Mike's Message
by Mike Ruiz

Yes, it is October and for some of us, a new school year begins. Students are busily doing homework and trying to adapt to the Fall 97 schedule. Football season has begun. Oregon Duck fans should be happy, so far! For PCjr owners, it's time to dust off Junior and get ready for a new 97/98 PCjr Club year. I feel this year promises to keep us all enthusiastic.

The excellent summer evening at our Annual Junior Club Picnic in September jump-started members into the new year. Fried chicken,corn on the cob, pies, poppy seed cake and those wonderful brownies(!) made the evening another potluck success. Precluding the food, a silent auction was taken advantage of by a few members. And, after our hearty meal, our resident auctioneer, Gordon LeManquais, auctioned off a Junior complete with monitor, keyboard and the works. Congratulations to Therese Hartman -- she got a great deal!

Our monthly meetings will now begin. Remember that the Club meets on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road. Most of us know our way there, but if you need directions, call Phil Janz (343-1059), Louie Levy (343-7592) or myself (687-8361). One of us can get you headed in the right direction. The Club Store and the Disk Library might be just the ticket this time of year. The best part of the October meeting will be the demos, programs and of course the treats.

Louie and I will be presenting a short program dedicated to the PCjr and our Club's Roots. I hope that we can deliver info and interesting facts that will give members an idea of just how special the PCjr is. Information of where Junior comes from, when it was invented, when the first one was introduced to the world and how it was such a success will be discussed. Our own club roots will be the highlight of the presentation.

Hopefully, we will have some programs to demo that won't take long so we can have more time for socializing and eating those treats. Sounds great to me! Most all of you have PCjrs. Make the most of your Club; come to the meeting and make using your Junior worthwhile. Or, come to the meeting and help make someone else's Junior more worthwhile to them. Helping each other will make us all get the most out of our PCjrs. That's what we are all about. See you there!

Mike

Junior Nostalgia

Mike Ruiz

In the March 1984 issue of *PCjr Magazine* an article about a computer show in Las Vegas caught my eye. I've been looking through some of the 1984 magazines thinking about where the PCjr came from. The article was titled "Junior Steals The Show." The first sentence starts with a question: "Want a gigabyte of memory for your home computer?" asked a silver-haired gentleman who popped out of nowhere. The author wasn't sure it would hook up to his PCjr, but it was a wonderful fantasy. (I'm not sure it wouldn't!)

The December 1984 show in Las Vegas covered seven convention halls and more than 13 miles. People hustled about searching for the latest technologies for an IBM Personal Computer. Engineers and the like hunted for ideas to borrow and take home, possibly coming up with projects of their own.

The author writes, "Excitement about the newest member of the IBM family babbled under the surface." The Junior had not been seen by a lot of people yet. One wing of the Main exhibit hall was devoted to Big Blue—IBM. The centerpiece was six dozen Juniors ready for hands-on use by anyone interested. The IBM centerpiece, the Junior, did "steal the show" that week in December.

The Junior was such a success that manufacturers of software raced to get new products on the market. Many manufacturers realized they wouldn't even have to advertise; Junior would do all the selling fot them.

In less than a month suppliers offered new products. Believe it or not, before Junior was released a case to carry it had already been produced. Tecmar, a company some of us have heard of, announced that a week after the show, products for Junior would be available. Less than a month after Junior's introduction outside suppliers were ready to stretch its capabilities beyond what was first imagined.

It was an exciting time in computer history. 1984 -- less than fourteen years ago. Wow! I for one am excited about our 97/98 year. Junior was great then. . .it is still great in my book.

What Should I Do With My Old Junior?

Louie Levy

More and more, this question seems to be uppermost in much of the correspondence the Club has been getting. Now that we have a web site on thr Internet, we get many inquires from all over. As folks are purchasing newer and bigger computers (even some of our members), this question is coming up more often. Junior is moved from it's room and "the new" computer is soon sitting in Junior's place.

