MEETING

AGENDA

There will be NO meeting in May. Our next scheduled meeting will be the Fall Picnic at Emeral Park on September 14th. Mark your calendar now to attend this gala event.

OFFICERS

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

There Wil Be No May Meeting

Eugene PCjr Club

Mike's Message

This Spring has been good to me. Usually by this time I'm sneezy, itchy eyed and my sinuses are plugged. With the on and off rain and sun, the air around Eugene has been really clean. I might actually be fooling myself by thinking that this weather pattern will last and there won't be an allergy season for me. Fat chance, some things are inevitable.

In past years, by May, the PCjr club has held elections and a new President and Vice-President have been selected and the list of officers have changed. Now, unless someone steps up, the PCjr club leadership remains the same from year to year. Louie Levy continues as our Newsletter Editor and Disk Librarian, Phil Janz is Treasurer and keeper of the Club Store and Lynn Miles remains our Social Director. I continue to act as President of the club. These four positions make up the officers/leadership of the Eugene PCjr club.

The last time we met as a club, we had the opportunity to meet some potential new members, Julie Welton and Peg and Brian Seltzer-Hickey. The meeting was a lot of fun and was the result of the club's effort to increase local membership. There is still interest in Junior in our community.

Along with increasing our membership, the club is trying to reduce it's inventory. We have had successes in this realm as well. I think these efforts are both admirable and necessary. We could actually run out of storage room if we don't begin to reduce our stock. If you need anything, or know of someone who needs a computer, or other PCjr stuff, be sure to have them contact Phil.

I find it interesting that many of us have other computers that actually sit on the desk next to our PCjrs. This is the case at my house. To be connected to a huge technological world, change has become a necessity. This need doesn't mean we can't have more than one interest. In fact, I maintain interests in several different things. I am dedicated to the PCjr club, and, with all of the other things going on in my life, will remain so. Using the PCjr computer is where I began...and as the world changes there will no doubt be a need to change that "new" computer I have also. Still, through it all, my PCjr will remain on the desk next to my other computer.

In life, each of us will find something that is rewarding and sentimental. There are some things in this world that don't need to change; they just need to be cherished and remembered. Remember, I believe that as long as all our members participate in some way toward our success, the PCjr club will live on. And, I will always maintain that the PCjr is a great machine.

Mike

A New Millennium Of Opportunities For PCjr

by Niel Balsino

In the last issue of the PCjr Club Newsletter, I gave you some information about installing a hard drive on your Junior. Well, if adding a hard drive to your PCjr is not your cup of tea, how about *free* software off of the Internet? I did some research for this article, and was surprised at the amount of free DOS web sites out there, many of which have software known to run on the PCjr.

Did you always want to try your hand at programming Borland's Turbo Pascal, or Borland's Turbo C programming languages? Do you have children or relatives involved in computer science projects in Middle School or High School who could benefit by tinkering with that extra PCjr you have lying around? Borland's web site has a new thing called the Borland Museum, where they are posting more and more "classic" or "antique" DOS soft-ware free for the taking via download.

Various versions of Borland Turbo Pascal and Turbo C are available at the Borland Community Museum at http://community.borland.com/museum. Turbo Pascal v3.02 is available there, and it will work on the PCjr without patches and from a floppy. Turbo C requires a PC Enterprises Compatibility/BIOS cartridge, or a patch that used to be advertised in the PCjr user community, something no doubt available in the Eugene PCjr Club archive somewhere!

How about a free, full blown, business accounting and financial planning suite of software for your PCjr? This software requires a hard disk, an IBM PC (which PCjr certainly is), at least 512 KB of main memory, and DOS 3.0 or greater, and is called Account Pro For DOS by AccSoft. It is available for free download on the Internet at http://www.accsoft-ch.com/free.htm.

There are a lot of free DOS software web sites on the Internet, for surprisingly, DOS is still used in many technical and scientific applications throughout the world. And let us not forget DOS games! Many cool DOS games are available at http://www.dosgames.com, and it is up to you to find the ones that will work on PCjr.

If your PCjr has the Tandy modification and is capable of running Tandy software, a really cool game to get is *Overkill*. Select the catagory "Space Shooting" from the above web site, and you'll find the *Overkill* game, and its link to Epic Games at http://epicgames.com.

Overkill takes forever to load on your PCjr, but once loaded, is well worth the wait and is an exciting Space Adventure game.

