



# EUGENE NEWSLETTER

# PCjr CLUB

Volume IX  
Number 12  
December 1993

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

## MEETING

## AGENDA

The December Meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club is the Annual Christmas Potluck and will be held on Thursday, December 9th in the recreation room of the Church of Christ, 2424 Wornkenzie Road. Setup will begin at 6pm.

## OFFICERS

President . . . . . Rosie Janz  
Vice President. . . . . Christine Brown  
Treasurer . . . . . Phil Janz  
Disk Librarian. . . . . Cindy Hoffman  
Modem Captain . . . . . Gordon LeManquais  
Commercial Contact. . . . . Dick Page  
Social Director . . . . . Lynn Miles Delker  
Newsletter Editor . . . . . Louie Levy



## PRESIDENTIAL PONTIFICATING

by Rosie Janz

Good News, PCjr friends and members!!! Seven of the twenty four members participating at our November meeting were young people of elementary through high school age. What a nice dimension their presence gives our club meetings. We welcome their increasing numbers, because they challenge us to discover and accommodate to their unique and diverse interests. Tell me. . . Does that mean we, collectively are getting younger?

Having these new and youthful members makes me wonder if news is traveling of our prowess as great snack and goodie bakers. Or is it the menus of a different sort that draw these eager and interested young folks???

At the November meeting, our disk librarian, Cindy Hoffman, whetted our appetites to "sink our teeth" into one or more of the disks in our disk library. She prepared us for a "banquet" with her "appetizing" presentation on how the disk library works and what you need to do and know in order to make the library disks you purchase work.

Then, Cindy encouraged us to select an "entree table," that was appropriate to our interests and tastes. Each table included a "smorgasbord" of disk choices within a category. The "entree table" options were: Educational programs, Game programs, Utility programs, and Productivity programs. Also included was a computer station where we could get the disks of our choice copied and "wrapped for take out."

In lieu of knives and forks, each station was equipped with a computer. Warren Hampton, Paul Bonney, Mike Ruiz and Cindy helped members at the various tables to get the disk of their choice up and running. Louie Levy stood at the ready assisting at the "take out counter."

The second "course" of the evening was an overview of the two workshops to be held in November. The "mouth watering" workshop choices were: Louie Levy's "You Can Make Your Library Disk Work at Home," and Cindy Hoffman's, "Making Your Own Christmas Cards With Jr."

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...OUR PRESIDENT'S PONTIFICATINGS CONTINUE:

Our meeting activities kept us so busy that snack and goodie time had to be "sandwiched" in. Participants were admonished that no sticky fingers were welcome on the keyboards.

Because we know that each of you will be busy working in your own "Santa's" workshop, no computer workshops are planned for December. A don't miss December event however, is our annual PCjr Christmas party. We always have a great time together at this festive and fun event. WE WILL HAVE AN EVEN BETTER TIME IF YOU ARE THERE!!!!!!

Rosie

## The Christmas Season Potluck Party!

That special time of the year is almost here. Our December meeting has become a special one for PCjr Club members and their families.

We will repeat our wonderful potluck and gift exchange.

