EUGENE PCjr CLUB
NEWSLETTER
Volume 3
Number 3
March 1987
1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401

MARCH PCjr MEETING AGENDA

A> March 12 General Meeting will be held at Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, Eugene. Set up and disk sales will start at 6:30pm, the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

1) Opening and Announcements.
2) WHERE IN THE WORLD IS CARMEN SAN DIEGO, top voted educational game in 1986, demonstration by Lindsey Hoffman.
3) Break and Disk Sales.
4) MARKET MOGUL demonstration by Louie Levy.
5) Questions and Answers.

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA!

(Thanks to David England, OK PCjr Users Group Newsletter Editor, Oklahoma City, OK. I couldn't have said it better myself. Paddy Dawson Eugene PCjr Newsletter Editor)

Last but not least is yours truly (David England) as newsletter editor. And, as indicated two issues back, the newsletter is being cut back to every other month mainly because no one was willing to lend a hand in getting it out. What's worthy of note here is the non-reaction to my request for a little help. It's a good indication of what could be happening to the club. Not a single person offered to help with the newsletter following the December issue's appeal for a volunteer or two. At the meeting, not a single hand went up when the same question was put directly to the membership. What's more interesting is that nobody volunteered for anything at the meeting.

For example: Vickie D. initially didn't want to run again for secretary-treasurer. Not that she thought the job was too hard, but that she thought someone else may have wanted to do it since she'd been in office for two years. No takers. Welcome back, Vickie. After it was determined that the newsletter would be bimonthly, there was a proposal to have a one-page mailer for each month in between editions, containing mainly a brief description of what had happened at the previous meeting plus a reminder of what's on the agenda for the next meeting. No takers there, either. So much for keeping everybody informed.

This may sound like a sorry state of affairs, but there's nothing unusual about it. As with most clubs, only about 2 per cent of the membership is willing to participate. The problem is that the 2 per cent won't keep doing this forever. These people pay their dues, too, and they also have jobs and families and other activities. Sooner or later, they will get tired and want out. And if nobody comes along to take their places, sooner or later there won't be a group anymore. Then we really would be orphans.

This isn't just a bridge club we're talking about here. A purely social club could come apart at the seams with no serious consequences for anybody. Not so with an organization like user group. If it breaks up, the members lose a valuable source of information and help that may not be available to them anywhere else.

NEEDED: CLUB OFFICERS NOW!

Remember that April is elections month. All of the positions will be open. If we want the Club to continue as successfully as it has in the past, we need officers who will be as dedicated as all of our predecessors. Think of all the benefits you have received while members of the EUGENE IBM PCjr CLUB. If you want our Club to continue past April, it's your turn to contribute as active officers. If you don't, no one else will.

The EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER is available for $12/year, or as part of your paid-up membership in the EUGENE PCjr CLUB for $20/year. Interested parties may receive one copy of the Newsletter free on request before subscribing. The editor accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the information, opinions, or materials contained in this Newsletter. Reprint permission is freely given; please credit the appropriate author and the EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER. All contributions are gratefully accepted by the overworked editor.

Make check/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.

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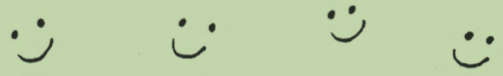
10 members of the 1986 FORBES FOUR HUNDRED have fortunes derived principally from high technology.

ALDUS PAGEMAKER will soon be out for IBM PCs.



COMPUTER JOKE CONTEST
T.R. Reid and Michael Schrage, 1987 Washington Post Writers' Syndicate, Register-Guard, 3-87

Reid and Schrage are sponsoring the First Annual PC Joke Contest. The purpose of the event is to encourage PC humor. Aren't you fed up with the image of PC owners as humorless nerdoids?

Here are the rules: Entries have to be jokes with beginnings, middles and ends (commonly known as punchlines). Puns (such as "Fiche and chips, how 'bout a byte?" and "I like your floppies.") do not qualify as jokes. Ethnic, sexual or derogatory jokes not fit for newspapers are ineligible. Let taste and conscience be your guide.

The top three jokes (if they are of sufficiently high caliber) will be published in this nationally syndicated column and the winning jokesmiths heralded as "funny people." For those who get a thrill seeing their names in newspapers around the country, this could be your contest. Besides, handing out prizes would make this serious, and you can't have a serious joke contest.

In the unlikely event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the earliest postmark. Should that not be possible, the winning entry will be determined by a computer-generated coin toss. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 1 (April Fool's Day) and sent to us at The Washington Post, 1150-15th Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20071. We regret that we can't acknowledge the entries.

