

* * FREE * *

THE

WACO

POST

VOL. 1 NUM. 2

01/09/82

FREE!!

**WACO'S FIRST MEETING
GREAT SUCCESS!!!**

The first meeting of the Woodfield Area Computerist Organization went off without a hitch Saturday, December 5th. Somewhat less than thirty hardy souls braved the "Holiday Shopper" crowd at Woodfield Shopping Center to listen to Steve Gibson philosophize on the subject of computer clubs. Among the subjects discussed and voted on was the subject of advertising in this newsletter. Those present voted unanimously to allow advertising to continue in order to keep THE **WACO POST** at it's present price - **FREE!** Attendees also voted unanimously to continue to seek discounts from retailers and suppliers with this addendum: if **WACO** someday becomes so powerful that retailers who cannot provide discounts are forced to close their doors, **WACO** will review and possibly discontinue the practice. No discount would be worth narrowing competition in the computer marketplace, or worth making consumers drive the long distances we used to drive before the boom hit.

Eric Stral from **NIAUG** attended, and he provided a welcome additional viewpoint. Eric fostered the above addition to the discount idea and suggested some alternate (and cheaper) locations for meetings. Other attendees included TRS-80 owners, ELF owners, TRS-80 Color Computer owners, H-89 owners, and more (sorry if I missed your computer!). Occupations of those attending ranged from retirement to student to Satellite Communications and age ranged from 17 to 66 years-old. This broad base of membership is what this writer found most interesting. If **WACO** is going to succeed, a wide range of interests is probably more important than a large number of members. Most attendees expressed a desire to see **WACO** be a success and promised to attend the next meeting of **WACO** in January.

For information about the next meeting of **WACO** - see the article elsewhere in this newsletter or call: 843-7852.

Steve Gibson

=====

THIS NEWSLETTER SPONSORED IN PART BY:

MESSAGE #82 of CHICAGO, IL.
(312) 622-4442 300 Baud

Jim Dunne : NON-RESIDENT TECHNICIAN
George Matyaszek: OWNER AND SYSTEM OPERATOR

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=====

**HARD
COPY**

STEVE GIBSON

Games...

Not many people will argue the fact that if it weren't for "PONG" and early TV games like it the home computer market would be years behind where it is today. It took some type of easy-to-use video game with few complicated rules and simple hand controls to get "Joe TV Addict" hooked on two-way TV. All of a sudden you didn't have to eat up whatever the Tube had to offer. No sir, you could spend hours of equally useless time batting a "Beep" and a "Bloop" across your screen until you etched its path into your TV tube or your wife's every waking moment (anyone know the present "VIDEO DIVORCE" rate?). And what did you gain from this exercise in futility? Well, if you were under 5 years old, you gained improved eye-hand coordination. And if you were in the 6 to 12 year old age group you improved your ability to concentrate and accomplish difficult tasks. For the 13-29 age group there was the decreased drug use aspect. And finally, for the 29+ group, you gained 3-4 inches of "beer belly", the pleasure of beating a 6 year old into a corner (and giggling moronically), and another excuse to not do that landscaping that'll wait one more weekend.

So what's changed 7 years later? ...Nothing...Oh, sure, there are new "Beeps" and "Bloops", the games are in 4 or 5 colors and they come with 30 page instruction booklets that read like a Carlos Castaneda story, but you still use them to avoid housework, to waste the hour before "Dallas" comes on or to ignore your wife who had another bad day at "Piggly-Wiggly". And, believe it or not, that friend of yours, who shook his head wonderingly at your new "Robot Attack" game, went home thinking you were out of your mind to spend \$2500 to play a game that costs 25 cents at the corner 7-Eleven...

The point? Maintain your "COMPUTER PERSPECTIVE". Don't attempt to

legitimize your hobby by saying, "Someday this thing is going to spit out mailing labels by the thousands for 10 cents apiece!"...nope, did you ever hear a "Weekend Sailor" brag that someday he would, "take on a load of iron ore bound for Hammond and retire on the proceeds"? No sir, the "Weekend Sailor" loads up his cooler, hoists up the mains'l and pours on the tanning lotion - he's out to enjoy his hobby - outsiders be d----d!

So pop in that "Space Invaders" cartridge, open a bottle of Heinie's, heat up the egg rolls and beat the pants off those creeps! Who cares if this thing ever makes a cent? I love it!!

