

Charley's Corner

by Charles Coury

MEETING

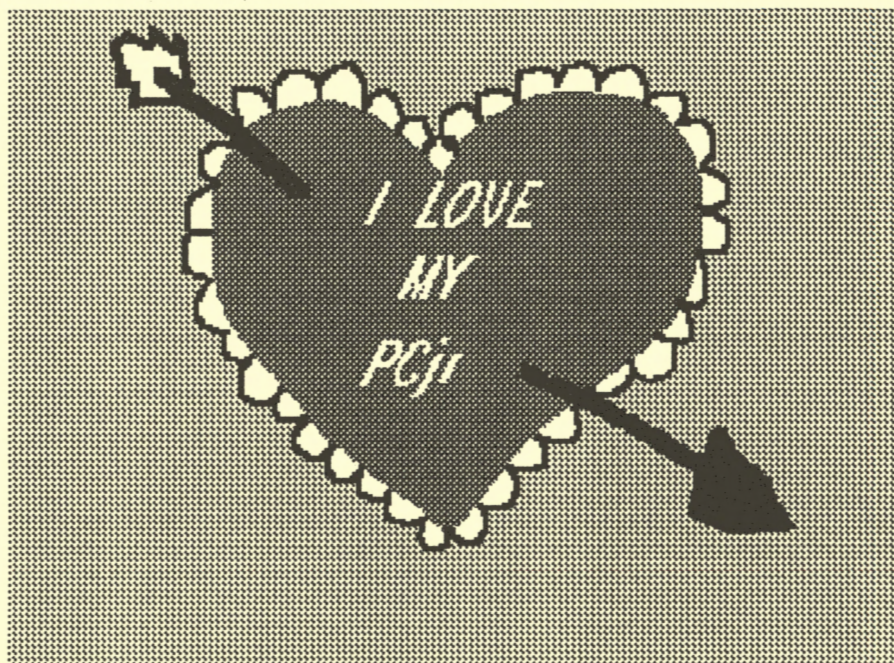
AGENDA

The February meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road, on Thur. February 13th. Setup will begin at 6:30 and the meeting at 7pm.

The main program will be a guest speaker from CPM Magazine, Pat Heard, who will be giving us a presentation on Printers.

OFFICERS

President Charles Coury
Vice President Lynn Miles
Treasurer and Company Store Phil Janz
Disk Librarian Mike Ruiz
Modem Captain Mike Ruiz
Commercial Contact . . Gordon LeManquais
Social Director Rosie Janz
Newsletter Editor . . . Louie Levy
Publisher and Production Staff Warren and Juanita Hampton



Valentine Meeting Munchies

After nearly two years of doing a super job as our Social Director, Helen Fry has asked to be replaced for the duration of the Club's season. Rosie Janz offered to fill in until a new person is appointed next season.

Thank you, Helen, for the great job you did! You saw to it that we had goodies at our meetings, and you helped make our Fall Picnic and our Christmas parties fun family times. We are especially grateful to you for reminding Santa to visit us at Christmas, and for making sure he had plenty of fun surprises to give to the Kids at our parties.

Not to be outdone by the scrumptious goodies Elleen Levy furnished for our January meeting, Chris Merrigan is gathering together tasty treats for our February meeting as well. So, plan to learn with a smile on your lips and sweets on your face at our February 13th meeting!

Rosie Janz

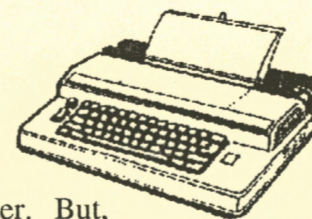
Is It Time For Another Printer?

If you have owned your Junior for some time, you may be thinking of updating your printer. Even if you just recently acquired your Junior you may be considering replacing your printer with a better, more versatile one. This article may clear up some gray areas as to what type of printer you need to think about.

