



EUGENE

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024. Eugene, OR 97405

PCjr CLUB

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JANUARY 1998

MEETING

AGENDA

The January meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road, on Thursday, Jan. 8th. Setup will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7pm.

The main program will be DOS 2.1 and what each of us SHOULD know.

OFFICERS

President Mike Ruiz
Vice President. . . . Lynn Miles
Treasurer and Company Store. . . . Phil Janz
Disk Librarians. . . . Louie Levy
Therese Hartman
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Therese Hartman
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Newsletter Editor . . . Louie Levy
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Rosie Janz
Lynn Miles



Mike's Message

by Mike Ruiz



As the President of the PCjr Club and on behalf of our Club Officers, I welcome all club members and their families to the 1998 New Year. 1998 marks the fact that our club is about three fourths through its fourteenth year. That is to say that in April 1998 we will have been a club for fourteen years. As we celebrate the New Year, we should give thanks to all of the great years of enjoyment that the PCjr and our club has given us. On a personal note, I want to thank all of our members for their present and past support and I'm confident that

our success will continue.

At our last meeting in December, many of our members and their families enjoyed a festive evening. Unfortunately, due to the flu, I missed that meeting. Attending the holiday potluck has always been important to me, so I'm sorry to have missed it. None the less, a very good source has informed me that the PCjr Club Christmas Potluck was a great success. There was music, very good food and there was a gift exchange. Like each year at our annual holiday potluck and gift exchange there was a good turn out and everyone had a great time. I can't say a lot about that event because of my absence. Therefore, someone else should write, with a little more detail, about that December evening. I feel sorry for missing what was surely a wonderful time. But, I feel happy that everyone who attended must have had a memorable experience. Thanks to all of you that made the evening a success and thanks to those who filled in for me while I was gone.

At our meeting this month we will revisit one of those subjects that never seems to get enough attention. Louie will be explaining DOS and how it is of use to us. He will go through an exercise of showing us some basic tasks that we all should know. Every once in a while Louie brushes up whoever will listen about this important information. I will be one who listens closely. I really believe that you can never hear too much about how DOS works.

And last, this is the month for Therese Hartman to show some of us how to "spelunk" a disk. That should be interesting. It is my understanding that spelunking is the art of exploring caves. Maybe Therese is going to show us how to explore a disk. Enough for now, see you at the January Meeting and, I'll say again, Have a Happy New Year.

Mike

Club Meeting Programs For January and February

The Eugene PCjr Club Board of Directors met to plan and prepare a year of interesting and educational meetings for our local members. It is the Board's intent to present programs that will assist family members in making better use of their IBM PCjr. . .our entry level computer that can still meet the computing needs of the average family. The programs planned for the next two months are:



JANUARY 8---BACK TO BASICS (not to be confused with BASIC). We will drag Louie away from the Newsletter and get him to go through some of the things that he feels we should all know. It will be the basic things like copying disks, formatting disks, reading directories and trying to figure out what they mean and we hope that he can explain some of those messages that we get when we strike that "anykey." He says that DOS can be fun; we'll wait and see. Meetings where the main program centers around DOS always draw a big crowd!

A>FORMAT A:/S

Ernie's Magic Shapes will be demonstrated at this month's meeting. This program, produced by Sesame Street and CBS Software, is an interactive program where children work with an adult to match shapes and colors and practice visual discrimination along with Ernie and the Magic Rabbit. We look forward to this presentation by Mike Merrigan and his mom, Chris.

February 12---ON LINE BANKING, the CITY LIBRARY and E-MAIL. Are you using Junior to the maximum in today's world? Lynn Miles and Rosie Janz will explore the local world of On-Line banking, the City Library and E-Mail through a local server. Yes, Junior can provide you all of these great services!

Club Workshops For January and February

Spelunking A Disk

INSTRUCTOR: Therese Hartman

WHEN AND WHERE? Don't know when, but it'll probably be at the Levy's

PARTICIPANTS: Sissy Hamilton, Chris Merrigan and Ernst Bursofsky

SPACE AVAILABILITY: None; it's all full

DESCRIPTION: You have a new program disk and no instructions on how to use it. What are you going to do? How are you going to get the program going? Where are the instructions and the documentation? Participants in this workshop will dig their way into mystery disks to hopefully find solutions to these problems.

