



EUGENE

NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

Volume 4
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March 1988

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

MARCH 1988 PCjr MEETING AGENDA

A> March 10th General Meeting will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, Eugene. Set up and disk sales will start at 6:30pm, the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Randy Williamson will demonstrate the many uses of a modem and the club will "make connection" with a local Bulletin Board.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mike Luttio

Greetings! It's almost time for another meeting. Louie Levy has the agenda printed above.

I would like to welcome Randy Williamson to the Executive Board. He is taking over the Disk Librarian position and will be on the lookout for new programs to add to the club's disk library.

Last month we had demonstrations of several club disks and another diskette magazine. Louie Levy demonstrated Amy's First Primer, a children's program that helps them learn the alphabet in several interesting ways. Paul Matchulate demonstrated Funnels and Buckets, which provides several math learning games for the kids. I demoed a copy of PC Life, another disk magazine which is reviewed later in this newsletter.

The club's Executive Board made some decisions on procuring some books for the club library and a copy of Microsoft's Learning DOS. These will be available for use by club members, with check out of materials taking place at club meetings or by arrangement with the Documents Librarian.

We will attempt to have a machine maintenance workshop for the April club meeting. We will have disk head cleaning equipment, a vacuum or compressed air device for cleaning out keyboards, around the cooling fan, and inside printer housings. Oil will be available for drive motors. We will let you know more in the next newsletter. Plan on bringing your keyboard, computer, and printer.

Doorprize winners last month were Cathy Sanders (Seven Cities of Gold) and Juanita Hampton (a copy of Compute!'s PC Magazine).

Come to the next meeting with your suggestions for future meetings and items the club can procure for use by the membership. The club is also looking for a copy of PCjr Magazine - Volume 1, No. 1 to complete its set. We would also be interested in copies of The Junior Report before 1987. Any other Junior specific books, magazines, or articles that would benefit club members would be most appreciated.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: All material submitted for the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter **must** arrive prior to noon the first Thursday of the month if it is to make that month's edition. Material can be in any format: hand-written on used envelopes, on disk using any word processing program or type written. Just make sure it gets to the editor in time!

EDITORIAL FROM THE NEW EDITOR

At one of the soul-searching sessions we had a while back, I made the statement that I would do anything for the club except stand up in front of the membership and lead the meetings. Well, as Editor of your newsletter, I won't have to worry about making a fool of myself at a meeting; now I can do that in front of everyone who reads the newsletter!

Seriously, I do want to take this time to express to Paddy, not only my thanks, but the thanks of the whole membership for what she has done for us. Her relentless efforts toward producing the best she could for our club has brought us to where we stand today. She leaves us with the legacy of having a newsletter that was voted best in the nation among all Computer Group newsletters. What an act to follow!

Paddy has left us in good shape. Her excellent preparations for the transition made putting out last month's newsletter a snap. For this, I REALLY thank her! I wonder if she had ulterior motives in making it so easy.

All of us also want to thank Allen for what he did for our club. The Guard took him away more than we liked so he couldn't attend the meetings as often as some of us, but this only serves to show his commitment not only to our club, but to his country as well. We'll miss Allen as well as Paddy.

All of the club members join with me in wishing Paddy, Allen and Paul well in their relocation to Portland. Eugene is losing three great individuals and a wonderful family. But to end this on a bright note, we all have a place to stay now when we visit the Rose City!

-Louie Levy

Are you a dBASE user? You may be interested in Data Based Forum, the publication of the International Association of dBASE users. You can contact them at Box 3735, Escondido, California 92025-9895 for information; tell them Jr sent you.

MAJORITY RULES

One man with courage makes a majority.

-Andrew Jackson

SOME ADVICE ON DEALING WITH THE DREADED DISK DRIVE PROBLEMS FROM ONE WHO KNOWS

- Bob Horan, METRO PCjr JOURNAL, Vol. 2, No. 5, May 1987 -

With most of our PCjr's now two years old or more, the first "weak link" in the system has shown up for many of us. This is the failure of the internal floppy disk drive, which bears the IBM label, but is in fact a cheap Qume 142.

Many owners have simply cleaned and lubricated the head rails and thereby temporarily solved the problem. I decided to replace my drive with a better one. There are several that will fit into the Junior with very little effort or expense required. The Tandon 65-2L and the Fujitsu 2551 both are excellent replacement drives and are direct-drive floppies as opposed to belt-driven models. These cost a bit more than a Qume 142, but they are almost absolutely silent, which, when you are used to the Qume's characteristic grind and shudder during bootup, gives the impression at first that the computer is "locked up". Not so, and the absence of the usual drive noise makes the Junior seem more like one of its expensive cousins.

more...

