



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

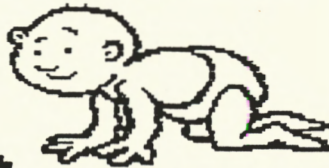
Volume 2,
Number 1
January 1986

P. O. BOX 3695, EUGENE, OR 97403

A > REM: JANUARY MEETING: THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 7:00pm

MARK THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE PCjr MEETINGS. Meetings start formally at 7:00pm and doors will be open at 6:30pm for set-up and "early birds" at the Library of IDA PATTERSON SCHOOL, 1510 West 15th Street, Eugene. (Notice will be made of any changes). Meeting dates for the year are: Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 13, Apr. 10, May 8, and June 13. SEE YOU THERE?

THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB
WELCOMES
JUNIOR TO
1986!



AT THE DECEMBER MEETING....

The DECEMBER meeting, on the 12th, was great fun, for, excepting announcements, was devoted to Swap Meet, the raffle drawing, a "white elephant" gift exchange, and some terrific food, potluck style, and the chance to rub elbows while eating. The food disappeared quicker than free software, and with seasonal Christmas tunes in JR's voice "waf-ting" through the air from the Library's "CHRISTMAS PACKAGE" disk, the holiday season was launched for those of us still not in the mood,

At long last, the IMPULSE #140 512k Memory Expansion unit was raffled off with member Mildred Campbell having the winning ticket! But since Mildred couldn't make the December meeting, and was not there to let out a Whoop!, Rick Ubell let one out on her behalf. Maybe Mildred can be talked into bringing her expanded Junior to the next meeting so that we can test its capabilities. Congratulations, Mildred!

JANUARY MEETING AGENDA:

- 1, Lubricating your Disk Drive, by Dick Page
- 2, The Basics of BASIC Programming, by Jim Cox
- 3, PC FILE (from our disk library)... a demo.

ValCom's Service Manager, Del Shuck, will be present at the February meeting to field your questions about maintenance. If you can't make the meeting, but have questions, send them in to Bill Roy, c/o the NEWSLETTER, to be fielded for you. We'll print the answers.



REM> TO GET YOUR jr SERVICED BEFORE THE WARRANTY RUNS OUT... AND THEN CONSIDER GETTING A SERVICE CONTRACT. (such as the one that ValCom is offering.)

To JOIN THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB:

Make out your check, money order or negotiable securities to: EUGENE PCjr CLUB and send to P.O.Box 3695, Eugene, OR 97403 with the following:

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone(home) _____ (work) _____

The PCjr NEWSLETTER is a publication of the Eugene PCjr Club, P.O.Box 3695, Eugene, OR 97403. Annual dues are \$20/household, or the NEWSLETTER only may be obtained separately for \$12/year (as a service to more distant PCjr owners). Curious parties may obtain up to three issues, and attend up to three meetings without obligation for a "look see". Any materials published are in the interest of furthering the cause of the PCjr computer and its use. No guarantees are stated or implied by the staff or editor. All contributions and materials are gratefully accepted. Bill Roy, Editor 686-8416

* EDITORIAL *

LET'S ALL PARTICIPATE IN '86!

HERE it is, the start of a NEW YEAR! 1986!!! This will be the first full year for our club, and, indeed, last year at this time, a number of us didn't even yet own a Junior! How time flies... or drags, as the case may be.

The Eugene PCjr Club has a paid-up membership of 42 (remember that many of these are "family" memberships!), with 7 out-of-towners subscribing to the Newsletter, perhaps 30 additional potentials. Then, there are always those new JR owners that have... or will... buy PCjrs this promotional season. Let's "get 'em"! Be snoopy, and forward, and sidle up to that person in the software store or IBM dealership who's looking at a JR, and tell them about us, how good IT is, and have them send for a sample Newsletter if they buy a JR.

Okay, NOW, let's start working up those long put-off topics that'd make a good article in the Newsletter or a topic for a Club meeting presentation. We get a number of newsletters from other clubs, and ours is a winner! Let's keep it up there with lots of input and useful information! There have been the core of regulars that always have something to contribute... but let's start the year off with some participation from the rest of you! Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 1st,

Bill Roy, Editor

Next NEWSLETTER deadline: Jan. 30!

