FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As I sit quietly before my keyboard writing this article the temperature outside is at 95 degrees and the sun is blazing down. . .While inside, my sweat drips slowly onto "jr"! However, the weather is perfect for looking ahead to Fall and our beginning outdoor "Annual Picnic Social."

As Club Social Director, Elleen Levy has been thinking about the picnic and YOU. She has planned carefully for a Club family gathering and her article on the next page will alert you about all the picnic details and specifics. Please mark September 6 on your calendar and join your PCjr friends and other Club members of all ages for this social get together.

During the 1990-91 Club meetings it is my intention to continue the approach that each and every meeting will include what is important to you. . .What you want to learn, what you can enjoy and what you can share!

Beginning with our October meeting we will focus on an overview about UTILITIES. This session will be followed by an evening instructional "hands on" class dealing with UTILITIES for those Club members who want to learn how to use this software! "User Friendly" is this year's buzz-word and that means "hands on" opportunities to learn to use and explore basic tools of our PCjr. At the September 18 Club Board Meeting an instructional class schedule will be reviewed for this year and published in the October Newsletter. This will allow you to see what type of software will be presented at each of our Club meetings and the follow-up dates of "hands on" classes so people can register and set aside calendar dates for this small group instruction.

Thank you for your enthusiastic support during last year as we explored "Junior and its assorted Hardware," and I hope this year's approach will allow new computer competencies to blossom. . .

. . . And From the Vice President
By Cindy Hoffman

It's almost fall! Sometimes, summer can be a boring experience for Junior. While people are going here and there, poor Junior is left at home--patiently waiting. But Junior doesn't keep a record of neglect (unless you have programmed him to do so). So, don't feel guilty! Plan to come to our September potluck and get together where we'll kick off another great year.

See you there!

You're
Invited!

Peanut   Picnic   Time
   Kicking off Our
   SIXTH   YEAR ! !

      (Right Here)

SANTA CLARA
BELTLINE WEST   BELTLINE EAST
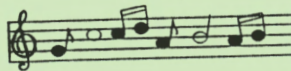RIVER
N
ROAD

1400 Lake Drive
Eugene

      Summer is drawing to a close, and it is time for our club picnic. This is a
great way to start off the new Computer Club year by getting together with old
friends, and, hopefully, meeting new ones.
      The picnic will be at the covered pavilion in Emerald Part at 6 pm on Sept.
6. The map is for those of you who may be new to the club and have not attended
our picnics in the past. It's somewhat small, but is in the River Road area of
Eugene (call, if you need better directions). Also, please note that this is the
first Thursday in September and is NOT our usual meeting night.
      The club will furnish coffee, lemonade, and fried chicken. You are asked to
bring your own eating utensils and plates plus a dish of something we can all
enjoy. Please decide whether you want to bring a main dish, salad or dessert. I
would appreciate a phone call letting me know what you are bringing. If I don't
hear from you, I will be calling you before the picnic.
      Our picnic is a family affair. Emerald Park is a pretty place with a nice
playground, so everyone has a good time. We hope to see all of you there.
                                                      Elleen Levy – 343-7592

. . . Also Notes From the Modem-Person/Newsletter Editor
by Louie Levy

      We're Back! During our trip back east we were able to visit with the
editor of the Atlanta *Orphan Peanut*, David Wilson. Boy, were we impressed!
David had both of his hard drives purring nicely for our visit and he allowed us
access to *The PCjr Workshop*, the official BBS of the Atlanta PCjr User Group.
All of us in the Eugene PCjr Club owe the Atlanta group many thanks for their
having such a good host for us during our visit. David really got me fired up
about using my modem and I hope to get it on-line soon. I need to try to
replace some of the programs I "lifted" from their Bulletin Board! If anyone
has some Shareware that isn't in our library that we can send to the folks in
Atlanta, please allow me to send them a copy to help ease our indebtedness to
them.

      We had hoped to visit with other Junior owners, but time and distance
caught up with us. Still, we hope that any of you reading this who find
yourselves bopping down Interstate 5 someday will take a break in Eugene and
give us a call; we surely do have a lot in common. Junior owners are user-
friendly!

