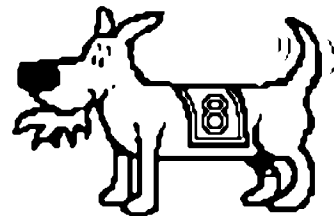


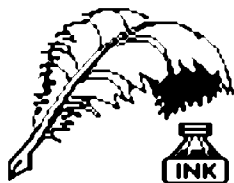
# The Zero Page

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 27, January 1996



## Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

People often ask me what I do with my computer. Usually I'm at a loss on short notice to give an answer. Most of you know that I put the Disk O'Quarter

together so that is a good place to start my list. I sometimes write letters or update my resume but today, I'm writing my *Don's Digest*. I also have several church related chores such as tracking the songs sung at each service so we know what songs we sing and

how often. I work up bible studies and organize thoughts which are saved for future reference. I find it helpful to have the complete bible on disk. I also have a log of audio tapes which have sermons and seminars on them. I've logged my compact disk collection (or at least some of it) to help minimize duplications when making purchases. This also helps to find something in particular when I want to hear it and am not sure where it is. Five years ago, when I transferred into the CNC routers at Raytheon Aircraft, I put all of my training notes into a file which was later printed into a booklet for fellow workers and trainees to use as a reference guide. Now if all of this sounds pretty dull, I do like to play games from time to time. I enjoy good pictures in either Koala or geoPaint form.

Some have said that the greatest enjoyment comes from writing your own programs. I wish I had time to do more of this. I am anything but good. However, there is much satisfaction which comes from writing a program to do a task that is somewhat labored without the computer. Here is an example:

If you wanted to know the volume of a shape you can use a calculator providing you remember the formula. I never can remember those formulas so I could write a program which asks what the shape of the object is. To start, I might give only a limited number of choices, but I can add more choices as my needs

grow over time. Recently I wanted to know the volume of a sphere. I didn't recall ever knowing and when I asked a engineer friend he replied, "I'm not sure. My computer does that for me. I think it is..." Now as it turned out the formula is  $4/3\pi r^3$ . □

To do this with the computer, it doesn't matter if it is within a program or in direct mode. It is done in essentially the same way. The up arrow is used to raise a number by a given power. Here we multiply the radius by itself 3 times. The  $\pi$  key is the shifted up arrow key. This will automatically give the value of  $\pi$  as 3.141592654 which is more decimal places than we need but that

**Next CUW Meeting:  
Saturday, January 13  
1:00 - 5:00 pm  
1411 South Oliver**

Dale Lutes will demonstrate some  
of the disk utilities featured on the  
December Disk O'Quarter.

won't hurt anything. Finally, we wanted  $4/3$  of what we come up with. There are several ways to do this but the simplest way I know is to multiply by 1.33. The / key represents division as in the case of a fraction. Since  $4/3$  is actually more than 1 we end up with a whole number and a decimal. The fraction  $1/3$  is .3333... and to have 4 of them is 1.33. By making this change we can now multiply to get our answer.

In my example, I wanted to know the volume of the moon. In this case the diameter of the moon is 2160 miles but we want the radius which is 1080 miles. This is then cubed or raised to the 3rd power (shown here as an up arrow), multiplied by  $\pi$  (3.14) and then multiplied by (\*) 1.33. From the keyboard type:

**PRINT 1080↑3\*π\*1.33**

Now your answer will be displayed like this: 5.26347761e+09. Don't let this throw you. All it is saying is to count from the decimal point nine places. Add as many zeros as you need to have 9 places and then remove the decimal. The number would look like this: 5,263,477,610. So then, the answer to the question "what is the volume of the moon?" is five billion, two hundred sixty three million, four hundred seventy seven thousand, six hundred, ten cubic miles. Most calculations are not displayed like this but when numbers are large they are shortened in this way.

(Continued on page 2)

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## Don's Digest (continued from page 1)

By putting this into a program and saving it all you have to do is change the radius or use an input statement and a variable where the radius goes. Mathematical programs are among the easiest to write.

One nice thing about programming on a Commodore is that every time you power up you have a cursor. Any time you have a cursor you can program. How many people do you know who program on an IBM or Mac? For one thing they need to buy a program to allow them to program. Did you know that Boeing has told its employees who use PC's that they can not install or use Windows 95 on any of Boeing's machines. It just hasn't been proven well enough to suit them. Our little machines have proven themselves over and over again. Recently several young people I know who have gone on to the more powerful computers have admitted to dusting off their old 64's because they are so much fun to use. So to those who use those other machines I say, "when you grow tired of your machines locking up or finding that your favorite program won't run under Windows, get out your old Commodore!".