NEWSLETTER materials may/must be submitted on disk in either IBM Writing Assistant, or PC-Write, with a column width of 46 characters or printed hardcopy in a column width of 3 3/8" (compressed, condensed or proportional mode is preferred!) As last resort, send typed or hand-written copy, and we'll do it (at @ 3:00am). Send in some of those screen graphics! Our own cartoon, "Junior...", will be back as soon as we get time and some ideas... send to Bill Roy, P.O. Box 3695, Eugene OR 97403

PCjr MEETING FREEBIES

We try to always have some things to hand out at the monthly club meetings which should be of interest to one and all. One of the best sources of PCjr information comes from IBM itself. It is the bimonthly magazine: IBM EXCHANGE. The club is mailed quite a few copies every other month. EXCHANGE always has some articles of value, mostly taken from user group newsletters that IBM receives and evaluates. The Nov-Dec 85 issue contained articles on explanations of disk error messages, what happens when you start up D.O.S., a simple program for locating a string of words anywhere on a disk, use of DEBUG program commands, making music on the PCjr, accessing your printer codes from D.O.S., what a RAM disk is, info on new IBM products and upgrades, and much more.

If you missed a club meeting and did not get a copy of the EXCHANGE or other handouts, check with the club Documents Librarian, Jodi Collins, to see if some copies are still available. Remember! We're here to help each other get the most we can out of our powerful little machines!

from Dick Page

CLUB DIRECTORY (Officers, Enlisted Personnel, Functionaries, Plutocrats, and Nice People)

Ginny Dobson, (Co-Chairperson)	935-3863
Charlie Halbrook, (Co-Chairperson and Co-Disk Librarian)	689-9593
Lew Jones (Co-Disk Librarian)	686-1088
Dena Audette, (Secretary and Mtg. Machine Captain)	993-3282
Sarah Eoyang, (Treasurer)	344-7735
Mary Burich (Publicity - on leave)	484-5069
Bill Roy (Newsletter Editor)	686-8416
Dick Page (Documents Librarian and Newsletter)	342-3193
Jodi Coller (Documents Librarian)	689-8373
Mark Moss (Modem Captain)	345-2207
Rhonda Schafer (Refreshments)	343-9573
Juanita Hampton (Refreshments)	726-0139

CLUB ACCOUNTS 1985 - FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF LIFE

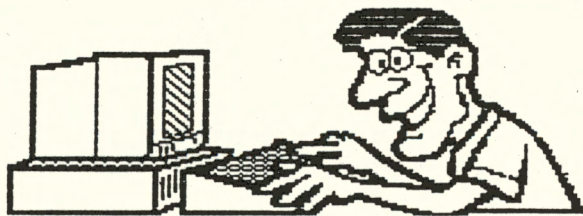
Sarah Eoyang, Treasurer

Income

Expenses

42 full subs.	840.00
7 newsletter subs.	84.00
Disks sold	407.50
Ads. in newsletter	29.00
Raffle tickets sold	229.00
Food kitty	8.20
	<hr/>
	1,597.70

Newsletter printing	423.66
Newsletter postage	240.00
Disks bought for resale	194.00
Misc. stationery, bank, postage, telephone	71.70
Picnic and food expenses	28.01
	<hr/>
Cash carried to 1986	640.33
	<hr/>
	1,597.70



IBM WRITING ASSISTANT and ASCII TEXT FILES

IBM Writing Assistant files normally can not be used with other word processing programs and cannot be transmitted over a modem. There is a way around this which is simple and fairly straight forward (once you get the hang of it)

One of the most universal "computer languages" is ASCII (an acronym for American Standard Code for Information Interchange). Texts created on Writing Assistant can be changed to ASCII text files in the following manner:

1.) Load IBM Writing Assistant and set the margins at 1 and 70 on the "Define Page" screen

2.) On the "Type/Edit" screen create the text file that you want to convert to ASCII.

3.) Save the file on the "Get/Save/Remove" screen. (Use a filename different from the one you will use for the ASCII text filename.)

4.) Go to the "Print Menu" screen. Where the Print Menu shows PRINT TO: PRINTER type the drive and filename over the word PRINTER.

5.) Press the <Return> key and Writing Assistant will convert the text to ASCII. (Have some patience as it sometimes takes a while to make the conversion.)

(Note: These rules also apply for use with IBM Filing Assistant, PFS:Write, and PFS:File.)