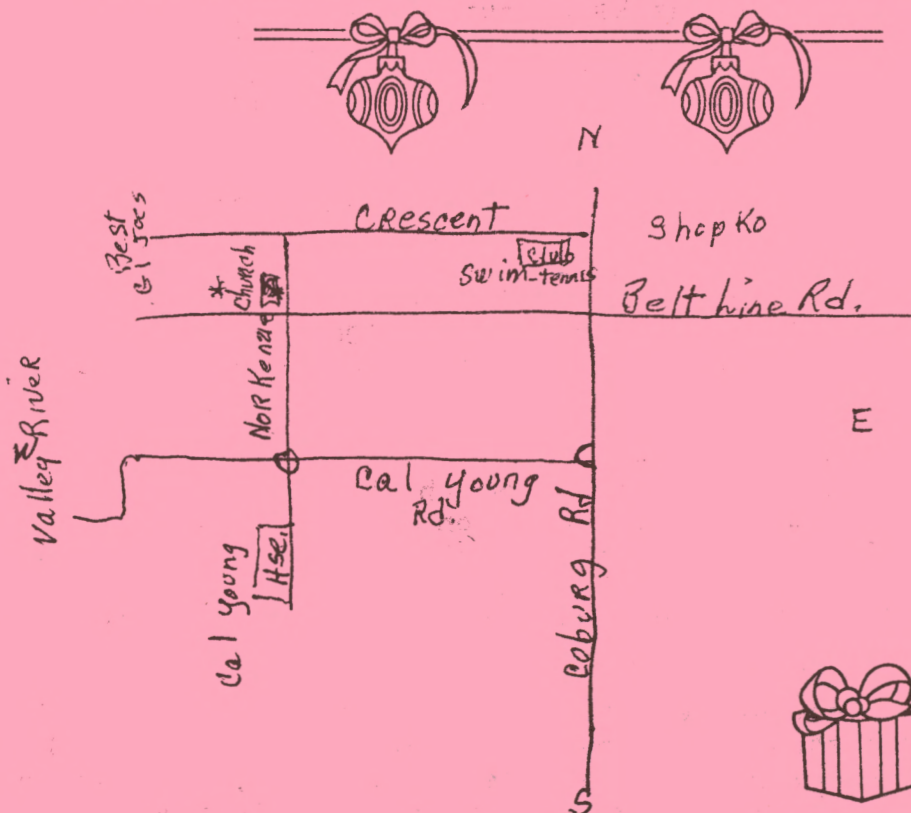
The Club will furnish coffee and punch and a bucket of fried chicken. Those who can should bring a main or side dish and either a salad or dessert. If this is difficult for you are you are just one person, plan on a single dish.

We have a lot of fun with the gift exchange. If you plan to participate, please bring an inexpensive gift or a white elephant gift for each member of the family who plans to participate.

The meeting will be held at the Church of Christ at 2424 Norkenzie Road. Thanks again to the Hoffmans for arranging for this meeting place. You should plan to arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 pm as we plan to eat at 6:30.

The date is our usual meeting date, Thursday, December 9th. SEE YOU THERE!

Lynn Miles



The Church is two blocks down Norkenzie on the right from Crescent Ave. If you come from Cal Young Road, it is just past the Beltline overpass on your left. Drive around in back of the church. If you need better directions, or if you need a ride to the Christmas Potluck, call Phil Janz, 343-1059 or Louie Levy, 343-7592





## COMPUTER BECOMING ^ LITERATE

### COMING WORKSHOPS

The September Club Newsletter provided a complete description of this year's scheduled and potential workshops. Please refer to that issue, along with this newsletter if you are interested in "learnin 'n doin".

#### JANUARY:

##### **WRITING ASSISTANT FILES; ORGANIZATION/FINDING DOCUMENTS**

This will provide each participant with an orderly approach to filing directories and sub-directories. The "usual" technique is to file our documents with a unique variety of names. . it seems that as we add to, and accumulate file disks, it becomes difficult or impossible to find any specific letter, memo, announcement, etc. without the time consuming "search and see" approach! Here is a way to put that problem behind you! Fee of \$6.00 per person. Instructors - Louie Levy and Phil Janz

##### **ORIENTATION TO THE MODEM FOR "Jr"**

An overview of needed hardware and software to make "Jr" user friendly through your home phone with local, national and international communication systems. This session will also include a general discussion on modem uses. There is no charge for this orientation session. For anyone who adds a modem to their "Jr", and wishes some personalized help at their own home to get their system "on-line", a fee of \$8.00 will be charged for two hours of individualized assistance.

#### FEBRUARY:

##### **HOW TO USE PC-FILE; WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS PROGRAM? USING PC-FILE; PUTTING THIS POWERFUL PROGRAM INTO ACTION**

Instructor - Dick Page

##### **ADULT GAMES**

Instructors - Juanita Hampton & Lynn Miles

#### MARCH:

##### **USING PC-CALC TO KEEP YOUR BANK ACCOUNT IN THE BLACK USING PC-CALC TO TRACK SMALL BUSINESS EXPENSES/INCOME**

Instructor - Mike Ruiz

##### **MAKING SIGNS, BANNERS, CARDS AND STATIONARY**

#### APRIL:

##### **USING "Jr" TO INVENTORY HOUSEHOLD POSSESSIONS**

##### **CREATING MAILING LISTS & LABELS WITH PC-FILE & NAME PAL**

Instructors - Warren Hampton & Phil Janz

If you are interested in participating in a Club Workshop, sign up at the December Christmas Party or call Phil Janz (343-1059) or Louie Levy (343-7592) so that your name can be added to a class roster.

