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Association
of
Personal
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Charley's Corner
by Charles Coury

Dear Friends of the PCjr,

Last Summer I read a where-is-technology-taking-us book called *Being Digital*, by Nicholas Negroponte. This author finally made sense of two interesting points I had been wondering about.

First, is the difference between what professor Negroponte calls atoms and bits. Now to me atoms seem so futuristic, so 21st century -- but not to Negroponte. They may be microscopic Legos, but put together they form our TVs, our cars, our houses. They are the building blocks of the past, of the Industrial Age. Now bits, ethereal electronic signals that deftly dance around our computers (and now the Internet) are sweeping us into the future, into the Information Age. The plastic floppy disk you use to load PC-DOS on your Junior are atoms. Bits, in contrast, is the information stored on the disk. The difference between bits, which have no mass, have no substance (though they carry enormous information) and things made of atoms is so profound that the world will be turned upside down.

Second, thanks to Dr. Negroponte, I was able to finally get my head around the concept of Bandwidth. Of course, I always knew that it didn't have anything to do with width of stage required by a rock band. The place to begin with bandwidth is the electro-magnetic spectrum. If you imagine a world of waves and waves of energy, the electro-magnetic spectrum is the entire range of waves, from gentle to gyrating. Did you know, for example, that the heat from your fireplace is part of the electro-magnetic spectrum? It makes sense that electricity is part of the electro-magnetic spectrum, right? But how about the sunshine streaming in your sitting room (enjoy that part of the spectrum while we can!)? Visualizing the spectrum from the highest frequencies (that is, the number of times energy waves jump up and down) to the lowest looks like this: Cosmic-ray photons (so powerful they go right through the earth), gamma rays, x-rays (your dental hygienist needs a lead apron), ultraviolet radiation, visible light (get that sunscreen on), infrared radiation, microwaves (nuke the corn, please), radio waves (this is the voice of the Ducks), heat, and last and weakest of all, electric current.

This brings us up to the question of the decade and touches e-mail: what is the best way to get all these bits from one place to the next? Will it be fiber-optic cables (which can transport that part of the spectrum called, you guessed it, the visible light bandwidth)? The bandwidth is that part of the spectrum that has

so much energy that 8 million TV channels could be broadcast along it. Will it be microwaves? Not as much energy here, but you don't need much. But whatever the pipeline, e-mail (bits, not atoms) are here to stay. And the PCjr can still be part of this revolution. On Thursday, Mike Ruiz will be showing us just how we can use our Junior to accomplish this mystic phenomena of e-mail easily. Be sure and come to learn this new information source. . .and to enjoy Brandon Bacod's goodies!

Charley

CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS FOR 1996-97
Phil Janz

The Eugene PCjr Club Board of Directors met on August 22 to plan and prepare another year of interesting and educational meetings for our local membership. 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. For an overview of our year's programs, check below and then mark your calendar:

Oct. 10----Mike Ruiz will help us see how we can use our Juniors to join in and participate in the cutting edge of communication technology with, *E-MAIL MADE EASY.*

Mike will cover such things as: How does E-Mail work? What services are available if I want to get on line? How much does it cost? What do I need to add to Junior to get started?

Nov. 14----Louie Levy and Rosie Janz will expand the use of the modem with Junior to include learning about the WORLD WIDE WEB and BEYOND. The "Information Highway" is at our fingertips, literally! Your keyboard can reach out for information of a general or specific nature into states or nations around the globe; right from your Junior. You need to get involved in this exciting method of travel through space!

Dec. 12----The Club's traditional Holiday Potluck with Santa! Helen Fry and Pauline Bacod will provide a festive setting for a great family social seasonal event. Kids, as well as adults, enjoy this gathering.

Jan. 9-----Most Club members use *Writing Assistant* as a word processing program. Lynn Miles and Phil Janz will show how two compatible programs, *GRAPHING ASSISTANT* and *DRAWING ASSISTANT* can be used with *Writing Assistant* to enhance a document that you are creating. Want to add graphs or illustrations to your paper? Come and find out how to do just that!

Feb. 13----A surprise program designed for members, by members. A production team of five Club members are putting their heads together and planning a program that they feel will be creative and of interest to those attending the meeting.

Mar. 13----Programs are the "life blood" of Junior. Being able to have successful hands on experiences with new software is both satisfying and rewarding. Louie Levy and Phil Janz will expose those members present at this meeting to a SOFTWARE FAIRE. You will be able to have some new adventures with Junior.

