

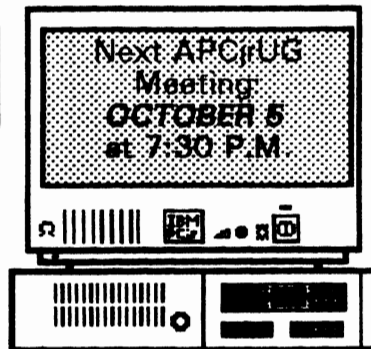
The Orphan Peanut

THE CHRONICLE OF THE ATLANTA PCjr USERS GROUP

Volume 2, Number 4

Price: \$1.50

October, 1992



NOTICE

September 17, 1992

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTA PCjr USERS GROUP:

In accordance with Article 10 of the Group's Constitution, you are hereby notified that as President I will call for a motion to dissolve the APCjrUG effective December 31, 1992.

I contemplate that this action will be taken at the APCjrUG regular meeting on October 5, 1992 at 7:30 pm. The location will be our regular meeting place, STANCOM, Inc., at the intersection of Shallowford Road and Interstate 85.

Respectfully,

David Blagg, President



The Orphan Peanut

is the official newsletter of the *Atlanta PCjr Users Group*, a distressingly non-profit organization dedicated to the health and well-being of the first Orphan and first "clone" from IBM - the "Peanut". The Group's single purpose is as stated in Article 2 of our Constitution:

"to provide a forum for members to share information, experiences, and techniques of use that will help other members derive maximum benefit and enjoyment from their PCjr."

The ORPHAN PEANUT is designed, laid out, and entirely created on a PCjr with 736 KB of RAM or 8 MHz of clock speed (but not both together), a Microsoft Mouse, a second floppy drive (3.5") from PC Enterprises, and two 20-megabyte hard disks from RIM via Paul Rau Consulting. There's other stuff as well, but we forget.

Software used includes *TEXTRA* word processing (ver. 6.0) and *QEdit* (2.1) text editor, *Power Up!* Software's *EXPRESS PUBLISHER* 2.0 desktop publishing, and sundry other programs of varying usefulness.

Permission is hereby granted for the abstraction and republication of any and all original articles in this publication, with the dual provisos that the sense of the article not be changed and that proper credit be given the author and **The ORPHAN PEANUT**.

~ OFFICERS, 1991-1992 ~



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* Designates Membership Committee





A > DIR

by David Blagg, President, APCjrUG

This is a column about APCjrUG Constitution issues as well as the future of our group. Please read on.

A quick re-cap of our history shows that we have struggled in the last year or so, perhaps longer than that. Where once we were a thriving group of folks actively involved with the PCjr, we are now a diminishing group which gets smaller with each price cut on 386 computers. Once we could--and did-- meet around the kitchen table. Then we grew to be a large group and met around a large conference table with extra chairs lined up next to the wall. Our most recent September meeting could have been held comfortably in the kitchen again. Clearly, we are changing as the world around us changes.

What is to become of our group?

We are at an interesting moment in the day to day events of our organization. Our Constitution imposes a duty upon the President--me--to appoint a nominating co-mittee each October. Common sense says the officers should be people who are willing and able to serve. That is why we have a nominating committee, and that is why we have open nominations from the floor when the committee reports back to the membership. We can follow the process, and keep on doing what we are doing. I suspect, however, that the process will not change the experience I outlined in the paragraph above.

That leads to a second option. Our Constitution also provides for a process to dissolve the APCjrUG in an orderly fashion. We discussed that possibility about a year ago, and decided to survey the membership. I reported in this column last January that there was a tie in the opinions expressed: about half said keep the group as it is, and about half said become a SIG of the Atlanta PC Users Group. We took the conservative option and decided to stay independent through March, when we would re-evaluate. March came and went, and still we lingered on.



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Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

by David Wilson

Well, it looks like the time has finally come. We seem to have reached the end of the trail as an independent PCjr support group, despite the efforts of a small band of stalwarts to preserve and retain our identity.

Ever since I started publishing the PEANUT, I've been trying to get people to participate in our Group. My success quotient has been, shall we say, negligible. People just didn't seem to want to pitch in and help keep the organization viable, and for the past two years they haven't appeared to want to be a part of it, either. From our 1990 high of around 73 members we've had our enrollment drop off to 40 or fewer; we don't even seem to be getting the renewals we once took for granted.

