



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Volume IX
Numbers 6-9
Sept. '93

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



MEETING

AGENDA

The September Annual Picnic meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will take place at Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Avenue in Eugene on the 9th.

Members, newsletter subscribers and friends are invited to attend this event that starts at 6pm.



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 To Be Appointed
- Newsletter Editor Louie Levy
- Contributing Editor To Be Appointed

PRESIDENTIAL PONTIFICATING

by Rosie Janz

"Doing More With Less" became the theme of our May meeting. Or was it, "Going With the Flow?" If you missed the meeting, you missed an opportunity to see members exemplifying how flexible and adaptable they are. We had planned to meet as usual in the Northwest Natural Gas Company meeting room. . .But, due to circumstances beyond our control, the entrance door was locked when we arrived. So, we met in the parking lot instead! Nothing was going to stop us. We had important information to share and tasks to do.

After brief announcements and the presentation of award certificates to our valuable retiring officers and workshop presenters, we set about the task of cleaning our disk drives. Picture this. . .we were sitting on the curbing in the parking lot, with our disk drives propped on whatever we could find to elevate them, and with the able assistance of Louie Levy and Mike Ruiz, we were scrubbing every nook and cranny of those drives.

We were not at all distracted by the noisy cars whizzing by, or the rain clouds threatening us overhead. Louie and Mike not only helped us clean our drives, but they helped in demystifying some of the little "domahinkies" under the hood for us as well. A unique meeting for the conclusion of our 8th year!

Tuesday, August 31, the Club began our new year with a well-attended and lively Board Meeting. We began by discussing why we were choosing to continue our involvement with the PCjr Club. We reached a consensus that we wanted to continue to learn new ways to utilize Junior, and to foster other's learning to use what we all agreed was a "magnificent little machine."

After a summer of activities having more to do with sun screen and canoe paddles, I was feeling somewhat distanced from Junior and all of you great Junior members. I was having some trepidation about the future of our club. . . Wondering if there would still be some interested participants out there. . .Asking myself, "Will board members have any enthusiasm about planning and committing to help with programs and workshops for next year?"



...our President's pontificatings continue:

I needn't have been concerned! With the help of information from your Spring survey forms and their own fertile imaginations, your board planned what promises to be a fun and rewarding year for participating members. To "infect" you with some of the excitement the board felt as they were planning, here is a sneak preview of some of the programs we have planned for you:

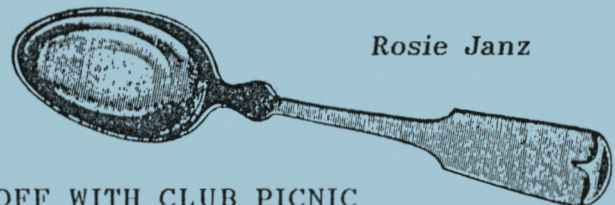
OCTOBER - "Modem on Down to the City Library with Gordon LeManquais"

NOVEMBER - Demystifying Library Diskettes (hands on) with Cindy Hoffman and the Gang"

In 1994 get ready for - "Graphics, Fonts and the Printed Word," (styled by Dick Page). . ."Share and Tell". . ."Favorite Games For Kids & Adults". . ."Junior Enhancements & DOS Dabbling". . ."Spring Cleaning" "Under the Hood" & "Swap Meet."

Also, in store for any eager members who sign up and participate are some great sounding and informative workshops. You will hear more about workshops at our Fall Picnic. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

Rosie Janz



9th YEAR TO KICK OFF WITH CLUB PICNIC

New

Our crazy and wild summer is coming to an end but don't despair. . September, Indian Summer and our Club meeting are next on the calendar! Our Club will be celebrating the beginning of another exciting and involved year with our annual September 9th picnic at

Emerald Park.

Members have always enjoyed this fun and social family gathering. The Park's shelter has protected us from all kinds of weather at past gatherings. So, no matter what the weather is like, plan to bring your family and enjoy an evening of munching, fellowship and information gathering.

