



mini'app'les

newsletter


\$2

Vol. 14
No. 2

The Minnesota Apple Computer User's Group, Inc.

FEBRUARY 91

Calendar
of
Events

M	T	W	T	F
4	5	Apple // Main Meeting 6 North Regional Library, 1315 Lowrey Ave North - 7:00 pm Subject: PublishIt!3 Speaker: Ostertag/Warner Tom Ostertag 488-9979	Mac Main Meeting 7 Hennepin Southdale Library 6:30 / 7:00 pm - Mike Carlson 866-3441, <i>Need co-coordinator</i>	8
Mac Computer Art 11 & Design SIG NO MEETING THIS MONTH Joy Kopp needs to find a new location for the meeting. Please call her at 440-5436 if you have any suggestions.	Apple II DTP SIG 12 Murray Jr. High School, St. Paul 7:00 PM Subject: The New Print Shop Speaker: Anderson Bill Warner 490-9554	Dakota County SIG 13 Mac, Apple II, Apple IIGS Burnsville High School Room C264 & 266 - 7:00 pm Subject: Home Finance Tom Michals 452-5667	Apple mini'app'les 14 Board Meeting Lexington Branch Library University & Lexington Aves. St. Paul, MN - 7:00 pm David Laden 488-6774	
Fourth Dimension™ 18 SIG Hennepin Southdale Library Ian Abel 824-8602	MacCAD/E SIG 19 Bill Langer 937-9240 Heath/Zenith Computer Hopkins - 7:00 pm Microsoft® Works™ SIG* Highland Park Library Ken Edd 631-3679	Apple IIGS SIG 20 First Tech, 2640 Hennepin, Mpls. Mark Evans 377-9000	North Shore Mac CIG 21 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Grand Marais - 7:00 pm Jim Ringquist 218-387-2234	22
HyperCard™ SIG 25 Hagen Office Equipment - 7:00 pm Subject: Hypertalk 2.0 Peter Fleck 370-0017 Mac Novice User SIG Highland Br Library Tom Lufkin 698-6523	Mac Programmer SIG* 26 Gervaise Kimm 379-1836 Murray Jr. High, St. Paul - 7:00 pm	Mac Desktop 27 Publishing SIG First Tech, 2640 Hennepin, Mpls. - 7:00 pm Bob Grant - 827-6142	AppleWorks® SIG 28 Murray Jr. High, 2200 Buford St. Paul - 7:00 pm Subject: TimeOut TeleComm Jim Shield 434-9836	

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, March 7, 1991 – Replaces Main Mac Meeting and is at Hennepin Southdale Library – Please call Voice Mail at 627-0956 for more information.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR BOARD AND DIRECTOR POSITIONS – Please call Tom Ostertag at 488-9979 if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for any of these positions.

Notes:

Deadline
for March Newsletter
is February 4th

Deadline
for April Newsletter
is March 1st

CIG - Community Interest Group
SIG - Special Interest Group

* Denotes a change in time or location from previous month's meeting.

Coordinators – Please Call Dick Aura (941-1198) by the 1st Friday in order to have your meeting listed correctly.

**THE CALENDAR FOR
MARCH IS ON PAGE 4**

Board Members:
Officers




















President	<i>David E. Laden</i>	488-6774
	675 West Wheelock Pkwy, St. Paul, MN 55117	
Vice-President	<i>Tom Lufkin</i>	698-6523
	2078 Highland Parkway St. Paul, MN 55116	
Secretary	<i>Randy Dop</i>	452-0425
	4128 Meadowlark Lane Eagan, MN 55122	
Treasurer	<i>J. Edward Wheeler</i>	881-5928
	P.O. Box 796 Hopkins, MN 55343	

Directors

Publications	<i>Dave Undlin</i>	432-0913
Membership	<i>Open</i>	
Software	<i>Tom Gates</i>	789-1713
Operations & Resource	<i>Dick Peterson</i>	473-5846
SIG: Macs	<i>Jim Horswill</i>	379-7624
SIG: Apples	<i>Tom Michals</i>	452-5667

Coordinators

Shows & Conventions	<i>Open</i>	
Beginners' Consultant	<i>Earl Benser</i>	884-2148
Dakota County	<i>Tom Michals</i>	452-5667
Northwest Branch	<i>Jere Kauffman</i>	535-6745

 Mac Users	<i>Open</i>	
	<i>Mike Carlson (days)</i>	866-3441
 Excel SIG	<i>M. Nightingale</i>	545-9380
 Mac Programming SIG	<i>Ian Abel</i>	824-8602
 HyperCard SIG	<i>Peter Fleck</i>	370-0017
 CAD & Engin. SIG	<i>Bill Langer</i>	937-9240
 4th Dimension SIG	<i>Ian Abel</i>	824-8602
 Mac Computer Art. & Design SIG	<i>Joy Kopp</i>	440-5436
 Mac Novice SIG	<i>Tom Lufkin</i>	698-6523
 Smalltalk SIG	<i>Martin McClure</i>	227-9348
 DeskTop Pub. SIG	<i>Bob Grant</i>	827-6142
 MicroSoft Works SIG	<i>Ken Edd</i>	631-3679
 North Shore Mac Users	<i>Jim Ringquist</i>	(218) 387-2234
 Apple II Users	<i>Tom Ostertag</i>	488-9979
 Apple IIGS SIG	<i>Mark Evans</i>	935-7251
 AppleWorks SIG	<i>Jim Shields</i>	434-9836
 Apple II DTP	<i>Bill Warner</i>	644-0658
 Beginner's Basic SIG	<i>Tom Alexander</i>	698-8633
 Languages/Tech SIG	<i>Wesley Johnson</i>	636-1826
 Tech. Adviser (hdwre)	<i>Roger Flint</i>	771-2868

