FALL MEETING: SEPT. 12, 7:00PM

ARE YOU READY TO START THE FALL OF WITH A BANG???   The first meeting of the Fall season will occur at 7:00pm, Thursday, September 12, at the School Library of IDA PATTERSON SCHOOL, 1510 West 15th Street (west) off of Polk - the only way in.   The library is in the west-ern-most wing of the building. Go through the front entrance, turn right, pass down the hall, out the door at the end, and then into the wing on your left.   (NOTE: keep alert for posters with last-minute changes... the DO happen!)   We've planned an exciting kick-off meeting, so don't miss it (partial contents below).   Remember that the doors will open at 6:30pm for equipment set-up, and for those that want to get some visiting time in before we get under way.

AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:
COLOR PAINT will be demonstrated by Charlie Halbrook on his 5ft projection TV, and on COLOR PRINTERs.   KING's QUEST will be run on the TV as soon as it's set up, and maybe also at break; and the major door prize will be a CH Products joy stick, courtesy of the BYTE SHOP.   There'll be lots more!!!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET ?

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER... if you haven't yet signed up as a "dues paid" member of the Eugene PCjr Club. We aren't really nasty people, but need your dues to proceed with the job at hand, which includes producing the NEWSLETTER.   IF YOU JUST LEARNED ABOUT US, we'd like to invite you to (up to) three meetings without obligation to see if you'd like to join, and we will send samples of the NEWS-LETTER to interested parties for (up to) three issues... and then... AND THEN... AND THEN... ya' gots to make yer' choice. Find a mem-bership blank elsewhere in this newsletter.

We had originally planned to do an August issue of the NEWSLETTER, but as time passed, we were only about ten days from time when we would have started THIS issue... so, to save money and dup-lication of effort, we have combined the two is-sues! For future NEWSLETTERS, we need more in-put from club members! Items, news, illustra-tions, and simple programs are all needed, as is the energy to help put it together! Volunteer!

To JOIN THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB:
Make out your check, money order or negotiable se-curities to: EUGENE PCjr CLUB and send to P.O.Box 3695, Eugene, OR 97403 with the following:

Name_____
Street_____
City_____State_____Zip_____
Phone(home)_____(work)_____

...AT THE PCjr POTLUCK/SWAPMEET, JULY 11th...

appeared to be a great success, and enjoyed by all who came. The shelter at River Road District Park was full of PCjr fans, and their overflow of children. It was a good chance to visit on an informal basis and get to know each other a bit better... maybe it was the good food! The swapmeet went quickly and our first round of library discs was rapidly distributed. (We'll have more at the September meeting and Dick Page has worked up sleeve labels with start-up directions on them. [Why don't the BIG BOYS do that?]).

On August 7, seven volunteer members got together as an "executive" meeting, to establish some policies and formalize a few of the details we have needed to get official sanctions from IBM, a bank, etc. Those present at the meeting were Charlie Halbrook (software librarian), Sarah Eoyang (treasurer), Ginny Dobson (chair, membership lists), Mary Edwards (publicity committee, phone banking), Dena Audette and her daughter, Angelique (minutes, membership committee), Dick Page (misc.), and Bill Roy and his son, Chris (newsletter). The meeting was held at Bill's home.

Some of the topics discussed were a formal name for the organization: The EUGENE PCjr CLUB, thus allowing us to proceed with opening a bank account, design some stationary, etc. Also discussed was the need to identify members and get "hard a____d" about collecting dues, generating other sources of funds (as the NEWSLETTER costs $100+/issue to get out), to get a formal "constitution" adopted (Mary will look over some constitutions of other clubs for presentation next month), and some extensive discussion followed about meeting content, time limits for various segments, the best locations for meetings (no costs ones). It was mentioned that it might be desirable to make contact with a/the Corvallis PCjr contingent, and to invite them to our meeting as some might wish to carpool down?
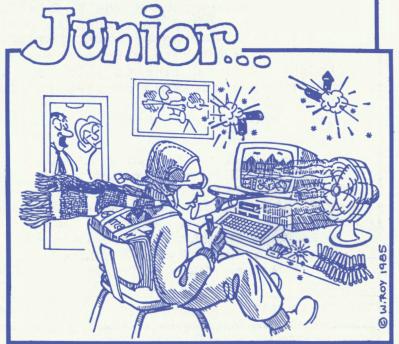
We still want to identify any/all possible jr owners. There are many out there, possibly the least active and most frustrated ones that could use our help... and possibly there are some real "hot shots" who WE need, but don't think they need US. Well, we're greedy, and want everybody! If you hear any rumors of "a

