



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

VOLUME XI
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JANUARY 1995

1011 Valley River Way 116-B, Suite 220,

Eugene, OR 97401

MEETING

AGENDA

The January meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will take place at the Northwest Natural Gas Bldg., 790 Goodpasture Island Road on Thursday January 12th. Setup & Library Disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7pm.

OFFICERS

President Rosie Janz
Vice President. Patti Tanner
Treasurer and Company Store. . . Phil Janz
Disk Librarian. Mike Ruiz
Modem Captain Gordon LeManquais
Commercial Contact. . . Dick Page
Social Director Lynn Miles Delker
Newsletter Editor Louie Levy

Association
of
Personal
Computer
User
Groups

PRESIDENTIAL PONTIFICATING

by Rosie Janz



How 'bout
them Ducks!!

To Junior Members far and near ...
I want to wish you a Happy New Year !!!
We had a great time in '94 ...
Come on now gang...
Let's do it some more!!!

1994 Christmas Party in Review

A good number of Junior members and their kin were able to attend our annual Christmas party on December 8th. As we were arriving, visiting and getting set up for our potluck, "Jr" added to the festive atmosphere by sending sounds of Christmas music wafting through the air. Also wafting through the air was the scent of a numerous variety of good foods, which were consumed with a great deal of enthusiasm.

As "consumption" was ending, Paul (P.J.) Jameson marveled us with more of his magical card tricks. "Thanks Paul!" Lingering over our meal, gave us a chance to chat with one another... to become better acquainted... It was fun and enjoyable... as was the gift exchange!!! Here's hoping that all "exchangers" went away happy.

We are very grateful to Roy and Darlene Gotzman for making arrangements so that we could use the Church of Christ for our party, and for assuming the responsibility of making sure everything was back in place when we left. Also, a big thank you to Lynn Miles for setting up the tables so festively, and for the very sincere blessing she offered for us.

"Modem Madness in January"

We can look forward to getting a variety of tips and pointers on ways to use the modem with our Juniors at our January 12th meeting. Andrew Coury will tell us how he communicates with his Grandpa in Florida on a frequent basis. Then, Lynn Miles will tell us how she does her banking at Selco with her modem, and also share her experiences of using her modem to communicate with her daughter in Balikpapan. Next, Christine Brown has agreed to tell us which commercial modem programs are the most desirable for those of us on limited budgets. Last, but not least, Gordon LeManquais and his friend, Tony Sabbato will tell us what is available on local bulletin boards and how we can access them.

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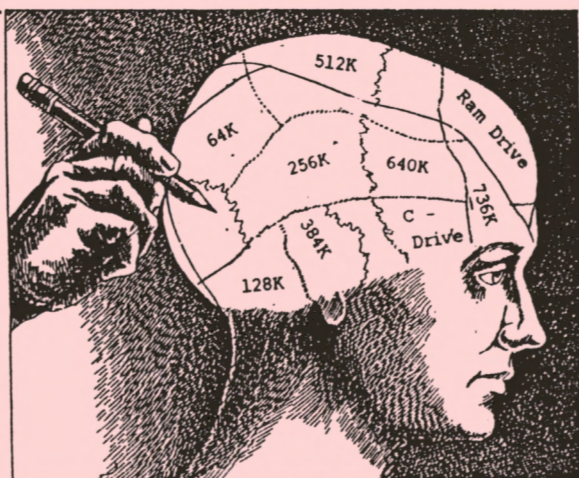
...OUR PRESIDENT'S PONTIFICATINGS CONTINUE:

After our "Modem Extravaganza", someone from the Lambright family will give us a brief demonstration of the fun to be had with the PCjr Color Paint graphics program.

Our social chairman, Lynn Miles will offer us some munchies for our break time. Lynn tells me that no one has signed up to bring goodies for the March, April or May meetings. Anyone who hasn't done so during the 1994-95 season may want to take their turn. The sign up sheet will be posted at our meetings.

Looking forward to seeing you at our first meeting of 1995, on January 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Rosie



HOW IS YOUR MEMORY? HOW IS YOUR "JR'S" MEMORY?

Phil Janz

In a lifetime, all family members have to deal with memory loss, of varying degrees of normality. Think about "jr", a family member totally dependent upon you and your support system. . . Age and maturity in most of us usually brings strength and power, but in "jr's" case, without your help, your own "jr" is limited in achieving its potential! More memory usually brings greater capacity and satisfaction in a job well done.