      Many thanks to those of you who submitted articles for the Newsletter this
summer! You don't know what joy it brings to my heart to have someone actually
take the time to write for the Newsletter and send it in. YES, we will publish
your article. If you miss it this month, be sure and read October's issue
closely as it's sure to be there. Remember, we accept articles in ASCII, hand-
written on paper napkins, on disk from ANY word processing program, any margins
or format. . .we're just glad to get the input!

. . . And Notes From the Disk Library
by Paul Boney

No doubt our club members of long standing are well acquainted with the club's library. At present, the library index shows 57 entries in four general categories. For our newer members here is a short list of the library's wide range of features.

Education programs cover many subjects from Math and Languages to Music and Astronomy. The 16 disks in this category contain over 30 different programs suitable for all age groups. There are several programs of interest and benefit to fairly young children. Language and math programs feature vocabulary drill and exercises of problem solving with tests and scores computed automatically.

A wide range of subjects is covered by the 16 disks in the field of games and entertainment, extending from arcade and card games to chess and monopoly. For example I have been fascinated by the disk NYET PLUS TWO, number G-213 in the club's library. NYET is adapted from the Russian game TETRIS for the PCjr with a choice of color graphics or monochrome. The challenge is to manipulate blocks of various shapes to form solid layers as they drop from top to bottom of your monitor screen. Like a majority of the games in the library collection, skill level can be chosen by the player.

In the productivity category there is another broad list of programs for word processing, data base management, spread sheets, and telecommunications. The utility programs include many variations to either simplify or enlarge the operations of DOS for sorting or arranging files, utilizing Junior's many colors, or to directing operation of your printer or modem. Programs worth special mention are DESKTEAM, which has an alarm clock, calculator, calendar, note pat, and telephone dialer; and JR POWER PACK II, which has many useful programs, especially JRCONFIG which will set up mode 80, your choice of screen colors, key click, ram disk, and many other options immediately when the disk is booted.

Club disks are for sale at regular meetings; the price for members is $3 each or two for $5. For non-members the price is $4 each. The library also has blank disks for sale at very reasonable prices. For more information about YOUR library, inquire at the next meeting!

Each month we await the newsletters of our sister clubs throughout the United States. They all have interesting articles and as we have so few people sending us original work, we reprint many of these articles here in our own publication. This month, the Portland PCjr Club up the road from us had a tip that needs repeating.

If you have tried to copy the DIR listing of files on your screen to your printer, you may still be using the Fn Print Screen key combination. They suggest using DOS's ability to redirect command results using the > key. Just type in DIR > PRN or DIR > LPT1. The redirect command can be used with CHKDSK and with the DIR parameters like DIR/W.

The Portland PCjr Club meets the first Thursday of the month. You can get in touch with them by writing in care of their President, Robert Mueller, 8701 NE Tillamook, Portland, OR 97220.

PCjr Fn Key Tips

Did you know that the Fn key on the PCjr keyboard is a special "sticky" key? This means you don't have to hold it down while pressing the next key because once it's pressed it stays pressed. For instance, to get the equivalent of F6 function key, press AND RELEASE the Fn key and then press the 6. This is a handy feature for the Fn key to have since it's faster and easier to press and release a key than it is to press and hold it while pressing another key.

The Fn and the Q (Pause) key will cause the words scrolling up your screen (when you've used the DOS "type" command, for instance) to stop scrolling. The scrolling will begin again when you press any key.

Many programs running in BASIC or DOS will immediately end when you press Fn and then the B (Break) key. This is handy for software that doesn't have an escape or end feature built in-- or if you've forgotten it. You can also use the Ctl-C keys to do the same thing.

If you want to print what you see on your screen, make sure your printer is on and press Fn and then the P (Print Screen) key. This will print everything you see on your screen as long as it's type or numbers, but if you have graphics on your screen, it won't reproduce what you see.

Another screen printing feature that works a little differently is the Fn plus the E (Echo) key. After you've pressed these keys, everything you type from your keyboard will be printed.

You can set your keyboard to make the Fn key combinations operate automatically without pressing the Fn key first by pressing Fn Shift and Esc. This will make the number keys along with the B, E, P, Q and S keys work as though the Fn key had been pressed first. To switch out of this mode, press Fn Shift and Esc again and the keyboard will return to normal setting.

By the way, the PCjr keyboard is extremely well constructed and should last for many years. So it's worthwhile learning how to use all of its handy features such as those provided with the Fn key.

