



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Volume VII
Number 5
May 1991

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

MEETING

AGENDA

The May meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held in the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, in Eugene on the 9th. Set up and disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm.

OFFICERS

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

FROM THE OVAL OFFICE Frank Ratti

Now that the grueling campaign is over and we have elected a slate of club officers, let me take a moment to consider the office I have won. Actually there are presidents of numerous other organizations, who would trade their position without hesitation for the presidency of the Eugene PCjr Club. Take Lee Iacocca, for instance. Last I heard his organization lost 60 million or was it 600 million last year. Not the PCjr Club. At our recent Board meeting we learned that the Junior Club has a balance of several hundred dollars, thanks to the capable treasuring of Christine Brown. How about Mikhail Gorbachev? What would he trade for the loyalty of the members of his club like that of PCjr owners? Even Norman Schwarzkopf, he had a great job, but his organization is disbanding. Not the Eugene PCjr Club. Thanks to the brilliant leadership of Phil Janz over the past two years this organization is not ready to fold. In fact it is stronger than before. I believe this is for reasons that transcend the actual IBM machine that is our focus.

What I am attracted to in this organization are at least three attributes, which have kept me committed for the past three years. The first is the strong cooperative relationships between members of this club. There is truly an atmosphere of friendship within the club, and that isn't an add-on that comes in a box. The club organization is quite productive with an efficient use of our precious time and talents. Third, there has been an opportunity for everyone to learn, from the children members to the old veterans, who have been with Junior since its genesis. Opportunities to learn have come in the form of being the receiver of demonstrations and workshops to being the teacher or demonstrator. I have certainly learned the most about my computer, when asked to prepare a demonstration for a meeting, and have swelled with pride, when witnessing my own eleven year old demonstrating a program in front of the crowd. I should add in summing up the attractions of Eugene PCjr Club that monthly provisions of chocolate brownies certainly don't hurt my motivation for attending meetings.

The May club meeting is our last for the 1990/1991 year, and it is a full schedule that will incorporate all the attributes discussed above including treats. First, our battle hardened four-star general Louie Levy

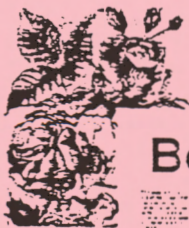
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is going to field-strip the club Junior down to its mother of all boards. Don't try this at home. Then the rest of us (bring your junior to the meeting) are going to open our lids and perform the sacred spring cleaning rite. Equipment such as a vacuum cleaner, cotton-swabs and lubricating oil are provided. Also, there will be demonstration installations of THIN FONT and TANDY MOD accessories (What are those, Dick?).

Then, with our Juniors in peak operating condition, we will have our annual SWAP MEET. Bring computer items: (disks/books/ games/ accessories/ instructions/cartridges) that you would trade for the summer or sell for keeps with others. Copyright rules are your only limits. Here is your opportunity to get a library disk, new game, or program that you can master as a summer project. Then come back next year and demonstrate it to the club. Finally during the May meeting we will have a discussion and survey of what your vision is for the 1991/1992 club meeting and workshop programs. As you can see this will be a full evening with practical and enjoyable results that you can use during those occasional summer doldrums.

Frank



Bouquets

This has been a good, successful year for our club. I would like to give "bouquets" to each person in the club as it takes everyone of us to keep it going. I feel space doesn't allow for naming everyone who has contributed to our success this past year, and many of you who live in other areas of the country wouldn't know these individuals anyway. But I do want to thank Phil Janz for the leadership he has given the club the past two years as our president. Frank Ratti, our new president, is correct when he says that "Phil is going to be a hard act to follow." We all know the great organizational and communication skills Phil has, but more importantly, he has shared with us his skill of making

friendships. I think that Phil has shown us something of what the Oregon spirit really is. Each of us has been helped in some way by his efforts.

