



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

Volume 5
Number 5
May 1989

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

The May meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, on the 11th. Set up and disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting will start at 7pm.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Phil Janz



KIDS, SUMMER & GAMES! Our May meeting will zero in on just that . . . how to let "junior" help keep your family busy and occupied during the long summer months.

Three of our junior members will demonstrate on our "junior" some programs for all age levels:

- **Cindy Page** will present an overview of King's Quest IV.
- **Brandon Brown** will present an overview of Pinball Rally and Pinball Rally II.
- **Lindsey Hoffman** will present an overview of Monopoly and Wheel of Fortune.

Bring your computer-age kids to this meeting and let them experience and interact with our presenters.

In addition to the **SUMMER GAMES** portion of the meeting, we will be including our annual **SWAP MEET** time. This is an opportunity to try new games or programs over the summer! Bring your disks to the May meeting and swap with club members. A neat way to try something new before you purchase it. You can also bring computer oriented books or magazines to swap . . . the list of possible swaps is endless, so let your imagination run wild! (The Club will provide record keeping forms so that all "swappers" may sign and identify the items and when the materials will be returned. You sign the form acknowledging responsibility for replacing the other person's item if it is damaged or lost.) Come on kids, lets see you "wheel and deal" your way into a summers worth of fun!

Your Club Board met on April 24 and moved ahead in advanced planning for our coming meetings. I can't begin to tell you how impressed I am with the dedication and willingness of the Board to involve themselves on behalf of the membership. Our club is healthy and active because a number of people are willing to step forward and give of themselves and their time. Club members, appreciate and enjoy . . . then be willing to take your turn so our Club load is shared among all of us.

Important decisions made at the Board Meeting were:

- Several new and interesting articles will be featured in coming Newsletters. . . watch for them!
- The Club will hold nine meetings (including socials) during the year (September - May) and publish nine newsletters.
- Club By-Laws were revised to reflect what the membership voted on during the April meeting.
- Feature topics for next year's club meetings are:
 - .. September - Club Social
 - .. October - Utilities
 - .. November - Graphics
 - .. December - Club Social
 - .. January - Cartridges and Add Ons
 - .. February - jr and VCR - slides
 - .. March - Second Disk Drives
 - .. April - Spring Cleaning
 - .. May - Games!

• A demonstration from our Club Library will be presented at each meeting.

• A Club financial summary will be included in the May issue of our Newsletter.



Do you want some "grass roots" summer reading about "junior"? At our May meeting check out one of the following five Club



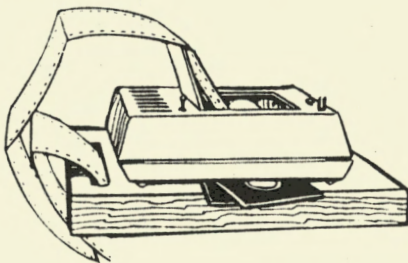
Don't stop - more on next page

Notebooks of compiled newsletters for over the summer:

1. Eugene PCjr Club - all back issues.
2. Hawkeye - University of Iowa.
3. Quad City - Bettendorf, Iowa
4. San Francisco Users Group
U of O Computer News
Jr. Newsletter
Jr. Report
5. Metro PC Journal - Washington, D.C.
Central Connecticut PCjr
Fox Tails - Illinois
Orphan Peanut - Atlanta, Georgia

See **Louie** at the meeting to take advantage of this Club service.

The Board and I will do our level best to make your Club meetings interesting, pertinent, inclusive and geared to your needs. In order to do this we require your participation at the meetings and direct feedback from each of you so that we can improve both our Club meetings and Newsletter. Thanks for your support and involvement.



APRIL MEETING: A RECAP

The first order of business was to elect the new officers that will carry the club into the 1990s. This out of the way, we went right into the program as it was to be a long one.

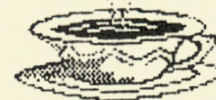
The program scheduled for the April meeting was "Spring Cleaning." This is the same program we did last April, but with a new twist. This time, instead of having one person taking apart keyboards and cleaning them, one taking apart Juniors and cleaning and lubricating drives, another vacuuming out dust and dog/cat hair from printers, etc., we decided that tables would be set up so everyone could do their own. All they would have to do is just follow along with Mike Luttio as he cleaned his Junior "up front."