The reasons for this decline are many and varied. Maybe the problem lies with a failure to provide what people are looking for, or maybe not. I can't help taking this a little bit personally because it's been a project that I've put so much into over the years and with which I've been closely identified. The fact remains that the APCjrUG is failing to attract and maintain a membership base that is sufficient to justify the efforts necessary to keep it afloat, so we'll have to accommodate the new reality and accept the change.

I do honestly think that there's still a place

for the PCjr - and for the APCjrUG - in today's computer world. Despite the incredibly low prices on equally incredibly high-performance computers, the Junior remains a perfectly acceptable alternative for the new or occasional user. It's still great as a computer for the kids, and it can be beefed up to be a fairly acceptable machine for business use. While I wouldn't advise anyone to rush out and buy a 128K, single-floppy Junior in order to add memory, hard drives, speedup boards and so forth, I will say that if you have some of that already you might want to consider the rest instead of that new Snazzola 486 that you really won't get the maximum use from - how many of us, for example really need to run three or four programs at the same time, and how fast do most of us type? Much of that hotshot stuff is wasted on the vast majority of home computer users, or office users, either, if the truth were known.

On the off-chance that there are some of you out there who want to keep the APCjrUG going as a distinct entity, let me point out to you that there is in fact a way for you to do so. If enough of you are present at the October 5 General Meeting, you can vote against dissolution and perhaps forestall it; but let me further apprise you of the fact that the future of the APCjrUG (if future there is) depends entirely on the willingness of those same members to take a more active role in the operation of the

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WHAT'S NEXT?

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT AND VERVE OF THE ATLANTA PCJR USER GROUP IN A FUTURE LIFE

*IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT'S GOOD WHY GET RID OF IT
BECAUSE IT APPEARS TO BE OLD, SLOW, AND
"OBSOLETE?"*

*By J. Wesley Mercer, Sr.
Secretary and Editor of THE ORPHAN PEANUT
Novice Member of the Atlanta PC User Group*

I don't know how many of you have taken the time to print out and study the entire Atlanta PCjr User Group BBS active shareware files, the Library of shareware files, and David Wilson's files of old "The Orphan Peanut" newsletters. For myself, I've done the first two items and I've partially done the rest.

Why would someone do a stupid thing like read two data bases of PCjr shareware and old, out of date newsletters? Well, I'm not real sure I know the answer to that question. But, let me tell you something! If you did do something that stupid you will be surprised at what you will find.

You will find something like "Wagon Trail" tracks of a group of intelligent, industrious and cooperative people who owned a product abandoned by it's manufacturer and who not only continued to use the product but did so productively for up to eight years. That's approximately five years

beyond the manufacturer's abandonment.

This "Wagon Trail" of tracks depict a group of people who not only productively used the PCjr; but, they built a low key but effective User Group. This User Group was complete. It conducted monthly meeting consistently since November 1988. It's activities and leadership over its short lifetime attracted approximately 150 members in 13 states and two foreign countries. The group supported a skilled computer professional who as SysOp operated the BBS with PCjr hardware. This SysOp built a quality, attractive, and responsive BBS with beautiful graphics and a great shareware file largely up loaded by the Co-SysOp. The Presidential leadership was in the hands of two capable persons with our present President serving for three years. The group was provided a commodious meeting room at a key member's business conveniently located off I-85 at Shallowford Road.

The "tracks" reveal that the group sponsored a newsletters published by an energetic positive thinker whose product has to rank up there with the best. This newsletter is judged "top rate" primarily on it's quality content; consistent, timely, and uninterrupted publication; as well as its first rate appearance using PCjr hardware and software made effective though persistence

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and patches. The PCjr hardware used by the SysOp and the Editor was hardware expanded by the collective skills of the Group and persons like the group members throughout the United States and foreign countries. At one time there were approximately 600,000 PCjr's in use.

These "Wagon Wheel" tracks thus reveal the character of this pioneering group. These "tracks" also reveal evidence of peer respect as reflected in the User Group's strong working relationships with similar User Groups across these United States.

