



EUGENE NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024. Eugene, OR 97405

PCjr CLUB

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SEPTEMBER 1998

MEETING

AGENDA

The September meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at Emerald Park, 1400 Lake Drive in Eugene on Thursday, September 10th.

Members, newsletter subscribers and friends are invited to attend this event that will start at 6PM.

OFFICERS

President Mike Ruiz
Vice President Gordon LeManquais
Treasurer and Company
Store Phil Janz
Disk Librarians Louie Levy
Therese Hartman
Modern Captain Judy Young
Commercial Contact Gordon LeManquais
Social Directors Chris Merrigan
Therese Hartman
Outreach Rosie Janz
Newsletter Editor Louie Levy
Publisher and Production
Staff Warren and
Juanita Hampton
Rosie Janz
Lynn Miles



Mike's Message

Perhaps your PCjr didn't get much use during the summer. If you're like me, in the summer months you try to spend as much time outside as possible. For me, going to the river is one of my favorite pastimes. At this point, I really feel that this summer was, for once, long enough. Or, maybe it just seemed long because of the heat wave we all experienced. Whatever you did, the summer is coming to an end. With the end of summer upon us, the hints of season change, and for some, the beginning of a new school year, also a new year begins for the PCjr club.

During the summer months the PCjr club is still fairly active in the outreach arena. E-mail and club store orders continue to come in during the summer. In the last month or so, some of us have been thinking about our upcoming fiscal year. And, some of us continue to think about what will make our club more relevant this year and for years to come. With that in mind our first order of business is the 98/99 meeting schedule.

On May 5, 1998 the PCjr Club Board members, as a team, voted to not continue all of the services our club has provided in the past. Probably the most significant of the reductions is the number of club meetings we have in a year. This year we will only meet five times. The reason for this team decision is based on how many people actually attend meetings. Not many members are attending meetings and the ones who do seem to be the same each meeting. So, here are the times: September--the Fall Picnic, October, December--the Holiday Potluck, February, and then May--for our traditional Spring Cleaning.

As you may have noticed, we all seem to like the social aspect of our club. Therefore, we have not given up our picnic/potluck type of meetings. Meetings will be held at the same location. Darlene Gotzman will continue to host our meetings at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norkenzie Road in Eugene. At club meetings the club store will not be set up in its entirety. Phil will have a club store catalog available for those who need supplies and parts. Anyone can call or E-mail Phil with orders at any time.

A lot more action was taken by your Board last May. For now, the meeting schedule is most important. There is a recap of the minutes in this copy of the Newsletter, and a complete copy is available to anyone who desires a copy. Let one of the Board members know and we'll make sure you get one. I will also bring some copies of the minutes to the September meeting.

Enough business for now. I am looking forward to the Fall picnic next week. I missed last year's picnic. So, get out those recipes and see you there. I hope there is a good turnout. Remember, our club is still viable. Each of us should contribute, in some way, as much as possible. Each one of us can add something. That's what makes *Junior Live!*

Mike



SEPTEMBER POTLUCK EXTRAVAGANZA

As we wind down our Summer, I am reminded that we are quickly approaching our Annual Fall Picnic. As much as I hate to say goodbye to these vacation days, I also look forward to meeting with all of you at Emerald Park in Pavilion One for a nice meal and pleasant conversation.

Our Picnic is planned for September 10th at 6:00 PM with the Club providing chicken and beverages. You will need to provide your own place settings, and choose a hot dish, salad or dessert to bring along to share with others.

As with past years, the food has been yummy, the company refreshing and fun, and it is so good to renew our support for each computing member.

If you are planning to join us on September 10th, please give a phone call to Therese Hartman (822-3801) or to me, Chris Merrigan (689-5782) so we have an idea of how many might be attending.

We hope to see YOU for the Fall Picnic, and be sure to note the map, as Emerald Park is sometimes a little hard to find!!!

