



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

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MARCH 1993

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

MEETING AGENDA

The March meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will take place at the Northwest Natural Gas Bldg., 790 Goodpasture Island Road on Thursday, March 11th. Setup and disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm.

OFFICERS

- President Frank Ratti
- Vice President. Christine Brown
- Treasurer Phil Janz
- Disk Librarian. Paul Bonney
- Ass't Disk Librarians Cindy Page
Simon Ratti
- Documents Librarian Dick Page
- Modem Captain Gordon LeManquais
- Commercial Contacts Warren Hampton
Juanita Hampton
- Social Director Rosemary Janz
- Newsletter Editor Louie Levy
- Newsletter Coeditor Barbara Caselton
- Contributing Editor Dick Page

FROM THE OVAL OFFICE

by Frank Ratti



elcome to March. Last month we tried to present two meetings in one evening. We finished about 75% of our agenda, which would be a great accomplishment for the state legislature, but the PCjr Club has higher standards. I think some of you have finally been cured of that psychosis common to PCjr owners, fear of "spreadsheets." Give thanks to **Bob Specht** for his seminar on PC-CALC, and to our own **Michael Ruiz**, who taught the follow-up spreadsheet workshop. Thanks also to **Barbara Castleton** who taught the follow-up at the end of the workshop. At long last, some club checkbooks will finally be balanced. Some may even discover hidden wealth at the bottom of their bank accounts. Let's hear a report, and I'm particularly interested in those of you who will bring to the meeting examples of what you have now "spread" on your "sheet."

Some unfinished business postponed from last meeting was a presentation by **Louie Levy** on ex--pand--ing your Junior; we will finish it Thursday. It will be the monthly dose of computer hardware recommended by the FDA. Also, **Paul Bonney**, disk librarian, will revisit BRIDGEPAL. Since the meeting location is not in Springfield, there will be no betting. We will have a presentation on Typography, especially selecting fonts and type faces, by **Dick Page**. To round this out, we will be asking some of you to demonstrate what your particular printer/software combo will produce. This will satisfy your monthly requirement for software as also recommended by the FDA. It sounds to me like another full and fun meeting with plenty of opportunity for hands-on-activity.

In addition, come for the refreshments presented this month by **Bobby and Patty Tanner**, browse the disk library and Junior store, and talk modems with **Gordon LeManquais**. We will have a report from the nominating committee regarding new officers. Snow in the valley is behind us. The daffodils and crocus may be blooming by the next meeting. Our students may even be beginning to see the light at the end of their yearly tunnel. Let's get out and celebrate spring before it arrives!

Frank Ratti

A MARCH AGENDA TOPIC

• TYPOGRAPHY •
THE ART & SCIENCE
OF THE PRINTED
WORD

Words are sneaky. And typography makes them even sneakier! In everything we read, in every ad, article or book that reaches out to us, the typography of the words printed on that page, screen, or billboard influences us. We can't avoid it. So at the March meeting, let's learn a bit about typography and how to put it to good use!

There will be two parts to the discussion of typography: 1.) the theoretical nuts and bolts ["pica" and "pitch", so-to-speak] and 2.) practical examples of what your printer and your software can do for you.

"THE THEORETICAL"

We will talk about the terminology unique to typography. Do you know what a "pica" is? How about an "ascender" or the "x-height" of a font?

Did you know that there are five different typeface categories (general styles of type)? They are:

1. Old Style
2. Modern
3. Slab Serif
4. Sans Serif
5. Script

Each typeface (often inaccurately called a "font") can be placed into one of these categories. We'll show you examples and the power they possess.

We'll also talk about type and optics. What effect the spacing of a letter, word and line has on the "look" of the printed

page.

And when considering the layout of the page, we'll discuss some basic rules of thumb.

"THE PRACTICAL"

Some club members will be bringing in examples of type styles that their Juniors can produce. This will include styles built into the operation capability of their printer ["native fonts"]. It will also include examples of what some software programs, such as Print Shop, can generate.

So come to the March meeting for a little schoolin'. It will be fun, interesting, and, hopefully, thought-provoking. And best of all there won't be a quiz at the end of the lesson!

Be there or be square!

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz Dick Page

Nostalgia

"The IBM PCjr, known as the 'peanut' when it was introduced, continues to raise a lot of questions in computer circles and among users." This statement is as true today as it was when Bill Roy used it in his lead article for the Eugene IBM PCjr Club's first newsletter nine years ago. Those of us who had purchased our IBM computers back then did so for many reasons, but one of the main motivations for our selecting the "peanut" was its manufacturer, IBM.

