



# EUGENE NEWSLETTER

# PCjr CLUB

Volume X  
Number 1  
January 1994

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

## MEETING AGENDA

The January meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will take place at the Northwest Natural Gas Bldg., 790 Goodpasture Island Road on Thursday January 13th. Setup and disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm.

## OFFICERS

- President . . . . . Rosie Janz
- Vice President. . . . . Christine Brown
- Treasurer . . . . . Phil Janz
- Disk Librarian. . . . . Cindy Hoffman
- Modem Captain . . . . . Gordon LeManquais
- Commercial Contact. . . . . Dick Page
- Social Director . . . . . Lynn Miles Delker
- Newsletter Editor . . . . . Louie Levy

Association  
of  
Personal  
Computer  
User  
Groups

## PRESIDENTIAL PONTIFICATING

by Rosie Janz

### *Christmas Party Merriments in Review*

Twas the ninth of December, and throughout the church hall,  
PCjr members attending, were frolicking wall to wall.  
While Jr was playing Christmas tunes of joy. . .  
We were all eating, and we weren't being coy!!!

Then after announcements, when our tummies were full. . .  
We went round the table. . .each sharing our Jr's pull.  
Some like the games and some like to write. . .  
There were so many interests, it was truly a fright!!!

When the talking was done, and we all felt at ease,  
We started the gift exchange, if you please.  
Presents were opened and swapped willy-nilly. . .  
Anyone watching us would have said we were silly.

Then we packed up our munchies and chatted some more. . .  
And then it got late, so we hit for the door.  
You could hear us all saying as we drove out of sight. . .  
Merry Christmas to all, And to all a good night!!!

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We will be back at our usual meeting place at the Northwest Natural Gas meeting room for our 7 pm, January 13th meeting. A bonus attraction will be Dick Page (one of our club's "Founding Fathers"), instructing us about how to get the best out of our software and printer when we are doing a project or producing written text.

After a refreshment break, (furnished by Eileen Levy), Cindy Hoffman will demonstrate a new disk from the library. Next, Christine Brown will give us a demonstration of *Bank Street Writer*, a word processing program. (The program and documentation for *Bank Street Writer* will be given away as a door prize at our evening drawing!)

We will be including a new feature for students at this meeting. . . A computer will be set up in the hallway with a junior member stationed there to assist any young people attending our meeting who would enjoy exploring library games.

Rosie

## Remembrances of New Years Past

*Louie Levy*

Ten years ago, in 1983, IBM introduced the PCjr to the media. Shortly afterward, in early 1984, Junior hit the market, but it wasn't until late '84 that sales of Junior skyrocketed. Junior's cost had much to do with limited sales early on, but when IBM allowed Junior's price to plummet to nearly half of the release price, sales really took off. Unfortunately for many, IBM had already abandoned Junior.

Christmas of '84 was a great year for many folks who found the new PCjr under their tree. They felt they had purchased their computers at wonderfully low prices. Then, the price dropped even lower!

IBM sold a few Juniors in the beginning for nearly \$2000. IBM sold a lot of Juniors when the price fell to \$999. (Yes, that was for the 128K Junior with one disk drive and the color display.)

Just as many today, those first Junior owners did a lot of comparison shopping before they committed an outlay of such large amounts of money. Many had looked at the Commodore 64, a computer that was selling in the neighborhood of \$150. But, for a more realistic comparison, they would need to expand the 64 to a 128K machine, add \$200 for the single-sided disk drive and another \$300 for Commodore's color monitor. Also, there was already a lot of software on the market for the Commodore, but by far, most of the available software was games. By the time you figured in the software, the Commodore came up to nearly what the Junior cost, and Junior was made by International Business Machines.

Junior came with some mighty powerful, at the time, software: The Assistant series of integrated software, or the pfs series of software. These programs were already in use by many businesses. Unlike the Commodore

software that you could purchase most anywhere, even at Toys Are Us, you needed to go to a real computer store to purchase IBM software.

But, IBM wasn't through pricing Junior! Department stores, computer dealers and even IBM's own Product Centers were startled to find that IBM was discounting Junior to some of their employees for less than \$400.

