



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024. Eugene, OR 97405

SEPTEMBER 1997

VOLUME XIII

NUMBERS 6 - 9

MEETING

AGENDA

The September meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be the Annual Picnic at Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Avenue, Eugene on Thurs., September 11th.

Members, newsletter subscribers and friends are invited to attend this event that starts at 6pm.

OFFICERS

President Mike Ruiz
 Vice President Lynn Miles
 Treasurer and Company Store Phil Janz
 Disk Librarians Louie Levy
 Therese Hartman
 Modem Captain Judy Young
 Commercial Contact . . Gordon LeManquais
 Social Director Rosie Janz
 Newsletter Editor . . . Louie Levy
 Publisher and Production Staff Warren and Juanita Hampton



Mike's Message

by Mike Ruiz

What a great summer. Plenty of hot weather gave us a summer that included a mild drought. Hopefully everyone got to get out and do all of those activities associated with summer. Fishing is one of my favorites.

Well, morning fog, overcast days, lower temperatures and, yes, rain bring the first hints of Fall. Back to school and the routine of the school year brings back viable applications for our computers. For some, it's time to dust off Junior and get set for Club meetings. It's September!

Not that all of us have been completely idle this summer. The Club board members have met and have come up with ideas to keep our computer year interesting. Meetings this year should keep the Club relevant to all PCjr owners, regardless of their level of computer knowledge. I think the board has come up with some great ideas.

A packet went out that explained the board's plan for the '97-'98 year. Here is a brief: September, the Fall Picnic as always. October will be a visit to the PCjr and our club's roots. November will be a Shareware Faire, December will be the traditional Holiday Potluck. The first meeting of the New Year will be Back to Basics, February will bring us On-Line Banking. (I hear Lynn has a handle on this subject.) March and April are yet to be determined. And last, May will be time to Spring Clean Junior--one of my favorite meetings.

Along with programs we will have several disk demonstrations throughout the year. Chris Merrigan has volunteered to do these demos--thanks Chris! I encourage anyone to help us all in this sort of effort.

So far, our PCjr Club has met for 12 years--we'll have our 13th birthday in April! I am looking forward to this new PCjr Club year. My goal this year is to help, in any way, people successfully utilize their Juniors. I really believe that the PCjr has a viable place in the bigger computer world. Our club needs to find those viable uses for anyone interested in reliable computing. I would be willing to bet that our club's support program is one of the best.

With Summer coming to an end, we will begin our new year at the Fall Picnic. There, we can also celebrate the end of Summer. (Hopefully, that day is warm and sunny!) Phil and Gordon will no doubt have an event we'll enjoy, so I am looking forward to seeing PCjr Club members again this year. Remember to bring an appetite--see you there.

Mike

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Chris Merrigan and Therese Hartman

It's time to gather for our Annual Fall Picnic to be held, once again, in Pavilion One at Emerald Park; just follow the map.

It will be fun to visit with "old" and new members while enjoying the yummy goodies provided by the PCjr Club and our members.

The Club will provide Chicken and beverages, while you need to bring a hot dish, salad or a dessert. You will also need a place setting for each member of your family.

This year will feature an Auction organized by Gordon LeManquais and Phil Janz. Be sure to reserve September 11th at 6:00 p.m. for an evening with good people, good food and good times!

There will be information on workshops planned for the 1997-98 year, along with sign-up sheets if you are interested in participating.

We hope to see you for the Fall "kick-off" Picnic, and if you have any questions feel free to call Chris Merrigan (689-5782) or Therese Hartman (822-3801).

SEPTEMBER POTLUCK AUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA

Phil Janz

A Club "first" will be in store for all members who attend the Fall Potluck next Thursday, September 11 at Emerald Park.

In addition to the beginning of our TWELFTH(!) year as an organized Club, along with the fact that we are the last PCjr Club in the U.S., our potluck will feature friendship, renewed support for each computing member, wonderful food and an oral auction for a complete up-and-running PCjr! We are very fortunate to have a card-carrying, licensed, professional auctioneer and Club member, Gordon LeManquais to whet our auction appetite in helping this little "Peanut" find a new home. During the potluck a silent auction will be available for many PCjr related software programs and hardware items.

