



EUGENE

PCjr CLUB

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

VOLUME XVI
NUMBER 4
WINTER 2000

MEETING

AGENDA

The December meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club is the Annual Christmas Pot Luck. It will be held at the Church of Christ, 2424 Norckenzie Road in Eugene on Thursday, December 14th. Setup will begin at 6:00 and we will eat at 6:30PM

Members, and friends are invited to attend this event. Please call Lynn Miles at 484-5063 if you have questions.

OFFICERS

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



Merry 16th Christmas
from all of us at
The Eugene PCjr Club



Jon
Camp
in NH-
Pauline and
Brandon Bacod
in OR - Niel Balsino
in AZ - Paul Bonney in
OR - James Bruns in NY
Clyde Dodge in CA - Lucretia
Carter in AK - Thomas Dadey in
PA - George Drake in IL - Yanik
Freeman in Canada - Helen and Dennis
Fry in OR - Darlene and Roy Gotzman in
OR - Jackie Hickman in TN - Elmer and Shirley
Hungate in MO - Phil and Rosie Janz in OR - Gordon,
Sharon and Reane LeManquais in OR - Elleen and Louie
Levy in OR - Robert and Vicki Luther in FL - Nancy McFadden
in OR - Chris, Mike, Beckie and Mikey Merrigan in OR - Lynn Miles
and Pat Delker in OR - Opal Nelson in OR - Dick and Carol Page in OR
Benoit Piette in Canada - Charles Popp in TX - Ryan Richardson in TN -
Keith Wright in OK - Mike and Jeanie Ruiz in OR - George and Martha
Rypinski in OR - Peggy and Brian
Seltzer-Hickey
in OR - Neil
and Cheryl
Shusterman
in PA - Kurt
and Sheila
Sundahl in OR - Stanley Suho in
IL - Jim Thomas in OR - F. M.
Van Pelt in OH - Margie and Jerry
Wills in OR - John Ward in AR
Julie and Jack Welton in OR - Robert
Young in OH - Judy and Billy Young in OR

Mike's Message

by Mike Ruiz

Although the days are cold, rainy and short of light, 'tis the season of joy and giving. Christmas lights, gifts and holidays make these wintery days festive. It's also the time of year the PCjr club has its annual Christmas potluck and gift exchange. There will be good food and surely a gift for all that attend. The event is intended for all of the family. I know I plan to bring gifts and food to add to the joyous event.

As a club, we have made it into a new millennium. Who would have guessed that someone out there still remains interested in the PCjr computer. The club has endured for over sixteen years.

Many members have learned to use computers, thanks to junior. Many members have grown out of using a junior and most of our members surely now own other computers besides a PCjr. I know that, at least for me, some of us owe our computer prowess to that first exciting impression of the computing world to the PCjr. And, although I now own another computer, my junior will remain dear to my heart and will still reside at my workstation.

For me it's become hard to resist the competition of the Pentium processor and Windows. There's so much to experience in the world thanks to systems like the Internet. In fact, nowadays people are missing a lot if they are not connected to the Internet with a browser such as Netscape or The Internet Explorer. The new systems and the possibilities are so intriguing, I wonder how many of us—PCjr users—don't have another PC of some kind to experience the new cyber world?

Hopefully you are planning a merry holiday season and will have a happy New Year.

Mike

THE JUNIOR ORPHANAGE

by Phil Janz

Over this summer past members, previous donors, Club members and PCjr web page readers have made the effort to contact the Club and offer to leave "Jr", or its software (we interact together) at the Club's doorstep! After all, who wants to just kick a cherished member of the family out in the cold?

As the last active IBM PCjr Club we continue to feel a responsibility towards our little peanut "offspring," and our door is always open to gather in such a user friendly and completely adequate entry level computer such as our "Jr." All such contributions support the Club's Outreach Program for placing and supporting a working Junior in a single

parent home or a financially disadvantaged home. We like it when a family "adopts" Junior into their home as a productive member of the family. . .

Our hats go off to:

★ Roy and Patricia Arbini, previous Club members from Milwaukie, Oregon who donated a complete and working 256K Junior. The Arbinis also boxed everything up and delivered it to the Club at their own expense!

★ Derek Touw, also from Milwaukie, Oregon, donated his Junior and all of the software he used in it to the Club and paid for the shipping down to Eugene.

★ Doug Dewey in Ft. Wayne, Indiana boxed and sent his Junior (with the exception of the monitor) to the Club. He also shipped his contribution to the Club at his own expense!

Doug wrote, "The Junior was given to me and I can no longer use it. I thought that maybe somebody from the Club could make good use of the Junior. I didn't want to throw it away because I hoped that somebody could use this great little computer."

