



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

PCjr CLUB

VOLUME X
NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 1994

Suite 220, 1011 Valley River Way - 116B, Eugene, OR 97401-2127

MEETING

AGENDA

The November meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will take place at the Northwest Natural Gas Bldg., 790 Goodpasture Island Road on Thursday November 10th. Setup & Library Disk sales will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7pm.

OFFICERS

President Rosie Janz
Vice President. Patti Tanner
Treasurer and Company Store. . . Phil Janz
Disk Librarian. Mike Ruiz
Modem Captain Gordon LeManquais
Commercial Contact. . . Dick Page
Social Director Lynn Miles Delker
Newsletter Editor . . . Louie Levy



Association
of
Personal
Computer
User
Groups

PRESIDENTIAL PONTIFICATING

by Rosie Janz

Our October meeting should have been named "The Orientation Express!" With twenty five people present, we talked about the "nuts and bolts" of the Eugene PCjr Club, including everything from the way the library and the club store works, to our new and improved meeting format.

As we concluded the orientation phase of our meeting, Phil Janz gave a notebook to each of the four new members present. Contents of the notebook included the Club By Laws and an updated listing of shareware disks for sale from the club library. Others present were given a chance to sign up for either of the notebook handouts. We were encouraged to save our newsletters and other handouts and workshop materials in such a notebook for future reference.

Bill Sharp, Bob Williams, Roy and David Stukey, and Janet and Kyle Grantham, were welcomed as members attending for the first time. Tami Pitt and her daughters, Melissa and Jessica were also introduced as first time guests. They are looking for a Jr to buy. (Please get in touch with Phil (343-1059) if you hear of one for sale!) Be sure to read VP Patti Tanner's article inside on our "New Members."

After Mike Ruiz demonstrated several disks from the club library, a fruitful discussion session ensued with many members assuming the "Wizard" role and informing others of the answers to computer related questions that they were pondering.

Paul Jameson started off our October meeting with a brief touch of magic. Curious to know more about that? You'll not want to miss our next meeting, because it's hard to say what kind of magic he will have for us as we start out our meeting, Thursday November 10th!

Still puzzled about DOS? Louie Levy will present our November meeting evening program, "Demystify DOS." Then, with Christmas right around the corner, what is better than a night of game demonstrations from the Club Library and Store. Mike Ruiz will demonstrate the NEW "Video Poker" game disk (G-219). . . The great thing about this Video Poker experience is that if you should lose, the State does not profit from your pocketbook! Next will be demonstrations of two game programs from our Club Store: *KINDERCOMP* and *WHISTLE STOP*. Then, Pauline Bacod will provide refreshments for a brief "goodie" break and after the break we will again call upon the "Wizard" to help us unravel our computer queries. So come

continued on next page. . .

...OUR PRESIDENT'S PONTIFICATINGS CONTINUE:

prepared to use the collective wisdom of club members to help you solve your computer related mysteries.

BE THERE ! WE'LL SAVE YOU A CHAIR !

Rosie



Thank Goodness . . . The U of O is BACK!

Louie Levy

Patrons of the University of Oregon are back on line! Many local residents felt that we needed budget cuts across the board awhile back, and Measure 5 made those cuts! At the University, cutbacks meant the school of Education went out the window along with other programs. Then, something close to home: Janus. Some of our members may not know what Janus is, but if we look it up in the dictionary, we find that Janus was an ancient Roman god of "doorways, of beginnings." It really is as it's the electronic card catalog of what's in the U of O library!

Well, they are back! Just use your modem and dial 346-5975. Yes, Rosie, even at 300 baud! Once you have connected, press the return key to generate a prompt. Once you have connected to the U of O Network, you will be asked for "User Access Verification" and will be asked for the user-name. You should key in "janus" with no quotes and in lower case letters. Next, you will be asked for your account name to log onto Janus. At the "login:" prompt, you should, again, key in "janus" in lower case letters. You will be asked what type terminal you are using. You should choose "V" for vt100. That's it. You are on JANUS!

