DECEMBER

DECEMBER PCjr MEETING AGENDA

A> December 11 General Meeting will be held at Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, Eugene. Set up and disk sales will start at 6:30pm, the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

1) Opening and Announcements.
2) Scott Alldridge, Software Pipeline.
3) Break, disk sales.
4) PC-TOOLS demonstration by Dick Page.
5) Questions and Answers.

AGENDA UPDATE

PC-TOOL is manufactured by Central Point, makers of COPY II PC. PC-TOOL needs 136K and is memory resident, ready to be accessed at any time. It is a utility program similar to NORTON UTILITIES.

Blank diskettes will be available at the December meeting. The price for these DS/DD guaranteed diskettes will be $5 per box of 10 or 2 boxes for $9. We'll have some Christmas-wrapped for your Junior user's stocking! Sorry, no mailorder on these. Gift-wrapping courtesy of Elleen and Louie Levy.

LETTERS COLUMN

Dear Editor; I own a PCjr and might be interested in joining your User's Group. What benefits do you provide for out-of-town members? Do you publish a monthly newsletter? If there is a charge for a sample copy, please advise and I will send payment. Do you offer Public Domain software to your members? What is the cost of a year's membership? I look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely, Joan R., Chandler, AZ.

Dear Joan; Thanks for the letter. We're always pleased to hear from potential new members. Thought you might like to see your letter in the free sample copy you receive, our December 1986 issue. Membership and subscription information are mentioned elsewhere in this, and every, issue. Out-of-town members have all the benefits of local members: monthly newsletter; program diskettes from our Disk Library; names and phone numbers of Club Officers who can answer any questions you might have. We can all be reached at the Newsletter address on the back page. Yes, we do have Public Domain software available for our members. If you have any further questions, please write. - Paddy Dawson, Editor.

"Tonight's weather forecaster warns you to expect darkness until sunrise, then variable high cloudiness, which you won't be able to see anyway. If you can't sleep, try reading virtually any User Manual." - Broderbund ad -

Season's Greetings

NEWS FROM THE DISK LIBRARY
- Cindy Hoffman -

COMPUTER TUTOR: Did you ever wish that you could take a basic course in computers that would apply to your machine? Perhaps you even checked the college course listings and discovered that IBM PC 1A was not offered. Our Disk Library has the perfect solution! COMPUTER TUTOR is a very attractive educational package composed of a series of tutorials. It will help the newest users with simple terminology, keyboard functions, elementary DOS commands, etc. The more experienced users will benefit from subjects such as interface, CPUs, Advanced DOS (subdirectories), and DOS batch files. There are eight user menus loaded with a wide variety of subjects, including a very interesting short history of computers. The program allows you to progress at your own speed, trying out procedures, reviewing or advancing easily. COMPUTER TUTOR is a painless way to learn about your computer.

WORDWORKS: Our Disk Library has recently added a new disk called WORDWORKS, a collection of three entertaining programs; NAMEGRAM, BREAKDOWN, FONEWORD, and miscellaneous files.

NAMEGRAM takes a name, compares it to compressed files of words up to six characters long, and generates anagrams out of all the letters in the original. The results are funny and often profound. The documentation gives many examples including these from the expanded version which uses words up to sixteen characters: "On, Wagnerian Dollars" for Ronald Wilson Reagan and "A Cranial Coffin Narcosis" for San Francisco, California.

BREAKDOWN uses frequency array tables to mathematically transform text into a set of strings and rearranges them into an output text file. It comes with various example text files with which to experiemnt. The results are very strange!

FONEWORD takes a telephone number and generates all possible words using the three letters designated on phone keys. This program is not only amusing, it also has practical applications. Businesses can use easily memorized words instad of phone numbers. For some of us, recall of any personal phone number can be improved by using the word form.

Overall, WORDWORKS is a quality disk and worth adding to your personal library.

AST RESEARCH INC. HARDWARE OFFER
- Jim McWilliams -

Some months ago, I wrote to a number of former hardware and software producers for the PCjr. The purpose of the letter was to inquire as to whether they had any stock of product left that they would make available to our Club at a special price.

AST Research Inc. is the only manufacturer that has responded. They are willing to sell the following products to us at a discount:

	Discount	Original
128K board	$145	$295
256K board	$195	$395
512K board	$295	$595

The kicker is that AST is requesting a minimum order of $2500. If anyone is interested in this product, get in touch with me. If we can't make the $2500 minimum order, we can always write to them again and see if they will relax that requirement.

