



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

VOLUME XI
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SEPTEMBER 1995

1011 Valley River Way 116-B, 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 14th.

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

OFFICERS

President Charles Coury
Vice President Patti Tanner
Treasurer and Company Store Phil Janz
Disk Librarian Mike Ruiz
Modem Captain Gordon LeManquais
Commercial Contact Dick Page
Social Director Helen Fry
Newsletter Editor Louie Levy
Publisher and Coeditors Warren and Juanita Hampton

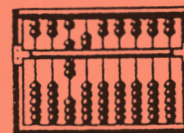
Association
of
Personal
Computer
User
Groups

Charley's Corner

by Charles Coury

A COUNTING machine is not a bad way to describe our PCjrs. I looked up the word COMPUTER in the dictionary a while back. From COMPUTE, which means to determine by mathematics, the original word comes down to us from Latin. Are you ready for some Latin?: *comput(āre) = com- + putāre*, to think, reckon. *Putare* is what farmers did to their olive trees and grape vines. It meant to cut and prune. From here it developed into clean or purge. In a way I'm not clear on how it eventually came to signify to think or to reflect over. (My wife suggested a connection along the lines of to cut to the chafe.) COMPUTE has many kissing cousin words in English like AMPUTATE, DISPUTE, ACCOUNT, and to COUNT. Think of our PCjrs as revolutionary counting machines.

One of Andrew's books recently put a fresh face on this revolution. "Computers are a revolutionary development in the history of technology. They are fundamentally different from all other machines because they have a memory."



Here, then, is a better way to describe our PCjrs: A REMEMBERING COUNTING machine—and more. And if your cerebral memory machine is doing okay, you'll recall that September is the month of the year the PCjr Club picks up again after our summer vacation. We kick off with a Pot-luck Picnic at Emerald Park (off River Road) on the second Thursday of the month (September 14, 1995). Gathering time starts at 6:00 p.m. (See Helen's article for the details.) Come and share not only delicious food, but news and tid-bits from your summer. Beyond September, you can count on the PCjr Club to bring you stimulating, fun, and helpful monthly meetings the entire year. I'm showing up (I guess the President had better)! But we are counting on you as well, as together we learn to compute on our PCjr remembering counting machines.

Charley

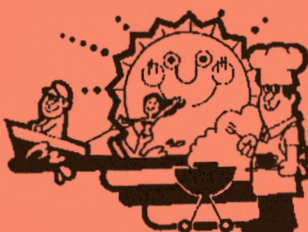


JOIN THE CLUB NOW
AND REAP THE BENEFITS



11th Annual Peanut Picnic

Helen Fry



It's that time of the year again, when Summer is about gone and Fall is on its way.

Please take time out from your busy schedule and join us for our 11th annual Fall Picnic.

Date: Thursday, September 14th

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Emerald Park Pavilion Number 1 (River Road Park) 1400 Lake Drive, Eugene

Our Picnic will be held as usual under a shelter, so no matter what the weather, "the show will go on!"

The Club will furnish chicken and beverages. You should bring a hot dish, a salad or a dessert. . .and a table service for each member of your family.

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!!!

Let's Reboot the System

Joe Mullich

As a free-lance journalist, my job is to sound authoritative on subjects I know nothing about. An editor wants an article explaining advances in brain surgery? Brain surgery? Yes, I happen to be QUITE familiar with that topic! Love to do the story. Send an advance.

I didn't fully realize my tendency to become an instant expert until I bought a computer. That's when I began dealing with computer novices, or Cyberplebes. Cyberplebes think of computers as mysterious, frustrating contraptions. We experienced users *know* computers are mysterious, frustrating contraptions.

When Cyberplebes come to us with a computer problem, we always tell them what to do, even if we have no idea ourselves. Being asked for advice is intoxicating.

Simply because I *own* a computer, my opinions on the subject are valued. I mention my computer at a party and

Technoplebes approach me in supplication. They hang on my every syllable. When I speak, their eyes are saucers, like those of a deer frozen in headlights.

