



EUGENE

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

PCjr CLUB

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MEETING

AGENDA

The April meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Rd on Thursday, April 9th. Setup will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7pm

April is our General Meeting with election for Vice President. The main program will be *Ask A Wizard* along with a demonstration of File Express.

OFFICERS

President Mike Ruiz
Vice President. . . . Lynn Miles
Treasurer and Company Store. . . . Phil Janz
Disk Librarians. . . . Louie Levy
Therese Hartman
Modem Captain. . . . Judy Young
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Mike's Message

by Mike Ruiz

April is here and I am looking for some good weather. School kids and teachers are done with Spring Break and the weather seems to have gotten better. That figures. I really like this time of year. Trees get new leaves and flowers are beginning to show. My wife tells me it's time to start thinking about controlling the weeds. You know what that means. Picking weeds, yuk!

The Club has lots of computer hardware and other stuff in the Club Store. It's time for the Club to do some Spring cleaning, too. Inventory grows--maybe it's a good time for a garage sale of our own.

At our April meeting we should hear from our nomination committee and possibly at the same time we can settle who will be our new vice-president. This annual meeting at which we take care of business should produce a great VP. People who come forth to serve as officers help keep the Club alive with their willingness to serve. We all should be appreciative of people, especially new members, who have become active in supporting the Club.

Our April meeting will entertain the thought of *Wizards*. That is the thought that wizards are wise and can answer all of our questions. The plan is that all of the people that come to the April meeting should bring at least two questions that they need answers to. Or, bring a disk you are having trouble with; maybe a wizard will be able to check it out and show all of us how it works. The fact is everyone might be surprised to find that there will be several people at April's meeting that are able to answer questions. I can think of at least three or four. Wizards will surely be there and will be ready for any possibility that may arise. Does that sound like a challenge? Well, bring your questions so that we can make an evening of fun and at the same time maybe something can be learned. Remember you don't have to be a genius to contribute at PCjr Club meetings. Every member can add something.



See you at the April meeting!

Mike

USING JUNIOR'S MEMORY TO THE MAX

Those Junior owners who have added more memory to their computers must use memory management software in order to use the added memory. Many of us use JRCONFIG memory management software that is on Club Library Disk U-611, JR POWER PACK II. We must use some type of software in order to access all of the additional memory. Using a boot disk that does not have the memory software on it will make our Juniors destined to allocate only the original first 128K. This leaves all of the additional added memory unused.

There are other memory management software programs. The jrHotShot came with it's own software as did Tecmar, IBM and RACORE to name a few. No matter what brand memory or software you have, they are all interchangeable.

If you use JRCONFIG software, you may have noticed in the documentation that it says JRCONFIG.NRD will not create a RAM drive in Junior's memory. Well, this is true in some ways, but false in others. The extension, NRD, stands for "no ram drive" but it does, in fact, create a small ram drive. It just doesn't assign a letter to it. This is a plus for those who may have a hard drive C in their Juniors.

The NRD option actually uses about 90K of Junior's memory in order to speed up your PCjr's processing. If this is too big a price for you to pay, and you want it to use less memory, you can use the /s1 option in your config.sys file.

By using this option, the ram drive will only be 1K. Remember that DOS 2.1 will use up 24K and Junior's video will use another 16K. JRCONFIG will also take about 12 - 13K, but this is still much better than the normal 90K that would be used if you use JRCONFIG.NRD with no options.

The command line for your config.sys should read `DEVICE=JRCONFIG.NRD /s1` to take advantage of this option.

Making a Backup Copy of a Diskette

In last month's newsletter we had an article on how to make backup copies of your software. We would like to find out how many people actually tried to follow the instructions in the newsletter. Did it work? If you are having problems, we need to know.

Should you have any questions about making copies of your programs and you feel adventuresome, check your DOS manual. Or, drop the Junior Club a note with any questions you have. As Mike told us on the first page, the Club *wizards* will be at the April meeting, so bring in any questions on "disk backups" you may have.