Software Director's Staff

Mac eDOM Editor/Prod	<i>Bob Fellows</i>	
Apple // DOM Editor	<i>Tom Gates</i>	789-1713
CP/M	<i>Open</i>	

Liaison Contacts (Contact with non-Mini'app'les SIGs)

Genealogy	<i>Melvyn Magree</i>	559-1108
Medical	<i>Stewart Haight</i>	644-1838
CP/M	<i>Jim Rosenow</i>	(414) 261-2536
PACER Center	<i>Roslie Becker</i>	827-2966

This is the Newsletter of mini'app'les, the Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit club. The whole newsletter is copyrighted © by mini'app'les. Articles may be reproduced in other non-profit User Groups' publications except where specifically copyrighted by the author. (Permission to reproduce these articles must be given by the author.) Please include the source when reprinting.

Questions – Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Technical questions should be directed to the Technical Director.

Membership – mini'app'les
 attn: Membership Coordinator
 PO Box 796
 Hopkins MN 55343

All members receive a subscription to the newsletter and all club benefits. New members receive a package of member lists and software catalogs.

eDOMs	At Meetings	Mail Order
Members:		
5 1/4" eDOMs	\$3.00	Add
5 1/4" System	\$1.00	\$1
3 1/2" Apple/Mac eDOMs	\$5.00	per disk,
3 1/2" System	\$3.00	
Non-Members:		Max
5 1/4" eDOMs	\$6.00	
3 1/2" Apple/Mac eDOMs	\$10.00	\$4.00

Make checks payable to: mini'app'les

Mail to Mini'app'les: Attn: eDOM Sales
 PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343

Dealers – mini'app'les does not endorse specific dealers. The club promotes distribution of information which may help members identify best buys and service. The club itself does not participate in bulk purchases of media, software, hardware and publications. Members may organize such activities on behalf of other members.

Newsletter Contributions – Please send contributions directly to the Newsletter Editor, Linda Bryan, 1752 Gulden Place, Maplewood, MN 55109 or upload to BBS. You can also reach Linda at 777-7037 after 4:00 pm.

Deadline for publication for March newsletter is February 4th. An article will be printed when space permits and if, in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor, it constitutes suitable material for publication.

Meeting Dates – Please phone calendar announcements to:
 Dick Aura 941-1198.

mini'app'les BBS – 892-3317 8 data 1 stop 0 parity 24 hours

mini'app'les Voice Mail – 627-0956 (Receive info on upcoming meetings and leave messages) – 24 hours. Thanks to Tom Gates.

Advertising – Direct inquiries to:
 Sharon Gondek – 644-7418
 mini'app'les Advertising Coordinator
 PO Box 4023
 St. Paul, MN 55104

Newsletter Publication Staff

Publications Director	<i>Dave Undlin</i>	432-0913
Editor	<i>Linda Bryan</i>	777-7037
Production Manager	<i>Cindy Reeve</i>	934-7500
Graphics Consultant	<i>Nancy McClure</i>	227-9348
Calendar	<i>Dick Aura</i>	941-1198
Contributing Editor	<i>Steve George</i>	935-5775
Contributor	<i>Patrick Neal Cannon</i>	722-7056
Contributor	<i>Tom Edwards</i>	927-6790
Contributor	<i>Peter Fleck</i>	370-0017
Contributor	<i>Beth Fordyce</i>	
Contributor	<i>Tom Gates</i>	789-1713
Contributor	<i>Jim Horswill</i>	379-7624
Contributor	<i>Tom Michals</i>	452-5667
Contributor	<i>Tom Ostertag</i>	488-9979
Contributor	<i>David Thofem</i>	759-3407

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*Yes . . .
I'd like to join!*

Please accept my -

mini'app'les MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

Please Print or Type:

1. Name _____

 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Res. phone _____ Bus. _____
 Renew ID# _____ Exp. Date _____

2. Please enroll me as a mini'app'les member.

<input type="checkbox"/> Regular [1st year] \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Renew [one year] \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign \$30.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Donation \$_____ (tax deductible)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$25.00	

3. Please tell us your special interests:

Which personal computer do you use?	Area of Interest?
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple II	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple II +	<input type="checkbox"/> Home Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple IIe	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Application
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple IIc	<input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Publishing
<input type="checkbox"/> Apple IIgs	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Macintosh Plus	Do you own or use?
<input type="checkbox"/> Macintosh SE	<input type="checkbox"/> Printer
<input type="checkbox"/> Macintosh II	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Printer
<input type="checkbox"/> Macintosh SE/30	<input type="checkbox"/> Modem
<input type="checkbox"/> Macintosh IIcx/IIci	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Laser - Other	

Sponsored by: _____

Check if interested in volunteer opportunities.
Special Area _____

Check if you do not wish to receive non-club promotional mailings.

You'll receive your new member's kit in 3 to 6 weeks.
Make checks payable & mail to:

mini'app'les
PO Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343

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IF YOU ARE MOVING. . .

... please let us know six weeks before you move so we can change your address. Thank you.

