



# EUGENE

# NEWSLETTER

# PCjr CLUB

Volume 7

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

## MEETING

## AGENDA

The September meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be a picnic meeting at Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Ave., in the River Road area of Eugene on the 12th. Members, newsletter subscribers and friends are invited to attend this event starting at 6pm

## 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

If you are like me, your junior doesn't get much exercise during the summer months. Driving disks refers more to golf balls, bytes and chips are reserved for barbecues, and RAM is what your boat does to a dock if you approach with the wind. However, with the first hints of the seasonal sea-change, such as the county fair, morning fog off the river, or back-to-school sales, my thoughts turn back to the routine of the school year, and the many applications of our computer to our family's domestic occupations.

Not that we have been completely idle this summer. Your club board has convened twice to mix ideas how we can keep our monthly meetings compelling, brain-storming on topics for presentations and workshops, and discussing how to keep the club relevant to all PCjr owners, regardless of their level of computer knowledge. I think we have come up with some basic directions and specific ideas for the club in 1991/1992.

First order of business: Here are the meeting dates for the coming year. They all fall on the second Thursday of the month and we will continue to meet at the Ida Patterson grade school library.

MONTH	DATE	
September	9/12	Fall Picnic at Emerald Park
October	10/10	
November	11/14	
December	12/12	Christmas Potluck
January	1/09	
February	2/13	
March	3/12	
April	4/09	
May	5/14	Spring Cleaning

Vice-president Cindy Hoffman has proposed a broad theme for the club for this coming year: the goal of Computer Competency. Computer competency means that there is basic knowledge that applies to all computer users that can be learned on a Junior, and there are intricacies and applications of the PCjr that even the most advanced of us have still not mastered. Thus there are opportunities for every member of this club to learn something valuable for yourself in the next year. My request is for you to consider what you know and what you would like to learn. Then consider taking some time to both teach those who could benefit from your knowledge, and pledge to learn a new skill on your computer this club year.

Continued on next page

We already have several workshop ideas brewing. They include a Disk Operating System (DOS) basic class in three parts to be offered in the fall. A workshop in word processing with Writing Assistant as a basic staple of PCjr users. How about a hands-on workshop on spreadsheets, modems, music or graphics programming using BASIC computer language, or a workshop on desktop publishing? The club needs you to make these projects happen.

There are also some great ideas for club meetings. Even if you come to monthly meetings just for the refreshments and door prizes we hope to get you involved as a computer user. Phil Janz is working on number crunching the surveys you recorded last spring in an effort to plan a schedule of presentations. We would like to emphasize the use of the club disk library. We need you to get a library disk and master it. Then demonstrate it at a meeting. Show us its uses, limitations, and bugs. We may choose a disk of the month for everyone to take home and test its range of uses.

We are also working on a "Founder's Night," where we could honor the originators of the Eugene PCjr Club, and ask each of them to recount their version of our club's history. We would like to have someone give a presentation on the mechanics of computers and also show how computer languages were created. Where has computer technology gone in the past twenty-five years, and how does the PCjr fit in today?

There are many entertaining possibilities including revisiting the promotional disks supplied by car companies; how do you actually beat one of those Adventure games?; weight watchers programs on disk (tofu brownies are scheduled that night); genealogy recording; computers in amateur radio operation; modem demonstration; and my favorite idea, a computer composer competition. All of these applications are possible with Junior, so before you give up on your first child in favor of a 486SX with a turbocharger, make sure you have learned everything that you can on the original.

I am looking forward to being with you again this year. Let's celebrate the summer's end at the picnic on September 12th. Remember the club provides the chicken. Perhaps, we can welcome Jacob Kohler, the club's newest "junior," born May 10th to the Terri and Kristina Kohler of Corvallis. Hopefully, the next chips you use will be not in a serving bowl, but on a circuit board.

FDR

## 7th Year To Kick Off With Peanut Picnic

Eileen Levy, Social Director



Summer is coming to an end, and, once again our club will be celebrating the beginning of another year with the annual September picnic at Emerald Park. We always have a lot of fun, even when it rains or the wind blows our plates away, so please plan to attend.