Remember, we did pass Measure 5, so there are still limited lines into the library. You may get the message "all ports are in use," so you should try again later. The morning hours are the best!

Also, remember to set your software to no parity, eight data bits, and one stop bit. . .and remember to

key in janus in lower case letters.

The key to continued use of the University card catalog is to avoid abuse! Call in, log on, know what you need to find, do it and log off. I know it can be difficult, but keep the time to a minimum!

MERRY CHRISTMAS "JR"

Phil Janz



This is a great time to begin thinking about your gift for an often overlooked family member. . .trusty, hard working and dependable Jr! Take advantage of the November club

meeting to select something from the Club Store, wrap it in home-decorated tractor feed paper, put a "tag" on it:

{To - Junior, From - The Family}

and hide in the closet until you can sneak it under the tree when Jr is turned off and snoozing by the fireplace.

What would Jr like? Several gift suggestions are:

□ One or two joysticks for use with games.

□ Several neat disks from the Disk Library such as E-107 JUNIOR MUSIC MACHINE; E-111 NORLAND HANGMAN; E-116 AMY'S FIRST PRIMER; G-209 XMAS FUN; G-218 SOLITAIRE. . .OR?

□ One of the scarcely used commercial software programs in the Club Store such as KINDERCOMP, ages 3-8;

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MINESHAFT; CROSSFIRE; THE WIZARD OF OZ; THE NEWSROOM. . .OR?

- ☐ A package of 10 blank formatted disks.
- ☐ A keyboard cord.
- ☐ How about a gift subscription to the Newsletter for a friend?
- ☐ A PCjr Book from the Club Store.

Stop by your Club Store at the meeting and take a look at the Christmas gift selections for Junior. . .you don't want to disappoint him on Christmas morning!

Phil

Disk Operating System -- DOS -- What is It??

by Dick Page

Some computers are made with all the programs you can use built into them. Some are designed to only use programs in cartridges which are plugged into the computer. Most Personal Computers (PCs for short), especially the IBM PC and PS family of computers, are intended to be more flexible, more adaptive. In order for that to be true, the computer needs more than just a set of built-in or plug-in operating instructions (programs). It needs the capability of writing down and reading the information made during the use of the computer so that information can be retrieved, altered, copied, or several other related tasks can be done. How does the IBM PC family (as opposed to the IBM "main-frame" family) do that? - By reading from and writing to a magnetic diskette (often called a "floppy disk") using a device called a "disk drive."



In order for the computer to know how and when to send and receive information to and from the disk drive, a set of instructions and a common language must exist between the computer and the disk drive. We call this set of instructions DOS, short for Disk Operation System.

⇒ Why we usually start up our Juniors with the DOS diskette

The main role of DOS is to supervise the running of our Personal Computer, to allow it to be as flexible as possible. It relieves the rest of our programs--and us--from many tiresome chores. It takes care of a lot of behind-the-scenes details that are necessary to keep Junior running smoothly, but which are mostly hidden from our eyes.

This "setup" of the computer takes place when the machine is first turned on. The PCjr has enough information built into it so that when it is turned on it looks to see if the lever is closed on the disk drive. If it is "on" (in the down position) and has a diskette in place, Junior tries to start the disk drive to look for instructions on the diskette for how to proceed to talk with and use the disk drive.

This first information is stored on two "hidden files"--ones that aren't listed when we list all the files on our DOS disk (with the DIR command). These files, IBMBIO.COM and IBMDOS.COM, are hidden so that they can't be altered or destroyed. The PCjr won't use the disk drive without these two startup programs intact.

Once the PCjr has "read" these files, it looks for a third file called COMMAND.COM. As the name implies, COMMAND.COM contains programs of commands we can give the PCjr which Junior will dutifully carry out whenever "we give the command." These programs are automatically transferred into the PCjr's memory as Junior is started up and are therefore often referred to as *Internal Commands*.

⇒ The three main uses for DOS

We can separate the functions of DOS into three main categories: (1) accepting our commands, (2) running our programs, and (3) managing our diskettes.

