



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

Volume 2,
Number 4
April 1986

P. O. BOX 3695, EUGENE, OR 97403

A > REM: APRIL MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 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: **April 10, May 8, and June 13**. (August yet to be announced) **SEE YOU THERE?**



APRIL MEETING AGENDA



1. Demonstration of Nice Print by Jim McWilliams.
2. Demonstration of Arcade Games from our disc library by Dena Audette.
3. Election of new officers.

We will also ask that you complete a new data sheet so that we can better serve our members.

Notes From the Last Meeting...

Bruce Bayne was our main speaker of the evening, presenting us with a lot of consumer information. His main focus was: "What are you going to use your computer for?" If all we plan on doing with our PCjr is to use it for word processing, games, or educational software, then expanding the memory or adding costly "extras" might not really be necessary. But, if we can foresee the need for upgrading our machines, now is the time to do it.

Many manufacturers are closing out their inventories and will no longer be providing us with equipment compatible with PCjr. So...the price right now on most equipment is the best we'll find that we're likely to ever find. IBM accessories are single function; other companies generally combine functions

in each product. The motto: if you can get more for your money, so much the better.

Things to think about: watch out for speed if you are going to repopulate your memory board. A RAM disk allows enough memory so directories will show up instantly on your screen instead of having to wait for you disk drive to pick them up. RAM with 640K will copy entire disk with one swap instead of having to continually shift disks. And a second disk drive eliminates the shifting of disks altogether.

Ginny Dobson demonstrated "Funnels and Buckets" from our disk library. She felt this program was every bit as good as "Math Blaster."

Nominations were held for the various club offices:

Documents: Bruce Bayne
 Disk Librarian: Louie Levy
 Newsletter Editor: Bill Roy
 Modem Captain: Jim Cox
 Publicity: Paddy Dawson & Mary Burich
 Refreshments: Elleen Levy
 Treasurer: Jim McWilliams
 Secretary: Dena Audette
 Vice President: Gene Brown
 President: Ginny Dobson & Paddy Dawson

The nominations were not closed so if you want to add your name to the list, nominate someone not listed, or vote, be sure to come to the next meeting!

Jan Miller won the "Printshop" raffle. Congratulations! We know you and your kids will love it! Thank you Broderbund for your support of our PCjr Club!

One final note: Cleaning fluid for your disk drives (as demonstrated in February) will be available at the next meeting. Bring your own container - no charge.

See you next time!

PCjr NEWSLETTER is a publication of the Eugene PCjr Club, P.O.Box 3695, Eugene, OR 97403. The annual dues are \$20/household, or the NEWSLETTER only may be obtained separately for \$12/yr (as a service to more distant PCjr owners). Curious parties may obtain up to three issues, and attend up to three meetings without obli-

gation 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



First... there are a (too) large number of you out there who are (how can we say it politely?) ... ah... not pulling your own weight. Some of the club members are contributing a large amount of time - and sometimes money - to make the club and the meetings function, and they are greatly appreciated!!! But, there are members who seem to expect these things to happen automatically! They don't! Not all of the club functions involve advanced computer knowledge, managerial skills, or artistic abilities. There are many tasks that involve simply WORK, and many of the people that are doing this work now, could use either some help... or downright RELIEF. What happens if all the "do'ers" burn out at the same time? "PROTECT OUR RESOURCES", or, "ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CLUB, NOT (JUST) WHAT IT CAN DO FOR YOU!"

Second... your Editor must, MUST, in all likelihood, turn this job over to someone else. My personal economy can no longer justify taking days (or nights) away from work. If you "only" have a 40-hour work week, are a single parent with 15 kids at home, etc. you might consider taking the job on in your "leisure time". As a contractor trying to generate work in this (still) horrid economy, and with three other businesses, the NEWSLETTER taxes available energies to the limit. So far, it has been getting deference, but I cannot justify that any longer. I've been asked how I can get by with only 4 or 5 hours of sleep — that is all the time that gets allocated to such use! I would be glad to put in some time showing "paste-up" techniques, doing some graphic work, and maybe written items for a new editor. But with a work day that runs from 7am to 2am, 6 1/2+ days/week, the additional frustrations and energy needed to get the NEWSLETTER out are hard to justify.