It went along pretty well until right after Mike said "you remove the lid from Junior by prying up on the back with a flat blade screwdriver." Your editor drifted to the back of the room to see how things were going (actually, to get a cup of coffee). On my way back, I had to stop in my tracks. Mike was still talking about oiling the drive-tracks and Paul Bonney had already REMOVED his drive from its plastic case. I didn't know we were going to go this far! Another few seconds and Paul would have had all of the chips removed from his mother board and have cleaned the sockets. He has to have the cleanest Junior in Eugene!

While I was marveling at what was left of Paul's Junior's skeleton, I heard this whirling noise. Looking around, there was Dick Page, with an electric drill, drilling a hole in someone's Junior! (All those metal filings going all over Mother board!) Next, I saw smoke drifting up as he installed a "reset" button.

All in all, it was one of the best meetings we've had. Instead of cleaning machines, we each learned to clean our own which means that they don't have to wait until April of each year to be cleaned. I know a lot of drives will be happy about that; especially the Qumes which need all the help they can get!

So, while we want to thank all of you who brought your Juniors in for cleaning, I would like to give a special thanks to Mike for leading the program and to Dick for bringing in his drill, soldering iron and wire! It was an especially good program and I think that everyone present learned quite a bit about their Juniors. Thanks, folks, for a job well done!



Notes from THE REFRESHMENT CORNER by Juanita Hampton

Be sure and bring the kids to the meeting this month as the program will highlight some of the many games that are made for the Junior. The Refreshment Corner will have special treats for both young and old, so we hope to have something for everyone!

LETTER FROM OUR OUTGOING CLUB PRESIDENT

I can't believe that it has been two years since I volunteered to be Club President. The Club is still intact and has a very dynamic membership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for making this such a great club to be involved with: Louie Levy and Paddy Dawson-for their enormous efforts in editing the Club's newsletter; Phil Janz-as vice-president he helped in advertising the Club, and he is taking over as the new president; Juanita Hampton-for keeping track of Club finances; Elleen Levy-for her work on refreshments; and Dick Page-for his technical expertise and assistance. I would also like to thank all the other members who have contributed their efforts in making our Club meetings enjoyable.

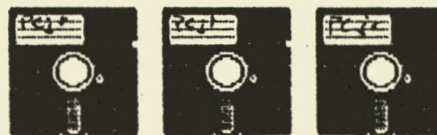
THANKS!

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Make check or money order out to:

EUGENE PCjr CLUB, 1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401. Please furnish the following:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____



Notes from THE DISK LIBRARY by Cindy Hoffman

Did you know that the Club has over 15 game disks in our library? We have card games, board games, educational games and brain teasers, all eager to be run on your Junior. At this month's meeting, the assistant disk librarian, Lindsey Hoffman will give us a complete listing of the games available in the library, and will present an overview of some of the more popular ones like Monopoly and Wheel of Fortune. If time permits, Lindsey will demo any special club game you may wish to see.





KING'S QUEST IV

by Dick Page

King's quest IV continues the story of the King Graham family who live in the Kingdom of Daventry. You don't have to have played or solved the previous three King's Quests before playing KQ IV. It is a great graphics adventure game all in itself.

In this particular saga, Princess Rosella, King Graham's daughter, [at last - a female hero!] is thrust into a desperate attempt to save her father's life by obtaining a magic fruit which grows in a strange land far from Daventry.

KQ IV is a timed game with a full day and night cycle. Rosella has 24 hours to complete her quest in the land of Tamir, but you have only six hours to solve the game and find the magic fruit.

As Rosella, you encounter many obstacles and puzzles designed to thwart you. These challenge your thought process and your joystick dexterity.

How does KQ IV compare to prior KQ's? There are many improvements in the game. However, a standard PCjr can't make use of many of them. Sierra put lots of effort into improving the sound and music, but you need an Ad Lib or MT-32 sound card which won't install on PCjrs. And the game has better graphics and plays faster with the new computer code Sierra is using, which also won't run on a PCjr.