Reprinted from the April
1990 *jr Newsletter*.

Racore
Memory Upgrades
--A Clarification

(The April issue of the *jr Newsletter* carried an article about the two types of Racore memory expansion boards installed on many PCjr's. The editors felt that they may have misled some Racore owners, in an article published in last December's issue on memory upgrades, into thinking that all Racore memory boards could be increased to 640K. As this isn't the case, the *jr Newsletter* printed a clarification to explain just what memory boards are made by Racore. As the article is very informative, we repeat most of it here.)

One type of memory board was sold with 128K, giving the PCjr a total of 256K. This board is referred to as a 384K board because that is the maximum amount of memory it can hold. It has two rows of eight soldered chips, plus four rows of sockets. When all four rows of sockets are filled with 64K chips, the board will provide its maximum of 384K of additional memory for a PCjr, giving the computer a total of 512K.

NOTE: One 64K chip does not provide 64K. It takes a row of eight 64K chips to provide 64K. Similarly, it takes a row of eight 256K chips to provide 256K.

The Racore 384K boards may contain 128K, 256K, or 384K, depending upon how many of its rows are filled. You can easily remove the cover (of Junior) and see how many rows of chips your Racore board has. If you see empty rows, it is very easy to buy chips from any electronics supplier and add the chips yourself.

The job is made easier by a chip insertion tool, which can be bought from Radio Shack or other suppliers quite inexpensively. These tools make it easier to line up the wire legs of the chips so you can get them in without bending them.

The second type of Racore memory board is referred to as a 512K board because that is the maximum amount of additional memory it can provide for a PCjr, bringing the PCjr total to 640K. These boards have just two rows for memory chips. One row is filled with soldered 256K chips. The second row is

socketed. If you have one of these boards and the second row is empty, you can purchase a set of eight 256K chips and insert them in the sockets yourself. They should be 256K 150ns chips.

We hope this clears up any confusion and encourages you to upgrade your Racore unit so you can enjoy the benefits of additional memory on your PCjr.

Ed's note: many thanks to the *jr Newsletter* for this article. If you are not a subscriber to this only national newsletter devoted entirely to the PCjr, you really should be. One year (12 issues) is only $20. Send your check to: *jr Newsletter*, Box 163, Southbury, CT 06488. Tell them we sent you!
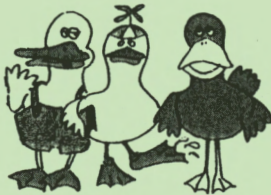
Some Thoughts on Junior's Limits

Adapted from an article by
John King in *The San Francisco PCjr Newsletter*.

In the June issue of *The San Francisco PCjr Newsletter*, our West Coast Guru, John King published an article entitled "Some Thoughts on Junior's Limits." John's reputation and his knowledge on all aspects of Junior's quirks, qualifies him to tell us of the "three ground rules" which he uses to advise someone if they should upgrade their Junior or buy a new one.

John says that we should "Consider an upgrade if it will postpone the greater expense of a new computer for a significant time." He cites the fact that he uses Jr. WordPerfect (which will run on a 128K Junior) for most of his writing, and he has two 360k disk drives plus some added memory. As this meets his needs, John feels that, at the present time, there is no need to move up to an XT or even an AT. When the need comes, maybe a 386 machine will be the replacement for his Junior.

Next in the article, John suggests that we shouldn't "buy a less expensive upgrade if the upgrade that (we) really need" or if the combined costs of all of the upgrades we need "is more than (we) are willing to pay." What he is saying is that if we will try to look ahead and see just what we will be doing a year down the line with Junior, will that 128K additional memory, or that added disk drive be enough? If not, why buy it? Will you be wanting to use WordPerfect 5.(whatever), or the much hipped new version of Windows? As John says, generally, what software you need to run will "determine the hardware" you will need. If you upgrade Junior, will it do? Will it only require a $100 keyboard upgrade, or will it need more memory and another drive? Is this what it will take to run the software you need? If it will, and if the cost is acceptable to you, then you should upgrade. If you still won't be able to run the programs you need to use conveniently, maybe you should invest in a different computer. John cites WordPerfect. Jr WordPerfect runs well on a 128K Junior, as we noted. Version 4.2 runs well, but requires a little more memory. Version 5.0 and 5.1 are bears without a hard disk or two 720K floppy drives; even with the two drives, you'll have to swap disks fairly often. And, as John notes, what will you need to run "version 5.3?" Maybe another computer!

