



A Professional Journal Exclusively for the Heath/Zenith Z-100 Computer

Z-100 LifeLine Web Site: <https://z100lifeline.swvagts.com>

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HOWGOZIT

It appears that Covid has finally turned the corner, with levels not seen in over a year! Yeah!

I've been taking a break from this last several months of intense work on the Z-100. My testbed has been occupying the dining room table since the Covid started. With everyone in isolation, we have not needed the table for anything else.

So, other projects have been occupying my time. We finally decided to finish off the last of our renovations on this home - our half bath. Tired of the old, dark paneling and cheap cabinet and counter, we ripped it bare. I installed all new drywall, painted a nice light yellow and we have chosen a nice granite counter top and sink. All that is left is for me to construct a new cabinet face, then have the counter installed.

However, as always, other projects quickly cropped up. The pool pump's wooden winter cover was rotting out, and it had always a pain to construct each fall and dismantle every spring. So I ordered another Palram Pathos 6x8' greenhouse to install around the pump.



I was so impressed with how our first Palram greenhouse protected our plants every winter, with just a small electric heater on a thermostat, that I decided it would work well to protect our pool pump from freezing.

It took a couple of weeks to construct the new foundation and then construct the greenhouse from a kit, but it appears that it will work out just fine.



I'll heat the pump house with a small thermostatically controlled 1500W heater. And as extra insurance against power loss and freezing temperatures, I constructed a small box around the pipes emerging from the concrete base with foam insulation that I can install every fall.

Next, a portion of my pool water solar heater was also rotting out. Those weather treated wooden boards sure did not seem to last very long (I had finished the project back in 2012, so I guess 9 years isn't too bad).

I constructed a temporary fix with the foam insulation from the pool pump's winter box, which

should last until this fall. Then I'll need to decide if rebuilding the entire solar heater would be worth the effort. Every year, the summers have been getting hotter, even here in the mountains, and the heater only warmed the pool temperature a few degrees on its best days.



The last project in the home was to replace the carpet in the two guest bedrooms and hall. So, we found a good deal at Lowe's (our local building supply store), picked out a carpet, and moved everything out of the bedrooms. After the person came out to measure the carpet, we checked back with Lowe's, only to find that we had picked out a new carpet that was not available to stores yet! And even selecting another style, it could not be obtained for almost a month!

So we have been living with empty rooms and all the stuff that we moved out packed to the gills in the master bedroom, living room and sun room - with no end in sight! Such a deal!

Oh, well, enough whining. Let's get to work.

I've finished my testing of the Gotek Floppy Disk Emulator, but others are still playing with it. This issue includes an article from one of its users, Darrell Pelan, that shows an interesting way of using the Gotek that is somewhat different from what I had described in my series.

And we only used the pool a handful of days each summer at that. We keep it mostly for the grand kids, and as I recall, at their age, I didn't care for the pool water to be too warm. If I do rebuild the heater, I need to use something better than weather treated wood.

Meanwhile, another project, this time gardening, needed work. The lower branches of my Leland Cypress trees behind the workshop were dying off from the lack of sun.



Darrell can easily emulate several different floppy drives by simply selecting the appropriate disk image. It allows him to revive his H-89 and Z-120 by easily transferring applications and data from software repositories or stored floppy disks to a disk image for use in a Flash Floppy Gotek.

This article discusses modifying the Gotek (as delivered from Amazon) and installing it in your Z-120. Then he discusses how to easily move files between computer systems using his Disk Image Utility software.

I hope you enjoy his article: https://z100lifeline.swvagts.com/articles/Z100LL_Gotek_Article.pdf.



So I cut them all off and planted some Rhododendron, Azaleas, and Hostas beneath.

If it were not for all the spring chores, why I would have nothing to keep me busy. It is a good thing that we are retired!

Hank Lotz, Sci-Fi Author

Hank Lotz and I go back quite a few years - during our Heathkit/Zenith H/Z-88/89/90 days. Even when I turned my attention to the Z-100 series of computers, if I had any questions with regard to the old H/Z-89, he was my go-to person with the answers that I needed.

Some of you with old H/Z-89 series computers may recall that Hank authored and published "The Staunch 8/89'er" for several issues.

Following his H/Z-89 days, he turned to other passions - teaching chess in the local library, writing/recording music, and other projects. His newest passion is writing Science Fiction short stories and he has finally published his first book - a collection of 10 short stories. However, writing and publishing is one thing - but these days with on-line marketing, getting his book noticed is completely another animal.

Anyone trying to launch a new website, runs across the same issues - the search engines won't find it until it is noticed by many people - but people don't know about something new until the search engine displays the subject. A typical 'catch 22'.

I have the same problem with getting search engines to find my "Pennies From Heaven" card game website. Heck, it has only been recently that my "Z-100 LifeLine" website started getting found. The search engines would still report my old Earthlink version.

Anyway, I told Hank that I'm sure that many of you might be interested in getting and reading his book, or at least searching for it.

So, first let me introduce Hank to those who may not recognize his name. When I asked Hank for his biography, I received the following:

[The following is from a modified version of Chapter 53 of my autobiography.]

Now retired, I could spend a lot more time with my own personal computer than while I was still working at the plant. I'm referring to a personal computer I had built in my spare time at home, from a kit, late in 1982 [an H-89]. That was previous to my 1983 retirement [at age 47], so I had my home computer already operational during my last few months of employment, but it was not until now, in retirement, that my major escapades with it began.

