

* * FREE * *

THE

WACO

POST

VOL. 1 NUM. 5

04/17/82

FREE!!

Headlines:
TRS 80 P.M.

What is a Robot?

A Wife Looks In

Columns:

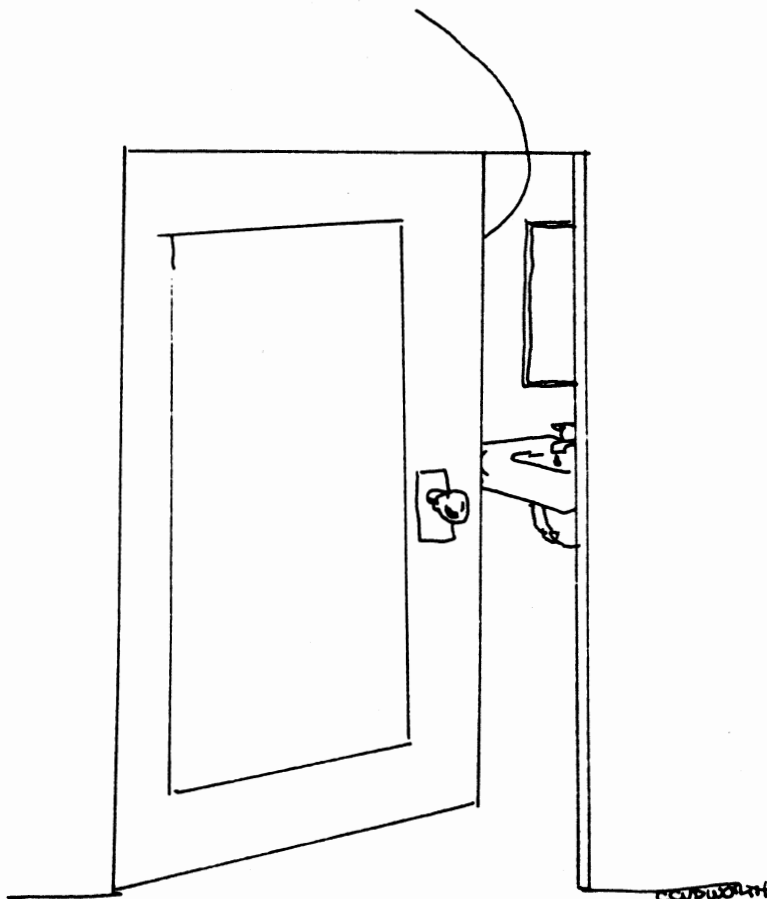
BBS of the Month

Byte by Byte

Hard Copy

...and more

ALLRIGHT, WHO ENTERED
GRAFFITI ON THE BATHROOM TERMINAL!?



**Notes from the
7th West Coast
Computer Faire**

HARD COPY

STEVE GIBSON

Spring...

It'll get here sooner-or-later...if you thought (like i did) that we'd get off with just the lousiest winter on record, you obviously haven't lived in Chicago long enough. Let's see a show of hands - How many remember the April Fool's Blizzard of 1975? How many remember the inch of snow we got in early May in 1971 or 1972? And how many other snowy Aprils can you remember? Chicago's weather is, if nothing else, unpredictable...This winter has been good for one thing, though, it gave most of us plenty of time to sit in front of our CRT's and get to know our computers better...

But now we are going to be leaving the cold, snowy weather behind (Yes, Virginia there is a Springtime!) and along with the Spring weather we are going to be picking up those Spring and Summer hobbies we packed away last Fall...As usual, computer interest lags in good weather, while vacations and holidays take their toll, too...Some how or other we've got to eke out a little time for the computer and WACO, so that when we hit next fall - we'll be in a good position to keep the club running like it is now...So at April's meeting (the 17th, at Schaumburg's Library) let's take a minute to discuss some summertime activities for the club...How about a Club picnic?...Or maybe we should have a meeting in a pavilion at the Forest Preserve?

A WIFE LOOKS IN ON A WACO MEETING

JoEtte Denofrio

"The meeting will come to order..." And then it was all ALPHA/OMEGA to me.

Don't misunderstand. Having been an actress and a Realtor, I am not easily intimidated by people. Having worked on PC boards and components, and with large business computers, I am also not easily intimidated by machines.

I thought I knew lots of computer lingo -- XEROX, Space Invaders, Monitor (that's like a TV), Keyboard (typewriter) -- and even acronyms like IBM, ASAP, and NASA.

