



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Volume VII
Number 1

January 1991

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

MEETING

AGENDA

The January meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held in the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, on the 10th. Set up and disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm.

OFFICERS

President Phil Janz
Vice President Cindy Hoffman
Treasurer Christine Brown
Disk Librarian Paul Bonney
Ass't Disk Librarians
Lindsey Hoffman
Cindy Page
Simon Ratti
Documents Librarian Dick Page
Modem Captain Louie Levy
Commercial Contact Mike Luttio
Social Director Elleen Levy
Newsletter Editor Louie Levy
Contributing Editor Dick Page
Founders and First
President Dick Page, Bill Roy
Ginny Dobson

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Welcome to the New Year! Our resolution is to continue furthering the Club's success story. . . Active membership, maximum participation, growing knowledge and skill, along with the enjoyment and fun of sharing and learning together.

Sounds good doesn't it? Well it should! Actually, our wish list is simply a continuation of how 1990 has gone for us. I encourage each and every Club member and family member to make an extra effort to attend and participate in our coming monthly meetings and workshops.

January ushers in the new club year for us with a complete and well rounded program and of course with "Jr" at center stage. . . A tested and accomplished performer with another successful year under its logo. As a wise computer sage, with initials of L.L. once said, "Working with 'Jr' is like an ideal marriage: Mutual respect, compatibility, productivity along with fun and games leads to a long lasting and wonderful relationship!"

At our January 10 Club Meeting there will be:

- * An overview of JR. POWER PACK II by Dick Page. An opportunity for a few additional interested club members to register for the following evening hands-on workshop will be available through Treasurer Christine Brown.
- * Frank Ratti will demonstrate FLIGHT SIMULATOR.
- * Louie Levy will have another go at demonstrating that elusive program, BOOKBASE. A new addition to our Library that will assist you in putting together an inventory of your home library.
- * Disk Librarian Paul Bonney will demonstrate an educational or game program for kids.

Come and join us over a cup of coffee and a goodie provided by Christine Brown. An interesting door prize will be awarded at the end of the meeting and a table full of "freebie" material will be available.

Phil Janz



PCjr Club Newsletter
Portland, Oregon

6 Dec 90
Robert Mueller - Pres
8701 NE Tillamook
Portland, OR 97220

FINAL EDITION

by Robert Mueller, President

Our Portland PCjr Club has a membership of 41 spread from Woodburn to Vancouver, Washington. At our last Club meeting the principal topic was dissolution of the Club.

Many comments were made about the Club's usefulness and the help that many members received. Members present were reluctant to think of the Club's demise, but nobody volunteered to become an officer. A final vote sealed the fate of our Club and its efforts.

Most of our membership expressed interest in continuing some sort of "jr" contacts for support purposes and hopefully this will come about through suggested periodic gatherings at someone's home.

As past President I will host such a gathering at my home on Jan. 5 at 1:00 p.m. The main emphasis for this gathering is making use of my six "jr's" and everyone present taking advantage of a mass disk copy effort, from our Club Library to your home library!

Various pieces of Club hardware, including the Club's CPU (PCjr) are being given away to members by a drawing that will be held on January 5.

The membership and I want to express its gratitude to John Snyder for starting this Club about six years ago. Many people have learned about their computers and have had enjoyable experiences with their use. Without clubs such as this, the world of computers will not reach the general public.



EUGENE CLUB OFFERS CONTINUED
SUPPORT TO PORTLAND MEMBERS
by Phil Janz, President

President Mueller's December newsletter struck a sad but understandable note with me. Maintaining participation and leadership within a club is a difficult goal to achieve, but through such an active support system family members can successfully learn to use their computer and enjoy its many and varied products.

As we all know the PCjr is a powerful little critter that can be purchased at a reasonable price and enhanced far beyond the expectations of its producers! A wonderful entry level machine that can soar to great heights with dedicated users. . . A major common denominator for success and achievement however, is a SUPPORT GROUP. . . A CONTACT PERSON. . . A CONSTANT FLOW OF CURRENT INFORMATION.