Other cool games to get from the DOS-GAMES web site are the *Commander Keen* series of games, available by selecting the platform button, and linked to the Apogee web site at http://www.apogee1.com.

So there you have it--a great variety of exciting hardware and software projects for you to try out with PCjr for the new millennium. If I can be of any service to help you with your PCjr hardware or software projects, including technical as well as logistical details on where to get low cost IDE hard drives for $50 or less on the web, please contact me at balsino@primenet.com. It will be my privilege to help anyone get the most out of their PCjr.

Niel Balsino, an ardent Junior User, owns Niel Balsino Network Computer Consulting, 7887 N. La Cholla Blvd. #2110, Tucson, AZ 85741. Call Niel at (520) 797-1282, balsino@primenet.com or www.primenet.com/~balsino

Taxes, The IRS and Junior

By Clyde Dodge

Tax time reminds me of the problems of early tax programs for the home computer. The main constrain of the times was the fact that there were no printers capable of producing the government-authorized forms such as the 1040. The tax data and calculations could be prepared and

stored on disks, but the preparation of the actual tax report for the IRS was only performed on forms provided by the IRS.

My earliest attempt was on the PCjr using the usual IBM Graphics printer. The data was presented by the computer in the proper format, but you had to print it out on the standard form. This meant I had to create a carrier for the IRS form.

```
 T E S T
53 × 10 = __
 7 × 9 = __
 4 × __ = 24
 3 × __ = 67
 __ × 15 = 30
```

I cut four diagonal slots in a piece of standard tractor paper so that the corners of the IRS form could be slipped into the slots and thus carried through the printer. Actually, there needed to be two pages connected since the printer would stop when the end of the paper reached the sensor, but this happened before the page was completely typed.

When the first side was completed, you would run the rest of the two page segment through the printer and then turn over the form so you could print the back side.

The tricky part of this operation came at the time before any printing occurred, when you had to get the paper lined up exactly in the right spot, so the subsequent printing would fall in the correct place on the form. This involved a test mark that has to be printed first to assure that the form was properly placed. Thus it was prudent to have several extra copies of the forms at hand, so you could run test copies before you printed the final copy.

Now, of course, printers are capable of reproducing all the required forms at the same time as the data is added. One pass through the printer produces the finished page.

At this writing, there are only about three programs available for the tax reports. All of the others have fallen by the wayside.

One interesting point is the fact that the IRS form was on standard government paper, 8" by 10 1/2". It almost took an act of congress to get the IRS to accept tax reports on commercial standard paper, 8 1/2" by 11". Ahhh the foibles of the government! A true barrier to progress.
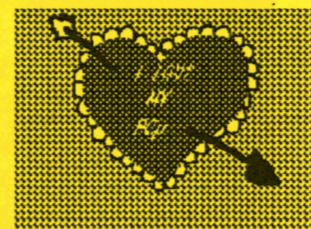
Clyde Dodge,
long-time club member, is from Mountain View, CA

Junior and the Internet

A newspaper article the other day stated that 61% of homes in America go online at least once a day and some of them more than once. More and more folks are getting instant information and not waiting for tomorrow's newspaper. Some have a need to see what their stocks are doing on a minute to minute basis while others just need to find out the ending score of their favorite team.

Whatever the reason, the article stated that more than 52% of Americans are now Internet users. More than half of these users are men which means many are women. (Rocket Scientist deduction!) Our Black population is playing catch up as they are still less than 10% of the total. I have trouble with the stated average age as being 38 as I think they forgot all the computers that are located in schools.

With all these people surfing the net, do you have a home page for them to find? Did you know that several members of our PCjr Club do!

With all the fancy word processors and "Web Editors" out there nowadays, we have a tendency to forget our PCjr. Well, I bet you didn't know that early on, our own PCjr Web Page on the Internet was made with a Junior?

The Internet, or the World Wide Web, or Web, or just WWW ("dub, dub, dub"), is only a collection of documents that are written in what is known as hypertext. By using hypertext, or HyperText Markup Language (HTML), Internet programs called browsers, such as *Netscape* or *Internet Explorer*, are able to display text, graphics, sound. . .even movies, or videos.

Of course, Juniors in their native state don't use browsers. Instead, our peanuts view the Internet all text-based. But, a Junior can create a document in most any computer language and Hypertext is no exception.

Viewing a Hypertext document with a word processor in its native format won't look

like much of a document; it looks more like plain ASCII text. As most of us only see our screens and not the actual code that's being created, we really can't see the difference.