Shakespeare said, "Speak the speech trippingly..." Well, you spoke the speech, and I tripped-ped-ped, flat on my face! I knew the language was akin to English because I understood the verbs, adverbs and adjectives. But, "The TRS-80 SIG will meet after..."-- the only Sig I knew was a man and he wasn't there. "Homebrews..."---a recipe swap for beer and wine? "64K..." gold only comes in 24K!?

But little by little, I began to catch an explanatory phrase now and again. By the time I left, I found that "computer talk" is not Shakespeare's English, but then, he never had to deal with BBS, WACO, and SYSOPS.

One other thought, for old "users" and newcomers, for the next meeting -- BYOAT!

SIG News

ATARI

The group is small, but loyal to ATARI. We have met twice a month so far, and we feel that is often enough at this time. We have found that the Users have a 400, an 800, cassette player-recorder, disk drive, interface, and printer; but no one has a Modem.

Software has been the most talked about topic in our meetings and the one game that everyone liked for the action and graphics is CAVERNS OF MARS. One of the SIG members is so good that (at CAVERNS) he can go on "TOUR" and demonstrate the ways to get the Ship past the lasers, the meteors, etc.

The game PROTECTOR has also gotten good reviews at the meetings. This game takes time to master. The action and graphics are as good as CAVERNS, if not a tad better.

The members who have disk drives were able to adjust the R.P.M. to the manufacturer's specs. Covers were popped and the insides of the drives were exposed for the fine tuning.

Our group is small and that means that YOU can join our SIG now and get that individual attention that we all want when we are new at something and JOINING a group is something new and different.

If you have an ATARI or are thinking about getting one, there is no better time than right now to call me and get more info about our SIG group...call BOB SCHURICHT at 894-4334 (evenings)

TRS-80

The TRS-80 SIG met after the main meeting in March and it looks like we've got the largest SIG at WACO. About 25 TRS-80 people were in attendance and SIG coordinator, Bob Brown, officiated. Among the issues discussed was the need to have at least one TRS-80 available when we got together so that we could demonstrate software.

Steve Gibson offered his services as librarian and was accepted. Anyone with programs (public domain, please) or literature to offer please contact Steve at 843-7852 (voice) or 351-4374 (WACO Hotline - Modem).

If you have been looking for a way to meet other TRS-80 users, contact Bob Brown at 398-6007.

MEMBERSHIP INFO...

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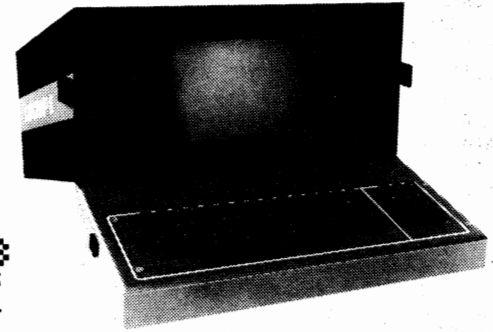
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...NOTES FROM THE FAIRE

Steve Gibson

Despite the rigors of "stand-by" flying, My brother and I managed to get to San Fran in time to attend the 7th West Coast Computer Faire (the trailing 'e' is silent). As any of you who attended last year's Midwest Computer Show at McCormick Place can confirm, attending computer shows is kind of "hit-or-miss" - one year they're good, the next they're not worth the gas to drive to them. Such is not the case for the Faire. Year after year, Jim Warren and his bunch manage to put on a SHOW. Ask Terry Batt of Midwest Microcomputers about it. This year's Faire is no exception...

After stumbling through the crowds in the upstairs exhibition area (attendance was predicted at 60,000+), my brother and I noticed that there were quite a few exhibitors we couldn't find. Checking our program (free with registration, the Program contained the show location, address, phone number, and type of business each exhibitor engages in), we noticed that the exhibitors we hadn't seen were all located in Brooks Hall. Quickly locating the escalator to Brooks Hall, we descended. As our altitude decreased we were faced with a panorama that drew involuntary "geezz!" and "wow!" for here was an exhibition area about the size of the yearly Auto Show here in Chicago - and this was just half of the Show!

Here was Scott Adams of Adventure, Int'l surrounded by reporters with cameras and note pads. And over here was a youthful Jeff Konyu (co-author of most Big Five software - like Robot Attack) telling about how he's turning his attention to Atari game programming (a loss for TRS-80 gamers). Upstairs, Steve Ciarcia of Byte magazine and Micro-Mint was fielding questions about his excellent hardware column in Byte. The folks from Softtalk and Softline were swamped with folks accepting complimentary subscriptions to their mags. Exatron was showing (..and selling) at least two new products - a 64k RAM card that fits inside the TRS-80 Model I keyboard and a Model I character Generator based on a 2716 EPROM. I talked to the west coast distributor of the Signalman Modem (see last month's ad from ICON for details) who told me of a new Dual Disk system with one drive a 5-1/4" Floppy and the other a Hard Disk with a removable cartridge, all in a beautiful oak case and initially available for the APPLE, TRS-80, and XEROX - retailing for - less than \$2000!!

