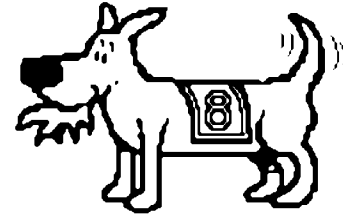


# The Zero Page

*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 56, June 1998

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## A Summary of the May Business Meeting and Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

by Dale Lutes

The May meeting was attended by all but four of the club members. We discussed the vacancies in the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair. In addition, we reviewed the election process as currently defined in the bylaws and considered several changes.

Moe Shouse and Robert Bales volunteered to take over the offices of Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. Although we currently have no specific provision for such an appointment in the bylaws, the members present voted unanimously to accept Moe and Robert in these positions.

It was generally agreed that the current monthly hardware/demo meeting format was not filling the needs of the members. A proposal was made to change to a bi-monthly hardware meeting with an informal dinner meeting on the intervening months. Publication of *The Zero Page* may be reduced to coincide with the hardware meetings.

Based on the apparent level of interest in the *Disk O'Quarter*, we considered changing the frequency of it's publication to a yearly or semi-annual period. The final decision will be left to our disk editor, Don McManamey.

It was agreed that, even if all of the above changes were to go into effect, the membership fee would not be reduced from the current level of \$15 per year.

The following changes to the bylaws were proposed and will be voted upon at the June meeting:

- 1) **Amending the Bylaws** --- This section will be changed to read:  
A proposed amendment or addition can be presented by any club member in good standing at any regular meeting. The change may be voted upon immediately and requires acceptance by two-thirds of the members present to pass.
- 2) **Vacancy in Office** --- New section:  
A majority of the members present at a regular meeting may appoint a club member to fill a vacancy in any of the elected offices.
- 3) **Nomination & Election Process** --- Paragraph 1 will be changed to read:  
Elections will be held annually beginning in 1994. Nominations open at the start of the March club meeting and are closed by the outgoing Chair at the May meeting. Nominations may be made in person or in writing to the Chair or Vice-Chair. Members may nominate themselves.

**Next CUW Meeting:  
Saturday, June 13  
1:00 - 4:00 pm  
1411 South Oliver**

Moe Shouse will be on hand to  
demonstrate his SuperCPU-128



## Moe's Soap Box

by Moe Shouse

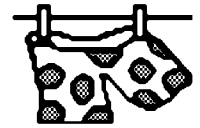
Well it's time to do my new column. I picked the name "Moe's Soap Box" because it will give me room to cover a wide range of subjects. But mostly I plan to cover all the new stuff coming out for our beloved Commodores. I

will not be able to buy all the new stuff, but I will be able to tell you about it. Most of my info will come from Commodore World and a new magazine called CPU. We only have one company I know of that builds hardware for our Commodores. That is CMD. Their hardware is the best. It is well engineered, and well made. The latest item they have come out with is the SuperCPU-128. So this first "Soap Box" is about the SuperCPU-128.

I have had my SCPU for about 2 months. I have had a lot of fun learning how to use it, and finding out what programs work with it. The user's guide that came with it is very good. The question that is on everyone's mind is, does it run GEOS? Well, yes and no. CMD doesn't have the software patch for GEOS 128 V2.0 done yet. But they do have the patch for GEOS 64 V2.0. It is provided with the SCPU. I have patched a back up copy of GEOS64 and it does seem to work good. In geoWrite, you can change the font almost instantly and do the preview in 2 or 3 seconds. Of course, disk access is about the same as before. A RAMDrive is not compatible because of the RAMDrive DOS. The GeoRAM and BBGRAM are compatible and will work as they normally do. Of course it will work with the RAMLink made by CMD. The SCPU will have trouble with most cartridges that use a ROM for the OS. This includes Action/Replay, Super Snapshot, Partner 64, most IEEE interfaces, Lt. Kernal hard drive host adapter, and most if not all game cartridges. But I did get it to work with Magic Desk cartridge. It also works with Jane, an icon type word processor/database on disk that was made by Commodore before GEOS came out. Some of us in the CUW have a very powerful database program called Flex File 128. It really works great with the SCPU. On my hard drive, I have one partition of 16 MB. It has a small text editor called Zed-128 and the complete Bible in K.J.V. With the SCPU in 20MHz I can turn everything on, load up Zed and load Psalms 119 in 25 seconds! I did copy the entire Bible to my RAMLink from the hard drive. It took about one hour. But I didn't have the SCPU in 20MHz, just to be on the safe side. The copy programs that CMD has on their utilities disks will not work at 20MHz. It has to do with timed delay routines used to get the copy process started. The more efficient the copier, the less likely you are to see any real performance increases (since all disk access takes place at 1 MHz). Also, any programs that use illegal opcodes in their loaders will not load with the SCPU enabled. These include Superbase 128 and Superscript 128. Cadpak 128 and Chart 128 will only operate at normal speed due to odd timing in their custom interrupt routines. I did try to get GEOS 128 to run at 20MHz only with limited success. If I boot GEOS at 2MHz then after loading geoWrite I switch to 20 MHz, it will work OK until I quit or sometimes update. Then it locks up. At our next meeting, bring the software you would like to see run at 20 MHz. I plan to have my SCPU set up to give a demo.