Members of both the Portland and Eugene Club know these things, and so, as a group who advocates for "jr" and its users, we will take action in the following way to assist any Portland Club member:

* Mail the January Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter to all Portland Club members.

* Attend the January 5 meeting at President Mueller's home and offer free membership in the Eugene Club for the balance of each member's paid up dues in the Portland Club. This would mean our newsletter and Club support services and library would be available.

* Ask of the Portland group what type of networking system might be set up to support and further their interest in "jr" and see if such ideas could be put into practice.

If you as a Portland PCjr Club member are interested in what we are suggesting, please attend the January 5 meeting and share your thoughts and feelings with us. We plan to attend this important meeting and are looking forward to meeting you!

Ed's Letter

The Christmas Potluck was a grand success. Everything was eaten before the snow and ice came to Eugene. What a wonderful white Christmas Junior and the family had! But now, the PCjr Club is gearing up for its (would you believe) SIXTH birthday!

It's good to know that IBM makes things to last. It's no telling what computer we would all have now if Big Blue had built Junior like many of the clones. Have you noticed how many clones are at the repair shops?

We are saddened with the loss of the Portland PCjr Club, our sister club to the north. It was started at the same time the Eugene Club began, during the "big push" by IBM at the end of 1985. All of us appreciate the efforts of folks like John Snyder who started the Portland Club. Down here, we give constant thanks to Bill Roy and Dick Page for their efforts in getting a broad-based support group off the ground. Each time any of us do a long calculation on a spreadsheet, make a new micro with WordPerfect, or just make a successful landing with Flight Simulator (Fright Stimulator?), we owe folks like John, Bill and Dick a vote of thanks. Had they not had the determination to form support groups, I doubt that many of us would have ever gone past the A>.

The New Year! Prez Phil carried the ball to Portland and we have instantly gained 41 new members! We hope the vast majority of the Portland group will continue with us this year as we strive to bring a little something for everyone both in the Newsletter and at the meetings. Remember, the Eugene PCjr Club is a family-based club. Each and every member of your family is a member when YOU join. The meetings have something for everyone and we hope you will help us make the Newsletter do the same. When you drop us a note to wish us a happy new year, let us know what we can do to help make the new year be a better and more productive one for Junior!

Louie Levy

RAMDISK RAMBLINGS

by PAUL BOONEY

As a long time user of the program *JUNIOR POWER PACK II*, obtained from the Eugene PCjr Club disk library, I wonder how many club members have been in the same boat that I have. That is I used STATLIN, LIST and CLEAN2 without ever trying the RAMDISK feature, probably the most important advantage to having the *POWER PACK* program. How is it possible for RAMDISK to be another drive? Really! Once you find out, the idea is simplicity in the extreme. Three years using the PCjr equipped with only one disk drive, swapping disks while using the single drive as A and B according to the directions in the DOS 2.10 manual, I dreamed how much easier the copying work would be with another drive.

Explanation: The IBM instruction Book *Using IBM PCjr Memory Options* has the key sentence, "The computer recognizes the memory disk as drive C." Perhaps if it had said "the Ramdisk" I might have tumbled. Anyway, finally following the instructions with the *JUNIOR POWER PACK II*, I recently copied JRCONFIG.DSK onto a system disk and also followed the instructions:

```
copy con config.sys
device=jrconfig.dsk -s200 -t2 -c
^Z
```

(s200 for 200K RAMDISK, t2 for my black and white monitor and c for key clicks.) Note: to use the *JUNIOR POWER PACK II* program, you need at least 256K. Thanks to PC Enterprises, recommended by member Dick Page, my Junior is now equipped with 640K.

Now for the easy part. To use any program, copy it onto the C drive with the command COPY ANYFILE C: Wondering if it's there? Enter the command DIR C: and you will see. Or, copy a bunch of files (up to 200K or so) with the command COPY *.* C:. What a time consuming job that used to be with the single drive switching disks at least twice for every file to be copied! To work from the files in your ramdisk, change to drive C by entering the command C: and note that your prompt now reads C>. If at this time you want a directory of files on the disk in drive A, enter DIR A:. To change back to working with the disk in the A drive, just enter the command, A:

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TO GET MORE OUT OF YOUR CLUB
PUT MORE INTO IT!