*Phil Janz*



## NOVEMBER WORKSHOP REVIEW

by Rosie Janz

Just three of us took advantage of the "You Can Make Your Library Disks Work at Home" workshop. I now feel much more informed about how to turn library disks into self-booting disks, and "demystified" about what I need to do to ferret out the "how to's" and "what it's for" of a library disk I might get ambitious enough to purchase and explore. I also discovered that some very conscientious people, (I suspect all of our past Disk Librarians), have devoted many long hours to writing "readme" files that describe and give the features of each program in the library. My best guess is that getting each disk ready to put into the library in a useable form required several hours of a knowledgeable member's time and energy. I am very grateful and awed by the effort that they have put forth. THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LIBRARIANS, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, AND WHOEVER ELSE THAT HAVE HELPED!!!! (Ed's note: Those past Disk Librarians were: Charlie Halbrook, Lew Jones, Louie Levy, Cindy Hoffman, Paul Bonney and Cindy Hoffman again. And many thanks early on to Mary Burich for showing us the way.



## HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR "Jr"

by Phil Janz

December is a great time to select and gift wrap an item or two from the Club Store for putting under the Christmas tree.

Here are several "hot ideas"!

- \* 10 Formatted disks. . . . . \$2.50
- \* IBM Joy sticks, regularly \$10.50  
special \$8.00
- \* IBM 512K sidecar memory expansion  
\$90.00
- \* IBM Reporting Assistant program and  
documentation @ \$7.50
- \* IBM Filing Assistant program and  
documentation @ \$7.50

## Dumbnitude

Based on an article by Lee Frank, Sarasota IBM-PC User's Group

I haven't participated in the hobby of computers as long as many of our readers have, but one thing I have come to realize is that there are no stupid questions when it comes to computing. There are three reasons why I feel this way. One is the perceptions of others. Two is the infinite variety of computers, computer problems and computer knowledge. And three is the hit and miss nature of people's computer experience and knowledge.

The number one reason you should ask questions without fear of its dumbnitude to other people, is their perception and expectation of your knowledge. For example, if you think that I think that you should know a thing, you won't ask me about it. But, what would lead you to think this? How on earth can you guess what I think you should know?

When I first got my Junior, I asked what I thought to be a dumb question: How do I format a disk? I could see that it was supposed to be obvious, but for some reason it wasn't to me. So, I asked. And not without a little embarrassment. But just a little, since I knew from lots of experience that this lack of knowledge was not all my fault. Remember the first

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time we tried reading the DOS manual and wondered what language it was in? The point is not to worry about what other people might think of your question. Remember the words of Will Rogers: We are all ignorant, only on different subjects.

The second reason not to be shy when seeking computer knowledge is the infinite variety of computers and computer configurations we have. Not only do folks in our club have a variety of Juniors, not two of them have the same computer experience. No two of them have the same computer education. In fact, no amount of computer experience and education can prepare you for what can happen with a computer, especially our PCjrs. Our Juniors are as individually unique as each of us.

As soon as we come to the realization that we don't know something, you will ask. . .and you will learn! Without this humility, you will develop a shell of false pride, impervious to knowledge.

The third and last reason to ask, ask, ask is the Swiss cheese aspect of computer education. What we mean by this is that the cheese of computer education is riddled with practical holes. The field of computing expands faster than any one person's ability to keep pace. The most comprehensive computer academic degree will not prepare you for half of what our membership can throw at you in one Club meeting. The only way to stay abreast of things is to ask questions and keep asking in order to learn.

I will even go so far as to say that even the same question asked more than once is not stupid. Besides the fact that you may get more than one answer each time you ask, it is possible that your understanding of the answer will be different. There are many reasons for asking the same question more than once and also to more than one person.