## Newsletter Briefs

by Dale Lutes



### BUG Bytes

#### Treasure Valley/Boise User Group, Boise, ID

We've just begun exchanging newsletters with TV/BUG. The June newsletter includes part 3 of Gaelyne Gasson's "New User Survival Guide." Doug Parsons talks about his experience with the SuperCPU 128 and, in a separate article, provides some tips on using The Write Stuff.

### geoNews

#### geoClub, United Kingdom/Australia

The June geoNEWS features reprints from our own "Don's Digest" and "Rear View Mirror" columns. Rick Youngman describes how to install a write protect switch on the 1541. Harald Llantermann provides plans for a disk drive "tower." Superb graphics were contributed by Peter McGuinn of New Zealand and Gordon Turrall of Australia.

### The Infinite Loop

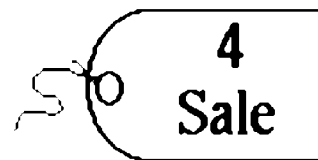
#### Western Colorado Commodore User Group, Mack, CO

In the June issue, Jake uses his editorial to relate the story of Commodore Power User magazine. Two articles by Dale Sidebottom provide reviews of EXPO '98 and Maurice Randall's Wheels GEOS upgrade.

### Geos Publication

#### Rev. Willis Patten, Louisville, KY

The April issue features the conclusion of Dan Barber's excellent article, "GEOS in General."

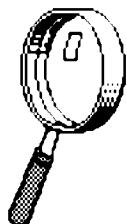


Virginia Benoit has the following equipment for sale:

- 1) Blue Chip D12/10 printer
- 1) MPS 802 printer
- 1) Okimate 20 printer
- 1) Okimate 10 printer
- 1) Commodore 64
- 2) 1541 disk drives
- 1) Animation Station
- 1) Commodore datasette

No reasonable offer refused. Phone Virginia at 531-2560.

"It's not like Windows users don't have any power, I think they are happy with Windows and that's an incredibly depressing thought..."  
--Steve Jobs



## Looking at GEOS

by Mark McGuinnis

[This article was first published in July 1993.

It comes to us courtesy of Peter Hunt, geoClub OZ]

We left off with a bit mapped image in your GEOPaint drawing window. Before we exit

Geopaint and finish the tutorial, let's look at a desk accessory. A desk accessory is a small program you can use from within an application such as Geopaint.

From the Geos menu, located in the command menu, select note pad from the pull down menu. A small note pad will appear on the screen. The text cursor (a small vertical flashing bar) will indicate where the first letter of your note will be placed. Make a note to yourself. Just start typing. When you fill the first page with accolades of what a great artist you have become with Geopaint, click on the dog-eared corner of the pad (lower left corner) and continue on the second page. This writer suggests that if you are going to compose an essay, that you save your efforts for GEO Write. To exit the notepad click on the close icon which is a small button located in the upper right corner of the note pad. Your notes will be saved to a file called "notes" which will appear on the desk top.

To close your Geopaint file go to the command menu and from the drop down menu select quit. On your desk top you should notice two new file icons. One will be the aforementioned "notes" file and the second icon will look like a framed picture and a paint brush. If the contents of either one of these files is no longer needed or wanted, they can be thrown in the waste basket and disposed of. Be aware of what you are putting in the trash for all intents and purposes it is gone when trashed.