John says that "The PCjr storage limitation is really only cost." How true this is! "A hard disk which you can add to an XT for $250 costs $600 for the PCjr because special adapters and an external box are required." As John notes, you will still have to backup to 360K floppies unless you purchase a 3.5" drive . . . and you still won't be able to utilize either the 1.2M or the 1.44M drives as the controller in Junior won't support these high density drives.

If you are contemplating the dilemma of upgrading Junior or returning him to his "orphaned" status and buying another, faster and larger machine, look at John's article. Dick has it in the Documents Library. We know that you are used to Junior's 16 colors and it just may be possible to extend it's life for a few more years by just adding another keyboard, a

do-it-yourself second drive and memory to bring you up to 640K, but you should give some serious thought before going further. John rightfully notes that those of us who have added hard drives may not agree with him, but his advice does have much validity. It's just that John feels that there is no reason to "upgrade" to another computer as long as Junior is fulfilling your needs. Yep, John's computer is the PCjr!

How to Print Graphics With DOS

Frustrated when you try to print a copy of the screen using the <F> <P> (function "print screen") key combination and all you get printed out is a mess? Did you know that there is a program on your DOS diskette called **GRAPHICS.COM** which allows the contents of a graphics display screen (one that has more than just text on it) to be printed on an IBM Graphics Printer (or any printer that emulates one)?

Pages 2-96 and 2-97 in your DOS 2.1 manual describes this handy program. All you need to do to make use of it is to type the word GRAPHICS after the A> when you start up your PCjr. Then run the program which has the screen you want to copy. When you get to that screen, press the <Fn> <P> key combo (or the <Shift> <PrtSc> key on IBM PC type keyboards) and watch your printer go to work. (Printing may be slow and can take as long as three minutes.)

(from the Jr Newsletter)

"Recommending a word processor is said to be one of the riskier aspects of computer advice..."
John Dimsdale, *Metro PCjr Journal*

The Club seems to be missing the binder that contains all of the Club's past newsletters. I checked this binder out to someone several months ago from the documents library and we would sure like to get it back! (As documents librarian, I lost the documentation to Writing Assistant and now all of our newsletters; no wonder I'm no longer holding that position!) Please phone either Dick or Louie to let them know where it is. Thank you!

HEARD ON THE STREET
by
DICK PAGE
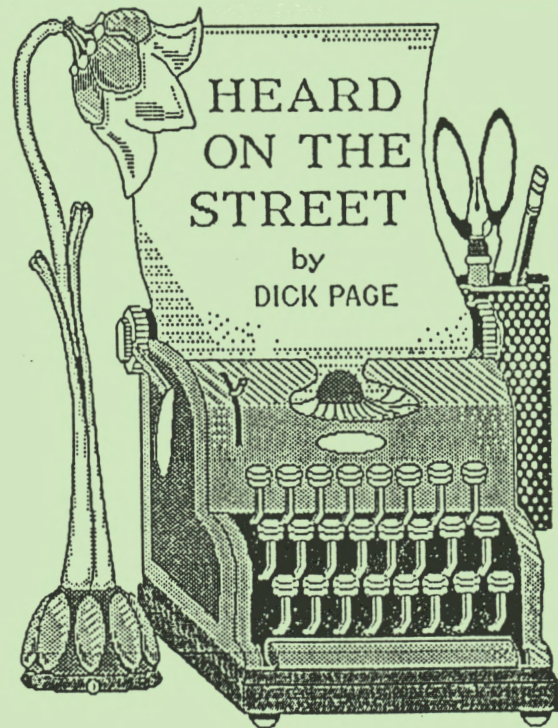
HAYES LOWERS MODEM PRICES!

Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. is reducing prices on many of its modems by 23% to 43%. Contact Hayes at 705 Westech Drive, Norcross, GA 30092, 404-449-8791.

[Hayes has become the industry standard for modems. Hopefully this will put pressure on their competitors and bring down the cost of all modems.]

Taken from the
February 1990 issue of
*PC Resource*

SPRING KEYBOARD CLEANING

The February 1990 issue of *PC Resource* magazine has an excellent, lengthy article on the care and maintanence of keyboards. Along with trouble shooting tips and keyboard anatomy, it describes how to take your keyboard apart and clean it.

