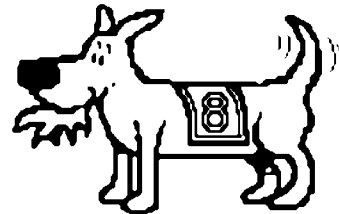


# The Zero Page

*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 32, June 1996



## Random Access

by Dale Lutes

June is here! And I am very pleased - and very proud - to once again be taking over the chairmanship of our fine club. I want to use this opportunity to extend my personal thanks to Arlen Gould, who has held the reigns for the past twelve months. I am sure Arlen is looking forward to a bit of a rest, but I hope that I can talk him into remaining on the Steering Committee as a member at-large.

This month, Jerry Shook will take over as our Vice-Chair. Jerry was our club's first Chairman and has been a member of the Steering Committee ever since. I am looking forward to working with Jerry in our new roles as we work to serve the needs of our members.

Jerry is taking over for Marie Both, who has been the Vice-Chair and financial officer ever since the founding of our club. Much of what the CUW has become is due to Marie's work on the Steering Committee. I sincerely hope that she will accept my offer and remain with us on the committee for yet another year.

### CUW Steering Committee: Behind the Scenes

I thought that this month I would try to offer a little insight into what the Steering Committee is and how it works.

First of all, what the committee is **not**: It is not a group of elite Commodore hackers (though we might have one or two represented) and it is not a circle of self-appointed dictators (we had enough of that when we were affiliated with that **other** computer group).

We **do** represent a wide range of experience, expertise, and applications for our machines. In short, we are a good cross-section of the CUW as a whole. All find as much reward in

exchanging ideas with, and helping other members face-to-face, as we do in working with our machines. (Many Commodore users who are deeply into telecommunications don't get the benefits of this personal interaction and so they don't join or quickly drop out of clubs.) Because we value the interpersonal aspects of the club so highly, the committee members have a special interest in making the CUW succeed.

If you've read over the club's bylaws, you know that many of the committee members' duties are defined there. All perform a service to the membership. The services may follow a regular schedule

(such as *The Zero Page* or *Disk O'Quarter*) or they may be provided on demand (such as library or BBS services).

In addition, the committee members are all very much involved in the day-to-day operations that keep our club going. As our Vice-Chair and financial officer, Marie has been a keystone in this department - paying the bills and making arrangements for our meeting place. All of the members get into the act at our monthly committee meetings. We usually meet on Thursday or Friday the week before our general club meeting to review the financial situation, select topics for future club meetings, make purchasing decisions, and discuss policy issues that may require a vote of the full

membership. We hold the committee meetings at Spear's Pie Shop just a couple of blocks south of our regular meeting place. The meetings are informal and, as you might guess, a good deal of food is consumed while we work.

It has always been our policy that Steering Committee meetings are open to any CUW members who want to attend. Moe Shouse and Shaun Halstead had an interest in our work and began showing up so regularly that we finally made them official committee members. If you'd like to see just what the Steering Committee is all about, please let me know so I can reserve an extra seat for you at our next meeting.

**Next CUW Meeting:  
Saturday, June 8  
1:00 - 5:00 pm  
1411 South Oliver**

Jerry Shook will demonstrate the  
**Fun Graphics Machine** and  
Dale Lutes will show off his latest  
game for GEOS users, **GeoMille**.



## Jerry's Corner

by Jerry Shook

Boy, did we have fun last meeting! You betcha we did, and we did go through a lot of disk drives! Question: How come we always seem to have drives from people that I know that we have

put switches in their drives before? All I can figure out is that the switches worked so well that they ran out and bought some more drives just so we could do it again.