The picnic will be held in the pavillion, as usual, and the club will furnish fried chicken and lemonade. Instead of trying to call everyone, we are asking that you bring two dishes of food, a hot dish (or side dish) and a salad or a dessert. That way, we can't help but have a wide variety of good things to eat. Everyone should bring their own table service, also.

Phil Janz will be talking with us about the workshops planned for this year, so come prepared to express an opinion on what you would like to see offered.

We will be gathering at the park around 6 pm. Remember to bring a sweater; it usually turns out to be cooler than we expect it to be. Also, bring good appetites and a lot of enthusiasm; what better way to begin our seventh year!

Letter from P. Joseph Calabria, owner of PC Enterprises

Dear PCjr Owner:

It's with great pleasure and excitement that I write to you this year. We're now into our seventh year of exclusive support for the IBM PCjr-- and still the end is nowhere in sight! Our phones continue to ring from the moment we open until we close, with four to seven lines normally active throughout the day. Thousands of PCjr owners continue to purchase expansion products and upgrade their PCjr. Without a doubt, the PCjr has become more popular in its afterlife than any other computer in history!

I don't know whether recent sales increases are due to the economy slow down, or whether it's all those limitations built into IBM's newest home computer. Perhaps it's a combination. With the economy as uncertain as it's been, real estate value dropping, and banks being seized due to insufficient net worth, it's not surprising that most Americans are hesitant to spend thousands of dollars to purchase another computer when they know they could upgrade their PCjr instead. To most, upgrading makes sense because when you upgrade your PCjr, you only pay for features that you really need.

Or perhaps it was the introduction of IBM's newest home computer, the PS/1, that has convinced so many more PCjr owners to upgrade their PCjr instead of buying a new computer. Ironically, critics have compared the PS/1 to the PCjr from the day the PS/1 was announced--"Another home computer that can't be expanded!"

PCjr owners will not be fooled again! Computers must be able to keep pace with changing times. IBM PS/1 users will soon understand. For example, the PS/1 comes with VGA already built in. That sounds good, until you realize the PS/1 can't run programs which go beyond VGA. So if you want to run programs which use Super VGA modes on a PS/1 you'll need a new display adapter card--but there's no place to plug another card. So you'll need to buy an expansion chassis. And, because the PS/1 monitor is not Super VGA compatible, you need a new monitor too--but then there's still another problem! You see, IBM put the PS/1's power supply inside the monitor. So if you get rid of your monitor you'll also need a new power supply! All this done, I have to wonder whether you could disable the PS/1's built in display adapter. If not, PS/1 users will need a system board modification. Sound familiar?

When is IBM going to learn? People don't want another super-duper home computer that's not expandable. What they want is a computer that they could expand with their needs. The PCjr aftermarket proves it!

So IBM continues to introduce newer and better computers which are not designed to keep pace with changing times. And PC Enterprises continues to design after market products which permit PCjr owners to expand their computers to use all the latest computer hardware--and that's what we'll continue to do for as long as the need exists.

Nine out of ten people who place orders with us learn about PC Enterprises by word of mouth. Were it not for this loyal patronage we would not be here. Once I dreamed that my PCjr could run more software than any other IBM computer. Today that dream has become a reality.

Now, thanks to your continued loyal support, I'm proud to launch our most extensive catalog of PCjr add-on products ever!

In a recent survey of PCjr owners, (759 people) 52% of them had 640K of memory.  
PC Enterprises 1991-92 catalog

Over 93% of all PCjr computers are still in use and two out of every three PCjrs are used at least once per week.  
PC Enterprises 1991-92 catalog

## When is Enough Enough

by Louie Levy

Enough. Have you ever had enough? Many of us are never content with what we have. You purchased a 64K Junior for \$699 back in 1984 only to find you needed more. The cassette tapes were a hassle and it was hard to keep track of them all, so you spent \$480 and Junior got a disk drive. When my wife and I bought ours, we purchased one floppy disk from Radio Shack (they were cheaper there) for \$4.95. Yes, only one. After all, a 360K DSDD floppy would hold more than the two of us would type in a lifetime! Was it enough? It didn't take long before we bought a whole box of disks (for \$37.50); surely, this would be a lifetime supply.

One of our friends had an 80 column display. . .and 128K. To keep up with the Jones we spent another \$140 and upgraded, but it was worth it. Then, we needed to print those letters we were writing. The \$99 parallel printer sidecar and the \$175 Big Blue thermal printer solved our needs. If you are keeping track, that's \$1600 plus DOS and we still didn't have a BASIC cartridge.