Chris Merrigan and Therese Hartman

DIRECTIONS:

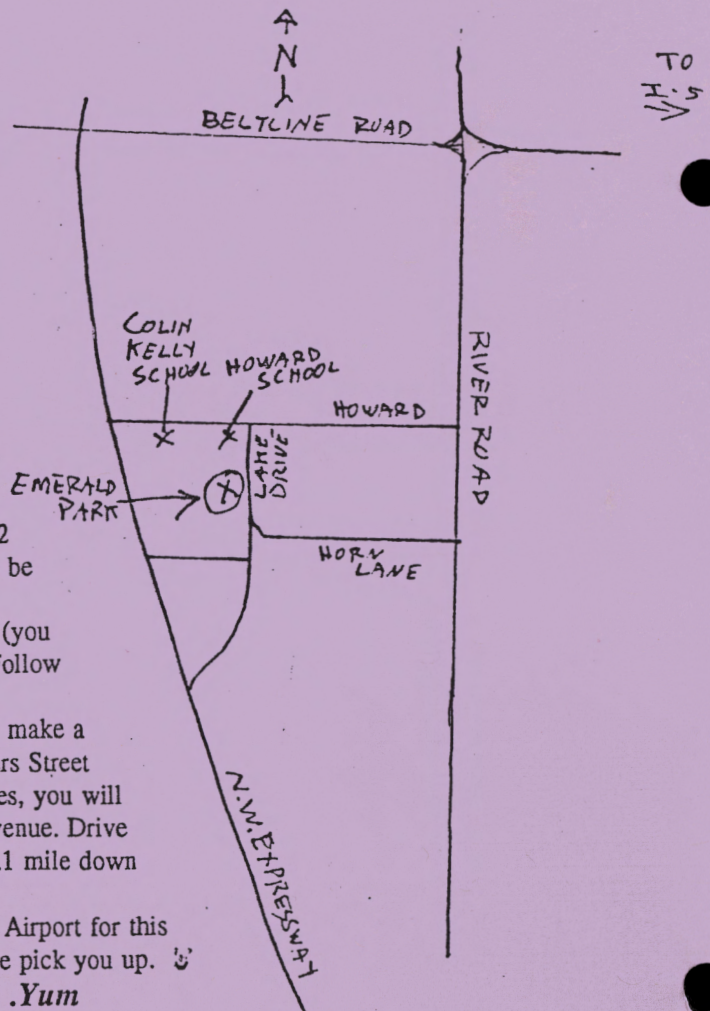
Driving South on I-5, get off at the Beltline Road Exit and proceed West. Take the River Road Exit and turn left (South) onto River Road. Approximately .6 miles, turn right (West) at the 3rd red light onto Howard Avenue. Drive about .2 miles and turn left (South) onto Lake Drive. Emerald Park will be approximately .1 miles down on your right.

Driving North on I-5, get off at the Beltline Road Exit (you will drive UNDER it and then up the ramp onto the Beltline. Follow the directions above.

From downtown Eugene, go out 6th (Highway 99) and make a right turn (North) onto Chambers. Continue across the Chambers Street Connector and you will be on River Road. After about 2.6 miles, you will see Howard (at the red light). Make a left turn onto Howard Avenue. Drive .2 miles and turn left onto Lake Drive. Emerald Park is about .1 mile down on your right.

For those who will be flying into Eugene International Airport for this gala occasion, just call Louie Levy (343-7592) and he will come pick you up. ☺

Yum. . .Yum. . .Yum



Long-term Archiving

Louie Levy

The other evening my wife and I were looking over some old photographs and letters we had saved from our childhood. When we had finished and were putting away our "treasures" I started thinking about our children. They are using both video cameras and a digital camera to record our grandchildren as they grow up. It also dawned on me that we had very few letters from them; most of our correspondence now is carried on via e-mail. I would be hard pressed to find anything in their own handwriting that either of our children have written.

This recent trend toward electronic word processing and imagery is creating some problems for the future that goes far beyond the millennium dilemma. How are we going to show these electronic letters and "photos" to our children 25 or 50 years from now? Or, even 5 years from now!

One of the dilemmas that comes to mind when we "upgrade" our computer systems is how can we use our old data we have saved on disk formats that can't be used in our "new" machines.

Early on, some of us used cassette tapes as the medium for our saved data. When we purchased a computer that had a disk drive, we transferred that data from tapes to disks.

Later, some of us "upgraded" again and found out the data we had saved on 360K disks was still usable with the 1.2MB 5.25 drives. Soon, we found out when we saved data with the new drive, this data wasn't readable with our old 360K machines.

Another problem is in the magnetic media itself. Most folks seem to agree with the 10-year shelf life of floppy disks, but those of us who still use our Juniors are using the software we purchased in 1985! Still, it is only a matter of time before these disks lose their magnetic signals. . . or so we are told.

As we continue to "upgrade" our computers we are finding that most of these new machines only have one high-density 3.5" disk drive and a CD ROM drive. So, none of our

5.25" disks are usable any more on these computers. What do we do with all those 5.25" disks we have accumulated over the years? But the most important question is, how do we gain access to all that data that's on these disks?

