EUGENE IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB

IBM PCjr

SPECIAL
INTEREST
GROUP

P. O. BOX 3695, EUGENE, OR 97403

MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 7:00PM

THE THIRD MEETING WILL ONCE AGAIN BE AT THE SCHOOL LIBRARY OF THE IDA PATTERSON SCHOOL, 1510 West 15th Street [west] off of Polk - the only way in, now further complicated by the closure of Chambers between 13 th and 18th Streets. The library is in the western-most wing. Pass through the building, out into the breezeway, and into the wing to your left. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

PCjr POTLUCK/SWAPMEET, JULY 11th...

at the **RIVER ROAD DISTRICT PARK**, also known as **"Emerald Park"**, 1400 Lake Dr. (off River Road), Eugene. In addition to a food plate (sign-up at the June meeting), bring those neglected, tired or surplus items of software or hardware to swap/sell/barter. This is a family event and can be lots of fun. Game/sports equipment will be available!

PCjr, ORPHANED? -AN OPINION

THE IBM PCjr, once known informally as the "PEANUT", continues to raise a lot of questions in computer circles and among users. The recent public announcements of "orphaning" have been blamed on a media misinterpretation of what was actually announced by IBM, but what else can we call a "halt in production?" True, support and guarantees will be honored, and much PC-compatible software will run on the Jr., but can we expect software developers to continue to address our on-going needs? With the number of units out "there", a VERY viable market-place still exists.

ORPHANED!

little orphan Banana Jr.

BLOOM COUNTY by Burke Breathed

Rumors circulate in some circles that a re-configured "Jr" will be placed on the market at a future date, but why bother? A flock of new Japanese IBM PC "clones" are entering the market at prices very near what the "Jr" was selling for at the year-end special promotion! The PC itself is hard to find, having been displaced by the XT and

AT models. Certainly, IBM has taken a corporate black eye with its decision to drop the PCjr - this from the "BIG" BLUE Chip of the industry!

Will it all end here? Many of us got into the IBM PCjr because of its price... as a way to get into the IBM line with its reputation in the business world. Our questionaires indicate that the largest number of us have small businesses or word processing needs that are not typical of the applications emphasised by the APPLE/COMMADORE crowd. Given our choice again, how many of us would purchase IBM, or gone the MacAPPLE route ...and never returned to the IBM system? Given proper encouragement many of our businesses might expand with larger computer needs, and we would undoubtedly stay with IBM. The losses that IBM suffered during the promotion (rumored to be at least $200/unit) might have been chalked up to "winning friends", and then made some astute marketing adjustments for the future.

It took IBM a while to overcome initial market snickering at the "Chicklet" keyboards, limited 64K memory and a vacant disk drive hole. IBM had just overcome those "flaws", and gotten on the right track. It's a good SERIOUS computer! Do BIG corporations ever reconsider their decisions?

Bill Roy

...AT THE
MAY 9 MEETING...

THE MAY 9 MEETING was well attended with about forty people attending. Some discussion of formal organization and officers was held, with a temporary solution being the appointment (read "volunteering") of an interim executive or "steering" committee consisting of Ginny Dobson, Lewis Jones, and Doug Moore. It was pointed out by several that a broad base of volunteer participation will make a stronger club, and that if the bulk of the work is left on the shoulders of one or two, rapid disintegration will be the result! A list of "job descriptions" will be developed so that members can have a better idea just what they are volunteering to do!

DICK PAGE gave a presentation on D.O.S. BATCH PROCESSING COMMANDS, accompanied by nice four page listing and several sheets of reprints. The presentation helped some of the rest of us get past our "DOS Intimidation" point. It was a good presentation for Dick, who only had a couple of days to prepare when Jim Cox was assigned an evening class at the time of our meeting! HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE donated five copies of the current issue, which were distributed as door prizes by a drawing. The coffee and cookies/brownies dissapeared at a rapid rate, and will be hard to match at future meetings!

