



EUGENE

NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

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

The 128K PCjr:

Bargain or Relic?

(Reprinted from The Junior Report)

A> September 8 General Meeting will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, in Eugene. Set up and disk sales will start at 6:30pm; the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Mike Luttio

Hello there! We are back for another year. I want to welcome everyone back from a long, dry summer here in Eugene. I have been busy with work and other summertime occupations, so my Junior has been pretty lonely. But it is time to think of cooler weather and all of the fun we can have with our computers.

I would like to encourage every member to come to your club meetings. We are still looking for interesting demonstrations and would like to get any suggestions you may have for future programs. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Q: I asked a question about my Junior which you answered very well in the Question and Answer column. Still, by the time I tried to use the answers, I couldn't make heads or tails of them. I am more confused now than when I asked. How 'bout it?

Al R., Sacramento, CA

A: You are right; we did not succeed in answering all of your questions. In fact, we did not completely answer any of them. The answers that we gave to you, Al, did however, serve to raise a whole new set of questions about problems with your computer which we had not thought of previously. In some ways, we are as confused as you are, but we believe our confusion is on a higher plane and now deals with more important matters than before. Hope this helps, Al.

Inquiring PCjr minds want to know--about memory expansion, second drives, speedup boards, and other upgrades. But the Junior owner with a 128K machine doesn't have to spend the big bucks to enjoy a happy computing life.

The basic 128K PCjr may seem like an underpowered machine by today's standards with all of the talk about 640K muscle and extended and expanded memory. Powerful programs such as WordPerfect and Dbase III Plus need that extra firepower. Not that long ago, 128Kb (Kilobytes) was considered plenty of memory for even the most demanding user. When the PCjr was unveiled in 1984, IBM's claim that the 128K Junior could run a thousand PC programs, and with another 128K, run a thousand programs more, was not that much of an exaggeration. The problem today, is that ANY PC, a clone, or the PCjr, is computing in a world where the software has evolved an additional four years (a lifetime by technology standards), and has developed a thirst for more RAM. With the advent of very inexpensive 64K and 256K chips, 640K computers are no longer playthings of the rich, but are commonly found on the desks of the not-so-famous. Software complexity has kept pace with the hardware. Nevertheless, there are still plenty of programs available to keep the 128K PCjr a very productive and entertaining machine. This month we will cover word processing.

continued on next page

Many Junior owners received a very adequate word processing program with the original purchase of their machines. Writing Assistant not only could produce elegant documents, it came with a spell checker before spell checkers were in vogue. Additionally, form letters could be created with its sister program, Filing Assistant, and graphs, drawings, and spreadsheets could be merged with documents with other Assistant programs. The Assistant programs are stronger as a whole rather than in separate parts. Since Writing Assistant remains one of the easiest word processing programs around, it is one of the most productive for most individuals. For term papers, notes to the uncle and aunt, and irate letters to the editor, Writing Assistant will suffice nicely for the 128K PCjr owner. It does not have all the bells and whistles of the more expensive programs, and (it) is limited to (short documents). Due to its memory limitations, it, of course, does not pack a wallop like WordPerfect 4.2, but sometimes a writer needs a Sugar Ray Leonard punch line more than a Mike Tyson roundhouse. However, if you are typing anything besides the great American novel, Writing Assistant makes a great word processor, especially for the 128K PCjr.

One of our other favorite word processors for the 128K PCjr owner is PC Write, a famous shareware program which debuted before Junior's introduction, and has since gone through several revisions. The 2.55 version is a power-packed writing tool perfectly suited for the 128K, single drive Junior. The program's ease of use and power have kept it a favorite of many PCjr owners, even after a memory upgrade.

PC-Write has many of the features that should be standard in most word processors--insert, replace, and delete text, search and replace blocks of text, move and copy blocks of text from one part of the document to another, reformat and justify paragraphs, underline, boldface, etc. It adds some of the features that are only found on the more expensive word processors like a split screen mode that enables you to edit two files at once, search and replace with "wild card" match characters, the ability to use font characters for some printing, and excellent control of the colors for screen presentation. As is the case for Writing Assistant, we know many original PC-Write users who have stayed with it despite the emergence of newer, flashier word processors. If your writing sessions have become dull or listless, this program may well stimulate those creative juices.

On the commercial side, several programs will run on the 128K PCjr, you'll have to look for them on the shelves (e.g. PFS Write, Bankstreet Writer). An especially good bargain for the 128K PCjr owner is WordStar Jr, a specially developed version of the original WordStar software program for the PC. It has not been upgraded with newer features as has the PC versions of WordStar, but because it has essentially been discontinued, this word processor specially designed for the jr can often be bought at an outrageously low price from many vendors (e.g. \$39 from Computer Reset). A powerful word processor for that low of a price is hard to pass up. Best of all, the files created on WordStar Jr are compatible with any version of WordStar, so you can take work from the office to the home and back again to the office, provided you use WordStar at work.