fellow down the street" with his/her PCjr in the closet, unused, make an effort to get them "out of the closet". Chris Roy was wearing a (RACORE) "PCjr LIVES!" T-shirt at a local Mexican restaurant and we made a contact with the manager's neighbor because of it. Who knows where that contact might come from?

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER who is likely to attend every meeting, and who will be one of the early arrivals that can be in charge of the "club kit". Someone who can be sure the name tags, power cord, plug block, survey forms and related items are at each meeting.

IF YOU ARE HAVING UNUSUAL PROBLEMS, let's get someone helping you overcome them so that you can get maximum satisfaction from that jr. beastie. Didja' ever get to the point that you wanted to throw it out the window? The computer room at Spencer Butte Middle School had a foam-rubber baseball bat for just such frustrations! But, do ask someone at the meetings for help. We've all been there!

THE EASIEST LANGUAGE FOR A PROGRAMMER TO LEARN IS PROFANITY.

UNUSUAL APPLICATION SOFTWARE? Some of (us) use our computers for some pretty obscure puposes. We'd like to share these at monthly meetings, so if you fall into this category, won't you share it with us?

"I HAD HOPED THAT FLIGHT SIMULATOR MIGHT GET HIM INVOLVED!"

© W. Roy 1985

Archimedean Spirals

```
1  '"Archmedean Spiral"
2  'by Eric S. Kramer
3  'from COMPUTE! March 1985
4  'modified by Dick Page
50  COLOR 4,1:SCREEN 1:CLS
105  LINE INPUT"CHOOSE ANGLE (best
     to use number between 25 and
     190):";D$:D=VAL(D$)
106  CLS
140  D=D/57.29578:'CONVERT DEGREES
     INTO RADIANS
150  PSET (130,96),1
160  FOR R=0 TO 100 STEP D
170  X=R*COS(R):X=X+130:Y=R*SIN(R):Y
     =Y*.7+96
210  LINE -(X,Y),3
220  NEXT R
230  PAINT (100,1),3
```

MYSTERY TUNE OF THE MONTH:

```
10  PLAY "mn t100"
20  PLAY "o1aao2c#ea2.f#2.f#"
30  PLAY "def#e1.o1a"
40  PLAY "ao2c#ee2o1b2.o2c#"
50  PLAY "dc#o1ba1."
```

BASIC HINTS & HELPS:

With BASIC's FILES Command, you can use filespecs and wildcard characters (? and *), just as you do with the DIR Command in D.O.S. (as described in the D.O.S. handout from the June jr S.I.G. meeting). As an example, to view only your BASIC files, you can use this command when in BASIC:

FILES "*.BAS"

A MONTHLY SWAP MEET?

While our SWAP MEET at the July Peanut Picnic was a great success, you don't have to wait till the next one to do some swapping. Each monthly meeting has time for announcements. Use that time to mention that you have things to swap. Then meet with people after the formal part of the meeting is done!

DISK LIBRARY NEWS

We now have the nucleus of an excellent public domain software disk library for the club. However, we have some "glitches" to work out, as noted by a few of the members who purchased disks at the Peanut Picnic. Dick Page has spent considerable time tackling the glitches and, for the most part, has conquered them. As a result each disk now has a sleeve label with initial startup instructions on it. Also, the Miscellaneous Programs Disk has been completely rewritten so that most of the programs are in color and some of the more obscure or complex programs have on-screen instructions. A few programs were dropped for now until you BASIC program hackers come forward and volunteer to rewrite them.