On the 3rd floor was an insurance agent selling insurance policies for Home Computers and SOFTWARE (up to \$7500!) at a yearly rate of \$50 (he told me that this type of policy will be available in the Chicago area this summer). Micro Coop from St. Charles was there (Dave was fresh from the Barrington Computertown Show and was headed for the EIGHTY-APPLE Show in New York). User groups were well represented, including the original APPLE Corps. Music filled the air in certain sections as the folks from Alphasynauri and Soundchaser demonstrated their APPLE-based music systems. Software was also being demonstrated, and the people at Nasir had a great crowd around their booth watching Horizon V on a big screen TV (talk about vertigo!) And though I can't remember who was selling it, Swashbuckler had just as big a crowd.

The American Free Enterprise System was very much alive at the show, and discounts were common and heavy (at least 15%). I witnessed some healthy debate between Dealers concerning discounts and one Discounter told an irate programmer, "Why don't you take your program back?"

There were also seminars and lectures at the show, though I didn't get a chance to attend. Topics ranged from "Introduction to Business Programming" to "Keyboard Considerations".

All-in-all a very entertaining, interesting, and worthwhile Faire, and I applaud Jim Warren.

I promise to be at the 8th Faire and hope to arrange a Group Package so that more of you can come along!

CLUB CORNER

(Club Secretaries: Send your news, names, and numbers to - CLUB CORNER
 %Steve Gibson
 PO BOX 94781
 Schaumburg, IL 60194)

ATARI

CHICAGO ATARI USER GROUP.
 1 NORTH WACKER, ROOM 214. CALL LARRY HITZ AT 727-4206 (WEEKDAYS) AND 789-0878 (WEEKENDS).

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COUNTY OF LAKE APPLE CLUB

MEET 3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT MUNDELIEN LIBRARY, MUNDELIEN, 470 NORTH LAKE ST. AT 6:30 P.M.
 CALL STEVE AT 367-5015.

DAUG

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 MODEM 789-0499.

LCTUG

LAKE COUNTY TRS80 USERS GROUP
 NEXT MEETING MARCH 27TH
 MODEM 740-9128.

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 at Our Redeemers Church, 1600 W. Schaumburg Rd., Schaumburg.

For info call Paul Zaura at 858-1648

SOUTH SUBURBAN TRS-80 USER GROUP

MEET 3RD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT LANSING CHATEAU APARTMENTS CLUBHOUSE, LANSING.
 CALL BILL AT 841-5453.

WACO

Woodfield Area Computerist Organization
 Next meeting APRIL 17th Schaumburg Library
 All computer users WELCOME!
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THE WACO POST

 VOL 1 NUMBER 5
 APRIL 1982

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BBS of the month

Add another "perk" to your list of benefits if you're a member of WACO...your own PRIVATE BBS. Art Kahn, our fearless leader has volunteered to sacrifice some of his system time to allow us to operate a BBS. Running on the MCMS software Jim Dunne developed (and presently running on Message '82) the WACO Hotline is open only to dues-paying members of WACO.

Not only can you find information about the next meeting here, but you can leave messages to your fellow members and read their replies. All of the advertisers you see in "the WACO Post" also have spots on the Board and you should check them out because they'll be running some special "members-only" discounts!!

Besides all of this, we are working on some great downloads!! We have a set of 180 public domain programs on the way from a Texas BBS (I don't have the name here, but I'll publish it in the next Post) and we're equipped to upload YOUR ASCII files containing public domain programs, articles for the Post or whatever.

The system is up most of the time, but Art does use his system alot. If you try and the phone rings more than twice try again in five minutes; if you still don't get an answer the BBS is down. You'll need to know the system password to get on the first time (we'll disclose the latest one at the monthly meeting) and you'll need to be listed on the "eligible" list. Art and I try to keep this list up to date, but if the Hotline keeps throwing you off, leave a message for Art or call my Voice line at: 843-7852 and we'll get it fixed.

Call today and check it out!!
 -----> 351-4374 (300 BAUD)

BYTE BY BYTE

By Mark Schaub

Sometimes when you need to do a certain task, you write a small program to accomplish it. After you get the bare bones of the program down, you see some ways to make it more universal. Such is the case with this program. I have a BSR home-controller connected to my #1 cassette port. Whenever I wanted to play an arcade game (like GALAXIAN) I had to go into BASIC and PRINT#-2,A to get my cassette to output to port #2, so I could hear the sounds. This is a real pain if you're using a DOS. For this reason I wrote CASS/CMD.