Look for similar bargains for WordPerfect Jr, a PCjr version of the popular word processor WordPerfect in ads and flea markets.

In 1985 the original 128K PCjr provided 90% of PC computing at about 35% of the price. That was a great bargain. Today, with more power-hungry sexy programs to distract your attention, the 128K jr can still be one of the best bargains around if you know where to look for your basic computer needs.



LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORDPERFECT COURSE

Taking Jim Cox's advice, I signed up for Lane Community College's Word Processing With WordPerfect course. It was presented by Lucille Peart and, while it is was a fairly short course, it covered an awful lot of ground.

There have been a few notes in some of the newsletters about using WordPerfect with a Junior, and as this is the program that is presently used in most offices, I decided to give it a try. As an older user of Writing Assistant, I felt that if I could take this course and learn anything, most anyone could.

The class sessions were three hours long and were held every Monday evening for five weeks. Lucille began by showing us how to turn on the PCs and how to find WordPerfect on the hard drives. We went through basic formatting, editing, spell-checking, mail-merging and macros. The time spent on data basing alone was worth the cost of the course.

Lane Community College offers several courses on WordPerfect. Besides the one I took, they have Introduction to WordPerfect, Intermediate WordPerfect and a Word Processing Lab. These three courses are somewhat more economical than the one I took which cost a total of \$47. While I haven't been offered a job using my newfound skills, the time spent producing this newsletter has been reduced by a factor of 4.2.

CHECK IT OUT...

from your local University

Are you aware of room 205 at the University's new Computing Center? It is the Documents Room. You can find things here that you may not be able to find anywhere else without a lot of looking! Not only are there several hundred books on all aspects of computing, but they have over a hundred periodicals, indexes on both hardware and software reviews, over 200 newsletters from educational computing organizations and user groups (like us), AND a collection of public-domain software which they will allow you freely copy!

They say that anyone is welcome to use the collection and to borrow items. Books and newsletters may be checked out on loan for a week while public-domain software and back issues of periodicals may be checked out for two days.

If you are not too sure just where room 205 is, or even the Computing Center, call 686-4406. They are open every week-day from 9:30 to 5.

Q. I use the CONTROL PRtSCR to copy data on my monitor but I find that whenever there are graphics, only the text is copied to my printer. My printer works well with graphic programs, so why won't it also do graphics with CONTROL PRtSCR?

A. Many printers can't support graphics, but if you have one that will print graphics in other programs, it should also print them when you use CONTROL PRtSCR. If you are having trouble printing graphics, you may want to put your DOS disk into Drive A and type GRAPHICS. After doing this, you should be able to print any graphics on your screen with the CONTROL PRtSCR combination.

Jacqueline's Hints

Many of these hints that are listed by Jacqueline you have heard before, but they are still worth reading.

Buy or make lint-free covers for your hardware...and use them. Clean the dust covers every once in awhile. Close the covers on your disk storage boxes when they are not in use. Don't leave your diskettes laying on your desk to collect dust.

Use a surge protector instead of just a power strip.

Start a journal of helpful (and unhelpful) service people and their phone numbers. When you attend your computer club meeting keep your ears open to hear about other people's experiences with local repair shops.

Every few weeks clean the keyboard with either compressed air or a small vacuum with a soft brush. Also, vacuum the computer area, especially around the air vents on Junior and the display, and wipe off your storage boxes.

Vacuum, or clean with compressed air, the inside of your printer, especially if you use continuous form paper.

Every few months lubricate guide rods that support your read/write heads in the disk drive. At the same interval, lubricate the guide rod(s) for the print head in your printer. Do NOT over-lubricate!

Disconnect and reconnect line plugs and sockets. If necessary, clean any corrosion with alcohol. Be sure that none of the Junior connectors on the rear of your CPU are under any strain; you will find great difficulty should you ever have to replace one.

Listen to all the theories about using a cleaning disk and then make up your own mind. Some say clean the heads every six months while others say once a year is more than enough. Another camp says to do it much more often. A few people say they never clean the heads unless you start getting error messages. I am in the group that believes that everyday use is the best way to keep the heads clean; lack of use is what causes them to get dirty. (But remember, I was a parachute rigger in the Coast Guard; not a computer tech.)

Turning Junior on and off is more damaging than leaving it on. An IBM tech rep told me that the first person into the office in the morning throws the switch that powers up all of the Juniors they have in their technical services area. They stay on all day, and the last person out turns the main power switch off. If you can use a screen saver, it is a better way to go than to turn Junior on and off many times a day.

When disaster does strike, take a break to think about what has happened. Inspect the plugs, connectors and the fuses. Inspect mechanical connections. Run the Junior diagnostic tests; you know, Ctrl, Alt, Insert. Call a friend and talk your problem over with him or her. Another view point may solve your problem.