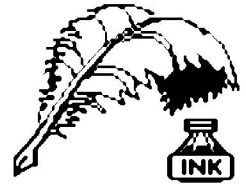
I would like to express my deep appreciation for those members that helped, be it with soldering or testing. I for one know that I could never have done it without their help. Giga Kudo's and Thank you's. I also would like acknowledge Morris Shouse for coming up with the new method of wiring the 1541s. It saved time and I felt it was much easier than the method I used to use. I owe Nate a big thank you for coming to my rescue on a 1581 drive when I really wasn't comfortable with putting a switch in it. I know that I will forget somebody so forgive me in advance. My attention was on the drives. I do want to recognize the members that helped in one way or another. Don McManamey for securing the switches we used, his son Matt for cutting the holes for the switches, Arlen Gould and Dwayne Howard for their help in reassembling and testing the drives, and of course those fabulous techs Morris Shouse, Robert Bales, Nate Dannenberg, and least of all, ME MYSELF & I (notice how modest I am :)

At the June meeting, if all goes well, I will be showing off the *Fun Graphics Machine* program. I won't be going into much detail since to do it justice would take more time than we have. But I will have some examples of some of the things I have done that may give you an idea of the possibilities. This program with the help of an another program can turn *The Write Stuff* into a real decent desk top publisher. Using the F.G.M. you can use pictures and icons from a large variety of different programs and change those pictures and icons to suit your purpose. You can make coupons, business cards, letterheads, posters and just about anything that your little mind can come up with, even animated demo's to play on your computer. I once made up some tickets for a Cub Scout chili feed for one of our old members and set it up to number them so that no two were alike. I fear that I really haven't used it anywhere near its max and probably never will so I am quite sure that there are many uses that each of you could come up with that I haven't even thought about. The F.G.M. is a wide open program so it can do a lot things, and because of that it is a little difficult to get started with, but the time you spend learning is time well spent. The effects you can make and things that you can do with it will put the *Print Shop* and *Print Master* to shame.

Well, it is getting late and I am getting writer's block so I believe I will give this up for this month. But I do hope to see you at our June meeting where I am sure that you will it interesting and helpful, not to mention others that share our love of the Commodore 8-bit machines.

## Don's Digest

by Don McManamey



### The Death of a Friend

It is always sad to lose one who is close to you. Recently I suffered the loss of a

long time companion. More than a companion and friend, one who was almost always by my side. One who helped me remember my important appointments, get to work on time and keep track of various things. Always by my side and ready to help solve countless problems. One who also rang in the last nine new years. Many times we mourn the passing of a friend such as this for many years. We think, "there could never be another quite like this." It has been hard letting go. One hangs on as long as you can but we know we can't live in the past. When I gazed at my friend's face it looked so normal and natural, but upon close examination one could clearly see "the lights were on but nobody was home." This may seem a bit cold, but within hours of my learning of the loss I went looking for another. Much to my surprise I think I've found another that will be everything the old one was and more. In fact I think I've found more for less. The old one did have one thing over the new, a plated case and stainless steel band. I just don't understand how they can make a watch that is so accurate, give time for major cities in each time zone around the world, give the date including the year, automatically adjust for leap year, tell the day of the week, beep on the hour, have an alarm, a timer, a stop watch, an 8 digit calculator, store up to 50 appointments/phone numbers, and more for under \$40! Even that doesn't tell the whole story. There is a window only 6 characters long that can display names up to 9 characters long. Names over 6 characters long will scroll past the window. It is my understanding that this "computer" has 64K of memory and a keyboard and yet is only 1-1/4" x 1-1/2" x 5/16" thick. With all these advancements there are those of us who would still rather use a Commodore than any other computer. Perhaps some day, someone will make a computer using advanced technology and will be as much fun and as easy to use as a Commodore without having to rob a bank. I hope that when the TIME comes to replace your old friends that you will WATCH closely and make good choices.

### Your CUW Steering Committee members are:

<b>Dale Lutes</b>	Chair, Newsletter Editor
<b>Jerry Shook</b>	Vice-Chair
<b>Marie Both</b>	Financial Officer
<b>Robert Bales</b>	BBS Representative
<b>Francis Catudal</b>	Public Domain Librarian
<b>Nate Dannenberg</b>	BBS Representative
<b>Arlen Gould</b>	Member at-large
<b>Shaun Halstead</b>	Internet Representative
<b>Dwayne Howard</b>	Member at-large
<b>Don McManamey</b>	Disk Editor
<b>Morris Shouse</b>	Member at-large



## Rear View Mirror

by Moe Shouse

Here I sit, my budget book on one

side, all kinds of paper with notes about the \$31.80, that it is off all around. So what do I think I'll do? I think it is a good time to write another "Rear View Mirror". And now that I have a new batch of magazines, (yes, I am the one that took Harv Harris's magazines at the last club meeting) I have a lot of new stuff to look over.