We felt that IBM Corporation, affectionately known as "Big Blue," was the cornerstone of the computing industry. After all, IBM was an American corporation and was one of the top ten listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Their computers needed little advertising because the company

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itself had such a good reputation. Buying the PCjr was an economical way to get a computer that wasn't a toy, but was instead a computer made by the corporation that set the "industry standard."

Apple and Commodore were really pushing their computers at the same time and it would have been easier, and less costly in many cases, to have purchased one of these other brands. But, those of us who were looking for a serious computing tool at the time didn't choose these brands because our needs were not oriented toward what these computers were doing at the time. IBM computers seemed to have focused more on the business world with word processing, spreadsheets and data bases.

Even though the PCjr would be our first computer purchase, many of us realized that if we were to continue using computers in our businesses and lives, our first choice should be with a viable "office" computer rather than a "game" machine.

The PCjr was the most economical computer IBM has ever built, and it is still a good "serious" computer today. Even with it's "small footprint," the Junior fits nicely in any office.

When Junior was introduced he could run all the software available at the time. Several of the major software companies came out with versions of their programs specifically for Junior. Microrim produced R:base 2000, Micro Education made *Managing Your Money*, SSI came out with a cartridge version of *WordPerfect* and of course there was Lotus Development's *Lotus 1-2-3*. Some of us are still using these programs on a nearly daily basis.

We all know that many who purchased their Juniors "way back when" have moved on to newer computers. Some have remained with the IBM brand because of their dependability or for other reasons, while others have

purchased clones. Many people are still buying into the "planned obsolescence" of the hardware and software manufacturers.

Speaking of planned obsolescence, have you ever wondered why Windows is given away "free" with many new computers? Maybe you should give it some thought. We have even heard the absurd term "Windows Computer" compared to a "DOS Computer." Windows only runs on a computer using DOS!

If you have continued to "upgrade" your software until now you must have two megs of memory ("four would be better") to run your program that must be used under Windows, which must have a video card of a megabyte or more memory on it, and your program now comes on umpteen disks so you must have a larger hard drive, then you have bought into the marketing scheme of planned obsolescence.

Now, each year we purchase the newer "upgraded" versions of our old software, we are finding that it will run only after we have purchased the latest hardware. We first needed the "Tandy Mod" to get the screen colors we used to get in the older versions of the same software. Next, we needed a hard drive as the programs became larger and larger. We have added more and more "stuff" to our computers until we needed to upgrade Junior's power supply just to have enough juice to run everything.

Still, there are those who are using their original copies of *Writing Assistant* to do their business correspondence. We know of non-profits, like the American Diabetes Association in Lane County, who are running multi-thousand dollar budgets and fund raising events on their Juniors with *PC-Calc*, and a few small businesses who are using the PCjr cartridge version of *Lotus*. (And more who are using the disk version.) Many people are using

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Quicken to keep their books and do their taxes using their paid-for Juniors. On a personal note, I data based and cataloged a library of over 1,500 books using our little peanut and WordPerfect 4.2. I also made Title/Author and Author/Title cards for the books on 3x5 continous form cards! One member of our Club who is a student at the University of Oregon is still using the same Junior he began using in the seventh grade.

So, how's your little peanut doing? You should never feel embarrassed to tell anyone that the work you are doing is being done on a Junior! We knew when we bought our Juniors that we were buying a "serious" computer! Even though most of us use pet names like Junior, Peanut and others for our machines, we realize that we do many viable and rewarding things with our computers. So, again we say, Thank you, Big Blue!

**Justification:
When Is It Justified?**

Just when is it appropriate to use full justification and when should you leave the right edge of your written material ragged? Well, it all depends.

Many feel that an article with smooth right and left margins is more professional looking than one that has a ragged right margin. But just when is it appropriate to use full justification? Most textbooks use text that is fully justified when the lines are in excess of four or so inches, but some don't. The Writing Assistant manual is not justified, for instance.

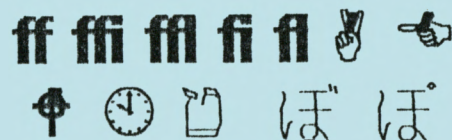
Most of us feel that full justification is appropriate for text in newsletters, textbooks and newspapers. Our local newspaper uses both styles. Which is more correct?