This year the Club will furnish fried chicken, pork and beans, French bread and coffee, tea and lemonade. Please bring either a hot dish, salad or a desert. Everyone also needs to bring his or her own table service. Hopefully, we will have a wide variety of good things to eat!

Phil Janz will be talking to us about workshops that are either planned or a "gleam in the Board's eye" for sometime during our Club year. So come prepared to express an opinion, suggest an idea or sign up for a great sounding workshop!

We will be gathering at the park pavilion (1400 Lake Drive) on Thursday, September 9th, around 6:00 pm. See the map at the top of next page for directions to the park. Remember to bring a sweater! The fall "nip in the air" can make the early evening a bit chilly. Also, bring your good appetites and a lot of enthusiasm. . .What better way to begin our ninth year!!!

Peanut Picnic

LOCATION
FOR THE
PEANUT
PICNIC
1400 Lake
Drive



If you need better directions, call Rosie at 343-1059.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Rosie for this article on the Club's Annual Picnic. Social Directors, Court and Virginia Pierce, moved to Idaho over the summer so our President moved quickly to help organize the Picnic. The position of Social Director is vacant. If you would like to serve your Club in this capacity, please let Rosie know. If you volunteer, it will only be a short while as this two year position will expire in May of '94.

Court and Virginia are going to remain members of the Club. We hope they and Junior will enjoy their new home in Idaho.

WordPerfect and Junior

by John King

We all know that WordPerfect is a powerful and expensive word processing program. Should you need such a program, we suggest that you take a look at the older versions, 4.1 or 4.2. You will find they work extremely well on even a single disk drive PCjr as long as you have at least 512K of RAM. Even if you have less than 512K, the "smaller" version of WordPerfect, the personal editor that comes with these versions, PE.EXE, works well.

Fortunately, WordPerfect versions 4.1 and 4.2 have an option which allows the whole program to be loaded into memory. To do this, just key in WP with the /R

switch. (A>WP/R) If you copy the other files needed by WordPerfect to a ramdisk, the program disk can then be removed from the drive after the program is booted, and it won't be needed again until you exit WordPerfect. Using the /R switch and a ram drive frees up your disk drive making it available for a data disk, or the Speller, Thesaurus or Help disks.

We suggest that you use Larry Newcomb's JRCONFIG (Club Library Disk U-611, Jr. Power Pack II) to create a ramdisk for your Junior and then copy these files to it:

WPFONT.FIL
WPPRINTER.FIL
(WP)SYS.FIL
WPHELP.FIL

These files only need about 75K.

If you are using a sheet feeder, you will have to copy WPFEED.FIL, as well. (A sheet feeder?!)

WordPerfect will also store temporary overflow files onto the ramdisk if you are working on a large document. Because of this, your ramdisk should be at least 100K. However, be sure to leave at least 300K of memory free for DOS and to load WP.EXE. You can use CHKDSK.COM from your DOS disk to check the amount of free memory after the ramdisk is installed.

The command to start WordPerfect is:

WP/R/D-C:

The /R loads WP.EXE completely into Junior's memory, and the /D-C: tells WordPerfect it can find all necessary files on ramdisk C:. If your ramdisk is not C:, substitute the appropriate letter.

As finishing touches, you should add the line BUFFERS=10, or 20, to your CONFIG.SYS file. This will speed up the loading of large programs. Write a batch file to copy the necessary files to the ramdisk (COPY *.FIL C:), or add this line to the AUTOEXEC.BAT file: SET WP=/R/D-C: Then, you can start WordPerfect with just WP and the options will be automatically invoked.

(Ed's note: WordPerfect 4.1 and 4.2 can be found at swapmeets and garage sales locally in the \$10 price range, making it an excellent buy for Junior users. If you need to interact with

WordPerfect 5.1, we suggest that you take a look at LetterPerfect 2.0. It is nearly the same program, but smaller, than 5.1. LetterPerfect was reviewed in the May 1992 issue of this newsletter.)



PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL--

If it has a red mark on it, your dues are past due, and you will NOT get the next newsletter!

We DO NOT want to lose your support! But, we need your financial commitment in order to keep the club functioning. The Newsletter takes money to produce and it can't be sent to you without postage. Please take the time NOW to renew your commitment to your club by sending in your check. Family memberships are only \$20 per year including a subscription to the Newsletter. A subscription-only rate is available for \$12. Either way, you will continue to be a viable member of the longest continually operating PCjr Club in the country and you won't miss a single issue of this information packed newsletter!

SEND IN THAT CHECK NOW!



**UPS -
New on the Block**

Louie Levy

One of the latest buzzwords we hear lately is UPS, uninterruptible power supply. A UPS is a device that allows the continued use of your computer after a power failure--or at least it will give you some time to allow an orderly shut down of what you're working on when the lights go out.

Few of us ever expect the power to our Juniors to just quit. When lightning begins to flash, most of us wind up what we're working on and bail out, turning Junior off until calmer times. Of course, those folks who were computing in the World Trade Center last spring never expected the lights to go out, but things happen.

When your computer is plugged into a UPS, you are somewhat protected. The UPS senses an undervoltage situation in your line voltage. When the juice to Junior starts to drop, the UPS takes over, supplying voltage long enough to keep him going. The smaller UPS units will keep Junior going for a couple of minutes so you can save the spreadsheet or document you were working on when the power went out, and will allow you to exit the program in an orderly fashion.

Do you need a UPS? Probably not. Starting at around a hundred dollars, most PCjr users will feel that an uninterruptable power supply isn't economically feasible. But, if you are nearly finished with your income tax return on April 15 and you're in an electrical storm, or if you work in the World Trade Center, a UPS may give you a very comforting feeling.

"The fact is, research shows that for the great majority of personal computer users, there is no longer an economic need to purchase the latest, fastest and greatly more expensive highend computers. For casual computing in average to midrange performance, the PCjr is still an excellent contender."

Unnamed Eugene PCjr Club Guru

Prevention: The Best Medicine



Keeping Physically Fit

We haven't had any readers of the Newsletter report lately that they have contracted any computer viruses. Are we all just lucky or are we using safe computing techniques? Whichever the case, it's time to read the "warning label" again before we all become too complacent.

Rule 1 - Keep those write-protect labels on your original software programs. (There is never a reason to remove them!) If you need a working copy of your Writing Assistant, Lotus, Bank Street Writer or other copy-protected software, use one of the back-up programs such as Central Point's CopyIIjr to make another copy. DON'T use your original disks as working copies.

Rule 2 - Purchase antivirus software and USE it to scan any software you use in your Junior. If you don't have anti-virus software, reboot your computer with a known clean boot disk after you have used someone else's program or file disk in your Junior. Their disk may have been contaminated!

Rule 3 - Scan any and all disks a family member may bring home from school; any school. Also, scan those that may have been in a computer at work. Scan any files you download from a BBS and any E Mail you may receive.

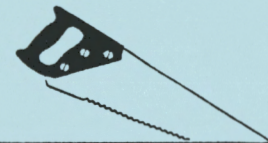
We are very lucky that we use the PCjr--especially if we don't use a hard drive! That may be somewhat hard to comprehend, but because many viruses attack the boot sector of disks, including DOS's hidden files (IBMDOS.COM and IBMBIO.COM), we are generally safe. This is especially true if we write protect the disks we boot from. Any virus we may encounter will go away when we reboot Junior with a clean disk.

Questions and (hopefully) Answers



Q: I use the command COPY DIR PRN quite a bit to get a printed copy of the directory listing of a disk to put inside the disk sleeve. Unfortunately, my old 9-pin printer prints the directory listing in draft mode and it is difficult to read. Any ideas on how to get a better copy?

