



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024. Eugene, OR 97405

VOLUME XVII
NUMBER 2
SUMMER 2001

MEETING

AGENDA

There will be a picnic meeting on Thursday, June 28 at 6:30 PM in the picnic area behind the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road. See inside this newsletter for more complete directions.

OFFICERS

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

Mike's Message

by Mike Ruiz

Here it is June and by now spring cleaning should be well on it's way. By now, most of us are probably thinking of where we will be on vacation this summer. If you think like me, anywhere is better than the Willamette Valley this time of year. It's allergy season and someday I wish I was far away from home. Actually, just going up the river to fish gives me the relief, at times, I so desperately need.

Usually by this time the Eugene PCjr Club officers have met and decided on new leadership and what programs the club might offer the next year. This year things were certainly different. As many of you may already know, the Eugene PCjr Club will disband this year. Club officers have made the tough decision to declare this will be the last of sixteen wonderful years. It has been a fantastic journey especially for those of you who have more or less been there since the beginning. I admire what we have all accomplished and feel that many of us will continue to cherish our juniors. In fact, it may not end. I'm confident that we will continue to provide information about junior and will continue to have it available in one form or another to all Junior owners. Also, along with others around the country, we will continue to provide support. This support will be addressed as you continue to read this newsletter.

It's interesting that this is typically the last newsletter of the year and that this is the last year of the club. It also seems that when some things end usually something new takes its place. I will always have fond memories about times I had at meetings and working with PCjr Club members. I know for many of us, Junior is still a viable, much liked member of the family. For now, I am certainly proud to have been associated with the longest running PCjr club in the country, the Eugene PCjr Club.

I hope all of you have a great summer. Thanks,

Mike



Going, Going, GONE!!

Louie Levy

Like the weather recently, auction prices at eBay, the on-line auction house, have been heating up somewhat and then, without any warning, getting unseasonably cold. It seems the best way to sell things is to be creative in how the item is described. Here are just a few examples:



“Rare IBM King's Quest for IBM PCjr...”

This auction included the “rare version” 1.0 single floppy for the Junior along with King's Quest II, Romancing the Throne. The winning bid for this auction was a whopping \$103.50. . .and the bidder agreed to pay an additional \$3 for “proper packing and handling” PLUS the actual shipping costs. What is interesting is that this bidder outbid the person who was second at “only” \$101.50!

“IBM PCjr Computer with Original Packaging!”

The item in this auction was a 128K Junior with keyboard, two joy sticks, a keyboard cord, Hands-On BASIC, The Guide to Operations, BASIC cartridge and a Speedup cartridge. It also had DOS 2.1...all in original boxes and packaging, but it DID NOT include a monitor. This lot sold for \$78.50 with the high bidder willing to pay an additional \$20 for shipping.

Right now, there is an auction for “A Pair of Juniors,” also are in their original boxes and the price looks like they will be going to go out at \$4.95. . .for both of them.

“IBM PCjr Computer — Nice”

This was a complete outfit: a 640K Junior, keyboard and monitor, internal modem, joystick and mouse, 2nd large keyboard,

manuals and quite a bit of software. The winning bid was \$150 plus the shipping costs. Again, this was \$2.50 more than the 2nd highest bid of \$147.50.

This past week there was an auction for two Juniors: one was a 128K and the other a 640K RACORE, two keyboards, two 128K IBM sidecars, two BASIC cartridges and a lot more that did not sell for the seller's minimum bid of \$50.

One seller at eBay felt he could get more for his Junior by parting it out. He had the following auctions:

“Sampler Disk: \$4.95”

“Rare 64K memory Expansion Card: \$9.99”

“PCjr Disk Drive and Controller Card: \$6.99”

“Power supply Card: \$3.99 (plus \$4.35 shipping)”

“Keyboard with Remote Unit: \$4.95”

None of these prices include postage and the seller included the statement “I don't sell junk.” In one description of a 128K Junior, the seller said that “it loads BASIC automatically.”

Buying and selling on eBay or other on-line auctions can be a lot of fun, but remember that whenever you purchase used computer items, it is really a “buyer beware” market. Our local St. Vincent de Paul store sells VGA monitors for \$10 each, but there is no way to check them out other than to buy one and take it home. They will allow you to return it if it doesn't work. But, after a couple of times, they get a little fussy about it. It's a little disturbing to see the ones that have been returned put back on the shelf!

As an added note, this issue of the newsletter is being produced on an ink jet printer that was purchased over a year ago at a thrift store for \$12.95!



