



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

Volume 4
Number 10
October 1988

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

OCTOBER 1988 PCjr MEETING AGENDA

A> October 7th 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. Gene Brown will discuss and demonstrate AsEasyAs and MATHBLASTER.



WHAT'S NEXT? by Mike Luttio

Hello again! I was very encouraged to see the great turnout at our first meeting of the new year. I want to thank everyone for coming out. The club is staying steady in numbers and we are continuing to find people who need a little bit of help with their Juniors. I am also receiving phone calls from time to time from Junior owners who are looking to sell their machines. I would be interested in hearing from any club member who is interested in finding an extra Junior or some of the accessories that go with them. Maybe we can match interested buyers with sellers, to both individuals' advantage.

So, what's next? We have more software demonstrations scheduled, and next month (November) bring in disk copies of the different Print Shop and Print Master graphics pictures that you may have. We will work out a club library of these items that everyone can use with their particular program. Bring in a couple of blank disks and we will make copies. Translation programs are available to switch the graphics from program to program. Dick Page demonstrated several soft and hardware items to use in this area at the last meeting. I am sure information on them will be available again.

WHAT WORKS ... OR BETTER YET, WHAT WON'T WORK ON A JUNIOR

Our Coos Bay correspondent, John Hoffman, sent us a listing of software that works on a Junior along with a listing of what WON'T work. As you know, this is an invaluable listing if you are contemplating buying any commercial software. We all know that the software the club sells works well on our Juniors, but what about the commercial stuff that costs so much? Open the package and it's your's, regardless if it works or not. I sure wish my son had access to this list before he bought me DoubleDOS last Christmas! (One that won't.)

If you are having problems with some commercial software, take a look at this list. Unfortunately it is too long to be included in our small newsletter, so I'll bring it to the next meeting. It is a combination of a listing that appeared in the August 1987 issue of The Junior Report, and one compiled by RACORE tech rep Sawn Christinson. Many thanks to John for sharing it with us; I'm sure it'll be the cure for many of our headaches.

GOLD MINE FOUND AT LOCAL UNIVERSITY

It's always nice to have friends visit you at work even if you are holding down only a volunteer position. Paul Matchulat dropped in to see me last week at the University. He had a little time, so I gave him the 50 cent tour of the library. When we were done, Paul said "how about seeing the Computer Documents Library?" I had to admit that it was one place that I had never gone, so we went together.

Boy, what a gold mine! Computer books and magazines all over the place! All the back issues of all the magazines that we missed getting. Real documentation for programs, manuals, just about everything anyone could want.

more on next page...

But the big drawing card was the two file cabinets full of public-domain and demo software. While their selection is not totally complete, they do have the old standby quality programs. They come in folders and include the disks with the their printed documentation. Not only for our PC format, but they have an equally impressive selection of Macintosh software.

We asked how we go about checking out this hoard of information and learned that anyone can check out stuff from the Computer Documents Library. You do not have to be a student or affiliated with the University. There is a five disk checkout limit at any one time, but they are available for a two-day period only.

The Documents Room Library is located in room 205 of the Computing Center at the University of Oregon. The Computing Center is just South of the Law Center on Kincaid Street. They are open from 9:30 in the morning until 5, Monday through Friday. You can call them at 686-4406. We never would have known all of this if Paul hadn't stopped by. (It was good to see all of the back issues of our newsletter there!)

YOUR ORDER IS IN

If you ordered printer ribbons or diskettes at the September meeting you can pick them up at the October meeting. We appreciate our suppliers who give such a good deal on quantity purchases. Another advantage of belonging to the Eugene PCjr Club!

CLUB DISK #31 - NAMEPAL a review by Mike Luttio

NamePal (version 1.0) is a name record data base that allows you to select several ways to store and print-out your favorite names. NamePal uses a menu-driven system that is easy to use. Just follow the screen directions for step-by-step results. Names and information can be placed into Personal, Business, and Notecard formats. There is room for addresses, phone numbers, and added comments.