As we reflect back over the officers who have stepped down to make way for others, we must thank Christine Brown for her job in building up our bank account and keeping us fiscally healthy. And we want to say "thanks" to Cindy, Dick, Paul, Mike and the rest of the crew who consented to continue to serve the club and help put the new Bylaws in motion. To Juanita for her help with the nominating committee, and all of you who help with programs, a special thanks.

May has historically been the last meeting before we break for summer. It will be our annual Spring Cleaning and Swap Meet. Reread Frank's opening letter and pack up all your "stuff" to trade, sell, loan or give away, and bring Junior if you haven't cleaned him for awhile. Dick will be installing reset switches in a few machines and will be making one Tandy Mod installation. The club also will have two Thin Font chips available for installation. If you want any of these services done to your Junior, call me (Louie) at 343-7592 as soon as possible. There will only be time for one Tandy Mod, so you do need to call. Costs will be \$20 for the Tandy Mod, \$22.50 for Thin Font and \$5 for the reset switch installation. This should prove to be an interesting meeting.

If you are a newsletter subscriber, remember that you have paid for 12 issues. Your expiration date will be extended three months to cover June, July and August. These issues will be combined into one issue in September. Your present expiration date should be printed next to your name on the mailing label. Most everyone will be in town over the summer, so if Junior gives you any problems, don't hesitate to write the club or call the Help Lines that are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

One more thank you: to the old Seikosha printer that has held up under both the club's workload and my own!

Louie Levy

" . . . I think a PCjr publication ought to be the product of a PCjr."

David Wilson, editor of
The Orphan Peanut.

Oops

The University of Oregon's Continuation Center in Portland and Eugene have been charged with copyright infringement. The lawsuit, filed by Software Publisher Association which has 60 such suits pending against corporations for software piracy, is the first to be brought against a university.

Filed on behalf of Aldus, Ashton-Tate, Claris, Lotus Development, Microsoft and WordPerfect corporations, the suit alleges that the center illegally reproduced 11 of the firms' software programs on as many as 60 computers at the center's two offices. The suit seeks impoundment of the center's existing software copies and money damages to be determined by a trial and they seek a court order to prevent the center from making more copies.

From the 4-25-91 issue of
the Eugene *Register-Guard*

QMODEM Give It A Whirl by Bob Gauthier

The wait is finally over and I've run out of excuses. I have finally given QMODEM a whirl.

Since my early days of personal computing I have used PROCOMM as my one and only communications program. This goes back to my PCjr days when I had a lot of trouble getting on line with my junior. I tried all kinds of programs in search of one that would run well (or at all) on my trusty old PCjr. I tried PC-Talk, PC-DIAL, TELIX, QMODEM (version 1.1) and finally stumbled on PROCOMM.

PROCOMM appealed to me because it was easy to learn and use and it made neat little noises when you went from window to window. It appeared to have all the bells and whistles that I thought I would ever use.

That was some five years ago and times have changed. In that time span I have seen my needs grow along with my computer system. Things that I thought were very important back then, now are somewhat meaningless. I even turned off

those aggravating sound effects in PROCOMM that I used to think were so "neat."

I hardly consider myself a power user but I have certainly graduated several steps up from the novice that I was five years ago.

I'm not going to go into great detail about QMODEM features here in this newsletter, for even though I have tried using QMODEM I have only used it a couple of times and can't talk very authoritatively about it. I will voice my opinion about what I think so far.

Like I stated earlier, I first viewed QMODEM back some five years ago when I was looking for a communications program to run on my junior. Back then I had several things running against me. First of all, I was just learning about computers. I didn't know the difference between a RAM chip and a potato chip. Next, I had a PCjr. I'm not knocking the junior; in fact, I'm kind of praising that little devil for if it wasn't for junior's little quirks, I wouldn't know what I know today about computers. The junior had a lot of non-standard features that one had to understand fully before certain software would run properly. Because of that and because IBM stopped it's support of the junior, I found myself reading computer book after computer book in an effort to gain more knowledge about my junior and to learn how to get around junior's little quirks.