Most medium-priced word processing programs can use ASCII text files without much problem. IBM Writing Assistant will read them just like regular Writing Assistant files. These ASCII files can even be displayed on your screen without a word processor as long as you are in D.O.S. (showing the A> symbol) by using the TYPE command. Just type the name of the file after the word TYPE. For example:

A> TYPE A:PCJRNEWS,LET

to read a file named PCJRNEWS,LET found on the disk in drive A.

from Dick Page

**IF YOU THOUGHT THAT A COMPUTER
WOULD ORGANIZE THE CHAOS IN
YOUR LIFE... WRONG! IT WILL
ONLY GET CHAOTIC 600 TIMES AS
FAST!!!**

Topic: A space in a filename will make it undeletable.

UNDELETABLE FILES - A D.O.S. GLITCH?

Have you ever had a file that you could not remove from a disk? Maybe you put a space in the name.

The rules for naming your files are very strict (listed on page 1-17 in your D.O.S. manual and on page 3-47 in your B.A.S.I.C. manual). Putting a space in the name (such as TIC TAC,BAS) will write that name to a disk, even though spaces aren't listed as an option in the manuals. The problem comes when you try to ERASE, KILL, or DELETE that file. It won't work unless you know a way to fool your jr.

There is a simple solution: Replace every space with a question mark wildcard symbol when specifying the stubborn filename. For example, KILL "TIC?TAC" from BASIC erases "TIC TAC,BAS" from the disk.

One note of caution: Since the wildcard symbol replaces ANY character in the same position within that filename, this command would also delete similarly named files like TICATAC,BAS OR TICOTIC,BAS. Save such files to another disk before deleting the unwanted file containing the space.

(taken from COMPUTE! magazine, Jan 86)
from Dick Page

WARNING: ANSWER "Abort, Retry, Ignore" MESSAGES CAREFULLY!

If you get this message from D.O.S. when attempting to copy files from one drive to another, DO NOT switch disks in the target drive and hit R for a retry. You will end up with a hopelessly scrambled mess on the disk.

Such a situation can occur if you tried to copy onto a disk with the write-protect notch covered. The temptation would be to just insert a different disk and "Retry". DON'T DO IT! When D.O.S. prepares to copy files, it first reads the directory from the target disk. If you switch disks, it will write the in-memory copy of the directory onto the new disk that you inserted. Your new disk will erroneously list the directory of the other disk and be unable to accept those files (because the files aren't really on the new disk, just the directory is there.)

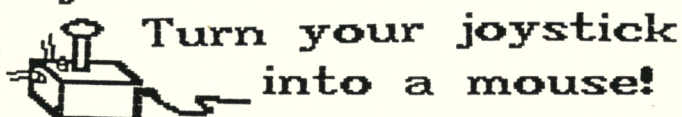
There are several other ways that a wrong response to "Abort, Retry, Ignore" will produce scrambled contents on a disk. The safest method (if copying files is involved) is to

Continued on next page...

Continued:**"Abort, Retry, Ignore" MESSAGES**

Abort all such operations, correct the problem, and then key in the necessary commands once again. Retry is safe for simple operations like DIR that do not involve moving data from one disk to another.

(from Bill Weil in EXCHANGE magazine)

junior MAGIC!

Turn your joystick into a mouse!

Is it a keyboard... a joystick... a mouse? One of the new programs from IBM Personally Developed Software, "JoyMouse", offers features of all three!

JoyMouse allows a joystick to be used for cursor movement. Instead of pressing your cursor movement keys, simply move your joystick! You can even define your joystick buttons to perform the tasks of up to three function keys or key combinations. (For example, instead of using a command such as Ctrl-Fn-6 to delete a line of text, JoyMouse enables you to do this with a press of a joystick button.)

Other features: You can choose one of nine different speeds for cursor movement and assign a different speed for horizontal or vertical movement. The joystick buttons can be redefined for different programs. The JoyMouse program installs itself as part of D.O.S., using only a small amount of memory. It works well with the IBM Assistant Series (Writing Assistant, Filing Assistant, etc.).

You can get the program by calling IBM Personally Developed Software toll free at 1-800-426-7279 and asking for the JoyMouse program, Part No. 6276606. The cost is \$14.95 plus \$2.95 shipping and handling charges.