Remember that it may be possible that your data won't be all lost if you have gotten yourself into the habit of saving often and making backup copies of important data. Many utilities are available to recover lost or damaged files. Call that friend for help.

more...

Never be embarrassed to ask questions. That lady who sits next to you at the computer club meeting may have had the same problem you are having now, and can be of great help. Never underestimate the knowledge of the junior members of the Junior Club!

If you must take Junior in for repairs, get a written estimate and a receipt for your computer. If the repair is going to take an excessively long time, ask about a loaner from the repair shop. If you must mail a component back to the manufacturer, get a return authorization number first. Make sure you have over-padded and packed it well, and double check the address to insure you have it correct. If you have enjoyed using your Junior, insure it before you give it to the US Postal Service or UPS to drop in the bin or chunk it into the truck.

We know that much of this is "old hat" to many, but if we can just keep one Junior alive for another week that person just may contribute an article to the newsletter.

Adapted from a Family Computing article by Jacqueline Austin

"HEARD (HERD?) ON THE STREET"

by Dick Page

Well, we knew that someday Dick would be caught out on the street and not be able to get to a phone to call in his news report. I know that we'll get many complaints about this, but Dick's report will be back in time for the October issue.

We have had a Change of Command of the disk library. Librarian Randy Williamson has moved to San Diego where he will complete his degree work in the nursing field. Cindy and Lindsey Hoffman have graciously consented to taking over the library. Thank You!

Disk Library Policy

The Eugene PCjr Club distributes Shareware, Public Domain and User-Supported software that is suitable for use on IBM PCjr computers. Most of the software will operate on other compatible computers as well. As the Eugene PCjr Club is a member-owned and operated support group of and for PCjr owners, we target software that is created to take advantage of the superior color-graphics and sound capability of the 128K Junior, while at the same time, distributing other programs that require more memory than that of the original Junior. We make every effort to identify these requirements in the software descriptions. We feel that we distribute only superior programs; therefore we are able to warrant what we distribute with a no-questions-asked return guarantee.

The Disk Librarian, reports that usage of the club's library has been pretty flat all summer. Too many people are fishing or have gone on vacation when they should be using their Juniors. When was the last time you hugged your Junior?

The Library will be glad to fill phone orders, mail orders, walk-ins, special deliveries; most anyway you would like to receive disks from your library. Here's the most recent listing of the Library:

1. PC-FILE III or PLUS
2. PC-CALC
3. PC-WRITE
4. TELEX

Don't stop; turn page...

5. E-Z UTILITIES
6. PC-FONT
7. PCjr EDUCATIONAL GAMES
8. PCjr ARCADE GAMES
9. PCjr ARCADE GAMES II
10. ULTRA-UTILITIES
11. ORIGAMI
12. HOME INVENTORY
13. COMPUTER TUTOR
14. TIME & MONEY
15. FONTMENU
16. MENU MASTER
17. MATH TUTOR
18. PRO-SET FOOTBALL
19. DOSAMATIC
20. PC-CHESS
21. ZORK UTILITIES
22. EQUATOR - PC-TOUCH
23. DISKETTE LABELER
24. THE CONFIDANT
25. BIBLE-Q
26. NEONjr
27. WORDWORKS
28. PC-OUTLINE
29. STOCK TRADER
30. MONOPOLY
31. NAME PAL
32. PHRASE CRAZE
33. PRESENT
34. BAKERS' DOZEN
35. ADENTURE
36. XMAS FUN
37. GENEALOGY ON DISPLAY
38. JUNIOR MUSIC MACHINE
39. MUSIC & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
40. CARD GAMES
41. FUNNELS & BUCKETS
42. PC/DOS HELP
43. PINBALL RALLY
44. FAS-TYPE and TYPERITE
45. NORLAND HANGMAN
46. EASYWRITE / LABELFILE
47. PC-DESKTEAM
48. HIGH SCHOOL ED. PROGRAMS
49. STOCK CHARTING SYSTEM
50. PC-PICTURE GRAPHICS
51. SAGE TRADER
52. PC-STYLE
53. PINBALL RALLY II
54. STARGAZER
55. LANGUAGE TEACHER (FR & SP)
56. LANGUSGE TEACHER (GER & ITL)
57. ORACLE
58. ESIE
59. AMY'S FIRST PRIMER

Software Prices: Members \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Nonmembers, \$3.50. Give the PCjr Club Librarian a call at 343-7592 or write to us at our Valley River address. If you would like your disks mailed to you, an extra buck for postage and packaging would be greatly appreciated.

TIPS AND SHORTCUTS

In the February issue of the San Francisco PCjr Newsletter, Ed Jackson had a neat article reminding us of the shortcuts that are available in DOS but which we seldom utilize. The thing that struck home to me was his reference to the DOS manual pages F-2 to F-12. Being one of those folks who felt intimidated after reading only the first four pages of the DOS manual, I couldn't believe that there would be anything that far back in the manual that I could possibly understand.