1. Accepting Our Commands

When the PCjr is started with DOS installed into memory, DOS takes on the job of asking us, "What do you want Junior to do?" and then it will respond by doing what we tell it. This works very simply. When DOS is ready to accept a command from us, it gives us its COMMAND PROMPT, "A>".

continued on the next page. . .

A command to DOS is the name of something that we can ask DOS to do for us. In actuality, DOS is asking us to give it the name of some program we want it to start up for us.

2. Running Our Programs

In computer-talk, starting a program is called executing it, or running it. So, when we type in a command for DOS such as FORMAT, we are really telling DOS to run a program with that name. . .FORMAT.COM.

As long as a particular program is running, it is more or less in charge of the computer. Most well-written programs have built into them a way to stop the program from being in charge and allow you to return back to DOS.

The BASIC program is a good example of this process. At the A>, typing the word BASIC changes control of the computer over to the BASIC program stored in your BASIC cartridge. When you want to exit BASIC and return control to DOS, you type SYSTEM after BASIC's "OK" prompt, and A> will again appear.

3. Managing Our Diskettes

The third of the three main jobs DOS does for us is managing our diskettes. Our diskettes are like filing cabinets or storage drawers that are available to our old friend, the handy-person (handyman). When we use the analogy of the computer as a handyperson and the memory as a workbench, we can think of diskettes as being like a toolbox that we can bring to the handyperson.

We can have many different diskettes, and so, we can present many different "tool boxes" to the computer for the many different jobs it needs to perform for us. Each diskette can have stored on it its own collection of programs-tools for the handyperson. When we place a diskette into the computer's diskette drive, any programs on that diskette become programs that DOS can carry out for us if we give the command.

The handyperson's tool box can be neat and orderly, or it can be a jumbled mess. It is the same with diskettes. One of DOS's main jobs is keeping our diskettes orderly and supervising our use of the storage space that is on each diskette.

DOS not only lets our computer read programs and other information on our diskettes, it also lets us write, or store, information onto each diskette. Naturally, for everything to run smoothly, we need to be sure that all the programs and data stored on each diskette aren't jumbled together; that each item has a certain place to be on the diskette. DOS manages this task, keeping track of everything on each diskette, where everything is located and making sure nothing is placed out of order. All of these tasks, and more, are part of the diskette management functions supervised by DOS.

Dick Page

SURGE SUPPRESSORS & SPIKE PROTECTORS

By Patti Tanner

Surge Suppressors and Spike Protectors are known by different names but they do the same job. They protect your expensive equipment from high voltage surges. We often think that surges can only be caused by huge power spikes but this is not true. Surges can be caused by our everyday use of power operated equipment such as vacuum cleaners, power tools, washers and dryers.

It was explained to me like turning on a garden hose. The water flowing from the hose runs smooth and steady until another faucet is turned on. At that time, you will notice a drop in water pressure. When the faucet is turned off, the hose surges with more water and then settles back to the even flow.

A spike only lasts a fraction of a second but can send thousands of volts surging through a 120 volt line. A surge suppressor acts as a collection station. It collects all extra electricity and then slowly releases it over time. The old saying "you get what you pay for" is true about the protectors. You bought expensive equipment so it must be protected by an expensive protector. Just because your protector is "UL" listed does not mean it meets your protection requirements. The UL means

please turn to the next page. . .

the device itself will not cause you problems. You need one that is "UL TVSS 1449" listed (Underwriters Laboratories Transient Voltage Surge Suppression). Starting costs are around \$30.00 for this type protector and go above \$100.00. A good source for helping you choose what is best for your needs would be your electric company. Locally, EWEB provides information and there are several good stores that deal in electronic gear that are be willing to help.

We have several power strips in our home that are guaranteed for a couple of hundred dollars damage if a surge happens. After reading a few articles about the protectors, I realize they are not adequate for all our needs.

Patti T.