Well, the past ten years have done much to demonstrate to us and to the IBM User Group folks in Austin, Texas, that the PCjr was made for the long haul. It has outlasted many of its original purchasers, and all of the user groups that were created to support it. . . nearly. The Eugene IBM PCjr Club is still here, but many of our original members are gone. The interesting thing is, while they may have left the Club, their Juniors are still with us!

Now, nearly half of the Club is composed of people who have owned their Juniors less than a year or two. So, while we have lost some members who have purchased other computers, the folks who purchased these old members' Juniors have joined with us.

There is a reason why these new Junior owners have joined the Eugene PCjr Club; we can thank the efforts of Phil Janz for this. Phil has contacted nearly every person who has wanted to sell a Junior in the Lane county area that he has been made aware of, and has been able to track their Junior to the new owner. Thanks to Phil's efforts, our Club has a wonderful outreach program that helps these new Junior owners get off to a good start; a much better start than most of the original owners of Junior had.

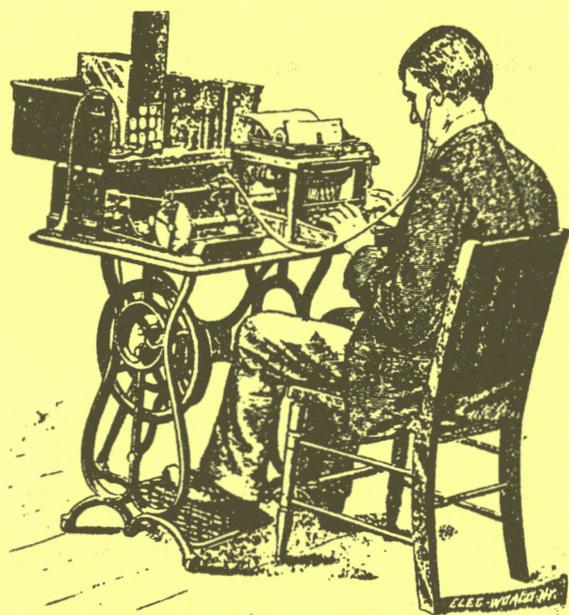
Those people who shelled out between a thousand and two thousand dollars for Junior when it first came out are no different from those more recent purchasers who have spent a hundred or two for their previously owned Junior. Each of them have taken that big step into the new age of computing.

continued on next page >>

We have all come far, both the original owner of Junior and Junior's present owner. No longer are we baffled at making a backup copy of Writing Assistant or figuring out how to expand Junior's memory. We have even licked the age-old problem of getting README files to stop scrolling by on our monitors. We are producing newsletters, magazine articles, cook-books and novels, letters, spreadsheets, computing our taxes and even playing a few games on our "old" Juniors.

The Junior will be around for quite some time; their owners may change, but Junior has proven that he's here for the long haul.

*Louie Levy*



## THE PRINTED WORD--

*The Main Topic for the Jan '94 Meeting  
by Dick Page*

Last March I spoke at the monthly club meeting about the subject of **TYPOGRAPHY**. Back by popular demand, we will explore in other similar ways the importance of the printed word and how you can use it to your best advantage.

The printed word is a very powerful tool at your disposal every time

you sit down at your PCjr. The printed word can move you to tears or to rage, or it can entice you to make a purchase or change your ways.

For instance, reflect on the determining factors in the choices you made for Christmas presents. I'm sure what was written and how the written word was displayed to you often greatly influenced those buying decisions.

This tool, the printed word, is only as good as you make it. How helpful it is to you is up to you. Learning some of the tricks of the trade can prove very beneficial.

All you really need is your PCjr and a word processing program. For beginners, Writing Assistant will do just fine. It might also be nice to have Print Shop, Newsroom or printer enhancement programs (as found in our Disk Library).

You don't even need a printer, but it would help. A 9-pin printer may be considered "bottom-of-the-line", but still can give great results. To make it look even better, work up the item at home and take it to a print shop, like Kinko's, for printing on a laser printer.