Writing Assistant was our downfall. It came on two disks, but you only needed one to run it. One to run it, but another to store files on. Boy, what we wouldn't give for a second drive. What we did give was \$495. Later, the IBM Color Display was added, a 384K memory board for the 2nd drive (still later, we traded the 384K board and a few dollars more for a 512K board) and then just had to replace that thermal printer with an impact printer that was "letter perfect." My friend, Jones, showed me the newsletter he was getting from another club; we were only getting one, so we sent in our dues so we would be getting two, too; two should be enough.

We felt the two games we had were enough, but our son said we needed more (so he can play them when he visits), so we added the Tandy mod awhile back so we. . .I mean our son, can play them in 16 colors. He said the old Printshop didn't do enough; we needed The New Printshop; I've never seen so many disks in one box. . .until we "needed" to get King's Quest XVIII, or whatever. I guess it's time to look in the PC Enterprises catalog again and take a look at their hard drives.

Surely, a 20meg hard drive will be large enough. Still, somehow, I know someday it won't be enough either!

## Genealogy on Display . . .A Review

by Jack Denning

If you have ever tried to trace your ancestors to discover your roots, or let your branches know where they came from, you know that it is sometimes easier to locate the basic information than it is to record it and present it in an understandable fashion.

The program "Genealogy on Display" (Club library disk P-511) solves these two problems very well. However, you may want to know a little more about it before you try to use it, since it does present a few difficulties.

For those of you who are concerned about the issue of paying the "author" for using these shareware programs, be advised that I wrote to the author, asking for more information and any updated material, and my letter was returned "not at this address, no forwarding address available." I'm glad I didn't send a check--it may have gotten into the wrong hands.

Documentation for this program is contained on the diskette, but you don't really need all of it (and you may be better off without most of it). If you do wish to print these instructions, it will take a lot of paper (at least 80 pages) and time, to print it all out. All you really need to know is how to get started, and then follow the menu and instructions.

more. . .-->

The main advantage of this program is that you need enter the data on individuals and marriages only once, and after you have the data entered you can display or print "Family Trees" or pedigree charts, descendant charts, family group charts and individual data records. You can also print (but not view on the screen) alphabetical or numerical listings of all individuals and marriages. (For those who are Mormons, there are also files for recording those individuals who have met certain ordinance qualifications.)

The data files are set up for 500 individual records and 200 marriage records. So far, I have entered about 175 individual and 50 marriage records, and that goes back to the 1750's and includes some aunts, uncles, cousins and their spouses, etc. I estimate another hundred or so entries will be about all I can dig up in this lifetime anyhow, so there should be plenty of room in the program for most families.

The displays are in color, and it is quite interesting to watch the data come up each time a new individual request is entered. Want to see your mother's family tree? Just press the keys and watch it grow! Descendent charts are even more fun--especially when first cousins marry. And if the person was as prolific as my wife's great-great grandfather, Harrison Fox, you will need several sheets of paper to make a print-out.

The program does have some distinctly poor features. The instructions (documentation) detailing how to use some of the features cannot be reviewed on the screen and must be printed out. You can follow the instructions given in the "README" file for a quick start, but if you don't have cartridge BASIC, and aren't set up in advance, you will just be spinning your wheels.

The program is not designed for two disk drives, so be prepared to do a great deal of disk-swapping between the program diskette and the data diskette. The program diskette is too full (even with the documentation deleted) to be used for data as well; I tried that.

There are a number of abbreviations on the sub-program menus that weren't too clear at first, at least not to me, and since I didn't print all 80 pages of the manual, I had to do a bunch of trial and error to learn some of them. For your information here are some that you will come across:

- ps = Print Screen. (Be sure to have your printer on before entering this or the program stops and tries to print until you either turn the printer on, enter a Fn Break (at which time you will be back in Basic and have to start all over), or doomsday. Whichever comes first.
- pc = Pedigree Chart. (What is this, a horse race?) I prefer Family Tree, but I didn't write the program.
- fg = Family Group. Ma, Pa and the kiddies.
- dc = Descendant Chart.