Have fun mousing around!

by Dick Page

**JUNIOR IS POWERFUL ENOUGH
TO CHASE AWAY BURGLARS
YOUR PCjr - THE FEARLESS WATCHDOG**

Did you know that your PCjr can be configured so can be a home security alarm system? The June 1985 issue of CREATIVE COMPUTING Magazine shows you how to do this with a step-by-step process using the IBM PCjr. You will need to modify a standard IBM PCjr joystick (\$15 from IBM Personally Developed Software - till 31 Jan 86), type a short program from the article, and install sensors at doors and windows.

If you want a copy of the five-page article send \$3.00 and a S.A.S.E. to the club mailing address and we will send you a copy, pronto. Then you can sleep peacefully, knowing your jr is at work!

by Dick Page

ATTENTION: IBM LOVES TEACHERS

IBM takes a special interest in teachers (for obvious marketing reasons) and therefore has a special mailing just for them called: "IBM Educators' Report". It includes information on IBM's software for educators and allows you to get free demonstration disks of selected teaching software packages.

If you would like to be on their mailing list (because you still don't get enough mail each day) write them at:

IBM
Direct Response Marketing
Dept. JY
101 Paragon Drive
Montvale, New Jersey 07645

Be sure to tell them your school district, your title, and that you have a PCjr.

HAVING DISC PROBLEMS?

If your Jr. disk drive squeeks and squawks as you first try to read from the disk (the drive light will light up) and your monitor goes blank except for a message about a disk read error, take out your disk and try the following procedure. If you receive an error when using a disk, the disk may not be spinning freely within its jacket. To correct the problem you need to flatten the edges of the disk, raising the jacket walls away from the disk surface. Follow these steps:

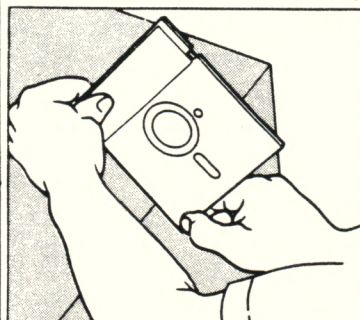


Fig. 1

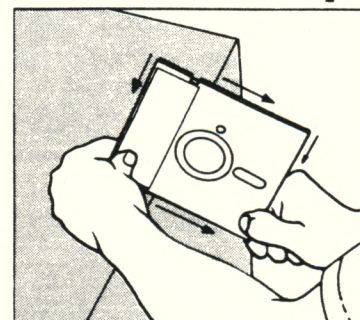


Fig. 2

- 1) Grasp the disk by two corners and hold it upright at the edge of a desktop (Fig. 1).
- 2) Pressing lightly, draw the edge of the disk against the edge of the desktop (Fig. 2).
- 3) Repeat steps 1 and 2 for each edge. Take care when passing the write-protect notch and the two notches near the disk window.

Dick Page reports that the above "helps" are especially useful on cheaper generic disks and ones that have individually gone through the U.S. Postal System.

TO INFOCOM ADDICTS

Did some fiend masquerading as a friend give you an INFOCOM game for Xmas? Want some help? Want to boast? Want to swap? If you own at least one INFOCOM game, call me. I'll try to set up an exchange mart within the club for INFOCOMs only.

SARAH EOYANG 344-7735

DID'JA KNOW...

When the Commodore AMIGA was introduced, it had five software programs to go with it, the Atari ST was introduced with TWO... Logo and their disk operating system? ...and that the IBM PCjr was introduced with hundreds, maybe thousands of available software programs, and there are more being released every month?

Bill Roy

WE FOUND THIS ON OUR DESK...

HOLIDAYS

So you want to take the day off? Let's take a look at what you are asking for.

There are 365 days per year available for work. There are 52 weeks per year in which you already have two days off per week, leaving 261 days available for work. Since you spend 16 hours of each day away from work, you have used up 170 days, leaving only 91 days available. You spend 30 minutes of each day on coffee break. That accounts for 23 days each year, leaving only 68 days available. With a one hour lunch period each day, you have used up another 46 days, leaving only 22 days available for work. You normally spend 2 days per year on sick leave. This leaves you only 20 days available for work. We are off for 5 holdays per year, so your available working time is down to 15 days. We generously give you 14 days vacation per year, which leaves only 1 day available for work, and I'll be /d____d if your going to take that day off!!!