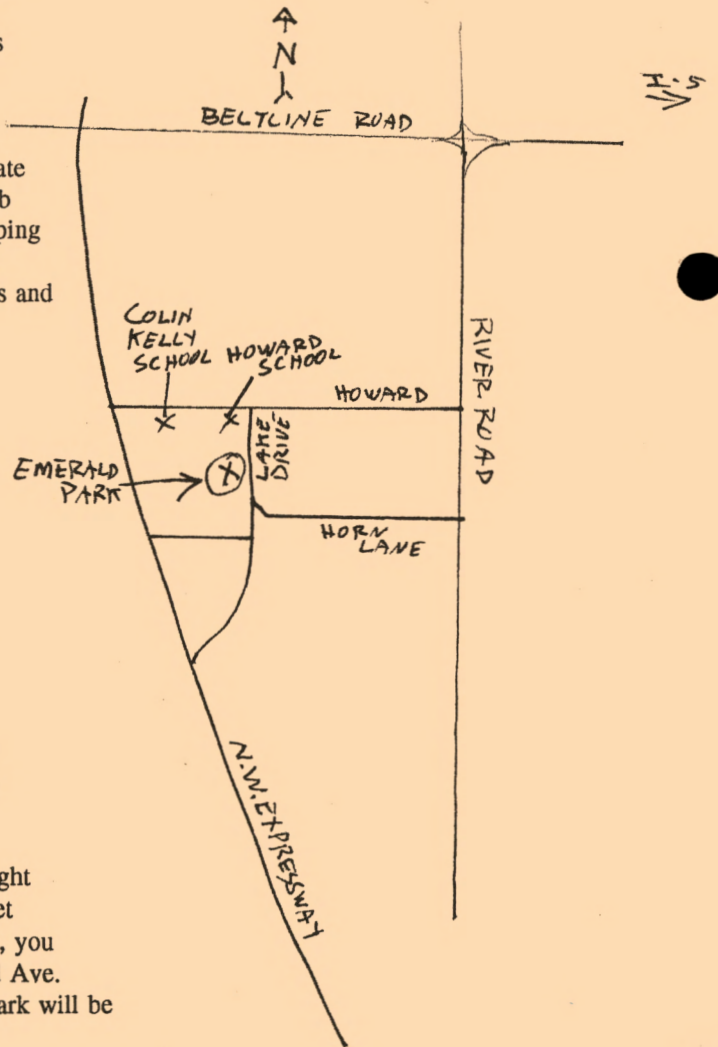
This is one meeting you won't want to miss. . . Reread Chris and Therese's article above with the potluck specifics. And look at the map \ \ \ \ \

DIRECTIONS:

Driving South on I-5, get off at the Beltline Road Exit and proceed West. Take the River Road Exit and turn left (South) onto River Road. Approximately .6 miles, turn right (West) at the 3rd red light onto Howard Avenue. Drive about .2 mile and turn left (South) onto Lake Drive. Emerald park will be approximately .1 down on your right.

Driving North on I-5, get off at the Beltline Road Exit (you will drive UNDER it and then up the ramp onto the Beltline. Follow the directions above.

From downtown Eugene, go out 6th (Highway 99) and make a right turn (North) onto Chambers. Continue across the Chambers Street Connector and you will be on River Road. After about 2.6 miles, you will see Howard (at the red light). Make a left turn onto Howard Ave. Drive .2 miles and turn left (South) onto Lake Drive. Emerald Park will be about .1 mile down on your right.



Parent's Guide to the Internet

Many PCjr owners now own other computers they use to "surf" the Internet. Our children are using this great source of information for everything from education to entertainment.

Here locally in Eugene, the Bethel School District has published information for teachers to use as they help students use the Internet in the classroom. Tim Goss has given them some good guidelines and we felt they should be passed on to our membership.

As PCjr users, we aren't too sophisticated with this new technology. After all, we are using computers that are older than the children we want to protect. And, in nearly every case, our children know more about all this than we. We need to become more knowledgeable about this Internet "thing" if we are to know what our children are talking about. So, in the next couple of issues, we are going to use the guidelines that Tim Goss uses for the teachers in the Bethel schools to help us.

Just What Is The Internet?

The Internet is a loose organization of thousands of computer networks around the world. The managers of these networks have agreed on certain standards so they can all communicate with one another. Personal computers that connect to the Internet can then share many things including text, photos, sound, video and much more.

As this loose group of networks nearly all agree on much technology, there is no governing body that sets standards or oversees the net's use. While there is no one who can monitor all aspects of the net for content, truthfulness, accuracy, honesty or anything else, as a group, the Internet is really a dynamic entity that is in constant change.