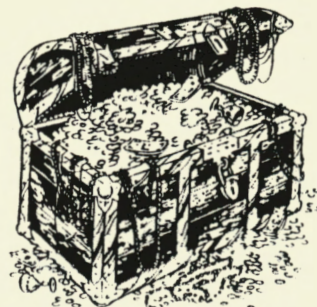
Don't be discouraged, however. You can get a version which runs fine on a Junior. (I talked about that in a previous newsletter and more information is in the Ken Williams interview by "jr Newsletter" in the next article.) KQ IV has six disks full of fun. (KQ I only had one disk!)

There is lots of animation. Some great three-voice music and sound effects are there just for PCjrs (and Tandy 1000s). And the addition of a time factor and Day & Night changes adds a new dimension to the game.

The parser seems more responsive. (Translation: When you type in a sentence asking something or telling the computer something, it seems to understand more variations in what you can ask.) And Sierra has included many goofy/silly responses to inappropriate input from you.

The game isn't easy. There is plenty of challenge. You may want to purchase one of the two hint books available, "The Official Book of King's Quest" by D. B. Trivette, or the "King's Quest IV Hint Book" by Sierra On-Line.

Bottom line: It's a terrific graphics adventure game. Well worth the price. Good luck, especially with the evil Lolotte and her castle!



EOY FINANCIAL REPORT

	1987	1988
Income:		
Membership	476.50	596.00
Library	445.01	253.00
Refreshments	11.35	11.32
Advertising	-	40.00
Total	934.86	900.32
Expenses:		
Newsletter	558.18	443.10
Postage	176.00	22.00
PO Box	30.00	60.00
Library	129.09	39.95
Prizes	31.95	24.00
Advertising	32.25	47.38
Total	957.47	636.43

Bank Balance 4/1/89: 718.63
(The Club purchased a 256K Junior in 1989 for a total 205.00)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE UNIVERSITY THIS SUMMER?

Users in the Eugene area needing help with file/format conversions and disk repair may now go to the Consulting Office, Room 207, at the Computing Center of the University of Oregon. These services are available at no charge, on Tuesday through Thursdays, from 2 to 4pm.

The conversion service is designed to assist people in transferring micro-computer files from one format to another, or from one computer type to another. The disk repair service aids those who need to recover files or "trashed" disks. A variety of equipment and software is available to handle both 3.5" and 5.25" disks, and several formats.

These services are geared to situations requiring less than an hour of consulting help, or for training users to perform the procedures themselves. Those who have a longer, periodic, or regular need for these types of services will be referred to others who can provide them for a fee.

There is more news from the University: the annual Computer Camp will be held from July 15th to July 25th. If you know a young computer user between the age of 10 and 16, this 11-day camp on the campus of the University of Oregon would be ideal for them.

Combining fitness of mind and body is an important feature of the Computer Camp. The instructors and counselors are trained to provide recreational activities that foster a healthy self-image and a chance for social growth. There will be fieldtrips, a day-long rafting trip down the McKenzie River, a trip to the Marine Science Center at Newport, and the kids will have access to gymnasiums, swimming pools, tennis and racquetball courts, and the playing fields at the University.

A challenging curriculum will also be offered. Mornings will be filled with Macintosh applications and the afternoons will cover the special interest sessions on IBM and/or other computers of your choice. Both live-in and day-camper tuitions are available.

Call the University of Oregon Continuation Center at (503) 686-3537 or toll free in Oregon, 1-800-824-2714 for further information.

MEMBER PRODUCT REPORT: OmniKey/102 Keyboard

Our Hermiston, Oregon correspondents, Pat and Ray Gazza, report they have purchased a Northgate OmniKey/102 keyboard. The design of the 12 function keys on the left is such that a WordPerfect template still fits over the F1 through F10 keys. There is a numeric keypad on the right. The keyboard has the "IBM click" which can be toggled on and off, and it has a large ENTER key. The CTRL, ALT and SHIFT keys are color-coded, another nice feature for WordPerfect users. While many of the larger keyboard we see are made of plastic, the OmniKey is made of metal and is hefty enough to stay put on your desk. It has a full three-year unconditional warranty.

The Gazzas are using a Synectics keyboard adapter and report that the first adapter they received had a defective chip and had to be returned. If any of our readers are experiencing problems with this adapter, they may want to contact Synectics for an exchange. The second keyboard adapter worked fine. They now have everything in ship-shape condition, so we should be getting some articles for the Newsletter soon (we hope). Many thanks for sending us this report!