The Club gurus have always been available to the members to transfer programs and data from the PCjr's 5.25" disks to 3.5" disks whenever they have been asked, and they have also installed programs such as Writing Assistant on these newer computers so their owners can still use their old favorites with Windows 95. But, the time for doing this is quickly ending as our gurus leave both the Club and us neophytes behind, and are saying we need to "keep up with the times." Support is getting a little thin!

This problem leads us to the fact that we must be very careful when we choose what media we use for long-term archiving of data. For some reason, (\$\$\$\$), personal computer designers seem to keep bringing us more and more incompatible formats. This is making it next to impossible for us to retrieve our data from only a few years ago. The new computer you purchase today will not be able to read that past tax file or home inventory you made and saved to tape, 8" disks, 5.25" disks or 3.5" disks. Who's to say that what you are saving right now will be compatible with the computer you purchase next year?

So, here are some tips you can use to ensure that you will always have access to your data. Some of these tips may or may not apply to what you are presently doing, but give them some thought.

1. Make hard copies of your documents.

These take up more room, but as long as you use a good printer with good paper, you will always have your data. A thermal printer isn't what you should be using for this!

2. Consider what format you use to store data. While you may have used Writing Assistant for years, you may not be able to

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retrieve data in this format even a few years down the line.

3. Don't compress your data as the program you use for compression may not run on the next computer you purchase.

4. Keep your Junior. (You knew we were going to say this, didn't you!). It is about the only way to read those 360K disks you have. And, if you really need to get the data to another format, you can always use a modem to transfer it from one computer to another. (Does *Quicklink* work with a Junior??)

5. Before you purchase a new computer, think about the data you have and how the new machine will use this data. PC to MAC is a lot easier in many cases than MAC to PC.

If you have used the Assistant series for the past 10 years, and ALL of us have, it's time for serious thought. Your new computer is not going to have a 5.25 inch drive OR Writing Assistant. Now is the time you should plan a system for archiving your data.

"The Internet is like a great library with a really bad card catalog."

Al Thomas, *Fox Tales*, Fox Valley PC Association

The DRMS

A recent article in the local news drove home the fact that we are fast becoming a throwaway society. While the computer industry is spending large sums of money to convince us that we need to "upgrade" our present computers, few, if any, are doing anything about reclaiming and/or disposing of our old equipment.



Computers do contain lead, radium, mercury and cadmium and when they end up in a land fill, can contribute greatly to the toxicity of leachate, the liquid that seeps out of the bottom of all landfills. On the plus side, they also contain small amounts of copper and gold that could be reclaimed, but in most cases, isn't.

The local article stated that it is estimated that by the year 2005, over 150 million dead computers will reside in US landfills. They break this down to 40,000 as Lane County's landfill share.

Government agencies use a lot of computers. To keep them in use, and to save tax payer dollars, our government has created the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS).

The DRMS is responsible for the disposal of excess and surplus property. And, computers are one of the things the DRMS sells. They make these items available to other governmental agencies and when they are not needed, they sell by auction or seal bids to the public.

This summer I had the good fortune to visit one of the DRMS auctions where they were getting sealed bids on items. The computer items were sitting on pallets and you could enter bids only on the whole pallet.

One pallet we saw had seven Panasonic dot matrix printers on it and they all looked pretty good. In fact, two looked like they were never used. I was wishing they were in Eugene rather than in Fairbanks, Alaska where we were visiting. The Club could sure use them!

I was still voicing my irritation at being so far from home and not being able to take advantage of such a deal when my son told me that much of the "older" things do not sell at all; no one bids on them.

So, what happens to these lots that don't sell? My son then took me to the "grave yard." Row upon row of pallets full of "stuff." Stacks of printers and computers that were sitting out in the weather. Rust was forming on most of them. Mosquitoes were hatching in the puddles of water that had accumulated in much of the equipment.

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All I could think about was our "out-reach" program. How nice it would have been to have been able to just give this stuff away. I was reminded that giving a computer away was one thing, but giving away a thousand isn't possible. At least, the government can't just

**DON'T EVEN
THINK
ABOUT IT**

give them away. If no one bids on them, they are held for scrap. And, there's no landfill in Fairbanks because of the permafrost.

Poems

This poem has been making the circuit for quite sometime now, but maybe some of our readers haven't seen it.

Dr. Seuss Goes Technical

What if Dr. Seuss did technical writing?

Here's an easy game to play.
Here's an easy thing to say:

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk
abort,
Then the socket packet pocket has a error to report!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
And the double-clicking icon puts your window in the
trash,
And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,
Then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna
crash!

