is this, I will use *Maverick* for awhile to see if I truly like it better.

Tips and Bits

by Dwayne Howard



Well, here we are into another year, 1997. I don't know about you, but the year has just gone by me.

I have been working on the Public Domain Library. I'm making up a new book that the club members can took through to pick out what they like. We have disks from *RUN*, *Ahoy!*, *Gazette*, and a lot of others that contain good programs.

The club will copy a disk on both sides and provide the disk for \$1.50. We charge 50 cents per side and 50 cents for the disk. Now if you have a blank disk, we will do the copy for only \$1.00. You know for \$1.00 you get your money's worth. Of course, if you bring your own system along to the meeting, you can make your own copies free of charge.

My drive is out of alignment, so I'll be working with just one drive this next meeting. I will still make copies if you come to visit the Library in the back room. It will just be a little slower that's all.

My tip and bit this month is double-check to make sure you have the right disk in your drive before you press the RETURN key.

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 by other Commodore user groups without permission provided that the author and the CUW are given proper credit.

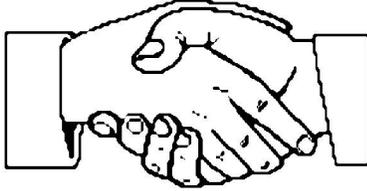
Meetings of the CUW are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. The deadline for articles is 14 days prior to the meeting day. Submissions are accepted on 1541, 1571, or 1581 formatted floppy disks. geoWrite, ASCII, or PETASCII files are preferred. In a pinch, paper hard copy will work. Call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

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 Ron Shannon

Family Roots

Maxine Ulrich

GEOS

Fred Earley Dale Lutes

Getting Started

Ron Shannon

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

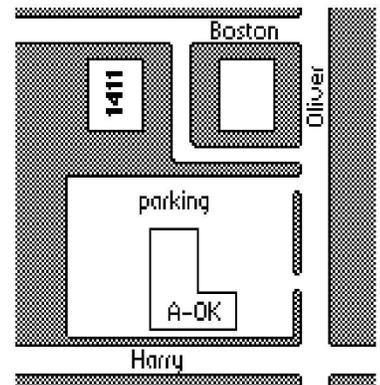
Helping Hand Volunteers

Robert Bales 744-2580
Marie Both 262-2338
Fred Earley 722-4044
Shaun Halstead 942-5809
Dale Lutes 721-0835
Don McManamey 265-2560
Ron Shannon 263-6390
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) _____