Thirdly... In the midst of an over-due project, with an AirFreight truck standing by for a noon pickup, I got three calls in one morning from people with software questions and general queries on adding memory, suppliers, etc... from NON-MEMBERS yet! I probably got a bit brusque.. brusk(?)... ah, "short". That's not to mention the many letters from others with the same types of questions... one asked, after a half dozen questions on hardware, "why should I pay \$12 for your NEWSLETTER when there are lots of magazines out there for \$16 or \$18?" Now, my ten years at teaching told me "there are NO STUPID QUESTIONS" but I REALLY am NOT into beating my head against the wall! NO BODY has to join or subscribe to

the NEWSLETTER... but NO(non member)BODY needs to expect to get free information, either... even IF (until NOW) we have been nice guys... 'n' gals! 'Nuf (or too much) said!

Bill Roy, Editor

The above statement does not reflect any political positions, stands, or beliefs of the Eugene PCjr Club, this PCjr NEWSLETTER, the PCjr Computer, the IBM Corporation, computer users in general, etc., etc., but is the sole responsibility of the editor and "that time of the month!"



Toot Three Horns

with the
JUNIOR MUSIC MACHINE

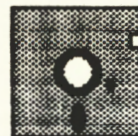
One of the new additions to the club disk library is a program called "The Junior Music Machine" ("JMM"). It will be featured at the April club meeting by Bruce Bayne.

As far as we know, none of the commercially available IBM PC music construction programs take full advantage of the three voice chips present only in PCjrs. Therefore, those programs can only generate one musical tone at a time. With Junior Music Machine you can make use of all the musical power of your PCjr to create three musical tones at once. The JMM also utilizes the PCjr's 16 color capabilities for an attractive screen display.

The JMM program lets you choose from fifteen pre-written songs or you can create your own three voice musical tunes. Both the musical scale and a piano keyboard are displayed while you write or play the music you have written. A help screen is available at all times just by pressing the ALT and H key combination. Not only can you select the time signature and the key, but you can also determine the volume of each note, the tempo, sharps and flats, as well as play selected notes with either a staccato or slur articulation.

Children and adults will find the pre-written music fascinating to watch and enjoyable to hear. Anyone with an elemental understanding of written music will find it fun to key in other musical tunes.

Give this disk a try. It will tickle your eye as well as your ivories!



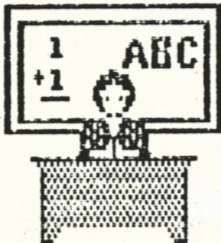
The Disk Library has an expanding number of programs on disk available TO OUR MEMBERS. These share ware programs are available at @ \$5/disk, or 5 for \$20 (plus \$1.50 for postage) for members and NEWSLETTER subscribers in good standing. Write: DISK LIBRARY, Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 3695, Eugene, OR 97403, or call Lew Jones 686-1088, or Charlie Halbrook 741-0498

ATTENTION: EPSON PRINTER OWNERS BLACK BOX UPGRADE AVAILABLE

For all Epson FX or RX printer owners Black Box Corporation now has a print buffer which upgrades your dot matrix printer so it can print in near letter quality ("NLQ") type. You also can use any one of several type styles with this add-on buffer: Courier, Prestige, Elan, Italics or Roman. The buffer stores up to 65 average pages of text (when not using the NLQ feature) - so you can do other computer work while your Epson is printing.

The Near Letter Quality Epson Printer Buffer (part No. CQ-P1700) can be ordered by calling (412) 746-5530 or writing Black Box Corporation at P.O. Box 12800, Pittsburgh, PA 15241 and costs \$269.00.

Join your Computer Club NOW!