Topics of Interest:

New There seems to be less interest by Club Members reading other computer club newsletters, so we are going to try something new. Each month articles will be highlighted from newsletters that may be of interest, and if you want to read the article, the newsletters will be available at each meeting.

Fox Tales, The Fox Valley PC Association has a very good overview of SCSI technology.

EPCUG NEWS, The Eugene PC Users Group Fall '94 COMPUTER FAIR will take place this Saturday, November 5th, from 9am until 3pm at the Red Lion Inn in the Gateway area of Springfield. (Ed's note: GO...there is always a lot of good "stuff" to rummage through and there is usually some good software for your Junior...well worth the \$1 admission.)

"Unknown Newspaper" Forgive us for not giving credit where credit is due, but one unnamed newspaper stated that there were 5,000,000 personal computers discarded last year. Wow!



Workshop Schedule

Phil Janz

Our regular monthly Club meetings provide software (programs) overviews as part of the regular evening session. There will be additional evening or weekend opportunities using some of these specific programs to provide a "hands on" experience for members. By registering and participating in workshops of their interest, Club members will be able to add to their skill levels.

The specific Club meeting demonstration concerning that month's workshop will make it very clear as to what the focus of the workshop will be. Members may sign up ahead of time at one of our meetings on the "WORKSHOP BOARD", or by calling Phil (343-1059) and indicating that you would like to have your name added to a specific workshop.

There will be a \$6 non-refundable registration fee per one-session workshop or an \$8 fee for a two-session workshop for each participant. The fee reserves a working place in the workshop, provides the participant with the necessary shareware disks and pays for refreshments during the workshop. The person hosting the workshop will receive the workshop free. . . Anyone interested in "hosting" and "learning" at the same time? Hosting does not imply responsibility for teaching the workshop, the host only provides a place, along with some refreshments, for the instructional gathering.

The thrust of these workshops is to provide opportunities for interested Club members to receive help in actually learning how to make better use of their PCjr. Club membership is only \$20 per year and includes all family members.

Once you sign up for a workshop the date and time will be determined by consensus among the participants and instructor.

Turn page for listing of workshops. . .

NOVEMBER WORKSHOP

TITLE: GETTING STARTED IN WRITING ASSISTANT/REFRESHING YOUR MEMORY ON MAKING TOTAL USE OF WRITING ASSISTANT'S FULL POTENTIAL FOR THOSE THAT NEED IT

INSTRUCTOR: Barbara Castleton

HOST: Pauline Bacod

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 3

DESCRIPTION: A user friendly word processing program that will run on a 128K PCjr! Writing Assistant can help you create and edit documents, including spell checking! Learn to save your documents and even find and retrieve them at a later date! The "ins 'n outs" of making the program work quickly and easily for you, along with printing a document, makes up this powerful program usable for any age!

JANUARY WORKSHOP

TITLE: CREATING MAILING LABELS & LISTS

INSTRUCTORS: Warren Hampton and Phil Janz

HOST:

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 3

DESCRIPTION: One workshop session using PC-File & NamePal. You say that you are not organized, can't find Aunt Martha'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 month...

If you sign up for this workshop you are indeed in luck! These two different programs will allow you to get yourself gathered in, efficiently organizing your information so it can be easily updated and printed out. You will become the envy of your family due to your being "on top" of everything!

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP

TITLE: MAKING SIGNS, BANNERS, CARDS & STATIONARY

INSTRUCTOR: Patti Tanner

HOST:

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 2

DESCRIPTION: One workshop session. A fun activity that will prepare you for

enhancing parties, club meetings, classroom projects, etc. Challenging for all ages!

MARCH WORKSHOP

TITLE: GETTING STARTED IN WORDPERFECT

INSTRUCTOR: Mike Ruiz

HOST: Rob Atkins

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 3

DESCRIPTION: Using WordPerfect on your Junior will open up new vistas in your life. This workshop will give you step-by-step instructions on how to format documents, spell check them, save them to disk and find them again. You'll love it!