I grew up in a family environment one generation removed from farming grandparents whose independence, thriftiness, self reliance, and helpful sharing of one's blessings was a way of life. I was fortunate to have married into a family whose family traditions in this regard are even stronger than I knew in my parents' families. My maternal "grandmother" threw nothing away and seemed to have a use for everything saved. My wife's family like a lot of self reliant farming families had a saying that "You use everything including the squeal of the hog." I do not wish to offend any animal rights activist; so, I need to add another family tradition. "When planting crops read the animal signs and avoid destruction of habitats." "Always plant extra rows of crops for the wild animals". "Never kill an animals except for

minimal family consumption..." of protein and fat that could not first be obtained from the years crop of canned vegetables. "Respect consumed animals by using all of its consumable and useful products including using waste for natural fertilizer".

What's all this native American lore got to do with computers and User Groups? Nothing, except that I have a conditioned high regard for anyone who is attuned to "...making do..." with what you have and wasting nothing. I have the impression from reading all the "Wagon Wheel " tracks that's what all PCjr User Groups were all about. In the period of time since August 1991 that I have been associated with the fine members and officers of the Atlanta PCjr User Group, I have come to greatly respect them for their computer skills, their organizational abilities, and especially their "...making do..." skills.

They not only were good at "...making do..." but they were so skilled that the PCjr in their hands functioned to perform 90% of the tasks that subsequent IBM PC's and compatibles were capable of performing up to and including the 286 CPU level.

Today, one can have a PCjr with an 8086/8088 10 MHz V20 Microprocessor which means the Jr will operate at 9.54 MHz. In addition to its standard 16 color graphics display and three voice arcade quality sound, a simple modification allows



WHAT'S NEXT?

one to run Tandy and compatible programs in 16 colors with the Tandy 4 voice arcade quality sound. With a memory side car and a second drive, Prodigy and many of the IBM PC programs are accessible in 16 colors by use of a simple screen driver added to the boot program. In addition to CGA, the PCjr may be modified to accept a VGA sidecar giving the JR VGA, EGA, CGA, and MDA graphics. By first adding 640 KB of RAM memory one may later extend to 736KB of Ram and extended memory to one megabyte. While the original PCjr had one 5 1/4 360KB floppy, there are available 5 1/4 720KB and 1.2MD drives and 3 1/2 drives with 720KB, 1.44MB, and 2.88MB. Additionally, hard drives to 80MB with or with out SCSI Host Adapters are available for the PCjr. With the SCSI Host Adapters, a CD-ROM with the equivalent capacity of thirty 20MB hard drives and 340ms of access time as well as a 21MB Floptical which accepts 720KB and 1.44MD diskettes may be added. External tape backup systems with either 40 or 80 MB are available to go with increased storage capacity. If a turbo drive is added to the JR it will outperform an IBM PS/2 model 70 with a 386 microprocessor. In fact WordPerfect 5.1 loads in just over 2 seconds. A 101 keyboard, Microsoft mouse, light pen, joysticks, and optical scanners with an LPT Scan Adapter attached to a parallel port are all available for use as PCjr attachments. Finally, since the PCjr has two cartridge ports there are cartridges available

which make the PCjr almost 100% BIOS and up to 5.0 DOS compatible with other IBM and compatible computers which makes the PCjr compatible with Windows 3.1.

In summary, with a PCjr expanded as explained briefly above, one may operate in a Windows 3.1 environment, use most mid range modems up to 2400 Baud with communications programs such as Hayes EZ Smart Comm, Pro Comm Plus, Econnect, and PC-Talk I, II, and III; Use spreadsheet programs such as Quattro Pro, PFS:Plan, Lotus 1-2-3, and Microsoft Excel; use database programs such as Data Perfect, Fox Base, Fox Pro, dBase, Paradox. and PFS: File; use word processing programs such as AMI Professional, Bank Street Writer, Microsoft Word, Office Writer, PFS: Professional Write, PFS: Write, Word Perfect, WP's Letter Perfect; WordStar, Textra, QEdit, and Word Publisher; and use desk top publishers such as Express Publisher and PFS: Publisher.

It now appears that the Atlanta PCjr User Group is no longer focused on the continued use of the PCjr and the "old gang" feels that it is past time to disband. Most of the members have followed the technological advances of computer hardware and software and are looking forward to the next round of "...packing more into less at

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relatively reduced consumer cost with exponentially greater technological capability..."

