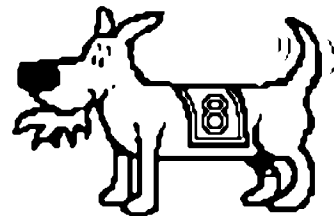


The Zero Page

*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 29, March 1996



Rear View Mirror

by Moe Shouse

Have you ever tried to tell someone

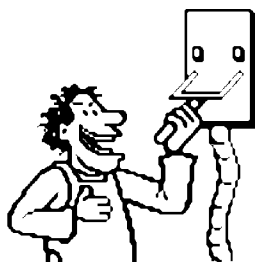
how great your 8-bit is? People that have only run brand xxx* are the worst!! But my friend who owns a high level Mac does understand that a Commodore 8-bit does have some operational advantages. However, he is an engineer, so he does have an advantage over most people.

So what do you say to Joe Lunchbox to shut him up about his brand xxx? A C-64 has a clock speed of 1 megahertz, that is, one million clock ticks a second. Brand xxx PC (in 1988) has a clock speed of 4.77 MHz, so you might think Joe's PC is four to five times faster than your C-64. But xxx uses a different processor. That means that your C-64 uses six clock cycles to execute a jump to subroutine (JSR). So your C-64 can execute about 167,000 JSRs in one second. But Joe's xxx takes 19 or 28 depending on whether it stays in the current 64K address space. At 4.77 MHz and 19 cycles per instruction it can do about 251,000 calls. That is only about 50 percent faster, not 500 percent!! The xxx has a faster clock speed, but a slower machine language. On average, an ML program for an xxx PC at 4.77 MHz is about 2 times faster than your C-64. But a 128 in fast mode runs ML programs at about the same speed as an xxx PC.

Important Notice:

Switched Installations!

The disk drive device-select switch installations which were planned for this month have been rescheduled to May. Our original supplier no longer stocks the switches we needed. A local electronics store will special-order the switches for us at a good price, but they need about three weeks of lead time. We know that many of you are eager to have the switches installed on your drives, and we are doing our best to make this service available to you.



**Next CUW Meeting:
Saturday, March 9
1:00 - 5:00 pm
1411 South Oliver**

Don McManamey will give a demo
to show you how easy it is to get
started with Busy Bee Software's
The Write Stuff

The information I used I got out of the May 1988 Gazette, page 55. Also, on page 58 is a program called Fast Hi-res Screen Dump, that looks good. On page 45 is a short program for working with Koalpad files. I did not have time to read it in depth, but it looks good.

Before signing off, I'd like to remind everyone that our friend at Software Exchange has a very large library of magazines that includes *RUN*, *Compute!*, *Compute's Gazette*, and some others. Mark told me that a person gave them to him if Mark would set up a library. They are only for use at the store. Some of them are only copies. Maybe some of us in the club have the ones he needs to make a full set, and can replace the copies with originals.

And finally, a question: Does any one know why the name Commodore was used by the founder of these machines?

* Fill in the 3-letter acronym of your choice -- Ed.



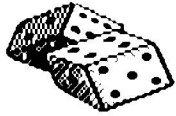
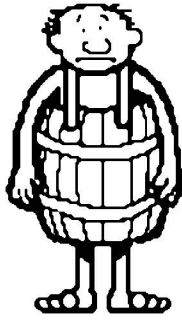
The Buddha, the Godhead, resides quite as comfortable in the circuits of a digital computer or the gears of a cycle transmission as he does at the top of a mountain or in the petals of a flower.

Robert M. Pirsig, "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance"
Copyright (c) 1974 by Robert M. Pirsig

You can still get a copy of

Harv Harris' Tax Survival Kit for the C64 / C128

See Dale Lutes or Marie Both
before it's too late!!!



Random Access

by Dale Lutes

You just never know where some tidbit of

Commodore info will come from. A few weeks ago, I got a call from Lee Peterson, a member of the Omaha user group, GOCUG. We exchange newsletters with GOCUG, and Lee wanted to say "hi" while he was in town visiting relatives. As we talked, he asked if I received the *GEOS Publication* which is produced by the Rev. Willis Patten of Independence, KS. You'd think that a GEOS aficionado from Wichita would be aware of a Kansas-made publication such as this. It just points out how important it is to build up a network with other Commodore users around the country.