ANCHORS AWAY!!**QUOTE:**

Dr. James McAlear in an article in **OMNI** (12/81) "Biochip Revolution" on the subject of computer brain implants;

"One Sunday about four years ago I was parked in front of the Swedish Covenant Church, waiting for my wife, Anna, who was inside. The minister, it seems, had gotten into this tiff of singing a hymn and then praying that I'd come in and be saved. Finally my wife came out. 'Why don't you come in,' she implored. 'They've asked me to ask you, don't you believe in God?'

"'You go back,' I said, 'and tell them that not only do I believe in an almighty God, but I'm probably the only one here that has any idea how to build it.'"

THE WACO POST

VOL 1 NUMBER 2
JANUARY 1982

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE
WOODFIELD AREA COMPUTERIST ORGANIZATION
REPRODUCTION IS PERMITTED WITH THIS BYLINE:
"REPRINTED FROM THE WACO POST"
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EDITOR
THE WACO POST
%STEVE GIBSON
723 SUNFISH PT.
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60194

BYTE BY BYTE

by Mark Schaub

Almost everybody has seen some kind of machine language program. All the SYSTEM programs for disk users and the BASIC interpreter that everyone has used are written in machine language. You may have noticed that most of these programs run about 30 times faster than a Basic program that does the same thing. What I'd like to do, is show you some of the more common routines that can be used in your programs.

The things you need before you start programming in assembly language are:

A COMPUTER (obviously)
An EDITOR/ASSEMBLER program

Also, a PRINTER is helpful to get hardcopy listings. Once you get your program assembled, you might need a debugging package to make sure everything is working right. If you're using DISK, you have DEBUG. If you're using TAPE, a very helpful program sold by Radio Shack is TBUG. Many magazines have debugging programs listed also.

If you have another processor that doesn't take the Z-80 command set, don't throw this paper away. Most of the commands I'll be using have a counterpart in your language. The important thing is the idea(s) behind any programming attempt. There are even cross-assemblers to change from one type to another.

Once you have your editor/assembler program up and running, you are ready to start writing. What's first? Well, you need to know how to use the TEXT-INSERT part of your package. This will let you type in commands and make editing them easy. Most EDTASM programs use the command 'I'. This is for INSERT. You will see a number displayed, after which you can start typing in your program.

Many EDTASM's also have things called ASSEMBLER DIRECTIVES. All they do, is tell the assembler how to assemble your program. Some of these commands are:

```
ORG      ;Tells where in
         memory to put your
         program
EQU      ;Sets a variable
         equal to a number
DEFM     ;Define a message
DEFB     ; byte
DEFW     ; word (2
         bytes)
*LIST ON ;turns listing
         of the program on or
         off
*LIST OFF
```

These are just a few of the

important ones. Your specific computer may have more or less DIRECTIVES.

Now comes the real meat of EDTASM programming. Now is the time to type in all your commands in your program. Usually, you have to put each command in a certain column on the screen. Use the <TAB> key, not the <SPACE BAR> to get over to the column you want.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or criticism, please write to me in care of this newsletter. I also would like to hear what kind of things you would like to read about.

-Mark-

Letters to the Editor

DEAR EDITOR,

Is your WACO newsletter similar to the Electronic Exchange newsletter that is also distributed free in over 20 computer stores in the Chicago area and features many articles on a variety of subjects and classified ads? I was just wondering.

WILBUR WIGGLETOES

WEALLY WILBUR!!

WE WISH YOU'D PAY ATTENTION!

THE VARIETY OF ARTICLES IN THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE REPRESENTS A WIDE WANGE OF EQUIPMENT - FROM VIDEO RECORDER TO WEAL BIG T.V.'S!! THE WACO POST IS FOCUSED ONLY ON THE HOME AND BUSINESS COMPUTER USER - NO VIDEO, ETC. THE WACO POST IS SUPPORTED BY COMMERCIAL ADS LIKE THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE - BUT IF YOU CHECK YOUR LATEST ISSUE OF THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE YOU'LL SEE THAT IT IS DISTRIBUTED FROM MANY ELECTRONIC STORES AND VIDEO SHOPS, IN ADDITION TO COMPUTER SHOPS.

SO WHILE YOU ARE OUT SHOPPING YOU CAN GWAB COPIES OF BOTH THE WACO POST AND THE ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE WITHOUT WISKING A WENUN OF ARTICLES OR ADS!!!