Once you input your names, you can sort them by keys (that you select), record number, or category (selected grouping). Help is available at each menu screen. Print-outs can be done in either pocket size address book, mailing label, Rolodex card, or full page formats. Address book preview is available on screen before printing. A 12-page manual can be printed from the disk.

You can become a registered user of NamePal by sending \$19.95 to: WR Software, P.O. Box 4819, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Registration gets you the latest version of the program, two "pocket-size" vinyl Address Book covers, book mounting templates, free telephone support, documentation, and a separate Export/Import program for trading name data with other software.

I used this program to do last year's Christmascard labels and found it fairly easy to work with.

Reflex - a database management system from Borland a review by Mike Luttio

Last month I demonstrated a program that persuaded me to upgrade my Junior to 640K and add a second drive. Reflex requires 384K and is more useful with two drives. It also can be used with a mouse attachment.

Reflex is a database program that is very easy to use. The reason I like it is because you can input your data, manipulate it, and then print it out in any format that you want. Data entry is straight forward and can be accomplished in several formats. You work in Reflex in "views."

The Form View is a page format that you set up for information or data input, which can be used over and over to page through separate file entries. The List View shows your data in a format similar to Lotus 1-2-3. The List View can show several file entries at once and you can enter or change data in this view. You can also split the screen to show both of these views at the same time (either horizontal or vertical).

keep going

Once your data has been entered you can use the Graph View and the Crosstab View to make visual and numeric summary observations of your data.

The Report View lets you custom design printouts of your information, and you can save report formats to use later.

Interesting features of Reflex include: formula entry into fields; sorting of entered data; search/filter data; translate data from Lotus 1-2-3, dBase II or III, or PFS File into Reflex.

Reflex comes with System, Help, and Report+Utilities disks and a user's manual. An add-on set of business application database shells are available as Reflex Workshop. Reflex currently is available for about \$100.00 from warehouse distributors.

If you have an expanded Junior and do not already have a database program, Reflex is definitely a good choice. I have found it easy to use and very flexible.

EUGENE/SPRINGFIELD MICROCOMPUTER USER GROUPS

I know you have heard the expression, "You are not alone." Well, neither are we. According to a listing from the University, besides the Eugene PCjr Club, we have the following clubs in our area:

- Apple Eugene (all Apple II Series)
- Arari Computer Enthusiasts
- DCBUG (Commodore 64/128 and others)
- Eugene PC Users Group (our Parent, "Big Daddy")
- Eugene Kaypro Users Group
- Eugene Macintosh Group
- Eugene Software Council
- Eugene/Springfield Amiga Users Group
- Eugene TI99/4A Users Group
- Micro-80 Users Group
- Springfield Commodore Users Group
- Willamette Valley Color Computer Users Group (Tandy Products)

If you would like to contact any of these groups, let me know, as the club now has the names, addresses and phone numbers for them. Thank you, Documents Library!

WRITING TO READ

Special thanks to Dick Page who was kind enough to show me an article from Jr. Report (September 15, 1987) about "Writing to Read," an IBM Learning Program. If anyone knows where I can obtain a copy (for the kids), please contact me or any other club member. Call Paul Matchulat collect at (503) 942-5911.

FREE TEMPLATES

Would you like a neat template to put on your keyboard to tell you what all of the function keys are for? Paul Matchulate has some that he will give away free at Thursday's meeting. They can be used with PC-WRITE 2.7, DOS 2.1, Writing Assistant, and there is also a blank one that you can customize for use with any program. They will fit all Junior enhanced keyboards.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Q: Is it true that Louie Levy collects odd disks and sleeves just for their looks?

A: Yes, I guess that it is true. Some people collect old cars, stamps, or gold coins, but your newsletter editor collects custom printed disks and sleeves.

WELCOME ABOARD! Sharon Swires and her sons became the newest members of the Eugene PCjr Club when they joined us at the September general meeting. It's good to have them with us.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS?