Kids and School Assignments

INSTRUCTOR: Phil Janz

WHEN AND WHERE? Rosie and Phil's Home at a date and time to be announced

PARTICIPANTS: Becky Merrigan, Chris Merrigan and Sissy Hamilton

SPACE AVAILABILITY? Yes! But, only one spot.

DESCRIPTION: Let "Jr" help your student and their teacher! Through keyboarding, school work can be put into an acceptable and readable format.

Creating text for homework assignments is easier on a computer screen than on paper, and it can be checked for spelling, too! Do the homework on time, print it, and hand it in on time. . .



Phil Janz, Workshop Coordinator

THE BEST RESOURCE OUR CLUB HAS TO IMPROVE ITS SERVICE IS OUR MEMBERS. THE CLUB VALUES YOUR OPINIONS AND IT ACTIVELY SOLICITS INPUT FROM YOU ON HOW IT CAN BETTER SERVE YOUR NEEDS.

Let's Meet Our Members

by Lynn Miles



Opal Nelson was born in Indiana. She met her husband in California, but has lived in Cottage Grove since 1957. Opal has a son living in Los Angeles who works at Fox Studios. She also has a daughter living in Alaska and two daughters living here in our area. She has six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Since her husband's death last year, Opal is working toward becoming computer literate and says she has really enjoyed the PCjr Club. She also says that she is "a wanna-be writer, a wanna-be traveler, and a wanna-be computer geek." She hopes to succeed at being all of these.

We know Opal already is a successful writer as she has published a compilation of war experiences and accounts of the current lives of most of her husband's living buddies who served with the "Deadeyes" 96th Division, 383rd Company D during World War II. This book may be seen in the Cottage Grove and Eugene Public Libraries. (We need to meet our "out-of-town" members, also! Please send us a couple of paragraphs about YOU and let us know about your family and how they are using Junior.)

At Last, A Letter To The Editor: ✉

"Several years ago I put together a PCjr for my sister. It had a hard drive, a 3.5 inch floppy and a 5.25 inch floppy drive as I recall. My sister used it through a 2-year course of study at Black Hawk College in Moline, IL. She shared the Junior with her daughter who attended the University of Iowa, and then graduated from a college of design in the Chicago area. The PCjr was passed on to a younger sister who is now a third year student in the Chicago area.

"Well, a few weeks ago, the younger sister, Mandy, moved into a new apartment. Among the treasures she packed away for the move in the trunk of her car was the old reliable PCjr. You can guess what happened next: she was rear-ended by another car, smashing the PCjr.

"The insurance company asked Mandy to get a written estimate of value for the PCjr from a computer retailer. Of course, most of them just laughed, some said it had no value, and another said it might be worth \$400. . .as an antique.

"Since she couldn't get a proper estimate, the insurance company went to an outfit which specializes in replacement computers. This would be to replace those lost to theft, fire or accident. The outcome was that Mandy got a slightly dated, but unsold, (new) Compaq Pentium with color monitor as a replacement for her Junior.

"Now, I'll leave it to the reader to decide if that was a good trade or not, but I thought it made an interesting story."

Elmer Hungate

Thanks for sharing the trials and tribulations of your "Junior" family member, Elmer. We just want to know if Mandy has put Writing Assistant onto her Pentium. If she has, ask her if her spell checker is any faster than it was from a RAM drive on her old Junior. Only time will tell if she got a good deal. We'll just have to wait and see if it runs as long as the old Junior did, but we hope that when it stops, it stops because of old age and not due to a "crash."

Handouts Available

Many of our "Out-Of-Town" members have requested information on things that we have covered at our monthly meetings. At many of these meetings, the presenter has handouts that are passed out to aid those in attendance when they get home and try to do whatever it was that was covered. Those who didn't have the opportunity to attend can now get the handout they need by requesting it. A self-addressed, stamped envelope would sure help us get it to you. Just order the one you need from the below list.