TEST YOUR COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE

The following questions are selected from the article "The PC World Advanced Users Quiz", PC World Magazine, July 1985. See if you know the correct answers to the following questions:

- 1.) The default disk drive is:
 - a.) the one that usually breaks.
 - b.) the one to blame for all your computer problems.
 - c.) the drive where a system disk resides.
 - d.) the drive DOS assumes you meant.
- 2.) A serial port is to a parallel port as:
 - a.) 1 byte is to 1 bit.
 - b.) 1 parity bit is to 1 stop bit.
 - c.) 8 bits are to 1 byte.
 - d.) 1 bit is to 1 byte.
- 3.) The bootstrap loader is:
 - a.) a cowboy's shoehorn.
 - b.) IBM's utility for loading the BASIC interpreter.
 - c.) the BIOS ROM routine that loads DOS.
 - d.) the PC's power-on diagnostic.
- 4.) How do you copy files to another disk on a single drive system?
 - a.) COPY A:* B:
 - b.) DISKCOPY A: B:
 - c.) COPY *.* A: B:
 - d.) COPY *.* B:

- 5.) Spooling permits you to:
 - a.) dump a screen to disk.
 - b.) print a file while working on another file.
 - c.) wind up fish line while your printer works.
 - d.) leave your modem unattended.
- 6.) The DOS command DIR/P
 - a.) displays lengthy directory listings one screenful at a time.
 - b.) scrolls through a list of path names.
 - c.) displays all print files.
 - d.) changes the default drive to P:
- 7.) The two hidden DOS files are:
 - a.) IBMBIO.COM and IBMDOS.COM
 - b.) BIO.EXE and DOS.EXE
 - c.) DOS.COM and BIO.COM
 - d.) DB.COOPER and JD.SALINGER
 - e.) IBMDOS.EXE and IBMBIO.COM
- 8.) CHKDSK *.* indicates:
 - a.) whether a disk has bad sectors.
 - b.) whether files have not been closed.
 - c.) whether files reside in the same volume.
 - d.) whether files are contiguous.
 - e.) a, and b only.
 - f.) a, and d only.
- 9.) The difference between DELETing and ERASEing a file in DOS is that:
 - a.) DEL removes all contiguous sectors.
 - b.) ERASE updates the FAT file.
 - c.) an ERASE is permanent.
 - d.) none.
- 10.) D.I.P. stands for:
 - a.) Dual In-line Package.
 - b.) Duplex Integrated Program.
 - c.) Diablo Inkjet Printer.
 - d.) person who can't understand computer terminology.
 - e.) Data Interchange Protocol.
- 11.) Which term does not belong:
 - a.) GET
 - b.) PUT
 - c.) DIM
 - d.) SUM
 - e.) FILES
- 12.) A DOS device driver is:
 - a.) any application program that sends output to a printer or plotter.
 - b.) the 8088 CPU.
 - c.) a software program added to DOS that accomodates a specific peripheral device.
 - d.) auto pilot for race car drivers Drunk On Scotch.

(Answers on page 5, col. 2)

Pinball Construction Set

Electronic Ars/Bill Budge
A Review by Chris Roy

Pinball Construction Set is a program that makes good use of the capabilities of the Junior. The game's graphics are impressive, and the icons take after the Macintosh's.

The game is surprisingly easy to operate, so the player can begin playing as soon as the package is opened. Even though instructions are meant to be read, the game really does explain itself.

The left half of the screen is occupied by the pinball game, and the right contains the parts display and icons. Using the cursor (in the guise of a pointing hand), the parts can be arranged on the playing surface to match the whims of the player. Later, the parts can be decorated and the targets can be wired so that extra points are awarded when a combination of them are hit. My only complaint is that only three colors are available to the user, but that isn't a big enough problem to hurt the game significantly.

Five ready-made games are included, and up to four people can play. Perhaps the best feature of the program is the ability to bend the laws of physics, alter gravity, and change the speed of the game.

Although the game may not pay off financially, I would consider it a good investment to add to anyone's personal software collection, for the game will be a "classic" in years to come.