You can't say this?
What a shame, sir!
We'll find you
Another game, sir.

If the label on the cable on the table at your house
Says the network is connected to the button on your
mouse,
But your packets want to tunnel on another protocol,
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,
And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of
gauss
So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,

Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,
'Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the
disk

And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary
RISC,

Then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to
RAM or ROM.

Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your
mom!

Vacation and E-Mail

During the summer Elleen and I went to visit the grandchildren in Fairbanks, Alaska. We knew that the two of us and the club would still be getting e-mail from folks, but as we were going to be out of town, Chris Merrigan graciously consented to check it for us. Now, I need to tell you about our e-mail experiences while we were on vacation.

We couldn't check our mail while we were on the road up to Alaska, but after we got there our son, Pat, let us use his computer. Unfortunately, Pat doesn't have a PCjr; his is one of those computers with the bells and whistles. So, we went "on line" and checked the World Wide Web for Yahoo's Internet mail site. He called up his Internet Service Provider (ISP) which is Polarnet.

After Pat logged onto Polarnet with his log-on name and password, he told them we wanted to go to Yahoo's site. He keyed in www.yahoo.com and away we went. Before we left home, we had used "another" computer and had created a mail account at Yahoo. Of course the address we picked was pcjrclub@yahoo.com. Chris had forwarded our mail at EFN to Yahoo so we could check it while we were in Alaska.

Getting and reading mail with Netscape from Polarnet with Windows 95 was a real treat for us. Still, we were having to rely on others to do our computing for us. Chris was having to send our mail to Yahoo so we could read it.

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Well, this was true until we went to www.efn.org on the World Wide Web. Reading over Eugene Free Net's Homepage, we found a link to Telnet. What is that, we wondered. Clicking on this gave us our standard old Procom- or Telex-like screen we get with our Junior and EFN! By keying in our log-on and password we were home just like at home! Our old familiar screen was there: the Message of the Day, the old PINE menu, everything just like it was when we were home using our Junior!

So, when you find yourself away from your Junior and in some place where they'll let you use their computer, let them log on for you and then go to www.efn.org. When you get to EFN, click on Telnet and you'll find your old, familiar screen! You can check your mail "at home" or send mail via PINE. Even your old familiar address book is there. You'll never know you're not right at home in Eugene using your Junior.

It Happened AGAIN!

Well, it happened again. One of our members has purchased another computer. Not another Junior, but ANOTHER computer. I went over there and saw it myself. It had more memory than Phil's hard drive, more hard drive space than our whole disk library and it had a built-in CD!

This isn't the first time that we have had a member of the only, the last, PCjr Club in the country go out and get another computer. They feel they are "upgrading" or something. Actually, they have come up with something to do that their Junior either can't do or can't do as well as a "new" computer. I would have said they were just being macho, but I don't think she would appreciate that.

Many times, it hasn't been an actual "new" computer, but just a "newer" computer than Junior. Sure, Juniors do word processing, but sometimes a person feels the need to

produce something that their present word processor just can't do. Things like putting a picture in the text. Or, they need to be able to read text that others have produced using "off-brand" software like Microsoft's Word or Aldus' Pagemaker.

We can't fault someone for buying a new computer even if they are in our "special" club of PCjr users. In fact, it seems that *a lot* of our members are actually using "other" computers! Many more than some of us would like to believe.

This brings us to a ticklish subject: do we want our newsletter to reflect this issue? Do we want to see articles on things like Pentiums, CDs, Windows 98 or...or *Macintosh*? We could, you know. It'd take a change to our Bylaws (and maybe a new editor!) but we could do whatever the membership wants.

We desire your input on this important subject. Right now we are a Junior ONLY club. The question is, do we want our newsletter to continue to be Junior only? Let us hear from you!



Recap of the Board Meeting of May 5, 1998

In a nutshell, these are the major points covered:

- * Monthly meetings, newsletter publication schedule and some services to the membership will be "cut back" somewhat.
- * There will be five monthly meetings instead of nine.
- * The "Company Store" will not be brought to each meeting, but will instead be handled via phone, email, mail and newsletter and catalog offerings.
- * Workshops are being discontinued.
- * The newsletter will be published on a quarterly basis instead of having nine monthly issues.

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* Club will continue full support to the membership in areas such as repair and troubleshooting, but will try to enlist the aid of more club members to provide this support.

* Dues will remain the same: \$20 per family per year for membership and \$12 for "out-of-town" members (12 newsletter issues).