Unlike a newspaper, magazine, book or television, users of the Internet can interact with each other almost instantly. When you are looking for a bed-and-breakfast and are connected to a site, say in Tennessee or Scotland, you are actually reading a file that is located, in most instances, on a computer very close to that location. While you can't edit or change the file you are reading, you can leave a message at most of these sites.

An example of this would be when someone from Germany does a search for "pcjr" using one of the search engines such as Yahoo or Altavista and they come up with our Club's Web address (<http://www.efn.org/~pcjrclub>). With a click of their mouse, they can log onto this address which will allow their computer to read our file at EFN ([index.htm](#)) and, by clicking on the right "link" on our page, leave an e-mail for us. The file we have at EFN, [index.htm](#), is our "home page."

Our "home page" is written in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). It looks like just plain ASCII text with codes in it, much like the printer commands in Writing Assistant. But, when a person using the Internet reads our home page, it matters not what computer they are using. It looks the same on an Atari, Macintosh or an IBM compatible.

This information on anyone's home page can be very old or it can be one that is updated constantly (like one for instant stock quotes). As soon as a file is "saved" at its Internet site, it is available to anyone in the world. This summer we found out that the Coast Guard lost a helicopter with four people on board off the coast of California almost as soon as it happened. This accident was never reported in our local paper.

Massive amounts of information are available to nearly anyone anywhere in the world. While you may need the right passwords to check out your bank account or IRS files, anyone can search for books in the card catalog of the Library of Congress, in the library at Oxford University

or look at the art work in the Louvre. And, people. Any one of us in the PCjr Club can have our very own home page.

What we have been talking about in this first article are World Wide Web sites (www). While we can access some of these sites with our PCjr's, most of these sites need a graphical interface if we are to take full advantage of them. With our Juniors, we use mostly e-mail, but some of us are doing more by using Telix or Procomm to read data on the Internet.

Next month, we'll look at some of the resources available locally for our children (and us) to connect with the Internet and how *any one of us* can have our very own Web Page!

Louie Levy

Q With all of the "scare" stories about the long hold times you get when calling software or hardware tech support lines, what about our own Junior Club? I left my PCjr to be fixed over six months ago and still don't have it back! I must say that I did get a "loaner," but I would like to get my own machine up and running. One member I talked to said they got their Junior back the next day! What's the story?

A Ouch! What can I say? I guess we should begin with how repairs are accomplished by the Club. First, the computer quits working. As it's a PCjr, and we all know that they seldom, if ever, really break, the first step most of us take is to call Louie.

Louie makes house calls; no need to take the computer to his house; just call him and he comes over and fixes it if he can. If he can't, he leaves a "loaner" Junior from the club. He took your Junior home to work on in his "spare" time. Well, it's fixed now, but he failed to call you when it was done and set it aside. It wasn't until he got your note that you got your Junior back. Sorry about that. At least it didn't cost anything.

But this does lead us into another story: What happens when Louie can't fix it? Well, that happens. (After all, he's only ONE of the many volunteers we have.) In fact, Louie has had one member's Junior nearly a year! Or has it been longer? The RACORE unit is giving him fits, but the computer checks out well without the top drive. So, if anyone else wants to try to "fix" some of the

Juniors that are sitting broken, be sure and give him a call; he can sure use the help.

Unplugging and then plugging everything back in normally is about all Louie does to fix things. Sure, he does replace disk drives, controller cards, power supplies and things like that when he figures out they are actually broken. Any charges that the Club may bill you are for parts only. We do NOT pay anyone for mileage, local delivery charges or time. The Club has always only charged for parts used (and postage charges).

The Eugene PCjr Club is a completely not-for-profit computer club that exists solely for the purpose of providing aid, support and comfort to the owners and users of the old IBM PCjr computer. We do not offend folks who don't know the difference between DIS, DOS or DAT. We exist solely to help other PCjr users. That's also the sole purpose of this newsletter. The Club and the newsletter belong to each and every member of the Club.

Is Junior Giving You A Tired, Headachy Feeling?

If you are one of the many people who use a Junior on a regular basis, you may have noticed some changes in your vision and/or physical

"feelings." Blurred vision, burning eyes,

headaches and visual fatigue are only some of



the problems that may be produced by working long periods with Junior. Neck pain, shoulder aches, wrist and back pain are other difficulties that can arise when working at your computer.