Ever since acquiring my PCjr about three years ago, I have been doing word processing with the WordStar program which uses three elementary units named WS.COM, WSMGS.OVR and WSOVLY1.OVR. By loading these three files into drive C, after booting with POWER PACK Ramdisk, I can write a letter, report or memo with the PCjr operating entirely internally. Once started, the red drive light stays dark indicating no calls for information from the mechanical disk drive. Operation is very much faster when all data is exchanged internally without having the process "get information" from the mechanical drive. One caution: when it's time to save a completed document or letter, it will be in the ramdisk (C drive), and it must be copied to a disk in the A drive; otherwise it will be lost the instant Junior is turned off. Long files should be saved in parts. (In case of a power failure the file would be lost).

Finally, I have been enlightened as a cooperating user of shareware to comply with the PCjr Club's Bylaws (Article 9, Paragraph A) to send \$10 to Larry Newcomb, the originator of *JUNIOR POWER PACK II*.

(Ed's note: *JUNIOR POWER PACK II* is Disk U-611 in the Eugene PCjr Club Library.)

Q: JRCONFIG operates on my Junior just great, but there is one noticable difference when I use it--programs seem to run slower in RAM created with JRCONFIG than with MDISK.COM, my Racore device driver.

A: You are correct! The answer comes from John King in the April issue of *The San Francisco PCjr Users' Group Newsletter*. John says that ramdisks formed by JRCONFIG are about 20% slower than most other ramdisks due to their smaller cluster size. JRCONFIG uses 128 byte clusters rather than the normal 512 or 1024 byte clusters created by other programs.

WE'RE NEVER TOO
BUSY TO HELP OUR
MEMBERS

Are You In Trouble?

- You know you're in trouble when...
You turned on Junior's power switch 5 minutes ago and the screen is still dark.
- You know you're in trouble when...
Junior boots but instead of an A> on the screen you see **:
- You know you're in trouble when...
Junior gives the message on your screen, "Invalid version of BASIC" after you have spent two hours typing in a BASIC program from a computer magazine.
- You know you're in trouble when...
You boot Junior and instead of getting one beep or even two, you get a continuous stream of beeps.
- You know you're in trouble when...
The Junior Club meeting starts at seven o'clock and you arrive at 7:05 only to find the doors locked.
- You know you're in trouble when...
You find little brown things on the pad every morning by your new mouse.
- You know you're in trouble when...
The new printer cable you purchased to replace the one that was two feet too long is two inches too short.
- You know you're in trouble when...
You upgrade your 256K Junior with another memory sidecar and when you turn it on, Junior begins to boot after only 128K.
- You know you're in trouble when...
After hacking away at a new program for three hours trying to get it to run, you open the manual and it says, "Irreparable damage will occur if you attempt to run the main program before running the install program."
- You know you're in trouble when...
Your telephone rings at the same time you connect with that BBS in another city.
- You know you're in trouble when...
You boot Junior and get the IBM logo on the TV screen in the living room.

Continued on next page

You know you're in trouble when...
Junior beeps once...and you
haven't turned it on yet.

You know you're in trouble when...
You copy an article like this
from the *Appleugene News &
Views* when they have, in turn,
copied it from an article by Paul
Ramer in the *PAC News Newslet-
ter* from down in Amarillo, TX.
Only the names of the machines
have been changed to protect the
innocent, or whatever.

Louie

NOBEEP . . BEEP

If you have been having trouble with Prodigy "beeping" back at you instead of "keeping on keeping on," NOBEEP is a small program that you may need. NOBEEP gives keyboard input priority over either your serial port or your disk drive. When the drive hums or when Prodigy inputs data into your serial port, Junior will listen to you and your inputs to the keyboard instead.

NOBEEP.COM is a small file that can be run from the A> or from an AUTOEXEC.BAT. It also comes in the form NOBEEP.SYS which is run in a CONFIG.SYS file. Either of them will fix the interrupts to Junior's BIOS during keystrokes, will patch the Interrupt 09 problem, adds Non-Maskable Interrupt protection, and supports up to 9600 baud if your modem is a screecher. The SYS file evens adds a keyboard buffer among other things. NOBEEP will soon be on one of the utility disks from the club's library, but for now, you can find in on...BookBase.