Charlie Halbrook (689-9593) and Lew Jones (686-1088) will be taking on the supervision of the Disk Library. They can use your help. Many Public Domain programs are written to run on D.O.S. 1.0 and monochrome monitors. Many assume you are knowledgable in BASIC language. If you want to join in the fun of "coloring" the programs and enhancing them, please let Charlie or Lew know. If you have some Public Domain software you think should be in our library please share it with them. The Disk Library is a service to us all as well as a fund raiser which then benefits us all. Please participate!

(In future newsletters we will use this column to give you descriptions of our library programs and maybe some helpful hints so you can make the best use of the disks.)

SOFTWARE LIBRARY

Available from the Disk Library:
- PC Write
- PC File III
- PC Call   *CALC*
- PC Font
- PCjr Arcade Games
- PCjr Educational Games
   and a growing list of titles.

If you can't wait until a meeting, or live out of range, they are available at $5.00 each, or four *five* for $20.00, plus a mailing charge of $1.50 to cover shipping and handling. Write: DISK LIBRARY, Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 3695, Eugene, OR 97403.

<<<<<POWER UP WITH PEANUT>>>>>

We repeat this item by Duane B. Fischer, of the Users of America, Flint, Mich. We first saw it in the PCjr's of SOUTHERN NEVADA Newsletter, July issue.

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QUIET, JUNIOR:
I'M TRYING TO THINK

****

by Duane B. Bischer

I still recall those wondrous, exciting moments as I unpacked my first computer on October 16, 1980. My hands trembled as I explored the keyboard of the TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4A. I held my breath as I plugged the speech synthesizer into the peripheral bus. The speech was burned into ROM chips and had a limitation of 367 words, phrases, and numbers. Limitations or not, it could speak, and that fascinated me. Part of this magical enhancement with a talking computer had its roots in the fact that I had been totally blind for sixteen of my thirty-four years.

I faithfully devoted four years of my life to exploring the mysteries of that computer, and managed to accomplish some impressive deeds. I found a way to cause the computer to speak a line listing on command, wrote a routine to read error messages off the screen, and taught myself to program using sound and speech as a substitute for vision. When Texas Instruments withdrew from the market, the only affordable talking computer went with them. I was devastated. What was I going to do with all the work I had so tediously contrived for my fellow blind computer owners?

Then I became curious about a new computer that IBM had announced, and decided to try a PCjr for myself. I wandered into a local dealer and experimented. I didn't like it, I LOVED it! Hope was reborn, and I was off on a new crusade to slay all the critical dragons by clubbing them with the BASIC manual

I purchased an ECHO C speech synthesizer from Street Electronics, pulled up my well-worn pro gramming chair, and set about discovering what a blind man could do with the horsepower of the PCjr. I was able to move quite swiftly, thanks to my very close friend, Gary Teachout, who bought a PCjr at the same time I did and devoted countless hours of his own time reading the instruction manuals to me. To date, I have not found any limitations for a blind person. This was not the case with my former computer. The TI had been a fine entry level computer, but it was time for me to move up to a more powerful system.

It is possible to have a single line, or multiple lines, of a program spoken by redirecting the output of LPT1 to the serial port COM1 However, this changes to COM2 if the direct connect internal modem is installed. When the Function Echo is activated, the output is directed to the screen and to the printer simultaneously. However, in this particular case, the output does not go to the printer. It goes to the serial port indicated and then to the Echo PC. Thus, when you type: LIST 10-100 and press enter, those lines are displayed on your screen and also spoken by the synthesizer. Below is the code that causes this to happen. You must be in the "system" mode with DOS 2.10 installed in drive A. Type the following: MODE LPT1:=COM: and press enter. Next type MODE COM1:4800,N,8,1 and press enter

You can cause punctuation marks to be spoken by keying in the following at the start of any program:

```
OPEN:q,"COM1:4800,N,8,1" AS #2:
PRINT #2, CHR$(5)+:
PRINT#2m "&M".
```

If you now list a line of the program, all punctuation marks are pronounced as words; for instance, "!" is "exclamation mark" and "," is "comma." This is a critical requirement for anyone who has visions of programming and happens to be blind. The Echo PC will retain this directive as long as it is not turned off therefore, typing "new" on your keyboard will not affect the operation of the Echo PC.