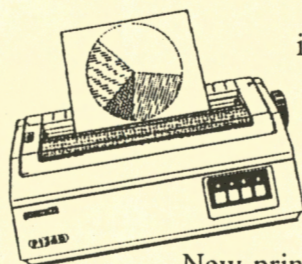
Most Junior users started with a 9-pin dot matrix printer such as the IBM Pro Printer or an Epson printer, or some make of daisy wheel printer. While these printers all served their original owners well, each had its own limitations--and all of them are limited by today's standards even though many of them are still chugging along fine.

Choosing a new printer can be difficult. Do you need one of the 24-pin dot matrix printers, or will one of the cheaper 9-pin printers do the job? With the cost so low on ink jet printers, you may be thinking of purchasing one of these. Or, do you need a laser?

If you have been using a daisy wheel printer such as the Silver Reed or Qume, you may as well forget about getting a newer model like them as they are no longer being made. These printers are called impact printers. The print wheel travels back and forth while the "hammer" strikes the correct letters much like a typewriter. All of these "impact" printers produce excellent results. The documents they create can't be recognized as being any different than those produced with an IBM Selectric typewriter. But, they have two big drawbacks: they can't do graphics and they are very slow and noisy. If you need to do ASCII characters like é ē ½ § ¤ forget it. These characters are not on a daisy wheel. While these printers cost about \$500 when new, they are seldom seen now.



The workhorse printers, Epson, Star and Panasonic 9-pin printers that some purchased new with their Juniors, are still working. And, while there are still many dot matrix printers on the market, most are now 24-pin printers. Many people still choose to purchase a dot matrix printer for their computing needs because of their speed and versatility.



Used printers are available today from many sources. The Club's Store is a primary source, but they can be purchased elsewhere also. Locally, Emerald Computers on the access road by I-5 sells used printers. Another source is Computers, Inc. at 1410 Main in Springfield. Thrift stores have printers also, but it is difficult to try them out to see if they are in working order before you purchase them. The classified section of the newspaper is a good source also.

New printers can be purchased from discount stores, office supply stores, warehouse stores and computer stores. Or, they can be purchased mail order from computer supply houses such as Rally Electronics.

New 9-pin printers are still available, and even 24-pin printers are now pretty economical. Ink jet printers and lasers are even within the reach of many Junior owners. With the installation of an A/B switch, you can even have two printers hooked up so you can use either one. I have even heard that some of our members have only one printer, but have two computers attached to an A/B switch.

At this month's meeting, Pat Heard, from *CPM Magazine* will be telling us about what printers are now available on the market and how they work. Now that we have learned that Junior and *Writing Assistant* do indeed work with both ink jet and laser printers, Pat's program should be very interesting to many of us.

Using *Drawing Assistant* and *Graphing Assistant* With *Writing Assistant*

With so many new items of interest to print about our PCjr computers, we seldom go back and review past meetings, but last month's program was a doozie. Phil Janz and Lynn Miles showed those members present how to make original art work, graphs and diagrams, including maps, to include in our *Writing Assistant* documents. A wonderful presentation of what was perhaps the first "office suite" of software on the market. Now that the initial release of "*Office 97*" has been released (with a few "rough edges") for "only" a few dollars (EggHead prices: Standard version, \$509.96, or the "professional" version, \$589.95), the January program was very informative and time-worthy.

Members were given several informative handouts during the meeting. Well, I didn't actually read the one that Phil handed out until I got home. It was such a neat creation that I felt that everyone should read what Phil produced. I'll let you decide what parts were fiction and what parts were true.

NEWS RELEASE TO EUGENE REGISTER GUARD AND LOCAL TV STATIONS

EUGENE PCjr CLUB DECADE PLUS CELEBRATION

We Are Still Computing With Junior!

IBM, affectionately known as "Big Blue," is honoring the last functioning IBM PCjr Club in the United States, and perhaps the world! In tribute of Junior, and the loyal supporters of Junior, an evening of fun will start with a banquet, to be followed by a longevity award presentation by the President of IBM to the President of the Eugene PCjr Club, Charlie Coury. Dancing and wheelchair shuffleboard will round out the evening. As stated by the IBM President, "The evening is on us, so enjoy yourself; we fondly think of you as our children."