No qualifications are needed to become an Instant Techno Guru. You become one the second you buy a computer. Upon hearing that you own a computer, complete strangers will ask you what kind of equipment *they* should buy. Your words are gospel. It doesn't really matter what you tell Cyberplebes about computers as long as you speak in the deep, measured tones adopted by TV newscasters.

When asked for advice on buying computers, I quiz the Cyberplebes. *How much do you want to spend? What will you use this equipment for? Is your left brain or your right brain dominant?*

After each reply, I squint my eyes and say "Ahhhhh!" Then I nod my head reassuringly, and I smile my version of a Jack Nicholson grin. *A don't worry, kid, everything's OK* grin. Then I tell the Cyberplebes,

continued on next page. . .

in precise detail, what type of computer system would be best for their specific purposes. That is, I recite the exact computer system that *I* bought.

No one ever questions my guidance. If I mention a type of modem, the Cyberplebe may ask: "Is that the *best* modem?"

And I reply: "It's the modem *I* bought."

What the Cyberplebe thinks I'm saying is: "I thoroughly tested 79 types of modems in my basement laboratory and concluded that *this* is the state-of-the-art model best for you."

What I'm *really* saying is: "This is the modem that came with the computer, though I still haven't figured out how to hook it up."

Cyberplebes have a pathological fear of looking in their computer manuals. If they so much as open it a crack, they believe a curse will haunt their family for seven generations. Cyberplebes are astounded by anyone who's willing to sit in front of a malfunctioning computer and try to fix it. That seems as mystifying and supernatural as walking on burning coals.

Want to become an Instant Techno Guru at work? It's easy. Next time you hear a stream of curses, followed by a stapler crashing through a PC monitor screen, pop into your colleague's office. Ask "What's wrong here?" Use a *Father Knows Best* rather than *Kojak* tone.

While tone of voice is important, the use of technobabble is crucial. Computer manual writers feel that any comprehensible Anglo-Saxon word can be improved by adding several syllables and a decimal point. Computer jargon is to interpersonal communication what James Joyce was to the simple declarative sentence.

Jargon is vital to Techno Gurus. For instance, when tackling someone's computer problem, I invariably use the same phrase: "Let's reboot the system."

This strikes Cyberplebes as a confident, take-charge maneuver. *Yeah, let's reboot it! Reboot this sucker to kingdom come!* Of course, "rebooting the system" is just another way of saying: "Let's turn the machine off, turn it back on, hope the problem goes away by itself—and not ask any questions if it does." If the problem disappears, we look good—darn good. We get to do the Jack Nicholson grin again. And our reputation for technological wizardry will spread like wildfire. Trust me: Cyberplebes will follow the great guru who says, "Let's reboot the system," to the ends of the information superhighway. o

Let's Reboot the System, a copyrighted article, appeared in the January 1995 issue of *WordPerfect Magazine* and is reprinted here by permission from WordPerfect Corporation.



Directories and Subdirectories or, The Year's First Workshop

Louie Levy

When it comes to saving files we create, PCjr users have special challenges: nearly all of us use floppy disks and few of us use subdirectories. We're doing good just to know what a disk directory is, let alone a subdirectory! So, most of us who do word processing with our Juniors have become very creative when it comes to file names.

With the DOS limit of only eight characters for a file name and three more characters for the extension, some of us use ingenious methods when it comes to naming files. We have come up with file names like NLART.995 for a newsletter article written in September of 1995. Or, we use something

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like SMITHLET.JAN for a letter written to Smith in January. Some of us power users will have separate file disks for different categories or subjects. We have a file disk for our database files that we use with *PC FILE*, *FILING ASSISTANT* or *NAMEPAL*, and we use separate disks for our correspondence or school work. The names we use for our files on these disks go a long way in helping us find them later if we should need them.