The unfortunate part of this is that the use of the printer is lost when the parallel port is redirected to the serial port. You have, in effect, tied both ports together to form one. Personally, I consider this inconvenience a small price to pay for the power of speech. If speech is encoded into the program both parts are free to operate the synthesizer and the printer. You can run a program while the ports are redirected, but if a printer command is encountered it is directed to the synthesizer. This does allow you to hear what would normally be printed, but too much data flow will result in a buffer overload in the Echo PC. This overload will terminate the running program and issue a "device timeout" error message.

One problem that I encountered was that the PCjr defaults to the "edit" mode when it encounters a blunder — very convenient if you are sighted, but a royal pain if you are not! Heaven only knows how many times I have accidentally keyed over a line because of this "work saving" feature. I am using an external amplifier to handle sound output, and if I listen closely I can hear a soft "pop" when the PCjr sneaks into the "edit zone." This isn't a very reliable method, though, so I devised a routine to trap errors and keep me out of harm's way.

The program is a subroutine which is stored on your favorite experiment disk in "merge" format. It can be plugged into any program at any desired moment in time. It is numbered from line thirty thousand upwards, so that it should not conflict with your program lines. It activates an error trap that allows you to abort the edit mode. When an error is encountered, the program reads the ERR code and sends you to the appropriate line containing the printed error message. This message is spoken by the synthesizer, along with the offensive line number. You are cautioned by a 110 hz audio tone and then warned verbally to press enter to abort edit. The contents of the erroneous line are also read aloud to you. This routine occupies about 2.765KB of memory and uses only the most common error messages, thirty-six in all.

There are a variety of nifty things you can do with the "function echo" and the "function print screen" commands. For example, Function "E" can allow you to have variable values spoken, strings read back, and lines of code spoken after you enter them. It may also be used with CompuServe to cause each line that scrolls up to be spoken. This permits a blind user to chat on the CB Simulator, read electronic mail for himself, browse through the SIGs, or spend money in the department stores of the Electronic Mall. Sometimes the screen will be several minutes ahead of the speech, but this s not a serious problem. You can clear the buffer of the Echo PC by simply switching it off and then back on.

The function "F" command is useful for reading the contents of a screen. It can be used in a program without encoded speech to read the text, or used to read an error message that has occurred. It can also be used to reread data if a second reading is needed. The Echo PC buffer can easily hold the contents of an entire screen.

I have written a myriad of programs with encoded speech, permitting full speech output. They range from a pT phone/address data base to a mailing list to a receipt data base to a video tape directory. My most recent effort is the "SPEAK-A-LETTER" text editor. It is my version of what a text editor should be, and departs from some traditional norms. It allows individual character speech, punctuation marks spoken, full editing with replace, insert, delete, and move routines, automatic cursor location, screen wrap around entry, spelling of lines with blank spaces and upper case characters identified, immediate line review, and much more. I designed this program with the end home user in mind, and not the simplicity of use. I don't put any credence in ten-page quick reference cards!

I wish to commend IBM for their insight and technological prowess in the design of the PCjr. It is an "ideal" system for someone who is blind, and it is priced in a range that is cost effective and affordable. I hope that IBM does not overlook the potential for this machine among the handicapped!

For over four years, our user group has specialized in the sight handicapped. If you know of someone who is blind, tell them the virtues of the PCjr and give them our names:

Users of America
5028 Merit Drive
Flint, MI 48506

I don't think that you will shout at this jr to be quiet, but you may squelch your own jr so that you can hear this jr speak.
                                    Duane B. Fischer

FRENCH SYMBOLS with IBM's WRITING ASSISTANT?
Dena Audette has not been able to get French symbols with Writing Assistant and her Epson printer. If anyone has some ideas on this, it would be appreciated, and the NEWSLETTER could share the results with you. Also, how do you get more than four measley pages of text before getting a "99% Full" on the status line, no matter what the memory? Have you ever tried to write a novel in four page segments?