Club members, family and friends supporting the IBM PCjr, will gather for a gala evening honoring the little "Peanut" at the Eugene Hilton on February 15, 1997. Free limousine service will be available to all attendees in the local area as well as for the many supporters who will be flying into the Eugene Airport, or arriving on Amtrak from California or Washington. If you are driving into downtown Eugene, the Eugene Hilton is located at 66 East 6th Street.

{Here, Phil inserted a map he created using *Drawing Assistant*}

INFORMATION ABOUT THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB FOR INCLUSION IN NEWS RELEASES

01> The Eugene PCjr Club is an independent, non-profit support group for persons who won or use the IBM PCjr personal computer. The Club is the only recognized IBM PCjr Club currently operating in the United States.

02> The Club meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May, at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road, in Eugene, OR.

03> The Eugene PCjr Club publishes nine monthly newsletters that are mailed to all members and subscribers. The newsletter contains articles of interest to PCjr owners.

04> The intent of the Club is to provide help and support to PCjr users via the membership. It is a technical resource both for hardware and software.

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In the face of expanding technology, whistles and bells that even the salespersons don't understand in today's computing world, this Club has not gone away, but has managed a sustaining membership during the past six years because members support members in using Junior.

{Phil included a graph showing total membership for the past six years.}

05> The Eugene PCjr Club has a "Help Line" composed of several members who make themselves available to those who may need help with either hardware or software problems.

06> The Club also maintains a comprehensive library of magazines and technical publications that deal with the PCjr. These publications are available for check-out by anyone who is a member.

07> The Club maintains a software library of programs that are known to work well with the PCjr computer. These programs are available for sale at reduced rates to Club members. All software sold carries a complete satisfaction guarantee. The Club library has 20 Educational disks, 20 Game and Entertainment disks, 6 Graphics disks, 19 Productivity disks and 14 utilities disks for a total of 78 separate library disks.

{Here, Phil inserted a pie chart in his *Writing Assistant* document.}

08> Membership dues are \$20 per year and includes a subscription to the Newsletter. Subscription only rates are \$12 per year for those who can't attend the monthly meetings. Memberships in the Eugene PCjr Club are sold as family memberships. This means everyone in the family is a member regardless of age.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE IBM PCjr ITSELF

PCjr users love Junior because. . .

01> Junior (was) one of the very few computers that (had) 16 color capabilities, along with three voice capability sound. Most entry level machines (when Junior came on the market) had only a monochrome screen with color being added as a costly accessory and (could) only generate one sound of voice at a time.

02> Junior has graphic capabilities as a standard feature of the machine. Other machines (at the time) require(d) a costly addition in order to obtain graphics.

03> Junior offers much less 'down time' because it is not a clone. . .the original technology that went into Junior was the same technology that went into the original IBM PC and XT, and just like the IBM XT, the Junior uses an (Intel) 8088 processing chip.

04> Junior comes with two built-in game ports, RCA TV/VCR plugs, an external speaker plug and a light pen port.

05> If you have kids in the family, a real plus is that the Junior keyboard is almost indestructible, unlike other keyboards. Only Junior comes with a keyboard that does not have to be connected to the computer by an electrical cord--though one is available. Cutting-edge computer sales promotion is now touting a "new" infra-red cordless keyboard! It's nice to know Junior has "been there" and "done that!"

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06> The nice feature is that Junior is completely expandable. Early Junior models came across the dealer's counter with 64K memory and no disk drive. Late models progressed to 128K memory with a double-sided 5 1/4" disk drive. A Junior owner can add memory up to 640K and more; also disk drives and/or a hard drive. Fully expandable!

All Of The Above Features Are Standard Equipment From IBM For Junior. . .Not Add-Ons!

As our Club guru (some unnamed person), recently commented, "So the Eugene PCjr Club is still here. Take time to look at your Junior and ask yourself why has this little computer lasted so long? Then, tell it how much you appreciate it!"