APRIL WORKSHOP

TITLE: MAKING SELF BOOTING DISKS

INSTRUCTOR: Louie Levy

HOST: Charlie Coury

CLASS SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 2

DESCRIPTION: We all get tired of booting Junior and then having to figure out how to get a certain program up and running. Why not make all your programs self-booters? Just the thing for those kid's programs so the grandkids won't have to get you to get their programs going for them.

Other workshops can be added if there is sufficient interest and we can locate an instructor. Let Phil or Louie know if you have such an interest.

* Workshop participants must be Club members in good standing. All Club memberships are "family" memberships, and everyone in the family is eligible to participate.

* Early registration is encouraged. Workshops are generally limited to five or six participants. Each person is assured of a "hands on" experience with a PCjr.

You will have fun while your children learn the ancient art of Japanese paper folding when you use Club disk E-102, Origami. Works well with 128K and the BASIC cartridge.

Welcome Aboard!

Patti Tanner

Let's all welcome some new families to our unique PCjr Club! It is a wonderful feeling knowing we are growing.

First, we want to introduce Bob and Fran Williams. Bob and Fran reside in Eugene where Fran enjoys operating a drapery business and painting. Bob enjoys his summer by managing a softball team for people fifty and over. The Williams' explore new places by traveling in their motorhome. They have three grown children, Rick, Tammy and Troy who live in Utah. They first became interested in Jr. when their son wanted to make his life as a student easier and more efficient by using a computer. After he completed his studies it was passed to their son-in-law, who was in college. By this time a hard drive had been added as well as two side cars. Having a hard time getting started, Bob turned to a friend for help which eventually led them to our club.

Bob and Fran both are enjoying having Jr. back home and are excited about learning more. In fact, they both have just finished taking the DOS Workshop. I think Bob is even doing some flying using Flight Simulator and Jr. Even though he made a safe landing with Fran on board she says a lot of time will pass before she is a passenger again. I wonder why?

David and LeeAnn Snare reside in Springfield with their two children. Andy is eighteen and a student at LCC. While he was at Thurston High School Andy was on varsity soccer, an active member in band and the jazz band. He still is an active trumpet player in the Springfield-Eugene area. Andy helps coach a soccer team in the fall and is actively seeking a soccer team to join.

The Snare's Junior was purchased for Andy to help with his heavy work load at school, but Rebecca, who is twelve, might also become involved with it's use. Rebecca is also interested in soccer and is a terrific goalie. Among her many talents is her ability to play the clarinet. Both Andy and Rebecca come by their love for music easily with LeeAnn enjoying singing and David

being able to play several instruments by ear. David and LeeAnn are kept busy with their children and household activities.

Next month we will have two more families to introduce. Both families have recently joined the Eugene PCjr Club. Be sure and check next month's issue of the Newsletter to read about their fascinating involvement with Jr. We will welcome Roy and Toki Stucky along with their two children, Anna and David. We will also welcome Eric and Lynda Christiansen. Patti T.

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, Graphics, DOS:

Dick Page - 342-3193

BankStreet Writer or Prodigy:

Christine Brown - 741-1594

Communications:

Gordon LeManquais - 746-1594

King's Quest:

Cameron Lambright - 687-9352

Writing Assistant:

Phil Janz - 343-1059

Sierra Games:

Cindy Hoffman - 342-3193

Spreadsheet Programs:

Mike Ruiz - 687-8661

Hardware Problems:

Dick Page - 342-3193

For help in the Portland Area,

call Robert Mueller: 252-1106

Parts and supplies:

The Company Store (Phil Janz)

343-1059

Whenever you need help, call a member of YOUR local computer club!

P-514 BOOKBASE - A library program that works! BookBase has a predefined form on which you list your books. You list the title, author and publisher, and you can list category, key words and comments along with IBN numbers. Sort, search, print and do many more things with your, your church's or your business library. . .all in color!

EUGENE PCjr CLUB

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER
accepts advertising at the fol-
lowing 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.



Please...

ROUTE NEWSLETTER
TO OTHER OFFICERS

✓ _____
✓ _____
✓ _____



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