IN THE WAKE OF JUNIOR

Software publishers don't seem to be too worried over the death of IBM's PCjr, and are releasing a substantial number of new programs - caught in the pipeline - this quarter. Although publishers aren't seeking new PCjr products, they are continuing to produce and distribute current PCjr products. Considering that there are 300,000 PCjrs already sold and possibly 200,000 warehoused, and that much of this inventory is compatible also with the PC, publishers are optimistic about the future - especially since IBM has recently cut tghe retail price of the PCjr by 27%.

Meanwhile, IBM has launched a new prodmotion, which "bundles" business software with their PC XT in shipments to dealers. Even though IBM calls it "business as usual," retailers aren't so sure. Some think it's an attempt by IBM to dump existing PCs, making room for their expected new PC2 while lowering prices for existing PCs. IBM isn't advertising this promotion, leaving it up to its dealers to determine whether to pass-on the free programs as a buying incentive or sell them for added profit.

from Home Computer Magazine, Vol 5, No. 4, p 60.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

Most IBM PC software will run on the PCjr. With over four million IBM PC's now sold there should be good reason for software to continue to be written for a long time to come, regardless of what innovative computers are developed in the future. [See Creative Computing Magazine, pp. 86-7, July, 1985 for more of an in-depth discussion.]

Quoting from Computer Entertainment Magazine, p.81, July, 1985 on software support for the PCjr:

"We had heard rumors that IBM was going to kill the PCjr," says Sierra On-Line's director of marketing services John Williams, "but we were still surprised when the official decision came down. We're very disappointed, because the PCjr is the best of the 128K IBM compatibles, and we believed in it so strongly." Sierra wrote six of the original software titles -including King's Quest and Homeword -that IBM made available for the PCjr. Though Williams says Sierra will no longer specifically develop PCjr products (King's Quest II and Sierra's Disney software will soon be released, however), he maintains that "we'll always support the PCjr by default." [ed: King's Quest II is available and is a great successor to the first King's Quest.]

PCjr REALLY GROWS UP!

Racore has introduced the ATcessroy, a unit with a 1.2Mb floppy disk drive, parallel port, clock calendar, direct memory access controller, PC/PCjr switch, and separate power supply for the PCjr. The ATccessory allows uses to use all IBM PC and PC AT software and provides complete floppy disk interchangability with the AT. It carries a suggested retail price of $899.

from Creative Computing/July 1985

A NEW KEYBOARD CONCEPT:

Key Tronic has released another keyboard for the IBM PC [ed:which should work on the jr with Racore's PC keyboard adapter cable - we haven't checked it out.] The Key Tronic KB 5153 utilizes a touch pad for precision pointing capabilities. The touch-pad portion of the keyboard operates in 4 modes: cursor key, mouse, absolute, and a function key mode, which allows you to combine some of the other functions to suit specific needs. The Key Tronic KB 5153 is part of the company's Professional Series line of keyboards tailored to business and professional applications.

from Home Computer Magazine, Vol 5, No.4, p. 65.

[ed: Dick Page swears by his Key Tronics KB 5151 jr keyboard as a quality upgrade from the jr keyboard. - He sometimes swears at it, too. But that's another story! - He claims it has a better "feel" to the keys, separate function keys, cursor keys, and numeric pad, as well as L.E.D. indicator lights for the caps lock, cursor pad, and Num Lock keys.]

[ed: we also have heard that there is a third party PC tractor ball keyboard on the market. Does anyone know who makes it?]

PCjr SURVIVAL KIT

The July 85 issue of PC World magazine has a good, brief article on the jr in it's "PCjr World" section. Suggests you should look into hardware accessories now. It does not mention that that issue would be the last PC World magazine would carry with a section devoted to the PCjr! We have written them suggesting that three or four pages focused on the PCjr isn't asking too much of them. We hope they will reconsider their decision.