Copy your newsletter mailing label showing current address in this space:

I.D.#: _____ Exp. Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City, St., Zip: _____

PRINT YOUR NEW ADDRESS HERE ✓

Street: _____
 City, St., Zip _____

MAIL TO: mini'app'les, P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343

MARCH 1991

Apple // Main Meeting	Wed. March 6	North Regional Library: Apple][+ Night - Beagle Bros.	Note 11
General Membership Meeting	Thur. March 7	Hennepin County Library, Southdale	627-0956
Apple II DTP SIG	Thur. March 7	Murray Jr. High School, St. Paul	Note 19
Mac Computer Art & Design SIG	Mon. March 11	Please call Joy for meeting status and location - 440-5436	Note 7
Dakota County SIG	Wed. March 13	Metcalf Jr. High, Cedar Ave. & County Rd. 30 Burnsville	Note 16
Board Meeting	Thur. March 14	Lexington Branch Library, St. Paul	Members welcome - Note 1
Fourth Dimension™ SIG	Mon. March 18	Hennepin Southdale Library	Note 2
Microsoft® Works™ SIG	Tues. March 19	Highland Branch Library, St. Paul	Note 13
MacCAD/E SIG	Tues. March 19	Heath/Zenith Computers, Hopkins	Note 8
Apple IIGS SIG	Wed. March 20	First Tech Computer, 2640 Hennepin	Note 12
North Shore CIG	Thur. March 21	Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Grand Marais	Note 15
HyperCard™ SIG	Mon. March 25	Hagen Office Equipment	Note 5
Mac Novice SIG	Mon. March 25	Highland Br. Library, St Paul	Note 9
Macintosh Programmer SIG	Tues. March 26	Murray Jr. High, 2200 Buford, St Paul	Note 18
Mac Desktop Publishing SIG	Wed. March 27	First Tech Computer, 2640 Hennepin	Note 3
AppleWorks® SIG	Thur. March 28	Murray Jr. High, 2200 Buford, St. Paul	Note 10

1. Dave Laden	488-6774	5. Peter Fleck	370-0017	9. Tom Lufkin	698-6523	13. Ken Edd	631-3679
2. Ian Abel	824-8602	6. Jere Kauffman	535-6745	10. Jim Shields	434-9836	14. Open	
3. Bob Grant	827-6142	7. Joy Kopp	440-5436	11. Tom Ostertag	488-9979	15. Jim Ringquist	(218) 387-2234
4. Mke Carlson	866-3441	8. Bill Langer	937-9240	12. Mark Evans	377-9000	16. Tom Michals	452-5667

Coordinators - Please Call Dick Aura (941-1198) by the 1st Friday of the month preceding the issue month in order to have your meeting listed correctly.

17. John Hackbarth	(715) 246-6561
18. Gervaise Kimm	379-1836
19. Bill Warner	644-0658

Members Helping Members

Need Help? Have a question the manual doesn't answer? Members Helping Members is a group of volunteers who have generously agreed to help. They are just a phone call away. Please: only call if you are a Member, own the software in question, and only within the specified days/hours listed at the bottom.

Macintosh	Key	PostScript	8	Home Acc'n't	20	Graphics Studio	
4th Dimension		Power Point	5	Laser 3.5 drives	1	GS/OS	3
Adobe Illustrator	21	QuickBasic	5,6	PublishIt!		Merlin 16+	15
Beginners	13,14	ReadySetGo		ProTERM	1	Mousetalk	15
Canvas	5	Telecommunications	19	Talk Is Cheap	3	MultiScribe	
FileMaker II	17	WordPerfect		TimeOut	9,2	Music Studio	
General	14,17,18	XPress	21	TO Graph	2	PaintWorks Plus/Gold	15
Helix	16			TO SideSpread	1	Prosel	2
HyperCard	6,9,19	Apple II	Key	TO QuickSpell	1	TML Basic	3
MacDraft	5	Applewriter	2	TO SpreadTools	1	TML Pascal	3
MacDraw	5	AppleWorks	1,2,9	TO Thesaurus	1	Writer's Choice	15
MacPaint	5	Ascii Express	3	WordPerfect			
Mac OS	4	BASIC	5			Apple III	Key
Microsoft Excel	5,6,17,18	Beagle Buddy	9	Apple IIGS	Key	General	12
Microsoft Word	4,5,6,14,17	BPI Programs		816 Paint			
Microsoft Works	11,17	Datalink 1200	1	AppleWorksGS	15		
Networking	5,6,13,19	Dollars & Sense	1	APW	20		
OverVue		DB Master	7	DeluxePaint II			
PageMaker	4,6,17	Epson LX80	1	General	3,10		
		Hard & software	9	Graphic Writer II/III	15		

If you would like to be a "Members Helping Members" volunteer, please post your name, phone number, area(s) and convenient contact time(s) to Dave Undlin on the BBS or call the voice mail number - 627-0956.