These computers were a relatively new phenomenon on the market but there were a lot of them being sold around that time. Computer clubs had sprung up everywhere, and I joined a local one. After a year or so I became the editor of the club's newsletter. A number of these clubs throughout the USA exchanged their newsletters with each other. As I was our editor, it was to my home address that the other clubs mailed their newsletter copies, so I got to read them first.

I noticed one of the frequent, regular, and prolific

authors of articles in one of the clubs' letters was a guy named Kirk, in Iowa. After reading his unstintingly thorough monthly software reviews for a while, I wrote him a personal letter, as I could see we had a lot in common (including prolixity). We had purchased the same software and had other like interests. Kirk promptly responded, kicking off a continuing correspondence, and our friendship endures even to this day, without our ever having met in person.

I stayed active in the club until it dissolved in the early 1990's, but in October of 1986 I also started publishing, independently, my own computer newsletter (or "rag") concurrently with the club's rag. I named mine "The Staunch 8/89'er" a title based partly on model numbers of popular computers owned by many club members as well as by hobbyists elsewhere.

My role of regularly issuing "Staunch" (as it was dubbed for short) required a lot of time and effort because I wanted to accumulate and include good quality information without skimping on quantity. Accomplishing that much all but forced me to limit my publication, originally, to only 4 issues a year. Even at that sparse frequency I was running short of time for anything else. Kirk helped out a lot by submitting articles he'd write specially and often for my publication.

After I had put out the first five issues I explained to Kirk that I had thoughts of discontinuing because of the time it required, and I asked him if he'd like to completely and totally take over the business of publishing Staunch. As I had hoped, he enthusiastically accepted! Kirk continued with it until sometime in 1992. I continued, however, writing and submitting articles for Staunch. My final issue as editor, issue number five, appeared at the end of 1987. Without any discontinuity Kirk put out his first issue at the start of 1988. Then in January of 1989 he increased publication frequency to bi-monthly, that is, an issue every two months instead of every three, for a total of six per year instead of only four.

During its course of existence Staunch contained pretty involved articles, some among which, even my own, upon rereading, I'd now have to concentrate in order to follow.

The number of owners of the early computers that our rag covered was comparatively limited, and not all computerists even knew about our newsletter. Therefore, total circulation was only in the hundreds. Guessing, I'd say possibly around 400-odd was its peak. But I was impressed that, along with our USA readers, we had subscribers in Germany, Australia, Hong Kong, and possibly England, France, and Belgium, probably among others, as I no longer remember completely.

A gentleman by the name of Mark Garlanger has since preserved all issues of "The Staunch 8/89'er" newsletter on the Internet. They were scanned in as graphic images (.djvu) files and are also now available as .pdf files, which are more universally readable. With Mark's written {and universal} permission I include here the link to his site featuring the [years of] Staunch issues:

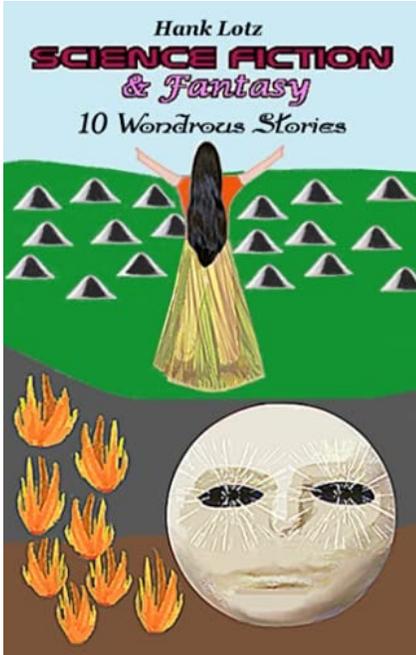
<http://heathkit.garlanger.com/periodicals/Stauncher/>

Cheers!
Hank

Hank, as I recall, the "Z-100 LifeLine" had about 400 subscribers when I took over. That quickly dwindled to less than 100, so I guess not everyone cared for my less technical (less knowledgeable) writing style. And the "Staunch" was much more international than the "LifeLine". So, congratulations on starting an excellent 'rag', as you called it.

And I'm certainly familiar with the work involved in publishing such an important piece of history.

Now the book:



Following two years of work, Hank Lotz finally finished creating his sci-fi/fantasy book, an anthology of 10 sci-fi and fantasy short stories.

The book is now for sale on Amazon! The link to the book is:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0939ZG984/ref=cm_sw_r_em_api_qlt_fabc_X9AC0PQVPA1JYD3ETZT9

If you scroll down on Amazon's site where it shows the book's cover, down past ads for other books and stuff, there is a short description.

The problem is, when anyone searches for sci-fi on Amazon, the book will not readily come up, even with all the pertinent keywords specified in their search facility, simply because of the millions of existing volumes in that same category that will appear first. So we need more exposure; wider advertising. I would appreciate it if you would pass this link along to those you know that like science fiction. Thanks.

Congratulations on becoming an author, Hank.

Closing

I'm sorry this issue is so short. With all my projects and both of this issue's topics being time sensitive, I did not want to hold off. We wish you and your families all the best in these trying Covid times. Keep your families safe and get vaccinated as soon as you can.

It has been in the high 80's all week, so I guess Summer is here! Enjoy.

'Til next time,
happy computing!

Cheers!!!



Z-100 LIFELINE

Supporting the H/Z-100 Community Since 1989

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<https://z100lifeline.swvagts.com>

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MTR-ROM v4 & Z-DOS v4 Software

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Z-205 Mods and RAMDisk Software

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