



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

Volume 2
Number 11
Nov. 1986

1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401

NOVEMBER PCjr MEETING AGENDA

A> November 13 General Meeting will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, Eugene. Set up and disk sales will start at 6:30pm, the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

- 1) Opening and Announcements.
- 2) PC-PAINTBRUSH demonstration by Bruce Bayne.
- 3) Break, disk sales.
- 4) ORIGAMI and HOME INVENTORY demos by Cindy Hoffman.
- 5) Questions and Answers.

Nov.

The EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER is available for \$12/year, or as part of the paid-up Eugene PCjr Club membership at \$20/year. Interested parties may obtain one copy of the Newsletter free on request before subscribing. No guarantees are stated or implied by the staff or overworked editor. All contributions and materials are gratefully accepted.

Make check or money order payable to:

EUGENE PCjr CLUB, 1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401; with the following:

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____
 Phone(H) _____ (W) _____

Upon receipt of your application for membership, we will send a questionnaire for you to complete and return.

FYO

A> November 25 Executive Meeting will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library at 5:30pm. All are invited to attend. Also, articles for the December Newsletter should be turned in at that meeting or by December 1.



The EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER will accept advertising as follows:

COMMERCIAL AD RATES/insertion:
 1 page - \$18.00
 1/2 page - \$ 9.00
 1/4 PAGE - \$ 5.00

CLASSIFIED: "For Sale" ads are \$2 per 25 words for commercial transactions; free to members where information only is exchanged.

Ads should be placed two weeks before the next Club meeting. All ads are cash in advance.

Many of our Club members are seeking high quality, competitively priced hardware and software for their PCjrs. We'd like to hear from you!

Happy Birthday on November 4 to ALLEN Dawson.

LOW-COST JUNIOR UPGRADES

Questions keep coming up from PCjr owners about the best way to upgrade the memory in their computers and there seems to be (still) a wide range of options. For those who are not intimidated by the hot end of a soldering iron, the insides of their Junior, or the cute "feet" on a memory chip; there are some relatively low-cost options.

One of the simplest is to upgrade the chips of an IBM 128K memory expansion sidecar to bring it to 512K. Removal of the old 64Kx1 DRAMS (16 of them!) and replacing them with 256Kx1 bit DRAMS is the key, and one critical connection on the board must be changed from one terminal over to another with a small jumper wire sets the board up for 256K chips! The way the board is layed out, this looks to me like something that IBM had in mind as a planned upgrade when they originally designed the board in the first place! While you are going to all of this trouble, it's suggested that you install 16 pin sockets for the chips as you go. ...and you might as well replace the Intel 8088 microprocessor for faster operation...but maybe only one "fix" at a time to localize any problems! Estimated cost for the 256K DRAMS conversion is about \$50! See our library for THE JUNIOR REPORT for May 1986 and Randy Rumbaugh's instructions.

If you have the jrCaptain from TECMAR, have the 64K chips replaced with 256K chips to effectively increase your Junior's memory to a full 640K! Contact Brian Cook, THE PCjr CLUB, 5519 Barcroft Drive, Barrington, IL 60010 and start saving up the \$135 to have some qualified electricians do the job!

ES (Ed Strauss) QUALITY PRODUCTS, 5311 Mango Blossom, San Jose, CA 95123 (408/224-5574) is now offering a "user pluggable" 512K PCjr Accelerator board, the New JrHOTSHOT, that mounts internally in the microprocessor socket! Cost is \$195, complete with a two-year guarantee, using internal power. MA SYSTEMS, INC., 2015 O'Toole Ave, San Jose, CA 95131 (408/943-0596) has resumed production of their 512K PRO KIT sidecar, which they had suspended at the end of 1985. It features CMOS chips, so no external power supply is needed and it features a parallel printer port, battery-backed clock, and software for a RAM disk and print spooler. Call for prices.

I had a notice of a "kit" to build plug-in RAM for the cartridge slot but passed it on to someone...an interesting idea.

On other fronts, DATAdesk has a PCjr replacement "AT-style" keyboard bundled with Borland's Superkey at the attractive "member's price" of \$125 (plus \$10 p^h). Order from the National PCjr Users Group, P.O. Box 701618, Tulsa, OK 74170-1618. Coalescent Technologies, Inc., 1042 Kauffman Ave., Fairborn, OH 45324 (513/878-7353) is offering the TRI-DRIVE, an external floppy-drive system for one or two add-on drives! Legacy Technologies, Ltd., of Lincoln, NE, has developed a Serial Interface Card for the PCjr that plugs into the Junior's modem slot. That includes a RING INDICATE line that IBM originally omitted, giving programmers fits. Contact Steve Jacob (402/466-8108) or Litho-Graphics Marketing, P>O> Box 5059, Lincoln, NE 68505-0266.

