



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024. Eugene, OR 97405

VOLUME XV
NUMBER 3
SEPTEMBER 1999

MEETING AGENDA

The September meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Drive in Eugene on Thursday, September 9th.

Members, and friends are invited to attend this event that will start at 6PM.

OFFICERS

- President Mike Ruiz
- Treasurer and Club Store Phil Janz
- Social Director Lynn Miles
- Newsletter Editor Louie Levy

Please Note:

We will be including a complete membership listing with the December Newsletter. It will include names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of Club Members and will only be sent to those on our mailing list. If you would rather your name NOT be on the list, please let us know. Thanks



Mike's Message

If you've been around Eugene Oregon for the summer, like me, you may be wondering what happen to our summer. It's September, the Lane County Fair has come and gone, and the first days of school are just around the corner. It's time to turn our attention to the typical Fall, Winter and Spring routine of work. It's time for some to dust off their jr and get ready for another PCjr club year. I think it's still OK to hope for more summer, but look forward to Labor Day, football season and I really am looking forward to the Fall PCjr picnic.

Although our PCjr club year, as previously described, will be minimized this year, we will of course keep having a Fall picnic. September 9th, come to the picnic if you can and say hello and visit with club officers and other members. We can exchange stories about our summer fun, find out what others have been doing with their junior and eat great food. The picnic will be at the Emerald Park location again. I hope all that can will be there.



To begin the new year, I would like to thank those who have carried on correspondence with our out of town PCjr club members throughout the summer months. You may not be aware that many of our members do not live in Eugene. Many of those members don't realize we don't meet in the summer and their questions and e-mails don't really stop in May. Thanks to people like Phil Janz and Louie Levy our out of town members can stay in touch. All of our membership is important to us so these guys are really an asset. Thanks again to Louie and Phil.

Enough for now. Local members get out those recipes again and, hopefully, I'll see you at the picnic. For those of you that live out of town, I hope your Fall begins with some fun, and, I hope that all is going well. Remember, our club is still viable. We have been a club for at least fourteen and a half years because each of you contribute in some way. With your continued support and interest in the PCjr club, the *PCjr still lives!*

Have a great Fall and thanks,
Mike

Writing Assistant and Windows 95 and Windows 98

Possibly the most asked question your club gets is "will my old *Writing Assistant* program work on my new computer?" The answer, of course, is a resounding "YES."

Most folks had little to no problems using *Writing Assistant* with Windows 3.0 and 3.1. The only thing needed was to copy the files to a subdirectory using an original *Writing Assistant* disk's SETUP program. But, the SETUP programs with the Assistant series of software had its problems. The main drawback was being allowed to use SETUP only five times and no more. Many of us exceeded that even BEFORE Windows came out.

It wasn't all that long ago that many of us began using programs such as *COPYIIPC* or *COPYIIR* to make copies of our original *Writing Assistant* disk so we could use the SETUP program from these backup copies.

Next came the debug routine that would solve everyone's problem by making the *Writing Assistant* program "copyable." Using a debugged copy allowed us to copy *Writing Assistant* to our hard drive with no effort. We also could use DISKCOPY to make backup copies and even make self-booting *Writing Assistant* disks that allowed us to run our favorite writing program in a RAM drive environment on Junior.

Windows 95 and 98 has created new problems for us. For these operating systems, the *Writing Assistant* files are copied into a new folder in the Program Files subdirectory. A "shortcut" is made to the file WRITE.EXE and this shortcut is placed on the desktop. Double clicking on the icon runs the *Writing Assistant* program.

Should that last paragraph sound a little tricky and you feel that you may have trouble doing it, send a self-addressed envelope to the Club's PO Box and we'll get step-by-step instructions to you.

Why in the World Would I Want to Join a Computer Club that's 2000 Miles Away?

A quick answer can come from a search engine like "Ask Jeeves." You could go on-line and key in www.askjeeves.com and do a search for PCjr. If he could, Jeeves would say you should join the Eugene PCjr Club because there are no other PCjr Clubs around. But, this doesn't really get to the meat of the question.