- President.....Mike Luttio ⁴⁸⁵⁻⁰⁶⁵⁶ (4)
- 688-1289 (4)
- 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

A 'COOL' RACORE

The disks of my RACORE Drive II with DMA were coming out so hot I decided to check the temperature inside the disk drive. The temperature registered 120° on the thermometer. My neighbor, Mike, an IBM systems engineer, suggested I air condition the room the computer is located in, or call the manufacturer of the equipment. Good advice.

I made a quick call to RACORE (800-323-1833). They knew nothing about a heat problem and had never heard of anyone else having this problem, but said I could call the Technical Department (801-596-0370). The tech rep in Utah said that he knew of this problem and informed me that the chips would in no way be harmed by excessive heat. I asked about the disk drive. The tech rep said, "Oh, yes!" and that a fan is available. It fits in a special slot RACORE provided on its newer models, and I could call the toll-free number and order part number M3500.

Again, I called Los Gatos with my newly acquired part number. There was a long pause when I realized that I was talking to the same person I had been talking with in Utah! I gave him the stock number that he had given me and he told me the shipping costs and informed me that he was putting it in the mail.

Now, three days later, I have the coolest Junior in town. I can now remove disks from Drive B without fear of burning my fingers.

A postscript to all this was a note in PC Magazine that says that marketing for RACORE products have been turned over to Triton Products Company (800-227-6900). Maybe I had made my phone calls while they were changing phone lines. Yeah, that must have been it.

Paul Matchulat

Editor's note: RACORE has indeed turned over the marketing of their products to Triton Products Company, 1159 Triton Dr., Doster City, CA. If you don't have their catalog, give them a call.

CLOCK CALENDAR CARTRIDGE

Integrity Technology, who's ad appears in this newsletter, is marketing PCjr Clock Calendar cartridges for the PCjr and PC-JX computers. It is a self-contained cartridge with internal clock calendar circuitries and replaceable Lithium battery. By having the cartridge plugged into one of the PCjr front cartridge slots you will be able to get an accurate date and time.

The Clock Calendar cartridge comes with PC-DOS programs to GET, SET and SHOW the date and time. If you insert the GETIME command in an AUTOEXEC file, your Junior will set the DOS date and time automatically at power-up or boot. Detail operating instructions are included on the program diskette which comes with the Clock Calendar cartridge.

Power for the unit comes from one 3 volt, flat-coin type, long life lithium battery. In a normal environment, this lithium battery should retain 95% of its original output after 5 years, and it has a better than 10 years shelf life. This installation gives much longer battery life than clock calendars that are mounted inside the computer's case where temperatures may reach over a hundred degrees for prolong periods. Instructions are included in the program diskette for the easy replacement of the battery.

Integrity Technology also offers PCjr ROM Cartridge kits for PCjr and PC-JX computers. Each cartridge kit includes a printed circuit board, top and bottom snap-on re-usable plastic enclosures and a foam end-piece. Each cartridge's printed circuit board can accommodate up to two 28 or 24 pins ROM (or PROM, EPROM, EEPROM) ICs in 256K to 8K formats (ie 27356 to 2708). The ROM cartridge kits do not include any ROM ICs.

The company also offers a ROM Cartridge Kit Technical Reference Manual in DOS diskette. This manual discusses ROM cartridge designs, hardware assembly instructions, ROM IC memory addressing and programming conventions, EPROM programming hints, and printed circuit board schematics.

more...

Cost for the PCjr Clock Calendar Cartridge and program diskette is \$34.50, and the ROM Cartridge Kits are \$5.75 each. See their ad in this month's newsletter; tell them the Eugene PCjr Club sent you.

"HEARD (HERD?) ON THE STREET"

by Dick Page

ANYONE WITH ANSWERS?

Lots of us use Print Shop or PrintMaster. Epyx has come out with a competing program called Print Magic. Does anyone have it? If so, the club members would like to know your reaction to it.

ROGER RABBIT-IZE YOUR JUNIOR?

In case you hadn't heard, Buena Vista Software has come out with an arcade-type game as a spin off of the movie "Who Framed Roger Rabbit." I haven't seen any reviews yet, so can't vouch for its quality or playability.