While it may sound drastic, it even describes why and how to give your keyboard a water bath! (And still be functional.)

I hear there's more "Heard" -->

DRAM CHIP PRICES BOTTOMING OUT?

The April 1990 issue of *PC World Magazine* mentions that prices for dynamic random access memory chips are probably going to increase soon. Demand for the essential chips should out strip the supply in the next year. This translates to higher costs for hardware which contains 1-megabit and less chips. [Therefore, if you plan to upgrade your memory, it might be wise to do it now.)
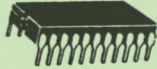
386SX CHIPS BECOMING POPULAR

The March '90 issue of *PC World Magazine* notes that sales of SX-based PC's rose to 17% of the IBM-compatible market last year from only only 4% in 1988. It is expected that in 1990 SX sales alone will exceed those of all Macintosh shipments.

Next month Intel will be shipping a 20-MHz version that will be up to 40% faster than the 16-MHz version.

Rumor (just a rumor) also has it that Intel is developing another SX chip that would drop in the socket of 286-based systems ("AT machines") allowing quick and easy upgrading of the 20 million 286's in use today. (That would cause quite a stir - especially for companies relying on customers upgrading from their AT's by purchasing whole new 386-based machines.)

LASER-POWERED COMPUTERS?

In the May 90 issue of COMPUTE! magazine's "News & Notes" section it mentions that AT&T's Bell Laboratory is working on building a computer that processes information using laser light. The rationale is that a beam of laser light can carry much more information than can an electrical circuit. (One small laser lens can carry more information than that in all the world's phone lines!) An interesting concept.

So, electrical superconductors - step aside - and let the laser light show begin!

WELLS AMERICAN GOES BANKRUPT

Several magazines recently noted that the computer manufacturer Wells American was having financial trouble. It appears that it now is completely out of business and is not supporting its computer owners at all. [Aren't you glad you have an IBM? - Well, at least some of the time?]

NEW NEWS FROM PC ENTERPRISES

The PC Enterprises 1024K MEGABOARD mentioned last month is now available from PC Enterprises. Their latest catalogue lists a range of costs - from $275 to $425, depending on the amount of additional memory you want to buy.

Two other hardware items new to this catalogue are worth noting - the ENHANCED jrDRIVER BOARD and the COMSWAP BOARD.

The Enhanced jrDriver is a plug-in board which allows you to add up to four floppy drives to your junior.

The standard version works with PC Enterprise's add-on drives by plugging into the disk drive controller slot. Your existing disk drive controller card then plugs into the Enhanced jrDriver. It does not use up the internal modem slot. Selecting which disk drive is Drive A is just a matter of moving a jumper coupling. It sells for $59.95.

The special version plugs into the internal modem slot. It is for people who already own a complete second drive unit made by another company and who want to add a third floppy or a hard drive made by PC Enterprises. It lists for $79.

If you are thinking of getting an external modem, you may want to purchase the COMSWAP Board. It plugs into the internal modem slot allowing telecommunications software to recognize Junior's serial port as the port through which to receive and send your modem information. It is a simple, quick and inexpensive hardware fix for only $9.95.

See you next month!   Dick.

"We must continue to let them know we are out here. Many software companies themselves are not aware that their programs will run on an updated PCjr (and I let them know that, too)."
Cynthia Buckner in the *jr Newsletter*

There's strength in numbers. Join our club. Get the help you need and soon your Junior will be up and running strong!!
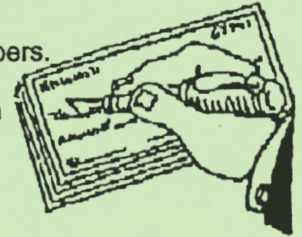
The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER accepts advertising at the following rates:

        1 Page - $20.00
        1/2 Page -   12.50
        1/4 Page -   7.00
         Insert -   20.00
      Back Cover -   15.00
    Yearly contracts available.

Classified "For Sale" ads in this section of the Newsletter are $3 for 25 words or less to non-members and FREE to members on a one-time basis. Ads should be placed at least two weeks before the next club meeting, and all payments should accompany the ad request.

EUGENE PCjr CLUB

1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220
     Eugene, OR   97401

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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