Actually, if your hometown has a computer club you SHOULD join it. All of these clubs have a few tireless, dedicated folks who volunteer their time by answering your questions at each meeting and via telephone.

Still, only a few of them will know what a "max memory boot disk" is, why you have to have cartridge BASIC to run *Casino Master* and why *King's Quest* won't run on your "new" computer.

By joining that computer club "out in Eugene, Oregon" you become a member of a select group. Each member of that group not only owns the old IBM PCjr computer, but most of them are *using* the old IBM PCjr computer! Some of them are using Junior on a daily basis and it is their ONLY computer.

When you join this group, you become able to make the full resources of Eugene PCjr Club part of your personal knowledge bank. Need a part for your 128K Junior? They have it. Your "brick" quit humming? They have it. A fuse for your Junior monitor? Sure. A copy of *JrTele* for that 300 baud modem? How about a copy of "Hands On BASIC?" If it's for a



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Junior, the Eugene PCjr Club store, more than likely, has it. . .and much cheaper than most anywhere else—including eBay or those PCjr “stores” that Ask Jeeves will show you.

Answers? Well, if you have Junior questions, the Club is as close as your modem if you have e-mail. We’re as close as your phone if you don’t have a modem. And, as close as your mail box if you would rather write. Sure, you can write us with *Writing Assistant* or *Bank Street Writer*; we have many members who use nothing else.

Many times we have said that the Club is YOU. The Club is a collage of our diverse and eclectic membership and we learn from each other.

Questions that are sent to the Club are hashed out among those of us here in town and when we can’t come up with an answer, we put them out by e-mail to those members who are much more “in tune” with Junior. While the local group isn’t the technical backbone of the Club, we sure do know those members who are!

No one should be alone when they have a Junior question. Sitting by yourself in Noti, Oregon, Chitlingswitch, Alabama or in Hope, British Columbia and having your Junior say “Abort, Retry or Fail” is pretty disheartening without the backing of all those other members who are ready to help. Even on Flatbush Avenue, Junior can say some pretty sarcastic things in the evenings.

At one time there were many places to find help and parts for Junior. Now, doing an Internet search, a Junior owner finds very little out there. Most computer sites on the Internet don’t even know what a PCjr is!



There is something you can do: JOIN us! Be part of that Junior Web where folks can still find a compassionate ear when they have trouble. And, with

the membership list in your hand when you travel, you can always find friendly people to visit along your way. From Soldotna to Sandusky, from Washington State to Florida. Junior is still Alive!

Decisions, Decisions: Minutes from the June Meeting

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

At our last general membership meeting of the 1998-99 Club year, on June 10th, those in attendance reviewed the current Club year and looked forward to 1999-2000.

It was noted that when the Club was formed in 1985 our membership was about 65 and most were from the Eugene-Springfield area with a few located in other parts of Oregon. Now, our membership is still about 65 with the majority of our members spread across the U.S. and Canada, and only a hand full of members are in the local area!

The Club continues to serve its membership but its focus of services has shifted to meeting the needs of our far-flung membership and changing computer technology. It was decided that:

- * The Club year of 1999-2000 will include four local meetings, beginning on September 9, 1999.

- * Four "Jr Packed" Newsletters will be mailed to all Club members in September, December, February and May.

- * All Club annual family membership dues are set at \$12. As the Club is a "not-for-profit" group anyone wanting to take advantage of Club services must be a Club member.

- * The Club will publish and distribute to Club members revised Club Store catalogs for software, hardware, books, etc., pertaining to the IBM PCjr in the Fall of 1999.

- * The Club Web Page will be continued for the 1999-2000 Club year.

- * The Club will continue to respond to all Club e-mail requests, questions, and orders.

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* A current financial report was provided showing that the Club's checking account balance was \$2,660.89.