Q I have a lot of art work that I created with my PCjr using *ColorPaint* and *Spectrum Holobyte's Art Studio*. I would like to find a way to convert these old files into something like GIF or PCX format to use with some of the newer programs.

A Few of us in the Junior Club use "newer" programs, but I'll put this question to our members. How about it? Who in the Club is the "Graphics Wizard?" Anyone out there know the answer to this one? It stumped every one of our gurus; both of them! Drop us a note if you have the answer.

HOW TO SIMPLIFY START-UP PROCEDURES

Most of us who purchase Shareware usually just boot our Juniors and then insert the program we want to run and key in whatever the disk label says. But many times, with just

Continued on page 3>

a little effort, we can create a copy of these programs that will be self-booting. By making as many of your programs into self-booting disks as you can, family members will be able to run their favorite programs with little effort and without having to call on the family guru to set up the computer for them.

The goal here is to have DOS and the program files needed to run the software all on the same physical diskette. The way to do this is to create a self-booting disk (a "systems" disk) and then copy the necessary memory management files (if necessary) and the program files from the software you just purchased onto this newly made systems disk.

Most everyone knows how to use the **FORMAT** command to format floppy disks. To make a system disk you use the same command, only you add one parameter to the command. Start by keying in the following command to format the new disk:

```
FORMAT B: /S
```

The **/S** parameter causes the disk operating system files to be copied onto the new diskette after it is formatted. The messages from DOS will be the same, only when it's done, DOS will tell you that the system has been transferred.

You may need to copy your memory management programs onto this disk if the program you are using requires more than 128K. Perhaps the easiest way to do this is to just copy them from your **MAX-MEM** boot disk, if you are using one. With this boot disk in the A: drive, key in the following:

```
TYPE CONFIG.SYS
```

You will then see the contents of configuration file that gives Junior access to its additional memory. This file may be called **JRCONFIG.SYS**, **JRCONFIG.NRD**, **PCJRMEM.COM**, **JRVIDEO.COM** and many others. Whatever it is, you need to copy it by keying in:

```
COPY JRCONFIG.SYS B:
```

using whatever your memory manager filename is in place of **JRCONFIG.SYS** if that isn't it.

You can just copy the **CONFIG.SYS** file from your boot disk by keying in:

```
COPY CONFIG.SYS B:
```

Now, place the Shareware disk into the A: drive and key in:

```
COPY *.* B:
```

After pressing "any key," all of the files from the Shareware disk will be copied to the newly made systems disk. If you only have one drive on your Junior, you may have to swap disks quite a few times. But, eventually, all the files will be copied.

Note what the Shareware disk requires you to key in to get it going. Many times it is something easy like **GO**. Other programs require you to key in the actual name of the program, like **PCFILE**. Whatever the command is, you will need to create an **AUTOEXEC.BAT** file (unless, like Amy's First Primer, the program writer included one on the disk).

With the new systems disk in the A: drive, key in:

```
COPY CON AUTOEXEC.BAT
```

and press the enter key. The cursor will drop down a line. Key in the word that gets the program going; the **GO**, or **START** or **PCFILE** or whatever. Press enter and then press the Function key and then the 6. This **FN 6** will cause an end-of-file character, **^Z**, to be placed at the end of your **AUTOEXEC.BAT** file. Press the enter key and DOS will say "One file written" and will give you your DOS prompt back.

Now, test your work by pressing **Ctrl, Alt, Del** to reboot. If all went well, your new

Continued on page 4>>

systems disk will automatically boot Junior and start your program! If it does, be sure to make a copy of this disk using the DISKCOPY command like we talked about in the beginning of this newsletter. Good luck!

If you followed these directions and your new self-booting disk didn't work, bring it in to the meeting and let one of the *wizards* take a look at it. This month's meeting is our "problem solving meeting."

Bare Bones Troubleshooting

This is the type of troubleshooting that is suggested when you have no idea what is wrong with your Junior. Normally, this isn't the case, but, sometimes we just have to resort to this "bare bones" type of troubleshooting.