Read pages F-2 and 3. You may have to read it more than once as it was written by someone who definitely has a problem communicating, but it basically says that what you type at the A> stays in a buffer, or memory. If you typed in DIR to check the directory on a disk, DOS remembers this. If you want to check another disk, replace the first one and touch the F3 key. The last command, DIR, will reappear on the screen. If you had typed COPY *.* B:, then this would re-appear on the screen.

F3 is especially useful when you type in long commands at the A> only to find you get an error message because you either have a typo or selected the wrong drive. F1 or the right arrow key will retype the previously entered command one letter at the time allowing you to make corrections without having to retype the whole thing all over again. Yes, you can even use the Insert and Delete keys.

Page F-3 has a complete listing of these DOS editing keys which you should spend some time playing with. As Ed says in his article, if you are one who frequently types commands incorrectly, like most of us, editing shortcuts are very useful.

LIBRARY'S SENSORS WON'T HARM DISKS

Have you been concerned about the possible adverse effects of carrying your computer diskettes through those sensitized exits in libraries? Well, according to an article in this month's Computing News from the University of Oregon's Computing Center, all of the fears are unfounded. They say that all magnetic material, including "floppy diskettes, cassette tapes, VCR tapes and 8-tracks, may be safely transported through these gates without fear of data loss.

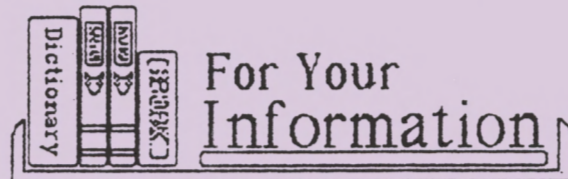
The article tells about tests that were conducted by Roger Williams College and by Rhode Island College where disks were passed through gate sensors a hundred times with no damage being done to the data on the floppies. In other tests, no damage was done to data on a diskette that was placed inside a sensitized book (one that would set off the gate's detection alarm) for 10 hours. They even attached a diskette to the gate's sensor for seven days and no change was made to the data on the diskette.

Still, the article does caution us that material may be harmed if brought into close contact the sensitizer-desensitizer units that are located in the check-out areas. They caution their readers about sitting magnetic materials on counter tops of the service desks that are located in the following areas at the UO Libraries: Main Circulation, Science, Architecture and Allied Arts, Reserve, Documents and Law.



Confused, stuck or stymied as to who is doing what in this outfit? Here is a listing of those who actually have a title for this year in the Eugene PCjr Club:

- President.....Mike Luttio
688-1289
- Vice President.....Phil Janz
343-1059
- Sect/Treasurer.....Juanita Hampton
726-0139
- Modem Capt.....Bruce Brown
485-6413
- Disk Librarian.....Cindy Hoffman
688-6069
- Refreshments.....Elleen Levy
343-7592
- Newsletter.....Louie Levy
343-7592



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Make check or money order out to:

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

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER accepts advertising at the following rates:

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

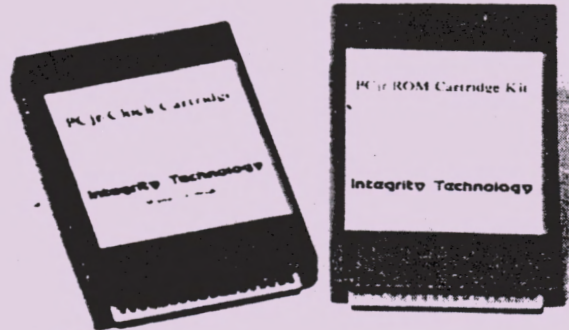
Classified "For Sale" ads in this section of the Newsletter are \$2 for 25 words or less to non-members and free to members on a one-time basis. Ads should be placed at least two weeks before the next club meeting, and all payments should accompany the ad request.

FOR SALE: PCjr complete setup: 128K Junior with IBM Color Display, joy stick, DOS, parallel printer port, IBM ProPrinter, Writing and Filing Assistant, etc. \$650 complete, \$400 w/o printer, or call and let's talk: Mark (503) 942-5995.

PCjr Clock Cartridge

Self-contained Clock Calendar inside PCjr Cartridge. Included programs to automatically set time & date at power-up or boot.

and PCjr ROM Cartridge Kits



Also, PC/XT No-Slot Clock Modules
Dealers inquiry welcome

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105 Serra Way, Suite 230, P.O. Box 360604, Milpitas, CA 95035-0604.
Phone: (408) 262-8640, Telex: 6972396, MCI Mail: 2098377.



1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220
Eugene, OR 97401

Richard Page 8/88
5025 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97405



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