



EUGENE

NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

Volume 3
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1988

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



A> APRIL MEETING AGENDA

April 14 meeting will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, Eugene. Set up and disk sales will begin at 6:30. Meeting will begin promptly at 7pm. Annual physicals will be given to Juniors and their peripherals. Don't leave home without it.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mike Luttio

OOPS! We neglected to take care of a bit of important business at our last club meeting. April is the club's Annual General Meeting and election of club officers is supposed to take place. But since we did not remember this, we were not able to prepare a ballot of nominations. Considering the difficulty in finding anyone to take office last year, the present slate of officers are willing to continue in their present positions. This can be discussed further at this meeting and any nominations for club officers will be accepted in accordance with the club's constitution.

On to more interesting things - we will also conduct spring cleaning for your computer and printer this meeting. We will vacuum, blow out and clean up the dirt and dust in your Juniors and their printers. A disk drive analyzing program will be available and maintenance will be done on your disk drives as well.

Last month we had a rather disjointed meeting. Randy Williamson and Modem Captain Bruce Brown attempted to get through the phone lines at Ida Patterson School, but they could not succeed. It seems

the phone system frustrated their modems in getting into a free line without cutting them off. I was able to briefly demonstrate a club disk called NamePal. Look for a review later in this issue.

Juanita Hampton won the doorprize - a Garfield poster donated by Dick Page.

SPRING CLEAN-A-THON AT THE APRIL MEETING

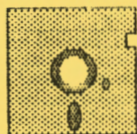
When was the last time you had the lid off your Junior? When did you last clean your Junior's read-write heads? Have you lubricated the rails they travel back and forth on lately? We know that you turn your keyboard upside down and shake it every once in awhile. Do you have a dog or cat, or, God forbid, a smoker that goes into Junior's room while it's running? If you do, when was the last time you blew or sucked out all of the residual gradue that the 180-out blower motor has sucked into Junior's lungs? Don't despair; help is here!

The April program will be **Spring Cleaning**. Bring in your keyboard and your CPU (Junior; Junior is the CPU). We will set up an assembly (disassembly?) line and will clean, lubricate and do a quality assurance check on any and all Juniors who come, members or not. We only ask that you bring in your Junior, the power cord, and your keyboard (with fresh batteries in it, or your keyboard cord. **CAUTION:** Be sure to place either the cardboard insert or an old diskette into the drive(s) before moving your

more on next page...

Junior. If you have any questions or problems, call our Prez, Mike Luttio at 688-1289 or Louie, the Bull-Editor, at 343-7592. (If you can't possibly make it to the meeting, call early enough and we will arrange to have someone come over, pick up your Junior, haul it to the meeting and return it afterward--members only, of course. (Another advantage of joining!) Sorry, but this only applies for members in Eugene!

We hope to make this a yearly event. If we take care of Junior, Junior will take care of us!



Results of Survey from February Meeting

We were able to get up an order for 400 diskettes at the February meeting. Several members ordered lots of 50 each. Large orders such as this can really reduce the per disk cost for all of us. Let us know if you have a particular brand you prefer for our next order. The club is still looking for a supplier who can furnish us with quality diskettes at competitive prices.

Those members who attended the February meeting were asked to respond to the following questions: 1) What programs would you like to see at the monthly meetings? 2) What are some of the articles you would like to see in the newsletter? 3) What would you change about the club newsletter or meetings if you could?

To question 1), some of the responses were: more club diskettes demonstrated; another demo on cleaning the inside of Junior (note the program for April); at least one or two club diskettes demonstrated at each meeting; a renewed effort at soliciting new members.

Question 2) answers were: we need more disk reviews in the newsletter, articles on new utilities, product reviews from those members who acquire new soft- or hardware, special applications members are using such as desktop publishing, CAD, etc with their Juniors.

Question 3) responses were: we need more door prizes, several liked the idea of free classified ads for members, and there was a request for Bill Roy to consider submitting more of his fine art work that used to grace the newsletter. How about that, Bill?