BookBase, as the name implies, is a library inventory program. While the program is pretty well self-explanatory in it's operation, it is interesting to note that it can hold up to 750 books on a single floppy, can search your library quickly to find individual books by author, title, category, key words and do many other chores to help you keep your library functional and worthwhile...even if your Junior only has 128K.

If you are interested in seeing BookBase in action, it will be demonstrated at Thursday's meeting. It's a pretty slick program and is now in the Club Library as disk number P-514.

Reflections on a Disk Library

Larry Rauh, the disk librarian of the Eugene PC User's Group (our "Big Daddy" Club with the "real" computers), said that "times have changed" with computer club disk libraries. How true it is. Larry told the readers of the Eugene Club's newsletter that, while the disk library served an important function in the early days of their club, things have changed. Disk sales have fallen to only a few each month even though the quality of the software has become quite comparable to more costly commercial programs.

This is true with most computer club libraries because, as Larry pointed out, "Modems have become the standard for most users and . . .bulletin boards are plentiful." Anyone with a modem has instant access to many of the same programs that our clubs' libraries have. . .and the BBS's are usually free. Our club library is no different from most others in that as each new program is acquired, our Disk Librarian must make a master disk. In his article, Larry pointed out that copies must be made from the "master program" disk, labels must be printed, all the disks cataloged and then brought to each meeting. The time and effort required to maintain the library in this manner no longer seems to be justified.

Larry's article is very significant to all of us; especially those of us who do NOT have modems! If we expect our library to justify the time and effort that Cindy and Lindsey Hoffman put into it getting such good, up-to-date programs last year, and the work that our present librarian, Paul Bonney, is putting forth, we must start giving it more support.

Buy a disk from your local club's library this month. They are very cheap and you will be supporting your club. If you don't want to serve as an officer of the club, take over the editorship of the newsletter, or serve as the Program Chairman, support your club by supporting your local disk library! Just think how much the club treasury would grow if each of us just bought one disk!

To Tell The Truth

David Wilson, the editor of Atlanta PCjr Users Group's nationally known *Orphan Peanut*, and who we quote at least four times a month, had a great editorial in their (last) January issue. David says that he gets several calls each month from people who say they have a 128K PCjr, but don't know if it's worth the effort and expense to upgrade it to the level of performance that is required to run the software that's in the stores today. They ask, "What do you think I should do?"

The answers that Dave gives them are worthy of our attention. He says that the questions are somewhat loaded as the callers are asking someone who is very involved in a PCjr club. Even so, David says that he wants to be honest with them, and for some the answer is probably no, they shouldn't spend the money. "If they are going to run huge spreadsheets or sort through monster databases, they should invest in a more powerful, speedier computer. Great advice; many times we are too close to Junior, and so, it is difficult for us to be as objective as Dave.

But what do you say to that person who tells you they can buy a brand new clone for what it would cost to upgrade their Junior with a second (hard, or floppy) drive and a memory boost to 640K? Dave says that it is "...true, but the quality and features you already have in Junior would take a lot more than that amount of money to duplicate. Besides," he goes on to say, "you already have your Junior. If you wish, you can add such goodies as full-sized keyboards, meece, modems and joysticks for around the same price they would cost for your plastic (no-name) clone."

Well said, David! As I sit here writing this, I just have to glance up at a photo I have sitting next to my monitor of David's office with his little single-drive Junior...with it's 736K, two hard drives and his cat sitting in the window eyeing his mouse!

HEARD on the Street

This has been an exceptional December; all the snow and ice has made it difficult, at best, for me to keep my ear attuned to the market place and what has been going on "on the street." Forgive us for the short column this month, but look forward to next month's "Heard On The Street."

DESTROYING COMPUTER VIRUS MYTHS

If you want to know more about computer virus myths, the *Hawkeye PC Newsletter* had a detailed five page report on them awhile back. This report, by Rob Rosenberger and Ross Green, was an excellent summary of this topic.