DEBUG
- Leon Ungier -

Want to learn about the inner workings of your PCjr? DEBUG, the utility provided with your DOS, is ideal for this. You can use DEBUG, for example, to examine what is in the memory of the Junior. This, in some cases, can be quite revealing. Low memory is of some interest. Low memory means memory located at low addresses, say from address 0:0 to 0:500. In particualr, there are two bytes in memory at addresses 0:417 and 0:418 which control the action of the keyboard and are called, quite appropriately, keyboard status bytes. All PC models have these two bytes. When you press any special keys, like Shift or CapsLock, you are modifying the response of your keyboard and, at the same time, you are changing specific bits in the two bytes at addresses 0:417 and 0:418. We can do it the other way around, as well. Using DEBUG, we can change a specific bit in byte 0:417 and this would have the same effect as we would have by pressing the CapsLock key.

We will use just two DEBUG commands: D, for dump, which displays memory contents at specified addresses; and the other, E, for Enter, which displays a single byte and waits for you to type the value you want to change it. One more command you will need is to exit DEBUG. This is Q for Quit. To make any instructions easier to describe, I will assume that you have just turned on your Junior and you have not pressed any special keys.

At DOS prompt, type DEBUG and press Enter. Then type d 0:417 418. Your screen should look like this:

```
A>debug
-d 0:417 418
0000:417 00-00
-
```

In the second line, you have asked Junior to show you the contents of two bytes at addresses 0:417 and 0:418. In the third line, the computer repeated the starting address and then showed that the two bytes are all zeros. Now type again d 0:417 418 but this time, press the left Shift key and keep it pressed while pressing the Enter key. You will see that the Junior will respond with 0000:417 02-00. So, the byte at 0:417 is not all zeros anymore. It has its first bit set. You can do the same with the right Shift key and you should see 0000:417 01-00 in response. Now press CapsLock and then again type d 0:417 418 and Enter. The Junior will respond with 0000:417 40-00. Again, the first byte has changed. Press CapsLock and and type d 0:417 418 (or Fn 3 instead) and you'll see the byte returned to its previous value. This means by toggling the CapsLock key, you are changing bit #6 in the 0:417 byte, and the computer responds to that by toggling the letters you type from lower case to capital case and back. It is not as straightforward to see as one may want because DEBUG displays the contents of the memory in hexadecimal form, grouping every 4 bits into a hex digit, rather than showing the individual bits.

Now, as I said before, instead of toggling the CapsLock key, you can change the byte 0:417 and see that it has the same effect. Type E 0:417 and press Enter. The computer will display a number currently in memory (it will be one of those you have seen while toggling the CapsLock key), and will wait for you to type the number you want to change it. Type the other number and press Enter. The letters you'll type from now on will change lower to capital case or vice versa.

What we have done so far would work just fine on a Junior or on a big PC. There is, however, a bit in the byte 0:418 which is unique to PCjr, bit #2. PC or PC XT ignores this bit, while our Junior makes the keys click when this bit is set (means equal to 1), or not clicking when this bit is zero. You are actually changing this bit when hitting simultaneously the Ctrl-Alt-CapsLock keys. Try it by displaying the byte 0:418 (type d 0:418 418), hitting the Ctrl-Alt-CapsLock combination and displaying the byte 0:418 again. Then try directly changing the click bit by typing e 0:418 and Enter, and then typing the other number you have seen. As soon as you enter the other value, you will hear the change in the audible response of the keys you are hitting.

It is actually quite easy to write a very short machine program, using DEBUG, which would set bit #2 in the 0:418 byte. Then, instead of hitting the three keys combination, you would run this program. Or you can include that program in the autoexec.bat file so the keyboard would start clicking automatically after you turn on your computer.

IBM PCjr, RACORE DRIVE TWO, and LOTUS 1-2-3: ARE THEY COMPATIBLE? (Thanks to Betty Churchill of Arvada, California and Nick Sullivan of FAMILY COMPUTING 7/86 for their question and answer).

Q. I recently purchased a second-hand IBM PCjr with a Racore Drive Two because it had a number of programs included, specifically LOTUS 1-2-3. However, I find that I am unable to run the LOTUS disk. After a few minutes, the program quits running or I get colors flashing all over the screen. All the work I do for myself and my company is on LOTUS spreadsheets. Without the program, the PCjr system is of little use to me. Can you help?

A. Let's hope so! You can run the LOTUS 1-2-3 cartridge version on a PCjr with 128K and one disk drive. But the problem you describe stems from using the IBM PCjr version 1A of 1-2-3. The LOTUS 1-2-3 color graphics driver for the PCjr is different from the driver for the PC. To run the disk version of LOTUS on the PCjr with the Racore Drive Two, you need DOS 2.1, 256K RAM, and the PCjr Installation Kit. This software allows you to "install" the proper drivers for color graphics. You can get the PCjr Installation Kit free from LOTUS. Call 617/577-1100 and ask for Information and Warranty.