{Here, Phil had an original drawing of a PCjr he created using *Drawing Assistant*.}

Editor's Note: If you missed this meeting and would like to have a copy of this handout, drop us a line and we'll get one to you. And, if you would like to know more about the "Assistant Connection" drop a note to Phil or Lynn at the Club's address.

Phil Janz

WORKSHOPS FOR 1996-97 CLUB YEAR

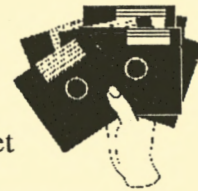
FEBRUARY WORKSHOP TITLE: HOW TO GET YOUR CLUB LIBRARY DISKS GOING

INSTRUCTOR: Mike Ruiz

PARTICIPANTS: Therese Hartman, Martha and George Rypinsky

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 1

DESCRIPTION: If you buy programs from the Club's Disk Library only to get them home and can't figure out how to get them going, this workshop is for you! Hints, tricks and hands-on the keyboard will help you learn about unlocking the secrets of using library programs.



MARCH WORKSHOP TITLE: THE *PRINT SHOP* FOR KIDS

INSTRUCTOR: Pauline Bacod

PARTICIPANTS: Opal Nelson, Jeremiah, Jessica, Terry and Kim Jones

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0

DESCRIPTION: One workshop session. A fun program that will prepare you for enhancing parties, club meetings, classroom projects, etc. Activities that are challenging for all ages!



APRIL WORKSHOP TITLE: HOW TO USE LOCAL LIBRARIES BY MODEM

INSTRUCTOR: Louie Levy

PARTICIPANTS: Therese Hartman, Dani Wright, Martha and George Rypinsky

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0

DESCRIPTION: Ever wonder if the local library has a book about religious rituals in 13th Century Calcutta? Ever make that trip down town, walk in the rain to the public library only to find the

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book you wanted had been checked out the day before? This workshop will put you on the "cutting edge" of knowing how to dial-up and log onto the Eugene and Springfield Public Libraries and the University of Oregon's Knight Library. Search methods, services provided and "tips 'n tricks" will be covered. Let Junior do the looking for you from home!



MAY WORKSHOP TITLE: GETTING STARTED IN *WRITING ASSISTANT*

INSTRUCTOR: Phil Janz

PARTICIPANTS: Therese Hartman, Dani Wright, George and Martha Rypinsky

SPACES STILL AVAILABLE: 0

DESCRIPTION: Learning how to use *Writing Assistant* as a word processor.

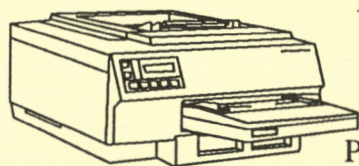
* Workshop participants must be Club members in good standing. All Club memberships are "family" memberships, and everyone in the family is eligible to participate. Each participant is assured of a "hands on" experience with a PCjr.

Phil Janz

**TO GET MORE OUT OF YOUR CLUB
PUT MORE INTO IT!**

And, Some Answers From the South

We had the question awhile back about using some of the newer ink jet or laser printers with the PCjr, and especially with *Writing Assistant*. Clyde Dodge had been experimenting with *Writing Assistant* and let us know that it does work with his HP540 Ink Jet.



We now have word from a member that *Writing Assistant* and a PCjr attached to a Panasonic KX-P5410

Laser Printer works well.

There were some problems in the beginning because this is a printer that utilizes Adobe Software's PostScript™ fonts. These fonts didn't work with *Writing Assistant*. By changing the emulation from "PostScript™" to "Panasonic Line Printer," this laser printer worked with Junior and *Writing Assistant* and worked well. The user made no changes to his

setup or to Junior and everything worked just as it did with his old printer. So, now we know!

The person we heard from added that he no longer has to buy those "expensive" ribbons for his printer. Instead, all he does is change the \$32 toner cartridge about twice a year! And now we know a little more!!

<http://www.efn.org/~pcjrclub/>

We don't care how you get there, just go! Take a look at the Junior Club's Web page out there in cyberspace. This took quite some time for us to create it, but thanks to many of our members, we are finally making our presence known on the Internet.