WEGARDS,
EDITOR

(FROM A MESSAGE LEFT TO THE EDITOR ON MESSAGE '82)

Hello Steve,

I've been following your messages about WACO here with interest and had planned on attending the first meeting but was not free that day. I plan on getting involved with it in the near future. What I am looking for now, is that I have a Bulletin Board running in Round Lake, and am trying to get it off the ground. I've been checking around on a few other boards and have noticed that you have messages in them pertaining to WACO. I thought possibly that you would leave some information on my board and by doing so, help the both of us.

I also have a special section called 'Merchandise' that I would be more than glad to put a message in for you.

Thanks, hope to here from you.

George Johnson

SYSOP

Call - 740-9128 (Modem).

SOFTWARE REVIEWS
#####

TRS-80

Title: Robot Attack
Distributor: Big Five
Type: Arcade Game
Requirements: Disk/32k/Audio output

If you have been waiting with baited breath for that silver-jacketed, black-screened moron you sit in front of night after night to get it together and give you a decent verbal assault, wait no longer! Big Five (and authors Bill Hogue & Jeff Konyu) has given the beast a voice. Now your TRS-80 not only will beat you silly - it will call you "chicken" when you decide that 'tis better to run than burn. Patterned after the arcade game "berserk", ROBOT ATTACK is an excellently written program. It is an example of how much of the TRS-80's power is untapped and should be the kick in the pants programmers have needed to produce some quality Z80 game programs. Graphics are o.k. (stick figure chased by blinking robots) and sound effects are a mixture of bleeps, bloops and somewhat intelligible speech, all broadcast through the cassette port. At \$19.95 a must for all TRS-80 gamers!!

APPLE

Title: Alkemstone
Distributor: LEVEL-10
Type: 3-D Adventure
Requirements: APPLE II/16 Sector Disk/48K

"Welcome to a mystery which is centuries, maybe even eons old. A powerful gem was hidden and now you have the opportunity to discover its whereabouts. To make solving the puzzle even more enticing, LEVEL-10 is offering \$5000 to the first person who discovers the location of The Alkemstone.

As you follow the underground paths through the lair of the original owner, you'll notice unusual messages, fragments of words, sketches and other clues written on the walls.

The clues are always there, but they are not always visible to you. You must piece all bits of information together to determine where the stone is hidden. It will be difficult but your perseverance will be rewarded with \$5000 from LEVEL-10.

Here is your first clue: The Alkemstone is accessible to the General Public."

So you say there is \$5000...er, I mean an Alkemstone to be found!?! Which ever motive you find to start your quest it should be worth it.

The Alkemstone is a legitimate contest. The entry form, instructions, and a short story on the origin of the Alkemstone is included with the software package.

The Origin of the Alkemstone is in itself an adventure just to read; only 8 pages long but plenty of creative imagination (or who knows, the story may be true). The instructions are simple: up, down, left, right, forward and fast or slow. That's all you'll need to travel the 3-D maze in real time simulation.

Your task is a simple one - search for clues written all over the maze. I warn you - this is where the \$5000 incentive no longer matters! The clues are just enough to trigger about 100 ideas per clue and after 50 clues worth of ideas in your head (and \$50 out of your pocket) money or no money this is one challenge you must go for!

There is no time limit except your own greed to win, no shoot'em up type of stuff - the battle of your wits should be more than enough.

Written in Machine Language for any APPLE with 48K and one 16 Sector Disk Drive.

The youth

The Alkemstone is a Trademark of LEVEL-10, LEVEL-10 is a Trademark of Dakin5 Corporation.

- THE WACO POST IS DISTRIBUTED AT:
- OAK BROOK COMPUTER CENTRE - OAK BROOK (941-9005)
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 - ICOM - LOMBARD (932-1766)
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 - NILES

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR HELP!! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THIS GROWING LIST AND DISTRIBUTE THE WACO POST \$ FREE \$ CALL: 843-7852 (RECORDER).

BBS of the month

It is only fitting that this, the first "BBS of the month" column should feature MESSAGE-'81 of Chicago. MESSAGE-'81 was the first sponsor of THE WACO POST and continues to sponsor today. George Matyaszek and Jim Dunne have done a complete re-vamp of the original code they purchased from Richard Taylor. MESSAGE-'81 has been designed with at least 2 obvious goals: ease of use, and quick message retrieval and entry.

Most of the "users" (as callers of BBS's are called) are TRS-80 owners, but there is no reason that any modem equipped computer user shouldn't call. Message subject matter varies widely and most programs available for downloading can be modified to work on just about any computer (though programs available for downloading are TRS-80 compatible). WACO has been given "carte blanche" on MESSAGE-'81 for club correspondence and yours truly calls MESSAGE-'81 nearly every night for news and views.