Special thanks are extended to Ginny Dobson and Robynn Bachman for the "eats", to Charlie Holbrook and Fred Willer for bringing in their PCjrs. Charlie's JUNIOR sported a Taxan monitor which he uses for other computers, a SWIN-

TEC 1146P typewriter as a printer, Microsoft mouse, and IBM joystick and parallel port; Fred's JUNIOR was equipped with an extra 128K of memory, Numeric Keypad, Mouse Systems mouse, and an EPSON 3X80 printer. Thanks to HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE for the door prizes (won by Rick Ubell, Mark Moss, Lewis Jones, Charles Holbrook, Juanita Hampton, Rhonda Shafer and Bill Roy), and to young Mr. Bruce Brown who acted as keyboarder during Dick's presentation. Thanks to Dick Page and Bill Roy for "co-convening" the meeting. ...also to Ida Patterson School and District 4J for the facilities and staff assistance.

SOME CLUB POSITIONS were identified as Secretary, Treasurer, Disc Librarian, Modem "Master", Documents Librarian, Publicist, Newsletter Editor, Mailing List /Membership Person, and a "Head" be he/she called a "Chair", "President", "Dictator", or whatever. There are also posts for people to be in charge of seeing that demonstration machines and food/coffee are brought to meetings, posters are distributed, loca-tions are secured for meetings, etc. Staff members for the newsletter are also in very short supply. Any ideas on the topic — or volunteers for the positions will be very much appreciated.
See next page for **"job" descriptions...**

IF YOU ARE TIRED OF THAT SOFTWARE PROGRAM, how about donating it to the Club disk library? Or we can organize a software exchange...

RUMOR HAS IT that the staff at (PC) PROGRAMMER'S JOURNAL does their office work on a PCjr.!!!

"and then after 17 hours of programing.

HE came in and stepped on CTRL/ALT/DEL!"

* * *

GROUP JOB DESCRIPTIONS...

IN ORDER TO LET YOU PICK THOSE JOBS YOU wish to volunteer for, the following are some loosely defined "JOB DESCRIPTIONS". The current "Steering Committee" (Ginny Dobson, Lewis Jones and Doug Moore), will determine the day-to-day functions as a temporary "Chair" position until the Fall when formal elections can be held without the added confusion of summer. Any/all other positions can be reviewed at that time, too, so if you'd like to try out a position for 4 or 5 months, here's a chance!

THEY ARE (with possible changes/adjustments):

CHAIR(PERSON) (MAY BE MORE THAN ONE PERSON): (1)Designate authority and oversee the duties of others. (2)Establish meeting date (s) and confirm locations, (3)Act as final authority where a vote of the members is not essential or cannot be waited for.

SECRETARY: Record meetings, act as official correspondent for the organization, maintain the official records of the group.

TREASURER: Handles financial affairs of the group and keep financial records, collect the membership dues (working closely with the Mailing List supervisor). Reports to the Chair and the Group as a whole.

PUBLICITY "PERSON": Supervises distribution of posters, publicity releases, and the telephone bank.

DOCUMENTS LIBRARIAN: Files and maintains the documents relating to hardware and software, may also develope a "CONSUMER GUIDE" of published materials on Jr-specific software and hardware for member's perusal.

DISK LIBRARIAN: Help develop and maintain a library of disk software "in the public domain" for distribution, and perhaps some software for circulation among members, such as tutorials and collected games, etc. This position could best be served by someone who has a 2nd disk drive for copying public domain materials.

MODEM CAPTAIN: Person (with a modem) to serve as contact and "poster" for appropriate bulletin boards around the country.

MAILING LIST "PERSON": Supervises the membership and Newsletter subscriber lists, prints labels once/month, updates list, works with Newsletter editor, Treasurer, and Secretary. Would also help compile membership list for distribution among members.

NEWSLETTER (Editor + Staff): Compile and print a monthly Newsletter for distribution to the membership, non-member subscribers, and also to exchange with other User Groups. Several tasks are available, and ANY member can submit publishable materials.

REFRESHMENTS "CAPTAIN": To be in charge of the food/coffee, etc., and related hardware and clean-up. Does not have to bake cookies but should supervise to see that SOMEONE does! Should be willing to designate tasks!

DEMONSTRATION MACHINE "CAPTAIN": Is responsible to see that SOMEONE (or two) are going to bring PCjr.s to meetings, co-ordinate the specific needs of special speakers with the equipment to be brought (ie. if a printer is needed, etc.)

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TOO FAST PCjr REPEAT FUNCTIONS?