One of our members took a Web page building class Eugene Free Net so graciously offered (free of charge) to its non-profit members. As most Junior users know, we learn a lot from workshops, but no Web page came about because of this one!

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A Web page is just a plain old ASCII text file, but it has imbedded Hypertext Markup Language element tags. These are much like printer codes in *Writing Assistant*; you can see them on your screen, but not on the printed copy. In our case, we couldn't actually view the page graphically with our Junior, so our page just sat for quite some time on a diskette.

Then, along came our member in Mountain View, California, Arnie "Clyde" Dodge. It's no wonder that this is the hometown of both Clyde and *Netscape*. Well, Clyde's an old pro at doing things like Web Page creation as he has made several state genealogy associations' home pages. We sent our efforts off to Clyde and he pulled it all together for the Club.

Since Clyde originally made the page, it has gone through several updates to correct errors we made. In order to actually correct the page that is located at EFN, we had to learn File Transfer Protocol (FTP). We used a Junior clone to do that!

Our home page may be viewed with a Junior and a 300 baud modem if you have an Internet Service Provider who will service you with a text-based account. If you can get to most any school, college or public library in the country, actually in the world, (or to a friend's house who buys into yearly upgrades), go surfing on the Internet and key in our URL!

All of us owe Clyde Dodge our deep appreciation for a job well done! As usual, without his assistance, we would be road-kill on the Information Superhighway. We should thank both Yahoo and Alta Vista for listing our Club in their search engines.

Q What mouse can I use with my PCjr?

A Some graphics programs and word processing software allow the use of a "mouse," a little palm-sized device used

to move the cursor around the screen.

Basically, what a mouse does is provide an alternative to keyboard input. Also, a mouse can be a much faster way to move things around on your screen or to do things like cut and paste.

Since the PCjr has a serial port, you can use most any of the older style serial "mouses." Several brands of mouses were on the market during the time that our Juniors were being produced. There was a three button mouse called PC Mouse, by Mouse Systems, which sold new for about \$159. Mouse Systems also made an optical mouse for Junior that was fairly expensive.

Microsoft made a sidecar and mouse especially for the PCjr. This is called a "bus" mouse as the sidecar plugs into Junior's bus. Game-Master also produced a bus mouse. These are still popular as they leave Junior's serial port free for use with an external modem.

As with most serial devices, you will need an RS232 adapter to attach a mouse to your PCjr. These adapters are getting increasingly harder to find, and may cost more than the mouse! PC Enterprises made a serial mouse that had a standard S connector and was the only mouse I am aware of that didn't require an RS232 adapter or come with it's own sidecar.

Q I'm experiencing problems with my PCjr internal modem even though the internal diagnostic test shows there is nothing wrong. What could the problem be?

A The original PCjr internal modem is often referred to by those who own them as the "infernial" modem. But, hey, at least you're still using it! The problems usually are related to communications software, which can most often be solved by making sure that the proper communications port is being addressed. But this question has been asked by people who have had their internal modems

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working just fine until all of a sudden the failures set in.

Other than a failure within the modem itself, which the PCjr self-test (Error H upon boot-up or Ctrl-Alt-Ins, then select G from the menu) should have picked up, there is another common cause of internal modem failure — interference from the power supply of a second disk drive. This can be solved by adding a shielding material between the modem and the power supply. When selecting this shielding material be aware to avoid both overheating and electrical shorting. Sometimes, selection of an external modem is the best solution.

*Too many of us are like
wheelbarrows-useful only when
pushed and too easily upset.*

Know Someone Who Should Be
A Member of "The Club?" Tell
them about us!

Memberships are \$20 per year. This includes everyone in the family. For this fee, members get a full year's subscription to this newsletter, reduced prices from the Club Store and Library, and unlimited (nearly) HELP with their computers.

We have a *Subscription Only* fee of \$12 per year. This actually covers 12 issues of our "award winning" newsletter.

Send us your check now, or just give it to Phil Janz if you are able to attend one of our action-packed meetings!



EUGENE

PCjr

CLUB

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