DISK LIBRARY NEWS
- Louie Levy -

The main purpose of the Disk Library is to provide the membership with the best possible programs at the most reasonable prices. Because of the dedication of our colibrarian(s) and their efforts, the quality of the programs we have is top grade. We feel that the value offered by your Library can't be matched anywhere in the country. Where else can you get such quality software like PC-WRITE, PC-CALC, and PC-FILE for only five dollars, with never having to pay for updates? Each and every diskette sold carries a lifetime satisfaction guarantee.

It isn't too difficult to compare FILE, CALC, or WRITE to their more costly counterparts. If you need a data base, or if you write a newsletter, but feel that you don't have the money to spend on LOTUS or D-BASE, your Disk Library has their Shareware counterparts for less than five dollars each when you purchase four or more. By doing this, we feel the membership is getting the best quality for the best price.

This same philosophy holds true for the blank diskettes which your Disk Library sells. It isn't very difficult to compare the "White Box" brand of diskettes to their more costly counterparts. While these diskettes are much cheaper, they carry the same lifetime warranty and are guaranteed to be 100% error free as are the higher priced diskettes of other brands you may purchase elsewhere. We have sold over 200 of these "cheap" diskettes and have had none returned, which we feel is a pretty good record. Yet, a "higher quality" diskette will also be a "higher priced" diskette.

The Disk Library belongs to each and every member of the EUGENE PCjr CLUB, so give us your input as to your needs. We want to carry the products that most of us will use, enjoy and be satisfied with. If we are not carrying the software you need or want, let us know. Also let us know if you would rather see us carry a more expensive brand of diskette; forty-five cents each may be too cheap!

A> All are welcome to attend the Officers Meeting, March 24, at 5:30pm at Ida Patterson School. Remember to turn in your articles for the April Newsletter either at that meeting or send them to the Club two weeks before the next meeting, which will be held April 9, 1987.

BEWARE THE TROJAN HORSE
- Mark Lewyn -
USA TODAY'S COMPUTERLINE

A TROJAN HORSE isn't just a legendary sham. It's also a type of software. When it's run by an unsuspecting computer user, the TROJAN HORSE destroys all the data in his computer. Quicksoft, Inc. wants to try to crack down on the high-tech vandals that create these programs. The Seattle-based company is offering $2,500 to anyone who tips the company to the identity of the vandal who turned a copy of their PC-WRITE word processor program into a TROJAN HORSE. Two weeks ago, a version of PC-WRITE showed up on a Los Angeles computer bulletin board, an electronic bulletin board that computer users can tap using phone lines. Two people tried loading the program into their machines and had the data on their hard disk drives wiped out. No tips have come in yet, says Quicksoft President Bob Wallace.

Q. I keep hearing a lot about EDLIN. Is it true that if I learn how to use it well that I don't need a word processing program?

A. Not really, EDLIN is just a sort of notepad, useful if you have DOS handy and are typing a short memo. It was never meant to be a substitute for a full-fledged word processor. But it is handy, sometimes. (Ventura IBM PCjr's User Group 6-86, Camarillo, CA)

DISK NOTES
- Cindy Hoffman -

It's time to commend our Disk Librarians for providing such an excellent variety of quality programs for our CLUB Library. The new programs available this month illustrate how well-rounded our Disk Library is, and has been for a long time. Here are three new programs being offered.

Would you like to have more meaningful evenings? STARGAZER consists of two wonderful programs to help make the night skies more exciting. PC-PLANETARIUM is the more sophisticated work, yet it is very simple to use. After entering the longittude and latitude (determined by moving the cursor on a map), and the time and date (BC or AD) of your choice, a sky map is drawn on the screen, constellation by constellation, identifying each as it is placed. A menu offers several options including zeroing in on one particular star for identification and technical information, locating a planet, or printing the star map for future reference. The other program, ASTROVIEW, is simple and quick, showing the sky from any place and time with less detail and without the interactive menu options. This combination of programs will make an entertaining and fascinating addition to your personal disk library. You can't help but be impressed!

Yet another way to braoden your horizons is LANGUAGE TEACHER, a series of menu-driven language tutorial programs. Each program in the series contains hundreds of word combinations and verb conjugation forms. Menu options include drills on nouns, verbs, vocabulary, phrases, conjugation, retests on missed words, diagnostic results, and six different test categories to print out on your printer. There are two separate disks available, each with two different languages: French/Spanish and German/Italian. This top quality series was originally sold commercially but has since been released to Public Domain. We are very happy beneficiaries of the programmer's generosity and talent!

