



EUGENE

NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

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1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401

Aug.

MEETING AGENDAS

A> August 14 meeting will be held at WISTEC on Centennial Blvd. The meeting will start at 7:00pm and the agenda will include:

Jim McWilliams will be presenting LOTUS 1-2-3.

An open discussion will be held on the software offered by IBM. Please be prepared to give your experiences, likes, and dislikes regarding the programs listed in Bruce Bayne's article in this Newsletter.

A> August 26 Executive Meeting will be held at WISTEC, starting at 5:00pm. This meeting will include the selection of a vice-president, discussion of the upcoming computer fair, and selection of new programs for the disk library.

REMINDER: September Newsletter
Deadline - August 28.



Our thanks to WISTEC for graciously allowing us to use their facilities for our club meetings this summer. Be sure and check the local paper for updates on WISTEC's doings.

AN INTRODUCTION TO LOTUS 1-2-3

Lotus 1-2-3 was one of the first integrated office management software programs on the market. It combines three of the most popular business application programs -- electronic spreadsheet, business graphics, and data management -- into one sophisticated program. Unlike other programs that attempt to accomplish this feat, the various elements of 1-2-3 are not compromised to achieve this interactivity. Each of the three elements are competitive with stand-alone programs designed to accomplish the same task.

Basically, however, 1-2-3 is an electronic spreadsheet. The graphics and data management elements of the program are contained within the framework of a spreadsheet. Graphics are produced through the use of spreadsheet commands. Data management occurs in the standard row-column spreadsheet layout.

1-2-3 is an electronic replacement for the traditional accountant's columnar pad, pencil, and calculator. However, electronic spreadsheets are much larger than their paper counterparts. 1-2-3 has 245 columns and 2,048 rows. Each row is assigned a number, and each column a letter. The intersections of the rows and columns are called cells. Cells are identified by their row-column coordinates. These cells can be filled with three types of information: numbers; mathematical formulas, as well as special spreadsheet functions; and text (or labels).

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Electronic spreadsheets allow mathematical relationships to be created between cells. For example, if a cell named E4 contains the formula: $E4=C1+B1$, then E4 will display the sum of the contents of cells C1 and B1. Spreadsheet functions are shortcuts that help the user perform common mathematical computations with a minimum of typing. 1-2-3 contains all the basic functions found in earlier programs like: SUM, COUNT, AVERAGE, MAX, MIN, IF, AND, and OR. 1-2-3 includes functions for calculating internal rate of return, the payment amount on a loan, the net present value of an annuity, and the future value of a stream of payments. One of 1-2-3's most exciting functions is its date arithmetic functions. These functions can be used for tasks as simple as date stamping your worksheets or as complex as performing accounts receivable, aging and managing stock and bond portfolios.

1-2-3 has the ability to convert spreadsheet data directly into graphs. However, 1-2-3 ties the graphics directly into the spreadsheet so that there is no need to use other communications files. 1-2-3 has five basic graph types: bar, stacked bar, line, scatter, and pie. Up to six ranges of data can be represented on a single graph. Labels can be inserted on the graphs to aid in presentations. The graphs are changed automatically as the spreadsheet information changes.

1-2-3 has a simple but powerful data base management capability. The column-row structure used to store numbers in a spreadsheet are also used in data manipulation.

One of the advantages of 1-2-3's data base manager over independent data base management systems is that its commands to manipulate the data base are very similar to the other commands used in the 1-2-3 program. The user can, therefore, learn how to use the 1-2-3 data base manager along with the rest of the 1-2-3 program. Once a data base has been built in 1-2-3, a variety of functions can be performed on it. For example, records can be added to a data base with the Insert Row command and fields can be added with the Insert Column command. The data can be sorted with both a primary and secondary key, in ascending and descending order, using alphabetic or numeric keys. 1-2-3 also has the ability to perform statistical analysis on the data base.

In my presentation, at the August meeting, I will demonstrate the major functions of 1-2-3 by using the Club's finances as an example. I will demonstrate the Club's financial spreadsheet and convert the information to graph form. I will also demonstrate a data base and how it can be manipulated. Hope to see you all at the meeting.