Northgate Computer Systems, 13895 Industrial Park Blvd., Suite 110, Plymouth, MN 55441. 1-800-526-2446.

Synectics Software & Systems, P.O. Box 53501, San Jose, CA 95153-0501.

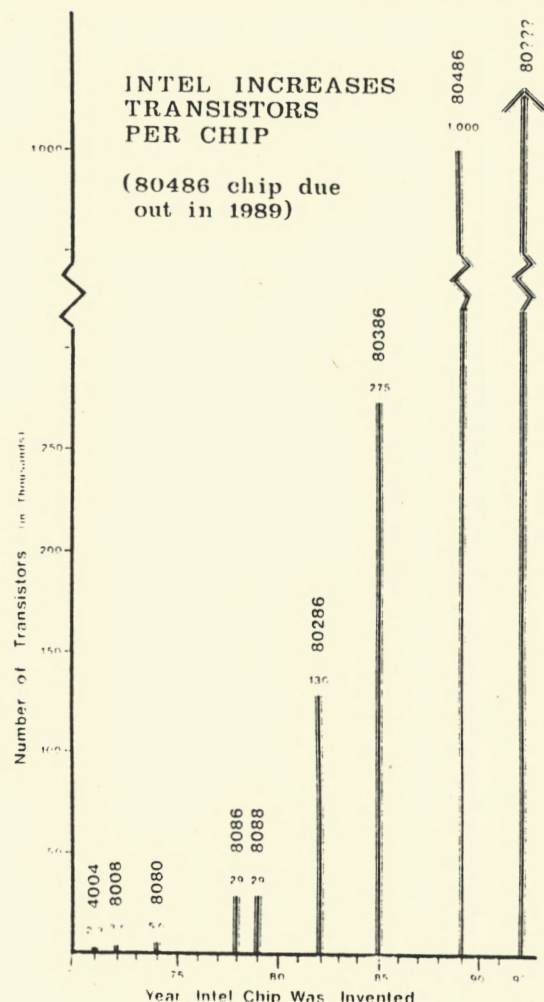


"HEARD (HERD?)
ON THE STREET"

by Dick Page

SPREADSHEETS EXPLAINED

The February '89 issue of COMPUTE! magazine has several interesting articles. One is a very down-to-earth approach to learning how to use spreadsheets. If you have "spreadsheet-aphobia" this may be just the cure you've needed! Soon you will be up and number-crunching like the mightiest C.P.A.



D. F. G.

While many computer chips have been manufactured, Intel Corp. has managed to dominate the IBM compatible micro processor field. Only time will tell if that trend will continue.

It is amazing how much they are able to pack into one little tiny chip! The word is that a new chip, the 80486, will be out sometime this year. There is plenty of speculation over what it will be able to do, what impact it will have on the existing PC market, etc.

It is hard to convey how much more is in a chip now than what was on the first chip, the Intel 4004 (little more than a calculator processor chip). The scale can't easily show both the 2,300 transistors on the 4004 and the 1 million on the 80486.

Who knows what is in store in the future! (Exciting isn't it!)

DRAM CHIP SUPPLIES GOING UP CHIP PRICES COMING DOWN

The shortage of dynamic RAM (DRAM) chips is easing up somewhat from what it was a year ago. There is a healthy supply of 1 Mbit chips. The wholesale price of a 1 Mbit chip peaked last year at about \$60 and could drop to well under \$10 by the end of 1989. 256 Kbit prices should drop to around \$2.55 from a high of \$3.50.

The shortage will still linger for the 256 Kbit chips and will continue to be severe for the 64 X 4 chips.

PC Resource, May 1989

YOU CAN GET DISK DECAY THAT A DENTIST CAN'T REPAIR

Our floppy disks can deteriorate just from usage. This is because the read/write head actually touches the floppy disk, slowly wearing away the magnetic coating while the disk spins.

There is one spot on the disk that usually degenerates first - the track containing the "FAT file".

All formatted disks have a File Allocation Table ("FAT file" for short) which DOS must read every time it writes to or reads from the disk. This table tells DOS where to locate all the parts of all the files present on the diskette. When the FAT file gets damaged DOS can't locate and read the data files on the disk. It is then very difficult, if not impossible, to recover the information on that damaged disk.

Therefore, remember the number one rule in all of computing:

Save,
Save,
SAVE!