There are several things you can do to alleviate these problems or prevent them from occurring. Your overall setup has much to do with your computing comfort. Having your keyboard at an ideal height will go a long way in preventing the strain on your wrists. Your wrists and forearms should be almost parallel to the floor when you are using your computer. You should also use a chair that will give your back proper support.



Placement of your computer workstation should be such that light coming in from windows in the room doesn't produce glare on your monitor. Room

lighting levels should be reduced if you are going to be looking at your screen for long periods. If you can't adjust the lighting properly, you may consider using a glare filter in front of your monitor's screen.

Placement of the monitor itself is very important. It should be between 16 and 24 inches from your viewing position. A viewing angle of 10 to 20 degrees is recommended. Following these guidelines will help reduce both eye and neck strain.

Perhaps most important is taking regular breaks from your keyboarding. You don't need to get up and go outside, but this would certainly help. What we mean is to stop keying and stand up. Take the kinks from your legs by walking to the tea pot and remove the twinges from your wrists and hands by some short stretching and flexing.

Interruptions to your work may give you the feeling that you are slowing down, but they tend to do just the opposite. Taken

in stride, they can help keep you physically relaxed and your mind more alert. While entering DOS commands or code must be exact, word processing with Junior can be relaxing with tools such as spelling checkers.

If your monitor ALWAYS looks a little blurred but your neighbor's doesn't, maybe you need someone from the Club to come and focus it for you. Remember that Junior is going on 14 years old! Most of us need a few adjustments after awhile, so if your monitor is a little out of focus, take two aspirin and call us in the morning!

"I am struggling to learn a new way to do what I used to do the old way so that I can once again work with everybody else who is also learning a new way in order to work with me."

Ellen Goodman on learning to use Windows 95

Letter to the Editor

"After reading your article in the May Newsletter, ("What To Do When Junior Doesn't Do What You Want It To Do") I recalled my first problem with my PCjr. I turned it on one day and to my complete surprise, NOTHING happened. No lights, no whirring, no monitor, no beeps, NADA.

"At that point, knowing nothing about computers, I looked in the phone book for a repair shop. No one was advertising repairs to the PCjr, but there were other shops advertising computer repair in small print. Obviously not their main business. A trip to one of these shops required the entire computer, less the printer, be taken to the shop.

"After a week I called and they told me it was the power supply (the brick), and it would cost \$75 to get a new one. I rebelled at that. I knew that the power supply was a transformer. Same thing as was used to run my trains years before.

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"Then my Navy training as an Electronics Tech came to the rescue. I took the computer back and paid a \$5 diagnostics charge. At home I took a good look at the brick. It looked as though it would come apart, so I began operating on it.

"Just taking the screws out of the bottom plate was not enough. Apparently the transformer packing material was holding things together. However, with a little screwdriver prying and pocket knife slicing I finally got the bottom plate off.

"Sure enough, there was the transformer and the expected diodes to convert the AC to DC. And, right in the middle of it all was a fuse. Blown. Fortunately, fuses have ratings printed on the end cap, so I simply went to a shop and got a replacement. Cost, 15 cents. After replacing the old fuse with the new, I put the brick back together and reconnected the computer. VOILA! It worked!

"So, the message here is, don't accept the shop's advice to buy a new brick. You will NEVER ruin a fused transformer. It simply can't be done. Oh, lighting strikes may do it, but if that is your problem, you don't even have a computer any more. (But of course, you always unplug your computer during an electrical storm! Right?)"

Clyde Dodge

Intergalactic User Group 1997 Newsletter Award

Many thanks to APCUG for awarding the Eugene PCjr Club's *Newsletter* a special award at the 10th Annual Intergalactic User Group Officer's Conference. We got the award in the Small Newsletter (less than 12 pages) competition.

Perhaps as important as the award itself was the handwritten note from the Contest Committee saying, "My announcement of your award, accompanied by a brief

explanation that you're the sole remaining PCjr User Group, was greeted with warm applause at Intergalactic." Each of you, the members of the Eugene PCjr Club, are to be congratulated!