The corollary to The Importance of Being Ignorant is that those who are asked all these perceived dumb questions must NEVER treat those who ask the questions as being dumb. . .no matter what the question may be. For anyone to treat someone this way is a form of

arrogance or dumbnitude on the part of the person who should be answering questions.

We all know the conclusion to this article: The only dumb question is the one not asked. The only way we can learn things throughout our lives is to ask questions, so keep 'em coming!

## 'Demystify' that Floppy Disk



by Phil Janz

The simplest of things often are the most complex and wonderful to observe or experience! Just watch entry level computer hopefuls touch, handle and use a floppy disk. You watch their disk handling with some smiles, chuckles and grimaces! The disk, most of them know, has all of their efforts stored (somehow) from their many long hours at the keyboard.

At a DOS workshop last month, I had the pleasure of watching Louie Levy help nine serious folks get a real insight into the floppy disk. It was spectacular for them to realize that the disk was just a flimsy sheet of plastic that was covered with rust.

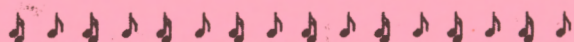
The floppy disk seemed more sturdy to the students than it really was. This is due to the fact that the actual Mylar disk is wrapped inside a light felt jacket that is inside the familiar black plastic outer casing. This felt liner is called the "wiper" because it keeps the disk clean by constantly wiping away any dust or grime as the diskette spins inside the plastic sleeve. If you have never had the "hands-on" experience of peering inside a floppy, take a few moments now and. . .

Take a blank diskette, or an old junker diskette from the back of your file case. Open it by snipping off one of the edges and reaching inside. Once you hold a naked floppy disk in your hand, you'll see just how fragile the thing really is.

If you need any extra convincing, turn the page and then consider this:



Spill a drop of coffee (Editor's note: especially with cream and sugar) or soda pop on your diskette, smudge it with a greasy fingertip, leave it on a hot window sill, crease it in your briefcase, or somehow get it near a magnet or the bell in your telephone and the only thing you'll be able to use your diskette for is mini Frisbee!



## Classical Music from Jr.

You will hardly believe your ears when you hear the quality of the sounds generated by the Music Sampler Disk from the Club Library. Junior uses a three voice sound chip and the music of Mozart, Bach and Beethoven have seldom ever sounded better than when played through this chip. You will hardly believe your ears when Junior begins to play. This program makes a wonderful Christmas Gift for anyone in the family. Disk G-216

## Nuts & Bolts

We are going to cover our Nuts & Bolts segment we normally have during our meeting in the newsletter as we are going to be having our Annual Christmas Potluck this month. Our item this month is the surge protector.

A surge protector is different from the power strips that are normally found in discount stores for less than \$5. We recommend that you purchase a quality surge protector. Your surge protector needn't have a series of sockets as you can plug the power strip into it. But, it isn't only protection from electrical surges that our Nuts & Bolts are getting at by using these multiple outlet power strips and surge protectors.

We recommend that you turn Junior and all of his associated equipment on and off by using the switch on a power strip and surge protector. Many people use the switch on the back of Junior, but if this switch should fail someday, it will

be expensive to replace. This is true also if the switch on your monitor should fail. There are few repairmen locally who will take the time to replace an on/off switch on any Junior component should they fail. By using the switch on a power strip, or multiple outlet surge protector, we prevent fatigue and strain on the switches on our computer equipment.

One more good point: ever come into Junior's room when he's asleep and hear the hum? That power transformer is still going strong even when Junior is turned off. If you place your hand on this power "brick" you will understand why your cat likes to lay by it on these cold winter nights; it's on all the time. You can't find a replacement "brick" at Radio Shack if it fails. By turning power on only when you need to use Junior you may make your "brick" and your Junior last. . . forever?

An up-to-date article from 1986:

## Happy Anniversary, IBM

by Dick Page

IBM's advertisements recently have included heralding the fact that IBM has been in the Personal Computer business for five years now. That fact struck me square in the face. Five years in personal computing. Imagine that! We purchased our PCjr in November, 1984. It seems like just yesterday and yet it also seems like forever!