Now, we would like to open this up to the general membership and readers of the newsletter who missed the February meeting. Let us know what you want to see in the way of programs, articles or changes to the newsletter or club meeting format.



NOTES

FROM THE DOCUMENTS LIBRARIAN, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, ETC.

Paddy, we surely do miss you here at the copy desk. When I look over at your vacant desk, I can still see you sitting there, coffee cup in hand, saying "go over and check the mail; maybe someone sent us an article for the newsletter today." Well, I checked, and they still haven't mailed it, so we keep on hacking away. How goes it in PDX?

The club has purchased the Microsoft on-disk version of Learning DOS. It is like having Bill Roy or Dick Page sitting next to you while you use your Junior. You will be creating AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files

more...

in very little time. Learning DOS was written for all types of computer users; it even helps with hard drives. Learning DOS has something for every level of user.

We have finally put the old newsletters into binders and they will be available for check out at the next meeting. We have all of the Eugene PCjr Newsletters in one binder, so if you are missing any, check them out and Xerox the ones you want. (See elsewhere in this Newsletter, as we still have some of the more recent issues available.)

The library wants to thank **Sarah Eoyang** for making her collection of The Junior Report available to the club. We are back on the Puget Sound PCjr Users Group mailing list and are now getting their Jr. NEWS. We also have a nice collection of CAPJUG CONNECTION from the Chicago Area PCjr Users Group, Quick Notes from Quicksoft, OKjr *.* from the Oklahoma PCjr Users Group, Quad Cities PC Users Group Newsletter from Iowa, Fox Tales from the Fox Valley PCjr Association in Plainfield, NJ, the newsletter from our "Mother Club," the Eugene PC User's Group, the Hawkeye PC Newsletter from Iowa City, and the newsletter from the San Francisco PCjr Users Group. Check 'em out, read them and lets hope that they will inspire you to write an article!

Availability of other clubs' newsletters has always been a problem. We are missing many copies of newsletters that the club receives on a regular basis. They have been passed around on an informal basis in the past, and it seems that many of them have been misplaced. Please check around, and if you find any old ones sitting by your Junior, bring them in. We need to make them available to the whole membership.



CLUB DISK #31 - NAMEPAL
a review by Mike Luttio

NamePal (version 1.0) is a name record data base that allows you to select several ways to store and print out your favorite names. NamePal uses a menu driven system that is easy to use. Just follow the screen directions for step by step results. Names and information can be placed into Personal, Business and Notecard formats. There is room for addresses, phone numbers and added comments.

Once you input your names, you can sort them by keys (that you select), record number, or category (selected grouping). Help is available at each menu screen. Print outs can be done in pocket size address book, mailing label, Rolodex card or full page format. Address book preview is available on screen before printing.

A 12 page manual can be printed off the disk. You can become a registered user of NamePal by sending \$19.95 to:

WR Software
P.O. Box 4819
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Registration gets you the latest version of the program, 2 "pocket size" vinyl Address Book covers, book mounting templates, free telephone support, full documentation, and a separate Export/Import program for trading name data with other software.

I used NamePal to do last years Christmas card labels and it was fairly easy to work with. You can purchase NamePal from our library as disk number 31.

"HEARD (HERD?) ON THE STREET"

by Dick Page

"DON'T BLINK TWICE"

Scientists at IBM have made and tested the world's fastest silicon circuits which can switch on and off **75 billion times a second.** (That's twice as fast as the fastest silicon transistors known to date.) IBM's advance helps close the speed gap between silicon and gallium arsenide, another kind of semiconducting material that is faster than silicon but more expensive and harder to work with.

from The Register Guard
March 17, 1988

ANOTHER AMAZING FACT

The PS/2 Model 80 can support up to 16 Megabytes of memory, in contrast to the original PC, which was limited to 64 MB!

from American Papermaker
September 1987

WORD PROCESSING:**A LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP?**

"Like any tyrant, a word processing program both threatens and comforts. Obeys its arbitrary inflexible rules, and it rewards you with tireless service in rearranging, removing, even correcting your words. Disobeys its rules, and it responds either by issuing a warning beep and a terse instruction or by dissolving months of labor into scattered electrons."

by Edward Mendelson in The New Republic, Feb. 22, '88

HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH OF**KING'S QUEST?****NOW THERE'S K Q IV!**

The King's Quest series must be a hit as Sierra On-Line has announced that they are working on King's Quest IV: "The Perils of Rosella." It is scheduled for release in September 1988 and will require 256K to run. It has

complete day and night cycles and uses a new improved graphics system.