- Jim McWilliams -

NEWS FROM THE DISK LIBRARY
- NEW ARRIVALS -

Because our club is a support group and not a profit-making organization, the reviews which follow are intended to give a frank evaluation of two new additions to our Disk Library and are not written with an eye on increased revenue from promoting the sale of our disks. Our intent is to share information, not to generate revenue. →pg 3

MONOPOLY is a fast-playing version of the popular board game. Buy property, houses, hotels, utilities, railroads, pay fines, and "pass GO and collect \$200 salary (sic)." Be advised that one must understand the rules of the original board game in order to run this program as there is no on-disk documentation. Also, many inconveniences appear throughout the program. In particular, the screen display becomes sloppy if one player holds more than 22 properties and the program does not allow the user to view the total value of all properties owned. At times, one needs this last bit of information, especially when faced with the option of paying \$200 in property taxes or a property tax equal to 10% of all assets held. Most importantly, don't expect to see the complete Monopoly board at any time! Instead, the program only lists the properties owned by each player. One will not see his/her marker hop from Baltic Avenue to Marvin Gardens and back around to pass GO! In my opinion, this program is a lot of trouble and a second-rate product. Worth \$5.00? Not to me, but maybe to you. Requires one disk drive and 256K.

SAGE TRADER is useful to an agricultural producer or commodity trader who needs to store, analyze and display commodity price information. The program permits the commodities trader to concentrate on trends instead of details. The data entry and review process is speeded by the use of an automatic response file which allows the user to update files at the rate of more than two files per minute or summarize the day's activities with one keystroke. SAGE TRADER can easily be adapted to make good use of a particular printer's special features.

A permanent file of printer control codes can be created to meet special needs. The program offers Lotus-like "point-the-reverse-video-cursor-box" menus with a concise complete description of each menu selection under each menu. More information is provided by the Help option. In order to protect data from careless errors, data is automatically saved to a disk file when the user changes files or ends the program. Be advised that the graphics are "typewriter" graphics and only turning points, presented by letters or numbers, are plotted. Such a graphics format makes the program compatible with most parallel printers, either dot matrix or daisy wheel. SAGE TRADER requires one disk drive and 128K.

SAGE TRADER is a first class program and great for those interested in stock and commodity analysis. In its category, I'd rank it second only to the STOCK CHARTING SYSTEM which is also available in our Disk Library. Also in the same category, for those interested in this topic, I'd advise our members not to bother with STOCK ANALYZER and PORTWORTH PACKAGE, both of which are highly touted by the national shareware distributors. The latter, again in my opinion, are ill-conceived and poorly written.

- Mary Burich -



Leaving the PCjr on, as opposed to turning it off when not in use, offers no foreseeable benefits. The PCjr is well-designed and this design allows for repetitive on-off cycles with no damage to the machinery.



Dick Page

NEWS FROM THE STREET

A lot of us are on lots of mailing lists and get tons of computer-related mail each month. In the tradition of Oregon ecology, several of us collect the "stuff" we don't want and bring it to the monthly meetings to give away. (One person's junk is another person's jewelry). If you find solicitations involving free demo disks, catalogs, magazine samples, new software programs, or whatever the U.S. Mail drops at your doorstep, please bring the leftovers to the next month's meeting to put in the "Freebees Box". And, while you're there, you might look and see if there's something in the box for you!

From INFOWORLD. 7/14/86: Tecmar (which has discontinued making add-ons for the PCjr) has been having financial troubles but is still alive. They will likely be acquired by Rexon, Inc. and hope to survive their latest troubles.

DISKETTE OFFER: 29c each for DS/DD 5 1/4" or SS/DD 5 1/4" disks in lots of 100. Includes sleeves, write protect tabs, reinforced hub ring and unconditional guarantee. 1-800-MEI-3478. \$29 + \$3 p&h. MEI/Micro Electronics, Inc. Diskette Offer, 1555 West Lane Avenue, Columbus, OH 43221.

From FAMILY COMPUTING 7/86: If KING'S QUEST II has you frustrated, the map in this issue may be all you need to conquer the castle. It's nicely laid out. For you KING'S QUEST I users, Family Computing had a KQI hint map in the 3/86 issue. Let me know if you want a copy.