Next thing you know we start getting the calls. "How do you call up all those files I did in Writing Assistant?" "Am I going to have to key in all those names in NamePal again?" "How do I make mailing labels with my new ink-jet printer?" "Can I convert the art I made with ColorPaint so I can use it on my new web page?" "Will Netscape run with my old 2400 baud modem?" And then the big one: "What should I do with my old Junior?"

We have been fending this question for quite some time. Folks started moving to the 386's and then the 486's and moving "on out" of our little club. Some would sell their old peanut to someone else in their neighborhood and we would soon have a new member who needed to learn about DOS 2.1 and King's Quest. . .not King's Quest I, II or IV, but the "old" King's Quest.

Several years ago when individuals decided to dispose of their Juniors, we would run an advertisement for them in the Club Newsletter so the old owner could find a new owner (and we could find a new member). This was not a problem for the Club as we could hold the same workshops over and over as new members would come to replace those who had sold their Juniors to others.

For the past year or so, resale prices for Juniors, along with many other computers, have been such that it is much better for owners to consider donating their old Juniors to the local Goodwill, or contribute it to the Eugene PCjr Club, rather than try to sell it. In fact, it is no longer cost effective for the Club to work out arrangements to pay for the shipping of donations to the Club. Still, the question comes as to what should be done with them.

Well, it didn't take a computer nerd to come to the realization that some of our members were using "other" computers. For example, some of our members have e-mail addresses at JUNO, and at Internet Service Providers like America On-Line whose software only runs under a Windows environment. Yet, they are members of the Eugene PCjr Club!

Why are these folks still active members if they have all the fancy computer equipment that runs at 200 MHz instead of 3.8 MHz, the bells and whistles that play Tchaikovsky from a CD in a computer that doesn't even have a 360K drive? Why are they still in the Eugene PCjr Club? Just what did we have to offer THEM? And, better yet, what did THEY do with their Juniors?

One of our members has an XT, a 486 PCjr clone, a Pentium AND a MAC sitting right along with a PCjr in his "office." Another member has TWO IBM PS/2 computers, an Apple 2e (I think it is) along with his Junior. One of our members confided that she had to use her Junior to e-mail IBM when her hard drive quit before the warrantee was out on her "new" Aptiva computer. And, another member has been using her Junior (again, for e-mail) because her "big" machine has been having trouble with Netscape and Windows 3.1.

The one thing all of these folks have in common is that they did NOT get rid of their Junior! They made room in "Junior's room" for another machine when they saw they had a need for some unknown thing or job that Junior couldn't, or at least wouldn't, do for them. But all of them still use their "old buddy!"

And, sitting beside all these other machines, Junior looks GOOD! Junior's old monitor looks as good as most monitors, and better than some! Junior sure boots up faster than Windows 95 and, unlike Windows 95 and Mac's OS 2, it doesn't talk back to you when you pull the plug by mistake. And, kids love Junior; especially grandkids. From what I understand, some members have gone through several keyboards on their clones, but are still on their first original Junior keyboard.

One member said, "Get rid of Junior? You're kidding! I know I can multi-task on the big computer, but it's sure nice to be able to call up old programs, text or code I've written on Junior's screen while I revise it in C++ (what's C++?) on the other one. And, when editing web pages, it's wonderful to have one computer screen showing HTML (what's HTML?) text while the other is in Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator."

If you are convinced you are ready to say good-bye to your old "Peanut" and you don't know what to do with it, the Club will try to find someone to "adopt" it. But, for answering that question, "what should I do with my Junior?" Our advice is to keep it and do the same things with it that you have done all along. You may have to slide it over to make a little room for your other machine or machines, but you'll never have another computer like your good old trusty Junior!

Parent's Guide to the Internet
(Part two)

Last month we started our introduction into the Internet for Junior users. And, while we know that none of us are "seeing" pictures from the Internet with our Juniors, many of us are using our "PCjr Clones" either at work or at home to surf the net. Also, our kids are using computers at school to connect to the Internet. Here in Eugene, you can use computers at the City Library, at LCC or the University of Oregon Library to connect to the net.

Originally, the Internet was set up for the use of the United States Defense Department. It didn't take long before higher education made it a much larger network. Now, nearly every school in the nation has an active interest in the Internet. Most non-profit groups use the Internet along with many businesses. Every governmental agency is there along with most cities, counties and states.