1. Lloyd Nelson	423-3112	E	7. Ann Bell	422-1115	E	13. John Hackbarth	715-246-6561	D
2. Tom Ostertag	488-9979	E	8. Fritz Lott	377-3032	E	14. Jim Horswill	379-7624	DEW
3. Tom Gates	789-1713	EW	9. Peter Fleck	370-0017		15. Tom Michals	452-5667	
4. Tom Edwards	478-2300	D	10. Randy Dop	452-0425	EW	16. Arnie Kroll	433-3517	E
	927-6790	E	11. Ed Spitzer	432-0103	D	17. Michael Foote	507-645-6710	
5. Earl Benser	884-2148	EW	12. Bob Rosenberg	377-4300	EW	18. Richard Becker	870-0659	EW
6. Dan Buchler	435-3075	E		340-0234	D	19. Timothy Kunau	683-3649	D
						20. Steve Peterson	922-9219	EW
						21. Jodi Roste	933-1698	EW

D-days (generally 9a-5p), E-evenings (gen. 5p-9p), W-weekends (gen. 1p-9p).
In any case, call at reasonable hours and ask if this is a convenient time for them. We appreciate your cooperation.

Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Members in attendance:
David Laden, Tom Lufkin,
J.E. Wheeler, Randy Dop,
David Undlin, Tom Gates,
Dick Peterson, Jim Horswill,
Tom Michals.

Members in attendance:
Steve George, David
Kloempken, Les Anderson

The meeting was called to order by President Laden at 7:11 P.M. The meeting agenda was distributed and reviewed. Motion by Dop to accept agenda as amended. Second by Horswill. Carried.

The minutes of the November 8 Board Meeting were submitted by Dop. Motion by Undlin to approve November minutes as amended. Second by Horswill. Carried.

The Board of Directors observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Dick Marchiafava. Dick's friendship and contributions to the group will be missed by all.

Agenda Item 2.1 - President's Report
David Laden is still collecting information for the Policy and Procedures manual. A draft of this document will be put together based on input from Board members.

Agenda Item 2.2 - Vice President's Report
Tom Lufkin has been in contact with Apple to attempt to schedule a vice president of Apple to be a speaker at the General Membership meeting. Tom will continue to talk with Apple and try to line up a speaker. Once a speaker is selected, an appropriate location will be found for the meeting.

Agenda Item 2.3 - Secretary's Report
Randy Dop reported that the bulk mailing permit needs to be renewed at the Hopkins post office and also the February

newsletter should be mailed from the Hopkins post office to maintain the bulk mailing permit. The notice for request for bylaw changes was published in the December newsletter.

Agenda Item 2.4 - Treasurer's Report
Report for October 1990 submitted by Wheeler.

INCOME	
Membership Dues	1366.00
TCF Inv Mgt Acct Int	13.85
TCF CD Interest	82.55
eDOM Sales	124.00
Newsletter advertising	674.60
Misc. Equipment Sale	[1350.00] 2260.00
EXPENSES	
eDOM Cost of Goods	19.19
Office Supplies	11.56
Telephone	32.81
Postage, shipping	100.00
Occupancy, rent	72.00
Printing, publications	750.66
Bank service charge	16.26 1002.51
MONTH GAIN	1257.49
Checking Account Balance	2673.64
TCF Inv Mgt Acct	2806.45
TCF CD	4000.00

Agenda Item 2.5 - Membership Director's Report
The current membership is 684 based on the Treasurer's records.

Agenda Item 2.6 - Executive Committee Report
Randy Dop provided notes from the Executive Committee Meeting that was held December 11, 1990.

Agenda Item 2.7 - Publications Committee Report
David Undlin reported that the December Newsletter had gone through a layout change. The new format looks great and is being well received. David talked about a number of other changes that will be occurring in the upcoming months. David Laden commended the entire Newsletter staff for all the hard work that has gone in to make the new changes in the Newsletter.

Agenda Item 2.8 - Software Director Report
Tom Gates reported on a new eDOM program called the Disk Exchange Program. Once a member purchases an Exchange Program eDOM, updated versions of the software will be made available. Tom also reported that the entire catalog of Mac eDOMs are now available on a disk.

Agenda Item 2.9 - Resource Director Report
No report this month.

Agenda Item 2.10 - Interest Group Directors' Reports
Jim Horswill reported that he attended the Mac portion of the Dakota County SIG meeting. Jim said that he has decided not to pursue a Mac SIG at the University.

Tom Michals reported that the Dakota County SIG has split into a Mac and Apple group. Tom attended the December Apple II Main meeting on games and the DTP meeting on The New Print Shop.

Agenda Item 2.11 - Nominating Committee

David Laden reported the nominating committee held its first meeting. Tom Ostertag was elected chairman and Cindy Reeve was elected secretary.

Motion by Dop to accept the Directors' reports. Second by Lufkin. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Agenda Item 3.1 - Brainstorming session on Membership/Promotion
Tabled.

Agenda Item 3.2 - General Membership Meeting - February 1991
Covered under Vice President's report.

by Randy
Dop



Secretary
Report

Board continued from page 5

Agenda Item 3.3 - Applications/Permits for Use of Facilities

David Laden will send copies of all applications and permits to the insurance company for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Agenda Item 4.1 - Insurance Policy/Evaluation

David Laden passed out copies of the group's insurance schedule from Northwest Insurance Minnesota. Motion by Undlin that Mini'app'les immediately find a new insurance carrier. Second by Michals. David Undlin voiced his concern about the amount of time it took for our insurance carrier to respond to a request for information.

The insurance agent was given the names of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as official representatives of the group. All correspondence with the insurance agent should be handled by any of the four listed positions. David Laden will be responsible for contacting the insurance agent before the next Board meeting. Motion failed.

Agenda Item 4.2 - Non-profit Corporation Annual Registration

Recommendation for Board approval: WHEREAS the Minnesota non-profit corporation act effective 1/1/91 requires a registered address of the corporation to be a street address, not post office box; THEREFORE be it resolved that the registered address of the corporation be the address of the current President. Cost \$35.00 each time registration changes. Carried.