★ Alvin Erickson, another past Club member from Forest Grove, Oregon communicated with the Club, and made arrangements with our Newsletter Editor, Louie Levy to drop by his house on his way to Portland and pick up Junior. As a single parent with a growing son, a more powerful computer was needed at home to replace "Jr."

★ The James family, another family who are past Club members from Springfield, Oregon called after moving to a smaller home and said they no longer had room for Junior. They had a newer computer so another working Junior was picked up by Club members and hopefully will be relocated with a family in the near future.

★ Pat Patterson, a Junior friend from Bend, Oregon has gathered in six lonely Juniors in various states of repair, along with several boxes of Junior software, from the high desert country, that was picked up by one of our members here in Eugene before the snow fell on the Cascade Mountain passes.

★ George Drake joined our Club only a few months ago. When he found that he was having to move from his Chicago home to Australia, George decided to ship his Junior to Eugene so it could be used by someone rather than trying to carry it on the plane half way around the world.

★ Clyde Dodge, a long-time Club member from Mountain View, California went through his shelves and came up with a variety of Junior software. He boxed these up and mailed them on up to Eugene for Club use—at his own expense.

I am sitting in front of my trustworthy "Jr" putting together this article using IBM's *Writing Assistant*. As an officer in the Eugene

PCjr Club I appreciate the effort and thoughtfulness of these contributors in helping to keep the PCjr alive. Indeed, if our Club wasn't located here in Eugene, there is no question in my mind that I too would send my friend, my "Jr", to wherever the Club was located if I was unable to use it anymore. The dumpster, *never!*

Ponder this question: How many Juniors are there in a yard? The answer is on page seven.

Q I am presently using a RACORE 2nd Drive Unit on my PCjr and my total memory is 512K. Can I add an IBM 128K sidecar to bring the memory up to 640K?

A You sure can. Set the DIP switches on the 128K sidecar so that switches 1, 2 and 3 are OFF and 4 is ON. Having 640K is sure nice. For one thing, it will allow you to use *The New Printshop* instead of the older original 128K version.

Internet? Yes No

There are millions of people who are just saying "no" to the Internet. While every day more and more people are getting connected on line, there are many who just don't want, or need, to be involved out on the information highway.

An article that appeared recently in our local newspaper talked about a study of those who DON'T use the Internet. Many of these folks have computers, but they don't go on line for many reasons. And, all these reasons were very valid.

"I don't have the time or need," many said. Some said they wouldn't dream of pur-
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chasing anything online. A few said they would rather go to the library or watch TV instead of sitting in front of a computer.

There have always been a few folks who chose not to have televisions in their homes and others who don't feel the need to own a phone. And there are many more who don't own a computer as they feel they are too expensive, but these aren't the ones who were included in the survey.

According to this report, nearly half the adults in the US are not Internet users. Of this half of the population, a third of them say they "definitely" will not go online. They site fear, no interest and technophobia as their main reasons. In fact, half of them believe the Internet to be "dangerous."

About a third of the nonusers say it costs too much to go online. And while it keeps getting easier and easier to get connected, about the same number of people say that it's too difficult for them. The pollsters felt that fear rather than knowledge was this group's greatest stumbling block.

If you know someone who fits this category of folks who fear getting caught in the "Web" it may be best not to push them or tease them. Try having some compassion. I know that I don't like spiders or spreadsheets and I've really tried to get along with both. I haven't totally given up on the remote for the VCR, but I have learned to live without it. Now, that's an area someone should get a government grant to study!



Things to Think About: "Beware of the Wildcard"

By Bob Denning

Don't use the wildcard symbol "*" with DOS commands DEL or ERASE unless you:

- 1- Know what you are doing, and
- 2- Intend to delete or erase all files on a diskette or hard disk which can be covered by the wild card designation. This includes directing the DOS command to the proper drive.

Consider the sad saga of "Mary:"

Mary had a junior
And diskettes by the score,
But never seemed to have enough
For all her files to store.

One day she thought to make some room
By DELEting surplus files;
She knew the wild card symbol (*)
Would save her many trials.

She booted junior from drive A;
Placed her target in drive B:
She typed in DEL *.*
And pressed the "Enter" key.

"Are you sure (Y/N)?" DOS promptly asked,
And Mary typed in "Y"
Now all the files on her boot diskette
Are in the archives in the sky!

Mary loved her Junior;
About the keys she'd frisk
But wasn't Mary foolish
With her little * ?

(Summary of an article originally published by the Palmetto PC Chronicles. No excuses for the doggerel; I'll take blame for that. Capt. Bob)

Q I still use the *Filing Assistant* program to keep track of my job files at work. My Junior is long gone, but I still have files that I need to retrieve. When I owned a computer with two disk drives, I transferred the data to 3.5" floppies and used *Filing Assistant* with the original 5 1/4" disk in

the B drive. Because I am now forced to use a new computer with Windows 98 and only a 3.5" drive, I am dead in the water. Does the PCjr Club have any idea about what I should do?