When I started this series, it was named "Rear Veiw Mirror" because I liked reading about the early years of Commodore, and that name seamed to fit. So in keeping with that idea I will look at the first issue of *Compute!'s Gazette*, July 1983. Now before you say that is not *Compute!'s* first issue, you need to remember that there is difference between *Compute!* and *Compute!'s Gazette*. *Compute!* came first. It covered most or all home computers. Then, they came out with *Compute!'s Gazette*. It covered **only** Commodore. This first issue only has VIC 20 and C-64 stuff.

The cover has a yellow band at the top that reads :

Commodore 64 PREMIER ISSUE VIC-20

Please note that the word Commodore only has the first letter in caps but VIC has all its letters in caps. The cover also shows a picture of kids. It says computing for kids. Also "Using joysticks on the Commodore 64" is on the cover.

Page 5 has the table of contents, one name I thought I would find, but did not, is Jim Butterfield. But I do find Richard Mansfield with an article on Machine Language for Beginners.

Page 8 is what I call the publisher's page. Normaly this page is not very interesting, but if you look it in volume 1, number 4 you will see an ABC logo that was not there before. And editor in chief is separate job from publisher. That was the same person before.

The rest of the magazine is very good. It has things about C-64 memory and VIC memory. Page 14 tells how to send in articles for publication. Page 28 has an article "Does Your Computer Need a Cassette Recorder?" Remember this is 1983! A disk drive cost \$339. A datasette cost \$69 in 1983 dollars. On page 58 is an article on a stringy floppy. A what? A stringy floppy is a mass storage device that is sort of half disk drive and half datasette. It uses tape like a datasette but the tape is in a continuous loop. The tape cartridge is called a wafer. Cost? How about \$199.50 for a sequential access device that can be as fast as a disk drive or as slow as a datasette. That is because it can only find a file on tape in a sequential way. It's device number? 20.

Next time I will try to look at *RUN's* premier issue. Do you know what year and month it is?

## GeoMille available on June

### Disk O'Quarter

by Dale Lutes



*"Pretend you are driving a car and your goal is to travel 1000 miles. You can go only when*

*the light is green. You must stop when the light is red. You must obey speed limits. If you have an accident, you must wait for repairs. This is the premise behind the French card game Mille Bornes. These and other common driving situations are represented by cards in a game where players race against each other to complete a trip of 1000 miles.*

*GeoMille is a GEOS version of the popular card game introduced by Parker Brothers in the 1960s. GeoMille faithfully reproduces the two-player variation of the original game as you race against the computer in a test of strategy and luck. You can enjoy GeoMille even if you aren't old enough to drive. All you need are a Commodore 64 or Commodore 128, a disk drive, a joystick, a 40-column monitor and GEOS."*

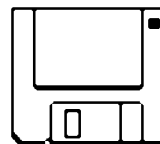
--From the introduction to **GeoMille**.

I am very excited to announce that my latest program for GEOS users, **GeoMille**, will be available to CUW members on the June *Disk O'Quarter*. This release brings to its close, a project that began back in October 1993. If the introduction has kindled your interest, drop by the June meeting where I'll be demonstrating the program and you can pick up your own copy of the *Disk O'Quarter*.

Once again, I have decided to waive the shareware fee for members of the Commodore Users of Wichita. I hope you have as much fun playing the game as I had in writing it.

## Special Club Price on 3-1/2" and 5-1/4" Disks

The CUW has made a bulk purchase of floppy disks. We are able to offer them to our members at these special prices:



### 3-1/2 inch double density (DD)

\$8.00 per pack of 25

These are perfect for use in Commodore 1581 disk drives.



### 5-1/4 inch double sided/double density (DS/DD)

\$6.00 per pack of 25

These are great for Commodore 1541, 1571, and other compatible disk drives.

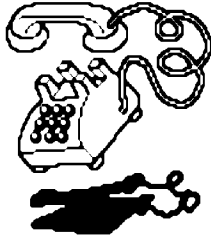
See Jerry Shook at our next monthly meeting to purchase your disks. Our last order went fast, so don't delay!