* The Club leadership was identified for the 1999-2000 Club year:

- . President.....Mike Ruiz
- . Treasurer.....Phil Janz
- . Newsletter Editor.....Louie Levy
- . Social Director.....Lynn Miles

Respectively Submitted, Phil Janz

And, from the editor::

June meetings are something the club doesn't normally do, so our attendance was somewhat down from normal. Summer *finally* got to Eugene (but, nothing like it was on the East Coast!) so it was understandable.



We were honored to have one of our "Founding Fathers," Dick Page visit us in June; it is always an honor to have him in attendance and hear his words of wisdom. . .and, we appreciate the equipment donation Dick made to the club!

Paul Bonney came to show off his new state-of-the-art hip. Paul was saying he had to upgrade his hip before he could upgrade his Junior. Seriously, though, all of us are glad to see Paul back on the ready-for-action list.

We did get some club business done as reported by Treasurer Phil Janz in the first part of this article. Mike Ruiz agreed to continue on as President and Phil Janz said he'd do another term as our Treasurer. I tried, but failed, to find another Newsletter editor, so I'll keep going with it. Lynn Miles said she would give Chris Merrigan a rest as Social Director, so we have a full slate.

Many of those present wanted to put Gordon LeManquais into one (all??) of these jobs, but as he wasn't able to attend the June meeting, we felt it best not to railroad him into anything ;-)

Speaking of Gordon, he continues to work hard for the club. Over the summer, Gordon found a family in need of a Junior to

help with their home schooling efforts. And, due to the unselfish generosity of an eBay seller who became a donor, the club was able to make a match.

We all know that one of the projects the club has is to place computers into homes of folks who can really use them, and with this placement, Gordon has made the club's outreach program more of a success.

Still, we need more support from you our membership. We don't have too many jobs or projects, but all of us need to be taking a more active interest if we are going to survive as a viable, helping Junior Club. Here are some ways that YOU can become more involved:

- ☛ If you know of anyone who is using a Junior, tell them about the club and actively recruit them to join.
- ☛ If you are doing something with your Junior that you feel would be of interest to others in your club, write a short article about it for the Newsletter.
- ☛ If you are using a program that is not in our Shareware Library, make a copy and send it to the Club. (Be sure it's Shareware or Freeware, though, and not commercial software.)
- ☛ If you like to tinker with computers, how about using some of your skills on some Juniors to get them in operating condition so they can be put in the club's outreach project or in the store catalog.
- ☛ How about trying to get some of those modems we have up and on-line.
- ☛ Send the Club a list of things you use your Junior for. Many members would use their Juniors for more than just letter writing and e-mail if they knew what (and how) to do it.
- ☛ Add your name to the NEED HELP? list the club maintains. Now that the Eugene PCjr Club isn't just located in Lane County, we need mentors everywhere who will volunteer their time to help other Junior owners.
- ☛ If you have a working computer you are no longer using, donate it to someone who can put



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it to use. We do that locally, but you can do that wherever you live.

☛ Volunteer your time to help—not only to your club, but help anyone who needs it!

Q I acquired a PC Enterprises Configuration Plus cartridge but it had no instructions on how to set the switches. Where can I find out this information?

A I don't know. Seriously, though, I would first try e-mailing PC Enterprises (webmaster@pcenterprises.com) and see if they would supply you with this information. Also, if you are a member who is reading this and can supply us with this information, how about letting us know and we'll pass it on.

The Configuration Plus cartridge this member asks about is very unique. It has three lights on it that will signal when the Caps Lock is turned on on your keyboard. Two other lights indicate the Scroll Lock and Numbers Lock.



Several small DIP switches are also provided that allow the user to set up several options at boot-up. One, the PC/PCjr Identifier Switch, permits the user to set what is known as the "system identification byte" so that software that checks to see if it is being run on a Junior or a PC can be used in the mode that is required. This is especially useful for some of the Sierra-On-Line software that can give the message "will not run on a PCjr."