The plot: Rosella's father is dying and she must search for the enchanted fruit which will save him.

One definite plus: Along with Rosella as the heroine, many female characters abound in this quest. It's nice to see Sierra On-Line acknowledge that women role models should be found in the electronic games world. Not all heroes need to be males.

from Family & Home-Office Computing, April 88

GOODBYE**WRITE-PROTECT TABS!**

Tired of peeling off and sticking on those write protect tabs? Frustrated by seeing the D.O.S. "WRITE PROTECT - Abort, Retry, or Ignore?" message because you didn't notice the tab was on the disk? Fret no more--you now have another option: **WP-Key.**

WP-Key is one of those things somebody else invented which causes you to say to yourself: "Why didn't I think of that?"

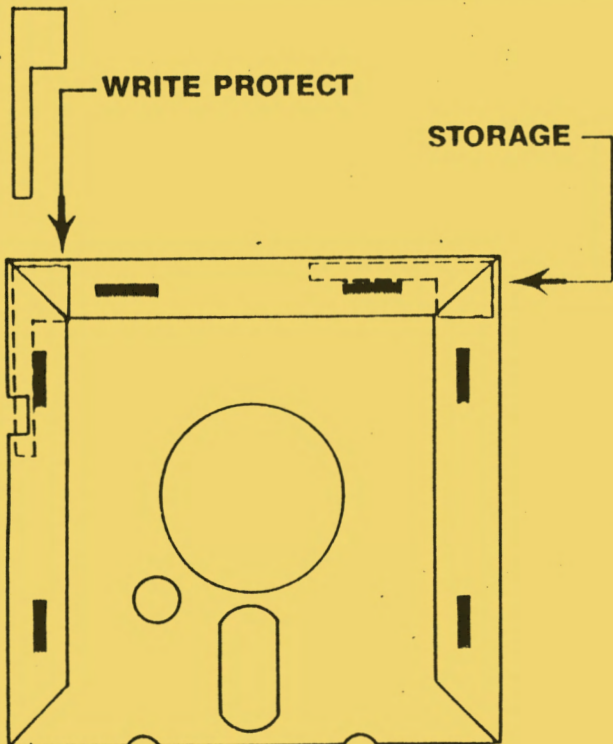
It is an "L"-shaped piece of white plastic that slides under the fold of cover of your diskette jacket and covers the write protect notch. It is readily visible when the diskette is in the drive slot (because it's white and is flush with the top edge of the disk).

(Take a look at the illustration at the top of the next page.)

The only drawback is easy to rectify: for a few brands of diskettes the tab is too wide. In those cases a bit of quick whittling with a sharp pocket knife will trim them down to size.

The price is right (or is that "write"), too: \$1.39 for a package of 10 tabs plus \$.50 shipping fee for each order. Write to:

Near Future Computer
P.O. Box 1726
Walla Walla, WA 99362



A SHAREWARE HELP BOOK

Osborn/McGraw Hill has come out with a helpful manual for the some of the most popular shareware programs: The Shareware Book: Using PC-Write, PC-File, PC-Talk by Emil & Miriam Flock and Howard Schulman, 1987, 652 pages, \$14.95, softcover. It begins with a quick-start, tutorial, and reference section for each program and then moves on to discuss integrating the three programs into one smooth D.O.S. system. A purchase well worth considering.

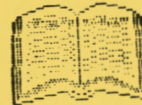
from PC World, Nov. 1987

PROBLEMS WITH 80386 CHIPS?