HELPME: Nancy Scott   746-2442
             Charlie Halbrook   747-4948

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"Computers do create jobs. Now
it takes more people to correct
each mistake." - Alice Waldron -

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BASIC-Beginner's   All   Purpose
Symbolic Instruction Code.

TREATS FROM OUR DISK LIBRARY

Now that the holidays are
practically upon us, do think
about the wonderful programs in
our Disk Library. They make
excellent stocking stuffers for
friends, or even as a special
treat for ourselves.

The diskettes on this list are
available to members for $5 each
or 5 for $20. For non-members,
the price is $7.50 per diskette.
If you cannot attend our monthly
meetings   and   purchase   the
diskettes there,   they may be
ordered by mail. But we request
that you enclose an additional
$1.50 to cover the cost of
postage and a diskette mailer.
Send your request and payment to
our mailing address on the back
of this Newsletter.

D001: PC-FILE, Version 4.0
D002: PC-CALC, Version 2.0
D003: PC-Write, 2.6
D004: PC-DIAL
D005: E-Z UTILITIES
D006: PC-FONT, 2.04
D007: PCjr EDUCATIONAL GAMES
D008: PCjr ARCADE GAMES
D009: PCjr MISCELLANEOUS
D010: ULTRA-UTILITIES
D011: ORIGAMI
D012: HOME INVENTORY
D013: COMPUTER TUTOR
D014: TIME & MONEY
D015: FONTMENU, 1.1
D016: FREEWILL
D017: MATH TUTOR
D021: ZORK UTILITIES
D024: THE CONFIDANT
D025: REFLIST
D030: MONOPOLY
D032: LIBRARIAN'S DISK
D033: DEMO DISK #1
D034: DEMO DISK #2
D035: ADVENTURE
D036: XMAS FUN
D037: GENEALOGY ON DISPLAY, 3.1
D038: JUNIOR MUSIC MACHINE
D039: MUSIC & EDUCATIONAL PROG.
D040: CARD GAMES
D041: FUNNELS & BUCKETS and
       AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
D042: PC-DOS HELP
D043: PINBALL RALLY
D044: FAS-TYPE, TYPERITE
D045: PCMAN, PCGIRLA
D046: EASYWRITE/LABELFILE
D047: PC-DESKMATES
D048: HIGHSCHOOL ED PROGRAMS
D049: STOCK CHARTING SYSTEM
D050: PC-PICTURE GRAPHICS
D051: SAGE TRADER

PC-WRITE UPDATE

PC-WRITE 2.7 was recently dropped
into our Disk Library's Christmas
stocking.   To   receive   your
update, you must: bring your
original PC-WRITE on its labeled,
original disk to our next
meeting; since it is now two-
disks, also bring $1.50 for the
update.

HEARD ON THE STREET
- Dick Page -

DESKTOP PUBLISHING NEWSLETTER TIP

A tip in DESKTOP GRAPHICS NEWSLETTER suggests setting up designs and text at twice the size of your finished product. Then have a copy shop reduce the work by 50% The net result: increased clarity in the finished product.

The article was specifically referring to producing business cards with a laser printer that prints at 300 dpi so it prints out with the clarity of a printer resolution of 600 dpi. This is really an old trick used by illustrators and production artists, working oversized.

Incidentally, DESKTOP GRAPHICS NEWSLETTER ("The how-to newsletter for desktop graphic designers") is a good newsletter but much too spendy for most non-corporate budgets at $72/year for 12 issues. A free issue can be had by phoning Dynamic Graphics, Inc. at 1-800-255-8800. A copy will be available for viewing at the November Club meeting. You may want to save money by subscribing to PUBLISH! from PC WORLD magazine at the introductory price of $19.95/year for 12 issues.

DISCOUNTED IBM ACCESSORIES:

IBM has recently mailed a promo flier that authorized and participating dealers are offering considerable savings on most IBM PCjr hardware accessories through December 31, 1986. The promotion includes everything from the adapter cable for serial devices at $7 (regularly $10) to the speech attachment at $200 (regularly $300).

Orders can be placed directly from IBM at 1-800-426-7282. There is a $5 handling charge for each phone and mail-in order. Remember that IBM's PCjr hotline number for assistance in installing your accessories is 1-800-222-PCjr. Also, come to the Club meetings. Someone in the Club probably has the answer you have been looking for.

