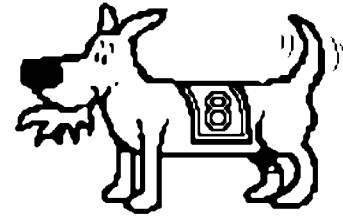


The Zero Page

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 7, May 1994

Candidate Statements

Elections for CUW Chair and Vice-Chair will be held at the May meeting. Here are the position statements from each of the candidates.

Jerry Shook, Candidate for Chair:

My name is Jerold (Jerry) Shook. You know the fellow with the good looking hat. I am the current chairperson of C.U.W., and I am running for the office again. I have been with the club since 82

and have seen it go through many changes, some better than others and some that looked good at the time but later proved not to be such a hot idea. I believe that we have a good plan this time but only time will tell.

I want to have a club that is a click and not have a clique within our club. I hope to have everyone participate, and not have anyone feel that they are being left out. To do this I would use the executive committee to look at our needs and options, then bring this business before the club as a whole to discuss and vote on what we will do.

I like the informal meetings that we have been having even though it may not always be the most efficient method of doing things. I would like to see us continue to work on demos and to break into smaller groups to help each other with what ever problems that anyone may be having with their computing.

Even though I was disappointed with only having 2 people run for this office I don't think you can go wrong, because Dale Lutes is just as dedicated to the good of our club as I am and would make a good Chairperson. Whom ever you wish to lead you this next year be sure to come to our May meeting to vote, it will take all of us to make this club continue to run.

Jerry

Dale Lutes, Candidate for Chair:

My name is Dale Lutes and I would like to represent you as the next CUW Chair. I don't feel that there are major political differences that separate me from the other candidate, Jerry Shook. Both of us have worked very hard since the club's formation to bring the CUW to where it is today. Our main differences, then, are in background and leadership style.

I joined the C&AUGW at the club's User Day in December 1991 and served on its Board of Directors from June until October of

1993. At that time, the 8-bit SIG voted to form a new and separate club, our CUW. I have worked as Public Domain librarian and am currently serving as the Zero Page editor.

I have also been very involved with another user group, the Digital Equipment Computer Users Society (DECUS). I have worked with DECUS from the local to the national level as chairman of the local user group (LUG), regional newsletter editor, and national LUG Advocate. I think that my experience with DECUS gives me a unique perspective on the organization and administration of our club.

I am a computer programmer and system manager by profession.

Although I work with larger and "more sophisticated" systems daily, I look forward to spending time with my Commodores in the evenings at and our monthly meetings.

The CUW has come a long way in the seven months since it was born. Here are a few of the challenges that I see ahead of us for the upcoming year:

- ❖ Formalization of our club's by-laws
- ❖ Expansion of the club's Public Domain library
- ❖ Active promotion of the club to attract new members
- ❖ Increased club presence on local bulletin boards
- ❖ A User Day type of event

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

Elections will be held for the
offices of Chair and Vice-Chair.
Remember, you **must** be wearing
your badge to cast your vote!

Marie Both, Candidate for Vice-Chair:

I am Marie Both and I would like to be elected Vice Chair of the CUW. Like all of the members who have been serving on the Steering Committee of CUW, I was an active member of C&AUGW. So I experienced the rise and fall of that organization. I served on their old Steering Committee, the Constitution Committee, and seven years as Secretary and Membership Chairman and Board Member.

I was one of the founders of the Women's SIG and also the GEOS SIG. Along the way the comraderie and fellowship of being a Commodore User fell by the wayside. I sincerely feel that in retrospect I can see some of the pitfalls that swallowed C&AUGW. And with this as a basis, perhaps I can help CUW avoid similar problems.

One thing I have learned is that we need the participation of **all** members. That at all cost we need to avoid the clique mentality.

We need to reach out to newcomers who seek us out -- who are as intrigued and confused by computers as we all were not too long ago.

We all need to be aware of the financial status of the club. As Vice Chair, I would be responsible for maintaining the CUW financial records. I believe any member should be able to see up-to-date records on finances and membership whenever they wish.