It's also important to keep copies of all your files and disks. Therefore, if possible, buy only programs that are NOT copyright-protected.

Remember rule number two:

Copy,
Copy,
COPY!

Portions from PC World, March 1989

Don't stop - more on next page

A MOUSE WITHOUT A TAIL

As an alternative to the traditional mouse, Kurta Corporation is introducing "IS/One." It consists of a digitizing tablet (which connects to the serial port) and a cordless pen or mouse-like pointer (which they call a "cursor"). The tablet can have up to 23 user-definable function buttons and the "cursor" has 4 color-coded programmable buttons. [ed.: Sounds like a fancy version of a Koala Pad to me.]

The IS/One [ed.: Where do they come up with these names!] sells for between \$395 and \$1095, depending on tablet size and accessories.

PC Computing, April 1989



Ken Williams: "I like the PCjr, it really gave us our start."

In the April issue of jr Newsletter, Ken Williams, the founder and president of Sierra-On-Line, voiced his corporation's promise of continued Junior support. As you know, Sierra-On-Line is the producer of such fine programs as King's Quest, Police Quest, Space Quest, Gold Rush and the Leisure Suit Larry series of computer games.

Williams said that an earlier decision to drop Junior support for King's Quest IV was a mistake on Sierra-On-Line's part, and they are now producing this new updated product with labels on the boxes saying that they WILL operate on a Junior.

In it's article, the jr Newsletter reported that in earlier editions of King's Quest IV a "PCjr detector" was inserted so that a warning would come on the screen saying that it would not run on a Junior. Still, you could return your earlier versions and they would replace it with one that would run on the Junior. After getting many complaints, Sierra-On-Line realized just how many of us were out there, and are now making all of their games compatible with the Junior.

The jr Newsletter Software Store has a patch disk that will allow Juniors to run the older versions of Sierra's games that had the "Junior detectors," so you may want to look into that as an option if you have some that are running somewhat slow. If you subscribe to this number one national Junior newsletter you already know all of this. If you don't, maybe you should want to send them \$19 for a year's subscription: P.O. Box 163, Southbury, CT 06488; it's worth twice the price!

Time for our



Swap Meet

MAY IS SWAP-MEETING MONTH

Don't forget that not only are we highlighting GAMES this month, but it is also time for our annual SWAP MEET!

If you are getting tired of playing the same old games, and there's just no bucks to buy more, this is your chance to trade them off for three months and get new ones.

Bring in your old programs and swap them with your friends for the summer. Not only can you get rid of that frustrating nuisance that has been driving you crazy all winter, but you can pick up some nifty new games to play all summer.

Not only games, but other soft- and hardware can be traded. Our disk librarian has already worked a trade on a modem for the summer. If you aren't using that mouse, bring it in. Those computer books collecting dust on your shelf may be just the thing to loan to someone over the summer. The list is endless.

And, yes, bring in those things you want to sell; there just may be a buyer in the crowd if the price is right!

<<<<<POWER UP WITH PEANUT>>>>>

AND DON'T FORGET:

The May meeting will be our last meeting until September. Many of the members will be on vacation and out of town for a week or two during the summer, and it seems that we couldn't coordinate it so everyone went at one time. This means that the newsletter won't be published during the months of June, July or August. If you check your mailing label you will see your expiration date after your name, and the S or M indicates if you are listed as a member or a newsletter subscriber. In either case, your newsletter will be extended to include issues to make up for the time we don't publish. While we are very conservative in our views of what computers one should choose, we are very liberal when it comes to expiration dates of memberships and subscriptions.

WANTED: Would like to purchase a PC keyboard adapter and a Quicksilver cartridge for a Junior. Also have the following books **for sale:** "Using Microcomputers" and "Application Software for WordPerfect, Twin and Dbase III+." Call BJ at (503) 726-7134.

FOR SALE or TRADE: Transtar 315 4-color printer in excellent condition. Best offer or trade for Epson or other one-color printer. BJ at (503) 726-7134.

The **Eugene PCjr Newsletter** accepts advertising at the following rates:

1 Page - \$18.00
1/2 Page - 9.00
1/4 Page - 5.00

Classified **For Sale** ads in this section of the Newsletter are \$2 for 25 words or less to nonmembers 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.



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