1. Adding Words To *Writing Assistant*'s Dictionary
2. DOS 2.1: PCjr's Disk Operating System
3. Extended ASCII Characters Available To *Writing Assistant*
4. How To Clean Your IBM PCjr Keyboard
5. Loading Software Onto A Hard Drive - *Writing Assistant* and W95
6. Making A Self-Booting Diskette From A Library Disk
7. Making Self-Booting Disks
8. The Most Frequent Problems With Junior
9. The PCjr Self-Test
10. POST - Power On Self-Test
11. POST Test Failures and Other Assorted Error Messages
12. Procedures To Install *PC-File* III To A Ram Disk With The RACORE Unit
13. Procedures To Install *Writing Assistant* To A Ram Disk With The RACORE Unit
14. Quieting Junior's Drive
15. What A PCjr User MUST Know
16. *Writing Assistant* : Making an "Unprotected" Copy

or, come up with your own title and we'll make up a personal handout just for you! Just let us know what type Junior you are using (single drive, dual drive, single with hard drive), how much memory your Junior has and, if you are using memory managing software, what type it is. Just e-mail or snail-mail us with your request.

Will Run on Any IBM Compatible

A lot of software is made here in the Pacific Northwest. We tend to believe that as the software is made here, surely it works. Well, this isn't always the case. When software doesn't work on our computers, just what recourse do we have?

Well, on a trip out this way recently, a gentleman from Texas purchased Broderbund Software's popular *Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego* to give to a young friend. After getting back home, each effort to install the software failed.

After "many hours" of trying to get the program going, he called tech support. The first call was for 29 minutes and cost \$13.87, but it didn't solve the gentleman's problem. Next was a 44 minute \$20.32 call that ended with "maybe the installation disks are defective."

The guy had about the same luck with the new CD that was sent to him.

After all this effort, he sent Broderbund a certified letter asking for a "corrected program disk" that the guarantee obligated the company provide as per it's "90 day satisfaction guarantee" statement. He also stated in his letter that if Broderbund failed to live up to its end of the guarantee, that he would also demand, "...monetary demands for the sum of \$525 in damages (3 hours of my time trying to fix your defective program), plus \$175 for the demand letter, as well as \$34.19 for the phone calls made to tech support."

continued on next page>>>

Broderbund responded by offering a refund of his purchase price or an exchange for another copy of *Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego*. They stated that their limited warranty said that Broderbund is not liable for costs incurred as a result of loss of time."

The gentleman sued in Texas Small Claims Court demanding actual damages of \$546.60 plus additional damages of twice that amount, plus attorney's fees, court costs, interest and "injunctive relief prohibiting Broderbund from selling the program 'unless a warning is prominently displayed on the packaging that this program will not run on all IBM compatible computers.'"

They settled out-of-court for \$2,000 and Broderbund did not admit liability.

All of us know that *Where In The World Is Carmen Sandiego* is one of the most popular software packages sold, but we also know that not all programs that say they are IBM compatible, are. Just because a program won't run for us doesn't mean that it's a bum program.

As Junior owners, we know of problems and incompatibilities. Nearly all of us have wasted many hours trying to get something running on our Junior that has been demonstrated at a Club meeting or that we have seen working on someone else's Junior.

The gentleman in this article noted that the program worked on his "much older and slower machine" in his office, but that he had spent about 20 hours fiddling with the game on the newer machine that wouldn't run the program.

The last paragraph of the article we gleaned this from said that the gentleman said, "Once it becomes me against the machine, I don't like to admit defeat. Even after the case was settled, I still kept trying to load the damned thing!"