A *Filing Assistant* works well under Windows 98. The first step is to copy your *Filing Assistant* disk and then "unprotect" it by using the DOS's DEBUG.COM program. This will then allow you to copy the files onto your new computer and use *Filing Assistant* just as you have done in the past.

The Club received this follow-up e-mail: "We got the *Filing Assistant* disk from your club and have successfully installed it on one of the office computers. We also copied all the old data files we had onto this computer. We can now access both the program and the files directly from the hard drive instead of having to use all the "historical" floppies.

"We appreciate your assistance in this matter. We realize we are going to have to completely update our operations here, but you have given us some breathing room as far as time is concerned as we can still access our old filing system. Thanks!"

Bit 'O My Heart

Lorelei Shannon

My husband laughs at it. He calls it a relic and a dinosaur. My mom asks after its health in the same tone of voice she reserves for my geriatric cat. My friend recently suggested converting it into a planter. It's my 1985 PCjr. And, I love it!

It's the computer I learned to love computers on. It taught me word processing. It made me throw out my typewriter. Its valiant little 8088 processor, noisy fan and disk drive have kept me company on many a night as we worked our way toward that undergraduate degree.

It has a name: "Junior."

Much to my husband's dismay, Junior is also my playmate. We have wandered the magical land of Daventry together. We have cruised space together. We've been princes, kings and janitors. We've piloted robot battleships through the galaxy and crashed a Cessna time and time again at Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

Sometimes I worry as I age and this old body keeps getting just a little more weathered, that my husband may begin to lose interest in me. He laughs and says that I'm like my Junior. A vintage, classic machine that still has a lot of use left and is proving its stamina every day. Here I am keying away with Junior and *Writing Assistant*. And, as he said just now passing by, "looking good, girl." I'm not about to give either of them up!

Q I picked up another power supply for my PCjr at a local thrift store and I noticed that while they look alike, the markings are a little different. One is rated at 16.7 VAC, 56 VA and the other is 17.7 VAC, 75 VA. Are they interchangeable?

A We assume you mean the "black bricks" which are merely step-down transformers. The original Junior was supplied with the 17.7 volt version and it matches the "real" power supply board inside Junior. This board, according to the PCjr Technical Reference Manual, requires a nominal 17 Volts ac at 33 watts. It may be that it has slightly more capacity (watts) because of the additional load of the disk drive, video RAM card etc. The other, lower capacity brick (56 VA) was made to be used with some of the additional sidecar power supplies when more than three additional cards (internal modem, memory or parallel port) are loaded onto the buss, internal or side. Our manual states that this brick and power board combination is designed to operate only three

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additional sidecars. Though it should work in practical terms, we wouldn't recommend swapping them. A note here: The "brick" for the Tecmar jrCaptain RAM expansion has a capacity of only 18 watts and delivers 18 volts ac to its built-in power supply on the board.

My First Game. . .

By Clyde Dodge

Just for the record, *Adventure* was the first game I ever saw on a computer. I played it on a Stanford University machine. It really captivated the staff. I used to get to work early and play for an hour before work.

One day as I was playing, a line suddenly appeared on my screen saying that I had "forgotten to get the bear." I looked at that line trying to think what had happened. I finally concluded that the system operator was watching me play! So, I said "thank you" and returned and got the bear.

I left SRI before I finished the game, but later found that a company had put *Adventure* on a floppy so it could be played on the PCjr and other computers. So, that was when I had time to play and finish.

I also discovered that some guy had put out a book of game solutions that included this game and many others. The book included maps, but I always thought my maps were better as they showed every possible exit from each point in the mazes. It took me about six months to map the two mazes!

Of course *Adventure* is on a 5 ¼ disk and I no longer have a disk drive that can use this size disk. My new P III 450 MHz computer only has a 3 ½ inch floppy. I am going to have to figure a way to copy the files from the old disk to a newer one. Maybe the club can do this for me!

(Ed's Note: The Club did!)

RACORE Clock Error Fix

Louie Levy

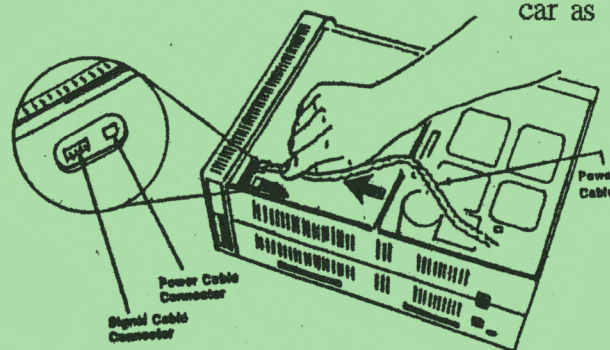
When was the last time you changed the battery in your RACORE Drive II unit? Most of us haven't EVER changed the battery! We get used to seeing the wrong date, or no date at all, and just keep on going. It isn't a good idea to leave a dead battery in anything, let alone a piece of computer equipment!