INFOCOM SALES

If you are into Infocom games you may want to get on the mailing list for catalogues from the company handling sales/distribution of their software. Triton, labeled as "the authorized Infocom Products Direct Marketing Center," sends out catalogues with good prices if you buy multiple programs at a time. Call them at (800) 227-6900.

DOS 4.0

IBM recently came out with PC DOS 4.0 which is described as not being compatible with PCjrs. In their October newsletter, the San Francisco PCjr Club says that 4.0 will run, but eats up approximately 256K of RAM. They also say that it has to be installed on a machine other than a Junior, and then disks produced should be the ones you would use to boot your Junior. Still, the San Francisco group has some good advice: "DOS 4.0 is not recommended for sane PCjr users who intend on remaining in that condition."

**IN PRAISE OF
METRO PCjr USERS GROUP**

Cudos go out to the Washington, D.C. Metro PCjr Users Group for their effort at compiling a comprehensive listing of software compatibility with PCjrs! The database they are maintaining includes the amount of memory needed to run each program and other hardware considerations. Also noted are tips, comments, and advice about compatibility problems, configuration considerations, and whether public domain patches are needed.

We receive the Metro PCjr User Group's monthly newsletter (high quality contents) which Eugene PCjr Club members can see at each monthly meeting. The "Compatibility List" is in the August 1988 issue.

The Metro PCjr Users Group welcomes input from anyone with a PCjr. Their club plans to include the listing they generate in a public domain disk that they will be calling the "PCjr Survival Disk." Help them out by writing to:

Metro PCjr UG Compatibility List
2109 Northland Road
Baltimore, MD 21207

PC-WRITE V3.0 DUE SOON

Quicksoft has announced that beta testing of PC-Write Version 3.0 is just about finished and they are hoping to be shipping the final version sometime in October. A major upgrade, version 3.0 speeds the load, switch and print functions, has better margin control, improvements in the spelling checker, allows for manipulation of boxed text, improved menu layouts, and many more features.

MS FLIGHT SIMULATOR UPGRADE

Microsoft has done a quality job of upgrading its Flight Simulator program - with one hitch: Version 3.0 doesn't recognize PCjr's 16 color capability. A patch is on some bulletin boards which takes advantage of Junior's color talents, but it contains some minor bugs. Metro PCjr UG indicates this patch should soon be fixed.

8 MEGABYTE CHIPS!

"IBM has announced a new method of manufacturing memory chips. This technique should move us from the current state-of-the-art 4 megabit chips to an immediate increase to 64 megabit chips. Yup! That's 8 megabytes on a single little piece of silicon real estate. Imagine PC's with a single memory chip! Or buy 10 of them, and throw away your 80 MB hard drive in favor of an 80 MB battery-backed RAM drive!"

from Hawkeye PC Newsletter
Vol. 7, No. 7, August 1988

TRUE OR FALSE? "FLOPPIES LAST FOREVER."

Manufacturers of magnetic disks and tapes often claim their products last a lifetime. Although this may be true of the physical media, it is not true of the data stored on them.

Over time, environmental factors such as humidity, temperature, and radiation levels can deteriorate the oxide surface on which the data resides.

Records stored on magnetic medium for extended periods should be renewed or replaced every 8 to 10 years.

from PC Resource, Nov. 1987

TOP-RATED BASIC BOOKS

If you're interested in learning BASIC you might want to know the recommendations of Duane Hendricks of the HAL-PC Users Group. He believes the outstanding book on this subject is BASIC Primer for the IBM PC & XT by Bernard Enders & Bob Peterson, The Waite Group, NYC.

For the novice the preferred book is Learning IBM BASIC For the Personal Computer by David A. Lien, Compusoft Publishing, San Diego, CA.

A good intermediate level book is Programming the IBM Personal Computer: BASIC by Neill Graham, Holt, Rinehart & Winston, NYC.