Adapted from an article by Stephen Manes, *New York Times*

See DOS. . . See DOS GROWWW

Version	COMMAND COM	Support
DOS 1.0	10,240	Single-sided 160K floppy drives
DOS 1.1	12,400	Double-sided 320K floppy drives
DOS 2.0	17,792	360K floppy and 10MB hard drives
DOS 2.1	17,792	1/2 height 360K floppy drives
DOS 2.11	15,957	Fixed bugs in DOS 2.1
DOS 3.0	19,894	20MB hard drives and 1.2MB floppies
DOS 3.1	23,210	Local Area Networks (LAN)
DOS 3.2	23,612	3.5" 720K micro disk drive support
DOS 3.3	25,276	3.5" 1.44MB micro disks and 32MB hard drive
DOS 4.0	29,640	2GB disk partitioning
DOS 4.1	30,105	Fixed bugs in 4.0
DOS 5.0	34,493	Extended and Expanded memory support and CD ROM
DOS 6.0	50,456	Disk drive compression support
DOS 6.1	51,210	IBM's DOS with no bugs
DOS 6.2	54,619	DoubleSpace removed due to law suit and bugs fixed
DOS 6.22	54,645	After law suit settlement, more bugs fixed
DOS 6.3	54,654	IBM's DOS "numeric" upgrade (one-upmanship)
Windows 95	93,812	Comes on 13 1.44 MB (and 1.68MB) disks or CD, and needs 906,000

bytes of space for the DOS directory and 35-40 MB of hard drive space for 95 directory.

Most "MAC-like" of all DOS versions.

(As a user of 2.1 DOS, all of this is subject to error on my part, but you get the point-- jr-editor)

"Do you still publish a newsletter? I need to either find an old PCjr, or a DOS disk for mine. Thanks!"

Note from Tennessee. . .and now, one of our newest members!

HOW TO FORMAT A DISKETTE

One thing about the Eugene PCjr Club: If we don't know how to do something we are not afraid to ask. So, while most of us take formatting for granted, some folks that are newer to computing still ask good, viable questions. Like, how do you format a disk?

All diskettes you purchase from the Club have already been formatted. But, if you purchase disks elsewhere, they may or may not be formatted. The box usually says if they are. If the box doesn't say they are, they AREN'T. This is true even with the boxes of new disks given away as door prizes at our Club meetings; these more than likely will need formatting. Also, now that many members are buying used disks at thrift stores and garage sales, you don't know what's on these disks. Even a virus could be lurking on one, so it is very necessary that you format, or reformat, any used disks you get.

The formatting process initializes a diskette to a recording format that is acceptable to DOS. The process erases any data on the disk (including any viruses). It also sets up a new directory so DOS can find things on the disk.

Place a PCjr Club boot disk, or your DOS diskette, in drive A:. Key in the following:

FORMAT B:

Again, there is a space between FORMAT and B:. Also, DOS doesn't care if you use all caps or a mixture of caps and lowercase letters. This is also the command you use even if your Junior has only one disk drive. When you have typed in the command, press ENTER.

The following message will appear:

*Insert new diskette for drive B:
and strike any key when ready*

Remove your DOS disk from the A: drive if you are using a one-drive Junior, and place the diskette to be formatted into the drive, closing the latch. Press any key. The formatting process takes about half a minute, during which more messages similar to these will appear:

*Formatting. . .
Format complete*

*320560 bytes total disk space
320560 bytes available on disk*

Format another (Y/N)?__

Press N (unless you want to format another diskette). For more information, refer to the description of the FORMAT command in any DOS manual. If you are using a computer other than a Junior and need help formatting disks, drop us a note and the Club will do what it can to help you.

"640K ought to be enough for anybody." Bill Gates, 1981

Using BASIC With Your Junior's Expanded Memory

Most PCjr owners have expanded their computer's memory beyond 128K and some of us who have done so are experiencing difficulty using programs that are written in BASIC. The most common problem is that we receive a message indicating insufficient memory, which is obviously incorrect.



By booting with a "plain" DOS disk, BASIC programs work. The problems that come up when you are using memory management software are caused by the fact that cartridge BASIC uses a fixed area of memory within the lower 128K. This is where most memory expansion units have moved Junior's video buffer, so this causes a conflict.

Here are several solutions to this problem. This first one is from Mike Irvin:

"I have Tecmar sidecars and the way I get around it is to have a separate BASIC boot disk. I run the CONPCJR program telling the system to recognize the full 640K, however, I don't move the video buffer from its original location. This creates a barrier, so the system will not use anything above the video buffer as free memory.