The program, as written, will not work for a cassette-based machine. (But then if you have a cassette-based machine you don't have this problem.) This program will switch between cassette port #1 and port #2 from DOS. If you don't specify which port you want, you'll get an error message. The format of the command is: CASS X where X is either 1 or 2 depending on which port you want active. The comments after each line tell how this utility works.

```
00010 ; CASS/CMD
00020 ;
00030 ;CASSETTE SELECTION UTILITY
00040 ;
00050 ;THE FORM OF THIS COMMAND IS (IN DOS): CASS X
00060 ;WHERE X IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:
00070 ;
00080 ; 1 - SELECT AND TURN ON CASSETTE NUMBER 1
00090 ; 2 - SELECT AND TURN ON CASSETTE NUMBER 2
00100 ;
00110 ;THE MOTOR RELAY WILL REMAIN OFF AFTER
00120 ;THE CASSETTE IS SELECTED
00130 ;
00140 FLAG EQU 431DH ;DOS INPUT BUFFER
00150 ORG 7000H
00160 CASS LD A,(FLAG) ;GET PORT NUMBER
00170 CP '1' ;IS IT 1?
00180 JR Z,SWITCH ;OK
00190 CP '2' ;IS IT 2?
00200 JR Z,SWITCH ;OK
00210 LD HL,MSG1 ;NOT GOOD!
00220 CALL 4467H ;SHOW MSG
00230 JP 402DH ;DOS
00240 SWITCH SUB 31 ;MAKE A REAL NUMBER
00250 CALL 0212H ;SELECT CASSETTE
00260 CALL 01F0H ;TURN OFF MOTOR
00270 JP 402DH ;DOS
00280 MSG1 DEFB 'INVALID CASSETTE PORT'
00290 DEFB 13
00300 END CASS
```

This program was developed using NENDOS80/VER2. If you're using another DOS, you might have to change line 220. This CALL will display the message on the screen. Instead of the CALL to 4467H, you should use the following:

```
220 CALL SHOW
.....
291 SHOW LD A,(HL)
292 CP 13 ;look for end of msg
293 RET Z ;if end then return
294 CALL 0033H ;display (hl)

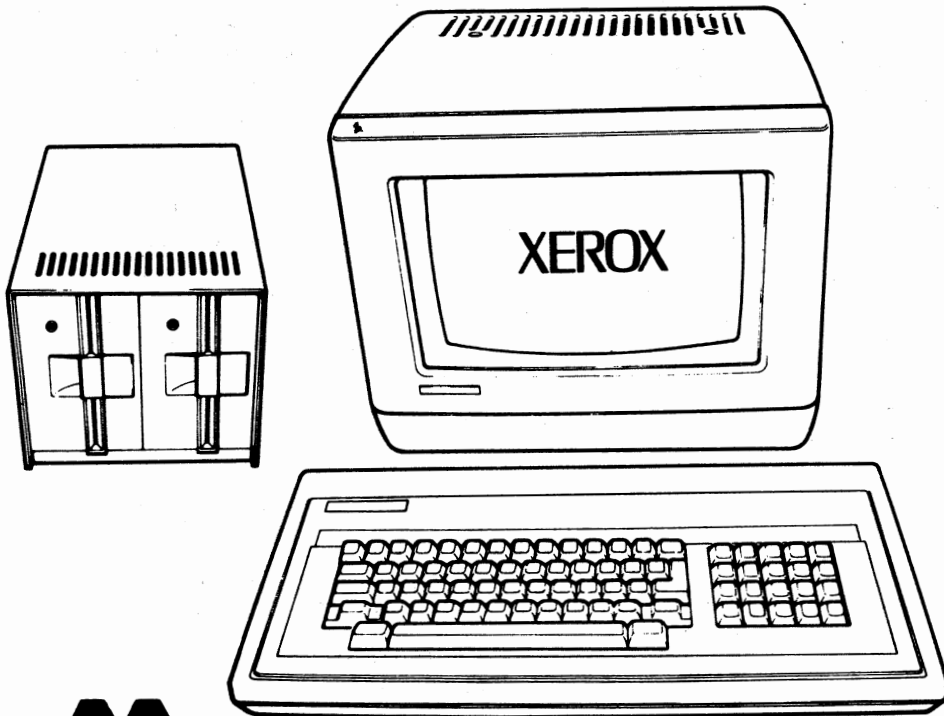
295 INC HL
296 JR SHOW ;keep going
```

A lot of ideas for programs come from listening to people talk about things they'd like to see in a program, or how they'd like to change others. Many of my ideas come from buddies that I talk to. (STEVE and ART, to name a few!!) If you have any ideas that you'd like to read more about, please write to me C/O this newsletter. Steve will be glad to tell me about them. (Won't you Steve??)