Apr. 10-----Another surprise program designed for members by five different members other than the February group. A production team of five Club members are putting their thoughts together and planning a program that they feel will be creative and of interest to those attending the meeting.

May 8------Keeping Junior in good running order and helping Club members to overcome the fear of poking and prodding around the "body parts" of Junior is an important Club goal. Mike Ruiz, Louie Levy and Rob Atkins will assist those who attend this meeting to CLEAN and LUBE JUNIOR, TROUBLE SHOOT JUNIOR and DO A HANDS ON in TAKING JUNIOR APART and PUTTING IT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN. (Trust us.)

The above meetings will be held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road in Eugene at 7:00 p.m. You won't want to miss any of them!

Phil Janz

Bring A Friend With You to The
PCjr Club Meeting

Do I Really Need To Know All This?

Louie Levy

One article that was recently printed in the Philadelphia Inquirer gave some pretty impressive statistics. This article stated that nearly one-third of Americans between the ages of 50 and 64 have a personal computer in their homes. Indeed, they say that of those over 65 years of age, 11% have a personal computer in their home. They added that nearly 25% of these older computer users subscribe to an on-line service.

> **REDUNDANT STATISTICAL INFORMATION**

All of this may be because of an answer that Marilyn Vos Savant gave in her column, "Ask Marilyn" in Sunday's *Parade Magazine*. Someone had asked Marilyn if it would be okey to "know absolutely nothing about computers."

Marilyn said, "No. That day has passed and will never return. If you're one of those people whose schooling took place before the age of computers, you have no choice but to get involved as soon as possible or face living the rest of your life on the sidelines."

Marilyn went on to say, "Remember the people who couldn't believe the automobile would ever become indispensable and refused to learn how to drive? Well, Bill Gates (the co-founder of Microsoft, the world's largest producer of computer software) is a modern-day Henry Ford."

Well, I don't know about Marilyn's comparison of Bill with old Henry, but I do know that I would be glad to trade my copy of DOS 2.1 for a 1919, 1929 or even a 1989 Ford!

SHARING FOR OCTOBER MEETING

We have a number of new members attending our monthly meetings and one question that keeps coming up is, "What can we do with our Junior?" Getting a bird's eye view of examples can set the scene for a good many "Wow! Really, can I do that?" type of comments.

Our Juniors are doing many things for different Club families. Will each of you who plan to attend our meeting on October 10th please bring a sample of some product or creative work that you have done on your Junior during the past year? We would like to see it, hear about it and know what software you used to produce it.

It is our hope that such sharing will interest or possibly excite each member into becoming a little more computer literate by exploring new programs. So, bring in a sample of your work (or play).

Phil Janz

A Few Questions From The Summer--And Some Answers

Q I have been using a large keyboard with a RACORE keyboard adapter on my Junior. To make a long story short, the keyboard quit and I bought a new one (at a garage sale). This new keyboard has a slide switch on the bottom with XT and AT positions on it. I have noticed that it will only work when the switch is in the XT position. How come?

A Old style XT keyboards used a keyboard microprocessor that was on the keyboard itself. When the AT, or the 80286 computers came out, this chip was located on the motherboard. Newer after-market keyboards use a switch on the bottom to select either the keyboard's microprocessor (XT mode), or the motherboard-based keyboard microprocessor (AT mode). Now, most newer keyboards use DIP switches to accomplish these tasks.

Q You guys don't have a technical assistance number for IBM, do you?

A Sure. Try calling 1-800-IBM-3333 or 1-800-426-2968. Or, you can e-mail them at askibm@info.ibm.com E-mail is preferred as you can be put on hold for quite some time on their 1-800 numbers, and good luck if you ask them anything about the PCjr. The tech person you speak to may not know what it is!

Q This really isn't a Junior question, but I'll ask it anyway. I have a "new" computer that has only one 3.5-inch disk drive. I would like to use all of my old Junior disks as I have over 10 years of data on them. Can I hook up an old 5.25-inch disk drive to my new machine so I can read them?

A Yes you can. Any 5.25-inch drive will work on your new computer as long as you have an open drive bay that will hold it. There are some considerations, though. Your present I/O card may be able to support the drive or you may need to purchase another one. All new 5.25-inch drives now on the market are high density drives. These drives will both read and write to your old 360K floppies, but you may not be able to read a floppy in your Junior that has been formatted with your new computer with the high density drive.

The method I used was to purchase a "CompatiCard" from Micro Solutions. This card allows you to install most any floppy drive from the old 8-inch single-sided disk drives to the newer 1.44MB drives. Using the CompatiCard, you can install either a HD or DSDD drive, or even the old IBM stand-alone 360K drive, in your new computer.