We PCjr owners really are in the forefront of an industry in its infancy. Maybe that perspective can help when struggling to get a program to function, or wrestling with DOS commands. No wonder software and hardware aren't "user friendly." The industry still has a long, long way to go before it "grows up." More time will have to pass before the computer companies will begin to live up to their advertising hypes which claim that personal computers are simple easy-to-learn extensions of good old typewriters.

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At the same time, our PCjr is now an integral part of our daily lives. I don't know how I would get along without it. Every time I have to use my office IBM Selectric II typewriter rather than our PCjr, I am reminded of how dependent I am on my IBM Writing Assistant word processing program. Writing with the PCjr is so much more fluid and flexible.

And what exciting times face us all! Where will computer technology be five years from now? How about ten or twenty years? It gives me that "I wonder what is over the next hill?" feeling of excitement just thinking about it all. And I can't help but believe that being a part of this relatively early stage of computer development will prove useful as we all face the unknown of the coming years.

An additional rumination: Peering into our monitors, let's remember to work for peace. Then, hopefully, we all can be around to enjoy what lies ahead in this fascinating world of computer technology. With all its warts, enjoy your PCjr! And, Happy Anniversary to the IBM PC. (Editor's note: There have been a zillion gigabytes of data pass through our Juniors since Dick wrote this article seven years ago. IBM is still cranking out computers and many software companies, including Microsoft, are still making upgrades to their software with bugs in them. And, our Juniors are still going on and on and on.)

## MORE CHRISTMAS IDEAS

As you think about Christmas giving this year, give some thought to your computer club.

Phil gave us some great ideas on page four of this newsletter. These gifts from the "Company Store" would brighten up anyone's Christmas.

A few other ideas include programs from the Club Disk Library. Not only will they be welcomed by any Junior owner,



but they make great stocking stuffers for those who own most any PC compatible computer. This holds true for the blank disks that are in the store; everyone could use more blank disks!

If you know someone who uses a PCjr but is not a member of the club, a gift membership would be a welcomed gift. For that "out-of-towner," or that family member away at school, a subscription to the Newsletter not only would be a most welcome gift, but would also be a very useful one.

But, how about a gift from you to the members of your PCjr Club? Here are a few gift ideas:

✓ A contribution of a article for the Newsletter. You don't need to be a techie to write a "what I do with my Junior" article, or a review of a software program that you use.

✓ A presentation at a meeting, or a short demonstration. This could be a "how-to" do something that you do all the time, but that many of the rest of us don't do. Things like making mailing labels, doing postcards or creating forms with your Junior would interest all of us.

✓ Presenting or hosting a workshop would be a "special gift" to your club. An added benefit to this type gift is that when you host a workshop in your home, you get to attend the workshop free! A two-way gift!

✓ A pledge to become more active in your Club, especially the Eugene PCjr Club, would be a wonderful gift for everyone! We need your attendance at each meeting, and your support of our activities.

As editor of the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter, I would like to personally wish everyone of you a very merry Christmas. Also, I would like to thank those of you have been loyal members over the years, and to welcome those who are new to the Eugene PCjr Club. This is what a Computer User's Group is all about: caring and sharing. Let's all have a sober, safe and enjoyable Christmas season!

Louie Levy



**NEED HELP??**

**Give These Club  
Members a Call:**

**BASIC or WordStar:**

Paul Bonney - 344-1501

**PC-FILE III, DOS, or WordPerfect:**

Louie Levy - 343-7592

**PC-FILE +, 5 or 6, or DOS:**

Dick Page - 342-3193

**Writing Assistant and NamePal:**

Phil Janz - 343-1059

**Communications:**

Gordon LeManquais - 746-1594

**Sierra Games:**

Cindy Hoffman - 688-6069

**Hardware Problems:**

Dick Page - 342-3193

**Spreadsheet Programs:**

Mike Ruiz - 687-8661

For help in the Portland Metro Area, call

Robert Mueller: 252-1106

**Parts and supplies:**

The Company Store: Phil Janz - 343-7592

"Whoever said good help is hard to find  
has never called the Help-Line of their  
local computer club!"

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

**YOUR  
PCjr CLUB  
WISHES  
YOU A  
HAPPY  
HOLIDAY  
SEASON !**



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