Agenda Item 4.3 - Second Renewal Notice Policy

Recommendation for Board approval: That Mini'app'les send a second renewal notice 90 days after first notice to those members who have not renewed their membership as of that time. Carried.

Agenda Item 4.4 - Survey/Questionnaire

David Undlin reported that a survey of the membership is being planned for a future newsletter. David asked for input concerning the survey.

Agenda Item 4.5 - Reminder of Correspondence Policy

Tabled.

Agenda Item 4.6 - Volunteer Coordinator

Tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Randy L. Dop

The Johnny Appleseed Awards & Grants Program

from a press
release



Your Club

The computer industry marks the beginning of each new product year by giving awards for hardware and software. Yet history will prove that it is not tools which have shaped our world but the people who have used them.

The Johnny Appleseed Awards™ program was conceived by Apple computer users, for Apple & PC computer users. Its mission is to recognize Macintosh®, Apple, and PC computer users who have made unselfish contributions, through the use of their computers, to the aged, children, homeless, mentally or physically handicapped, underprivileged, special educational programs, endangered species, or the environment. Johnny Appleseed is a program chartered under Computer Users For Social Responsibility™ (CUSR™), a New York state nonprofit organization, and conceived by the MUG News Service (MNS).

If your user group has a member who has made a contribution to a nonprofit cause, you are invited to nominate that individual for consideration. Your user group itself is eligible to apply as well if the group as a whole meets the requirements. Furthermore, your user group can apply for "Seed" grants to work on projects that meet the goals of CUSR.

Nominees and their deeds will be evaluated by our blue-ribbon panel, and CUSR directors. Finalists will be contacted for full interviews and details about their contributions for final judging and awards. Award winners, their affiliate nonprofit organizations and their user groups will be recognized in the pages of trade journals and at our Johnny Appleseed Awards event. In this way, we hope not only to bring recognition to those who contribute, but to spread the word of their successes to others who may be encouraged to follow.

For information, contact: Computer Users For Social Responsibility™ 1726 Lenox Road, Schenectady, NY 12308. Voice: (518) 374-1088; GENie: MNS or D.Rittner or America Online: AFC MNS, or DRITTNER.

Sponsored by Computer Users for Social Responsibility, Inc., and the MUG News Service, 1726 Lenox Rd, Schenectady, NY 12308

Newsletter editor's note: The 1990 awards were won by two teachers. Prizes are impressive. I have more information about the Johnny Appleseed Awards and Grants if you wish to make a nomination. Contact Linda Bryan—see inside cover.

Member Responds to RamFactor/Publish It Article

by David
Thofern
and
Linda Bryan



Letters to/
from the
Editor

Several comments need to be made regarding the Jim Pendarvis' December article on **Publish It! 2** and **RamWorks**.

Publish It! is the leading Apple II desktop publishing program. **RamWorks** refers to an extended memory card for the Apple IIe. Using the extended memory in the **RamWorks** card you can set up a ramdisk that allows programs to be run from the ram memory rather than from a floppy disk. This speeds up disk access considerably and, if you have sufficient memory, you can quickly switch between two or more programs.

The latest version of **Publish It!** is 3.0. If you are using an older version, such as **Publish It!2**, you should upgrade immediately. **Publish It! 3.0** offers substantial improvements over previous versions. Contact **TimeWorks**, the publisher of **Publish It!** for upgrade information.

For those of us who would like to take advantage of the speed of a ramdisk, but lack the technical expertise to jump through the electronic hoops suggested by Jim Pendarvis, there is an easier solution offered by **Quality Computers** with their **RamUp** ramdisk software. **RamUp** sets up a menu driven ramdisk that takes the pain out of program loading and switching. **RamUp** automatically partitions the **RamWorks** memory so that **PublishIt!** won't gobble it all up for itself.

Publish It! is available from **TimeWorks**, 444 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015 708-948-9202 **RamUp** is available from **Quality Computers**, 20200 E. Nine Mile Road, Box 665, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080 1-800-443-6697

—David Thofern

Editor, Where Does This Stuff Come From?

For members who do not understand Club mysteries, I put forward another of the Newsletter editor's tomes. Subject: Where do we get the material for the Newsletter?

Local Authors

The primary source is mini-apple members. These members sit down and write the material themselves, based upon their own observations and research. For every user who is more experienced than you, there is someone who has less experience, so don't let less-than-professional credentials be a criterion for not writing.

Local authors are the most important people working on the Newsletter—without them there would not be a Newsletter. It is your editor's policy to give priority to locally written material.

If you have an idea for an original article, don't wait for someone to read your mind. Contact me to discuss it, or just write it—use a word processor, and mail or modem the article to me (see inside front cover). For example, *Jim Horswill's* series of articles for **Mac Beginners** is an outgrowth of a thread I began by writing one beginner article. In conversations, we brainstormed further topics, which have blossomed into a wonderful series of articles.

Apple II articles are in especially short supply. I must here remind the Club of the terrible void left by the death of *Dick Marchiafava*, faithful author of **AppleWorks** articles. Surely others will take up the torch.

Transcriptions from Exchange Newsletters

Through an exchange program between user groups across the nation, we receive a large number of newsletters from other clubs. They are sent to our Club

PO, brought to the Board meetings, and distributed by Board members. If you are interested in receiving exchange Newsletters (with the proviso that you will transcribe or otherwise publicize the important bits you find in them) contact your Board members (see inside front cover).