I wonder if it is possible that this group could transition into a SIG of the Atlanta PC User Group with an agenda to maximizing the use of AT's, XT's, 286's, 386's and 486's with 16 bit capability? I'll just bet that these same PCjr User Group people already have done with these interim platforms just what they did with the old PCjr. I'll bet there are dozens of Atlanta PC User Group members who have this characteristic in common. I'm convinced that those who struggle with "...making do..." in the long run are the stronger computer technicians.

I'll admit I am being selfish in trying to find ways to keep the Atlanta PCjr User Group together. I know I benefit by my association with this PCjr User Group beyond any contribution that I might conceivably make, even if I were to ever get beyond the basics.

Yes, I am selfish. I want the group not to disband but to find a way to transition into a more technologically advanced stage but with the same agenda of leading the way in "...making do..." Naturally, the deal has to be that I will be allowed to "tag along."
OK?



by David Wilson

With the prospect of a full-fledged merger with the Atlanta PC Users Group becoming more and more imminent, I felt that some facts, and a few opinions, on that organization would be in order. This is not an attempt to "sell" the APCUG to Junior owners - actually, I personally feel it's the second-best alternative - but it is an effort to present some of the features of the APCUG so that members will know what they're getting into if the October 5 vote is for dissolution of the PCjr Group and integration with the larger organization.

Forthwith, then, here are some facts:

Group Size: 800 plus members
Type of Computer Covered: ALL MS DOS computers; this of course includes the PCjr.
Annual Dues: \$30.00 for individual members; other options for businesses, students and special needs.
Benefits: Newsletter, BBS, some 20 Special Interest Groups (SIGs), a Disk Library, a Mentor program to provide advice or assistance when needed, and more. See below for details on some of these.



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NEWSLETTER:

LPT1:Atlanta, a 24 page monthly that contains a wide spectrum of articles, essays, notices, trivia, and desperation filler.



buy at the meeting or order from the catalog.

MENTORS: APCUG periodically compiles and publishes a list of volunteer members who are knowledgeable in the use of a com-

puter product - either hardware, software, or peripherals. You are invited to call these "gurus" with your questions and problems pertaining to the product in which they have competence. A very helpful service.

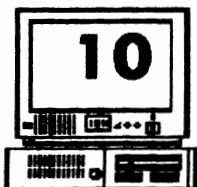
BBS: COM1:Atlanta, a networked 5-node system with over a gigabyte of files online and available for download; access to the RIME message network; **APCUG Online Magazine**, an electronic newsletter with a host of helpful files. 300, 1200, 2400, 9600, and 14,400 baud rates, either USR or Hayes, 24 hour-a-day operation at N,8,1. Call (404) 879-5985.

VOICE INFORMATION LINE: a memued **WATSON** message system to let you know when, where, and what the subject to be presented is for the SIG meeting you're interested in. Call (404) 393-1629 from a touch-tone phone and follow the prompts.

DISK LIBRARY: Several times a year, a very complete line of Shareware is offered at the General Meetings under a contract APCUG holds with a distributor from Macon, Georgia. If you're seeking a particular program, you may request it from him and buy it for the low price of \$5.00 a disk (Of course, if you decide to keep and use the software, you're obligated to compensate the author as outlined on the disk.) This is an extremely comprehensive offering, and there are literally thousands of programs to

The APCUG is not a collection of "computer freaks" and professionals, however. Many of the members are complete novices who need help in every phase of the field. Recognizing this, the APCUG offers two pre-meeting help sessions prior to each General Meeting and the **WINDOWS GROUP (SIG)** meeting. In each case, there is a Novice and an Advanced session, and any member is invited to come and present his or her question for discussion. It's an extremely painless way to get answers when you've have a problem that's been nagging you.

The Group is not just a conglomeration of middle-aged white men, either. A growing proportion of women and ethnic backgrounds accounts for for much of the membership.



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We cannot continue as we are. Our membership is declining as is participation at the monthly meetings. It is time to change direction.

Therefore, at the October meeting I will call for a motion to dissolve the Atlanta PCjr Users Group in a manner consistent with the group's Constitution. I will further request that the dissolution become effective on, and completed by, December 31, 1992. This will give the officers time to explore other possibilities, notably becoming a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Atlanta PC Users Group.

Truly, it is time to change direction, however sad it may be.

(Editors' Note: For the text of Article 10 of the APCjrUG Constitution, see page 11.)