At the meeting we will talk about choices you have in how your printed word will look. After the January meeting I hope you will:

- Improve the amount of your printed output.
- Increase the variety of your output.
- Increase the quality and impact of your printed words.

At the meeting we will talk about software and hardware choices. We will discuss ways to maximize the use of your hardware and software. This will give you more ideas of ways to put your PCjr to good use.

In short, we will give you more ways to make use of **The Printed Word**.

Be there or be square!

*Dick Page*

## Modem News

by Gordon LeManquais

New Year's Resolutions (I hope).

Well, a new year is here and it's that time again to come up with a Modem News column for the Newsletter. Would you believe that Junior broke down? You say, "no?" Well, you're right! I have not been attending to business.

I let Junior have a well deserved rest for about nine days while I went to Kansas City, Missouri to attend some classes. While I was in school "back East" I realized that I had a lot of uses for Junior. So, now that I'm back, I've been putting Junior in his PRINT MODE to do a cookbook for another club we belong to. This cookbook has 14 pages that are printed back-to-back. I have been printing them all with Junior and an "Okie" (Okidata) printer. What a pair these two make!

My New Year's Resolution will be to use Junior more this next year for "modeming" and for getting programs to add to the Club Library. I hope I'll be able to do this, but you know how New Year's resolutions go. But, I'll try!

Gordon LeManquais

## COMPUTER BECOMING ^ LITERATE

by Phil Janz

### COMING WORKSHOPS

The September Club Newsletter provided a complete description of this year's scheduled and potential workshops. Please refer to that issue, along with this newsletter if you are interested in "learnin 'n doin".

### JANUARY:

**WRITING ASSISTANT FILES;  
ORGANIZATION/FINDING DOCUMENTS**  
This will provide each participant with an orderly approach to directories and sub-directories. The "usual" technique

is to file our documents with a unique variety of names. As we add to and accumulate more files, it becomes increasingly more difficult or impossible to find a specific letter, announcement, memo, etc. without the time consuming "search and see" approach! Here is a way to put that problem behind you! Fee of \$6.00 per person.

Instructors - Louie Levy and Phil Janz

### ORIENTATION TO THE MODEM FOR "Jr"

An overview of needed hardware and software to make "Jr" user friendly through your home phone with local, national and international communication systems. This session includes a general discussion on modem uses. There is no charge for this orientation session. For anyone who adds a modem to their "Jr", and wishes some personalized help at their own home, a fee of \$8.00 will be charged for two hours of individualized help.

### FEBRUARY:

#### **ADULT GAMES**

Instructors - Juanita Hampton & Lynn Miles

### MARCH:

**USING PC-CALC TO KEEP YOUR  
BANK ACCOUNT IN THE BLACK  
USING PC-CALC TO TRACK SMALL  
BUSINESS EXPENSES/INCOME**

Instructor - Mike Ruiz

**MAKING SIGNS, BANNERS, CARDS  
AND STATIONARY**

### APRIL:

**USING "Jr" TO INVENTORY  
HOUSEHOLD POSSESSIONS**

**CREATING MAILING LISTS &  
LABELS WITH PC-FILE & NAME PAL**

Instructors - Warren Hampton & Phil Janz

If you are interested in participating in a Club Workshop, call Phil Janz (343-1059) or Louie Levy (343-7592) so that your name can be added to a class roster.  
Phil Janz

## Your *PCjr Sampler* -- Make It Truly Yours !

For the first few days after originally bringing Junior home, many are delighted in the *PCjr Sampler* disk that IBM provided free as part of the package. The colors are just great, and it is fun to get a glimpse of the wonderful things your new computer will do. The novelty of this disk unfortunately soon wears off.

One reason for putting the *PCjr Sampler* disk aside is that you probably have newer software that offers more than the *Sampler* did. Another reason for putting it aside is that it must be the slowest program ever made for the *PCjr*. When you boot the *PCjr Sampler*, if you remember, you would get the IBM logo, the keyboard keys, the selection boxes, all of which hang on your screen long enough for you to have a sandwich before the screen moves on.

So, if you still have it, the *PCjr Sampler* disk most likely sits in your file of disks--way in the back somewhere. Or you have put it in a box on the shelf with all of the disks that you are going to format over someday.