-Mark-

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President's Corner

By Art Kahn

Hi! I'm your new President - Art Kahn.

To start this column I would like to outline some of my goals for the next six months. One of my first goals I would like to accomplish is, to make our club a "household word" among area computerist's.

Secondly, I would also like our club to be a place where people can come and get answers to there questions.

Finally, I want to make our meetings informative and enjoyable.

Thank you for electing me as your President, and I will do the best job I can over the next six months.

**TRS-80 MODEL I
PREVENTIVE
MAINTENANCE**

By Terry Deatherage

Have you ever had "strange" quirks or glitches occur now and then with your TRS80 Model I? It may not be your software or you, the operator, that is causing these problems. I have a few suggestions that have eliminated almost all of those problems on my TRS80 model I. These suggestions are called Preventive Maintenance (PM) by the large Data Processing installation and they have been doing that for years on a regularly scheduled basis.

There are three areas of the TRS80 Model I that I have found that cause most of the problems. They are the ribbon cables, the diskettes, and the RS-232-C Communication Interface board.

RIBBON CABLES:

(1) Buy a good quality Control Cleaner & Lubricant and an Anti-Corrosion Silicon in the spray can.

(2) Pull all of the following ribbon cables out (one at a time though!)

- A. Back of the Keyboard that connects to the Expansion Interface.
- B. Front of the Expansion Interface that connects to the Keyboard.
- C. Back of the Expansion Interface that connects to the Disk Drives.
- D. Back of the Disk Drives, one at a time, that connects to the Expansion Interface.
- E. Left side of the Expansion Interface that connects with the Line Printer.
- F. Back of the Line Printer that connects with the Expansion Interface.

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(3) Gently spray the male end of the ribbon cable with the Control Cleaner/Lubricant and wait a few minutes.

(4) Again gently spray the male end of the ribbon cable with the Anti-Corrosion Silicone and again wait a few minutes.

(5) Now reseat the ribbon cable using an ample pressure to be sure that there is very solid connection.

DISKETTES:

(A) Buy a good heavy-duty Bulk Magnetic Eraser that is used for cassettes, cartridges, and reel-to-reel tapes.

(B) Always bulk magnetically erase ALL new Diskettes, despite whatever the manufacturer says. I had five out of ten Diskettes one time that didn't work with my TRS-80 until I used the bulk eraser on them. And these were "the best" (most expensive) diskettes that could be had according to the manufacturer.

(C) Always bulk erase all of your old Diskettes that you are going to re-use for something else.

(D) Buy a Disk Drive Head Cleaning Kit, especially if you are a "smoker". It only takes a minute amount of dirt, dust, magnetic oxide, or nicotine particles on your Disk heads to cause problems.

RS-232-C BOARD:

Since I am just a beginner in TRS-80 communications, I will not say anything about that subject. I have received some good advice from various individuals that helped me out though. Let's hope that they will write an article about communications Preventive Maintenance for The WACO Post.

In summary, I have found that I can prevent almost all of those "strange" quirks and glitches by just doing Preventive Maintenance. My own schedule for doing PM is flexible, but I usually perform the task once a month which seems to be adequate for me.

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George Matyaszek: OWNER AND SYSTEM OPERATOR

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ARLINGTON HEIGHTS	(870-7500)
DOWNERS GROVE	(964-7762)
COMPUTER JUNCTION - (ELMHURST)	(530-1125)
JOSEPH ELECTRONICS - NILES	(297-4200)
COMPLETE COMPUTING CENTER - (LOMBARD)	(620-0808)

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WACO
APRIL MEETING
SATURDAY APRIL 17th

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SCHAUMBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
1:30 PM

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DIRECTIONS:
FROM RT. 53 (WOODFIELD SHOPPING CENTER) TAKE HIGGINS RD. (RT. 72) WEST ABOUT 2 1/2 MILES TO ROSELLE RD. TURN LEFT (SOUTH) AND GO ABOUT 1 - 1 1/2 MILES UNTIL YOU SEE THE "SCHAUMBURG BOWL" ON YOUR LEFT. TURN RIGHT ONTO LIBRARY LN. (WEST) AND THE LIBRARY IS ONE BLOCK UP ON YOUR RIGHT.

IF YOU HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS
CALL ME - 843-7852

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THE WACO POST
%STEVE GIBSON
po box 94781
SCHAUMBURG, IL 60194

RETURN REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO: