FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
by Phil Janz

Festive moods and holiday feelings are in the air and as hard as it is to believe, the Christmas season is fast approaching. What a setting for the November 9 Club meeting with GRAPHICS as our centerpiece! Club members will demonstrate a variety of programs that would be great additions to your home disk library . . . for all family members of any age.

. Christine Brown will review share ware graphics.

. Cindy and Lindsey Hoffman will share results of "Award Maker" and "Childrens' Writing and Publishing" with us.

. Mike Luttio will provide an overview of "Print Shop" (revised addition).

. Bob Denning has a real touch with the "Koala Pad" and all kinds of interesting and creative graphics tend to flood his screen. Kids love this hardware and Bob will give us the inside slant on its many and varied uses.

Come and join us over a cup of coffee and a goodie as we `mess around' with graphics. Two neat door prizes will be awarded at the end of the meeting and a table full of "freebie" material will be available. We will also be taking a Club order for printer ribbons.
                    See you at 7:00 p.m. on November 9.

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WALK RIGHT IN

The November meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held in the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, on the 9th. Set up and disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm.
The Club has made a special purchase on Memorex disks and on Disk Tubs; both will be available at the meeting.

PC-BROWSE & PC-WRITE LITE
NEW PROGRAMS FROM THE MAKERS OF
PC-WRITE

Quicksoft, Inc. has come out with a compact version of its popular word processing program, PC-Write. For simple writing, not requiring much formatting, PC-WRITE LITE may be what you need.
LITE claims to be fast, simple to use, no nonsense. But that doesn't mean it is devoid of features. It has a 24 lesson tutorial, three information lines at the top of the screen, menus, speedy function keys, macro support, page preview mode, automatic timed file saving, an undelete function and many more goodies.

The program is PC-Write keystroke-compatible and saves files as straight ASCII text, just like PC-Write.

LITE requires 256K RAM (384K if you use its 50,000 word spell checker) and one floppy disk drive. Quicksoft sells it for $49.00 with disks, manual and technical support. (Current registered PC-Write owners can purchase it for $29.00.)

The other recent product release is PC-BROWSE. It is a bit harder to describe. Quicksoft calls it "a file scan and hypertext information tool that lets you view files and search them for information". (It was going to be called PC-Look, but that conflicted with another company's product name.)

With it in memory you can pop up DOS file directories or a text file and then return to your original program. You can "cut and paste" from one program to another.

Forgotten which file has the information you need? PC-Browse can search through files looking for key words you remember from that illusive file. All it takes is remembering one word from the file you want.

PC-Browse has a cross-referencing feature. It allows you to create your own menu systems, windows, hotkeys, or bookmarks.

PC-Browse requires 60K RAM and one floppy disk drive. Quicksoft also sells it for $49.00 with disks, manual and technical support. (Current registered PC-Write owners can purchase it for $29.00.)

                                    Dick Page

3.5 Inch Drive = Compatibility +

How are you coping with Junior? When you found out that many computers were using two disk drives, did you go out and buy another drive for your Junior? Have you added additional memory so you can run the new power-hungry software? Have you thought about buying one of the new lap-top computers that use those 3.5 inch, 720K disks, but are holding back because you don't want to go out and purchase all new software in a new format? Well, here is one answer.

Back in August, Dennis Rome reviewed the 3.5 inch disk drive which is marketed for the PCjr by Paul Rau. As our newsletter has less coverage than the Junior Report we don't get much hardware to evaluate from manufacturers like Paul Rau, so we are keenly interested in reviews that appear in other newsletters. Dennis says that "Keeping the PCjr current with the new technology is a problem that faces all PCjr owners." This is very true if you are a busy person who uses a PC at the office, a Junior at home, and you need a lap-top for your business trips.

The Paul Rau unit comes with its own power supply and cooling fan all in one case that sits either next to or on your Junior. You must remove the PCjr disk drive controller cable and replace it with the one that comes with your 3.5 inch drive. One end of the new cable attaches to your present drive controller card, your old disk drive and will extend out the side of Junior to the new 3.5 inch drive.

You must create a new CONFIG.SYS file and that's about it. The 3.5 inch drive, because it has its own power supply, has its own on/off switch which you will have to remember to turn on when you begin and off when you finish, but this can all be done with a power strip.

It is interesting to note that you should format your new 3.5 inch disks with the software provided with the drive, FORMAT35. Using this program will format your disks for 720K while the format program with DOS 2.1 formats them to only 360K. Once formatted, you can then copy software from your 5.25 inch drive to your new 3.5 inch drive. Dennis noted in his review that he was able to copy BOTH the program disk and spelling disk for WordPerfect onto one 3.5 inch disk. This alone may be enough to warrant the purchase of a new external drive as you avoid purchasing new software for use in your lap-top. It sounds to me that Paul Rau's 3.5 inch drive gives added life to Junior and the word compatible.

**Power Up
Your Peanut**

Building an .ARC File
by David Wilson

One of the most confusing areas of computer operations confronting the new user (and many with experience, too!) is that of file compression. Very simply put, this is the use of some fairly arcane computer routines to place several files into one large file, reducing each in size as they are moved to the new one. In other words, they are compressed into a single file - hence, file compression. This is done so as to reduce the disk space a file occupies and thus allow more files to be stored in the same amount of memory.

This compression is accomplished by the use of a number of different methods with names such as squeezing, crunching, packing, and several other colorful terms - none of which are of particular interest to the novice, since we have no control over which is used, anyhow. When the file has been compressed, it is placed into another file along with the others selected as part of the overall file. This master file is given a name and the program assigns a distinctive extension to it which indicates that it is indeed a compressed file. The most common of these is the .ARC extension (which stands for "archive," and is the copyrighted property of SEA, Inc.), but you may also see such extensions as .SQZ, .LIB, and even .ZOO, among others.

One of the more violent topics of discussion among frequent users of Bulletin Boards in recent months has been the Phil Katz/SEA lawsuit. Here's a brief rundown of the controversy and comment on why it's important to you. Without going into the merits of anyone's case, this is what happened: SEA, Inc., developed the .ARC format and released it to the public domain. Phil Katz wrote a program which compresses and extracts files using the .ARC format, only his PKARC and PKXARC programs did it far more efficiently and quickly than SEA's ARC/ARCE programs. SEA sued Katz, saying that .ARC and "archiving" files was their exclusive property.   Katz settled and the court issued a consent order in which he agreed not to use the terms any more. That's where things stand as of this writing.

Katz's programs are still by far the most effective and popular method of file compression/extraction, but under the terms of the agreement he has renamed them PKPAK and PKUNPAK. Since they remain the most useful and popular utilities of their type, it is probable that you'll need to look into them sooner or later.

There is complete documentation contained in the compressed file available on any local BBS, so we won't go into the operation of the utility other than to point out that you get it as a "self-extracting" compressed file with the file extension .EXE. Simply copy it to a formatted disk with plenty of space and type the filename, and the compressed file will extract itself. (This file can be either PK361.EXE or PKPAK.EXE or a similar name. PAK10 is not the Phil Katz program, but is put out by an entirely different company.) The extracted files will include a .DOC file, which gives a complete description of the capabilities and functions of the main programs. Read it - it's easy to follow and will give you a much better idea of what you can do and how to do it, than this article.

One final note: Phil Katz has promised that he will release an entirely new file compression/extraction utility in January of this year, so it's possible that you may be seeing a new program making the rounds by the time you read this. While this one promises to be a considerable improvement over the .ARC format, it'll probably be months or even years before all the files presently ARC'ed can be converted to the new system. So you'll want to hang on to the current one - at least for a while.