3-D COMPUTER USES: DOCTORING AND DESIGNING (New York Times News Service and The Oregonian, 12-28-1986)

A system called pixel-planes, now being developed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, holds the promise of generating realistic three-dimensional images on a video screen at a fraction of the current cost, researchers there said.

By manipulating 3-D video images with computer joysticks, an architect, for example, could take a "walking tour" of a building before it is built, or a surgeon could examine 3-D images of organs inside the body of a patient.

The system contains more than 2,000 computer chips and can perform 12 million operations a second, according to Dr. John Poulton, one of the principal researchers.

MISCELLANEOUS
- Leon Ungier -

The January 27 issue of the PC MAGAZINE contains, on page 293, a description of an interesting modification to the DISKCOPY command which is part of your DOS. This modification, or patch, will be probably most appreciated by those of you who make multiple copies of disks for sale to club members.

Normally, when you type DISKCOPY A: B: and press Enter, DOS will guide you when and which disk to insert and will produce an exact copy of disk A on disk B. So far so good. What is happening is this. First, the computer reads the contents of disk A into memory and then dumps the contents of this part of the memory on disk B, making a perfect copy of disk A. This description assumes your computer has enough memory to read the whole disk. If not, it reads part of disk A, dumps it on B, reads A again, and so on. After DISKCOPY is finished, you see the message: Copy another (Y/N)? The problem arises when you want to make 20 copies of disk A, because after you respond with "Y", DOS then asks you to insert disk A again and then will read it again into memory and will do it 20 times. This is silly since disk A is already in the memory from the time you made the first copy.

The modification mentioned above remedies this problem and you will easily make multiple copies twice as fast as with the ordinary DISKCOPY command. It is also a good example of how invaluable the DEBUG program is. It is very difficult to do this kind of patching without using DEBUG.

(For part 2 of this article, please see our April Newsletter).

JOYSTICK DIGIT
LA Times-Washington Post Service, Oregonian, 2/22/87

Video hackers beware. Doctors at Children's Hospital in Philadelphia have tracked down another little-known hazard of modern living: joystick digit.

In a letter in the Journal of the American Medical Association, they report two cases of trigger finger caused by "repetitive joystick manipulation while playing video games." They dubbed the disorder JOYSTICK DIGIT. The first case involved an 11-year-old boy who woke up one day with his dominant ring finger locked in the bent trigger position. Under questioning, the patient revealed a telltale clue: He had played video games daily, for up to six hours a day. The second case involved "an admitted computer hacker" who manipulated the joystick control for six to eight hours most weekends and showed up at the doctor's office with "triggering" in the middle finger of his dominant hand, a locked finger and inflammation of the flexor tendon.

Airplane joysticks, which are similar in design to computer joysticks, don't seem to cause trigger finger the way computer joysticks do, the doctors noted. The reason: Smaller computer joysticks press directly against the flexor muscle. The good news is that joystick digit is easily treated. Therapy includes anti-inflammatory medications, joystick modification and, here's the bad news, "avoiding use of the joystick."

CHOCOLATE FLOPPY
- Mark Lewyn -
USA TODAY'S COMPUTERLINE

Michael Cahlin is looking for a legal battle to stir up some publicity and boost sales of his chocolate floppy disks. Cahlin, a Los Angeles-based public relations consultant who sells the disks as a sideline, is seeking to defend the copyright of his $9.95 "disk" under a new court ruling that protects the "look and feel" of software. The legal question: Does a chocolate floppy disk fall in the category of software? Undoubtedly, the answer is no. But Cahlin argues that the combination of the plastic packaging and chocolate, the software elements as he calls them, creates a software product. None of this would be up for debate had the courts not changed the software copyright laws. In the past, programmers assumed they could copy the appearance of a program if they didn't copy the underlying code. Using that logic, future makers of chocolate disks might have to change their recipes to avoid a lawsuit from Cahlin.

A QUICK FIX FOR BAD DISKS
(Henry Dulak, Capjug Connection, Journal of the Chicago area PCjr Users Group, #12)

If any of you ever get a floppy disk in the mail (demo, etc.) that is so tight in the jacket that it won't spin when inserted in your disk drive, don't despair. There's an easy fix.

Take the disk and run it edgewise across the edge of a table or other sharp corner. Do this to all four sides of the diskette case and it will remove the tension. Try it lightly at first so you don't make the case balloon out too much.