If for any reason there is a break in a program, you are left in BASIC, and must reload and run the Menu. For some reason my function keys won't work when this happens and I must type RUN "MENU" to get the menu back. Annoying.

It takes the program a long time to print out an alphabetical listing of either names or marriages. It re-sorts all of the records each time you ask for such a list. Just make your request, turn on your printer, and go and watch "Jeopardy" or do something useful. It will be neatly done when you return... probably. However, you will only need these lists a few times: such as when you have recorded a batch of initial data and are beginning to lose track, have added several new names, or are finally ready for a master listing.

Finally, this program only includes vital statistics (date and place of birth, death and marriage, and relationships). It does not include any of those fascinating little stories about Great-Great Grandmother Nancy's trip from the Oklahoma Territory to Nebraska as a recent widow with seven kids. Keep that good stuff in a Writing Assistant file.

In my opinion, Genealogy On Display is a good program despite its drawbacks, and you can't beat the price.

Some hints on getting started:

1. Gather up all the genealogical data you have laying around. (Immediate family, their spouses and off-spring, your parents and spouse's parents, etc. The more the better.
2. Give a number to each individual and each marriage. If you want to establish a system for this, now is the time to do it. Either make a list, or write the numbers on the documents you are

Turn, turn, turn -->

reviewing. Don't give any individual two numbers--gets things all screwed up.

3. You will need BASIC, so if you have cartridge BASIC, put it in before you boot up, but stay in DOS until step 7. If you don't have cartridge BASIC, you will need GW BASIC, which you can get from your friendly PCjr Club librarian.

4. Have at least two formatted (without the system) blank diskettes handy; three, if you are a true believer in backing-up data, as I am.

5. Make one copy of the program diskette and protect both it and the original with a write-protect to prevent writing to them.

6. Copy MENU.BAS, and VERIFILE, from either program diskette to the data diskette(s).

7. If you don't have cartridge BASIC, put in the GW BASIC diskette and at the prompt type--BASICA/S:256. This will create a 256K buffer which the program must have for Genealogy On Display to run properly. If you do have cartridge BASIC, type BASIC/S:256.

8. With the program diskette in place, load and run OVERVIEW, and follow the instructions. You can repeat this and use the "print screen" feature to copy whatever you think you may need if your memory is as poor as mine.

9. Don't try to do too much at once; it's bad for the eyes.

10. Enjoy.

(Bob Denning lives in Vancouver, WA, and uses his Junior to database the number and size of Steelhead Trout he catches in the Columbia River.)

Thanks to Charles Hefferman and his uncle, Joseph Baillargeon of Seattle, one of the above persons will have an IBM PCjr, along with appropriate software, placed at their disposal in September. Phil Janz and Louie Levy will provide the needed instruction during home visits and we will certainly welcome such "jr" users at our regular Club meetings if that can be arranged. The machine was shipped down to Eugene with this purpose in mind. . . a generous and thoughtful gesture that reinforces the fact that "jr" owners are user friendly!

Should you know someone who has an "inactive jr" that might consider letting us put their machine to use as a "helping hand," ask them to call either Phil Janz (503-343- 1059) or Louie Levy (503-343-7592).

Seconds from the Board Meeting Minutes:

Newsletter Editor submitted the following purchase request saying that they "would spruce up the newsletter":

NEC Laser Printer w/2MB RAM and 35 PostScript fonts.....	2500
486 Clone w/2MB RAM.....	2100
WordPerfect 5.1.....	250
(PageMaker was discussed but was limited to 999 pages)	
"Real" Laser paper.....	12
Super VGA Monitor.....	650
Compact Disk Player with Muzak.....	2250
Small Pop Corn Popper.....	8

After very little discussion, the Board voted to allow 3.95, cost for a new ribbon for present printer, and to begin search for psychiatric help for the present editor...if a new editor can't be found.

*"The PCjr will set a standard for home and school computers the same way the IBM PC set the standard for business microcomputers. . .its a machine people know will be around for a good long while, built by a company that is in the market to stay.*

John Lent, in the May/June 1984 issue of Peanut.

A HELPING HAND

by Phil Janz

The Club is continuing to work towards providing "jr" outreach within the local community. One of our outreach efforts is to bring a working IBM PCjr computer into the home of someone who needs such a machine and an available personal support system. At the present time we have three people that can use such a helping hand! A single parent mother, an older man confined to bed and a paraplegic confined to a wheelchair.