A: Try using DIR > NEWFILE.TXT This will create a new file called NEWFILE.TXT that you can open with any word processor. Then, you can pick any font, use bold or even underline any text you want before printing it in a more letter quality mode with your old 9-pin.



It's Default of Drive

Our DOS manual says that to change the default drive we should use:

"d:(e.g., A: or B:)<enter>"

Just what do they mean?

Default means the disk drive we want Junior to use. If you have a PCjr with only one disk drive, that one drive may be called either A: or B:. When you boot Junior, the drive is always called the A: drive and this is also the default drive. But, if we need to, we can change this one drive from A: to B:. All we need to do is key in B: and press the enter key. Junior will say "Insert disk for drive B:". Now, Junior thinks the default drive is called drive B:. Junior still operates the same and you can do whatever you need to do, only your prompt will now be B> instead of A>. B: is now the default drive.

To change your default drive back to A: just key in A: and press enter. Again, DOS will say to insert the disk for drive A: and press any key. When you press that mysterious "any key," you will have changed the default drive back to A:

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As Junior users, we seldom need to change our default drive designation. About the only time we see the B: drive is when we do a diskcopy of a disk and key in "diskcopy a: b:" instead of just "diskcopy" only or "diskcopy A: A:".

With a single drive Junior, we can copy a diskette by keying in "diskcopy" or "diskcopy a: a:" or "diskcopy a: b:" as long as we have our DOS disk in the default drive. The command DISKCOPY is a file that is on our DOS disks, so this disk must be in the default drive in order for Junior to find and execute it.

If you have never copied a diskette, why don't you try it? Always put one of the write protect tabs on the disk you wish to copy--just place this tab over the notch on the side of the disk to prevent Junior from copying data onto the wrong disk. Or, you can copy your original DOS disk. (Original DOS disks have no notch on them so they can't be erased, reformatted or have their data changed.)

Should you need more help copying a diskette or changing your default drive, contact the person on page 7 under DOS HELP.



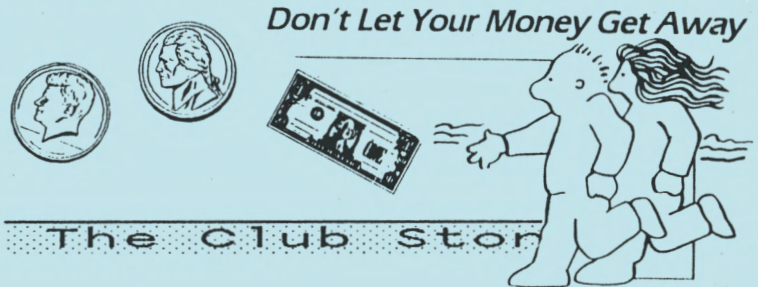
MS-DOS 6

MS-DOS Version 6 is out! If you didn't run out and purchase DOS 3.0 when it came out, and you have been reluctant to buy 3.2, 3.3, 4.0 or 5, MS-DOS 6 is here. Man, is it ever packed with features!

MS-DOS 6 has hard disk compression that will nearly double the size of your hard drive. Actually, it doesn't double the disk size, it compresses the files stored on it so it can store nearly twice the amount of files. MS-DOS 6 compresses and uncompresses files on the fly. (DR DOS 6.0 did this a year and a half ago.)

Other features are Defrag, much like Norton's Speed Disk, and better memory management. To make matters better, PC-DOS 6.1 has just been released by IBM! With all these DOS versions vying for our business, we should remember what Barry Brenesal said in his article, "Dueling DOSs" which appeared in a recent issue of Computer Shopper. Barry rightly says "Breadth and depth of features are certainly important, but they must be placed in a broader context of need."

With the release of MS and PC-DOS 6, Junior and our old DOS 2.1 reminds us of the Duracell battery commercial: PCjr computers are "still going," and going strong.



Why shop at the Eugene PCjr Club "Store" you ask? The following is the dialogue you may encounter at some of the larger discount computer outlets:

"Good afternoon, madam. May I be of assistance?"