If you don't nave the second edition of IBM's Directory of Personally Developed Software, they are now available free by calling 1-800-IBM-PCSW (a.k.a. 1-800-426-7279). The new directory lists 58 software products ranging in price from $15 to $150, although most cost about $20. There are some real bargains there!

< # < # < # <PEANUT   POWER! > # > # > # >

U. S. A. TODAY

Summary: "...Bargain hunters can find software at more than 50% off list prices at mail order houses. They have little overhead, and the summer lull has lead to some intense discounting and competion. Retail stores are typically knocking 15% off list prices. For the budget-conscious, "freeware" is available from computer bulletin boards and user groups...you get to use the program and are encouraged to make a donation to the author (if you like it) while (retailers) usually (involve) finding a computer salesman half-familiar with a score of programs... Don't rely too heavily on the bestseller lists posted on computer store walls (they are based on copies shipped and not on copies actually sold)." All of which can still leave you with expensive investments in software that you don't like, or can't use.

The press reported that IBM has canceled their contract with the company that supplies disc drives for the IBM PC-AT! IBM cited "sufficient inventory for current needs". Now where have we heard all THAT before?

THE PCjr's OF SOUTHERN NEVADA have a Club PCjr Fund to raise money for the purchase of a club computer... good for those monthly demonstrations and for a club bulletin board. Maybe down the road a bit, we can consider such an idea?

FAMILY COMPUTING magazine for September has an eight-page Parent's Guide to educational uses of the computer in the home. A nice, well-rounded article plus reviews of the best in software!

Flying with your mouse!!

If you have been a little ruffed up trying to fly your Flt. Simulator with only a keyboard, try using your mouse. It puts a hand inside the cockpit and flips switches, changes radio freqs., operates radar, and a host of other things that become sticky with keyboard only.

THE PCjr's OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Advertising/CLASSIFIEDS

THE PCjr NEWSLETTER WILL NOW ACCEPT ADVERTISING in several different types. These are described below, and based on rates established by other publications. Advertising will allow us to bring you a more substantial NEWSLETTER, with more pages, graphics, and good rates.

COMMERCIAL AD RATES: per insertion — 2 pages $70, one page $40, 1/2 page $25, and 1/4 page $15, and 1/4 page ads that include a discount coupon for our readers. Cash in advance only, please.

CLASSIFIEDS: "For Sale" ads are $1.00/4 line insertion, where commercial transactions are involved, and free to subscribers where only information is exchanged. If you're unsure, ask the editor. Ads should be placed by month's end.

FOR SALE: IBM PC COMPACT PRINTER
Plugs right into the PCjr, very quiet. About three months old, excellent condition. With 2 rolls thermal paper only $60. Also HEATHKIT H14 dot-matrix printer, with paper catch, pin-feed, cables, manual, etc. Not running, only $30. Call Darrell at 484-6322.

FOR SALE: RACORE Drive Two Enhancement Packages, other RACORE equipment (new). Best Prices in town! Contact Rick Ubell, 4510 Camellia, Springfield, OR 97478 (746-4382) or at the meetings...

"PC LENS" - A Help for the visually impaired
    A Software program that enlarges the letters on a computer screen as much as 10 times is helping people with impaired vision. "PC Lens" costs around $500 and can be used for word processing and business spreadsheets. The designer is Arts Computer Products of Boston.
        from CHANNELS magazine, May/June 1985, p.14

SEEN RECENTLY ALONG I-5 WHILE DRIVING TO PORTLAND: A FLOCK OF SHEEP GRAZING IN A FIELD OF MINT. LOOKED LIKE SOMEONE FIGURED A WAY TO ADD THEIR MINT SAUCE TO THE LAMB BEFORE MARKET.

TO GET MORE OUT OF YOUR CLUB ;*) PUT MORE INTO IT! ;@)