For example, did you know that a virus is a special kind of Trojan horse, but that a worm is not? This is because with a worm, there is no "gift" involved.

One myth debunked in the report is that Bulletin Board Systems and shareware programs spread viruses: "The truth," says *PC Magazine* publisher Bill Machrone, "is that all major viruses to date were transmitted by commercial packages and private mail systems, often in universities."

SAVING MEMORY IN YOUR AUTOEXEC.BAT FILE

In *Tip Sheet*, a reader suggests listing all memory-resident (TRS) programs before your PATH and PROMPT statements when you need all the memory you can get.

For example, if you have a long path (100 bytes) and a fancy prompt (25 bytes) and load four TSRs, you will save about 500 bytes by loading the TSRs first.

One cautionary note: Because the PATH is set after you load your memory-resident programs, you will have to supply full path names in the AUTOEXEC.BAT lines to load your TRS programs.

PC Resource, p 14, July 90

Computer Etiquette

People who utilize computer bulletin board systems sometimes don't know the rules of the road for BBS's and this can make life difficult for the systems operator. Joe Santacroce is the SYSOP for TINY BBS in Newburghiv, NY. His suggestions for good BBSing manners are important to know. They were reprinted in the Nov '89 issue of the San Francisco PCjr Users' Group Newsletter.

Joe's rules are too long to print here, but they are in our documents library. Here is one example of what he has to say:

"Rule #1: Don't habitually hang up on a system. Every SYSOP is aware that accidental disconnections happen once in awhile but we do tend to get annoyed with people who hang up every single time they call because they are either too lazy to terminate properly, or they labor under the mistaken assumption that the 10 seconds they save online is going to significantly alter their phone bill. "Call Waiting" is not an acceptable excuse for long. If you have it and intend to use the line to call BBS systems, you should either have it disconnected or find some other way to circumvent it."

TRICKING JUNIOR INTO USING A 3.5" DRIVE AS YOUR BOOT DRIVE

Dave Turson had an in-depth article in a past issue of the *Metro PCjr Journal* chronicling replacing his 5.25" drive with a 3.5" drive. With a little help from a friend who had an installed 3.5" drive, Dave made his new drive into Junior's boot drive so he could start up programs with up to 720K in the default Drive A.

The main trick to fooling Junior was adding DOS 3.3's DRIVER.SYS command to the CONFIG.SYS file on a bootable 3.5" disk (which Dave made on his friend's computer) using the line:

```
DEVICE=DRIVER.SYS /D:0
```

See you next month! Dick.



COMING WORKSHOPS

The October Club Newsletter provided a complete description of our coming workshops. Please refer to that issue if you are interested in workshop descriptions. The March workshop is a new addition and workshop content will be fully explained by instructor Frank Ratti at our regular Club meeting on March 14.

JANUARY:

** JR. CONFIG **
January 15

FEBRUARY:

** PC-FILE III, VERSION 4 **
February 19

MARCH:

** DOS/AUTOEXEC.BAT **
March 28
Instructor - Frank Ratti

"OK, sign me up"

PCjr Club WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Workshop Name: _____

FEE (\$5 per Workshop): _____

- * Workshop participants must be Club members in good standing. Club memberships are "family" memberships, and anyone in the family is eligible to participate.
- * Early registration is encouraged to ensure that the workshop will be able to take place.
- * Registration slips may be mailed to Phil Janz, 155 34th Place East, Eugene 97405.
- * Make checks payable to EUGENE PCjr CLUB.

YOUR AD HERE
ONLY COSTS
A DOLLAR

FOR SALE: 256K PCjr, Tecmar expansion, PCjr color display, Epson MX80 printer, 2 joysticks, DOS, BASIC cartridge, assorted software. \$400 or best offer. Fred, (503) 343-9224.

FOR SALE: 640K PCjr, PCjr color display, PCjr compact printer, DOS, BASIC cartridge, joystick and assorted software. \$390. Gary, (503) 341-6951.



ARE YOU MISSING
THE BALL WHEN IT
COMES TO COMPUTING?
JOIN YOUR LOCAL
COMPUTER CLUB!!

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