As an aside, a member over in Bend, Oregon, contacted the club about what happened to him last month when his battery died in his "other" computer. He took it in to his computer store and was told they didn't replace batteries in "older" computers and suggested it was time to buy another whole system!

A trip to Batteries Plus solved this member's problem. He also told us that when the time comes to replace his system, that retailer won't be the dealer who will be getting his business.

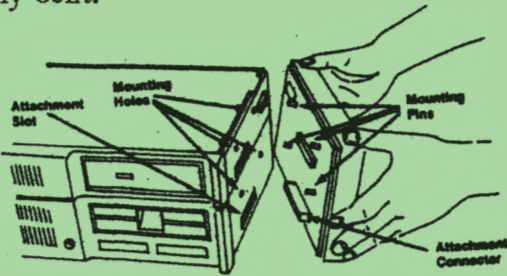
Changing the battery in a RACORE unit isn't too difficult. First, disconnect the power cords from the back of your Junior. Remove the side plate on Junior's side to expose the four screws that hold the side-car. Remove the lid on Junior to expose the top.

Locate the two wires going to the side-car as

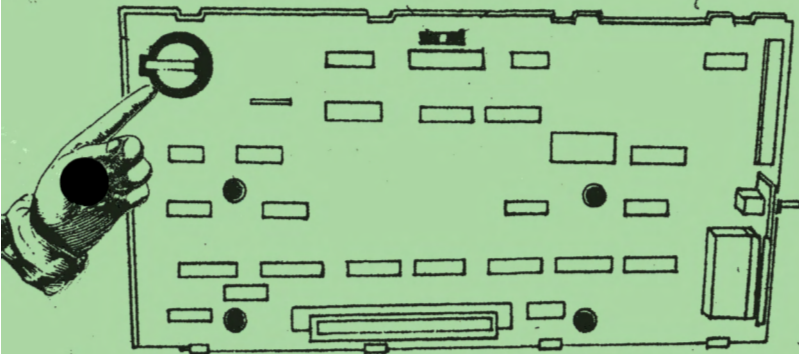


indicated in the illustration. Be gentle and DON'T pull on the wires like it looks like in the illustration!

After you have removed the wires, loosen the four sidecar screws and remove it by gently prying on both ends. Be careful as the pins in the computer's BUS connection are easily bent.



Once the sidecar is off Junior, put light pressure on the four screws and continue to unscrew them from the RACORE unit. You can then gently pry the unit apart to expose the circuit board. The battery is located where the finger is pointing in the illustration below.



As RACORE has used several different batteries in its sidecars, we suggest that you check the battery in your unit and replace it with the same type.

Just read the article backwards to reassemble your Junior! The last thing you will need to do is run the RACORE program SETCLK.COM or SETDCLK.COM to reset your clock.



Answer to question on page three:

There are 10 Juniors in this yard.



Send us your favorite picture relating to the PCjr and we'll try to put it in the newsletter!



Yahoo!! The Christmas Potluck Social!!!!

We are now approaching the magical season of Christmas. Hope this finds you all excited about Jingle Bells and who knows, maybe even snow?? We are excited to anticipate our annual Christmas Party and Potluck. Featured this year will be ham and scalloped potatoes and drinks offered by the club. Please bring your utensils and a dish of salad or dessert to accompany the entree.

We will have our usual gift exchange this year and try to keep the children's gifts together. So please mark your gift if it is for a child and plan on bringing a gift if you plan to participate in the gift exchange. We would like also to have a cookie exchange. So if you would like to take home an assortment of different cookies bring two dozen cookies that are your favorite homemade cookies and plan on exchanging one for each one you bring.

We will have Christmas music and lots of good fellowship. Don't miss this special once a year time with your PCjr friends.

A little more on the back page---->

Remember, the Christmas Potluck Social will be this coming Thursday evening (December 14th) at the Norkenzie Church of Christ (the back entrance). We will start at 6:00 PM. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give me a call (484-5063).

Lynn Miles, Social Chairperson

HOW TO REACH THE EUGENE PCjr CLUB

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).



EUGENE PCjr CLUB

P.O. Box 50024, Eugene, OR 97405

Phil and Rosie Janz 12/00
155 34th Place East
Eugene, OR 97405-3883



FIRST CLASS MAIL