Using Those Junior Files and Programs

Louie Levy

For the first ten years of the Club's existence, all of our records were kept in PC-File III. We would change to a new floppy disk each new year on January 1st and call up "last month's" database and just edit it for the present month, saving it as a new file. This way, we had 12 months of mailing lists, dues payments and other membership data all tucked away ready to archive.

The club historian wanted to borrow all of these past records to see how many of our present members were members from the early years. When I gave her the stack of those 5 1/4" floppies, you could see the disappointment on her face. She no longer had her Junior and her present computer didn't have a 5 1/4" drive!

We offered to loan her a Junior after we jokingly chastised her for having gotten rid of her Junior years ago, but she thought the idea of just copying the larger disks to 3.5" disks was a better solution to her dilemma.

A few days later the phone call came asking just what program we had used all those years as none of the programs in her Microsoft Office 2000 package would read the files I had given her. Word would open the files after converting them, but she would have to reformat everything just to make it readable.



To make a long story short, we copied the old PC-File program onto a 3.5" floppy along with the old setup we had used. She put the disk into her computer and called up Windows Explorer. After making a new folder under Program Files, she logged onto her "A" drive and, using drag and drop, moved all of the files over to her new folder. She then added the PC-File executable program file to her task bar and

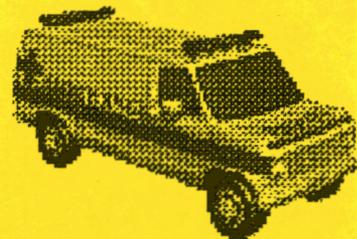
she was in business.

The reason we're telling you all this is to suggest to you that all of those old PCjr programs and files you have may be resurrected again should you need them. Many of the time-honored programs work well with your newer computers. Not only Writing Assistant and Filing Assistant, but PC-File, BookBase, PC-Calc, Home Inventory, Name-Pal and many more will just fly using your Pentium computer.

A few cautions should be mentioned if you are going to copy these programs from the old diskettes you used with your Junior. Don't copy the memory option programs like jrconfig or pcjrmem.com that may have been used on your original disks to access Junior addition memory. NEVER use one of your old self-booting disks that would create a RAM drive on your Junior and then copy files to it. Don't copy old CONFIG.SYS files from your old diskettes.

Remember the "C drive" in Junior was actually located in Junior's memory while the C drive in your newer computer is your primary hard drive. One thing you never want to do is copy Junior's old DOS 2.1 COMMAND.COM to your hard drive! Always copy the files on your old floppy to a file folder on your hard drive and never just to Drive C.

Remember, you can call on your club if you need help with installing one of your old Junior programs



onto a newer machine. Just let us know what you want to do and we will be more than happy to assist you with ways to get the job done. We can even copy those old Junior disks to 3.5 if you need that chore done. Just email us at pcjrclub@efn.org or send us a note via snail mail.

Recap of the 2001 Member Survey



The responses to the questionnaires that were enclosed in the last newsletter were very gratifying. Of the 40 or so sent out, we had about eighteen returns. The board has met and gone over each of them and, as 3/5ths of the board

are retired educators, this "learned" board has shuffled the data and they have come to the following conclusions:

100% of those who took the time to answer wanted the club to continue. But, as a little less than half of the membership actually returned the questionnaires, should the club assume that this means about the same percentage didn't want the club to continue?

We don't know why half the members didn't return their questionnaires. There could have been many reasons, but for whatever reasons they had, we shouldn't second guess their desires.

Perhaps the most disturbing question was the one on what folks would do for the club. On the positive side, we had several members tell us they would serve the club in the capacity of President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Newsletter Editor. But, from what we could tell, all of them live outside of Oregon! While this means that the club could continue, it does make it difficult for us to continue as the Eugene PCjr Club.

Here are some suggestions as to how either "the" PCjr club, or "a" PCjr club can continue:

Suggestion One: Member Aaron Johnson already has a Web presence at www.pcjr.org. This dedicated member has registered this domain as his own in his efforts to keep

Junior alive. Any of the membership who would like to join Aaron and make this a national organization, should let him know by email to pcjr_lives@hotmail.com

Suggestion Two: We have three individuals who live in the Oklahoma City area. If they could meet and discuss whether they would want to create a leadership basis for a PCjr Club from their area, we could let the present members know and they could then contact them about membership.

Suggestion Three: One member has said he would/could assume any of the leadership positions. Should he decide to actively pursue this route, a new national club could be created. This member has shown his interest in Junior and the club by his past help with newsletter articles and providing technical services to our membership and others who have requested assistance.