Anyway, to get back on track, one of junior's quirks had to do with it's comm port, and many communications programs as well as modems just would not work with junior. Perhaps today given the same set of circumstances, I might be able to get some of the programs to work, but back then I was admittedly over my head, and whenever I hit a block I would just give up and try another program.

QMODEM 1.1 was my very first COMM program. I found it very confusing and hard to learn. It didn't seem to have very many bells and whistles and wouldn't run properly anyway, so I gave up.

PROCOMM, on the other hand, took to junior like a duck to water. I installed it and was downloading files from my local BBS in less than an hour. All this and I hadn't even read the manual.

Don't stop, there's more -->

I've always been a believer of the saying, "if it ain't broken, don't fix it!" But lately, curiosity has gotten the best of me so I gave QMODEM a shot.

When you compare the two up front you immediately see the difference. QMODEM comes on four disks and PROCOMM comes on two. I think PROCOMM installs a little easier but that's only because you have less features to configure.

There is on-line help available with both programs but here again, I think that QMODEM's help is a little clearer and there's more of it.

My first two attempts to download files with QMODEM were total disasters: what had become second nature with PROCOMM had become another learning experience with QMODEM. Again, this was my own fault because I had not configured the program properly and was trying to download with the wrong protocol. (I hadn't read the documentation either.) Speaking of protocols, QMODEM supports ZMODEM internally. That's something that PROCOMM does not do.

QMODEM comes with plenty of good clear documentation. About 250 pages of it, but don't worry if you don't have a lot of extra paper, or don't feel like listening to your printer bang away for two hours. The printdoc file gives you the option of printing it to a disk file. That way you can view it on your monitor.

I guess one of QMODEM's real strengths is in it's script language. Though I seldom if ever use script files, many people do, and they can be very powerful and useful. The script language that comes with PROCOMM is good, but not nearly as good or easy to understand as that which comes with QMODEM. In this department QMODEM wins hands down.

In closing let me say this. Software vendors generally release new versions of their software about once a year. Each new release adds new enhancements to the program and fixes any bugs that the earlier versions might have had. The question I have is this: Why is it that while both programs have been around for about the same amount of time, QMODEM is releasing version 4.2-E and PROCOMM is just now releasing version 2.0? I am using QMODEM 4.2-C which I have had since January, but it has already been upgraded twice since then. That's got to say something good

about the developers and their product. Chalk one up for QMODEM.

(Many thanks to Bob Gauthier who edits the *Newsletter of the Central Connecticut PC (PCjr) Group* for this article. You can contact this active and growing club by writing them at 781 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.)

Computer-Tutor

by Paul Bonney

Here are some highlights of the Computer Tutor disk in the Club Library. The disk's README file has clear instructions for making a working copy from your master diskette. Entering the command TUTOR is all that is needed to start the program. At the first menu, select color and whether you want sound effects. As soon as selections have been made, the main menu appears on the monitor listing the 8 tutorials available. Selecting the first title gives several pages of more detailed explanation of the program.

The second tutorial explains keyboard operation. As explained in the README file, you need to refer to the keyboard chart in your *PCjr Guide to Operations Manual*, page 4-9, to use this tutorial. The concept of a template in using the function keys for DOS is very useful. The exercises in the tutorial help explain this idea, and I have found the F3 (repeat the whole command) most useful. On a Junior, the F1 (requiring 2 key strokes) is less useful than the right arrow key, which will repeat the letters of a previous command one by one. Also, using the left arrow key will erase letters one at a time.