"The shortage of 80386 chips that pass all of Intel's 32-bit tests continues unabated. Soaring gray-market prices for 386 chips have been fueled by rumors that the shortage will continue to worsen as Intel ramps down production in preparation for a new version of the chip that will correct bugs found in earlier versions.

"However, the Fall COMDEX show did provide a possible answer to the question of where all those defective 386 chips are going. One of the show's most popular freebies could be found in goldfish bowls at the Intel booth: genuine 80386 chips imbedded in Lucite key-chain fobs."

from COMPUTE'S PC Magazine
March 1988, pg. 8



TECHNICAL REFERENCE MANUAL

It has come to light that some of the "technicians" working in a few of the repair shops in Eugene say they can't work on Juniors because they don't have the necessary manuals. While many of us would tend to shy away from a mechanic who can't work on a particular make of automobile because he or she doesn't have the shop manual, we nevertheless will leave Junior in inept hands at upwards of \$50 an hour.

Several members own the IBM Technical Reference manual for Junior and they don't mind letting them out. But one word of caution about loaning and borrowing: if you do borrow something from a club member, remember that it is just that: a loan. If you should find you have the need of a Tech manual, give the Documents Librarian a call.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: All material submitted for the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter **must** arrive prior to noon the first Thursday of the month if it is to make that month's edition. Material can be in any format: hand-written on used envelopes, on disk using any word processing program or type written. Just make sure it gets to the editor in time!

Back from the brink of extinction

**JUNIOR MAINTENANCE
OR
WHAT AM I GONNA DO NOW?**

Looking over some back issues of Family Computing, we came across an article by Jacqueline Austin on the care and maintenance of a computer. Much of what Jacqueline says in this three year old article is very relevant for today, so we would like to paraphrase her article here.

The first thing that Jacqueline addresses is stoppages; you know, when Junior quits. There you are tooling along doing whatever it is that you use Junior for, and it quits. You go to escape and nothing. Or you finally finish that 65 member mailing list and want to save it, and a "divide overflow" or "disk error writing" or "read fault" message comes up on your display. And believe me, sooner or later it will happen.

All of our Juniors are coming of age. Even if you are new to your Junior, it isn't new to the world of computing anymore. We are all on the edge of disaster; with our power supplies, our displays, keyboards, and Junior's brain, the CPU. It can happen to any of us at anytime. Do you react by packing up everything and taking it down to "AJ's Complete Computer Renovation Shop?" Sixty days later, does "AJ" tell you that all that was wrong was that the connector to your disk drive was a little loose but it took two hours of troubleshooting at \$65 an hour for them to find the problem? You are lucky; "AJ" normally says "we don't work on Juniors, only computers." ("AJ" doesn't realize how much he can miss in software sales with such a statement!)

Jacqueline says that we can all expect a computer disaster, as they happen to nearly everyone. Our keyboards have a limited life as do our disk drives and other components. To help reduce this life expectancy are our family members and ourselves who snack at the computer, smoke or let the dog or cat sleep at our feet while we use Junior. Sooner or later, any of this will add up to failure of our system.

But we can take precautions to prevent some of the unnecessary breakdowns. Not only will the following steps go a long way in the prevention of problems, the knowledge you will gain about Junior just may help you deal with that failure when it does strike, in a more cost-efficient manner. After all, most of us could have found the loose drive cable just as well as "AJ," and in much less time!

Jacqueline suggests that we not rush off to "AJ's" when Junior stops. Many problems can be isolated, or at least confined to one piece of hardware. She notes one user who had her computer into the shop several times before she herself discovered the real problem while carefully examining her keyboard. Still, it is important to realize your limitations and never get into parts of Junior's circuitry that you know nothing about.

Don't forget Junior's ability to self-diagnose itself. Also, it may sound redundant, but don't skip the "First Things First" section for these tests. You may find that a loose plug will get you up and running! Check chapter 6 of your Guide to Operations. Unfortunately, the guide only tells you to have Junior serviced if it should fail one of its tests, but it will help you isolate problems. Therefore, you may want to supplement your present library with a technical reference for Junior.