On line, from your home, you or your children can use nearly every encyclopedia published. Maps are available anywhere from satellite imagery to street maps of Istanbul. You can check news with UPI, Dow Jones, Mother Earth or Wired. Database information is available from the Mormon Church, U. S. Census Bureau and the Center For Disease Control in Atlanta. You can shop for used cars, computer software, find rental property in Tampa or a pen pal in Oakridge. You can look at pictures from anywhere by going to any country or any city's chamber of commerce.

The down side of all this is that individuals, companies or groups can place derogatory comments or literature on the net. You can view pictures from pinups to gross pornography with the click of a mouse. You can order anything from adult movies to videos on how to make letter bombs. Still, by most estimates, these sleazy things make up less than 1 percent of all content of the Internet.

It is this 1 percent that requires all of us to supervise Internet use by family members. This means knowing where your child is going on the

Internet. You need to know what your children are actually using the net for. Unsupervised "surfing" should be discouraged. While our children know much better how to use this technology than most of us, we need to be with them when they are using the Internet.

Many schools have installed software that will block sites that may be inappropriate for children. One such software package is SurfWatch. This program will actually connect the computer it is installed on to SurfWatch in Los Altos, CA and update itself every few weeks so your computer cannot connect with these undesirable sites. Just remember that it can't cover every offensive thing out there.

Sites that offer "adult-style" material nearly always have warnings prior to showing inappropriate material. Self-policing is normal for these sites, and most of them want a credit card number. They do not want underage people on their sites as they are in business and kids don't spend the kind of money these people are looking for. Still, anyone can key in "yes, I'm of legal age" and continue. Supervision is the key.

Next month, we will show how this super-vision can pay off in good grades for your children and knowledge for yourself.

Louie Levy

Hangman Overhauled
(among other things)

Our Library Disk E-111, Norland Software's Hangman, has been overhauled. Prompted on by members, our two disk librarians have been busy over the summer. One job was to make disk E-111 into a self-booting disk.

Hangman has always been a nice program that would run on a 128K Junior. Now, all you need to do is put it in your disk drive and turn on Junior. This will take you right to the Options Menu.

From the menu, you can select easy (Amateur) or hard (Expert) levels of play. You can turn the sound on or off along with beeps and clicks, and you may select to have a timed (stressful) or a non-timed game. This menu is split, so you can also choose the game you wish to play from this same screen.

This is a great disk with four different type of Hangman games on it. If you don't have it, you should get a copy. . .and, yes, as with all programs from the library, you can trade in your old copy of E-111 for this new "upgrade" free!

Over the summer other things were done, too. Volunteers fixed several Juniors, a lot of calls were answered along with much e-mail. Anyone who

would like to volunteer to help in these behind-the-scenes workings of the Club can call Mike, Phil or Louie. . .anytime! They can sure put you to work! Remember what they say:

To Get More Out Of Your Club... Put More Into Your Club!

Where We Came From

Louie Levy

One of the main reasons given by IBM for the introduction of the PCjr to its lineup of computers back in early 1984 was to introduce more people to computers. The Adam, Commodore, TRS 80, TI99-4A, the Atari were around, mostly with 40-column screens and were, for the most part, game machines.

Office computers, such as the IBM PC (with no hard drive) began at $1,265 without monitor and the XT, with a 10 MB "fixed disk" and 128K of memory started at $4,275.00--all of this was far outside the range most people could justify for some-thing to use at home.

The PCjr was the price breaker; a scaled-down version of the IBM PC both in its amenities and it's price, but not in technology. At $700 for the entry level, cartridge-only version, up to $1300 for the floppy disk unit, Junior was expected to go a long way in introducing people to "real" computing rather than just have a game machine or entertainment center in their home.

Once you had made the investment in software for your office or small business computer, IBM felt that having a more economical computer at home that could use this same software, would help the consumer. They felt that with its open architecture, there would be a wealth of software for IBM and IBM compatible computers.