The last book Duane mentioned is a good tutorial as well as reference book. It is Program Your IBM PC - BASIC for Beginners by Carl Shipman.

(condensed from Quad Cities IBM
PC Users Group Newsletter,
February, 1988.)

RECOVERING FROM UNWANTED "SHIFT LOCK"

Have you ever had your PCjr mysteriously decide that it will only display the "shifted" version of its keys? [For example, do you get a ">" when you really want a "." ?]

What happens is this: If you simultaneously depress the <Ctrl> and <Shift> keys you send the keyboard into a kind of "Shift Lock" mode where every key is stubbornly locked into transmitting only its shifted or upper case version character. With the Enhanced PCjr Keyboard this easily happens if you are just a little too high on striking the left hand shift key.

You can get out of that intractable Shift Lock by:

- 1.) Simultaneously pressing <Ctrl> and the left hand <Shift> keys (the screen will blank out, but don't despair), then
- 2.) Press the right hand <Shift> key. Voila! The screen reappears, and the keys now function normally!

from Puget Sound Users Group
Newsletter, Dec. 1987.

COMPUTER BRAIN LIFT

Computer magazines often are dry and serious so once in a while it is nice to see some humor interjected in the text.

If you desire such a lift while reading some dry, but interesting computer facts pick up the October 1988 issue of Personal Computing. A 15-page section is chocked full of lists - some serious, some not.

Here are a few titles from among the many lists of serious facts: "20 Common Words With New Computer Meanings," "5 Ways To Compute More Comfortably," "10 Articles You Might Be Reading Had The Microchip Not Been Invented," and "10 Top Computer Company Heads & Their Salaries."

Sample humorous titles include: "7 Computer Articles From Hell," "6 Reasons To Hate Your Printer," "5 Things People Say When They Come Back From A Computer Show," and "5 DOS-Prompt Greetings That Add Personality To Your Computer."

An example of one such tongue-in-cheek list:

continued on next page

"10 VANITY FILE NAMES FOR THE TOP EXECUTIVE"

- 1.) IMON.TOP
- 2.) MISTER2U.JAC
- 3.) YABADBA.DOO
- 4.) MYDAYHAS.COM
- 5.) IMUPAT.BAT
- 6.) BONDSARE.HOT
- 7.) TOPDEAL4.YOU
- 8.) MYSONTHE.DOC
- 9.) DONTCALL.US
- 10.) WELLCALL.YOU

Check out this article. It's a breath of fresh silicon air!

**WANT A DEGREE IN
THE HISTORY OF COMPUTER VIRUSES?**

Whole Earth Review, a quarterly publication from the printers of the Whole Earth Software Catalogue, has devoted a long article in its Fall, 1988 issue to computer viruses.

The article is titled: "A Software Bestiary. Computer Parasites & Remedies. A Catalogue of First Sightings of Real & Imaginary Beings." It lists various types of viruses and when and where they occurred.

Three categories are listed: 1.) Viruses, 2.) Trojan Horses, and 3.) Worms.

Examples of some of the types of viral programs included in the article are: Creeper, Reaper, Rabbit, Finger Viruses; XmasCard, Run.me, and Turkey Trojan; Billboard, Gladiator, and Shockwave Worm.

Here's a typical excerpt:

EXISTENTIAL WORM - A worm whose sole purpose is to stay alive. It runs no substantive application program. The Cookie Monster Worm at MIT was one such. It might display a screen message such as: "I'm a worm, kill me if you can!"

(John Shoch, 1980)

Fourteen virus remedies are also listed, such as Ferret, KillScores, Virus RX, Forgery Detector.

Interesting what we key bangers can create, destroy, protect, and unprotect while venturing into the world of electrons.

**PCjr SECOND DISK
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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 _____

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

Integrity Technology

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

WANTED: Any memory expansion for a 128K Junior. Any keyboard (AT style with function keys on left) with cursor keys near the middle and number keys on the right. I would even be interested in a separate numeric key pad or add-on. Paul Matchulat, (503) 942-5911. If you have an exceptionally good deal, call collect.

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.



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