I have personally used both the Tandon and the Fujitsu as replacements in two different machines. Believe me, I found it very easy to do and, if I can do it, anyone can with a little patience and care.

There are, undoubtedly, other floppy drives that will fit as a replacement for the Junior internal drive. However, I found the Teac drives, for example, have a lever that is too long for the Junior case, so it's worth checking to be sure someone has actually completed a replacement with a particular drive before you buy one.

Another word of caution, some of the early Tandon 65-2L models have had head alignment problems. I talked to Tandon in California about this problem and when I explained that I was using a Tandon model 65-2L, part #211845-002, as a replacement drive, their staff member stated that I had an "immature" version of the disk drive. My thoughts at that moment are not printable. If you decide to buy a Tandon, their most "mature" versions are part #211845-208 or #211845-108, the -208 presumably being the latest version of the drive. These part numbers are for drives with a black bezel. You can also get a beige bezel, part #211845-228. Whatever you buy, check the measurements of both the drive lever and the rectangular size of the bezel. These measurements are critical to a workable replacement for the Junior internal floppy drive.

Remember to remove the terminal resistor (it's normally the rear top and looks like an ordinary computer chip) and place the drive select jumper (it's a little piece of square plastic with two holes) in the second position. Some floppy drives number these positions zero to three while

others number them one to four. The Qume drive uses zero to three, so you will notice that the jumper is in the "1" position on your old drive. Place the jumper in the comparable position on your replacement drive before installing it.

I personally like the direct drive motors and the almost silent condition that they provide for the PCjr. The extra cost amounts to twenty to thirty dollars, at most, but should buy you a superior piece of equipment.

PC LIFE INTERNATIONAL DISKMAGAZINE

a review by Mike Luttio

The latest demonstration at last month's club meeting was of PC Life. This disk magazine is the closest to an actual magazine of all the versions I will review.

Graphics excellence is the key to this "magazine's" appeal. The use of graphic pictures is extremely well done. The magazine is made up of feature articles that the reader can scroll through with relative ease. The articles pertain to computer use, software and hardware reviews, and special interest topics or personality interviews. The only interactive portion of this magazine is a trivia quiz.

PC Life is interesting for comparison to the others disk magazines on the market. If some of the others used the graphics present here, they would be almost perfect. But visual appeal alone does not a worthwhile investment make.

PC Life runs on a Junior with 256K RAM. PC Life is published bimonthly, with single issues at \$7.95 and a year for \$34.95. Subscriptions can be obtained from Microstar Graphics, Ltd., 1201 East Fayette St., Syracuse, NY 13210 or call 1-800-448-5523.

DATELINE: CARLISLE, PENNSYLVANIA

We have all been waiting to hear from Cindy Hoffman who had to go "back East" last summer. Well, there's good news and bad news as they say.

Cindy reports that everyone is well in her family and that they should be returning to Eugene sometimes this summer. She reports that she expanded Junior soon after arriving "back East," but now the bad news: in November the internal power supply in her RACORE unit went on the blink.

Her local repair shop sent the RACORE unit back to Utah in Nov. and finally returned it to Cindy the last week in Jan. Needless to say, she was very happy...until she got home and it took 90 sec. to count up to 640K. It's back in the shop again!

All of us wish you well, Cindy, and hope that you and your family return to Eugene soon!



HEARD (HERD?) ON THE STREET
by Dick Page

**ANNOUNCING PC-FILE+
Version 2.0**

Buttonware, Inc. has released a major upgrade from Version 1.0 to 2.0. It has many new and improved features: graphing, date arithmetic, an enhanced report writer, condensed menus and better password protection.

The upgrade is available to registered users for \$30 and \$69.95 for new users (plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling).

**PC-WRITE HAS NEW
FONT SELECTOR**

Quicksoft has just announced a utility program for PC-Write that allows laser printers to use HP LaserJet compatible software fonts from any third party vendor. FONT SELECTOR automatically creates the batch file that downloads the soft fonts to the laser printer. The shareware diskette is available for \$10, or with a printed user's guide for \$29.

Also, in Quicksoft's Jan/Feb '88 "Quick Notes" newsletter it was mentioned that Version 3.0 of PC-Write is being worked on. It will be a major upgrade. A release date has not as yet been set.