IBM felt that when the consumer needed another computer, they would purchase another PC or PCjr so they could continue to use the software they had. Folks would be able to continue to use the programs they were familiar with on computers they already knew how to use. Why would a person buy newer, more costly computers when Junior would already run what they needed?

Of course we know better, now. People did go out and buy the newer machines when they came out, much to IBM's chagrin. They even purchased the software updates, upgrades and "new" releases that sold like hotcakes. The person who couldn't understand why a good working refridge had to be replaced just because it was harvest gold and didn't have an ice maker was trying to justify why he had to buy DOS 3.1, 3.2 and on and on just to be on the "cutting edge."

So, here we are. We still have the harvest gold refrigerator and our first "real" computer, and they are both going strong. We do realize that should they break, Sears isn't going to have either one any more--then, we'll have to "upgrade."

The same goes for our Club. Early on, Bill Roy and Dick Page saw the need for a self-help group: a collection of PCjr users whose collective knowledge base could serve each other's needs. Those with knowledge about one area of computing could help others who didn't have that particular skill. By helping each other, we would all enter the new age of computing together, somewhat on an even keel.

And, it worked very well. It stills works! If someone in our Club needs help with Writing Assistant, there is someone else who can help them. The same with WordPerfect, Lotus and many other software packages. Workshops give out information on technical skills to those in the local area and the newsletter gives hints and answers questions for those too far away to attend meetings. We all help each other.

Maybe we don't upgrade as often as manu-facturers would like us, but we do keep each other informed with knowledge and support. IBM had a good idea with its "Peanut" and we bought into it.

We hope you will bring your story as to why you are in the Club to the meeting this month to share with the rest of us. We all, everyone, crawled into the computing age with little knowledge. Let's share those stories this month along with our founders, Bill Roy and Dick Page.
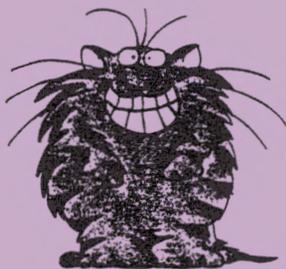
Folklore and Junior

We never thought that our little munchkin would be such a significant item that it would become the subject of folklore, but it HAS! The Club got several inquiries over the summer about two interesting subjects. Here they are! Tell us what YOU think.

Did you hear about the artificial reef that IBM made offshore when they dumped all of the unsold PCjrs in the ocean? Or, how about the great pile of Juniors that were bulldozed over down in Florida after IBM realized it's "great disaster" with the Junior? No? You haven't heard of these two events? Well, neither have we! Both people who wrote to us say that there are photographs of these events, but, unfortunately, they couldn't supply them.

Well, it's no myth that a lot of people got into the computing industry after learning programming with the old PCjr computer. It's no joke either that many of us are still using our 14-year old Juniors to do everything from bookkeeping to word processing.

There are folks out there with six-figure salaries who say the Junior was anything but a great disaster! Some ask if we are sure it wasn't made by Duracell as it "keeps on going and going." I guess this is what it takes to become folklore.

Membership is Available!

Yes, it's true. YOU can actually still join the Eugene PCjr Club, the only computer club that is devoted solely to the IBM PCjr computer. If you are not a member and are reading this newsletter, you should consider joining this select group.

The Club is actually located in the time-warped city of Eugene, Oregon. We have held monthly meetings from September through May since April 1985, so we definitely are not a new club. All of us take summer off, so the Club does not meet or publish the newsletter during the months of June, July or August; everyone needs a break!

All memberships in the Club are "family" memberships, meaning everyone in the family where Junior is located is considered a member; Mom, Pop, Grandpa, little Doris. . .everyone.

Memberships are $20 per year and this fee includes a full year subscription to this newsletter, reduced prices from the Club Store, access to the Library and unlimited (nearly) HELP with your computer.

We also have Subscription Only rates of $12 for those who live outside the area and can't attend the monthly meetings. Subscriptions are for 12 issues of the newsletter. Also, back issues are available to those who may be missing one from their collection. These single issues are $1 each postpaid.

