



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024. Eugene, OR 97405

VOLUME XV
NUMBER 4
DECEMBER 1999

MEETING

AGENDA

The December meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club is the Annual Christmas Pot Luck. It will be held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road in Eugene on Thursday, December 9th. Setup will begin at 6:00 and we will eat at 6:30PM

Members, and friends are invited to attend this event. Please call Lynn Miles at 484-5063 if you have questions.

OFFICERS

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



Mike's Message

It's December. Thanksgiving has come and gone. Hopefully you've gotten all your winterizing complete such as raking the leaves, cleaning the gutters and bringing in the barbecue. Winter weather is here and tis' the season to sit by the fireplace and contemplate the end of the 1999 year gone by. I hope you have accomplished all of your 1999 resolutions.

It's also the time of year to get out those bells and lights and holly. Christmas is nearly upon us. By now the decorations should be up, all the Christmas gifts are bought and wrapped and under the tree. If not, you'd better get going--there's not much time left.

In a couple of weeks a new year will begin. The year 2000 could provide an interesting beginning and then it may not. Could it be the end of the world as we know it? What do you think the impact will be if the first two numbers in the date (19) do not turn to 20? Who knows? Personally, I think we'll all be fine. For those of you using a PCjr the year 2000 will be no problem. Junior and all the software associated will work great! When the New Year comes, it will be interesting.

And speaking of the year 2000, January 1, 2000 the PCjr club will have been in existence for over fourteen years! With all the big machines in the world, who would have guessed that such a little peanut would have made it into a new millennium. I'm sure the reason is that the Eugene PCjr Club membership is strong and remains loyal. The club is still together locally and continues to grow nationally. The PCjr club has added a new dimension with its out of town members. As another year goes by, I would like to thank all of our members, locally and abroad for your continued support, and hope that all of you have a great Y2K.

December also brings one of the PCjr great traditions to light. Our annual Christmas potluck will assemble again at the Norkenzie Church of Christ. Like years in the past Darlene Gotzman has been so kind to reserve us a spot. The church is a wonderful location and the potlucks are always lots of fun. People will bring cheer and happiness. I hope to hear stories about some of the wonderful vacations some of you had a chance to take. There will be great food and gifts. The PCjr Christmas potluck is one of my favorites.

And, just a before Christmas note. Don't forget that a computer, disks or accessories from the club store would make great Christmas gifts for someone you know. We have a catalog of items available and would love to lessen our inventory. Get a catalog now from Phil Janz and shop--I think you'll like it.

That's it for now. See you at the potluck, and for those that can't make it have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year,

Mike

It is with much sadness that we report the death of Ben Page who died on November 4th. Ben was a member from the very first day his father started the Eugene PCjr Club. Our condolences and prayers go out to Ben's parents, Dick and Carol Page and to his sister, Cindy Page. Ben will be missed by us all.

Tornado Hits Member's Home



Last May 3rd was a very frightening day for PCjr Club member Bob Jantz and his family. That was the day that one of

the largest tornados to ever hit Oklahoma City came charging into town.

The tornado took dead aim on Bob's business, completely destroying the building all the way down to the slab. Bob's home was heavily damaged with the roof, ceilings, east and south walls being blown away.

There isn't much we can do to prepare ourselves for things like this. Surge protectors can't help Junior when it gets blown away with all the rest of the house.

We at the Club hope Bob and his family are well on their way to rebuilding now. Also, we are glad none of them were injured and we hope the first item on their agenda is a storm cellar!

CHRISTMAS



Disk Drives and Junior

If you haven't replaced the disk drive in your Junior yet, it is AT LEAST 16 years old! As it and the cooling fan are the only moving parts in the PCjr, many of our drives are living on borrowed time.

Our Juniors use a 5.25" 360K disk drive. It is next to impossible to find a new replacement drive should you need to replace your old one. Our only alternative is to purchase a used drive.

Most thrift stores and even some computer repair shops have some pretty good drives available. The disk drives in the IBM PCs and clones are usually interchangeable with the disk drives in the PCjr.

Still, you need to take some close looks at the replacement drive. Electronically, the drives may be identical, but you must make sure they will fit physically. Here are some pointers to keep in mind.

Make sure the latch on the front of the drive will clear the opening in front of Junior. The drive is recessed, so the latch must clear the case. You may have to modify your Junior to make it fit!