This switch also will allow you to run "regular" BASIC on your Junior. Doing so will free up one of the two cartridge slots on the front of Junior.

We mentioned the indicator lights that will give you a visual reminder that the Caps Lock, Num Lock or Scroll Lock has been set on the keyboard. If you use *Writing Assistant*,

the Scroll Lock can be changed to give you a visual indication if you have Insert or Type Over chosen on your keyboard.

The Configuration Plus cartridge allows the option of starting Junior in either 40 or 80 column mode without software. The same is true for color or black-and-white mode.

Junior users may want to take a look at PC Enterprises Web page, as this cartridge is still available. This is one item that your Club Store seldom has on hand.

Q While in the Portland Airport, I read about the Eugene PCjr Club in one of the local "throwaway" computer papers that one finds laying around places like that. As we have nothing in our area like that nice informative newspaper, I was wondering if you had any subscription data for it. Unfortunately, I do not remember the name of the paper.

A The newspaper you are referring to was undoubtedly "*Computer Bits Magazine*." We like to think of it as a giveaway newspaper instead of a throwaway, but *Computer Bits* does offer subscriptions and you can get a copy delivered to your door anywhere in the US by sending a check for \$30 to Subscriptions, *Computer Bits*, PO Box 329, Forest Grove, OR 97116. You can also visit their WEB site at www.computerbits.com

Efn Upgrades Service

All of us in the Lane County area have had a close association with Oregon Public Networking for quite some time. Eugene Freenet is the Internet Service Provider that operates under the OPN umbrella and gives free or low cost community access to the Internet.

This past month has seen Efn upgrade their computers and modems to make access to the Internet faster and more reliable for all of us. Well, nearly all of us. The new Portmaster PM3 Access Servers they installed do not

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accept modem speed of less than 2400 baud. What's a poor Junior owner to do?

The Club has contacted EFN's support staff about this and they are doing everything that is possible to provide our

membership with continuing access. Of course, the problem lies with our Juniors and our slow modems; not EFN's.

If you are using a modem with a speed of at least 2400 baud, you will have no problem other than the need to change EFN's access phone number to 762-4321. The old numbers we have been using will be phased out soon. Very soon if not already!

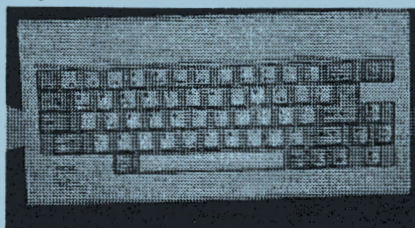
EFN's goal is to provide Internet access to all of our community at a reasonable cost, or at no cost to those who meet certain guidelines. They are doing this, but it is up to us to have the necessary computing equipment that will "mesh" with their's.

In this light, they are offering computers on a "loan" basis to those who presently do not have computers capable of meeting their minimum standards. Give them a call if you feel you qualify for this service.

300 and 1200 baud is pretty slow by today's standards; actually these speeds are slow by standards from 10 years ago! Few, if any, Internet Service Providers still have equipment that can operate at such speeds. Give us a call if you are in this situation!

Quirky Keyboard

This is the term we heard over the summer when an e-mailer was asking about Junior's "enhanced" keyboard. Well, this isn't our term for the cordless, 15 years-ahead-of-its-time keyboard. . .that's STILL working.



Junior's keyboard is very unique even if it is somewhat

"quirky." Using four penlight batteries, you can key in documents while you sit on the sofa or easy chair a long way from your Junior. All you need do is keep the "magic eyes" lined up with the little hole in the front of Junior.

About the only keyboard on the market that has ever had a neoprene safety shield built into it, spills onto Junior's keyboard, while bad, are not devastating like they would be with other keyboards. You can take Junior's keyboard apart and not only remove the dust, but you can wash it!

Using the keyboard cord, you can keep right on keying without batteries. Your only limitations here are the length of cord you have. You no longer have to keep the keyboard in line with the IR sensor on the front of Jr.