Are you interested in working with an expanded "jr"? You are in luck as your Club Store now has 512K sidecars that will bring your 128K '80's "jr" into the '90's at 640K! Contact Phil (343-1059) or check out the Club Store table at our January 12 Club Meeting.

Other items of interest some club members may be interested in are a 3 1/2" drive that will adapt to "jr" and several more copies of PCjr Color Paint graphic programs.

It's Modem Month!

Louie Levy

mo■dem (Mo'dθm) acronym for MODulator-DEModulator, a device that converts digital data output from another device, such as a computer or a terminal, into analog data that can be transmitted over communication lines. It also converts analog data into digital data that can be accepted by another device, such as a computer or terminal. (Thank you, Webster's NewWorld Dictionary of Computer Terms.)

Put another way, a modem is a device that takes electronic information from your computer and converts it into sounds that can be transmitted over telephone lines. These sounds can also be converted back into electronic information by the other computer's modem. (Thank you, *DOS for Dummies*.)

We are going to spend some time at the meeting this month on exploring just what we can and can't do with our Juniors and a modem. We hope to leave the meeting knowing the different types

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of modems we can purchase for Junior, what we can expect to pay for them, what some of our members are already doing with modems, and we hope to examine some of the ways the modem can be of personal interest and help to ourselves. As you can see from Rosie's "pontificatings" we are going to have an expert on the matter visit us and answer all our questions.

Getting right down to jargon, a modem is one of the most useful "peripherals" we can add to Junior. A peripheral is a device, or piece of hardware, that works with our Junior but is not necessarily an actual part of our Junior. The most useful peripheral, of course, is a printer. Most of us would agree that while Junior is just great, a printer to make a "hard copy" of our work is a real necessity. After all, you can't mail that letter to Aunt Gladys on a disk. . .or can you?

Anyway, one important peripheral you can add to your Junior is a modem. Using your Junior with a modem will allow you to communicate with other computers. You can exchange information with these computers via the local phone lines. A modem will literally expand your computing horizons in hundreds of ways and at very little cost.

The initial cost of a modem, like all computing accessories, has dropped remarkably in the past few years. Also, the technology has advanced so rapidly that those who stay "on the cutting edge" have made it possible for us to pick up some nice bargains in slightly used equipment. A modem is a prime example.

We do need to be careful in our quest for economical modems, though, as our little munchkin won't use just any modem we may find. For our purpose, there are basically two types of modems: internal (which plug into Junior's internal modem slot), and external (which plug into the serial port on the rear of Junior via an adapter.

Note: We left out a third type of modem, the FAX modem, in this article as most software that is utilized by these types of modems is much too large for many of our Juniors. Most of them require a hard drive to run them.

As for internal types of modems, I know of only two that will actually fit and work on Junior. One is the IBM PCjr Internal Modem and the other is made by PC Enterprises. Both of these modems plug into Junior's internal modem slot, leaving the S port (the serial port) on the back of Junior free for a mouse, should you want to use one.

External modems are just that: they fit externally on Junior, plugging into the S connector on the back of Junior. Some "serial adapter" cords are somewhat short, so most folks add a little longer cord to their modem so it can be placed in a convenient location near Junior. Once either type modem is connected to Junior no future adjustments are made to them, so they can be located anywhere near your computer.

I feel that one very important difference between internal and external modems is compatibility. As most PCjr owners know, the term compatibility is what many used to undermine our little machine years ago. We fooled them, didn't we! Well, if this is a concern for you, the two internal modems, the IBM and the PC Enterprises' modem, can be used ONLY on the PCjr. ANY external modem you purchase for Junior can be used on almost any other computer you may have in your home now or may purchase in the near future.

As for costs, the IBM internal modem is, by far, the cheapest. Its cost is next to nothing, as well it should be. At 300 baud, many bulletin boards and nearly all on-line services won't allow you to use their facilities. But, if all you are going to use your modem for is transferring funds at the local bank or credit union, you should not run into problems. . .for the time being, at least. Also, the library in Eugene and at the University still allow you to connect using these slow modems.

You shouldn't have any problems locally with either a 1200 or 2400 baud modem. One well-known guru, David Wilson, feels that Junior may not be able to reliably transfer data at speeds greater than 2400 baud, so this makes our choices much simpler. . .and less costly.

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Should you not feel comfortable picking out a modem for your use, we suggest that you contact the club's modem captain, Gordon LeManquais, as to just what modem would be right for you. If you are unable to attend the local meetings to talk to Gordon, give the folks at Legacy Technologies a call. They will be happy to find the modem for your needs. Legacy's number for tech support is 402-466-8108. If you think that you are ready to order a modem, use the toll-free order line, 1-800-228-7257. You can be "on line" in "cyberspace" before you know it!