Take a look inside your Junior. Note that the flat ribbon connector attaches to the drive on the right rear of the drive. Note how the cooling fan attaches to the left side of the drive housing, so the connector must be on the right. Your replacement drive must have the ribbon connector in the same location as the original drive. Normally, the small power connector isn't any problem, but make sure.

Before you replace your drive, clean it with one of the disk drive cleaning kits. You need to rule out the chance that you may have just a dirty drive.

If you can't find a replacement disk drive locally, PCjr Club members can purchase one from the Club Store. Other sources are PC Enterprises (1-800-922-PCjr) or Computer Reset (214 276-8072). Or, check the Internet.

Preserve Your Power Supply

Your PCjr power supply will give you longer service if you disconnect it when it's not in use. IBM recommends unplugging your PCjr from the wall outlet when you finish using your computer. Unplugging eliminates the chance of an electrical surge caused by lightning or power fluctuations damaging your cherished PCjr. Even lightning strikes nearby can cause destructive surges. Disconnecting is also said to prolong the life of the power supply.

We highly suggest using a high quality surge protector! Plug all of your computing components (monitor, printer, modem, etc.) into it and simply turn off the surge protector's switch when you leave your computer. An added benefit to using the surge protector's switch is that you save wear and tear on the switches of all your computing components.

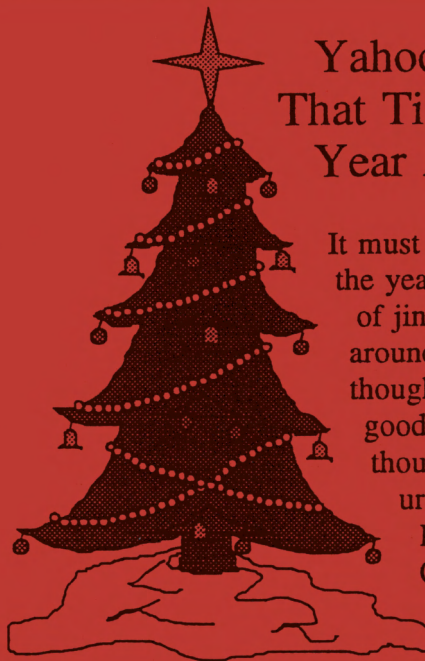
A "power strip" with a series of outlets on it is not necessarily a protection against electrical surges. Be sure to get one that is specifically labeled "surge protector."

As our Juniors get older and replacement parts become more scarce, it is important that we try to protect all of Junior's components. The power supply does have fuse protection, but it is VERY difficult to replace the fuse as it is in the molded case of the transformer.

If you need to replace any of Junior's parts, your Club should be the first place to look. Check the Store catalog or e-mail Phil at rp_janz@efn.org. As with any purchase, you should check around for the best price--I know where that will be!!



Yahoo! It's That Time of The Year Again!



It must be that time of the year... The sound of jingle bells echoes around the malls, and thoughts of Christmas goodies plague our thoughts and figures. Ah yes! The PCjr Club Christmas party and potluck is almost here.

Christmas is a time when our thoughts reach out to families and this year we would like to be with as many of our PCjr family members as possible. If you have been telling yourself, "It is time to go back and see our PCjr friends," there could be no better time than at this year's Christmas potluck and party!

The club will furnish the Honey Baked ham. You bring salads or desserts, your table service, and an inexpensive wrapped Christmas present for our gift exchange (a nice white elephant will do).

Come celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with us at 6:00 P.M. at Norkenzie Church of Christ, (the back entrance) on December 9th. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give me a call (484-5063).



Lynn Miles, Social Events

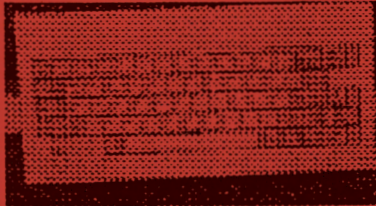
PCjr Music Machine -

Using the PCjr is a neat way to teach the kids to write their own music! The PCjr Music Machine program will display notes and tones as you write the music using your Junior's keyboard. Play it back in three voice harmony. Even adjust the key, tempo, note values, etc. Works well with 128K. Disk E-107 in the Club Library.



Junior's Special Keys

Ever wonder how to turn on the keyboard "clicking" sound?



Remember how to run Junior's Internal Diagnostics? Here are those things you forgot to remember!