(From Metro PCjr Journal, orginally publlished in the Orphan Peanut)

———

"Remember, having a PCjr isn't just owning a computer - it's a lifestyle."
Harrison Day, The Junior Report

WORDPERFECT 5.0 and JUNIOR

If you recently up-graded to WP's 5.0 and find it difficult to load on your Junior, try using a new CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC. BAT file. The following files seem to work well:

```
CONFIG.SYS file
device=jrconfig.dsk -d2 -e3 -f7 -s19 -t3
files=20
buffers=20

AUTOEXEC.BAT file
COPY COMMAND.COM C: >NUL
SET COMSPEC=C:\COMMAND.COM
COPY *.FIL C: >NUL
B:
A:WP
C:
```

The diskette in the A drive should be "bootable" with the following files on it: JRCONFIG.DSK, AUTOEXEC.BAT, COMMAND. COM and WP.EXE (from your WordPerfect Program Disk 1). You will also have to have the WordPerfect Program Disk 2 in the B drive.

We have found that having an internal clock to date your files is nice, and THINFONT is even nicer. Otherwise you will have to put DATE into your AUTObat file if you wish to keep an accurate track of file creation dates. Also, if your system doesn't "leave" you in 80 columns, you'll have to put MODE.COM on your boot disk along with the appropriate command in the AUTObat file.

If you are still avoiding the WP program, take a look at it on a Junior Color Display!

THE FAMILY PET

TO OIL, OR NOT TO OIL, THAT IS THE QUESTION

We have long advocated routine maintenance of disk drives by oiling the upper drive rails. That is a typical activity at our Spring Cleaning meeting.

An article in the Sept.-Oct., 1989 issue of jr Newsletter questions the appropriateness of oiling. It says to meerly clean off the rails. Oiling may quiet the drive for a while, but eventually regular oiling can accelerate wear of the drive mechanisms.

The article even questions the use of specialty oils, such as Radio Shack's Teflon Oil. It "will initially make a drive run smoother and quieter. Then dust and aging take their toll, making the head access time take longer and longer, until errors occur once again."

My feeling is that the "enemy" isn't oil, the enemy is dust. If you use oil on your rails you will have to check them on a regular basis. The Teflon oil does help attract deposits. It also helps the drive run more quietly.

What are your thoughts? Sounds like a topic of discussion for the club.

Dick Page

R. I. P. Silver Reed

You may notice that this issue of your newsletter is in multipal type faces. It is normally done on a Silver Reed EXP500 using a 12 pitch Letter Gothic print wheel. Well, the printer we have been using for the past umpteen years began to bet tired (like many of us) this past week and is having trouble going back and forth.

This issue of the newsletter was done on three different printers . . . try to see if you can tell which articles were done on an Okidata, a Seikosha, and the old daisy-wheel.

Two Tools From John King's Tool Box
A File and A Buffer

John King has some good advice for those of us who are using the Tecmar jrCaptain memory expansion. When you find system crashes occurring when you have loaded BUFFERS greater than 4, John says to look at the software, the CONPCJR.EXE memory management program.

John says that the CONFIG.SYS file BUFFERS= command first allocates memory for the disk buffers. CONPCJR called in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file then sets the video buffer page location.. With DOS 2.1, there is only room for BUFFERS=4 to 7 when the video buffer is at page 2. If you want to use more buffers, large device drivers, or DOS 3.X, you must move the video buffer up to page 4 to allow room.. This is done with a command such as the following in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file: CONPCJR -P4

Since each video page is 16K, page 2 starts at 32K, and page 4 starts at 64K. The result is 32K of RAM less for programs when using page 4. Attempts to use page 3 produces the same problems as with page 2, unfortunately, due to the way the software is written.

If you are totally confused by all of this, go over to page six and look at Dick Page's "Heard on the Street" column. His article "Easy Speedups" does a good job of covering both BUFFERS and FILES.

One thing nice about being a member of the Eugene PCjr Club is having Dick's phone number!

BRING IN YOUR MEMOREX PROOF-OF-PURCHASES
FROM YOUR MEMOREX PRODUCTS TO THIS
MONTH'S MEETING

"HEARD (HERD?) ON THE STREET"
----

by Dick Page

jr REPORT IS HISTORY

We now have only one national magazine devoted exclusively to IBM PCjrs - the jr Newsletter. This is because jr Report has decided to call it quits.