To continue the story, Lee was kind enough to send me an application for the *GEOS Publication*. I mailed one out to Rev. Patten and he has responded by suggesting an exchange: *The Zero Page* for the *GEOS Publication*.

I just received the February issue of the *GEOS Publication* and am very pleased with it. One might describe it as a "GEOS user group by mail." This 22 page newsletter consists chiefly of letters submitted by members from all over the U.S. and Canada. The *GEOS Publication* provides a very nice forum for people to ask questions and share tips on working with GEOS. There is also a nicely-organized want ad section. I want to encourage everyone, not just our GEOS users, to check it out at the March CUW meeting. The *GEOS Publication* is another good example of what we can do with our eight-bit machines.

I've begun storing the *GEOS Publication* and the newsletters that we receive from other groups in a notebook which I will make available at each meeting. Everyone is invited to have a look. If you'd like to have a personal subscription to any of these newsletters, I am sure that the groups who publish them would welcome your membership.

In case you hadn't noticed, *The Zero Page* is still evolving:

- ⇒ This month, I started using miniature icons to highlight the end of each article. I've seen this done in some other publications and thought it might work well here.
- ⇒ I have been kicking around the idea of putting a table of contents on the front page. On one hand, our newsletter is

short enough that it might not justify the extra work. On the other, it could be helpful for those who file *The Zero Page* to look up an article in a back issue. Let me know what you think.

- ⇒ On months when the regular content fills an even number of pages, I am now using a copy of our product catalog to fill the back side of the mailing wrapper. This way new members are sure to get a copy if I forget to hand one out when they join.
- ⇒ Starting last month, the last page has an improved map of our meeting location which indicates the best place to park. Please remember that we need to leave parking spaces near the building available to customers of the beauty salon next door. But do feel free to pull right up front when loading and unloading equipment.

Speaking of new members, I am happy to report that we have gained a few in the past couple of months. Let's be sure to make all newcomers feel welcome at our meetings. Say "hi." Get to know them. Remember, it's our friendly attitude that distinguishes the CUW from similar user groups around town!

And finally: If you didn't receive a copy of the CUW Bylaws when you joined, please see me for your copy. I apologize for being somewhat lax in handing them out.



Tid-Bits

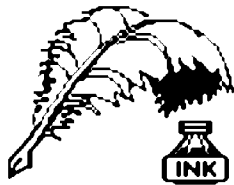
by Dale Lutes

I thought you might be interested in who receives our newsletter. This month I am distributing 70 copies of *The Zero Page*. They can be divided up like this:

- 38 mailed to regular family members
- 20 distributed by the Software Exchange
- 4 mailed as an exchange with other groups
- 3 mailed to potential members
- 2 mailed to disk/newsletter subscribers
- 2 for guests at our monthly meeting
- 1 mailed to honorary CUW member

Your CUW Steering Committee members are:

Arlen Gould	Chair
Marie Both	Vice-Chair
Robert Bales	BBS Representative
Francis Catudal	Public Domain Librarian
Shaun Halstead	Internet Representative
Dwayne Howard	geoSIG Chairman
Dale Lutes	Newsletter Editor
Don McManamey	Disk Editor
Jerry Shook	Quartermaster



Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

Sometimes it is fun to take a look back to see just how far one has come. It can be interesting in personal life, in business and in this case with the

computer. It was in the fall of '82 when we got our Vic-20. It was going to be a Christmas present for the family. Like every good parent, I wanted to know how to use this thing so that when it was opened on Christmas day that I could instruct the kids rather than sit down and read and figure for hours. I spent many hours typing in those programs that were found in the back of the User Guide. Have you ever typed those in? What a chore. Trying to figure out what those little symbols were and then finding them on the front of the keys. Here is the kicker. The Datassette tape drive was \$70 and we spent our money on the computer and had no money for a tape drive. So, after hours of typing and debugging we played those crude little games (the wife and I behind closed and locked doors) we simply turned off the machine and saw the program no more. After Christmas we looked around for a tape drive and found only one which was a display model. It was several years before we got a disk drive. The fact of the matter is that we had a printer before we got a disk drive.