"You can still run a memdisk program and create a ramdisk. If you don't have these programs, maybe you could find someone with a Tecmar (or, contact the PCjr Club) and see if their CONPCJR program will work with your memory expansion unit. If it will, add the following two lines to your autoexec.bat file:

CONPCJR - d3 (tells the system to recognize 3 drives)

memdisk c: -buf256 (Creates a 256K ram drive named C:)

"You will have to have the programs CONPCJR.EXE and MEMDISK.EXE on the boot disk. You would not run the programs in your config.sys file that you normally run. Also, the CONPCJR -d3 must be the first program run in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

"There is another solution. Anytime you key in BASIC or BASICA you will automatically go to Cartridge BASIC. Also, you must have the cartridge in to run any kind of BASIC.

"In order to run the BASICA.COM program that is located on your DOS disk, you must first rename it something else (MSBASICA.COM for example). Now, anytime you enter MSBASICA, the disk BASICA will load and run. The important point about this is that the disk BASICA will find 64K of free memory and use it. You will not have the special commands in Cartridge BASIC which could be a problem if you are trying to run programs written just for the Junior.

"Just as a side note, if you have the NEC V20 chip installed, you will find that the disk BASICA will run approximately 25% faster than the Cartridge BASIC. I ran a benchmark timing test using both BASICs and the Cartridge BASIC took 59 millisec to run and the disk BASICA (renamed) took 45 millisec to run."

Another suggestion is from Brad Barnes, who first noted that some mathematical programs that would not work on PCjr Cartridge BASIC did work with the renamed BASICA on disk. He suggests another alternative, as follows:

"Another alternative would be to locate a copy of one of the old PC-Clone BASICs such as Compaq's BASICA from their old MS-DOS 2.11 diskette. Compaq's BASICA was the one that was the most compatible to IBM's BASICA. GW-BASIC, found on some other MS-DOS diskettes is somewhat less compatible to IBM's BASICA. In any case, to run Compaq's BASICA, you must NOT have Cartridge BASIC plugged in, and be sure you have both of Compaq's files (BASICA.COM and BASICA.EXE) on your diskette."

HOW TO REACH THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB

FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is available for \$20 per year per household. Membership provides each member of the household access to the Club Disk Library, individualized help and support. It also includes a subscription to the Newsletter. All Club General Meetings and Board meetings are open to every member. To inquire about becoming a member, contact The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405.

FOR "OUT-OF-TOWN" MEMBERSHIPS:

Newsletter subscriptions are given the fancy term, "Out-of-Town Memberships." This type of membership is \$12 per year and brings 12 issues of the Newsletter to your mailing address. Requests for an Out-of-Town membership may be mailed to The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

To change your address for any type membership, you may inform the Club by mail to the Club's Post Office Box, by phone (541.343.7592) or by e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org).

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:

Submission of articles for the Newsletter is vigorously requested and copy may be sent to the Club's Post Office box or via e-mail. Permission to reprint is freely given.

QUESTIONS and/or INQUIRES:

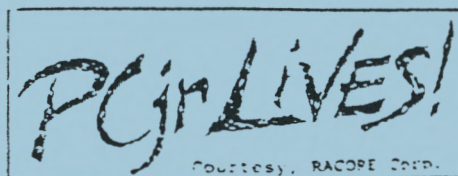
Questions and inquires about the availability of parts or supplies may be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or via e-mail (rp.janz@efn.org). Questions about software, operation or repair of your Junior, may be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or via e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org). All orders for parts or software from the Club's Disk Library should be sent to the Post Office Box.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Classified advertisements for the newsletter are free to the membership, but must be limited to PCjr related equipment. Rates to nonmembers are \$1. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit all advertisements submitted for publication. Advertisers must have their mailing address on file with the Club. Write for display advertisement rates.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES and/or BACK ISSUES:

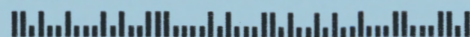
If you know of anyone who may like to receive a complimentary copy of the Newsletter please send us their mailing address. Back issues of the Newsletter can be obtained for \$1 each depending on availability. Address inquires to our Post Office Box.



EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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