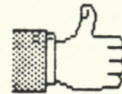
JR. BASIC vs. PC BASIC WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The July '84 SOFTALK FOR THE IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER had an extensive article on the unique qualities of CARTRIDGE BASIC for the PCjr for those already confused by ROM Basic, Disk Basic, and Advanced Disk Basic (BasicA). There is an intercept in the Junior that keeps you from loading the Disk Basics from the DOS 2.1 disk (has anyone yet hacked a path around that?), and a reminder is displayed that you MUST have the PCjr Basic Cartridge. Is that marketing or is that marketing? The Basic Cartridges remain one of the "harder to get" items, so if you don't have one, keep your eyes open!

A terminal emulation feature of the Cartridge lets you support RS-232 communications through the internal modem or through the serial communication slot. Other differences relate to the unique color graphics and sound generation capa-

bilities of the PCjr. Tone-generator statements such as "noise" and "sound" and "play" can produce multiple "voices". The "screen" statement offers seven modes instead of the Disk Basic's three to take advantage of the PCjr's sixteen-color medium-resolution palette.

If you can't get a copy of this article, we will have a few at the April meeting FOR OUR MEMBERS.



Flying Fingers

A One-Liner From
HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE

Try typing this quick little program and then enjoy testing your speed and skill at typing. This B.A.S.I.C. One-Liner program was written by Bob Langill, Hillsboro, OR.

The program lets you set the length of time for your typing practice and it keeps a running total of right and wrong answers as you type. (If you find that the program is displaying all negative numbers - no matter what you enter - hit the Caps Lock to correct the problem.)

("QUIKTYPE" is a good filename to use to SAVE this program.)

Ok
LIST

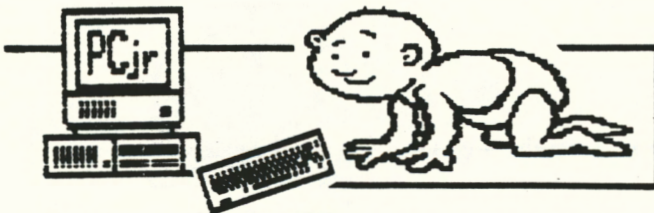
```
1 IF A THEN INPUT "Try again (Y/N)"; B$: IF
  B$="Y" THEN RUN ELSE END ELSE A=1:RANDOM
  IZE TIMER:CLS:INPUT "MINUTES,SECONDS";M,S
  :ON TIMER(M*60+S) GOSUB 1:BEEP:TIMER ON:
  WHILE 1:LOCATE 5,10:C$=CHR$((RND*26)+64.
  5):PRINT C$,C;C-D:A$=INPUT$(1):D=D+1:C=C
  -(A$=C$):WEND
```

Ok

BOOK SALE AT COMPUTERLAND (CHECK OUT: "RUNNING MS DOS")

COMPUTERLAND is having a closeout sale on all the computer books in their Eugene store (presumably because The Bookmark book store next door carries an excellent, extensive selection of computer-related books).

Ask to look at the book called "Running MS DOS" by Van Wolverton from Microsoft Press. It is a very comprehensive, but readable in-depth look at the standard IBM PC Disk Operating System we all use (and probably mis-use and/or under-utilize). The book is crammed with useful information on: managing files, diskettes, peripheral devices; using EDLIN to alter files; creating BATCH files, especially AUTOEXEC.BAT batch files; and much more. Not only are these subjects thoroughly explained, but clear examples are given which you can put to immediate use.



JUNIOR'S HOMECOMING

by Paddy Dawson

Weeks before Junior was due, we were nervous, excited, pacing restlessly across the floor. The main concern we had--money! Could we afford such an addition to our family? Would escalating peripheral costs force us to trim our budget in other areas? We hoped we wouldn't come to resent the additional financial and emotional strain on our lives.

Then we finally reached our decision. We would relax and enjoy our blessed event and could easily handle anything that Junior's arrival would bring.

Preparing for Junior was quite an experience. Making Junior feel welcome became almost an obsession with us. A special room, actually a spare bedroom was made ready. We scurried around clearing space, putting up shelves, curtaining here-to-fore unshaded windows, and chasing our cats out of the way. Professionals told us that Junior was quite susceptible to dust, hair, and bright sunlight.

Keeping that in mind, we decided to renovate our dining area to make room for Junior. In doing that, we will be close at hand, if needed. Easy access, we knew, would be the key to a compatible relationship.