Documentation for LIST FREEZER was accidentally omitted from the December Disk O'Quarter. This program gives C-64 users the ability to pause a long program listing (like the NO SCROLL key on the C-128). To use the program, load and run it with:

```
LOAD "LIST FREEZER",8  
RUN
```

Now, when you LIST a long BASIC program to the screen, you can pause the output with either the SHIFT or SHIFT-LOCK keys.

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## SIG News

by Dwayne Howard

Well, here we are in to another year and as your SIG Chair, I thought I would start a new group. If we can get ten people to say they would like to learn about the *Write Stuff*, we can form a new Special Interest Group on this program. The *Write Stuff* is sold through the club at \$15 for the C-64 version and \$20 for the C-128. I know that your club president uses the *Write Stuff* all the time. If you're a new club member and want a good program for writing letters, I would like to suggest this program. I hope to see you at the meeting on January 13, and we'll see if we can find a meeting place for the *Write Stuff* group.

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## Wanted to Buy

Edith Brown would like to have a Koala Pad and a Muppet Learning Keypad. If you have either of these items to sell, or know of someone who does, see Edie at our next meeting.

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## True Colors

Those members present at the December meeting couldn't help but notice the matching Commodore T-shirts that Morris Shouse and his son were wearing. In case you missed it, the shirts featured an image of the 1571 demo disk in its distinctive red, white, and blue Commodore sleeve. Moe had the shirts made up at Express Designs in Towne West Square. If you are interested in owning one, see Allan Sands at Express Designs. They should still have the image on file.

Be sure to check out the slide show pictures on the December Disk O'Quarter. Among them is a "colorized" Video Byte picture of our newsletter editor, Dale Lutes. Nate Dannenberg shot pictures like this of most of our members at the December 1994 meeting, then saved them to everyone's 12/94 Disk O'Quarter. If you'd like to have your picture colorized, bring that disk along to a club meeting and Dale will have it ready for you by the following meeting.

Your friends will be "green with envy" when they see your disk T-shirt or colorized photo.

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## Coming up at the CUW

by Dale Lutes

Here is a list of the coming CUW meeting topics. Please note that the switch installation day and the *Write Stuff* tutorial have been moved back one month.

**February** Robert Bales will show us how easy it is to use the powerful CMD hard drives available for the C-64 and C-128

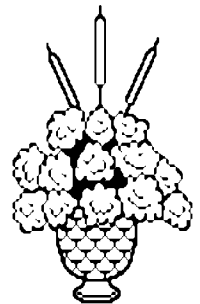
**March** Device selector switch installation day for those of you with 1541 drives

**April** Don McManamey will feature a *Write Stuff* tutorial

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The CUW maintains a "Friendship Fund" that we draw from in order to send cards and/or

flowers to members who are ill or have lost a loved one. This fund is maintained separately from the club's regular account and participation is completely voluntary. At this time, the fund is running rather low. If you would like to contribute a few dollars, please call or see Marie Both at our next meeting. Thanks to all participating members!





## Random Access

by Dale Lutes

Before I get on with the final installment of my series on disk storage, I have a couple of items concerning last month's article that were brought to my attention by Nate Dannenberg. You may recall that I had warned GEOS users not to use the DOS Validate command on GEOS disks. This is still sound advice for owners of all Commodore and most third-party disk drives. But, according to Nate, the DOS firmware built into drives from Creative Micro Designs (such as the FD and HD series) is smart enough to correctly validate GEOS as well as non-GEOS disks. On the subject of loading programs, Nate reminded me that a few programs require a RUN command *even after* a LOAD program, 8,1

OK, let's finish up with disks. The good news is all of the tough stuff is out of the way. This month, we'll look at some of the disk utilities that were included on the December Disk O'Quarter.

### Enhanced DOS

If you've ever typed in any of those lengthy DOS commands that I covered last month, you must have said to yourself, "There's got to be a better way!" Well, there is! DOS 5.1E for the C-64 gives you a shorthand way of entering those OPEN/PRINT/CLOSE sequences (C-128 users already have the BASIC 7.0 commands). For example, to scratch a file, you would simply use:

```
.S0:file name
```

instead of:

```
OPEN 2,8,15  
PRINT #2,"S0:file name"  
CLOSE 2
```

Another way to get a similar command interface is by equipping your computer with JiffyDOS from Creative Micro Designs. JiffyDOS is available for both the C-64 and C-128. JiffyDOS will also significantly speed up all of your disk operations.