Many people who purchase a "new" computer would never dream of getting rid of their Junior; they use both! For normal day-to-day work at home, it's very hard to beat a Junior, especially if it has two disk drives and 640K! Junior has many advantages over its bigger brothers. For a quick letter or memo, you can boot Junior and be in and out and have the document printed before some of the newer computers boot up. I use a Quicksilver cartridge with my Junior and it have Writing Assistant's opening screen showing before my "new" computer gets through doing its POST test. And, because of its sleek design, Junior sure looks good on any front office desk!

Easy, Low Cost Introduction To Getting Junior On-Line
Louie Levy

There's an easy, inexpensive way for PCjr users to introduce themselves to the world of telecommunicating, e-mail and the World Wide Web. The internal modem made for PCjrs is available for about $5. While being the slowest modem around, many faster ones can be found in the $10 to $20 price range. And, in your Club Library, there are two great Sharewear programs called Telex and one called ProComm that will get you "on-line" before you can say "King's Quest."

With a modem, you and your Junior will be able to receive and send data through the telephone line in your home or office. A modem will connect you to a vast and varied new world. You can check the closing price of your favorite stocks, download software, play games, chat with new-found friends, and do many more things such as the one Mike Ruiz is going to demo for us on Thursday, electronic mail.

PCjrs are compatible with many types of older, inexpensive modems that use a standard RS232 serial port. When installing an external modem, a PCjr serial adapter is required. But, IBM made a modem especially for PCjrs, which plugs directly into one of Junior's internal slots. This internal modem works well with most older modem software such as Telex or ProComm and the first program made especially for it, JrTele. Even though this modem operates at only 300 baud (very creepy by today's standards), it's adequate for some uses, especially e-mail.

With your Junior, it's easy to explore bulletin boards, upload messages, send mail to friends and relatives in far away places, and do most of the things you'd want to do in the way of telecommunicating. The software in the Club Store has built-in commands for dialing that you can "set up" for your local Internet provider (or e-mail provider; Mike will show us all this on Thursday), and your local libraries and the bank you use. The best parts about the JrTele software is that it will run on a 128K Junior, was made especially for the internal PCjr modem, and is clearly the easiest software for beginners to use.

All of this software is Shareware, the user manuals are on disk, and there are HELP screens. While JrTele isn't in the Library as we speak, it will be soon. While many of us began with 300 baud modems, we still continue to use Telex and ProComm even after we decided to upgrade to an external or faster modem with our Juniors.

Check with the Club Store for the PCjr internal modem. Or, if you know another PCjr user who has upgraded to an external modem, you may be able to get them to give you their old one for next to nothing. Come on! Isn't it about time you got on-line?

On The Move With Members World-Wide
Rosie Janz

Barbara Castleton, one of our more adventurous members, took leave of us this Summer for a two year stint in the Peace Corps. After a very intensive refresher course to upgrade her Arabic speaking skills, Barbara is teaching English as a second language to Moroccan students in Settat, Morocco.

Barbara said that the school where she is teaching is "only two years old, has tennis courts, and is very posh!" She was recently invited to spend the weekend with a wealthy Moroccan family. She said that the size and lavishness of their home caused her eyes to open up like Orphan Annie's.

Barbara is living in a tiny apartment with lots of steps leading up to it, and a shower that springs forth only cold water. At this point, her only English speaking friend is another Peace Corps volunteer that teaches at the local Business college.

Barbara loves being where she is and doing what she's doing. She has discovered teaching is her forte.

Holding her space in our PCjr Club are Barbara's parents, George and Martha Rypinski. (Barbara left her Jr in their care for the duration of her stay out of the country.) We enjoyed visiting with George and Martha at the Fall picnic. We know her Jr will be safe in their hands and we hope they grow to appreciate Jr's many attributes as much as many of us do.

Anyone wishing to communicate with Barbara can do so by robbing your piggy bank for stamps, and addressing your letter to:

Barbara Castleton
P.C.V, B.P., #719
Settat, Morocco

We hope to have an e-mail address soon!

WORKSHOPS FOR 1996-97 CLUB YEAR
Phil Janz

OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

TITLE: BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM FOR A SMALL BUSINESS
INSTRUCTOR: Mike Ruiz
PARTICIPANTS: Pauline Bacod, Helen Fry, Louie Levy, Warren Hampton and Tresa Hartman
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0
DESCRIPTION: One workshop session using PC-CALC. Each participant needs to have turned into Mike an overview of what they want to set up as a format for their small business.