Presently, people like *Steve George* and *Tom Gates* transcribe material from exchange newsletters, but what they define as important and what you consider important may be different. To get the Newsletter slant to be aimed toward your interests, become a transcriber.

Contributors Using Bulletin Boards and Online Services

Members who participate in online services or bulletin boards sometimes run across gems that they decide to share.

Digital User Group Newsletter Services

This category has risen in importance for us. Two large sources are **AppleLink** and **Macintosh News Service**. The **AppleLink** files are downloads by *Jim Horswill* from our Club **AppleLink** subscription (files provided by Apple Computer and others, including some user groups and the subdivision of Apple that produces the **QuickConnect** user group publications). The **Macintosh News Service** is downloaded by *David Undlin* from heaven knows where. It comes with a proviso that participating user groups must themselves submit material, that they credit the sources, and that they run a monthly commercial ad. These ads begin in this issue.

CD-ROM

From the CD-ROM purchased at the **NAUGC** convention last spring we have received a large

Letters GOTO page 23

Announcements

from
SIG
Directors
and
Members



Reports on
Club Events

Nominations Committee Requests Your Help

by Tom Ostertag

Would anyone who contacted Dick Marchiafava or was contacted by him about being nominated for the mini'apples Board of Directors please contact Tom Ostertag (488-9979) or by e-Mail #28 on the Mini'Info'Net?

Also, would those of you interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact Tom Ostertag as soon as possible. Deadline for nominations is 12:00 noon on 8 February. Thank you.

Apple II Main Meeting

January Meeting Minutes

by Tom Ostertag

It was a dark and stormy night... well, not really. It was a waning gibbous moon and it wasn't even too cold. Apple IIer's were gathering with fistfuls of "old" software to confound John Hyde and his Mac LC with the Apple II card in it. A bunch of people were sitting around pushing disks at John to see what would and wouldn't run. This continued for a while until we wanted to start the meeting.

First was a couple of announcements/survey question. Tom Ostertag asked if there were any nominations for the upcoming election and then passed out several nomination forms. Next Tom Michals talked about the Dakota County SIG meeting and how nice it was with carpeting and all... Two rooms, one for the Mac People and the other for the rest of us. Their topic(s) for the evening will be (gasp...) Taxes and tax programs. Tom Ostertag announced that the Apple II Desktop Publishing SIG was moving to the second Tuesday of each month starting in January. So if you are an Apple II DTP'er, be at Murray Jr HS on 8 January (Tuesday) at 7:00. They are going to work with TimeOut Paint and SuperFonts.

The survey question was whether people would object to having the Main Apple II meeting on the second Monday of each month at the Highland Park Library in St. Paul. No one objected and several stated that the change would be an improvement since it was tough for them to get to meetings on Wednesdays.

Now for the evening's program (or I should say extension since it was in full swing when I arrived at 6:50) with John Hyde demonstrating the Apple II card on the Mac LC. Again with the

disks of software. It was amazing the collection of software that was brought. Some of the programs that worked were, of course, AppleWorks (256K desktop), an integer basic program from eDOM #1 called AIR ATTACK!, Alien Typhoon, Robot Wars and a number of others that I didn't catch since they were arriving hot and heavy. Software that didn't work included Lode Runner, Zaon and Tom Gate's Cassette program.

AIR ATTACK! was interesting—the plane kept taking a nosedive and crashing, but the color was great. Interesting machine.

The party (oops, er...) meeting broke up about 8:45 and a bunch of the people sans one writer took off for Byerly's for goodies. Okay, Steve, what was the pie for the day?

Next month the topic will be Publish It3! from TimeWorks and the meeting will still be at North Regional Library. The location change will come in April, to be specific 8 April. So, we'll see you in February. —Tom Ostertag

Upcoming Meetings

by Tom Ostertag

Well gang, there is going to be a change in both the meeting day and in the meeting location for the Main Apple II meeting. Our present location is the North Regional Library and will remain so for February and March. In April (and this isn't an April Fools joke...) we will be meeting on the second Monday (8 April 1991) and the meeting location will be the Highland Park Branch Library at 1974 Ford Parkway in St. Paul. I know it's not near any freeways, but it's close to Baker's Square and coffee and goodies are very important. I've made arrangements for meeting there until September and then we can evaluate the location and the day of the month and change possibly to the Washburn location.

Anyway, here's the revised schedule...

North Regional Library, Minneapolis

Date	Topic	Presentor
2/06/91	PublishIt!3	Ostertag/Warner
3/06/91	Apple][+ Night - Beagle Bros.	Gates

Highland Park Branch Library, St Paul on Monday nights at 7:00 pm.

Date	Topic	Presentor
4/08/91	Graphics - The New Print Shop	Hyde
5/13/91	HyperMedia	Evans
6/10/91	CrossWorks - Data interchange	Ostertag

7/08/91	So Party! - Fun Software	TBD
8/12/91	Telecommunications	Gates
9/09/91	Educational Software	Hyde
10/14/91	Claris Rep/Beginners Night	Gehlen/ Benser
11/11/91	ProSel/Copy II Plus	Ostertag
12/09/91	Games, Games, Games	Evans

Don't forget to mark your calendars and come on down and enjoy the company.—Tom

Appleworks SIG

by Jim Shields

BRRRR!!!!