If you would like to "join us," send in your check. Be sure to include your name and address. Also, we would like to have your phone number, e-mail address, information as to what kind of Junior

you have and what you use it for. You don't really need to include all this other stuff for membership, but we would like to have it so we'll know better how to serve our membership. Our address is on the first and last page of this newsletter.

The club is firmly committed to a policy of equal membership opportunity and affirmative action. Toward this end, we will continue to solicit for membership and elect for Club office and volunteer positions, persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, ancestry, computer literary, veteran status, language skills or gender preference. We base EVERYTHING on Junior, not the person who is using it. We have even had a few "nerds" (those who really know what they are doing) join from time to time, but they seem to move on when they find out we can't understand the jargon they use. So,

Join The Club and Get In On The Action!

One very important aspect of the Eugene PCjr Club's service to its membership is access to

The Club Store

As sources for Junior hardware and software "dries up," new Junior owners, or rediscovered "closet" Juniors, are often without the means to make Junior work.

The Club Store is not a commercial outlet for Junior "goodies," but is a source that is available for members only. We price items according to what the Club has in them for local members, and that price plus shipping costs to those members elsewhere.

To provide you with a idea of what is in your Club Store at the time this Newsletter goes to print, I have listed the following items:

HARDWARE

* 128K, 256K and 512K PCjr Computers
* 128K Memory Expansion Sidecar
* Junior Motherboard
* 64K Memory Card
* Internal Power Supply Card (7" & 10")
* 360K Disk Drive
* Parallel Printer Sidecar
* Joy Sticks
* Chicklet Keyboard
* Enhanched Keyboard
* Keyboard Cable
* RACORE P.C.I.D. Cartridge
* 300 Bd PCjr Internal Modem
* Thin Font Module
* Numeric Data Entry Pad for PCjr
* Serial Mouse
* Optical Mouse
* Speech Attachment Sidecar
* Serial Adapter for Modem
* Serial Adapter for Mouse
* Parallel Printer Cables
* PC Enterprises jrVideo Cartridge
* Overlays for PCjr Keyboard

COMMERCIAL SOFTWARE
(Mostly One-Of-Kind Items)

* IBM Aeromatics
* IBM Assistant Home Solutions
* IBM Bumbles Game
* IBM Cardridge BASIC - Cartridge
* IBM Filing Assistant
* IBM Graphing Assistant
* IBM Home Word Word Processing
* IBM Mine Shaft - Cartridge Game
* IBM Mouser - Cartridge Game
* IBM PC Pool Challenges
* IBM PCjr Color Paint - Cartridge
* IBM Planning Assistant
* IBM Reporting Assistant
* IBM Touchdown Football
* IBM Writing Assistant
* Lotus 1-2-3 Cartridge Version
* Einstein Writer Program
* Bill Budge Pinball Construction Set
* Hacker
* Perry Mason's "The Case of The Mandarian Murder"
* Learning DOS
* Sidekick - Junior Desktop Organizer
* The Wizard of OZ

Turn The Page for More Bargins.....

* Learning Advantages - "The Other Side" and "Rocky's Boots"
* Jenny's Journeys
* Desk Set - TRS Set of Desk Tools
* Carl Lewis - "Go For The Gold"
* Professional Write 2.0
* The Perfect Score - Computer Prep for the SAT
* Math Blaster Plus
* Speed Reader II
* Scholastic - "Agent USA"
* Random House - "Peanuts Picture Puzzles"
* Microsoft Flight Simulator
* Andrew Tobias - Managing Your Money With IBM's PCjr
* WordPerfect 4.2

CLUB LIBRARY SHAREWARE for JUNIOR

* Educational - 23 Titles
* Games & Entertainment - 24 Titles
* Graphics - 5 Titles
* Productivity - 21 Titles
* Utilities - 14 Titles

The Club has a complete annotated catalog available of the above programs in the Club's Disk Library.

Items from the Club Store can be obtained at our regular meetings, or you can call, write or e-mail Phil Janz to check on the availability of any item you may want.