Anyone with at least six months left on their jr Report subscription will now receive jr Newsletter in its place.

Thank you Harrison Day for the fine newsletter you published. And thanks to you and Tom Crider of jr Newsletter for working out the transfer of the jr Report subscriptions.

Rates for the jr Newsletter are $19.00 per year. Write them at:

jr Newsletter
P.O. Box 163
Southbury, CT 06488

REDUCING EYE STRAIN

Erik Christensen from Cambridge, MA writes that he reduced the glare and improved the contrast and character resolution of his PCjr by attaching a Curtis Anti-Glare Glass Filter to it.

It is model no. GF-2 and retails for $59.95. He purchased it for $39.95 from PC Connection (800-243-8088).

He also uses the Thin-Font Module which he bought from PC Enterprises (call 800-922-PCJR) and thinks the Curtis filter and module are a must-have combo for the PCjr.

taken from jr Newsletter
May, 1989

KEYBOARD NOT WORKING?
CHECK THIS OUT

The August 1989 issue of Portland PCjr Club Newsletter has a helpful tip. One of the members was having trouble getting his PCjr keyboard to work. It turned out that all that was needed was to clean the infrared tube in the PCjr that receives the signal from the keyboard.

Remember what Mom always said:

"Cleanliness Is Next To Godliness".

EASY SPEEDUPS

Every time you start up the computer, DOS sets aside a small amount of memory for files and buffers. You can change the amount of files or buffers with simple commands in you CONFIG.SYS file.

The number of files any process can have open at one time is controlled by the FILES= line. DOS automatically sets up 8, but uses five of them for itself (standard input/output, error, auxillary, and standard printer).

It is usually recommended that you add the line FILES=20 to your CONFIG.SYS file. It only uses 48 bytes per file and DOS can more quickly and easily access the files your programs use.

A BUFFERS= line in your CONFIG.SYS file controls the number of disk buffers DOS establishes. When you read data from a disk, it stays in a "buffer". If you need to reread that same data, DOS can take it from the buffer rather than going through the slow process of starting up the disk drive and reading the data off your program disk.

The BUFFERS= line uses more memory than FILES= does. Therefore, depending on the type of program you are using, you should set your BUFFERS= at between 10 and 25.

If your applications do little random reading and writing of records, a low BUFFERS= number is all that is needed.

However, if you use data-base type programs, or ones that perform a lot of random reads and writes of records (such as many BASIC programs do), then you should increase the number of buffers to 20 and see if your program runs faster.

from PC Magazine, July '89
and the DOS 2.1 manual, chapter 4

(PS: If you want to try this but don't know how to go about it, ask at the next club meeting!)

DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNIFICANCE OF
MARCH 19, 1985
JANUARY 24, 1989
FEBRUARY 24, 1989
AND
JANUARY 24, 1994?

IBM will continue to supply PCjr parts until January 24, 1994 - five years from the day IBM officially ceased marketing Junior (January 24, 1989).

A chill goes through my spine when I think of March 19, 1985. That's the day IBM sent us all into a panic when it announced it would no longer produce IBM PCjrs. [It's the event that got this club started!]

And on February 24, 1989 IBM stopped providing live support on its PCjr Hotline.

Parts are still available from the IBM Parts Order Center in Boulder, Colorado. They can be reached at (303) 924-4100. You must know the part number you need. It can be found in Section 6 of the PCjr Hardware Maintenance & Service manual.

[The club will soon have a copy of the manual which you can borrow.]

taken in part
from the jrNewsletter
May, 1989

THE 7 DEADLY SINS
OF COMPUTING

The August issue of PC Resources has a good, in-depth article on preventing computer disasters. Here is a summary of the Seven Deadly Sins:

1.) **Just Say No!** Keep food and drinks away from your computer.

2.) **Smoke: The #1 Killer.** Smoke can damage your CPU as well as your lungs.