Suggestion Three: We could prorate the dues collected and refund those members who have paid. We could still meet locally here in Eugene as a group three times a year for social functions. We would continue to maintain our Web presence, but reword the page to state that we are no longer functioning as a "active club." We would continue to answer any questions that may come to us as a group.

We have contacted some of the members who have indicated they would help with a new club of national scope and had hoped we would be able to pass on to you some of their suggestions. So far, we don't have anything to report on this. Therefore, the Eugene group is going to begin to pursue Suggestion Three.

The first thing we hope to do is scale back on the club assets. Phil is doing this by having a "50% Off Sale" of the items in the club store. He has details of this on the next page of this newsletter. Phil will also begin

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working on dues refunds where needed. Louie will do the necessary editing of the WEB page.

▶ snail mail Eugene PCjr Club
PO Box 50024
Eugene, OR 97405-0966



Club Store Closeout Sale

All items in the "2000 Club Store Catalog will be available to those receiving the Club Newsletter at 50% off the listed prices!

Please check by e-mail or "snail mail" with Phil Janz, our Club Store Proprietor, concerning the availability of items listed in the catalog before ordering. If you indicate an interest in acquiring specific items, they will be put on hold for ten days until an order is consummated or cancelled.

Refer to page 26 of the catalog for shipping arrangements. Once an order is received it will be boxed, weighed and the exact postage calculated. The postage will be added to the balance of the amount owed. At this point you will be contacted concerning your order, its total cost and the fact that it will be mailed upon receipt of your payment. All items from the Club Store will be shipped in good working order.

If you have misplaced your Club Store Catalog, please let us know and another will be put into the mail for you.

Contact the Eugene PCjr Club by:

- ▶ e-mail rp_janz@efn.org
- ▶ e-mail pcjrclub@efn.org

- ☺☺☺ **Several New Additions to the Club Store Catalog** ☺☺☺
- Hard-to-find Printer Ribbons 1.75
Panasonic, IBM Proprinter, Silver Reed, etc. Let us know what you need.
 - Jr Hotshot 512K memory expansion. 12.50
 - Bank Street Writer (complete). 3.00
 - The New Printshop (complete). 5.00

If you check the Junior Store catalog for the already low prices, you will agree that 50% off those regular prices is quite a bargain!!

"...software works more like a health club membership: The initial payment is only an entry fee. After that, you're expected to pay dues forever — by buying the software company's yearly upgrades."

David Pogue, Eugene Register-Guard

Epilogue

When Bill Roy started this newsletter he set forth the guidelines that the next two editors would try to follow for the 16 years it has been published. We have tried to take into account the diverse group of PCjr enthusiasts who were members of the Eugene PCjr Club.

Making the newsletter interesting to everyone has been a challenge. It hasn't been easy as we have had members who were truly neophytes and those who were (and still are) IBM engineers. We have had programmers as members and others who were just plain old retired folks using their first computer.

We have tried to make the newsletter useful to all our readers and I think we have done well.

Under Paddy Dawson's editorship, the newsletter won the "Newsletter of the Year" award from "The Junior Report," the PCjr standard of the time. In 1997 the newsletter was awarded a certificate saying it was the "Best Newsletter (12 Pages and Under)" at the Intergalactic Users Group Officers Conference 10.

The best award has come from the continued readership and "attaboys" we have received from our membership. It has been YOU who have made the job of Newsletter Editor so enjoyable for me over the years, and I would like to say to each and all of you a hearty "thank you" for making my job so easy and rewarding.

As a small computer club newsletter, we have much to be proud of. Big magazine publisher, Ziff-Davis, started a national magazine for the Junior called *The PCjr Magazine*. This publishing giant's magazine was full of articles and reviews that nearly everyone of us read over several times as we were starved for information on our little "peanuts." A wonderful magazine that had a life span of only ten issues.

The Junior Report was truly "The National Newsletter for PCjr Owners." Those of us who have been with Junior since it's early release will always remember Harrison Day's very informative monthly newsletter that was published for nearly five years. A collection of this magazine/newsletter is a must for any PCjr user or Junior collector.

Tom Crider's *jr Newsletter* was like the beacon of a lighthouse. Most of these monthly issues were 24 pages long and full of information. It was great reading and Tom had nice articles for me to copy whenever I needed things for our newsletter! He also made our member, Dick Page, a nationally published author!

Speaking of Tom Crider, his donation to our club of the *jr Newsletter's* software library not only doubled the size of our own

library, but he made our club the nation's largest repository of Junior software; one that couldn't be matched.

Now that our publication is ending here in Eugene, I truly hope that it and our club has been of some service to our membership. I would like for anyone who is reading this to know that even though we are ceasing publication with this issue, the dedication we have to the PCjr community isn't stopping.