Lynn Miles, Opal Nelson and Rosie Janz will be getting a survey out soon to solicit input from people with an interest in the Club. A copy of the complete minutes can be obtained by writing to the Club (Eugene PCjr Club - PO Box 50024 - Eugene, OR 97405), calling Mike Ruiz (687-8361), Phil Janz (343-1059) or Louie Levy (343-7592). Email us (pcjrclub@efn.org) to obtain a copy that way.

Junior JUNE Users

While PCjr and JUNE have never made a connection together, many of our members use this free e-mail service provider. As it won't work on Junior, we can only assume they use JUNE from another computer at home or work.

Actually, with JUNE, you don't need to own a computer to have e-mail access; one only needs access to a computer that has the JUNE software on it.

When JUNE first came out it was just great for those who did not want full Internet capability. The only thing needed to access this free e-mail provider was a computer with a modem and Windows 3.0 or newer. No Apple computers, only PCs.

Load the JUNE software and it lists telephone numbers close to you to use for local hook-up. It does a great job of setting itself up, even finding the modem on its own. And, if you are on the road, you either find a local number or use their 1-800 number. The software looks good and it is very easy to use. Best of all, JUNE is free. So you have to look at advertisements all the time; it is still worth the free price.

JUNE is easier to use than most other mail programs and even if you had to use long distance to call (which few of us ever did), the

time spent on-line is bare minimum.

But, JUNE is changing. JUNE is going to offer two more levels of participation: JUNE GOLD and JUNE WEB. Now, with over 5 1/2 million users, they are going to begin to allow "attachments" to e-mail and even access to the World Wide Web!

JUNE GOLD is "enhanced" e-mail. Much like the free basic service, the main change is that you can attach most anything you are presently storing on your computer: digitized photographs or other scanned images, articles you have written for the newsletter, spreadsheets, computer programs and more.

There is a charge for JUNE GOLD, but the fee is only \$2.95 per month. JUNE will bill annually only at \$35.40. If you still do not want the Internet because of its content, JUNE GOLD may be what you want.

JUNE WEB is actually Internet service; JUNE becomes your Internet Service Provider. While much like America Online, JUNE WEB allows you to keep your present JUNE account name and password, and is a couple of bucks cheaper than AOL, \$19.95 per month.

There are a few drawbacks. When you sign up, JUNE will either download or send you a newer version of the JUNE software that will work ONLY with Windows 95 or NT 4.0. While it didn't say in the advertisement, surely it will work with Windows 98.

JUNE's Service Agreement is only about eight pages long, and you agree to it if you log on and use the JUNE service. The agreement says that you understand what it says and that you acknowledge that there may be different levels of service for the three different portions available. As with all Internet Service Providers, the agreement also states that their rates can go up without notification and they can change their policies without notice.

If any of our members subscribe to either of these new JUNE services we would like to hear from you about how these services meet your needs. We hope they do as well.

Let us know how you like them. It will be interesting to see how long JUNE will continue it's free e-mail service.

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 "OUT-OF-TOWN" MEMBERSHIPS:

Newsletter subscriptions are given the fancy term, "Out-of-Town Memberships." This type of membership is \$12 and brings 12 issues of the Newsletter to your mailing address. Requests for Out-of-Town memberships may be mailed to The Eugene PCjr Club, P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

To change your address for any type membership, you may inform the Club by mail to the Club's Post Office Box, by phone (541.343.7592) or by e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org).

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:

Submission of articles for the Newsletter is vigorously requested and copy may be sent to the Club's Post Office box or via e-mail. Permission to reprint is freely given.

QUESTIONS and/or INQUIRES:

Questions and inquiries about the availability of parts or supplies may be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or via e-mail (rp_janz@efn.org). Questions about software, operation or repair of your Junior, may be sent to the Club's Post Office Box or via e-mail (pcjrclub@efn.org). All orders for parts or software from the Club's Disk Library should be sent to the Post Office Box.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Classified advertisements for the newsletter are free to the membership, but must be limited to PCjr related equipment. Rates to nonmembers are \$1. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to accept, reject or edit all advertisements submitted for publication. Advertisers must have their mailing address on file with the Club. Write for display advertisement rates.

COMPLIMENTARY COPIES and/or BACK ISSUES:

If you know of anyone who may like to receive a complimentary copy of the Newsletter please send us their mailing address. Back issues of the Newsletter can be obtained for \$1 each and depending on availability. Address inquiries to our Post Office Box.



P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

Phil and Rosie Janz 12/98M
155 34th Place East
Eugene, OR 97405-3883



FIRST CLASS MAIL