Louie L.

Congratulations to our November door prize winners.

Patti Tanner

Andrew Coury chose a Library Program as his prize in the young adult drawing, and Pauline Bacod picked a "Lotus" cap for her prize in the adult drawing. We hope to see you at the January meeting where you always have a chance to win a door prize!

Welcome New Members

by Patti Tanner



Eric and Lynda Christiansen moved to Eugene about four years ago, when Eric retired. The move to Oregon was an easy decision as Eric was originally from Portland. In 1984 Lynda and Eric purchased their PCjr at a terrific bargain from IBM as a closeout item. They thought having a computer would help their three children with their school work plus they would have fun playing the games. It turned out that the girls were not as interested in Junior as was their son, Andrew. Andrew still relies on Junior while he is attending the University. What a wonderful investment it has turned out to be. Lynda is kept busy with her work as a staff nurse at

Sacred Heart Hospital. Both Lynda and Eric enjoy traveling when they have the opportunity, but with their busy schedules travel is usually limited to the summer.

The Christiansens discovered the Eugene PCjr Club after their Junior had some problems and needed an expert repair person. After talking to two local computer stores (who really didn't want to repair their Junior) they were given the name of our very own Louie. Louie quickly repaired Junior and invited them to join our club. It seems ironic that they should retire to the town where the only PCjr Club is still operating. Eric worked for IBM 26 years before he retired! They are happy to have discovered our club and very thankful that their Junior is now up and running. They still believe that Junior is all they need for their computer needs.

Tami and Rick Pitt are long time residents of Creswell. Tami became interested in a PCjr from our very own Helen Fry, who just happens to be Tami's Mother-in-Law! She hopes daughters Jessica, who is seven, and Melissa who is fifteen, will find it easier to enter the computing world if they have one at home to learn from. Tami is looking to the future and plans on using Junior for business purposes. With the great workshops that are available they will have no difficulty in finding the things that will make computer life more fascinating for them.

Roy and Toki Stucky live in Springfield with their two children, David who is twelve and Anna who is nine. With computers being used so much in schools and in our daily life they decided to look into obtaining one. The children first used a borrowed Commodore computer. David had a very long report he had to do and the teacher wanted at least part of it done on a computer. Eventually the Commodore they were using broke down so they were in need of another computer. It seemed to make sense that owning a computer would help both David and Anna with their school work. Toki and club member Lisa Atkins knew each other from work so it was easy for Rod

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Atkins to talk to them about the PCjr and about our club. It didn't take much for them to decide they were interested.

Patti T.

√Σ Just Couldn't Let It Alone Dept.

If your friends are like mine, they are telling you that you should upgrade your Junior with the new Pentium chip. Not only is there no place to stick it, it may not really be needed. The next time they come over, boot Junior into BASIC and key in the following short program.

```
10 PRINT 1 / 824633702441
20 END
```

This will tell Junior to divide 1 by that big number, the one that the Pentium had trouble with (1 out of every 25 million times or so). Then, to see the answer to the problem, key in RUN or press function 2 and see how fast Junior comes up with the answer. Okey, so Junior only figures to the 15th decimal place; I'm still not in the market for a new processing chip!

Oh, yeah, the correct answer is 1.212659629408666956 times 10 to the negative 12th power. (I hope that Andrew Coury, Paul Bonney or Clyde Dodge will let me know if I've goofed.)

Louie L.

☆

J

es

sica

was inadvertently left from our
Christmas Tree
last month

Time for another DOS TIP from Dick Page:

THE MORE COMMAND (MORE <filename>)

If you want to look at a document file such as a README file or files that have the .DOC or TXT extensions, the TYPE command is often used because it is an "internal DOS command" (That is, it is in memory after starting with DOS and you don't need to swap back and

forth with your DOS disk to use it.)

Inconveniences can develop with the TYPE command if the document you want to read is longer than one screen in size. This is where the MORE < command is helpful. By typing

MORE <B:filename.ext

the screen will not scroll on by, but will halt after each screen-full and wait until you press "any key."

To use the MORE < command, you will need your DOS disk (or a disk with a copy of MORE.COM on it) in your disk drive. The program will ask you to insert the disk with the filename on it if that file is not on the same disk as the MORE.COM file as long as you put B: before the filename.

A NOTE OF CAUTION: It is important that you use the " < " symbol and not the " > " symbol or you can damage or erase the file you want to read.