Menu 3 gives a short history of computers. There are 2 tutorials covering an elementary description of computer terms and parts of the computer. Menu 6 explains DOS commands, including the use of wild cards (* and ?) along with examples. Menu 7 gives advanced DOS commands including directories and path routines suitable for those who had added hard drives to their Juniors or who may use other computers that have hard drives. The final tutorial, Menu item 8, explains in detail about batch files. I have found

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batch files (including AUTOEXEC.BAT) save quite a bit of time getting started with word processing, spread sheet, data base or game programs. Explanation is needed for a paragraph in this tutorial which says "to terminate AUTOEXEC or any batch file before it is complete, use the break command [Control-Scroll Lock]." On the PCjr keyboard the correct command is FnB (Break).

Computer Tutor is Disk Number E-103 in the library, and it would be a great learning aid to use over the summer. You can learn to use DOS and Junior at your own pace.

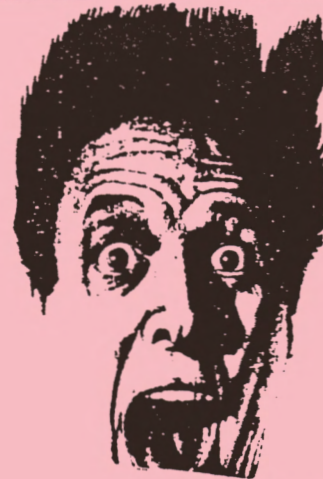
Attaboy. Buttonware



We must give recognition to ButtonWare and award them the "Good Guys of the Month" plaque. If you remember awhile back, someone purchased a new computer and donated their PCjr to the Lane County chapter of the American Diabetes Association. The ADA called the club for help getting their new Junior up and running, and part of our help was our donation of ButtonWare's PC-CALC. One of the Association's volunteers, Al Burns, asked for help with PC-CALC so we printed his request in the newsletter. Well, Al called to say that the good guys in Bellevue sent the Association their latest version of PC-CALC and made them a register user.

There are many reason to support companies who use the shareware method of product distribution. They let us "take a look" at their software and test-drive it to see if fits our needs. But as far as I'm concerned, companies like ButtonWare need special recognition for their support of us! If you are using any of their products (PC-FILE 5.0, PC-CALC+ 2.0, PC-TYPE II, or BAKER'S DOZEN), don't you think it's about time to thank them by registering your copy?

Back to the American Diabetes Association's plight, their Junior only has 128k! How about someone out there sending them some memory so they can get their new PC-CALC up and running. Lane County Chapter, American Diabetes Association, 99 West 10th, Suite 337, Eugene, OR 97401. It'll make your day much brighter. . .and it's tax deductible!



Crash!

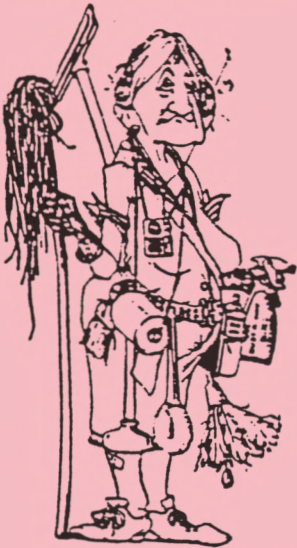
Did you know that most hard disk "crashes" are NOT actually caused by damage to the disk's surface or heads? According to an article in the *Eugene PC User's Group Newsletter* which they took from *Tips 'N' Topics from Other Newsletter* that was reprinted in *MICRO Scope*, Dave Brodeur says that "90 percent of the disk crashers" he has seen were due to circuit card failure.

In the case of the Seagate ST225 drive, a chip on the drive circuit board shorts and becomes excessively hot. Symptoms of this kind of failure are excessive SEEK failures and SECTOR NOT FOUND errors which progressively get worse until the drive fails completely. Replacement of the circuit card on the drive will, more likely than not, solve the problem without the loss of data. Removal of the board requires unscrewing three or four screws and three cables which plug into the board and hold it to the drive's casing.