But remember the nice, simple typewriter program? The phone and address list? The checkbook program? If their simplicity and ease of use seem attractive to you now--or may be useful to someone in your family who hasn't become a wizard on Junior yet, here is a way to pull out the program you want and create a useful useable copy on disk--without the *PCjr Sampler's* interminably boring menu.

Since the programs on the *PCjr Sampler* disk are written in compiled BASIC, they all need a reference, which is contained in the file *BASRUN.EXE*. So, this file must be copied to your new disk along with the file or files for the program or programs you want to use. Run directory from DOS to see the file names, most of which are obvious--except *HTS.EXE*, which is the typewriter program.

Once you have *BASRUN.EXE* and the other files you want on the new disk, you have to create a dummy file to replace the missing *MENU1.EXE*. You can do this with a word processor or any other file creating program. Just give the file the name *MENU1.EXE*, but don't put anything in it. Then copy it to your new disk. This will enable you to access the programs on the disk and to *ESCAPE* from them, without going through the menu. When leaving a program, you will see the message "Error in EXE file," but you can ignore it, because you will be back in DOS.

If you want to create a self-booting disk with your choice of the *PCjr Sampler* programs on it, format your new disk first with the DOS *FORMAT /S* command.

Reprinted from the June 1986 *jr Newsletter*

## Heck! I mean, HEX

by Clyde Dodge, Mountain View, CA

When I got my *PCjr* in October, 1984, I began reading as much as I could about computers. I subscribed to magazines and read books. Mostly, I poured over the little spiral-bound book that came with Junior, *Hands On BASIC*. I had heard of BASIC for a number of years and supposed it was not too complex to understand. IBM's book was principally responsible for my having lots of fun and maybe a little understanding.

After working my way through the book, I felt I knew enough to try expanding my abilities. About this time, *COMPUTE!* magazine was publishing programs in several computer languages, including programs specifically for the IBM *PCjr*. This was right up my alley. I figured the worst I could do was end up wasting my time, but, on the other hand, I felt I could learn a lot.

So I typed programs one after another. Once, a program even worked the first time I tried to run it.

More often, there were errors in typing that had to be ferreted out and repaired. Even this was a learning experience. The importance of commas, spaces, colons, semicolons, right and left slant marks and even different forms of parentheses were all important to the finished result.

Somewhere along the way I read about hex, but it didn't impact on what I was doing, so I didn't become overly curious. However, as time went on I discovered that the things I was typing were in hex! It dawned on me that if I was ever going to get past the stage of being a copy typist, I was going to have to figure hex out.

My biggest day in this new game was the day I got a letter from someone who complained that I didn't make any distinction between the letter O and the number 0. (If you look carefully, you will see there IS a big difference.) Finally I had reached the point where I knew something that another person didn't know! I sat down and wrote a two page letter to the gentleman explaining everything I knew about hex, including the fact that there IS NO LETTER O in hex. It is ALWAYS a zero, 0. Of course, once someone tells you, this is like Columbus and the egg. It is simple if you know the facts.

So let's take a short look at HEX. It mixes numbers and letters because the decimal system we learn in school only has 10 figures. Hex requires 16. But, the method of counting is the same; you go from the lowest number to the right register up to the highest and then start over at the bottom after moving the next left register up one.

Arabic	Hex	Arabic	Hex
00	00	10	0A
01	01	11	0B
02	02	12	0C
03	03	13	0D
04	04	14	0E
05	05	15	0F
06	06	16	10
07	07	...	...
08	08	31	1F

09            09            32            20  
 10            0A The letter O never appears

It is that simple. So, let's see if we can't have a test. What would be the next hex number after FFFF? Sure, 10000. Now for a tough one. What is the Arabic equivalent? Simple (why do people always say SIMPLE when it isn't simple at all.), the answer is (16)(16)(16)(16) which works out to 65536. Try it out on your calculator. So, FFFF equals one less, or 65535. Now you can see that where there are 4 registers the largest number you can use is equal to 65535.