- Bill Roy -

Remember when "Enter" was a sign on a door and not a button on a computer? - Shelby Friedman -

PC-PAINTBRUSH, ORIGAMI, and HOME INVENTORY will be demonstrated at the November 1986 meeting. As usual, it will be a fun and educational meeting. See you there!

This is a nice little program for creating pictures in color on your monitor and printing them in black and white or, if you have a color printer, in color. My copy of PC-PAINTBRUSH came bundled with Microsoft's Mouse. It can also be purchased separately. I must warn you as to the systems requirements though. A mouse is necessary and the minimum memory required is 384K. That may be a little steep for some of you but, none the less, it's a fun program to demonstrate. Besides, part of the fun of getting together once a month is learning about all the different programs for the Junior.

The program is nicely set-up and looks a lot like COLORPAINT or PC-PAINT. (Sorry, I'm not familiar enough with these programs to give a comparison). The screen is divided into four main areas. The drawing area, where the picture is created, occupies the largest area of the screen. The toolbox of icons, for picking the appropriate drawing implement, is located along the left side of the screen. The Palette of shades and colors is located along the bottom. Across the top is the menu bar, with pop-up menus, for lists of options. The documentation is well-written and quite extensive, going into great detail for setting up printers and working with different memory sidecars. There are plenty of examples and walk-through exercises to familiarize oneself with all the features of this program. Come to November's meeting and see what PC-PAINTBRUSH can do. -Bruce Bayne-

ORIGAMI, the Japanese art of paperfolding, has been popular for years in the United States in its more familiar literary format. This computerized version is closer to being in a class, watching a demonstration. There are many advantages to learning about paperfolding in this way. You can easily review procedures just demonstrated or proceed on to the next step. The three-dimensional aspect of the program illustrates folds and details so you know exactly what has been done and can easily duplicate the steps. The program is designed to illustrate as you work along with it, but younger children will enjoy just watching the demonstration of the 12 different projects that are included.

ORIGAMI is an entertaining program for young and old alike. It is well-done, easily followed, and educational. You will have a lot of fun creating animals and objects out of a single square of paper. It's great to have quality programs like this available through our Club.

YOUR VERY OWN HOME INVENTORY, now also available from our Disk Library, is one of a series of programs in which you can use your own names for persons, places, or things -- hence the name, YOUR VERY OWN.

The program includes a rather lengthy documentation on disk that literally guides you through all procedures, key by key. The program could not be easier to understand. You are given the option of customizing all the color names, the people who own items in the inventory, and the names of the various rooms in the house. Once you have entered all your own color names, owner names, and room names (up to 256 total), you need only press one

number to refer to that description. You can specify 32 general categories of items (e.g. appliances, clothing) and 32 specific categories for each general category, giving a total of 1024 possible categories. After entering data, you can display a specific group of records, or all the records, to the screen or to the printer. At the end of the report, the total number of items and their total value will be given.

If you've always wanted to have an inventory of your belongings for insurance purposes in case of fire or theft, YOUR VERY OWN HOME INVENTORY is an extremely straightforward way to accomplish it.
- Cindy Hoffman -

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, IBM PC

IBM's advertisements recently have included heralding the fact that IBM has been in the Personal Computer business for five years now. That fact struck me square in the face. Five years in personal computing. Imagine that! We purchased our PCjr in November, 1984. It seems like just yesterday and yet it also seems like forever!

We PCjr owners really are in the forefront of an industry in its infancy. Maybe that perspective can help when struggling to get a program to function or wrestling with DOS commands. No wonder software and hardware aren't "user friendly". The industry still has a long, long way to go before it "grows up". More time will have to pass before the computer companies will begin to live up to their advertising hypes which claim that personal computers are simple easy-to-learn extensions of good old typewriters.

At the same time, our PCjr is now an integral part of our daily lives. I don't know how I would get along without it. Every time I have to use my office IBM Selectric II typewriter rather than our PCjr, I am reminded of how dependent I am on my IBM WRITING ASSISTANT word processing program. Writing with the PCjr is so much more fluid and flexible.

And what exciting times face us all! Where will computer technology be five years from now? How about ten or twenty years? It gives me that "I wonder what is over the next hill?" feeling of excitement just thinking about it all. And I can't help but believe that being a part of this relatively early stage of computer development will prove useful as we all face the unknown of the coming years.

An additional rumination: Peering into our monitors, let's remember to work for peace. Then, hopefully, we all can be around to enjoy what lies ahead in this fascinating world of computer technology.