One of the original concepts that drew me into a club situation was the premise "to further the use and enjoyment of computers". I still feel this is the basis for our organization.

We have work to do:

- ❖ To set guidelines for our Officers and Committees to function under
- ❖ To let 8-bit users know we are here
- ❖ To provide information and know-how for each other via one on one contacts and Public Domain and Lending Libraries
- ❖ To host a User Day in the not too distant future

We have come a long way in the less than seven months since we formed CUW. Let's move on and have more great times!

May Meeting Agenda

1:00 - 2:00	Equipment setup & informal meeting
2:00 - 2:45	Business meeting, Election of Officers
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 4:00	Feature demonstration
4:00 - 5:00	Meeting over, informal gathering, equipment teardown

Formatting Disks with a 1571 Drive

by Fred Earley, Jerry Shook, & Dale Lutes

When Cleo Elliott began to use his 128 and the 1571 disk drive he learned one lesson the painful way: He had valuable data stored on the bottom side of the disk when he formatted the top side. Result: A blank disk on **both** sides!

What is so different about the 1571 disk drive? When Commodore first introduced the 128, they wanted to retain all the capabilities of the 64 and then add a lot more features. In the case of the new disk drive, they wanted to add the ability to handle the CP/M disks and some new features as well.

One of the added features was to add a second read/write head; one for the top of the disk and one for the bottom. It would now be possible to use both sides of the disk as if it were one continuous disk. Few commercial programs were ever distributed this way, the manufacturers opting for the more common 1541 format. The 1571 automatically detects the format and so we don't have to think about it very much. But the second head is there, nonetheless and it formats the bottom side of a disk at the same time the other head formats the top side.

So, is there a way to format one side without harming the other? Yes, by first locking the drive into 1541 mode with the following BASIC command:

```
OPEN 8,8,15,'U0>M0':CLOSE 8
```

This must be done immediately after the drive is powered up. It will remain in 1541 mode until the next power up or system reset. By the way, those are zeroes in the above command, not letter Os. Another method is to use GEOS to format your disks. GEOS recognizes the capabilities of the 1571 and will give you the option to format one or both sides of the disk.

If you still have questions about using the 1571 disk drive, please see one of us at the next club meeting. That's what the CUW is about: Helping one another!

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.

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

Random Access

by Dale Lutes

I have a confession to make: I love my Koala Pad. It's definitely one of the neatest peripheral devices ever made for the Commodore computer. If you've never seen one, the Koala Pad is a touch-sensitive drawing tablet. It has a 4-1/4 inch square drawing surface, and a pair of buttons at the top. The pad plugs into joystick control port 1 on the computer. "Drawing" on the surface with a stylus or even a fingertip produces a corresponding motion in the pointer on the screen. The effect is much like "drawing" with a mouse.

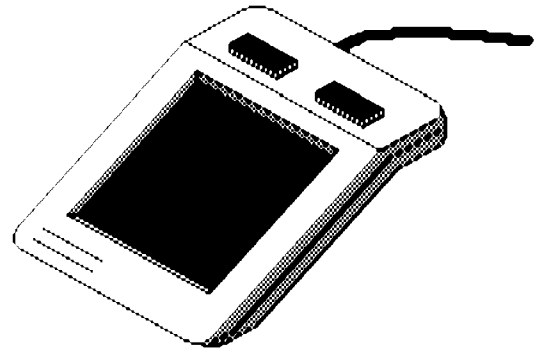
The Koala Pad included a cartridge-based paint program called KoalaPainter. Very nice results can be achieved with KoalaPainter although it can be jittery and lacks some features found in newer paint software. Flexidraw is another popular paint program that supports the Koala Pad. GEOS fans can use the pad with one of the drivers available in our Public Domain library.

I was visiting Robert Bales the first time that I got to see and operate a Koala Pad. I was hooked immediately. Robert was nice enough to loan it to me and, after a marathon series of late-night drawing sessions, I produced the nine cartoons that appeared on the second Disk O'Quarter. I reluctantly returned Robert's pad, but purchased one of my own at the first opportunity. I'm working now on another series of drawings for a future DOQ (when I can get the pad away from my kids!).