On the advice of a friend, we got a copy of *Compute!* magazine. More type-in programs to spend hours with. Some of those magazines were half an inch thick. Programs like "Caves of Ice" were great programs and are still good fun. Then came the machine language programs where we spent hours upon hours entering in just numbers. I found an old keypad from an electronic calculator and wired it in to the keyboard. We separated data statements with a comma so the decimal point was wired to the comma. "SpeedScript" was a major undertaking. We even took the computer to Michigan when we went home to visit relatives. There it was set-up in a bed room and more "SpeedScript" was entered.

The boys were about 7 and 10 at the time. The 10 year old just wanted to play games and only gave up use of the machine with the hope of a new game coming from my turn on the computer. Today he is in his 6th year at college where he has taken many computer courses and owns a Mac. One day soon he will make his living from the art programs on the Mac. The youngest liked to tinker with the programs and trying to see what made them tick. Like so many new users, I was afraid that his changes would ruin the program stored on tape. Today this son has used the Mac in newspaper production creating ads, scanning in his photographs, and incorporating them into the printed page. His intended now owns a Mac and my 128D is off to school with him as he loves to use *The Write Stuff* to create his school papers. He will have a double major in Mass Communication and Engineering.

Many people ask why I don't care for *RUN* magazine. The answer is simple. When the first issue hit the news stand we got 2 copies (my wife wanted to put one back for a collector item). Someone was bragging about what you can do with a 3.5K Vic-20. To prove his point he wrote "Battleship" for both the 64 and Vic-20.

I sat down and typed in the program. After several hours I saved the finished product to tape and gave it a try. It didn't work. We checked everything several times and then after looking at the 64 version we came to the conclusion that part of it was missing. We figured the correction would be in issue #2 but never saw one. The fact is I have never known anyone who even saw a number 2 issue. We checked several other issues but never saw a correction. One of my favorite Gazette programs was "Bagdad". Here was one time I went all out and spent the few bucks to mail a tape to the author and save the typing time. If my memory is correct I tried to type in that one and failed. It was quite a game.

I still like to look in the old Gazettes and see what is there. I wish I could buy some of the stuff advertised. There was a plug in cartridge called the Spartan which would turn your 64 in to an Apple. IBM had the PC Junior with 64K for \$1,355.00, Radio Shack had the TRS-80 III with 16K for \$999.00 and Apple was selling the IIe with 64K for \$1,395.00. A Commodore ad asked "If personal computers are for everybody, how come they're priced for nobody?" and then proclaimed the Commodore 64 was "under \$300."

A few years ago I picked up a Commodore 8032 which has an 80 column screen and 32K of memory. It also has a dual disk drive with a half meg of storage on one side of a 5.25" disk. The printer was actually a Diablo daisywheel which runs at the blinding speed of 30 cps. Even for today that is quite fast for a daisywheel. I don't have much software for it but it sure is fun to play with.

Well, until next time, remember, don't flip a floppy... it's too hard to balance on your thumb!



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.

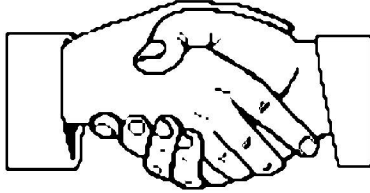
Meetings of the CUW are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month. The deadline for articles is 14 days prior to the meeting day. Submissions are accepted on 1541, 1571, or 1581 formatted floppy disks. geoWrite, ASCII, or PETASCII files are preferred. In a pinch, paper hard copy will work. Call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

Family Roots

Maxine Ulrich

GEOS

Fred Earley

Dale Lutes

Internet Access

Shaun Halstead

Labels

Jerry Shook

Music, 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

Jerry Shook

776-2683

Maxine Ulrich

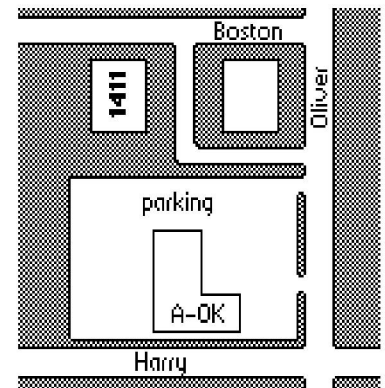
838-8606

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:

Marie Both
Commodore Users of Wichita
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) _____