Still, in our examples of file names, it would be hard to tell just what the subject of NLART.289 was, or even SMITHLET.JAN after a few months or years go by. You can see the problem that you would have doing a newsletter if Smith sent you two articles for the January newsletter and you wrote her a thank you letter. And, what do you call the articles that she sends you next January? SMITH-1.JAN, SMITH-2.194, SMITH.TU, TUSMITH.LET, etc. You can see how files get hopelessly lost.

Diskettes are cheap. The idea of having separate diskettes for each type of job you do with your Junior is a valid one. You can label them with subjects like correspondence, name and address files, poetry, coin collection, taxes, home inventory, stocks and investments, etc. Instead of having a diskette labeled "DATA" that contains a jumble of all these categories with file names of every description, you will be able to narrow down your search for particular files quite a bit.

But, many of us need more than just a separate disk to keep our files from becoming a jumble of unrecognizable symbols and codes. Look at SMITH-1.JAN, SMITH.TU and SMITHLET.JAN for instance. If you have more than one friend named Smith, it could get somewhat confusing. Don't write Smith Janitorial service, Smith Furniture or send notes to Southern Methodist University. You'll never be able to tell them apart>

Establish a system of naming files and try to stick with it. Look at the type files you create to come up with the items you need to have in the file's name. If you are using *WordPerfect*, file creation dates are shown in the directory so you may not feel the need to include dates in the file name. Most of us use *Writing Assistant* which does not show the file's creation date so, if you are using this program, date may be an important part of the file name.

Writing Assistant lists the files in the order they were created so you know that the ones at the top of the listing are the earlier ones. *WordPerfect* alphabetizes the list, so you must look at the dates. Because of the differences in programs, it is impossible to say what the best file naming convention is.

One thing that would really help you organize your file disks would be to learn how to make subdirectories. Look at the two directory listings below. The first has only a root directory while the other has subdirectories. If you needed to find that letter you wrote to the editor to see if they printed it correctly, which disk would be the easiest to use?

BLKPTY	90	1248	8-16-90
BUFFALO	NIC	1824	12-01-89
RANDY	D89	2130	12-14-89
XMAS	PRI	15	12-06-89
XMASLIST	LST	5619	5-06-90
XMASCARD	WA	7168	2-13-90
XMASCD90	PSG	1415	1-01-80
XMAS	SEC	4226	12-13-89
XMAS		3984	1-17-91
NICKEL	FRM	2016	4-24-92
PADDY	192	1212	1-30-92
PADDY-1	LET	2321	7-15-92
READERS	DIG	1814	11-16-91
NWTKEN	LST	1678	9-12-91
DIMES	ROS	2332	12-10-90
RANDYLET	JAN	1876	11-12-90
BLKPARTY	891	1266	8-01-91
LETHEAD	WA	833	1-01-80

or . .

(on the next page)

DATABASE	<DIR>	12-13-89
CORRESP	<DIR>	12-14-89
COINS	<DIR>	12-01-89
XMASCD90 PSG	1415	1-01-80

The second listing has the same files as the first. In the second listing, all the database type files are listed under the heading (subdirectory) DATABASE, correspondence is under CORRESP and the coin collection is listed under COINS. The file, XMASCD90.PSG is a PrintShop "save" file and was saved on the disk's root directory.

All of us need to learn to use subdirectories. In fact, we need it so very much that MAKING SUBDIRECTORIES is going to be the first workshop of the '95-'96 season. Call Phil Janz, 343-1059, to reserve a seat now. This will be a one-night workshop that will target making subdirectories for *Writing Assistant*. Sign up now!

Louie L.

"You don't necessarily NEED the new version of anything, be it an operating system, application, computer, or toaster."

Raines Cohen, from "Windows 95: Do Your Members Need to Upgrade?" in the August issue of *QuickConnect*.

UofO Network Services: Keeping Busy



The University has spent the summer getting wired. According to the *University Computing News*, the Computing Center's Network Services has been pretty busy doing a lot more than just maintaining the network connections for 100 buildings and 6,000 computers on campus. They have been working to wire each dorm room with cable TV, new phone lines and two data wires.