Dave states that Seagate ST225 boards can be ordered from Computer Service Supply, PO Box 673, Hilltop Center Bldg. C, Londonderry, NH 03053, for \$75 with your old board in trade, or for \$110 without your board. Much less than an overhaul and your data is saved. CSC's phone number is 1-800-225-7815.

"I can't get excited about an XT- or AT-class machine, which really offer only an apparent improvement over your faithful Junior's 8088 processor."

David Wilson, in "The Orphan Peanut."



CLEAN UP
YOUR PCjr!!



Bring Junior
with you on
Thursday



Eyestrain

Many people other than our spouses are interested in our vision. Our two resident health professionals, Dick Page and Elleen Levy, bring many things to our attention that go a long way in giving us suggestions. Recently, Dick gave us an article from *The Quill Pen Pal*. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), along with the American Optometric Association, give us the following guidelines in their continuing efforts to save our eyes:

Over 75% of computer users report some form of visual discomfort while using a Video Display Terminal.

Blink your eyes every five seconds or so to moisten them, helping to prevent the burning feeling you may often get.

Place reference materials as close to your computer's display as possible to avoid frequent head and eye movements; also place the materials at the same distance as the display screen so your eyes don't have to refocus when you look from your copy to the screen.

Your screen should be from 14" to 20" from your eyes and the screen should be just below eye-level.

Minimize glare on your computer screen by keeping it away from uncurtained windows or other bright lights. If you can't control the location of your screen, consider a glare filter or ask your eye doctor about eyeglass lens tints and coatings that will help reduce glare.

The brightness of the lighting in your computing room should match the brightness of your monitor as closely as possible. Normally, this means reducing the lighting to about half of the customary brightness found in the average office.

Many of us forget that we can adjust the brightness of our display. Turning down the brightness may also relieve eyestrain.

The contrast between the characters on your screen and the background should be high.

Give your eyes a break every hour or so, or stop and work on something else if your eyes begin to tire. Give yourself an "alternate task" break.

Have regular eye exams: even a minor vision problem can create eyestrain or fatigue.

And one they didn't mention, consider purchasing the Thin-Font module for Junior if you do word processing and value your eyesight! Paying attention to your working environment and practicing good working habits will keep you producing quality products and will save your eyes.

What Did Junior Do This Month?

We got some response to our new "What Did Junior Do This Month?" column, so here they are. The intent is to spread ideas to others how they can put their Juniors to use; a Junior in use is a happy Junior. So, here are a few things we know Juniors did this month:

Using Writing Assistant, a report was made to the State Adjutant General.

Using WordPerfect, a church's newsletter was produced for four weeks.

Writing Assistant produced the agenda and handouts for the National Forest Service Cabin Owner's Association annual meeting held in Reno last month.

Writing Assistant produced a letter to the President and to his Chief of Staff.

PFS Write was used to write papers for classes at LCC.

WordPerfect was used to design some book-plates.

Drop us a card and let us know what your Junior has been doing. What you are reading now was produced on a Junior.