TITLE: TROUBLE SHOOTING JUNIOR
INSTRUCTOR: Louie Levy
PARTICIPANTS: Tresa Hartman, Terry and Kim Jones
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 1
DESCRIPTION: One workshop session exploring troubleshooting a Junior that won't work.

NOVEMBER WORKSHOPS

TITLE: NAME PAL
INSTRUCTOR: Phil Janz
PARTICIPANTS: Helen Fry, Tresa Hartman, Martha Rypinski
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 1
DESCRIPTION: You say that you are not organized, you can't find Aunt Jezebel's phone number, or you panic at trying to up-date your jumbled and messy Christmas address book as you stare at the huge stack of Xmas cards and their many address changes you received in the mail last year. . . This workshop will allow you to get yourself gathered in, efficiently

organizing your information so it can be easily updated and printed. You will become the envy of your family by your being "on top" of everything!

JANUARY WORKSHOP

TITLE: GETTING STARTED ON THE INTERNET
INSTRUCTOR: To Be Determined
PARTICIPANTS: Tresa Hartman, Martha and George Rypinski
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0
DESCRIPTION: This individualized and personal instruction will take place in the participants' homes at their own computer. In order to be successful, the participant would need to have a modem, appropriate software and a phone hook up. The instructor will talk with you ahead of time. Hopefully all participants will be able to attend the October and November Club meetings that will focus on using the modem.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

TITLE: HOW TO GET YOUR CLUB LIBRARY DISKS GOING
INSTRUCTOR: Mike Ruiz
PARTICIPANTS: Tresa Hartman, Martha and George Rypinski
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 1
DESCRIPTION: If you buy programs from the Club's Disk Library only to get them home and can't figure out how to get them going, this workshop is for you! Hints and tricks to unlock the secrets of running Library programs.

MARCH WORKSHOP

TITLE: PRINTSHOP FOR KIDS
INSTRUCTOR: Pauline Bacod
PARTICIPANTS: Jeremiah, Jessica, Terry and Kim Jones

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0
DESCRIPTION: One workshop session. A fun activity that will prepare you for enhancing parties, club meetings, classroom projects, etc. Challenging for all ages!

APRIL WORKSHOP

TITLE: HOW TO ACCESS THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY FROM HOME WITH YOUR JUNIOR
INSTRUCTOR: Louie Levy
PARTICIPANTS: Tresa Hartman, Martha and George Rypinski
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 2
DESCRIPTION: Ever wonder if the local library has a book about religious rituals in 13th Century Calcutta? Ever make that trip down town, walk in the rain to the library only to find the book you wanted had been checked out the day before? Let Junior do the looking for you from home.

MAY WORKSHOP

TITLE: GETTING STARTED IN *WRITING ASSISTANT*
INSTRUCTOR: Phil Janz
PARTICIPANTS: Tresa Hartman, George and Martha Rypinski
SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 1
DESCRIPTION: Learning how to use *Writing Assistant* as a word processor.

* Workshop participants must be Club members in good standing. We are reminded that all Club memberships are "family" memberships, and everyone in the family is eligible to participate. Each participant is assured of a "hands on" experience with a PCjr.
* In order for everyone to "get their money's worth" at this year's workshops, the Club is trying something new: there will be no fees charged (nor will there be refunds).

IF YOU NEED HELP BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING. . .
Give These Club Members a Call:

BASIC or WordStar:
>   Paul Bonney - 344-1501

PC-File III or WordPerfect:
>   Louie Levy - 343-7592

PC-File +, 5 or 6:
>   Dick Page - 342-3193

Writing Assistant or Name Pal:
>   Phil Janz - 343-1059

Communications:
>   Gordon LeManquais - 746-1594

Hardware Problems:
>   Dick Page - 342-3193
>   or Louie Levy - 343-7592

Spreadsheets or WordPerfect:
>   Mike Ruiz - 687-8361

Parts and supplies:
>   The Company Store-Phil Janz
>   343-1059

Know Someone Who Should Be A Member of "The Club?" Tell them about us!

Memberships are $20 per year. This includes everyone in the family. For this fee, members get a full year's subscription to this newsletter, reduced prices from the Club Store and Library, and unlimited HELP with their computers.

We have a *Subscription Only* fee of $12 per year. This actually covers 12 issues of our "award winning" newsletter.

Send us your check now, or just give it to Phil Janz if you are able to attend on of our action-packed meetings!

EUGENE PCjr CLUB

P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

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Phil and Rosie Janz  12/96M
155 34th Place East
Eugene, OR    97405
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