Well, it depends. Most word processors add spaces between words so that lines are of equal length. Some place a "soft space" between words until the line is full. PC-WRITE uses this method, alternating the spaces from right to left to avoid a wavy look in the text. It also uses "micro-spaces" when you select a font that supports proportional spacing.

The Eugene PCjr Newsletter uses left justification for most of its articles. We feel that readability should be the main criterion for selecting if you should use right or fully justified text. Greg Hunt, author of many how-to books, says that "full justification is for books and other printed matter, and ragged right is the normal state for typewritten and computer typewritten material by individuals."

If you are creating manuscripts, especially for publication, the American Psychological Association suggests that you do not use full justification, but instead, use ragged right margins. The APA also suggests that you not use hyphenation. Yet, the APA manual is fully justified and hyphenation abounds. We hope this helps. . .

At Thursday's meeting, Dick Page will be talking to us about what dictates what type styles we should use in documents. All of this is connected if we are to effectively communicate with others. As Dick would say, be there or be square!



NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The nominating committee is working diligently to interest Club members in the various leadership roles that need filling at our Annual General Meeting in April. The elected positions of **President** and **Treasurer** (two year terms) will be voted upon at that time. The nominating committee is also soliciting people to serve on the **Board of Directors** in the following positions: **Disk Librarian**, **Contributing Editor** for the **Newsletter** and **Commercial Contact** for two year terms. Also, the position of **Social Director** for a one year term. Any Club member may nominate a candidate for one of the two elected offices by submitting the name to Vice President Christine Brown no later than March 14, 1993 (2758 North 32nd Street, Springfield or 741-1594).

USING YOUR PCjr CLUB

by Gordon LeManquais

You can turn to your PCjr group for help on any number of matters. Most cities in the U.S. have at least one computer user group, but not one specifically centering around the PCjr.

INPUT/OUTPUT - The Eugene PCjr Club is like a computer: you get out of it what you put into it. Virtually all computer user groups encourage members to take the lead in determining what sort of activities the group would like

to undertake. The focus can be as straight forward as acquainting new computer owners with the intricacies of printers cables and DOS commands, or as specific as helping individual members with problems they may encounter with programs like **PC-FILE** or **WRITING ASSISTANT**.

SERVICE - You can expect a core of services from your local computer group. A service may be a newsletter like the one you are reading now, that has articles of common interest and classified ads where you may buy and sell used equipment. The Eugene PCjr Club has a lending library of newsletters from other computer clubs that you may read or check out to carry home. It also has a library of shareware programs you may purchase. If you decide to buy something from either the "Company Store" of computer parts or from the disk library, your membership in the group affords you with a discount rate on your purchase. At the very least, you can get together with other members and benefit from quantity discounts by purchasing paper, disks, and other supplies as a group.

THE BIRD'S-EYE LOWDOWN - The primary purpose of The Eugene PCjr Club is helping others by the dissemination of information. This information can range from the nuts and bolts of hooking up peripherals like printers and modems, to pointers on how to become a more sophisticated user of a given software package. It can even include such educational undertakings as becoming proficient by learning hands-on in the Club Workshops. In The Eugene PCjr Club there are people who have specialized interests and who are willing to share their knowledge. One thing The Eugene PCjr Club does is to continually assess member needs and ask them to communicate to us their specific needs for workshop programs.

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Coming up in two months is the election of officers. If you want the club to continue being the support group it has been in the past, remember that you have to give to get. I have been in the club for a little more than a year, which isn't much time, while others have been in the club from day one. The one thing that I have found out about The Eugene PCjr Club is that everyone helps each other.

Gordon LeManquais

GRIN and BEAR IT:

The new computer my sister, Jewell, and her husband bought had a program with a spell-check function which they decided to try. My sister typed her name, and the computer suggested the correction Jewel. "You don't know how to spell your own name," my brother-in-law said, laughing, as he typed in his name, Myron. No such word, according to the computer. It suggested Moron.

From the Reader's Digest, Feb, 1993: Rita McGuffey (Newman, Ga.)

MODEM NEWS NO. 4

by Gordon LeManquais

This month I am going to talk about the "FOOL ON THE HILL" Bulletin Board. This BBS is operated by Larry Cotton, and The Eugene Personal Computer Club. This BBS is the one of the area's largest boards and contains over 1,600 programs in the file section.