There is talk about a KING'S QUEST III in the making. When it will be done is anybody's guess. Sounds like it will be more challenging, and continue the quality programming found in KQ and KQII.

IBM gives discounts to computer retailers. International Business Machines Corp. confirmed July 9, 1986 it is promoting its basic personal computer and its top-of-the-line PC AT by giving discounts to dealers. The promotion helps IBM stay friendly with its crucial network of independent dealers at a time when its share of the PC market is eroding, analysts said. With the discounts from IBM, which reportedly range up to 17 percent, dealers can either cut retail prices of IBM PCs to sell more of them, or maintain the retail prices and improve their profit margins. (Register-Guard)



The EUGENE PCjr 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 are seeking high quality, competitively priced hardware and software for their PCjr. We'd like to hear from you!

CALLME HELP LIST: For any questions or concerns regarding your PCjr hardware or software.

Nancy Scott 746-2442
Charlie Halbrook 747-4948



DOS-HELPER RAFFLE

SOFTWARE EXPRESS (1011 Valley River Way, Eugene; 342-1298) has generously donated the program DOS-HELPER for our September Club Raffle.

DOS-HELPER is an on-line reference system that eliminates your scrambling for the DOS manual. DOS-HELPER is a keystroke away, fast and easy to access at any time.

According to Judy Getts in PC WORLD: "DOS-HELPER is essentially an on-line DOS 2.0-3.1 manual." Its help screen defines a command in clear and complete English and then gives an example of its use and syntax with examples for all DOS and Debug commands and most other topics in the DOS manual. Additional screens describe, in detail, the command's purpose and give numerous user tips.

DOS-HELPER can also be used to develop your own help system for any subject. This enables the user to modify the existing 105 help screens or create new ones for your own applications.

With DOS-HELPER, Standard, Co-Resident, and Memory Resident versions are included. This program can be used on the PC, PCjr, XT, AT, and other compatibles.

Raffle tickets for this great program are 50c each. They can be purchased at the August 14 PCjr meeting, the August 26 Executive Committee meeting, and before the September 11 general meeting. The drawing will be held at some point during our September meeting.

The lucky winner of DOS-HELPER will be asked to demonstrate the program for us after becoming familiar with it.

Thanks again to SOFTWARE EXPRESS for their donation. Also, thanks to Allen Dawson, PCjr Club Advertising Manager, for his work securing the DOS-HELPER donation.



NEWS FROM THE DOCUMENTS LIBRARY

I just received a letter from PC-Connection (parent company to the now defunct Jr Connection) advertising several deals on hardware and software that obviously were purchased as a special close-out deal. They state that the supplies are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

The two software packages that are offered are Alpha Software's JR ELECTRIC DESK for \$69 and Lotus' JR 123 VERSION 1A for \$129. Three hardware items are listed. The Keytronic JR5151 Keyboard (Deluxe) for \$169, the Keytronic JR5149 Numeric Keypad for \$59, and Mouse Systems PCjr Mouse with PC-PAINT for \$99. The prices for these products are a tremendous savings over the original retail prices.

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I also received a letter from IBM stating that they are selling off 21 of their software packages at very reasonable prices. All but one package will run on the Junior. Here is the list with prices:

Adventure in Serenia--\$10; Andrew Tobias' Managing Your Money with the IBM PCjr (version 1.0)--\$60; Animation Creation--\$10; Casino Games 1.05--\$10; Crossfire--\$10; Home Budget, jr--\$10; HomeWord--\$20; IBM PCjr ColorPaint--\$30; Jumpman--\$10; King's Quest--\$20; Lotus1-2-3 (for the IBM PCjr ROM vrsion)--\$99; Microsoft Adventure--\$10; Mine Shaft--\$10; Mouser--\$10; PC Pool Challenges--\$10; SHAMUS--\$10; Strategy Games 1.05--\$10; Touchdown Football--\$10; Trivia 101 (Trivia from Talkies to Trekkies)--\$10; Zyll (a text adventure game)--\$10; IBM Joystick for PCjr--\$10.

IBM did send a complete description of each product and system requirements for each. They also included an order form and a toll-free ordering number for those of you who use plastic and can't wait.

If you have any of the software listed above, please bring it to the next meeting. We will have a period of time devoted to sharing these products with people interested in purchasing some good software at a reasonable price but who aren't sure what they might be getting.