First, make sure the wall receptacle that you are using for Junior has power going to it. Plug in a lamp or something to make sure you have power at the wall.

Next, plug in the black power "brick." Feel it or place your ear on the brick. It should feel like it is vibrating and you should be able to hear a hum. While this doesn't necessarily tell you it is putting out the correct voltage (you need a meter to check that), more than likely the brick is good if you feel it "humming."

Unplug everything from the rear of your Junior. Remove the lid. Remove the disk drive, disk drive controller card, the internal modem if there is one, the 64K internal memory card and the IR sensor. Leave only the internal power supply card.

Plug in the external power brick and turn junior on. You should get two beeps as the IR card is not installed.

If this happened, plug in the monitor. Turn the monitor on. After a few seconds, turn on Junior. You should see the IBM Color Bar display, Junior should count up to 64K and then you should hear two beeps and get an Error B message on the screen (because the IR card is still missing).

This is good as it means the monitor is good, the power brick is good, the power supply card is good, but better yet, the mother board is good.

Turn off everything and plug in the IR sensor. Turn Junior on again and it should count up to 64K and boot into BASIC. Great!

Turn it off and plug in the 64K card. Turn Junior on again and it will count up to 128K and boot into BASIC. We know the 64K card is good.

This time, with everything turned off, plug in the disk drive controller card. When you try to reboot this time, you should get an Error H message. But, when you install the disk drive, the flat cable from the controller card to the drive, and the power cable to the drive and the one to the little cooling fan, when you reboot, the error message shouldn't appear. Now, if you put a boot disk in the drive, Junior should boot.

Using this "bare bones" method of trouble shooting may help you isolate the component that is giving you and your Junior trouble. Once you have done that, you can get in touch with Phil at the Company Store and replace the suspected part. But, the best thing about all this is that you have been "inside" your Junior; you have "troubleshooted" Junior yourself; you have fixed your Junior all by yourself and, you have saved a bunch of bucks!

Nominating Committee Report

At the last meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club, our president appointed a committee to seek out those brave souls who would serve our club as Vice President for the coming two years. The committee would like to report that we already have a volunteer. Don't let this be a deterrent, though, if YOU would like to help the club and serve as Vice President.

A Vice President serves in the capacity of President whenever the President is absent from a meeting. The VP has the duty to introduce visitors at our monthly meetings and is the person who is in charge of the door-prize drawing. The VP also is responsible for getting someone to write the "meet our members" column for the newsletter.

If you feel that you would like to help your club by serving as VP, please call Phil or Louie by Thursday. Thursday evening we will have our election and we need to know how many folks will be on the ballot. If you are a member in good standing, we would like to hear from you; call now, to 343-1059 or 343-7592.

Problem Solving

One of our members, Judy Young, has given us a list of new messages she's been getting from her Junior. Asking one of our *wizards* where Judy's messages were coming from, he replied, "While I can't give her an answer, I admire her problem."

COFFEE.EXE Missing - System Halted
BREAKFAST.COM Halted - Cereal Port Not

Responding

Access Denied - nah, nah na nah nah!

Bad Command. Bad, bad command! Sit! Stay!

Staaay. . .

File Not Found. Should I fake it? (Y/N)

CONGRESS.SYS corrupted: Re-boot

Washington (Y/N)?

C:\> Bad Command or file name; go stand in the corner

Well, after getting no help from our *wizard*, Judy took her problems elsewhere and here are some suggestions she received:

Add lines to the CONFIG.SYS file, like:
C:\DOS C:\DOS\RUN C:\RUN\DOS\RUN
BUFFERS=20 FILES=14 2nd down, 4th
quarter, 5 yards to go!
DEVICE=KEEPPINGERSCLOSED.SYS
BUGS=OFF

A salesman in the local computer store tried to sell her a new brand of modem: E. Pluribus Modem. He also told her if she bought a new Pentium 586/166 that she could reboot faster whenever it locked up on her, and that this new computer could make very fast, very accurate mistakes.