Keyboard Click: press Alt-Ctrl-Caps Lock keys. This will allow Junior's keyboard to make that clicking noise as you type.

Internal Diagnostics: press Alt-Ctrl-Insert keys. This will start Junior's ROM based diagnostics program.

Keyboard Adventure: Press the ESC key right after the BASIC screen comes up. This will begin the "Keyboard Adventure" game. Make sure that there are no disks in the drive and that Cartridge BASIC is NOT installed in Junior.

Screen Centering: Ctrl-Alt-left arrow key or right arrow key. This will center the text on Junior's screen.

Here's a Great Web Site to try:
www.efn.org/~pcjrclub

50 Years and Counting. . .

Congratulations to Jerry and Margie Wills, our members from Creswell, OR, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Let's hope they have many, many more years together!

NEED HELP? Contact These Club Members:

BASIC or WordStar:

Paul Bonney - pkby587@juno.com

PC-FILE III or WordPerfect:

Louie Levy - pcjrclub@efn.org

Writing Assistant or Name Pal:

Phil Janz - rp_janz@efn.org

Lynn Miles - kathrynm@efn.org

E-Mail:

Lynn Miles - kathrynm@efn.org

Judy Young - judy_y@efn.org

Rosy Janz - rp_janz@efn.org

Communications Programs:

Mike Ruiz - ruizmj@juno.com

Gordon LeManquais - oreauctioner@juno.com

Hardware Problems:

Louie Levy - pcjrclub@efn.org

Mike Ruiz - ruizmj@juno.com

Spreadsheets or WordPerfect:

Mike Ruiz - ruizmj@juno.com

The Disk Library, Parts and Supplies:
All in The Club Store

Phil Janz - rp_janz@efn.org

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

The Night Before Y2K

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 'Twas the night before Y2K,
 And all through the nation
 We awaited The Bug,
 The Millennium sensation.

The chips were replaced
 In computers with care,
 In hopes that ol' Buggy
 Wouldn't stop there.

Continued on next page-->

While some folks could think
They were snug in their beds
Others had visions
Of dread in their heads.

And Ma with her PC,
And I with my Mac
Had just logged on the Net
And kicked back with a snack.

When over the server,
There arose such a clatter
I called Mister Gates
To see what was the matter.

But he was away,
So I flew like a flash
Off to my bank
To withdraw all my cash.

When what with my wandering eyes
Should I see?
My good old Mac
Looked sick to me.

The hack of all hackers
Was looking so smug,
I knew that it must be
The Y2K Bug!

His image downloaded
In no time at all,
He whistled and shouted,
Let all systems fall!

Go Intel! Go Gateway!
Now HP! Big Blue!
Everything Compaq,
And Pentium too!

All processors big,
All processors small,
Crash away! Crash away!
Crash away all!

All the controls
That planes need for their flights
All microwaves, trains
And all traffic lights.

As I drew in my breath
And was turning around,
Out through the modem,
He came with a bound.

He was covered with fur,
And slung on his back
Was a sackful of virus,
Set for attack.

His eyes-how they twinkled!
His dimples-how merry!
As midnight approached, though
Things soon became scary.

He had a broad little face
And a round little belly,
And his sack filled with virus
Quivered like jelly.

He was chubby and plump,
Perpetually grinning,
And I laughed when I saw him
Though my hard drive stopped spinning.

A wink of his eye,
And a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know
A new feeling of dread.

He spoke not a word,
But went straight to his work,
He changed all the clocks,
Then turned with a jerk.

With a twitch of his nose,
And a quick little wink,
All things electronic
Soon went on the blink.

He zoomed from my system,
To the next folks on line,
He caused such a disruption,
Could this be a sign?

Then I heard him exclaim,
With a loud, hearty scream,
Happy Y2K to all,
Now, wake up from this dream!

author unknown

Free Internet Service?

There are several "free" Internet Service Providers, but so far only one has a Eugene telephone number. Check out www.netzero.com on the Web. NetZero does support fast modems, but you have to have Windows 95 or newer on your computer.

Those of you outside of Eugene may want to check with iFreedom at www.ifreedom.com, another free ISP. Again, you have to have a newer "junior clone" with Windows 95 or newer.

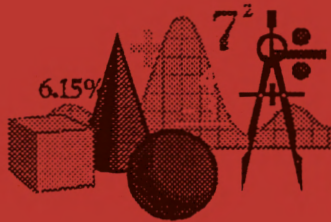
THE CLUB STORE CHRISTMAS SALE!