DO THE REPEAT FUNCTIONS OF THE KEYS GO TOO FAST FOR YOU? COMPUTE! has an item on page 10 of the June issue for those of you that find your heavy hands produce multiples on the 'Typematic keyboard. You can adjust either the delay before the first repeat and/or the delay before subsequent repeats, or eliminate the repeat function altogether.

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100 PRINT "Enter a number to
    adjust typamatic"
110 PRINT " 0 - Return to n
    ormal"
120 PRINT " 1 - Increase in
    itial delay"
130 PRINT " 2 - Half rate o
    f repeat"
140 PRINT " 3 - Both 1 and
    2 above"
150 PRINT " 4 - Typamatic f
    unction off"
160 INPUT X: IF X<0 OR X>4 GOT
    O 160
170 X=X*2: DEF SEG=0
180 Y=(PEEK(&H488) AND (&HFF-
    &HE))
190 POKE &H488,(Y OR X)
200 PRINT "PCjr typamatic fun
    ction now adjusted"
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MAGAZINES THAT FEATURE THE PCjr

Here is a listing of some magazines that carry PCjr materials and my biased comments:

BYTE - $21/yr (12 issues) - Very little (if any) jr info, but good overall computer magazine if you are "into" computers.

COMPUTE! - $24/yr (12 issues) - A "Best Buy" if you want a good overall magazine for news, software and hardware reviews and some involved BASIC programs to do.

FAMILY COMPUTING - $19.97/yr (12 issues) - Published by Scholastic Inc. ("Scholastic Magazine"). This is, as it says, a family computing magazine with articles for school-aged children as well as adults. Has simple BASIC programs to try which turn kids on to BASIC programming (but doesn't teach much about BASIC). Some pertinent news and software reviews.

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE - $25/yr (12 issues plus two free discs of programs) - Another "Best Buy" if you want a locally published, good overall magazine for news, software and hardware reviews, a wide range of BASIC programs, and a few LOGO programs. Has the nice option of buying each month's programs on a disk for $4.95/disk (a small price to pay for reducing the strain on your eyes, nerve endings, and marital relationships, especially if you are planning on typing out one of their longer programs).

PC WORLD - $28/yr (12 issues) - A more business-oriented magazine with a small PCjr section. Good if you want to know how the rest of the IBM PCs are doing. Some good reviews and how-to articles on computer fundamentals and on heavyweight software programs. (My preference over it's competition - PC Magazine.)

POPULAR COMPUTING - $15/yr (12 issues) - Not my favorite magazine, but it does have news, reviews and a few programs.

3-2-1 CONTACT - $10.95/yr (12 issues) - A children's science magazine published by the producers of Sesame' Street. It has just absorbed the children's computer magazine, "ENTER". It has some good, simple BASIC programs, reviews of childrens' software, and is good even for children who don't have a computer handy.

MAGAZINES THAT ARE IN COMPUTER HEAVEN - When jr first came out several magazines were created specifically for the jr. They have all disappeared from the marketplace. It would be good to have a resource library of articals they contained. We have a few issues of PEANUT Magazine and PCjr Magazine. I understand there was a PCjr WORLD Magazine, a COMPUTE jr! Magazine, and some others as well. If you have any of them and are willing to let us borrow them to copy and return it would be greatly appreciated!

* * *

Dick Page

MEMBERSHIPS!!! DID WE FORGET TO SAY that a $20.00 membership fee was determined at the last meeting and endorsed by the steering committee? The membership fee includes the **NEWSLETTER** and is valid for one family unit (living in the same household?). For those that wish to subscribe to the **NEWSLETTER** but live 50 or more miles away, $12 will keep you on our list, and we will exchange newsletters with other user's groups. Anyone is welcome to attend up to three meetings without obligation, Until we get a bank account set up, make checks out to Bill Roy/PCjr.

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE'S ONE-LINERS

HERE IS ANOTHER OF THOSE "ONE-LINER" programs from Eugene's own HOME COMPUTER magazine. These can be a great discipline, and a lot of fun when they work. Keep trying, they DO work, but watch carefully each detail. Don't confuse numerals with letters, commas with periods, or forget any spaces. You will notice that HOME COMPUTER prints the numerals in bold type - most helpful. WE have taken the added expedient of enlarging the copy on a Canon copier. DON'T PRESS ENTER until the very end... that makes it one line! used with permission...