**-USING REDIRECTION-**

How do you know what's on a floppy disk without putting it in your computer and running DIR? Why not keep a printed listing of the files in the sleeve with the disk. SD.COM is one of many directory programs which lists files by name and date in two columns. I send the listing to my printer with this command:

```
SD A: > PRN
```

You could do this DIR, but I prefer the two column output. I put the printer in compressed mode (17 characters per inch) and cut the printout to 5.25 inches square to fit in the sleeve with the disk.

The command with the ">" character is an example of redirection. The SD program normally sends its output to the monitor. The ">" symbol redirects the output to the printer, PRN.

Imagine this situation. You just printed out that directory listing or the documentation for a new shareware program. Suppose you want to add a few comments to the bottom of the page. Of course you could write them by hand on the printout, but you could also give this command:

```
COPY CON PRN
```

Now, type your comments. They will appear on the monitor, and you can edit each line before you hit the Enter key at the end of the line. When you are done, add the End Of File marker with Fn 6 or Ctrl-Z and press Enter. Everything you typed will be printed. If you change your mind or want to start over, type Fn Break or Ctrl-C and press Enter. Nothing will be printed.

You can also redirect output from the monitor to a disk file. If you want to use your word processor to add comment to a directory listing, try this:

```
DIR A: > FILES-1
```

The directory listing will now be in an ASCII text file with the name FILES-1. You can edit it as you choose before printing it out.

**-MEMORY-**

When you turn on your PCjr, RAM memory is checked. The count is displayed in a box in the lower right hand corner of the screen below the IBM logo. If the proper total is not shown, check the installation of your memory board. Even though the memory is counted, if you have more than 128K,

you must still run a memory management program before DOS can use the additional RAM. Common memory management programs are PCJRMEM.COM from IBM, CONPCJR.EXE from Tecmar, and JRCONFIG, a shareware program.

You can use CHKDSK.COM to test whether your expansion RAM and memory management software are installed properly. Give the command CHKDSK. CHKDSK reports on the floppy disk in the drive, then on system memory with two lines:

```
xxxxxx bytes total memory
xxxxxx bytes free
```

If you have 128K of RAM, the total memory will be  $128 \times 1024 = 131073$  bytes. The total memory reported by CHKDSK should agree with the boot up screen count. If it doesn't, you need to check your memory management software.

The bytes free tells you how much memory is available for programs after DOS, memory management, ramdisk, and other configuration files are loaded. Without a ramdisk, 48-52 Kbytes are used by the system under DOS 2.1.

Finally, JRCONFIG is an excellent memory management program by Larry Newcomb. There are many options available for setting the video mode, screen color, keyboard click, size of a ramdisk, etc. You can replace a number of other utilities in your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files with just this one.

(Many thanks to John King who wrote this article that appeared in the September issue of *The Orphan Peanut*.)

(Ed Note: SD.COM is on Library Disk U-601 and JRCONFIG programs are on our Library Disk U-611.)

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An update on a past article we had concerning a lawsuit brought by group of software manufacturers against the University of Oregon: The University agreed to pay a fine in excess of \$500,000 and to be more responsible next time. All of us should take heed. When someone asks to "borrow" a copy of your software, or when you are tempted to "loan" out your own programs, remember that you are in violation of Section 117 of the Copyright laws. It is doubtful that you will be "busted" for illegal use of someone else's programs, but you can sleep better if you "just say no."

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 a free copy of the Newsletter on request. Our Editor accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the information, tales, opinions, myths or materials contained in this Newsletter. Reprint permission is freely given; please credit the appropriate author and the EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER. All offerings and contributions are encouraged and are gratefully accepted.

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FOR SALE: NX 1001 Star Printer; multi-font, brand new, never used, in-the-box. \$175. Call David, 503-747-7554 for information.

**Peanut Picnic**

LOCATION FOR THE PEANUT PICNIC  
 1400 Lake Drive



If you purchased your Junior recently, or if you are not sure your DOS disk has been "patched," check your local computer club library. The original DOS 2.1 has some bugs that may cause some programs to "lock up." Drop us a line if you are not sure of your DOS.

Editor, Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter



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