The Computing Center is working to provide access to UOnet and the Internet with highspeed modems. Their new network, called *Ricochet*, will be accessible from anywhere as it is a wireless network.

The Law School will require each incoming freshman this Fall to have an Ethernet-capable laptop. By this month, the Computing Center's Network Services should have almost every study desk in the Law Library and student lounge wired with network connections. We need to remind all of our hesitant youngsters that they are going to need to be computer literate if they are going to get anywhere in the future!

Network Services are continuing their efforts in the Network for Engineering and Research in Oregon (NERO) project. This project is working on the design and testing of a network to support high-speed, high-bandwidth connections that can facilitate multimedia information exchanges between educational institutions, government research organizations and private industry worldwide.

Most of us Junior users think that highspeed modems are those running at 2400 baud. The Network Services at the University are working on technology that uses 100Mbps data transfer rates! They are testing various hardware components and interface cards to keep the University on the cutting edge of technology.

The *Lane Education Network* was formed last year via a grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Network Services has built a network that provides services to several local agencies and firms that includes the City of Eugene, Dynamix, Lane Community College, Oregon Public Networking, and all the local K-12 public school districts.

So, what did you do this summer? If you missed reading the University's *Computing News*, we'll have a copy at the September meeting.

Our Club Store-- Your Shareware Source

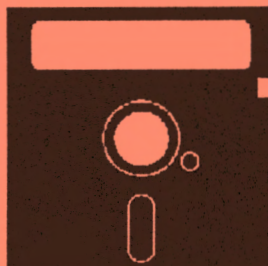
Mike Ruiz

Here it is September already, and a new year to investigate shareware from the Club Library. To refresh your memories, last year we welcomed several new programs to the library: *Solitaire*, *PCjr Tool Box* and *Vegas Pro Video Poker*. *Word Processing for Kids* and *Print Partner* were the most recent additions. Mike, your club librarian, would like to get some feedback about what you thought of these programs.

Your input to Mike would be most helpful, as he is hoping to add at least one new program each month to the library this next year. An effort to try and fill everyone's needs for software is one of his goals. Knowing what kind of programs people want would help him sort through the pile of disks that have been given to the club over the years. Of course, the standing offer to anyone interested in investigating some of the shareware we have, to perhaps make sure it is shareware, to see if it works well on Junior and perhaps write down some info about the disk you explore is encouraged.

See you at the September picnic and am looking forward to the 95/96 PCjr Club year.

Your Disk Librarian



Did You Know????

One in three households has a personal computer?

Nearly 46% of teenagers have access to a personal computer?

Computer users read for about an hour a day while those who don't own a computer read for only 47 minutes?

Computer users watch about two hours of TV a day while those who do not use a computer watch about 2.5 hours of TV?

One of every ten households own a modem?

The use by children of computers is about even among boys and girls, but with adults, 18% of men use computers while only 9% of women use them.

Unfortunately, a college graduate with an annual income of over \$50,000 is ten times more likely to own a home computer than a non-graduate who earns less than \$30,000. (Somehow I don't think this holds for those who own PCjr's!)

Stats taken from an article by Carol Levin in *PC Magazine*.

On-Going Stuff



Many thanks to whoever sent in the summer PC Enterprises sales brochure. The anonymous contributor highlighted some small print telling about the game cartridges that PC Enterprises had for sale, saying we might use it in this column.

The deal was for three PCjr game cartridges. What our member noted was the small print under the description that said: "Cartridges are bulk packaged and provided with reproduced manuals."

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For some reason I have no problem with PC Enterprises Xeroxing the manuals for these programs. They state in their description that the cartridges are "brand new" and they are warranted.

It is next to impossible for anyone who has recently acquired their PCjr to find these old neat programs that were made for and can only be used on the PCjr. I feel that PC Enterprises is doing all of us a favor providing them for us. While cartridge programs can't be copied (by anyway I know of), if you don't have the manuals for them, a Xerox copy must do. And, the manual is of no use without the cartridge.