The December AppleWorks SIG meeting was a causality of the holiday season and mother nature. Even though below zero temperatures caused a small turnout, the spirit of discussion was decidedly warm.

The topic of discussion for the evening was spreadsheet templates. Due to the size of the group the formal presentation was glossed over. What developed was a historical review of spreadsheet product features for the Apple II computer - from VisiCalc and Multiplan on the Apple II and II+ to AppleWorks 3.0 on a RocketChip IIc.

The consensus of the group was that the AppleWorks spreadsheet users still have a wish list of desired features. Hopefully, there was a software fairy listening that will carry the list back to Claris. Maybe next Christmas...?

A word of caution to those of you who use AppleWorks patch programs. While preparing for this meeting I reviewed a number of existing templates and made a few new spreadsheets to test some things. The new templates all came out with centered labels and manual recalculation by rows - just the way I usually make my templates. The AppleWorks Reference manual certainly didn't agree with these standard values.

To make a long story short, AppleWorks 3.0 does not have new standard values and I am not really losing my mind. I neglected to make a note and/or remember that Beagle Bros. AW 3.0 Companion allowed me change the AppleWorks defaults settings. Maybe it was my mind?

Beagle News

Beagle Bros. Software is continuing their tradition of updating and enhancing the TimeOut series of AppleWorks products. The latest round of updates includes the following versions:

- TeleComm 1.2
- ReportWriter 2.5
- TextTools 1.2
- Companion 1.3
- Graph/Paint 2.1

TeleComm 1.2 is a major update/revision and a new manual is suggested. The cover of your old manual and \$5 sent to Beagle Bros. will get you a new one. Also, **Outliner** and **SuperForms** are now shipping. Watch this column and the AppleWorks SIG schedule for more information on these new products!

Upcoming Meetings

The January AppleWorks SIG meeting will be January 24th. The TimeOut product **ReportWriter** will be demonstrated. For those of you who have a need for relational database features or need a report generator more powerful than AppleWorks provides, come and see what this program can do to enhance your databases.

TimeOut TeleComm will be covered in depth at the February 28th meeting. A copy of the latest version of the software will be available for demonstration and review. TeleComm allows you to use your modem with AppleWorks.

SIG meetings are the fourth Thursday of each month (exceptions noted) starting at 7 pm. Meetings are held at Murray Jr. High School, 2200 Buford, near the St. Paul Campus of the U of M. Enter the school on the west side from Grantham Avenue. Call Jim Shields if you need information on the meetings, 612-434-9836.

A committee meeting is scheduled for January to plan the remaining meetings for 1991. We will continue our educational approach to AppleWorks and probably plan on looking at new TimeOut products. If you have a topic or item of special interest please let me know so we can include it in future meetings.

Closing Note

December 9th was a somber day for AppleWorks users. Dick Marchiafava passed away early that Sunday morning.

Dick represented many things in the Apple world—RAMCO Sales, a Beagle Buddy, TimeOut Central, the AppleWorks Advisor and resident computer guru. His passing will be felt by AppleWorks users around the world. Dick had cultivated contacts from Germany to Australia and New Zealand and back to Fridley. If you had a question or problem with AppleWorks, Dick could certainly find the answer. To me, Dick was a friend, a friend who is sadly missed.

—Jim Shields

Announcements GOTO 10

Announcements continued from page 9

Apple Desktop Publishing

by Tom Ostertag

Date	Topic	Presentor
2/12/91	The New Print Shop	Anderson
3/12/91	TextTools	
4/09/91	Style/Techniques	Warner - Shields
5/14/91	Clip Art/Scanning/Graphic Conv.	Anderson
6/11/91	Fonts and Font Editors	
7/09/91	TimeOut Macros/Publishing	
8/13/91	Drawing Programs	
9/10/91	SuperForms	
10/08/91	PublishIt!4	Warner
11/12/91	Christmas Letters	Group
12/10/91	Springboard Publisher	Anderson

The Apple Desktop Publishing Meeting is at Murray Jr. HS on 2200 Buford in St Paul at 7:00.

Mac HyperCard SIG

Next Meeting: February 25, 1991. *Ed Spittler* will demonstrate **Reports 2.0**, by Nine to Five Software!, which enhances **HyperCard's** report-creating capabilities. This version of **Reports** is compatible with **HyperCard 2.0**. And of course there will be time for **HyperCard** questions and stack sharing. (There's a chance that **Reports 2.0** won't be available by meeting time. If it's not, we'll delve further into **HyperCard 2.0**.)

Dakota County CIG

by Tom Michals

January Meeting Notes

The January 9th Dakota County CIG meeting hosted "tax night" for both the Mac and the Apple sessions. In the Mac session, Mark Kaldun impressed everyone with **MacinTax**. Even *Randy Wood* who was demonstrating **TaxSmith 89** preferred it. He had problems with **TaxSmith 89** hanging up both itself and **Excel 2.2**.

The detail and quality of tax forms was praised of both programs. We also admired the quality of *Randy's* laser printer.

The meeting shifted to a random discussion and introductions to new members *Fred Bohling* and *Mary Pherson*. I dashed between the Mac and Apple meetings and before I knew it, it was 9:30. About a group of nine encircled the Mac SE.