Still, many Junior users prefer to use larger more standard keyboards. You can do this by purchasing the Keytronic KB5151jr keyboard that plugs into Junior's K connector. While this keyboard was pretty spendy when they were first manufactured, they are well within everyone's budget now.

Other keyboards require an adapter of some sort. Only XT-type keyboards will work with Junior, but there were several adapters made to modify these keyboards for Junior use.

One such adapter was a unit made by Synectics Software and Systems that replaced the IR sensor in Junior's case. It had a little jumper that attached to one of Junior's chips, but other than that, was very easy to use.

Another was made by RACORE and this adapter had a two-way plug that attached to the K and LP ports on the back of Junior. If you had socket protectors on your Junior (and everyone should), you had to break out the spacer between the two sockets, but it was well worth it. The RACORE adapter allowed both the original Junior keyboard and any XT-type keyboard to be used simultaneously.

Large keyboards are nice if you do a lot of keyboarding. They are nice if you are into number crunching and know a numeric keypad well so you can just turn the "num-lock" on.

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But, the Junior keyboard is nice, too. The function keys work like the template says they do with the Assistant series. The size is perfect! Of course WordPerfect's "home, home, up" keystroke is somewhat difficult! It becomes "function home, function home, up."



Yahoo! The Fall Picnic!

It seems summer has flown and fall is around the corner. With the appearance of September, it is time to start thinking about the new year ahead for the PCjr.

We always start the year with a special picnic and potluck. If you haven't attended before, get in your eating and socializing mode and join us for an evening you'll long remember. We hope that many of our past friends and members will be able to attend this year.

Imagine diving into all the fried chicken and corn on the cob you can eat plus lots of delicious salads and desserts. Plan on bringing your families plus your own dinnerware and a salad or dessert of your choice. The club furnishes fried chicken, corn on the cob and beverages.

We will be meeting under shelter One at Emerald Park next Thursday, September 9th. Take a look at the map to jog your memory if

you are not sure where Emerald Park is located. Or give me a call if you need more instructions. We will meet rain or shine.

This promises to be an interesting year for your club so join us for interesting discussions, the renewal of old friendships and a glimpse of the future. See you there!

Lynn Miles, Social Chairperson

Q I found your Web page on the Internet and was wondering if your club is still around, and, if it is, just how much longer will it be around? I subscribed to both the jrNewsletter and to The Junior Report a few years back and neither one are still here. I also belonged to a Junior Club here in Southern California that was absorbed into another and then another club until I had no idea what they were talking about. Before I send you my twelve bucks, I need to know more about your Club.

A The best answer we can give you is, "we are different." First of all, the publications you mentioned were, by far, the best newsletters for Junior users around at that time. But, they were commercial newsletters. While they helped all of us early on, they were published for profit. When they no longer were profitable, they closed shop.

The Eugene PCjr Club publishes its "Newsletter" as part of its many functions as a computer club. It doesn't publish it to make a profit. Actually, the newsletter is the club's greatest expense item. As long as the club's funds hold out the newsletter will be around.

The term "your club" is a little misleading as most of our members feel it is "our club." I'm just the newsletter editor who is answering some of the e-mail so it isn't "my" club. It is a not for profit computer club and as such doesn't "belong" to anyone.

As no one "owns" the club, no one person can say "close it" or that could merge us with another club. While I am sure many of our members belong to other computer clubs, the Eugene PCjr Club's membership is very

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devoted to the PCjr and most want to keep it that way.

The Club did a survey a while back to see if the newsletter could be spiced up some by including items of interest that may deal with other computers of more recent technology. More than 90% of the respondents said to keep the newsletter "junior only."

The Club will stop when the members want it to stop. As the Club is made up of members, we will stop when we start NOT supporting each other. So, if you are still a Junior user, and would like to see us continue, how about joining?

HOW TO REACH THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB

FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is available for \$12 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.

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 are 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 INQUIRIES:

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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P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