"Er, well, I need some floppies and a printer cable."

"We have both double sided double density and double sided high density disks in 5¼ and 3½ inch formats. We have printer cables for parallel and serial printers. What type printer does madam have?"

"Gee, its a Panasonic. . .no, it's a Star, I think. It's pretty noisy. Does that help?"

"Yes, I see. Does madam need a three, six or 10 foot cable?"

"Er, well, the old one seemed to be only about 3/8th of an inch around. Oh! It was also grey."

"Did the old cable have a standard RS232 fitting on the end?"

"Say what? All I know is that one end fits my printer and the other fits my PCjr."

"Your what? What's a PCjr?"

...continued on next page>>

If you shop the computer club store, it goes like this:

"Phil, I need a new printer cable and some disks."

"Sure. Here's some disks and they're already formatted. Would you like for someone from the club to come over and hook the cable up for you?"

A lot can be said for the friendly service you get from YOUR club!

Modem News for September

Gordon LeManquais

Well, it's September again, and I hope everyone had a good summer and played with Junior at least once. This month we are having our summer potluck and hope everyone is able to come.

I have tried to think of what the club members would like in the way of modem news, and the more I thought about it, the more I became confused. I thought that I might go into some detail as to what it would take to get connected with the Eugene library. This is something that we all could find useful, and something the kids could use to find out about books. They can check to see if the books they want are in, and all the things that the Eugene library has to offer.

I will start in the October issue to shed some light on how to connect with the library and then we will follow up with a complete program and demo at the meeting. Watch for it as we "modem on down to the library!"

Letter From the Editor:

As I sat down to begin this issue of the Eugene PCjr Club's Newsletter, I found it difficult not to become somewhat humble. Looking over the very first issue of our newsletter that was published shortly after the first "exploratory" meeting we had on April 18, 1985, it is hard to

believe that our club is still going strong. As I look over the names in that issue and compare them to our present mailing list, one really stands out: Dick Page.

I see in this first issue of our newsletter that "Dick Page kicked the meeting off sharing some thoughts, and there were three PCjr systems set up." Maybe this has had much to do with the longevity of our Club. Dick and those three Juniors are still going strong, proving that both the leadership of the club and the computers themselves were built for the long haul.

Sure, Dick uses a newer and larger computer at his office now, but he still has his time-trusted Junior at his home; the same Junior he brought to that very first meeting in 1985. Dick's Junior has seen two kids through school, has done many, many articles for this newsletter and the Oregon Dental Society's newsletter, and who knows how many pages and chapters of text it has done for Carol in her job of book transcriber/editor.

As editor of this newsletter I would like to thank all of those who have come forward to lead our club over the years. Some are still in the club while others have moved on. Still, they came forward when we needed their leadership, and because of their dedication and service, the Eugene PCjr Club is still giving help and assistance to both old and new Junior owners.

If you are reading this, more than likely you own and use an IBM PCjr computer and are presently a member of the Eugene PCjr Club. We need your help to show those who have just recently purchased their Juniors how to use it to its maximum. We also need your input to let us know how we can make this newsletter interesting and useful to you and your family. If you are a local member, we need you to let us know how we can make the meetings more useful, helpful and enjoyable. Drop us a line, or call President Rosie Janz; we sincerely want to hear from you as we begin our NINTH YEAR!!

Louie Levy

"Let Someone Else Do It"

We were saddened to learn this week of the death during the summer of a valuable member of the Eugene PCjr Club, Someone Else. Someone's passing created a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else had been with us for many years and did more than a normal person's share of work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Whenever there was a job to do, a committee to chair, or a meeting to attend, one name was always on everyone's list - Someone Else.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. But, . . . a person can do only so much. Were the truth known, everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now, Someone Else is gone! Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? So, remember when our President, Rosie Janz, calls on us to do something for the Club this year, we can't depend on Someone Else anymore!

(Reprinted from sources far and wide)

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