Linear Graphics
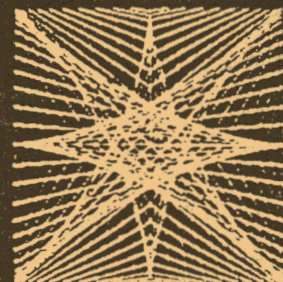[BASICA on the IBM *PC*, Cartridge BASIC on the IBM PCjr]
Dear Sir:
"This one-line program produces some interesting graphic designs. It was written on a Sanyo MBC-555 and was changed slightly to run on the IBM PC."
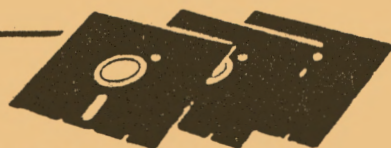Greg Lane
Willard, MO 65781

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1 ROTTEPS().9OR=S SCN=7EIX).)9+EXT SCREEN=1:CLIP=STEP0.0191)+100D=1 REEN2.0T:/P*(9)+190):N:G TO=11/9+100)):OTO 2.1R/N+3)=::T NO:FP:XF.N320)INTO OT1IO0RLIN+)NTTZ:50 KEY=6.-0.2TZ.NE:NE:XT OFF.T2OTZT=E0ITS(IZXTNEXT F=PI8(I(COCN)X:D:. FO3S(SIX9FN
```
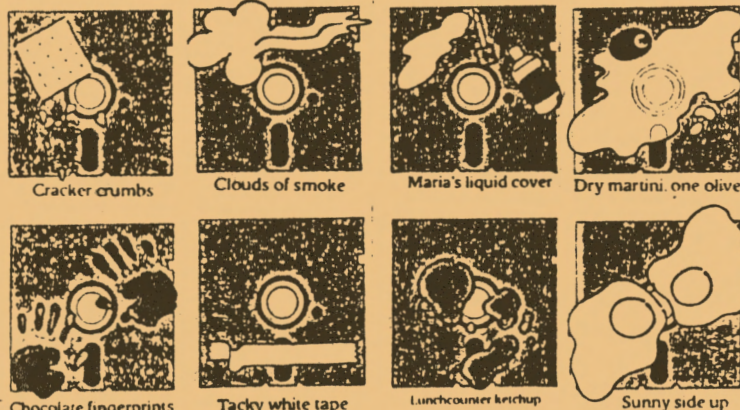
There, Ginny, we enlarged the copy and got it out of the fold!

DISK HINTS.

HANDLE THAT FLOPPY WITH T.L.C.!!! So you've read all the CAUTION notices about placing your floppy discs on the monitor where magnetic forces can wipe out the data, right? The same goes for electric clocks, stereo equipment, magnetic clip boards (or kitchen magnets!), magnetic paper-clip holders and the like, ...or the telephone... placing the phone on top of your disc and one ring can scramble it! ALWAYS use felt-tip pens for labels, as a ballpoint pen or pencil can emboss the surface and damage the magnetic media, and don't put one label on top of another, as the added thickness can jam the drive! (Reminders from THE QUILL PEN PAL)

BUT THEN...

Cracker crumbs | Clouds of smoke | Maria's liquid cover | Dry martini. one olive

Chocolate fingerprints | Tacky white tape | Lunchcounter ketchup | Sunny side up

...IF YOU'VE SEEN THE CATCHY ADS for "PERFECT DATA" diskettes from POLAROID, that show a wide variety of potential hazards awaiting the unsuspecting diskette (24 are illustrated), then you may be interested in some tests submitted by editors of some 20 consumer and computer magazines. POLAROID advertises that its free data recovery service can retrieve all or most data from your damaged (POLAROID) diskette, with examples ranging from "Aunt Molly's Jam" to "Hot Dog Mustard".

The magazine editors tested the claim by sending in diskettes with rather imaginatively applied "indignities". TIME magazine reports that "staffers at one   computer journal poured a hot-fudge sundae on theirs. Another publication sent (one) covered with mustard, catsup and relish." One disk had been chewed by a golden retriever. POLAROID was able to clean the original disk or transfer the data to a new one in all the cases except one,

where less than 100% of the data was retrievable when a user had riddled the diskette with staples! Anyone want to try it?

FACE PROMPTS

TIRED OF THE "A>" IN DOS? If you've decided that you are ready for a change, and want to liven up your screen, use the "FACE PROMPT" instead... At the "A Prompt" (A>_), type in "PROMPT Ctrl"A", and Enter, or, for a "Face Prompt" with a "beep", type in "PROMPT Ctrl"A" Ctrl"G". Then, later, to go back to the "A Prompt", just type in "PROMPT".

Setting It Straight

A Bloom County comic strip last month listed six names as "dead friends" of the corporate parents of "little orphan Banana Jr.," a fictitious personal computer. The Washington Post clarifies that none of the companies listed is dead. Osborne, Victor and Franklin have recently emerged from bankruptcy proceedings as reorganized companies; they continue to manufacture their initial principal computers as well as new models. The other companies, Coleco, Timex and Mattel, are stopping or have stopped production of personal computer hardware.