The difference is that there are what appears to be printer codes, or tags, by the text as you create it and these tags are what tells your browser how this text is to be displayed.

For instance, if you wanted to create the line "PCjr Club Home Page" and wanted it in large bold format, you have to key in the text with tags to say what you want. It would look something like this:

<tag>...text...</tag>
In this case, it would actually be:
<H1>PCjr Club Home Page</H1>

The HTML tags are enclosed in <> brackets, are not case sensitive and no spaces are allowed between the opening and closing brackets. Above, we said "turn on Header 1" at the beginning and then "turn off Header 1" at the end.

HTML has many different types of tags. These tags divide the document into sections like the heading and the body. The heading tags have six different sizes from H1 down to H6 each differentiate different sizes. We used Heading One <H1> in the above example.

There are also block tags to define paragraphs, list and marker tags, phrase tags to enhance text, miscellaneous tags for line breaks and images, and form tags.

Don't let all this frighten you away from trying to use Hypertext as the results of your work can be quite stunning. This won't be evident to you as you create text with Junior, but when you view your work with a browser such as Netscape or one of the text processors that will show it in graphical format, you will be impressed!

If you don't have a friend with manuals you can borrow on HTML, check out your local library. There are a lot of introductory and basic books on creating Web pages that you will find very useful. And, you can use Junior and any of the word processing programs that you already know how to use.

Just a few notes about HTML and Junior. Several folks have asked why the club's Homepage has only text and no pictures even of a PCjr. As many Junior users are using their Junior to access the Web and Juniors do not use browsers, our page is text-based for them. Pictures to these Junior users would show up only as <image>.

So, when you do your home page, remember everyone doesn't have new computers with all the bells and whistles; many of these older browsers can't read things that are written in Java nor can they hear the music that some folks attach. By being on the cutting edge, they are actually preventing many from accessing their home pages.

Surfing the net has become very popular, but when you get to a page that seems to take forever to load, many folks get impatient and just move on. So, try to make your introductory page something that comes up quickly and everyone can read and put your pictures, animation and music on other pages for those who desire to see more.

We have to brag a little about one of our members now. Aaron Johnson, who lives in Virginia, has a lot of PCjr pictures on his Homepage. Be sure and check it out at www.angelfire.com/va/pcjr
Aaron has done a lot of work making his site the best one in the world for historical data on the PCjr.

Another member puts out a monthly newsletter for all of her extended family members. Check out www.efn.org/~qumranis and look at what Darlene Gotzman has been able to accomplish.

Put YOUR mark on the Internet with Junior!

The International Association of IBM PCjr Users - IAIBMPCjrU

Well, maybe not quite an *International* Association, but of the Eugene PCjr Club's 50 members, only 16 live in Eugene! Actually, only about nine of these 16 local members are active.

I wonder if it is time for the club to re-think its position in the great scheme of things and ask ourselves why are we still calling our-selves the "Eugene PCjr Club?" Maybe we should be "America's PCjr Club." As about six percent of our members live in Canada, how about the "PCjr Club of North America?"

Something to think about. Do you have any comments? We would like to hear from you!

Q I have some files made with WordStar that I would like to convert to Word-Perfect format. Is there a program that will handle this chore for me? Also, I am looking for a text editor called TED (I think), but it isn't in the Club's Software Library.

A There is a wonderful site on the Internet that has all the old Software programs you are looking for. XWord is one program that will convert your WordStar files and PC Magazine's "Tiny Editor" is there, also. Check out www.simtel.net for more software than you can shake a stick at; and it's all free! Also, Niel Balsino has some good tips on where to find free software back on page two of this newsletter.

DOS TIPS & TRICKS

Here are the latest "tips and tricks" that have been coming in by letter and e-mail to info-central. Give them a try and see if they'll make your life a little easier:

Printing Directories

One of the simplest ways to make a copy of the directory of a disk is to type at the A> prompt:

        DIR >PRN   (ENTER)

This will give you a copy of the current direc-tory of the diskette in the A drive of your com-puter. And, it works no matter what computer you are using: your Junior, your laptop or the one in the office with WINDOWS.

If you want to see the directory as it is being "copied" to your printer, first press the Fn and the E (echo) keys (on your PCjr keyboard) and then type at the A> prompt:

        DIR (ENTER)

If you do this, don't forget to press the Fn and E keys again to turn the echo off.