Some of our members have requested we include a listing in the newsletter of several Xmas suggestions for Junior. Most of our Juniors have been very good to us and nearly all of them deserve to be remembered. While most of us know that our Club is a not-for-profit computer club, some may not realize just how extensive the "Club Store" has become. I am sure that most of you have our Club Store Catalog and we are regularly adding new hardware and software items. Here are several hot holiday specials for Club Members.

One of a kind! An almost complete set of the original "PCjr Magazines" from 1984. Issues one through 10, excluding issue #6. All nine volumes are in excellent condition...no pages removed or damaged. Each issue contains from about 100 pages to 160 pages and are chocked full of articles about such things as games, DOS, Modems, Enhanced Memory, Add-Ons, Productive Software, etc. Issues Number One and Two are \$3.50 each while issues 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are \$2.50 each (\$24.50). A Club Christmas Special on these 9 hard to find magazines for \$20 plus \$3 shipping!



Try a full-size keyboard on your "Jr"! The Keytronic 5151jr was made specifically for the PCjr and sold originally for \$225. There is no adapter needed as it plugs directly into the back of "Jr". All function key strokes can be done with one key instead of the two required on your PCjr Enhanced Keyboard. Treat yourself to an upgrade on this holiday special. Listed in our catalog at \$27.50 + shipping now just \$20 including shipping!



Want to get into a powerful spread sheet program with your 128K Jr? Lotus 1 2 3 developed a PCjr cartridge version especially for our little Peanut! It boots, runs and works quickly, listing originally for \$495. It is included in the Club Store Catalog for \$20 plus postage. A special holiday offering allows you to purchase this quality program for \$12 including shipping!

Flight Simulator by Microsoft -- the very first "real" simulation game. It is much, much more than a game and runs on a 128K Junior! A realistic program that can be enjoyed by novices and seasoned pilots alike. Sit in the cockpit and "fly" cross country to your destination and don't forget to land before you run out of fuel! Listed in our catalog for only \$7.50 plus shipping you can now add this classic to your disk library for a holiday special of only \$6 including shipping!



*Merry 15th Christmas
From All of Us
In the Eugene PCjr Club!*

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John
Amirault
in Susquehanna,
PA; Roy and Patricia
Arbini in Milwaukie, OR;
Robin Bently in Eugene; Pauline
and Brandon Bacod in Eugene; Paul
Bonney in Eugene; James Bruns in Rochester,
NY; Jon Camp in West Peterborough, NH; Lucretia
Carter in Soldotna, AK; Marita Cicon in New Milford,
PA; Amber Cornell in Montrose, PA; William Colson in
Burlingame, CA; Thomas Dadey in Pittsburgh, PA; Clyde Dodge
in Mountain View, CA; Yanik Freeman in White Horse, Yukon
Canada; Helen Fry in Eugene; Bob Gauthier in Coventry, CT; Brenda
Gill in Blackshear, GA; Darlene Gotzman in Eugene; Elmer J. Hungate
in Crane, MO; Bob Jantz in Oklahoma City; Phil and Rosie Janz in Eugene;
Ron Khanna in Brampton, Ontario Canada; Joan Kotalik in Wilmington, DE;
The LeManquais Family in Springfield, OR; Elleen and Louie Levy in Eugene;
Robert Luther in Lake Worth, FL; Claudia Maple in New Braunfels, TX; Paul
Mastenbroek in Woodbridge, Ontario Canada; Nancy McFadden in Eugene; The
Merrigan Family in Eugene; Lynn Miles Delker in Eugene; Opal Nelson in Cottage
Grove, OR; The Page Family in Eugene; The Folks at Rally Electronics in Lincoln, NE;
Benoit Piette in
Montral, Quebec
Canada; Jim Reeves
in Valley City, ND;
Ryan Richardson in
Bartlett, TN; The
Mike Ruiz Family
in Eugene; George and Martha Rypinski
in Eugene; George Sorensen in Lincoln,
NE; Stanley Suho in Bridgeview, IL; The
Sundahl Family in Eugene; Margie and
Jerry Wills in Creswell, OR; Bob Young in
Millford, OH; Judy and Billy Young in Eugene

HOW TO REACH THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB

FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is available for \$12 per year per house. Membership provides each member of the household access to the Club Disk Library, individualized help and support, 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.



EUGENE PCjr CLUB

P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