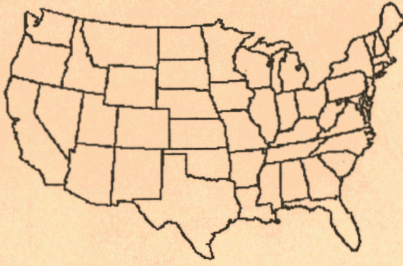
Product Review: ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door™

TravRoute Software of Princeton, New Jersey, graciously sent the Club a copy of their new software, ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door™. This program is a Windows 95, 32-bit application that provides turn-by-turn driving directions and maps between any two addresses anywhere nationwide.

So, why are we, a PCjr Club, doing a review of this program? Because TravRoute Software is GIVING us this \$49.95 program free of charge to use as a fund-raiser as long as we do a review in our newsletter and we know that some of you are using "other" computers at night in your basements.

Installation of this software is a snap. There are two CDs: one is the install program and the other is the data disk. The data disk must be in the CD ROM drive whenever you use ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door. When you install, you are given the option of a "normal" installation that will take up about 60 MB on your hard drive or an installation for optimal speed that will take up about 90 MB.

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This program is no slouch; they recommend a Pentium 133 MHz with 16 MB of RAM (or

more). This means that it won't run on most of our Juniors!

Using the 16-page reference manual that comes with ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door, we entered our first trip. We selected our home address and one of a friend in Port Angeles, Washington. Pressing the Run Trip button made the program start generating the driving directions.

Many things surprised us when we saw the results. We had used actual street addresses, so our trip actually started from our home and ended at our friend's front door. ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door actually told us what turns to make to get out of town and onto the Interstate. It gave us accurate distances and approximate driving times. But, it was those turns that really awe us; actual driving directions.

Next, we tried a local trip over to a member's house on Thurston Road. The quickest route was 16.0 miles and it should take about 27 minutes. The shortest route was only 14.6 miles, but took 11 minutes longer. ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door actually says to "go two blocks down (our street) (.3 miles) and turn left onto Willamette. Drive straight for 1.1 miles and turn right onto East 32nd," and it just kept telling us all the way until we were to turn off of the McKenzie Highway and drive "less than .1 mile" to our friend's house.

Both the driving directions and a "trip map" can be printed out so you can never get lost with ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door. You can place the cross-hair anywhere on the map and it's location will show, giving the street name and block number. Keep zooming in

and schools show up along with other land marks. A little RIP means it's a cemetery. I was somewhat taken back by the icon for an airport located just off 14th street in Springfield until I put the cross-hair on it and it told me the location was the McKenzie-Willamette Hospital Heliport. Practical Computer didn't show up, but it is amazing when we realized that this detail is there for ANYWHERE in the country.

Most any map program will fill the need of driving from city to city and with the AAA maps on the Internet now, you may wonder why anyone would pay \$49 for ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door. For one thing, ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door tells you how to get to someone's door step! It is much more accurate than other programs of this type in that you can change things like your personal average driving speeds on several types of roads. This is especially good if you are using an RV or truck and don't drive 65 miles per hour on the Interstates. And, as we said, the detail is actually amazing. Also, you get listings of motel, airline companies, car rental agencies and other important phone numbers.

Whether you choose to use kilometers or miles, use this program to find your way around town or across the country, ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door is a nice addition to your library of tools. I wish I owned a laptop so I could carry this package in my truck!

ROAD TRIPS Door-to-Door is a product of TravRoute Software, 1000 Herrontown Road, Princeton, NJ 08540 and sells for \$49.99. If you would like a copy, ask Louie about our Club's special pricing.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

October issue: Saturday, September 27th
 November issue: Saturday, November 1st
 December issue: Saturday, November 29th
 January issue: Saturday, December 27th
 February issue: Saturday, January 31st
 March issue: Saturday, February 28th
 April issue: Saturday, March 28th
 May issue: Saturday, May 2nd



CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS FOR 1997 - 98:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE</u>
Sep 11	Fall Picnic @ Emerald Park	Therese/Chris/Gordon/Phil
Oct 9	PCjr and Our Club Roots	Mike/Louie
Nov 13	Shareware Faire w/Raffle	Roy/Mike/Pauline
Dec 11	Holiday Potluck	Therese/Chris
Jan 8	Back to Basics (Hands On)	Louie/Mike
Feb 12	On-Line Banking, Using the Library and E-Mail	Lynn/Rosie
Mar 12	(To Be Determined)	
April 9	(To Be Determined)	
May 14	Spring Cleaning for Junior	Mike/Louie



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