Quicksoft's ad in the Feb. 1988 issue of PC WORLD magazine mentions that the guide to writing style, "Elements of Style", is available free for the asking when you order PC-Write Shareware Diskettes (\$16) or Full Registration (\$89). Offer ends April 1, 1988. (Phone 1-800-888-8088 to order.) (Editor's Note: the Club would like to thank the person who became a Registered owner of PC-Write last month using a Club diskette, and we thank Quicksoft for the \$25 check!)

P.D.S. HAS NEW CATALOG

Personally Developed Software once was a division of IBM and has many good programs, some of which were designed to show off the special features of the PCjr. IBM sold P.D.S. last year. The new P.D.S. has just released its 1988 catalog and many of the programs are marked down 20% to 60%.

Phone 1-800-426-7279 to order a catalog or software products.

more on next page...

TECMAR HAS TOLL-FREE NUMBER

In the "OKjr *.*" newsletter it was mentioned that Tecmar has an unadvertised toll-free number for technical support. Tecmar owners can call 1-800-344-4463 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

TIP FOR POST-IT NOTE FANATICS

To avoid writing on Post-it notes upside-down, you can identify the sticky edge by taking a contrasting colored marker and running it along the adhesive edge. At a glance, you can then easily identify the top and the bottom of the pad.

from "The Quill Pen Pal"
Jan. 1988

RAM DISKS & DISK CACHING

PC Resource magazine has an excellent in-depth technical review of RAM disks and disk caching techniques in its March 1988 issue. It explains the uses of each and the limitations in a thorough manner. Benchmark tests are also included to show the strengths and weaknesses of the various software and hardware setups.

HELP FOR EPSON PRINTER OWNERS

McGraw-Hill has a helpful book for all Epson printer owners called "Getting the Most Out of Your Epson Printer" by D. A. Kater and R. L. Kater. To quote McGraw's ad: "It helps you get more out of your dot-matrix printer by explaining how to: adjust your dot-matrix printer to get desired typefaces; find out which printer to buy in order to deliver a specific output at the least cost; and improve the quality of your word processing output."

The book is available direct from McGraw-Hill for a 15 day free examination by calling 1-800-2-MCGRAW. The book is 224 pages with 170 illustrations and costs \$19.95 plus postage.

USING DOS' GRAPHICS COMMAND

Frustrated when you try to print a copy of the screen using the <Fn> <P> ("print screen") key combination and all you get printed out is a mess? Did you know that there is a program on your D.O.S. diskette called GRAPHICS.COM which allows the contents of a graphics display screen (one that has more than just text on it) to be printed on an IBM Graphics Printer (or any printer that emulates one).

Pages 2-96 and 2-97 in your D.O.S. 2.1 manual describes this handy program. All you need to do to make use of it is to type the word **GRAPHICS** after the A> when you start up your PCjr. Turn on your printer. Then run the program which has the screen you want to copy. When you get to that screen, press the <Fn> <P> key combo (or the <Shift> <PrtSc> keys on IBM PC type keyboards) and watch your printer go to work. (Printing may be slow and can take as long as three minutes.)

**JUST SAY "NO"**

Reproducing computer software without authorization violates the U.S. Copyright Law. It is a Federal offense. Think twice before you ask someone to give you a copy of their software.

Please Look At Your Mailing Label

We have gone through our records and have brought them up to date. We are going to return to putting your expiration date next to your name.

The Eugene PCjr Club doesn't send out notices of dues due, so it will be necessary for you to keep track of this yourself. When you get in arrears, we will place a # next to your name which will mean that your subscription to the Newsletter will end with that issue.

So take heed; if there is a # after your name, this will be your last issue of the Newsletter until you bring your account up to date.

FILL OUT THIS FORM

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER is available for \$12/year or as part of the paid-up Eugene PCjr Club membership at \$20/year. Nonsubscribers may receive one free copy of the Newsletter on request. The over-worked Editor accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the information, opinions, or materials contained in this Newsletter. Reprint permission is freely given; please credit the appropriate author and the EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER. All contributions are encouraged and are gratefully accepted.

Make check or money order out to:

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____

Q. How can I avoid that annoying message: "Insert COMMAND.COM disk in Drive A and strike any key when ready?"

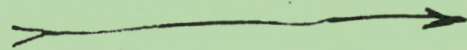
A. There are several ways, but the simplest is to make sure that COMMAND.COM is on all of your program and system disks. This does not mean the hidden DOS files, but just the COMMAND.COM file. Each time you boot your machine, it loads COMMAND.COM. It is what gives the familiar A> prompt that lets you know that DOS is ready. But as DOS looks for memory to run applications, it often erases part of COMMAND.COM, which means it must reload it when you exit the program. If it's on your program disk, it will find it there. If not, you get that irritating message. (Ventura Personal Computer User's Group, Camarillo, CA)