With all its warts, enjoy your PCjr! And Happy Anniversary to the IBM PC.
- Dick Page -

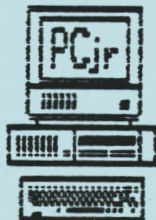
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MACINTOSH NOW COMPATIBLE WITH IBM

Microsoft Corp has unveiled a new personal computer program that it says will allow Apple Macintosh computers to share documents and word-processing tasks easily with IBM computers. This is the first program to allow documents and files created on a Macintosh to be edited on an IBM computer and vice versa, Microsoft said while unveiling the program in New York. Microsoft indicated it sees the new program, called WORD Version 3.0, as a major step in upgrading the business attractiveness of the Macintosh. The new program retails for \$395. (OREGONIAN, 10-28-86).



TREATS FROM OUR DISK LIBRARY

Now that the holidays are practically upon us, do think about the wonderful programs in our Disk Library. They make excellent stocking stuffers for friends, or even as a special treat for ourselves.

The diskettes on this list are available to members for \$5 each or 5 for \$20. For non-members, the price is \$7.50 per diskette. If you cannot attend our monthly meetings and purchase the diskettes there, they may be ordered by mail, but we request that you enclose an additional \$1.50 to cover the cost of postage and a diskette mailer. Send your request and payment to our mailing address on the back of this Newsletter.

- D001: PC-FILE, Version 4.0
- D002: PC-CALC, Version 2.0
- D003: PC-WRITE, Version 2.6
- D004: PC-DIAL
- D005: E-Z UTILITIES
- D006: PC-FONT, Version 2.04
- D007: PCjr EDUCATIONAL GAMES
- D008: PCjr ARCADE GAMES
- D009: PCjr MISCELLANEOUS
- D010: ULTRA-UTILITIES
- D011: ORIGAMI
- D012: HOME INVENTORY
- D013: COMPUTER TUTOR
- D014: TIME & MONEY
- D015: FONTMENU, Version 1.1
- D016: FREEWILL
- D017: MATH TUTOR
- D021: ZORK UTILITIES
- D024: THE CONFIDANT
- D025: REFLIST
- D030: MONOPOLY
- D032: LIBRARIAN'S DISK
- D033: DEMO DISK #1
- D034: DEMO DISK #2
- D035: ADVENTURE
- D036: XMAS FUN
- D037: GENEALOGY ON DISPLAY, 3.1
- D038: JUNIOR MUSIC MACHINE
- D039: MUSIC & EDUCATIONAL PROG.
- D040: CARD GAMES
- D041: FUNNELS & BUCKETS and AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
- D042: PC-DOS HELP
- D043: PINBALL RALLY
- D044: FAS-TYPE, TYPERITE
- D045: PCMAN, PCGIRL
- D046: EASYWRITE/LABELFILE
- D047: PC-DESKMATES
- D048: HIGHSCHOOL ED PROGRAMS
- D049: STOCK CHARTING SYSTEM
- D050: PC-PICTURE GRAPHICS
- D051: SAGE TRADER

Be sure and watch "COMPUTER CHRONICLES", Sundays on KOAC PBS channel 7, from 12:00 to 12:30pm. Recent topics have included Desk-Top Publishing with MS-DOS and professional art reproductions on screen. The program covers all major brands of computers, and some minor ones. The last five minutes of each show gives the newest happenings in the computer world.



HEARD ON THE STREET
- Dick Page -

MONITOR GLARE REDUCTION:

I have been searching quite a while for a good, low-cost anti-glare screen that would fit the PCjr Color Display monitor. At last, I have one--the EasyScreen by WilsonJones, the office supplies people. They are currently on sale for \$19.88 plus shipping from Quill Corporation, Box 4700, Lincolnshire, IL 60197, part number 70-010. (They list for \$33.95).

There are two types of glare reduction devices: polarized filters and nylon mesh screens. Polarized filters work well but are relatively expensive. EasyScreen is made of a special nylon mesh stretched on a plastic, reversible, two-color frame of which one side matches the IBM gray. The screen attaches with four Velcro tabs. It really does a great job of reducing glare without diminishing clarity of color.

The dimensions of EasyScreen are 9 3/4" x 12 1/2". Other anti-glare screen packages I have looked at haven't listed the PCjr Color Display and didn't seem to be the correct size. Our screens are slightly bigger than most monitors.

The PCjr EasyScreen also fits several other monitors: Commodore 1701, 1702; Telex 279; Taxan 220; Amdek Color I & II; Sakata SC200; Xerox 850 & 860. If you are looking at screens that don't list the PCjr, you might want to look for one of the names listed above. Be kind to your eyes, get a glare reduction screen.