Preventive maintenance (pm) is the key to Junior having a prolonged, better than average life. Most of this pm is just plain old good housekeeping. Keeping the area around Junior clean and dust free. Dirt and dust are the major destroyers of keyboards and are the cause of heat buildup on circuit boards. Dust on a diskette may cause a read/write head to "bounce" and leave you with a damaged disk. Smoke can be drawn into Junior and coat your circuit boards, preventing them from getting adequate cooling. Prevent this dust from collecting by using covers on Junior, its keyboard and your printer. Make sure that the vents on Junior aren't covered with papers and that your display is in a location that will allow it to adequately dissipate heat.

One further method of pm is a good "Spring Cleaning." Bring your Junior in this month, or get the handouts on how to clean your equipment. No matter how prudent we are about covering our Juniors and protecting them, they still will take in dust and dirt particles along with Pop Tart crumbs and salt from the popcorn, not to mention ashes from my brother-in-law's cigar.

By attending "Spring Cleaning" night, you will see how to gain access into Junior, see what cables come loose so easily, find out where those noises come from and what to lubricate. You will see what's inside both Junior's CPU and keyboard. As Jacqueline said in her article, just by becoming more familiar with what you have can go a long way in solving your own problems when that day comes when Junior lets you down.

Editor's Note: If there really is an AJ in the computer repair business, forgive us for using your name. It was purely coincidental...honest.

SuperCalc 3 Deal

We received a note from Norman Shatz of the Puget Sound PCjr Users Group who informs us that he has a few copies of the PCjr version of SuperCalc 3. He is making them available for only 13.95, but you may want to call Norm first to make sure that he still has one left; they are sure to go pretty quickly at this price. This is the version that sold for \$195, and are in sealed packages, and will work well on a 128K junior.

If you are not familiar with SuperCalc, it is an easy-to-use spreadsheet and graphing program that can be used in an almost unlimited range of financial, engineering and scientific applications. You can do "what ifs" by changing one input to see how the overall results will be affected.

You can call Norm in the evenings at (206) 745-9685, or write him at 6021 140th SW, Edmonds, WA 98020. Tell him Junior sent you.



Q. Things don't look quite right on my monitor. Is there a method to move what I see on my screen over a notch or two?

A. Yes, there sure is. We are all familiar with MODE.COM. When we type in MODE 80 we get an 80-column screen. MODE CO80 gives us an 80-column screen in color. To go further, MODE 80,R will make your screen shift one notch to the right. If you want your screen to be moved to the left, you would type in MODE 80,L. If you aren't sure which way to move your display, type in MODE 80,L,T and you will get the digits 0-9 printed eight times across the screen. You will also be asked if you can see the last digit. If you answer N for no, the display will shift until you answer Y. Neat, huh?

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER accepts advertising at the following rates:

- 1 Page - \$18.00
- 1/2 Page - \$ 9.00
- 1/4 Page - \$ 5.00

Classified "For Sale" ads in this section of the Newsletter are \$2 for 25 words or less to non-members and free to members on a one-time basis.

Ads should be placed at least two weeks before the next club meeting, and all payments should accompany the ad request.

WANTED: 128K sidemount expansion unit. Ralph Fredericks, 140 Willamette #105, Eugene, OR 97401 or lets talk at the meeting.

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER is available for \$12/year or as part of the paid-up Eugene PCjr Club membership at \$20/year. Nonsubscribers may receive one free copy of the Newsletter on request. The over-worked Editor accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the information, opinions, or materials contained in this Newsletter. Reprint permission is freely given; please credit the appropriate author and the EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER. All contributions are encouraged and are gratefully accepted.

Make check or money order out to: EUGENE PCjr CLUB, 1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401. Please furnish the following:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____

MORE NEW MEMBERS NEEDED



EUGENE PCjr CLUB

1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220
Eugene, OR 97401

Richard Page 8/88
5025 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97405