THE MANAGEMENT

PETER NORTON's PCjr BOOKS ON SALE

Peter Norton, developer of NORTON'S UTILITIES, wrote two books on the IBM PCjr that are being offered at specially reduced prices. They are:

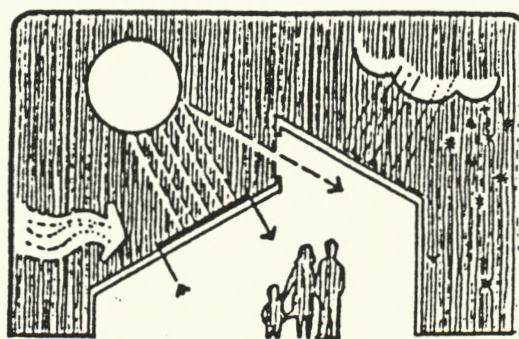
DISCOVERING THE IBM-PCjr, #95017, listed at \$15.95, but offered at \$2.99. This is a basic introductory text to the jr.

EXPLORING THE IBM-PCjr, #95025, list \$18.25, and offered at \$3.99. Here's the text on the "guts" of the jr, and it's INTEL 08088 microchip (8 bit then 8 bit, faking a 16 bit processor). For anyone doing/contem- plating programming, this book explores the assembly language (Provincial French? Ed) and inner workings of our lil' machines.

The postage fees are the kicker... \$2.50 for one book, \$3.25 for two, \$4.75 for four and 75c for each thereafter. If we can get a group order together at the next meeting, it'd work out to about \$1.00/book postage! Okay??? Otherwise, phone 1(800)638-3030 to place an order, or write MIROSOFT Press, P.O. Box 1532, Hagerstown, MD 21741

**KNOW A PEANUT PERSON?
TELL THEM ABOUT US!**

Paid advertising.



SPECIALIZING IN:

REMODELING, NEW CONSTRUCTION, REPAIRS, DESIGN & CONSULTATION specializing in Energy Efficient designs and construction methods.

(Energy Efficiency studied on PCjr!)

**BILL ROY,
BUILDER**

LICENSED
BONDED
INSURED

**P.O. BOX 3695, EUGENE, OR
1(503) 686-8416**

97403

Advertising/CLASSIFIEDS

The PCjr NEWSLETTER will accept advertising as follows:

COMMERCIAL AD-RATES: per insertion- two pages \$70; one page \$40; 1/2 page \$25; and 1/4 page is \$15. Cash in advance.

CLASSIFIEDS: "For Sale" ads are \$2.00 for @ 25 words, on com-mercial transactions, free to members where information only is exchanged. Ads should be placed by two weeks before the next meeting to meet the Newsletter deadlines.

The SEARS Business Center, Beaverton, had been advertising the enhanced JR with color monitor, at \$595.00, but didn't have any in evidence by Dec, 21st. Computerland is selling the JR package for \$695.00, and advertised the RACCORE Drive 2 package for \$395.00.

Bill Roy

IBMjr CATFISH?

PERSONAL COMPUTING magazine for December, 1985, in their column, PEOPLE IN COMPUTING, features Trip Ellison and his father, who, as a sideline to their work in the oil fields, operate a cat-fish farm on 20 acres, and use a PCjr with a catfish-farming program from Mississippi State University modeled after a relational database; a word processing program; and a small-busi-ness accounting program. Use of the computer has enabled Trip increase his profit margin by 15 cents/fish... not bad when you consider that he's charging 50 cents/fish! Accurate records aare kept of different feeding programs in the different ponds. They use a 256k PCjr and fig-ure that, without it, another employee would be needed.

Bill Roy

IN THE MARKET PLACE

As of December 21,

EGGHEAD Software, Beaverton, had 24+ copies of LOTUS 123jr on hand for sale at \$245.00, and they may go very fast at that price. Their number is 626-7331. A brief stop at CONROY-LaPOINTE Hwy 99W and Hwy 217, Tigard) lead to the discovery of MicroSOFT's 128k + Mouse enhancement at \$195.00 and two copies of WORDSTARjr on their bargain table. I don't know anyone who has used WORDSTARjr, but WORDSTAR has a good reputation, and at that price... If I'd known who wanted what... but try giving them a call. (503)620-5595



EUGENE **PCjr** CLUB

P. O. BOX 3695,
EUGENE, OR 97403



Richard Page
5025 Willamette st.
Eugene, OR
97405