Some Facts About DISKCOPY

The DOS command DISKCOPY is one way to copy the information from one diskette to another, but keep these points in mind:

☞ It makes a "carbon copy" of the diskette you are copying from. This means if you use a single sided diskette as your source, your copy will be formatted as a single sided disk, too. (So you won't be able to add files to it once the single side is full.)

☞ Unlike the COPY *.* command, if there are any bad sectors on your target diskette, DISK-COPY will still try to write to them and will give you a copy that may be imperfect.

The preferred way to copy diskettes is to FORMAT first and then use the COPY *.* command. It's slower, but your copy will be more reliable.

When DISKCOPYing Keep RAM Free

The time it takes to copy diskettes, when using the DISKCOPY command will be reduced if you keep your RAM memory free. When you are DISKCOPYing, DOS transfers data from your source diskette into memory before dump-ing it to your target diskette. So if your memo-ry is occupied or otherwise not accessible, there will be less space for the transfer, and the copying process will require more steps.

If your Junior has more than 128K, you can see this very easily. Try booting with a

"plain" DOS disk and then making a diskcopy. Count how many times you have to switch disks. Next, reboot Junior with your "max-memory" boot disk to give you access to all of Junior's memory and then do a diskcopy again. Notice how much quicker the process goes when you have access to "all your marbles."

Watch Out for File Fragmentation

The organization of files on a diskette that has been used for a long time with many deletions and additions can become very inefficient. This is caused by the storage of more recent files in the spaces left by previously deleted files. One file may be stored in several places on the diskette, requiring DOS to skip around in order to find the information.

The diskette will still function, but DOS will take longer to handle its files. This can slow both your Junior and you down, particularly with word processing or spreadsheet files.

One way to reorganize these files is to format a new diskette and then use the COPY *.* command to copy the old diskette's files to a new diskette. The files will be copied contiguously, making the job of handling them easier and faster.

With your "other" computer, when you use programs like "defrag" and "speed disk" to "optimize" your drive, you are doing the same thing only you are doing it to your hard disk. When your disks, floppy or hard, are not fragmented, you are computing at it's best.

How to Label Your Diskettes

Have you noticed when you do a DIR of a disk you will get a message somewhat like this:
Volume in Drive A has no label

If you want to put a label on your floppy diskette (not the kind you stick on the outside, but one appearing above the directory), use the FORMAT B:/V command. This will enable you to write an eight character label, or volume label, which will appear every time the DIR command is given.

DOS also has programs that enable you to change the volume label of a disk. VL.COM and LABEL.COM are two such programs. Many "work disks" or "Boot Disks" have these utility programs on them. If you have them, just key in VL B: or LABEL B: (or whatever drive the disk you wish to label is in). The pro-

gram will read the disk, display the present label and ask you to key in the new one.

The Powerful FORMAT Command

The DOS FORMAT command is used to initialize a diskette to accept DOS information and files. It can be issued as a command on its own, or automatically invoked when using the DISKCOPY command.

When used on its own, it will tell you if there are defective tracks on a target diskette. This does not mean the diskette is unusable, just that those tracks should be avoided (which the COPY *.* command will do, but DISKCOPY will not).

If you add /S after the drive specification (FORMAT B: /S), you will have a copy of the operating system on the target diskette, making it bootable, or 'self-booting.'

The addition of /1 will format only the first side of the target diskette.

Adding /V enables you to write a volume label, to appear above the directory.

Using Wildcards to Find Files

DOS allows the use of two wildcard symbols, the * and the ? These symbols can be useful in many ways, but the one we'll discuss here is using wildcards with the DIR command to find files quickly and easily.

Each of the symbols means something different. The * will match any number of characters, while the ? will match just one character. Here are some examples:

If you type DIR *.DOC, you will get a listing of all the files in your directory with the file extension .DOC.

To get even more specific, if you type DIR A*.DOC, you will see all files whose names begin with A and whose extensions are .DOC.

Since the ? represents a single character, if you type DIR FILE.DO?, you will get a listing of all the files named FILE with extensions that have DO as the first two letters.

If you keep these wildcards in mind, you can not only speed up your searches for files, but you can create file names and extensions that will help you organize and find them later.

That's it for this issue. Keep those tips and tricks coming in and we'll publish them from time to time as we have room. Have a good summer!

Q I have a program written in BASIC that used to run fine. Lately, it has started giving me the message, "Illegal function call in Line 220." When I list that line, I can't see anything that should cause the message.