Selling copies of *Electric Desk Jr.* or *Lotus 1-2-3 for Jr.* with Xeroxed copies of the manuals could be a little sticky. While these programs, like the game programs, are also cartridge software for the Junior, they were produced in disk versions which could be easily pirated. A Xeroxed copy of either manual would be nice to have for someone with an illegal copy of the software.

Another reason I have no problem with PC Enterprises' Xeroxed manuals is that no one is going to get upset or have "lost profits" from the sale of *Mine Shaft*, *Mouser* or *Scuba Venture*!

But, there was much more to the brochure than what was highlighted! PC Enterprises has some nice offerings for those of us looking for bargains. Here are a few:

- Upgrade 128K sidecars to 512K - \$79
- 512K sidecars - \$99
- 2400 baud internal modems - \$59
- jrExcellerator Speed-up Board - \$59
- jrValue Pak - \$99 includes:

- Numeric Keypad
- Enhanced Jr Keyboard
- Parallel Printer Sidecar
- Power Attachment with Brick
- TV Adapter
- Two IBM Joy Sticks
- IBM 300 baud Modem
- Cassette Adapter Cable

IBM Reporting Assistant
IBM Graphing Assistant
IBM Planning Assistant
Mapping the IBM PCjr book

If you didn't get a copy of the summer sale sheet, all it takes is a penny (20¢) postcard. PC Enterprises, P.O. Box 292, Wall, NJ 07719. And tell them the Eugene PCjr Club sent you!

And speaking of PC Enterprises,

What's PC Enterprises Up To?

A short note under *Hardware Briefs* in one of the national computer magazines recently mentioned the following:

"If your IBM PS/2 is collecting dust (sound familiar?), you can now upgrade it to 486 power with a \$295 Genesis/PC Replacement Motherboard from PC Enterprises."

We are glad to learn that PC Enterprises is still doing what they do best, keeping those "obsolete" computers percolating to their max!

Many thanks to Dick Page's eagle-eye for sending us this news update!

PC-File for Windows

If you have been using *PC-File* 5.0 or a more recent version of the old standby database program we have all used over the years, you will be happy to know that all of your database files are compatible with the latest *Windows* version of *PC-File*. Even if you are still using *PC-File* III, version 4, the *Windows* version easily converts your files to version 7. One of the best things about version 7's convert program is that it converts older *PC-File* databases and leaves the original files intact. . just in case. Old files are not overwritten.

Installation of *PC-File for Windows* is very easy, but you do have to unload your resident virus protection. . and have to have *Windows*!

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 or Name Pal:

Phil Janz - 343-1059

Communications:

Gordon LeManquais - 746-1594

Hardware Problems:

Dick Page - 342-3193

or Louie Levy - 343-7592

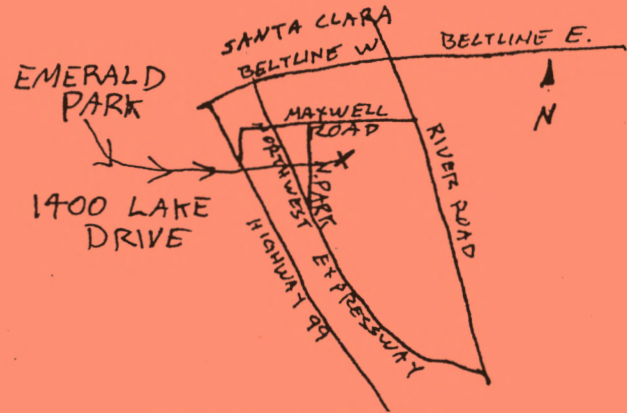
Spreadsheets or WordPerfect:

Mike Ruiz - 687-8361

Parts and supplies:

The Company Store-Phil Janz
343-1059

*"Whoever said good help is hard to
find has never called the Help-Line
of their local computer club!"*



With These Directions
Who Could Get Lost?

But. . .if you need better
directions, or if you need
a lift to the Picnic, give
Phil (343-1059) or Louie
(343-7592) a call.



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