---

## CUW Member Phone List

The following list of phone numbers is presented here for the convenience of CUW members. It is not to be reprinted in any other publication and is not to be used for commercial purposes. It is not a complete CUW membership list. Only those who

have agreed to allow us to use their phone numbers are included. The numbers listed below are subject to change without notice.



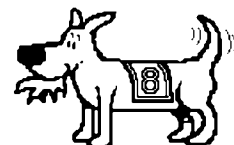
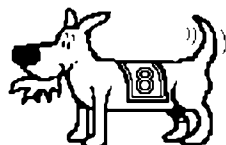
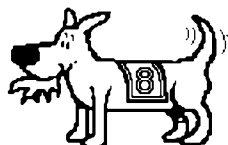
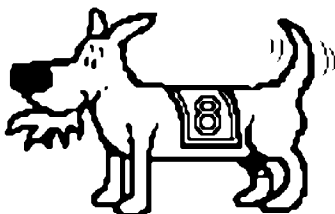
263-4482	Angle	Teresa
744-2580	Bales	Robert
684-4418	Bedient	Howard
531-2560	Benoit	Virginia
262-2338	Both	Marie
777-0248	Dannenberg	Nate
722-4044	Earley	Fred
777-1567	Elliott	C. M.
529-1561	Engel	Eugene
522-3063	Evans	Bill
681-2596	Ferguson	Paul
524-2993	Fleet	Christopher
943-6725	Frisbie	R. C.
532-2515	Gould	Arlen
942-5809	Halstead	Shaun
788-4326	Howard	Dwayne
721-0835	Lutes	Dale
265-2560	McManamey	Don
652-8801	Moore	Beverly
777-4634	Phillips	Galen
838-6819	Salts	Charles
729-6645	Schoemaker	Doug
263-6390	Shannon	Ronald
776-2683	Shook	Jerry
729-9688	Thomas	Robert
838-8606	Ulrich	Maxine
776-0238	Weihe	David
684-7685	Wilson	Mary
845-2753	Woodin	Earl "Jerry"

---

## June 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



---

*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.

---

## Observations on Programming

“Coding requires great care and a non-failing talent for accuracy; it is labour-intensive and should therefore be postponed until you are as sure as sure can be that the program you are about to code is, indeed, the program you are aiming for.”

Edsger W. Dijkstra, "Selected Writings on Computing: A Personal Perspective" Copyright (c) 1982 by Springer-Verlag New York Inc.

“In no engineering discipline does the successful pursuit of academic ideals pay more material dividends than in software engineering.”

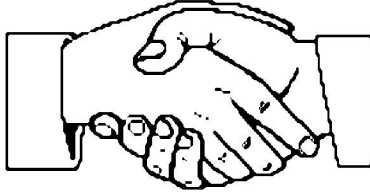
C.A.R. Hoare

“The first thing I would say is that when you write a program, think of it primarily as a work of literature. You’re trying to write something that human beings are going to read. Don’t think of it primarily as something a computer is going to follow. The more effective you are at making your program readable, the more effective it’s going to be: You’ll understand it today, you’ll understand it next week, and your successors who are going to maintain and modify it will understand it.”

Donald Knuth, Doctor Dobb’s Journal, April 1996

## 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

Nate Dannenberg

Shaun Halstead

### Labels

Jerry Shook

### Music, Telecommunications

Robert Bales

Nate Dannenberg

### Printing in Color

Don McManamey

Jerry Shook

### Programming

Nate Dannenberg

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

Nate Dannenberg

777-0248

Fred Earley

722-4044

Shaun Halstead

942-5809

Dale Lutes

721-0835

Don McManamey

265-2560

Jerry Shook

776-2683

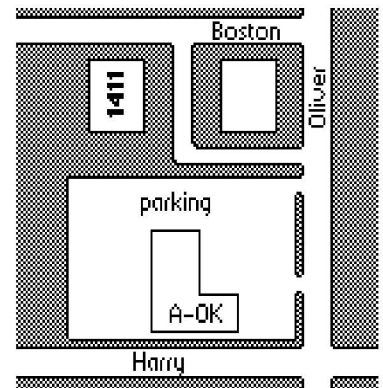
Maxine Ulrich

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) \_\_\_\_\_