A DOS SNOOPER'S QUIZ

When executing the DOS CHKDSK command, usually it indicates that there are two hidden files (for IBMBIO.COM and IBMDOS.COM) if the disk was system formatted (FORMAT /S). What is the third hidden file if CHKDSK indicates that there are three hidden files?

Answer on page 8.

RAM DRIVES & COMMAND.COM

If you like to use a RAM drive but find that a program keeps trying to access COMMAND.COM from Drive A, giving you the familiar message "Insert COMMAND.COM disk in drive A: and press any key when ready," there is a way to access COMMAND.COM faster from within the RAM drive itself, and not have the program stop to try to physically read it off of Drive A.

If your RAM drive is drive C, have your AUTOEXEC.BAT file enter these two lines for DOS 2.1 & 2.11:

C:COPY A:COMMAND.COM C:

C:COMMAND C:

If you use DOS 3.00 or above, use:

C:COPY A:COMMAND.COM

C:SETCOMSPEC=C:COMMAND.COM

Workshops For 1995

Phil Janz

JANUARY WORKSHOP

TITLE: CREATING MAILING LABELS & LISTS

INSTRUCTORS: Warren Hampton and Phil Janz

HOST: The Hamptons

PARTICIPANTS: Molly Jones, Lynn Miles, Pauline Bacod, Helen Fry. **CLASS**

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 2

DESCRIPTION: One workshop session using PC-File & NamePal. You say that you are not organized, can't find Aunt Martha's phone number or you panic at trying to up-date your jumbled and messy Christmas Address book as you stare at the huge stack of Xmas cards and their many address changes you received in the mail last month...

If you sign up for this workshop you are indeed in luck! These two different programs will allow you to get yourself gathered in, efficiently organizing your information so it can be easily updated and printed out. You will become the envy of your family due to your being "on top" of everything!

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

TITLE: MAKING SIGNS, BANNERS, CARDS & STATIONARY

INSTRUCTOR: Patti Tanner

HOST: Patti Tanner

PARTICIPANTS: Karen Roggenbuck, Molly Jones, Helen Fry, Darlene Gotzman.

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 2

DESCRIPTION: One workshop session. A fun activity that will prepare you for enhancing parties, club meetings, classroom projects, etc. Challenging for all ages!

MARCH WORKSHOP

TITLE: GETTING STARTED IN WORDPERFECT

INSTRUCTOR: Mike Ruiz

HOST: Rob Atkins

PARTICIPANTS: Molly Jones, Lynn Miles, Rob Atkins, Pauline Bacod, Helen Fry.

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 1

DESCRIPTION: Using WordPerfect on your Junior will open up new vistas in your life. This workshop will give you step-by-step instructions on how to format documents, spell check them, save them to disk and find them again. You'll love it!

APRIL WORKSHOP

TITLE: MAKING SELF BOOTING DISKS

INSTRUCTOR: Louie Levy

HOST: Charlie Coury

PARTICIPANTS: Darlene Gotzman, Rob Atkins, Charlie Coury, Helen Fry, Pauline Bacod, Brandon Bacod.

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0

- Workshop participants must be Club members in good standing. All Club member ships are "family" memberships, and everyone in the family is eligible to participate.

- Early registration is encouraged. Workshops are generally limited to five or six participants. Each person is assured of a "hands on" experience with a PCjr.



Want to get the most number of years out of your PCjr? Want to know how to keep your disk drive clean? Do you know what the worst enemy of your computer is and how to stop it from destroying your Junior? Have you

been thinking about buying an anti-static device, modem or a surge protector? Should you turn off your PCjr while you watch that TV show or is it better to leave it on if you are coming back to it in an hour? How do you make the \$ symbol with Writing Assistant

The answers to these questions are available. All you need do is Ask the Wizzard! If you have any question, bring it TO A PCjr CLUB MEETING! We are sure you'll find a Wizzard!

YIKES!! I Turn on Junior And All I Get Is A Blank Screen!!

Louie Levy

We all wonder what we will do when that day comes that Junior quits. We turn our Junior on, and nothing. A blank screen. Several of our members have checked out all the Holy Scriptures and nowhere do they say that Junior goes to heaven when it dies. This means we need to keep Junior alive as long as we can.

So, should you boot Junior and not get that familiar IBM logo and color bar as soon as your monitor heats up, what can you do? Well, before you panic, you can do some trouble shooting first. It is only by using the process of elimination that you can come to some idea of what's ailing Junior. We hope the following steps will get your Junior up and going without a major expense.