BITS, BYTES, AND PAGES

by Skip Mann, Palmetto Personal
Computer Club

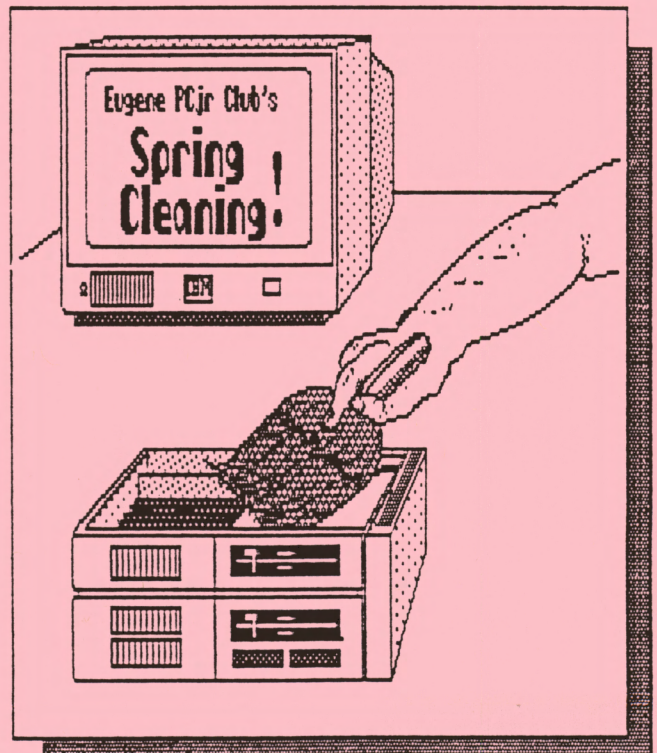
Computer language is made up of an alphabet of only two letters (or numbers) 0 and 1. All the data that is computer produced and stored is done using only those two numbers, and they are called 'bits.' It takes 8 bits to store one character of text. Those 8 bit units are called 'bytes,' with 4 bits being a 'nibble' and 16 bits being a 'PC word.' We don't use the nibble and the word definition much but I thought you would like to know. It is also interesting for you to know about the larger measurements like the suffix K, which means multiples of 1000 (actually 1024 in computers) and M which means multiples of 1,000,000 (actually 1,048,576). K and M are close to the same values used for the same suffixes in the decimal system, but in computers K=1024 and M=1,048,576.

Now, you want to know how easy it is to calculate the bits required in a document or for a document? Easy! The basic calculation is 40 lines per page and 72 characters per page. Since it takes 8 bits (1 byte) for even the spaces and the punctuation, every character in a line is included. So you just multiply the characters (72) by the number of lines (40), and you get the number of bytes (2880). That rounds off to 2.8K per page. A simple rule of thumb which always gives you a 'little fudge factor' is to estimate a page as 3K, and it makes for easier math. To estimate a large document, just use the 3K factor and multiply or divide as the situation demands. How much space will a 26 page document require? $3K \times 26 = 78K$.

The following table of most used measures is provided for your edification and information:

BIT	-0 or 1
BYTE	-8 bits
KB Kilobyte	-1024 bytes
MB Megabyte	-1000 kilobytes
GB Gigabyte	-1000 megabytes
TB Terabyte	-1000 gigabytes
HB Heluvabyte	-To be determined, BUT BIG

Reprinted from the Quad Cities PC Users Group Newsletter, Jan. '88.

**Broderbund Tip**

An excellent tip from Pat Calabria of PC Enterprises was printed in the February issue of the *Metro PCjr Journal*. Pat says that some Broderbund games, such as Carmen, will not recognize the Tandy mod but by typing TGA!, you may be able to bring the game up in 16 colors. Try it and let us know.

NEED HELP?

BASIC or WordStar: Paul Bonney - 344-1501
 PC-FILE III or WordPerfect: Louie Levy - 343-7592
 Writing Assistant or Managing Your Money: Ginny Dodson - 935-3863
 Sierra Games: Cindy Page - 342-3193
 Hardware Problems: Dick Page - 342-3193
 PC-FILE + or 5.0: Dick Page - 342-3193
 PC-WRITE: Jack Hart - 686-0793
 Lotus 1-2-3: Frank Ratti - 747-8315
 In the Portland Metro area, for help call: Robert Mueller - 252-1106

Cut out and tape to monitor



PCjr Lives

FOR SALE: PCjr color display, \$125; Epson FX80 printer, \$75; 128K PCjr w/parallel printer sidecar, \$170; DOS 2.1 complete, \$25; TV adapter, \$10; Joy Stick, \$20; PC ID cartridge, \$15; Racore keyboard adapter, \$20; External modem cable, \$20. Call Rick, 503 746-4382 with your best offer.



Thanks to Dick Page for the Great Graphics



EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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The Page Family 8/91M
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