Here's a helpful hint for anyone out there who owns or is looking for, a Koala Pad. Somewhere in my Koala Pad's past, its tough, black drawing surface was damaged and replaced by a square cut from a brown paper bag (no kidding). I used it like this for a while, but eventually the paper wore thin and was ready to tear. I considered simply removing the paper and writing directly on the touch-sensitive surface, but decided it was too risky with kids using the pad. I substituted another sheet of heavy paper, but it wore through almost immediately.

While my wife watched me open up the Koala Pad for the second time in as many days, she commented on its similarity to the "magic slates" that our kids sometimes play with. You've seen these things - they're made of cardboard with a black, waxy surface, overlaid with a thin, grey sheet of plastic film and a thicker, clear sheet of plastic on top. Kids write on the top with a stylus, and peel up the sheets to erase. This suggested a neat replacement surface for the Koala Pad: We dug up an old "magic slate" from which I cut a 5 inch square of the top, clear plastic sheet. Sticky residue around the edges of the touch pad held the plastic while I screwed the top back into place. Voila! This sheet is tough enough to resist scratches from the stylus and smooth enough to allow the stylus to move cleanly across the surface. It is thin and flexible enough not to interfere with the normal sensitivity of the Koala Pad. In short, a perfect replacement surface. Allow me to give credit where credit is due - this was entirely my wife's idea (thanks, honey!).

I'm sorry to say that Koala Pads are no longer being manufactured. Koala Technologies went out of business after producing two first-class products for the Commodore market: The Koala Pad and the Muppet Learning Keys. So, you'll have to turn to the used equipment marketplace for either of these items. The Koala Pad will be our featured demo at this month's club meeting. I'll try to keep the demo short so that other club members can give the pad a try for themselves. If you have a Koala Pad, bring it along so that we can give everyone a chance to work with one.



Game Play (Ghost Busters)

by Jerry Shook

[Editor's Note: Game Play is a new column that gives hints & tricks for you electronic game players. If you are interested in earning more points, more "lives", or learning techniques for getting through those tricky parts, then read on...]

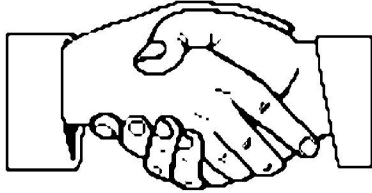
At the beginning of the game of Ghost Busters it asks for your name. Type the word "owen" after which it will ask if you have an account. Answer "yes". When it asks what the account number is, type "list". By doing the above, you will get a starting account of \$720,000 which is a great deal more than you normally get with a new account.

Once in the game, if you align your men so that they overlap to the point that they look like only one man and the ghost flies over you, press the fire button and the ghost will stop. Press the fire button again and he will be taken into the trap.

Thanks go to Morris Shouse for this tip. Do you have any tips or tricks? Here is a good place to share them. If you don't feel that you can write it up for club paper just give me or one of the



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 Justin Riddiough
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

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
Justin Riddiough 522-5277
Jerry Shook 776-2683

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!

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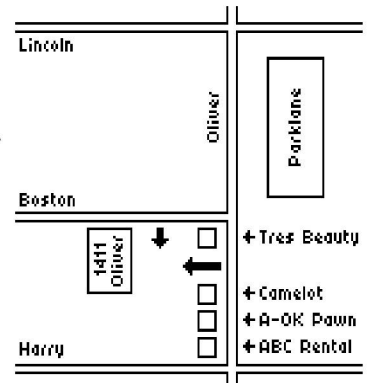
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The Commodore Users of Wichita is a club dedicated to "the sharing, learning, and love of Commodore computers." Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 1-5pm. Anyone who owns or uses a Commodore computer system is welcome to attend. 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. 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 President Hal Wigley (776-9529) or Board Chairman Pete Hein (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 for fifteen dollars to:

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

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)
 VIC-20 C-64 C-128 C-16 Plus/4 Other