MESSAGE-'81 is up 24 hours/day 7 days/week except for the time needed for maintenance and disk backups. The message tone is generally friendly and questions regarding TRS-80 problems usually elicit quick helpful solutions.

MESSAGE-'81's computer system is:

TRS-80 Model I
4 Disk Drives
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The basic operating system for MESSAGE-'81 is always in a state of change so give MESSAGE-'81 a call and let Jim Dunne know what you'd like to see at MESSAGE-'81. Call MESSAGE-'81 and, if nothing else, tell George you read about MESSAGE-'81 here...

MESSAGE-'81 -
George Matyaszek - SYSOP
Jim Dunne - NON-RESIDENT TECH.
Phone #'s:
622-4442 (Modem)
622-5969 (Voice)

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CCCC (CP/M) LAKE FOREST	234-9257
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MAGAZINE REVIEW

SOFTLINE - A New Computer Software Magazine

SOFTLINE is a new bimonthly computer software magazine published by Softtalk Publishing Inc. Of North Hollywood, California. A few days ago, Issue 2 of Volume No. 1 Appeared in my mail box, and herewith is a brief review of that 28 page issue.

SOFTLINE is a magazine which seems to be mainly game oriented; as evidence, I submitted the following list of articles:

1. The Arcade Machine
2. Origins of Adventure
3. Apple II Graphics: Mapping the Memory Maze
4. Bill Budge Chats with Star Craft's Galaxy of Programmers
5. Software to Learn From : How to Choose It.
6. New Players
7. An Interview with Mark Turmell (Author of the Sneakers and Beer Run games)
8. Gameline Reviews
9. High Scores (Tabulations of Readers' High Scores on Various Games)

In addition to the 21 pages of editorial material, this issue contained 10 pages of advertising. The article on Software to Learn From is an interesting article discussing the philosophy of CAI (Computer-Aided Instruction) programs. The Origins of Adventure article discusses the developments leading up to the current rash of microcomputer adventure games and concludes with some insights on the games which are currently being written.

The magazine is tailored to the Apple and Atari computers, since all games discussed are available for either or both of these systems. If

you are a game fan, then SOFTLINE is for you. SOFTLINE subscriptions are free to owners of personal computers if they send their name and address to the publisher, Softtalk Publishing, Inc., 11021 Magnolia Blvd., North Hollywood, Ca. 91601. For non-computer owners, subscriptions cost \$6.00 per year.
Sheldon J. Kramer

CLUB CORNER

(Club Secretaries: Send your news, names, and numbers to -
CLUB CORNER
%Steve Gibson
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ATARI

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CHICATRUG

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MEET 3RD WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH AT 203
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DAUG

DUPAGE APPLE USER GROUP
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MODEM 789-0499.

NIAUG

NORTHERN ILLINOIS APPLE USERS GROUP
MEET 1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT
HARPER COLLEGE, BUILDING E, ROOM
106.
CALL DAVE AT 295-6078 OR 295-6926
(MODEM).

NICOL

Northern Illinois Computer Owners
League
(A TRS-80 Club)
Next meeting January 6th at Our
Redeemers Church, 1600 W. Schaumburg
Rd., Schaumburg.
For info call Paul Zaura at 858-1648

SOUTH SUBURBAN
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THE 1802 LIVES!

Bill Richardson

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 of the computers built around the
 RCA (tm) 1802 microprocessor. The
 1802 is a versatile and efficient
 chip, but for various reasons it
 hasn't the popularity of the 6800,
 z-80 or Intel chips, and the result
 has been a shortage of available
 software, and more importantly, a
 shortage for 1802 owners of useful
 interaction with other
 computerists, many of whom hold to
 the Newtonian theory that Apples are
 smarter than Elves. There are some
 sources of 1802 materials, to be
 sure, but usually distant (the ELF
 population being what it is).

WACO, however, believes in
 ELVES, too, and numbers ELF II,
 SUPER ELF, and VIP enthusiasts among
 its supporters. So if you got
 frustrated and stuck your ELF up in
 the attic, its time to get it down.
 See me at the next **WACO** meeting and
 we'll discuss forming an 1802
 Special Interest Group (SIG).

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JANUARY MEETING
SATURDAY JANUARY 9th**

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1:30 PM

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RD. TURN LEFT (SOUTH) AND GO ABOUT 1
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RIGHT ONTO LIBRARY LN. (WEST) AND
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RIGHT.

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS
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Steve Gibson

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