3.) **Don't Commit Disk Abuse.** Handle those diskettes with care.

4.) **Avoid Dangerous Moves.** If you have a hard drive, don't move it while the computer is on. [If you transport your PCjr, put the packing cardboard insert or a scrap diskette in your floppy drives.]

5.) **Don't Commit Cable Crimes.** You may get away with attaching or detaching connections while the computer is running. However, sooner or later the little electrical zaps that happen each time will take their toll.

6.) **Static Electricity is a Fatal Attraction.** Here are the commandments you shall not break:

a.) I will not work inside my computer while standing on a rug or carpet.

b.) Before touching a board or chip, I will ground myself.

c.) I will never touch the pins on a chip or the gold card-edge connector on a board.

d.) If a part comes packaged in a static-resistant plastic pouch, I will slip the board halfway out without touching it and install it carefully.

7.) **Backup, Backup, Backup!** You're guilty of the most serious sin of all if you don't have backups of all you programs and data. Remember to Copy, copy, COPY!

The last words of the article:

"Go, and sin no more."
_____

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Make check or money order out to:

EUGENE PCjr CLUB, 1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401. Please furnish the following:

Name_____
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City_____State_____
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SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

When the church secretary booted up her Junior she noticed that it didn't hum and purr like it normally did. When it got to 256K she got the BASIC screen; no more disk drive. What to do? Call your local Junior Club, of course.

A "rep" arrives to look it over. Ummm. It can't be the mother board, internal power card or transformer as it counted to 256K and went into BASIC. Must be the drive itself. But, no; there is no power going to the drive! That's it! Either the power transformer isn't putting out enough juice or the card has a problem.

Home goes the power supply; yep, it works alright on another Junior. (That's a little scary from what I've read!) Remove the internal power card and take it over and try it in the church's Junior. (That is even more shaky than plugging in the suspect transformer!) Great, it boots! So, the internal power card was bad.

Paster calls downtown and the repairperson says they have one for $30 exchange. He picks it up, installs it and the secretary to go back to work. Junior Club comes through again!

Some Facts About DISKCOPY

The DOS command DISKCOPY is one way to copy the information from one diskette to another, but keep these points in mind:
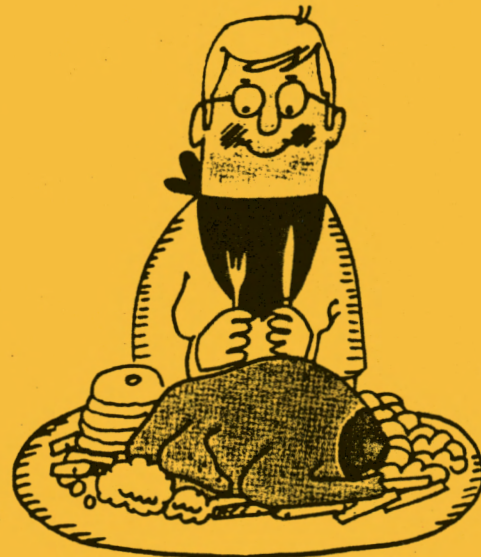
It makes a "carbon copy" of the diskette you are copying from. This means if you use a single sided diskette as your source, your copy will be formatted as a single sided disk, too. (So you won't be able to add files to it once the single side is full.)

Also, unlike the COPY *.* command, if there are any bad sectors on your target diskette, DISKCOPY will still try to write to them and will give you a copy that may be imperfect.

The preferred way to copy diskettes is to FORMAT first and then use the COPY *.* command. It's slower, but your copy will be more reliable.

(from the jr Newsletter)

"When...the urge comes upon you to sell
(your PCjr), ...just say NO."
        Harrison Day, The Junior Report

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        1 Page - $18.00
        1/2 Page -   9.00
        1/4 Page -   5.00
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the Newsletter are $2 for 25 words or less
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one-time basis. Ads should be placed at
least two weeks before the next club
meeting, and all payments should
accompany the ad request.

Happy Thanksgiving

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