TOP TEN SOFTWARE PUBLISHERS 1985
REVENUES IN MILLIONS:

Lotus Development Corp.	\$225.5
Microsoft Corp.	162.6
Ashton-Tate	121.6
Micropro Int'l Corp.	40.9
Digital Research Inc.	35.2
Software Publishing	31.7
Borland International	28.0
Activision	27.1
Broderbund	25.0
Word Perfect Corp.	23.5

(Source: Dataquest as printed in INFO WORLD, Oct. 6, 1986).

CHECK YOUR JUNIOR

Take a little time now to examine your computer before the winter months set in. If you have a Junior, now is the time to run the "built in tests" found in the ROM BIOS. These tests are described on pages 6-21 of the "Guide to Operations." You may remember them as the Ctrl/Alt/Ins tests. By holding down these keys together the self-diagnostic test for the Junior begins. The IBM color bar displays, very rapidly, the amount of memory installed, and then the monitor screen displays six pictographs of a disk, a screen, a modem, a speaker, a keyboard, and a joystick. On the next "page" is a printer pictograph. If you haven't run these tests, please do so now. Then, consult your "Guide..." for more information. (Venture Personal Computer User's Group, October 1986).

LITTLE BUDDY, a young leukemia victim, wants to set the Guinness Book record for receiving the most postcards from around the world. This is a goal he has set for himself before he dies. All it takes is a postcard and a 33 cent stamp. Mail them to LITTLE BUDDY, P.O. Box 76, Paisley Renfrewshire, SCOTLAND. Thanks.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have just finished installing the second 2nd Disk Drive I have received from Creative Firmware in Richardson, Texas. I bought the first unit as a result of the ad in the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter. It took about six weeks to get it and was inoperative when I got it. After several weeks, I was able to contact the company and they took about a month to send me a second one. I have just found out the second one is partially inoperative and of no use to me in its present condition.

Creative Firmware does not have a telephone, only an ordering service. From my hassles on the first unit, I have concluded the company consists of three people in a garage operation and they feel no responsibility whatsoever to their customers. I am now in the position of writing to their box number, they don't have a street address, and hoping they eventually respond. The last time this took three weeks. This morning, I wasted two calls to the ordering service and was told they had not heard from Creative Firmware for two weeks!

I think the members should know of this operation. If you want a second disk drive, get it somewhere--anywhere--else.

- Bob Carson, Grants Pass, OR -

Dear Bob: Sorry to hear about your problems with Creative Firmware. We do appreciate the information you passed to us. You might send a copy of this letter to the Better Business Bureau in Richardson, Texas and ask them for help with the situation. Also, if you're up this way, give one of us a call (see this newsletter) if we can help.

- The Editor -

MAKING YOUR JUNIOR CLICK

You should be familiar with the key combination Ctrl/Alt/Del. But did you know there are other similar keyboard tricks? The least documented one is the Ctrl/Alt/CapsLock combo.

Depressing all three keys (Ctrl/Alt/CapsLock) at once produces a quiet clicking sound each time a key is depressed. Some people find this kind of mechanical typewriter sound annoying and some find it a helpful reminder that the key they pressed actually got properly registered. It also can be useful when children are using the Junior, as they get a sound to help them realize that pressing a key actually caused something to happen in the computer.

To turn off the click, just press the three keys together again. This type of key function is known as a "toggle switch key function" because you can toggle it on or off. Give it a try. You may find you like it.

Q. What's the difference between the DOS commands COPY and DISKCOPY?

A. Both COPY *.* and DISKCOPY will copy your disks, but there are some differences. DISKCOPY will work on unformatted disks while COPY *.* will not. The COPY *.* command will organize the disk by rearranging the data stored on the disk so that everything is in order, regardless of the arbitrary way the data may have been entered. DISKCOPY does not do this "housekeeping," therefore it's a bit speedier.

(IBM PCjr Report, 3/86)

CLASSIFIED AD

MAKING A FACE PROMPT
(jr Newsletter 6/86)

SALE! Seldom-used. Parallel Printer Port. Priced to sell! Eggshell white, color-coordinated to any Junior. A must for every orinter. Easily attached to your PCjr. Terry 342-6340.

If you want to give your screen a new look and sound, here's a way to do it.

At the DOS A prompt, type "PROMPT" and then push and hold Ctrl and type "A", then push and hold Ctrl and type "G", then Enter.

This will give you a face prompt with a beep, instead of the A prompt. It's a friendly looking face when you are in the 40 column mode, but it's a little hard to recognize in the 80 column mode.

If you want the face without the beep, type "PROMPT", then push and hold Ctrl and type "A". To go back to the old A prompt, type in the word "PROMPT".

NEEDED: Computer paper, used on one side okay. Call 689-9337.

LET US
GIVE
Thanks



PCjr
EUGENE CLUB



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