She asked the salesperson about data compression as her 20 Meg hard drive was getting too small. His suggestion was what he called the ultimate data compression command: "DEL *.*" as it equals 100% data compression.

After being reminded that computers are not intelligent, they only think they are, Judy was told that a computer's attention span is only as long as it's power cord, and that she should remember the 11th Commandment: covet not thy neighbor's Pentium. As she left, she heard a Sound Blaster card that was sitting on the counter saying, "Shell to DOS...Come in DOS, do you copy? Shell to DOS. . ."

When she got back home, Billy went over and turned his Junior on and said, "I don't know what the big deal is. Junior is still working."

Editor's Note: And working, and working. . .

There are only three kinds of people: those who can count and those who can't.

Hints for Using WordPerfect With A PCjr

Adapted from an original article by John King

WordPerfect versions 4.1 and 4.2 are both very powerful, extremely versatile word processing programs. They were very expensive when new and can now be found at very attractive prices at garage sales, computer fairs and thrift stores. If you need to upgrade your present word processing program, you'll find that WordPerfect works extremely well even on a single disk drive PCjr as long as you have at least 512K of RAM.

Fortunately, WordPerfect has an option which allows the whole program to be loaded into memory. If you copy the other files needed by WordPerfect to a small ramdisk, the program disk can then be removed and is not needed again during the session. The disk drive is then available for a data disk, the Speller disk, or the Thesaurus disk and Help disks.

You will need to create a ramdisk and copy these files to it:

```
WPFONT.FIL
WPRINTER.FIL
{WP}SYS.FIL
WPHELP.FIL
```

These files only take up about 75K bytes. If you are using a sheet feeder, you will have to copy WPFEED.FIL, as well. WordPerfect will also store temporary overflow files on the ramdisk if you are working on a large document. Therefore, your ramdisk should be at least 100K.

Be sure to leave at least 300K of Junior's memory free for the main file, WP.EXE. You can use CHKDSK.COM from your DOS disk to check free memory after the ramdisk is installed.

The command to start WordPerfect is:

```
WP/R/D-C:
```

The /R switch loads WP.EXE completely into memory, and the /D-C switch tells WordPerfect to find all necessary files on ramdisk C:. (If your ramdisk is not C:, substitute the appropriate letter.)

As finishing touches, you should also do the following. Add the line BUFFERS=10, or 20, to your CONFIG.SYS file. This will speed up the loading of large programs. Write a batch file to do the copying to the ramdisk, or add this to the AUTOEXEC.BAT file. Add the line SET WP=/R/D-C: to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. Then, you can start WordPerfect with just WP and the options will be automatically invoked.

For more information, consult the Installation and Appendices in most any WordPerfect documentation. And, if you have any questions about ANY word processing program, bring them to the Club *wizards* this month!



Let's Meet Our Members

By Lynn Miles

This month Louie Levy, our Newsletter Editor, is in the spotlight.

I knew that it would only be a matter of time before Lynn would put her lasso on me. Lynn and Pat went to Texas in March and left us here to fare for ourselves. So, here goes.

Elleen and I are Charter Members of the Eugene PCjr Club, having met Dick Page's call when he and Bill Roy first got this thing going. At that time both of us were attending the University and had just purchased our Junior.

I became newsletter editor when our last editor, Paddy Dawson, dropped the newsletter off on my doorstep one day. Paddy was moving to Portland and had to leave it with someone, so I have had it ever since. I was a little apprehensive at first, but with the help of a lot of friends in the club who put up with me the job has been fun. (Continued on next page>)

Oregon was our "home of choice" after retiring from the Coast Guard in 1983. After being "plank owners" at both Astoria and North Bend CG Air Stations, we knew we would someday return and make Oregon our home. We actually didn't plan on staying in Eugene, but now we would never leave.