Clyde Dodge

## The *Reset Gazette*

from Computer Reset

I don't know if you're on Computer Reset's mailing list, but you should be. Phil Janz loaned the Club a copy of their catalog, called the *Reset Gazette*, this past week and were we impressed! It has been quite some time since we have heard anything from these folks in Garland Texas, but from the looks of the *Reset Gazette*, they have been very busy!

The "other guys" in Belmar, NJ sent the Club many copies of their catalog a while back, so most of our members are aware that there are some folks out there (besides Eugene PCjr Club Member Elmer Hungate in Minnesota) who support Junior. But, many of our readers may not know that Computer Reset has more than everything we could ever want for our Juniors. And speaking of hex, heck! Computer Reset even has stuff for PCjr clones! They also sell "recycled" computers like the IBM PC, XT, AT and PS/2s; even some off brand computers. Also parts; do they ever have a stock of parts!

I was especially impressed that Computer Reset had keyboard adapters. I had been looking for quite

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some time for one of these adapters so I could use the large keyboard I acquired from a garage sale last year. Those function keys on the left side of the keyboard were sure tempting. Computer Reset had the Synectics brand adapter that plugs in where the IR card goes and also had the Racore brand adapter that uses the K and LP ports on the back of Junior. If you have a broken pin in the keyboard socket on your motherboard, you would need the Synectics adapter.

The Reset Gazette is "only" 40 pages, and you really should order a copy. Write to Computer Reset, P.O. Box 461782, Garland, TX, 75046-1782 and ask for one. (Be sure to tell them about our Newsletter article!) Better yet, call them: (214) 276-8072.

One last note. Even though they sell stuff other than Junior stuff, Monique and Richard Byron, the folks who run Computer Reset, are excellent people. I purchased my BASIC cartridge from them in 1987--that was back when everything they sold was for the PCjr. The Byrons have been loyal Junior supporters for quite some time!

## Letter to the Club:

"I received the PCjr Keyboard the other day and it works fine. Thank you very much for the interest you had in solving my problem with my PCjr."

signed, Luis F. Gonzalez,  
Vero Beach, FL

...and thanks to The Central CT PC/PCjr Club for steering Luis our way so we could help him! "Users helping users"

If your life is a jumbled mess you should take a look at Club disk P-508, *PC-Outline*. It will help organize your thoughts, time, notes, or anything else. Once you have got things organized, you can merge the outline into your word processor allowing you to get "organized."

## A BASIC PROGRAMMING TIP:

The COLOR statement in the text mode (SCREEN 0) will display sixteen colors (0 through 15) in the foreground (the color of the text letters). You can make the text characters blink on and off by listing the foreground number found when you add the color you want plus 16.

For example: If you want the text to blink in the color red, the number for red is 4. When you add 16 to 4 you get 20; great mathematician, huh?

When writing the COLOR statement, it would be "COLOR 20" in the appropriate program line if you want the text to blink in red. Blinking light blue would be "COLOR 25", the COLOR light blue [9] plus 16. Using this in key phrases can give you a really "flashy" program!

## Notable Quotable:

"We all know the Junior is not perfect, but neither are we. Sometimes a program will give you problems or even fail you, but best friends have done the same. But sometimes late some evening, when everyone's asleep, quietly tiptoe downstairs to your Junior, plug in some old favorite program or better yet, a new one, power up, and be prepared to spend some time with a faithful companion who's not about to complain about the time. Junior is ready when you are."

Harrison Day, in *The Junior Report*

The Official XTree MS-DOS & Hard Disk Companion



"I'll be with you as soon as I execute a few more commands."

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER  
accepts advertising at the fol-  
lowing rates:

- 1 Page - \$20.00
- 1/2 Page - 12.50
- 1/4 Page - 7.00
- Insert - 20.00
- Back Cover - 15.00

Yearly contracts available.

Classified "For Sale" ads in this  
section of the Newsletter are \$3  
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.



You can do it with PCjr !  
Come to our monthly meetings.  
We'll show you how !



If you are not a member of the Eugene PCjr Club,  
You are cordially invited to join!  
Drop us a line for a free brochure.



# EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