For those of you who wish more information on the products or ordering information, please contact me at 343-6274.

- Bruce Bayne -

EDITORIAL

Your contributions to the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter are needed, wanted, desired, yearned and longed for, solicited, asked for on bended knee, and of course, will be gratefully accepted.

Most of our articles are written by our talented and dedicated Executive Committee Members and a few equally talented and dedicated club members. But we need contributions from the general membership as well.

It seems that our Newsletter is not the only one in various stages of deactivating. Perhaps this excerpt from the December 1985 Ventura (CA) Personal Computer User's Group will challenge and encourage you as it has me.

"...Don't you have a favorite computer experience? Haven't you run across some really good software either in the club library, or in a store...a game, a help in the home, or anything you're just dying to tell someone else about? And jokes. I haven't heard a good computer joke all month. Don't you have a real gripe about computers? Why did you buy your Junior? Are you sorry you bought it? Looking back, what would you have bought? Buy one of the computer magazines and review a review. I guarantee to help you put your thoughts into shape, if you so desire. So, come on, submit something!" (Thanks, Ventura PCCUG. I couldn't have said it better myself).

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Several thoughts on the Newsletter have come out of the Executive Meetings and private conversations among members. Some of the thoughts are: make the Newsletter bi-monthly; suspend our own Newsletter and, as a group, subscribe to a national PCjr publication; give a free disk, as incentive and appreciation, to contributors for our Newsletter. Any comments or suggestions? Your input is welcome!

I enjoy being Editor of the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter. I enjoy learning about the Junior as I put together each issue. Won't you share your learning experiences with all of us?
- Paddy Dawson, Editor -

TELL ANY PCjr OWNERS YOU MEET ABOUT US; WE'LL SEND A SAMPLE NEWSLETTER!

The EUGENE PCjr 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 staff or editor. All contributions and materials 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.

Q. I am concerned about the wear life of my cartridge BASIC.

A. A cartridge should outlast the rest of your computer. If you constantly change cartridges, the contacts in either the cartridge itself or in the Jr slot will eventually fail. Check with any computer store for accessories used in a nonwearing method of inserting cartridges into your Jr.

Re: BLACK CAULDRON demonstration by Ben Page at July 86 meeting.

Distributed by Sierra On-Line, Inc. for Walt Disney Personal Computer Software. Program type: a 3D animated graphics adventure game. Requires 128K for PCjr, a joystick is optional but helpful. Based on novelist Lloyd Alexander's Newsbery Award-winning "Chronicles of Prydain" and patterned after Disney's movie--"Black Cauldron". Object: to find the Black Cauldron and defeat the forces of the wicked Horned King by destroying the cauldron's magical powers, removing it forever as a threat to humankind.

Features: over 1,020 cells of animation, including 30 animated characters that walk, talk, run, climb, and swim. 70 three-dimensional screens more detailed than any screen before. 6 built-in arcade sequences and mazes, including a moat teeming with hungry alligators, a slippery castle wall with guards tossing boulders down, and teetery rocks that form a path across a treacherous swamp. Over 30 different items to obtain and use. 8 different musical tunes which make use of PCjr's 3 voices for rich sound and 17 great sound effects. Multiple solutions and variable scoring.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At July's Executive Meeting, it was decided to include information regarding expanded PCjrs in most meeting agendas, and the discussion sessions could be used for individual members to voice their concerns. We all want to learn new information.

It was also decided to issue only one Newsletter to prospective members to save on printing and postage costs.

We appropriated \$40 to purchase new program disks.

- Ginny Dobson, President -

Mark the Second Thursday of each month on your calendar for the Eugene PCjr Club meetings. The next meeting is August 14 at WISTEC, southwest of the Autzen Stadium parking lot, on Centennial Blvd. Park in front and use the entrance at the back of the building. Doors will open at 6:30pm for set-up and disk sales. The meeting will start at 7:00pm. The Executive Committee meeting will also be held at WISTEC on August 26. The meeting starts at 5:30pm and all are welcome to attend. Remember, starting in September, all our meetings will be held at Ida Patterson School in their library.

Paddy Dawson, Editor

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



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