"FOOL ON THE HILL" BBS has a section call DOORS. This is an area where you can "bank" time. Should you have time left when you are done with your business on the BBS, the time remaining can be

logged into this area. You can build up to 1 1/2 hr so that if there is a large program you wish to download, you can use the "banked" time another day. (When you sign in you are allowed 45 minutes a day on the BBS.)

There is also a message area where you can leave messages for people. There is no games area, but I think they are working on that. As with all BBS, should you need help you can page the system operator.

There is so much information in the files of this BBS that I could go on and on and on. Larry Cotton is working on getting E-mail. I have talked to Larry with Junior, and he has been very helpful to me. When I was just getting my Junior going, Larry took the extra time and showed me how to use the FOOL ON THE HILL BBS. I have talked to several BBS operators and found them all willing to help Junior owners. I think most of them consider it a challenge as few of them know much about the PCjr. I gave Larry Cotton a bad time once and asked him when he was going to start using a real IBM computer instead of one of those clones. His answer was, "HA HA HA."

Good MOTEMing

YIKES!

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER.

We are concerned about those who support Junior, but who have not yet made a financial commitment to continue with the Eugene PCjr Club. The publication of our newsletter is held to a bare minimum for a purpose. We do not typeset or otherwise produce a costly newsletter so we can keep membership and subscription costs down. Still, we can't afford to mail newsletters to those who feel they can't support us with the small subscription fee. We need

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you. . .and you may need us. . .
 Take a second and look at the
 mailing label on this newsletter.
 If the date by your name is marked
 in red, your membership or sub-
 scription has expired.

So, please, won't you SIGN
 UP, PAY UP, and become an ACTIVE
 SUPPORTING member in YOUR PCjr
 CLUB?

Socket Protectors

The time has come to repeat Dick Page's note on what can happen if you don't use Socket Protectors. With more new Junior owners coming into the club, we have noticed that there are still some Juniors that do not have these protectors installed. Here is Dick's true story:

The connector sockets in the back of the PCjr look fairly sturdy. They aren't! The plastic separator between the keyboard cable plug-in and the light pen plug-in on our Junior cracked because of the constant tug to the left by my keyboard cable. This bent the small brass pins to the left as well.

Occasionally we disconnect the keyboard cable (to my Key-Tronic 5151jr keyboard) in order to use the standard PCjr keyboard. Recently, on attempting to re-connect the cable, I bent the brass pins. I tried to gently straighten the pins back, but two of them broke off. Unfortunately, the pins and their sockets are an integral part of the mother board and therefore are a costly item to replace. (The motherboard costs nearly as much as a whole new PCjr!)

Luckily, I found someone who was willing to fuss with my junior and was able to solder in new pins. (Repair Charge of \$40.00) But the broken plastic separator can't be fixed.

I now have a less portable, but functional, PCjr. I have tied down all the cables to a wooden board using small nylon straps from the electrical department of a local hardware store. There is no lateral stress on the sockets now, and we are very careful any-time we insert or remove cables.

The costly lesson for me: BEWARE! The PCjr keyboard may have been designed to be virtually indestructible, but the socket connectors certainly are not!

Dick's article was from the April 1987 issue of our newsletter. Since that time, IBM has made available a part for Junior known as "Socket Protectors." These protectors are actually two inserts that snap into the rear of Junior's case to afford more protection to the sockets on Junior's motherboard. Check with Phil Janz at the "Company Store" if you don't have a set, or you can order them from Elmer Hungate for only \$5 a set.

NEED HELP? Give These Club Members a Call:

BASIC or WordStar:
 Paul Bonney - 344-1501
 PC-FILE III or WordPerfect:
 Louie Levy - 343-7592
 PC-FILE +, 5 or 6:
 Dick Page - 342-3193
 Writing Assistant:
 Phil Janz - 343-1059
 Communications:
 Gordon LeManquais - 746-1594
 Sierra Games:
 Cindy Page - 342-3193
 Hardware Problems:
 Dick Page - 342-3193
 Spreadsheets Programs:
 Frank Ratti - 747-8315
 For help in the Portland Metro
 Area, call
 Robert Mueller: 252-1106
 Parts and supplies:
 The Company Store: Phil Janz

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EUGENE *PCjr* CLUB

1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220
 Eugene, OR 97401

Phil and Rosie Janz 12/93M
 155 34th Place East
 Eugene, OR 97405

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