### DISK BACKUP and ARCHIVE

Last month, I suggested a list of top 10 disk usage tips. Number one on the list was, "Always back up your disks." This point was driven home to me (again) as I was packing equipment to bring to the December meeting. I had intended to bring my RAMLink along, which is essentially a large-capacity electronic disk. Now, devices like RAMLink have an inherent drawback in that, if power is removed, all the data stored in them is lost. But having purchased the battery back-up option, I was prepared - or so I thought. After pulling the plug on my RAMLink, I discovered that one of the wires leading from the battery had broken. I had just lost 5 megabytes of data, including the entire club membership database! Fortunately, I was able to use my backup copy during the meeting to record all of the membership updates.

Whether you are using floppy disks, a hard drive, or a RAM expansion unit, backups are crucial. If you own 1 or 2 1541 drives, then DISK BACKUP or ARCHIVE will help you make those important backup copies. If you own higher capacity drives (1571, 1581, or others) or copy-protected software, look into commercial backup software such as Maverick, or the 1581 Toolkit.

### DIRECTORY SORT

Here is a program that I originally copied from COMPUTE! magazine. Use it to alphabetize your disk directories, or customize the directories by swapping file entries around and adding remarks. DIRECTORY SORT is written in BASIC, so it isn't terribly fast, but it can be customized. I had a hard time remembering the function key assignments, so I added a help screen - just press H when the program asks you to enter the directory manipulation command. DIRECTORY SORT can be used on both 1541 and 1571 formatted disks, but C-128 users will have to shift into C-64 mode to run it.

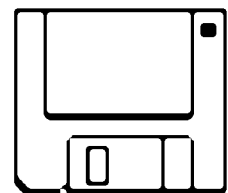
### FILE PROTECTOR

This program will allow you to protect individual files or entire disks from accidental erasure. The program is menu-driven and easy to use. By locking a file, you will no longer be able to scratch it, but you can still load, read, or copy it. Locked files will be marked with a less-than sign (<) in your directory listings. If you choose to lock a disk, you won't be able to scratch *any* of the files, nor will you be able to create new files on the disk. FILE PROTECTOR runs in C-64 mode and works on both 1541 and 1571 formatted disks. One thing that FILE PROTECTOR cannot do is to protect against reformatting a disk with the NEW or HEADER command. For really important disks, stick with the sticky write-protect tabs.

### Closing the Disk

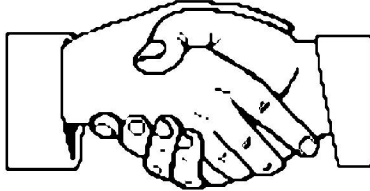
This wraps up my series on disk drives. When I began, I had no idea that it would turn into such a lengthy discussion. I hope that I have helped answer some of your questions about using disks, and I hope that you'll be able to make good use of some of the utilities mentioned here. Please come by the January meeting where I will be demonstrating all of the programs that I covered here, plus a few more featured on the December Disk O'Quarter.

Additional documentation for the utilities mentioned in this article is available as a sequential file right on the Disk O'Quarter in the file "DISK UTILS.DOC". To view or print the file, you will need a sequential file reader program such as the Ultra SEQ file reader available on DOQ #2.



## The Helping Hand

This column lists those users willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other club members.



### Music, Telecommunications

Robert Bales

### Programming

Dale Lutes

### Astrology, Biorhythm

Marie Both

### Printing in Color

Don McManamey                      Jerry Shook

### Labels

Jerry Shook

### Cards, Posters & Signs

Fred Earley

### Word Processing & Desktop Publishing

Fred Earley                      Don McManamey

Jerry Shook                      Dale Lutes

### GEOS

Fred Earley                      Dale Lutes

### Family Roots

Maxine Ulrich

### Helping Hand Volunteers

Robert Bales                      744-2580

Marie Both                      262-2338

Fred Earley                      722-4044

Dale Lutes                      721-0835

Don McManamey                      265-2560

Jerry Shook                      776-2683

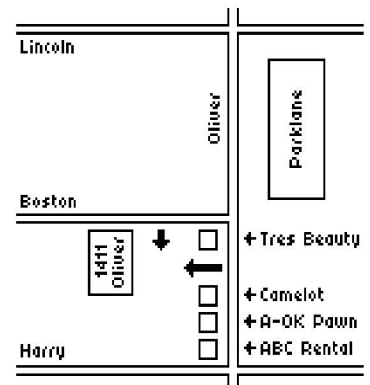
Maxine Ulrich                      838-8606

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!

## Your CUW Steering Committee members are:



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!



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) \_\_\_\_\_