Since we are talking about trash, put on your aprons and get out the feather duster and let's do a little house keeping. Just as your house has to be straightened up, so does Geos need some maintenance. Always create and use work disks. The system disk should only be used for booting or rearranging your default files. Never create a document on an original disk (one that came with the GEOS package). Should this happen to you, copy the document to a work disk (if you wish to save it) and remove the document from the application disk by throwing its icon in the trash can.

Never give two disks the same name. The reason being confusion, confusion, confusion... "See what I mean, Vern?" Your computer is only a dumb machine and can't tell the difference between the two. Vary disk names slightly.

When you are not using your disks, keep them in their sleeves and away from all electronic or magnetic equipment. Yes Virginia, this includes your monitor and computer power supply. Scrambled eggs will give you some idea as to what will happen to the magnetic material on your floppy.

Have you ever put a disk in the drive and forgot to close the drive door? Most of the time this is no major catastrophe, but... One final caveat; never turn off your computer or reboot it if you are in an application. Go to the desk top and close the disk before you exit the GEOS system. But what do you do when you get one of those famous "system errors" or your machine hangs up? YOU BITE THE BULLET AND REBOOT! Not much choice in this situation. When you reboot you will be at square one, you will not have passed go and you will not collect \$200.

A way to avoid the noid is to select update from the file menu and update your work about every ten to fifteen minutes. You should not lose very much work in this case.

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## Stupid Programming Tricks

by Dale Lutes

FORTRAN is one of the oldest "high-level" (or English-like) computer languages. It has been the language of choice for scientific applications for decades. FORTRAN has undergone a few face lifts over the years, the most recent standard being FORTRAN 90. The standards committee has been careful to preserve, as much as possible, backward compatibility in the language. This means that code which adheres to an older standard can be processed without change by a new compiler.

The following program is valid FORTRAN 77. The challenge is to predict the output without actually running it. The answer will appear in next month's *Zero Page*.

```

program rambo
C      Courtesy of Brian Pendleton
C      Physics Department, Edinburgh
C      rambo is valid fortran 77

      real if integer
      integer if real, end
      character*7 stop dimension
      equivalence (if 7, y goto 100)
      data y goto 100 /-100/

      do 20 i = 1.20
         if 7 = 6
            then 5 = 4
20      if x = y goto 100
         stop dimension = '(f16.6) '

      then call go to write = 20
      else format = 7.2 / do 20 i
      end = 6
100    read = if x + else format - then 5 + do 20 i
      write (end, stop dimension) read
      end

```

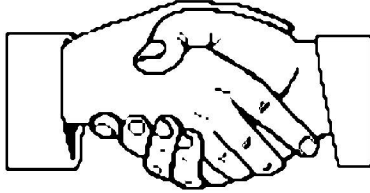
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FORTRAN is not a flower, but a weed. It is hardy, occasionally blooms, and grows in every computer.

Alan Perlis, quoted in ACM FORTRAN Forum, 6 1 (April 87), 29.

## The Helping Hand

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



Robert Bales                      831-0008  
trebor@southwind.net  
Telecommunications, Internet, CMD HD and FD drives

Dale Lutes                          721-0835  
lutes@feist.com  
GEOS, Programming, Word Processing, Desktop Publishing,  
CMD FD drives and RAMLink

Don McManamey                  265-2560  
dmcmanamey@geocities.com  
Word Processing, Print Shop, Printing

Jerry Shook                        776-2683  
jls695@gte.net  
Databases, Label Making, Word Processing, Printing

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 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. Microsoft Word documents (Mac or IBM compatible) on 1.44MB floppies are also accepted. In a pinch, paper hard copy will work. Call Dale at 721-0835 or mail your articles to:

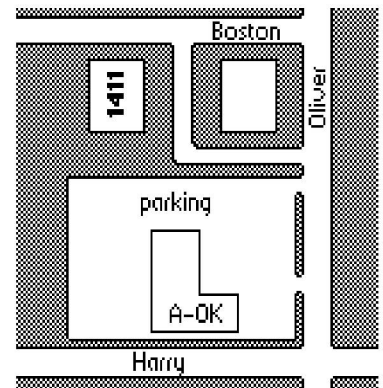
Commodore Users of Wichita  
c/o Dale Lutes  
11102 W. 17th Street  
Wichita, KS 67212-1187

E-mail: lutes@feist.com

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 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 Dale Lutes  
11102 W. 17th Street N.  
Wichita, KS 67212-1187

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) \_\_\_\_\_