Phil Janz

Printer Maintenance

Most of us have been very fortunate in that the printer we purchased with our Junior is still chugging along after all these years. As someone once said, "they just don't make things like they used to." While our printer may not last as long as our old typewriter did, it should go a long time provided it is given proper care and a little preventive maintenance.

Most Junior users are still using dot matrix style printers. While this type printer is quickly being replaced with ink jet, bubble jet and laser printers, most of us are finding our old dot matrix printers hammering away just fine. Still, they get very dirty from all the paper that goes through them. Paper dust and fragments nearly coat the insides of many printers we see.

Our dot matrix printers use cloth ribbons that are impregnated with ink. After paper lint and scraps, these ribbons are the next greatest source of printer problems. As these ribbons are used, or as they sit for long periods of non-use, the ink tends to dry out or get used up, and we have lighter and lighter copies.

Some of us correct this lighter imprint by changing the impression settings, moving the ribbon closer to the paper. This actually exacerbates the problem. Ink on these ribbons not only provides the source for the image on the paper, it also provides lubrication for the print head. Letting your ribbons dry out also prevents the print head getting the lubrication it needs.

Print heads are costly. This day and age, it is no longer economically justifiable to replace one on a printer as old as most of our's are. Just changing ribbons when they are worn will help prevent heat build-up that may lead to the premature death of our printer. Also, timely changes of our printer ribbons will prevent worn spots in the ribbon that can cause smears on the paper and, worse yet, may snag one of the micro-pins in the print head.

These printer ribbons are continuous loops inside a plastic housing. Most generic ribbons are somewhat shorter in length than name-brand ones, so they may need replacing more often. If you use ribbons that have been reinked, make sure your supplier is using a quaity ink with lubrication.

As printer use and exposure to air and heat are what cause ribbons to wear out, we suggest that you turn your printer on only when you want to print. Reducing the amount of heat inside your printer when it isn't being used will go a long way in preventing the ink in your ribbon from drying out.

Dust and paper fragments should be removed from the inside of your printer on a regular basis. When cleaning inside your printer you should use care not to break any delicate internal parts. Watch the vacuum cleaner, if you use one instead of compressed air, as the hard plastic end can cause damage. Also, the air movement can cause static electricity if you aren't careful. And, don't vacuum up the ribbon!

Wipe down the paper rollers and platen with a mild solution such as Windex; do not use alcohol based cleaners on any of the rubber parts.

Many of us recycle paper. Printing on the back of used paper is not only a good economical move, it's good for the environment, too. But, use good judgement. Know what kind of paper you are using and especially what type of ink has been used. It is never a good idea to use second hand paper in a laser printer. Heat generated by the fuser can melt some inks and make for a very costly repair.

Remember that we do not have anyone in the Club who is a printer specialist; take care of your printer. Avoiding problems is our best approach.

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 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Subscriptions to the Newsletter are $12 per year. This fee brings 12 issues of the Newsletter to your mailing address. Subscription requests may be mailed to The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50224, Eugene, OR 97405

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
To change your address for your membership or newsletter subscription, 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 (pcjrclub@efn.org). The editor's personal e-mail address is pcjrclub@juno.com.

QUESTIONS and INQUIRES:
Questions and inquires about the availability of parts or supplies my be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or by e-mail (rp_janz@efn.org). For software questions and questions about the operation of your PCjr, send mail to the Club's Post Office Box or e-mail us at pcjrclub@efn.org. Orders for software from the Club Shareware Library should be sent to the Club's Post Office Box.

BUY, SELL, TRADE:
Classified advertisements for the newsletter are free to members and subscribers, but must relate to PCjr computer equipment only. Cost of advertisements to nonmembers is $1. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit all advertisements submitted for publication. Mailing address must be on file with the Club. Write for display advertisement rates.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES AND/OR BACK ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER:
If you know of a PCjr owner who would like to receive a complimentary copy of the newsletter please send us their address. Due to the costs and time involved in publishing and postage costs, the Club request a show of financial support after two complimentary copies of the newsletter. Back issues (and backup copies) are available for $1 each. Address inquires to the Club's Post Office Box.

EUGENE PCjr CLUB

P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

PCjr LIVES!

courtesy, RACORE CORP.