from the EUGENE REGISTER-GUARD... for May 29, 1985

IBM reduces prices on discontinued PCjr line

NEW YORK — International Business Machines Corp. said Friday it has reduced the prices on its portable Personal Computer, the PCjr home computer and PCjr Color Display. The company announced in March that it was halting production of the PCjr in April and had no plans to resume production. On Friday, the price of the PCjr with 128,000 (128K) characters of user memory and a 360K diskette drive was reduced from $999 to $725. The PCjr Color Display was reduced from $429 to $399. IBM cut the price of its portable Personal Computer with 256K of user memory and one 360K diskette drive from $2,595 to $1,950. The portable PC with 256K of memory and two diskette drives was reduced from $2,895 to $2,250.   from the EUGENE REGISTER-GUARD...

HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE is looking for someone who would be interested in doing program conversions from other machine BASIC languages to the IBM PC/PCjr BASIC languages. Contracts for this type of work are available on a part-time basis. You can do this at home on your own equipment. If interested, call Roger Wood, Senior Technical Editor, at 485-8796.

Advertising/CLASSIFIEDS

THE PCjr NEWSLETTER WILL NOW ACCEPT ADVERTISING in several different types. These are described below, and based on rates established by other publications. Advertising will allow us to bring you a more substantial NEWSLETTER, with more pages, graphics, and good rates.

COMMERCIAL AD RATES: per insertion — 2 pages $70, one page $40, 1/2 page $25, and 1/4 page $15, and 1/4 page ads that include a discount coupon for our readers. Cash in advance only, please.

CLASSIFIEDS: "For Sale" ads are $1.00/4 line insertion, where commercial transactions are involved, and free to subscribers where only information is exchanged. If you're unsure, ask the editor. Ads should be placed by month's end.

JUNIOR FOR SALE, 128K enhanced unit, color monitor, single disk, software, books, parallel interface, GEMINI 10Xplus printer, and more. Under warranty, barely unpacked, all for $1000. Table and stand $50, Call Marv or Cathy, 683-1201 eves.

CO—CONSPIRATOR NEEDED to try building "stand alone" 2nd disc drives, using HOME COMPUTER magazine's vol.4, #4 issue as a guide. Call Bill Roy at 686-8416 ...Uh, I just need support!

FOR SALE: BASIC Book - "PCjr The Affordable IBM - A Guide to BASIC Programming" by Robert W. Stat. Book is unused, retails for $29.95, selling for $15.00. Call Dick Page at 342-3193.

FOR SALE: Modem cable. AMP external modem conversion cable. Converts PCjr serial port connector to standard IBM serial port (RS232 male connector). Bargain priced at $10.00. Call Dick Page at 342-3193.

FOR SALE: "Snooper Troops, Case #2. The Disappearing Dolphin" by Spinnaker. For IBM PC compatibles only. Not for PCjr. Unused. My cost was $28.00. Your cost is $18.00. Call Dick Page at 342-3193.

ARE YOU/WE/US INTERESTED IN A "CONSUMER GUIDE" of software reviews? We can collect an album of any known reviews of software run on the Jr. Save a xerox copy of any that have helped you and let's put them together. The Documents Librarian(?) will help us compile it.

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