Our family and friends were almost as excited as we were and they wanted to know how they could help. We accepted their input but knew Junior's addition to our family would be our responsibility and our joy. Besides, our efforts won't be in vain. After all, Junior will be supporting us in our old age.

THE "COMPLEAT" TABLE OF PERIPHERALS, DISK DRIVES, and SIDECARS, will be FORTHCOMING --as soon as Bill Roy and Dick Page get it put together.

Next NEWSLETTER deadline: April 25!

ANSWERS TO QUIZ QUESTIONS:

(Quiz appears on page 3)

- 1.) d.
- 2.) d. Serial ports transmit data 1 bit at a time; parallel ports, 1 byte at a time.
- 3.) c. When the PC is switched on, the 8088 microprocessor executes the power-on diagnostics routine in the BIOS ROM, then the bootstrap loader, which tells the computer to load the disk operating system (often called "DOS").
- 4.) a. DOS will prompt you to remove the original disk from drive A: and replace it with the destination disk. (This is almost a trick question, since COPY *.* B: would work - assuming your single drive was designated A:. But 'taint always so. If you chose "d.", give yourself half a point.)
- 5.) b. The file being printed is read into a separate memory area so that the computer can continue to be used while the printer copies that spooled file.
- 6.) a. This is a useful variation of the DIR command. Another one is DIR/W.
- 7.) a. IBMBIO.COM and IBMDOS.COM are two players in the DOS quartet, the other two being the boot record and COMMAND.COM. IBMDOS.COM handles file management routines and a variety of other functions for application programs. IBMBIO.COM provides an interface to ROM BIOS device routines. Neither is named in a directory, and they cannot be altered or accidentally deleted.
- 8.) f. With *.* appended to CHKDSK, you not only discover bad disk sectors but whether a file is noncontiguous - whether its components are stored in several discrete areas of a disk. Such files take longer to read. You can speed disk access by first copying frequently used files onto a new disk. These files are stored contiguously and thus are read off the disk more quickly.
- 9.) d. DEL and ERASE are just different names for the same function.
- 10.) a. "DIP" is the centipede-like pin configuration common to all the chips in a standard PC or PCjr. By contrast, the PC AT's 80286 CPU is a square, leadless package that sports contacts (instead of pins) on not two but all four sides.
- 11.) d. The others are BASIC commands. SUM is used by a number of other programs, such as 1-2-3.
- 12.) c. Typical software program device drivers are the ones needed to allow the use of a mouse, added memory, or a clock.

(A "Thank You" goes to PC World Magazine for these questions/answers!)

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.

CLASSIFIED: "For Sale" ads are \$2.00 for 25 words, on commercial transactions, free to members where information only is exchanged. Ads should be placed by two weeks before the next club meeting.

PETER NORTON's PCjr BOOKS

For those of you that bought the Peter Norton books, **DISCOVERING THE IBM-PCjr**, and **EXPLO- RING THE IBM-PCjr**, through our group order, only the 2nd title has come in. The other one is still listed as "on back order", but since these are a close-out by the publisher... sold by the publisher... we'll assume that a refund will be forthcoming at some future date for a portion of your payment. At this date, we know nothing more about it. If you missed the offer, here again is the information, but you are on your own!!! (Incidentally, The BOOKMARK, in downtown Eugene, had a couple of PCjr titles in their discount bin, so, again, if you've been putting purchases off...

PCjr 2nd Disk Drive

COMPLETE PACKAGE

\$209

COMPLETE PACKAGE

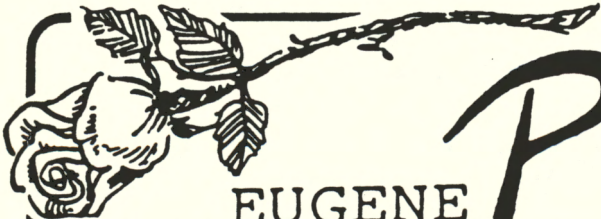
Creative Firmware

P.O. Box 850064

Richardson, Tx 75085

800-622-4070

312-579-9560



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