ALTERING BASIC "SHELL" COMMAND:

Some BASIC programs rely on the SHELL command which is not supported by the PCjr Cartridge BASIC. Wayne Robinson suggested to COMPUTE! magazine that such programs can be altered for PCjrs to get around the PCjr Cartridge problem:

"The PCjr normally uses Cartridge BASIC rather than either of the PC versions provided on the DOS disk, but it is not impossible to use the disk versions which properly support SHELL."

"When you type either BASIC or BASICA at the DOS A> prompt, DOS checks for the presence of Cartridge BASIC and displays an error message if no cartridge is found."

"You can trick the PCjr and use the disk versions of BASIC simply by changing their names on a backup copy of DOS. For example, you can use a troubled BASIC program cpntaining SHELL by renaming BASICA.COM as BASICB.COM both on the backup DOS disk and also in the actual BASIC program lines." COMPUTE!, September 1986)

Merry Christmas

NEEDED: Computer paper, used on one side okay. Call 689-9337.

MODE co80 vs MODE 80

(Thanks to the OK PCjr Users Group Newsletter, Oklahoma City).

Some people think you have to say "mode co80" if you want to get color in the 80-column mode, but this is not the case. Plain old "mode 80" will do just fine; you'll still get color. And, you'll still get color even if you say "mode bw80" and then run a color program. The reason for this seeming inconsistency is that the PC Senior can operate with both monochrome and color graphics boards installed, each driving a monitor of its own. If you wanted to look at just the monochrome monitor, you'd type in "mode mono". No need for any width specifications here, since the monochrome monitor is always 80 columns. One good use for MODE.COM: if you're running a composite monochrome monitor from a color graphics adapter (or a Junior), the different colors translated to different monochrome shades often become very difficult to make out. "Mode bw80" or "mode bw40" helps out.

FORMATTING DISKS

Formatting a disk essentially erases anything on that disk. Bring up either FILES or DIR to make sure there are no files you need to keep.

1. Type SYSTEM. This disables BASIC and returns the Junior to DOS. When your computer is at the system level, the A> replaces "OK". Then, when you type FORMAT, the display will show: A>FORMAT. When you hit ENTER, the following will appear on your monitor: Insert new diskette for drive A and strike any key when ready.

2. Insert a blank disk, or one to be reformatted, in the disk drive. Press ENTER once more. You'll then see: Formatting... . In a short time: Formatting...Format complete. 362496 bytes total disk space. 362496 bytes available on disk. Format another (Y/N)?

3. After formatting your last disk, answer the (Y/N) question N. When the A> reappears, reinsert the DOS disk in the disk drive and type BASIC. The BASIC "OK" legend will appear, then remove the DOS disk and reinsert newly formatted one. Now, write and save your programs.

LETTERS COLUMN

Dear Editor, While looking in the COMPUTER SHOPPER, I came across your PCjr User Group. I have a standard 128K, one drive system that needs an upgrade to the maximum 640K, two drive, standard keyboard system. If possible, I would like to find a hard drive, also. I would appreciate any help that the group can provide in this instance. I am trying to get the best prices, so as not to go broke. It is the best machine all around for the money. Sincerely, Robert Eidswick, Medford, Oregon.

Dear Robert, Thank you for your letter. And, yes, we all do agree about the PCjr being the best system for the money. By now, you will have received a sample copy of the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter. It is a good idea to subscribe to it for all the information we try to pack into it each month. Also, if any readers out there have ideas to help Robert, call me (689-9337) and I'll give you his address.-ED

The EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER will accept advertising as follows:

COMMERCIAL AD RATES/insertion:
       1 page - $18.00
       1/2 page - $ 9.00
       1/4 page - $ 5.00

CLASSIFIED: "For Sale" ads are $2 per 25 words for commercial transactions; free to members where information only is exchanged.

Ads should be placed two weeks before the next Club meeting. All ads are cash in advance.

Many of our Club members members are seeking high quality, competitively priced hardware and software for their Juniors. We'd like to hear from you!

The EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER is available for $12/year, or as part of the paid-up Eugene PCjr Club membership at $20/year. Interested parties may obtain one copy of the Newsletter free on request before subscribing. No guarantees are stated or implied by the overworked editor. All contributions are gratefully accepted.

Make check or money order payable to:

EUGENE PCjr CLUB, 1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401; with the following:
Name_____
Street_____
City_____ State____
Phone(h)_____ (w)_____

Upon receipt of your application for membership, we will send a questionnaire for you to complete and return.

EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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