Anytime that anyone has a question about Junior we will do whatever we can to supply the answer. Anytime someone has a problem with their Junior, we will endeavor to supply a solution or will contact others who may be able to help. Anytime someone needs a part for their Junior, we hope to be able to supply it. No one should feel abandoned.

Several of our members have shown an interest in starting a national PCjr Club. Should any of them follow this to conclusion, we will notify everyone we know who has an interest in Junior so they will be able to make contact with them. The leadership of the Eugene PCjr Club has pledged its support to those who want to *Keep Junior Alive*.

Yikes! No more newsletter?

Just where am I going to get my PCjr information now? Who's going to give me all that good stuff about my little munchkin? What am I going to do for that shot in the arm that keeps me and my peanut together?

Well, Chicken Little, the sky really isn't falling. The only thing that is changing is that we will all have an extra twelve bucks a year and will gain about an hour of reading time. Most of us will even be getting a refund, an unheard of practice, on the dues we have already paid.

Whenever any of us need help with our Juniors, we can do any of the following:

- Send an e-mail to pcjrclub@efn.org and tell

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them what problem we have or ask any question.

- Send a snail mail inquiry to Eugene PCjr Club, PO Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405-0966.

- Check on the last page of the newsletter for a listing of those members who have volunteered to answer questions on specific software. These folks will respond to ANY questions; some you haven't even thought of asking!

The Club Store is having a 50% off sale, but believe me, Phil will never run out of parts for Junior! If you should find that you need a power brick, keyboard or whatever three years from now, I am sure he will still have them. And, I hate to say this, but the PCjr Club isn't the only place that stocks Junior parts and supplies. Your club may have more than anyone else, but they aren't the sole source. Check out eBay!

The Eugene PCjr Club is turning out the lights and going on vacation. After a long and devoted pursuit of Junior specific knowledge, the Eugene group is taking a break. All of the folks who have been doing the chores of running a club, like maintaining the membership list, doing the newsletter, buying the chicken, collecting old Juniors wherever they can, finding "needy" homes that may use a Junior, planning socials and presenting programs are going to devote more time to other things—like mowing the grass, visiting members/friends in Bee Branch, Arkansas or up in Jaffrey, New Hampshire and we are going to attend more Elderhostels.

All the old newsletters from times past will still be here for anyone to do research. The *Junior Report*, *Junior Newsletter*, all the issues of the *Fox Tales* since 1986, the technical bulletins and reports will all be here. All those early clubs' newsletters are now historical documents in the Club Library and I can assure you they won't go the landfill or be recycled.

The President, Treasurer, Social Director, Outreach Coordinator and the Newsletter Editor all hope to see you at the Summer Picnic on the 28th and the hope everyone has a great summer!

Sixteenth Annual Peanut Picnic

PCjr Summer Fun Picnic

Lynn Miles

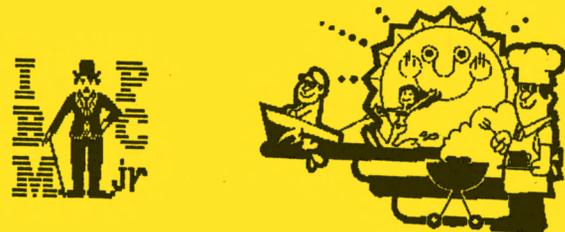
Hello to all PCjr friends and supporters! It was decided at our last board meeting that we should celebrate summer with a picnic. We will meet in the picnic area behind the Church of Christ, 2424 Norckenzie Road, at 6:30 PM. The club will furnish fried chicken, and beverages.

Please bring service for you and your family and a salad or dessert to compliment the fried chicken. We hope all our local members will find time to join us for this evening of fun and food. If you plan to attend, I would appreciate a call so we are sure there will be plenty of fried chicken.

Bring your family and let's make this an evening to remember. Be sure to call either Lynn Miles, 484-5063 or Rosie Janz, 343-1059, if you are planning to attend this gala event.

Remember:

PCjr Picnic, June 28th, at 6:30 PM.



**HOW TO REACH THE
EUGENE PCjr CLUB**

FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Memberships are no longer being taken for the Eugene PCjr Club. If you would like to be placed on our mailing list to receive any updates on club news, special offers or Junior updates, send your address 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).

NEWSLETTERS:

Back issues of the Newsletter are available. Check with the Club for costs.

QUESTIONS and/or INQUIRIES:

Requests for catalogs from the Club Store and/or Disk Library, and questions or inquiries 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).

BASIC or WordStar:

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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!"



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P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

FIRST CLASS MAIL