Q. Why does the Junior use sidecar expansion units, and what kind of sidcars are there?

A'. COST! COST! COST! If you get into serious reading about Junior, you occasionally come across IBM's rational for making the PCjr quite different from the PC. It seems that IBM felt that Junior should impact the home and education market, and to that extent, price had to be kept down. Offering expansion slots like a PC would make the Junior too competitive with the PC; it would be too similar. Thus, the I/O sidecar buss. It makes real sense to build in the special VGA chip into the Junior to save money. This chip allows the Junior to emulate a PC in the video world. So, price for price, the Junior did provide for less expensive purchase of an IBM unit. The compromises are only minimal from the Junior owner's point of view. Here is an "off-the-top-of-the-head" list of sidecar units that will (or might in the future) work on Junior's I/O buss:

Memory attachments, 0K to 512K (and above) RAM memory Parallel Printer Port attachments, Clock/Calendar also Prototyping Printed Circuit Boards (experimenters) Speech Synthesis Units, for producing computer speech LAN hardware (local area network) for multi-computer sets interfacing to hard disk drives, any Megabyte amount Power Supply expansion (for certain memory sidecars), memory attachment with Mouse included (Microsoft only).

Taking these few items into consideration, Junior gets pretty darn close to the other IBM family models in emulation (imitation). Plus, consider that you have different sidecar manufacturers to select from, for the best price. Viva la Junior! (FOX TALES, Fox Valley PCjr Assoc., Plainfield, Illinois, 6-86)

THE DOS PROMPT COMMAND OR "IS THAT WHAT USER FRIENDLY IS ALL ABOUT?" (R.K. Schmitt, Southwestern Michigan PC Users Group, PCjrs of Southern Nevada, 3-86)

Intimidating to the new user and boring to the old timer, the DOS prompt of A> or C> does not need to be what greets you every time DOS is ready for a command. Instead, you could have DOS greet you with HI BOSS, THE TIME IS.... WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO? or HELLO, YOU GOOD LOOKING BIT OF PROTOPLASM. WHAT IS YOUR WISH? The DOS PROMPT command will let you have a prompt such as that or many others. The command is easy to use and may be inserted into an AUTOEXEC.BAT file.

Absent any other instructions, DOS uses a prompt consisting of the current default drive letter and the > symbol. However, it can just as well include such things as the date, time, current directory, DOS version number, etc. To change the prompt, you type in the word PROMPT, followed by the message you would like to be greeted with, and/or parameters for use by the command.

For example, entering PROMPT HI THERE WONDERFUL will make the A> be a thing of the past, replacing it with HI THERE WONDERFUL. Entering PROMPT $T will replace the A> with the current system time. You do set it when booting your machine, don't you?

I don't recommend that you use wordy prompts or consume too many lines with the prompt. But you owe it to yourself to experiment with prompts that are more useful to you than the traditional default prompt. It is also well worth putting the command into your AUTOEXEC.BAT file so that you don't need to enter each time you boot the machine.

IBMs BRAILLE ADAPTED COMPUTER (New York Times News Service and The Oregonian, 12-28-86)

Using a combination of 1980s computer technology and the 1830s Braille system, an experimental device developed at IBM's Thomas J. Watson Research Center for the first time offers blind computer users the ability to "read" characters directly from a computer screen.

The device, a "mouse" pointer, has been specially modified to include six tiny pistons that rise and fall, forming standard Braille characters like those on a printed page. By feeling the characters atop the mouse, the user can form a mental image of the screen. No special software or training is needed.

The researchers said the device might also be used to teach Braille, and could be coupled with a voice synthesizer to allow the computer to "say" words that are on the screen. Test versions are being built.

WATCH OUT FOR PIN MAGNETS
- Lane Extension Newsletter -

Magnetic devices to catch and hold pins can play havoc with memory in some computer sewing machines. With some machines, the memory can be erased completely. Check with your sewing machine dealer before using magnetic pin devices near machines. This is a concern only with the newer, computerized and programmable sewing machines and does not affect conventional machines. (Does this mean computer users, too?)

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.

Our Club members are seeking high quality, competitively priced hardware and software for their Juniors. We'd like to hear from you!

ROTATING RAYS

(Vance Jaqua, Rocketdyne Microcomputer User's Group, EXCHANGE, May/June 1986)

```
100 REM sample of med res graphics
150 PI-3.1417
200 SCREEN 1,0,0,0
210 CLS
300 FOR BCLR=0 TO 15
310 FOR PCLR=0 TO 1
320 FOR LCLR=3 TO 0 STEP (-1)
400 COLOR BCLR, PCLR
500 FOR L=0.1 TO 2*PI STEP PI/30
510 X=90*COS(L)
520 X=X+150
530 Y+90*SIN(L)
540 Y=Y+100
600 LINE (150,100)-(X,Y),LCLR
690 NEXT
700 NEXT LCLR
710 NEXT PCLR
720 NEXT BCLR
990 END
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EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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1987
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