Don't stop

RELOAD COMMAND.COM FROM RAM DISK
 (Tom Puckett, Melbourne PC Users Group, PCjr's of Southern Nevada, 9-1986)

The file COMMAND.COM needs to be reloaded into memory by PC-DOS whenever an executing program requires so much memory that it overlays the transient portion of COMMAND.COM that existed at the top of available RAM. To reload the file, PC-DOS tries to access the A drive, if the system booted from A:. This is bothersome if you don't happen to have a disk in that drive with COMMAND.COM

If your system runs a RAM disk program, there's a way you can have COMMAND.COM loaded from a RAM disk when it's needed. If your RAM disk is drive C, just enter these two lines:



For DOS 2.00 and DOS 2.10:
 C: COPY A:COMMAND.COM C: <return>
 C: COMMAND C: <return>

For DOS 3.00, 3.10, 3.20:
 C: COPY A:COMMAND.COM <return>
 C: SET COMSPEC=C:UCOMMAND.COM
 <return>

Once you do this, the operating system will turn to drive C whenever COMMAND.COM needs to be loaded. Make sure that COMMAND.COM is actually copied onto the RAM disk. Otherwise, the operating system will prompt you continually to insert the appropriate disk into drive C, a physical impossibility that you can resolve only by rebooting the system.

If you want to switch back to the default so the system looks for COMMAND.COM on drive A rather than the RAM disk, simply enter the command EXIT.

When you use this technique, keep two points in mind. First, making the COMMAND call will take up at least 3K more memory than previously. Second, the new version of COMMAND will throw away any path settings you made previously; at the point you type in EXIT, the old path again will take effect.



The American Institute Of Computer Technology has just published a 288 page manual How To Moonlight With Your Computer by John R. Mortz. For free information including a list of 102 ways to make money with your computer, write: AICTE, P. O. Box 2615, Pasadena, CA 91102.

CREATING ASCII FILES WITH dBASE II AND III (Quad Cities IBM PC Newsletter, Bettendorf, Iowa, 3-86)

There are 3 ways you can output an ASCII file of your dBASE file:

1. Use the command COPY TO FILENAME SDF. This will output your entire database (specific fields can be selected) in ASCII format to the file FILENAME.TXT. There will be no delimiters between the fields; each field takes up as many columns as its width in the database. (SDF stands for "System Data Format").

2. Use the command COPY TO filename DELIMITED. This will output your database (again, specific fields can be selected) in ASCII format to the file FILENAME.TXT. In this case, all fields are separated by commas, and the default delimited will be double quotation marks for character fields.

3. If neither of these alternatives appeal to you, or you want more of a formatted output (e.g., the results of a REPORT FORM, LABEL FORM, or a program using the "?" command), try this approach:

A. Enter the command: SET ALTERNATE TO FILENAME. This will create a text file with the name FILENAME.TXT.

B. Enter the command: SET ALTERNATE ON. This will write all keyboard entries and all screen displays to the file FILENAME.TXT. Note that with this approach, full screen operations (e.g., @...SAY) are not output to this file. The results contained in the file can then be edited by your word processing program.

C. Before "quitting" dBASE, be sure you enter the command SET ALTERNATE OFF to close the file.

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER accepts advertising at the following rates:

- 1 Page - \$18.00
- 1/2 Page - \$ 9.00
- 1/4 Page - \$ 5.00

Classified "For Sale" ads in this section of the Newsletter are \$2 for 25 words or less to non-members and free to members on a one-time basis.

Ads should be placed at least two weeks before the next club meeting, and all payments should accompany the ad request.



WANTED: A PCjr. Please call Randy at 343-9788.

Personalized tutoring in either Writing Assistant, PC-FILE or pfs/Write. Rates: Club members, one cup of coffee per hour; non-members, \$10 per hour. Louie, 343-7592.

WANTED: 128K sidemount expansion unit. Call David Sanders 345-1220

FOR SALE: 128K RACORE expandable memory board for a Drive II. Randy, 343-9788

ORIGINAL DOS 2.1 package. Both disks, manual and original IBM box. Best offer. Lou 343-7592.

Q. Is it true that the Eugene Junior Club newsletter is created on a Mac using MacWrite? (Al Rhude, Sacramento, CA)

A. Sorry about that, Al. I am sure that if the board would spring for a Mac I would be more than happy to use it, but they are too tight. The newsletter is produced on a Junior, using the original Writing Assistant and a Silver Reed printer. The graphics are cut-and-paste from a variety of sources.



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