Make sure that the monitor is plugged into the back of Junior firmly. The monitor plug has a tendency to get loose over time. . . especially if you don't have socket protectors installed on Junior. If you don't have socket protectors, see Phil at the meeting or call Legacy Technology. Sometimes unplugging and plugging in the monitor connector again will make your Junior happy. But check ALL the connectors on the back of Junior to make sure they are good and tight.

Still no luck? Time to do the "strip it down and see what's going on" method. Begin removing components from Junior. If you have a modem, mouse or joystick attached, remove them and try to reboot.

Still no luck? Remove any memory sidecars, or your Quadram or Racore upper unit and try again to reboot.

Often, a memory expansion unit is the culprit that causes your monitor to be non-responsive at boot up.

Still no luck? Moving right along, you can unplug each component on your Junior until all that is left is the power "brick" and power card on the motherboard. Many times, if Junior fails, it is due to a problem with Junior's external power supply, the "brick." This power supply is fused, but because of its sealed construction, the fuse isn't easily replaced. If you have a voltage meter, you can measure the output to see if it is producing the required 16.7 volts AC, or you can actually feel it "hum" if it is working. If this is the culprit, again see Phil or call Legacy.

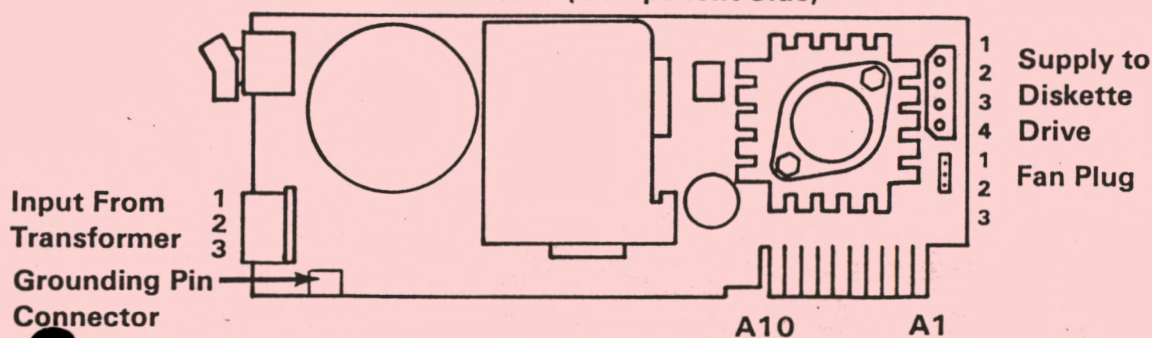
If the external power supply is delivering the correct voltage, you may try metering the internal power card. This card converts the AC voltage to DC and its output can be measured at the four pins on the opposite end from the on/off switch. See the diagram. If your card is defective, this part must be replaced.

Should worse come to worse, you may have to replace the mother of all boards, the main system board. While this is seldom the problem, it can happen now that all PCjr's are over ten years old.

Remember, Junior does a Power On Self Test when it boots. If your monitor doesn't display the familiar IBM logo and color bar and only stays black while Junior does his POST test, and gives you one beep, your monitor may be the problem. Check to make sure it is turned on, and is plugged in to a good receptacle. Like most of Junior's components, the monitor has a fuse that is all but hidden. Unlike other parts of Junior, you shouldn't try to fix the

continued on last page

Power Board (Component Side)



Input From
Transformer
Voltages:

Pin 1 = 17 Vac
Pin 2 = GND
Pin 3 = 17 Vac

Supply to
Diskette

Drive Voltages:
Pin 1 (Top) = +12 Vdc
Pin 2 = GND
Pin 3 = GND
Pin 4 (Bottom) = +5 Vdc

Fan Connector**Pin 1 (Top) = GND****Pin 2 (Middle) = +12 Vdc****Pin 3 (Bottom) = GND**

monitor yourself. Even after you unplug it, the monitor contains enough voltage to zap you into never-never land. If your monitor is the problem, have it looked at by a competent repair person.

You can contact your Company Store (Phil Janz) at 503 343-7592. If Phil doesn't have the part you need, you may order nearly anything you could ever want for Junior from Legacy Technologies at 1-800-228-7257.

ANSWER TO DOS SNOOPER'S QUIZ:

The Volume label is also a hidden file. It is created if the disk is system formatted with `FORMAT /S/V` or when a volume label is added using The Norton Utilities' `VL` command or one of the similar volume labeling utilities found in our disk library.

I KNEW THAT

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