A If you are tormented by a BASIC program that gives you an "Illegal function call in Line XX," you may be able to run that program by simply eliminating the line referred to in the message.

Try LISTing the line, see what it says (better yet, make a note of it) and then eliminate it by typing the line number and pressing Enter.

If the offending line was simply making a command that cartridge BASIC can't handle, the rest of the program may run just fine with that line eliminated.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

September issue: Monday, September 4, 2000

The preferred method of submitting newsletter items is ANY of the following:
⊙ E-mail
⊙ E-Mail as an attachment
⊙ Computer floppy disk-any format
⊙ Typewritten on any kind of paper
⊙ Handwritten on any kind of paper
⊙ Phone message
⊙ ESP, although I'm getting pretty bad at this as I get older

So, What Did It Cost?

Some of our members are the "original owners" of their Juniors, but most of us acquired our little munchkin used. The question comes up often enough that we felt that original prices should be published for some of the equipment that we are all using. Here is what the original owners had to pay for our computer stuff:

64K IBM Entry Model PCjr: $669
128K IBM Expanded Model PCjr: $999
PCjr Color Display: $429

IBM Monochrome Monitor: $275
IBM Graphics 9-pin printer: $449
IBM PCjr Compact (Thermal) Printer: $175
Okidata Microline 93 Wide Carriage 9-pin Printer: $1125
Amdek Monochrome Monitor: $179 (green)
Amdek Monochrome Monitor: $199 (amber)
Legacy II second disk drive: $795
Legacy 10 MB hard drive unit: $1395
Legacy 20 MB hard drive unit: $2295
Impulse 2nd drive kit: $390
XTEC 2nd drive unit: $399
IBM 5.25-inch Dual Sided Disk Drive: $425
Hayes Smartmodem 1200: $669
Hayes Smartmodem 300: $279
IBM 300 baud internal modem: $199
IBM PCjr Parallel Printer Attachment: $99
IBM PCjr Joystick: $40
IBM PCjr Keyboard Cord: $20
A-B Switch: $170
Writing Assistant: $149
WordStar (2 single-sided disks): $495
EasyWriter (1 single-sided disk): $175
HomeWord (1 double-sided disk): $75
Microsoft Word (1 double-sided disk): $375
WordPerfect (2 double-sided disks): $495
Lotus 1-2-3: $495
Home Budget jr: $45
IBM PCjr BASIC Cartridge: $75
IBM PC-DOS 2.1: $65
IBM Software in the Plastic Boxes: $30 to $45
Microsoft Mouse: $195
IBM Joy Stick: $69
King's Quest: $50
10 IBM 5.25-inch Floppy Disks: $47.50

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 become a member, send payment to The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405-0966.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
To change your address please inform the Club by mail to the Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405-0966, by phone (541.343.7592) or by e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org).

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:
Submission of articles for the Newsletter is vigorously solicited and copy may be sent to the Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405, or via e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org). Permission to reprint is freely given.

QUESTIONS and/or INQUIRIES:
Requests for catalogs from the Club Store and/or Disk Library, and questions or inquires about the availability of parts or supplies may be sent to the Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, 97405-0966, or via e-mail (rp_janz@efn.org). Questions about software, operation or repair of your Junior, may be sent to the Club's PO Box or via e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org).

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

Games:
Bob Young - rlya@choice.net

E-Mail:
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Louie Levy - pcjrclub@efn.org
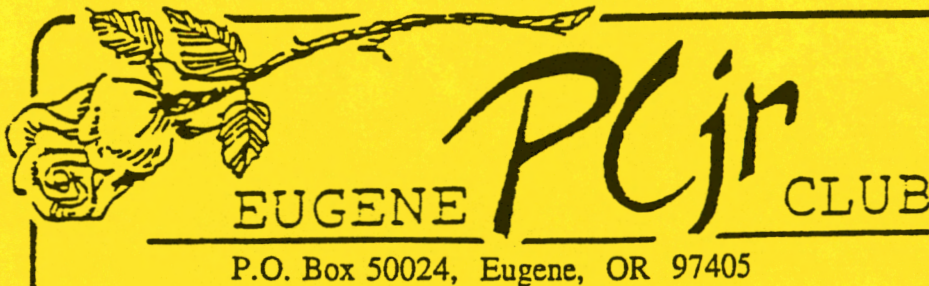Mike Ruiz - ruizmj@juno.com

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!"

EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

PCjr LiVES!