Breaking Up...

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organization. In other words, there have to be replacements for David Blagg, Terry Markert, and others who have provided the backbone of the organization for several years but who are quite simply burned out. Oh, the veterans will help, but they just don't want to be the whole show any more.

If the motion for dissolution passes, then the APCjrUG will most likely become the PCjr Special Interest Group of the Atlanta PC Users Group - a classy organization, indeed.

This is not an altogether bad situation, except for one aspect that worries all of us who love our little Juniors: the eventual fate of almost every PCjr SIG that I'm familiar with is a wasting away to nonexistence - death by inches, as it were. I'd hate to see that, but that's the way things are heading anyhow, so I don't suppose that it'll matter what the initials are when it finally happens, will it?

All this mournful wailing and gnashing of teeth shouldn't obscure the positive side of things. If we do indeed dissolve APCjrUG, well, it was a lot of fun for me for a long time and I'm glad to have been a part of it. If we become a SIG of APCUG, that's almost as good - I've been a member of that organization since before there was a this organization, and it's got a lot to offer. More on all this will follow as we see what develops, so stay tuned...

Article 10 of the Constitution of the Atlanta PCjr Users Group

The following paragraphs are extracted from the final Article of the Constitution of the Atlanta PCjr Users Group as adopted by the Membership and dated October, 1990.

ARTICLE 10: DISSOLUTION

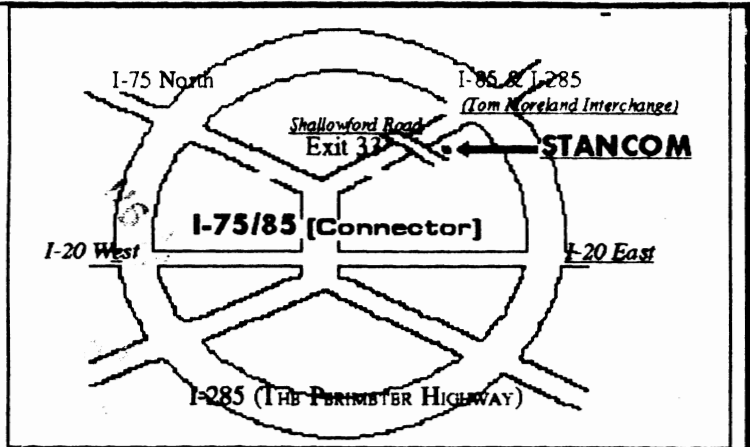
SECTION 1. The APCjrUG may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the membership present when the vote is taken.

SECTION 2. Prior to such action, the full membership shall be informed by the President that dissolution is contemplated and the date, time and place of the meeting at which the dissolution vote will be taken. At a minimum this shall consist of written notice sent to each member at least seven days before the scheduled vote. Should that notice be placed in an APCjrUG newsletter sent to all members, it shall be deemed to be adequate notice.

SECTION 3. In the event of dissolution, all property, income and other assets remaining after obligations are satisfied shall be donated to a non-profit organization or charity proposed by the Executive Committee. By majority vote, the membership present when the dissolution vote is taken may concur in the proposed disposition. After no more than three ballots without agreement, the decision of the Executive Committee shall become final.

GETTING THERE

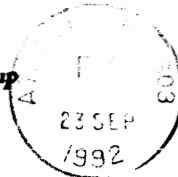
If you're outside the Perimeter (I-285): Just follow I-285 around Atlanta until you reach the *Tom Moreland Interchange (I-285 and I-85 North)*. Go South on I-85 toward Atlanta until you reach *Exit 33, Shallowford Road*. Exit onto Shallowford Road and turn left to cross over I-85. Immediately past the traffic signal on the *East* side of



the overpass you will see a building on the left with *STANCOM* in large letters on the front of it. If you're inside the Perimeter (I-285): Get on I-85 heading North from the city. Watch for the *Shallowford Road exit (Exit 33)*, and leave the Interstate highway there. Turn right on Shallowford Road, get in the left lane and prepare to immediately turn left into the *STANCOM* parking lot.

The Orphan Peanut

The Chronicle of the Atlanta PCjr Users Group
12450 Charlotte Drive
Crabapple, GA 30201-1408



**READ THIS
RIGHT AWAY!
It's
IMPORTANT!**