When I took over the newsletter I knew nothing about computers. I did use our Junior and Writing Assistant for school work, though. Everything I know about computers and computing now I owe to those members of the club who took me under their wings and showed me their extreme tolerance and patience. There are too many to name them all, but Mary Burich, Dick Page, Rick Ubel, Bill Roy, Jack Hart and Lew Jones are just a few.

I enjoy the club and especially enjoy doing the newsletter. Everyone can tell it's just a hobby. I look forward to the time when someone in the club wants to take it over and give me a break. When that happens, I'm going to sit back and enjoy cleaning out the neat shed the Club has in my back yard!

March Woes at EFN

Eugene Free Net has had a very difficult time this past month. As most everyone knows who uses "the net," there were many days when it was just impossible to log on at EFN.

I would be the first to say that I don't understand everything that's going on when you call them via modem. I do know that you tell Junior to dial them, he does, they answer, and then Junior and EFN's computer do a "hand-shake." Next, they ask for your login. I key in pcjrclub as my login and they then ask for my password. It's what happens next that gets somewhat confusing.

Many times, most of us have been getting the message, "Host Is Currently Unavailable." That, I can understand. Well, logging on using a browser such as Internet

Explorer or Netscape, the computer just sits there until you get the message that the host has hung up. No browser, no nothing.

Calling down to EFN after much frustration has netted only another person under much more stress than I was! They said that most of the port controllers were up and that the net was available to most, and to keep trying. They had blown one of their main boards and hoped to be back up soon. Not too much I understood.

The answer came slowly. When I log onto the Internet, I have selected the PCjr Club's home page to be my "open with URL..." page. Others in the club just use www.efn.org as their opening page. As EFN's main server was down, we couldn't get these URLs to show. So, sitting there waiting for the screen to show, we would just time out and EFN would hang up.

I changed my opening screen page to something else. Using www.ebay.com or www.ibm.com or anything but www.efn.org would work just fine. While the server was down at efn, we could still get onto the net.

There were some very disgruntle folks when all this happened. But, hey, EFN only charges \$10 a month for unlimited access and that is only for those who can afford to pay them. They very graciously allow us Junior owners Internet and e-mail access at 300 baud--no one else in the world does that! I think they are GREAT!

We never quit learning with computers. Every day is a learning day. I think that is one reason why so many of us have them as a hobby. Sure, we learn our software until we know it inside and out, but we never fully know everything there is to learn.

What is an interrupt? I may never know, but that's alright. This month's meeting may turn out to be the most important meeting of the year! Wish Jon, Clyde and Elmer could be with us to help. Bring those questions in but leave the technobabble jargon terms at home. Only English will be used this month.

HOW TO REACH THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB

FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is available for \$20 per year per household. Membership provides each member of the household access to the Club Disk Library, individualized help and support. It also includes a subscription to the Newsletter. All Club General Meetings and Board meetings are open to every member. To inquire about becoming a member, contact The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405.

FOR "OUT-OF-TOWN" MEMBERSHIPS:

Newsletter subscriptions are given the fancy term, "Out-of-Town Memberships." This type of membership is \$12 per year and brings 12 issues of the Newsletter to your mailing address. Requests for an Out-of-Town membership may be mailed to The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

To change your address for any type membership, you may inform the Club by mail to the Club's Post Office Box, by phone (541.343.7592) or by e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org).

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:

Submission of articles for the Newsletter is vigorously requested and copy may be sent to the Club's Post Office box or via e-mail. Permission to reprint is freely given.

QUESTIONS and/or INQUIRES:

Questions and inquires about the availability of parts or supplies may be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or via e-mail (rp_janz@efn.org). Questions about software, operation or repair of your Junior, may be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or via e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org). All orders for parts or software from the Club's Disk Library should be sent to the Post Office Box.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Classified advertisements for the newsletter are free to the membership, but must be limited to PCjr related equipment. Rates to nonmembers are \$1. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit all advertisements submitted for publication. Advertisers must have their mailing address on file with the Club. Write for display advertisement rates.

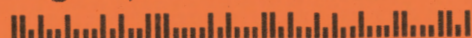
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