The Apple group had attendees from as far away as Hutchinson and Afton. *John Sutton* and *Bill Foreman* demonstrated and discussed the **TaxSmith 89** program. This program by Island Computer Services (800-826-7146) works with all

releases of **AppleWorks "classic."** It is a spreadsheet template written by Douglas M. Smith. He has written articles for *Softdisk* and *Diskworld*.

TaxSmith is in its sixth year and has four versions:

TaxSmith Quick 1990
Preparer (1040,A,B - 9.95)
Family (1040,A,B,D,D-1,2119,2441,3903 - 19.95),
Full (1040,A,B,D,D-1,E,R,SE,2106,2119,2441,3903,4562,6251,8582,8606,8615,8814 - 49.95),
PRO (which includes all above plus five other variations (74.95).

Upgrades are 25-50% of purchase price and owners of **TaxWorks** are eligible for upgrades. The quality and details of **TaxSmith** were very high and is a recommended product.

TaxCalc 89 by Perfect Solutions Software (800) 726-7086, is written by Andrew Kramer. It lives up to its reputation as quick and easy to use for twelve different tax forms. It looks at its disk based tax tables and outputs to screen or printer. It does not print tax forms. The instructions on the accompanying documentation is to the point and easy to follow. The program uses only 32K and is in DOS 3.3 or ProDOS format. **TaxCalc 90** costs \$39.95 plus \$2 for shipping. Add \$3 for a 3 1/2 disk.

We liked both programs and a key issue was that both offer toll free technical support.

If you want details on **MacinTax** call Mark Kaldun at 452-2294.

Coming Events

In February, we feature home finance software: **Quicken**, **Managing Your Money**, **Smart Money GS**, **AppleWorks** templates, **Mr. Mortgage**, **Sylvia Porter's**, and ????

March Apple II will be data base month with *Tom Gates* and **DB Master Professional** and more **AppleWorks** templates.

Apple/Mac Annual Meeting in March

The 1991 Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, March 7. All members are invited to attend. The speaker is from Apple Corporation (Cupertino). There will be no Macintosh Main Meeting for the month of March. For more information contact Vice President Tom Lufkin who is planning the event.



Help Your Club's Volunteers

by Beth
Fordyce



Your Club

Why should you, as a club member, help the volunteers? They "asked for it," didn't they? They didn't have to volunteer, did they?

People volunteer for many reasons but all fill a need, maybe to learn more about their Macintosh [or Apple] faster than they would if they were passive members; meet new and oftentimes important people; get involved in new activities; want to stay active in life; help others; enjoy the interaction with others; learn a new type of job; for the sheer joy of knowing they are doing a good job, etc. (insert your reason here).

It has been my observation that few people who volunteer really know what they are getting themselves into. The job is always bigger than they thought it would be. Volunteers provide a never ending stream of turnover personnel; seldom do any stay for an extended length of time.

But what is interesting is that most volunteer jobs can become as big or small as individuals want to make them. Since it is voluntary, each person can put in exactly as much time and effort as s/he desires, which necessarily includes responsibility (or lack of).

A person who is paid to do a job but doesn't do it gets fired. It is difficult to fire volunteers; however, volunteers will soon leave of their own accord if they don't "measure up" rather than hurt the group any more. They will no doubt say it is someone else's fault and maybe they can even justify that somehow, but deep down they know they botched the job.

Since it is those who do the jobs who stay, we shall put our attention on them. Each bring with them their own ability and expertise. Some do their jobs slower or faster than others. Some are more thorough and some sloppier. Some are professional and many are amateurs. You name it, they are among us! But they all, as volunteers, are *doing* something to help the group. For the most part, they unite in their efforts to get the jobs done. They thrive on the camaraderie and appreciation of other volunteers, and of the members. They are a select and elite few, as witnessed by their small percentage of the total membership. They are leaders, every one, instead of followers. Although there is a shortage of them, there are always more waiting in the wings, occasionally shy or bashful about speaking up and saying "I want to help."

Sometimes unthoughtful persons will criticize the work of a volunteer, causing that person to be less interested (Volunteer: "Well, why am I busting my buns if nobody appreciates what I'm doing? I'll quit"). Other times a volunteer will be told, usually but not always by a non-volunteer, what s/he ought to be doing (Volunteer: "I guess I'm not doing a good enough job, so I'll quit!"). And, of course, hardly a meeting goes by without a non-volunteer demanding that the group

should do this or that, as if the volunteers were their personal paid employees.

Especially tough on a volunteer is when a fellow-volunteer is critical. That should never happen. All issues should be handled by majority vote in board meetings, using Roberts Rules of Order. Once an issue is handled, that should end any sniping or critical comments. You will win some and you will lose some, but there is comfort in knowing majority rules. Democracy, you know! And if the board does a "railroad" job on someone, that board will soon find the entire group disappearing (if those board members don't disappear first).

Have you ever noticed that persons who are successful are the ones who are attacked the most and the hardest? Those who are inclined to attack never bother with someone weaker or less successful than themselves—it's no fun! Volunteers could actually gauge their success by the attacks that are made against them. It is, in fact, a compliment to receive an attack under the circumstances because you know you are being effective and successful. Unfortunately, too many volunteers recoil from attacks and then want to quit the job.

Getting back to the question first asked, why should you, as a club member, help the volunteers? Simply because they are volunteers, if for no other reason. Each one is single-handedly working to keep the group intact so that you will have a group to come to. That is reason enough, don't you think?

As for how you can help your club's volunteers, I didn't really cover that—or did I?

MUG NEWS SERVICE, 1990



Whether you need a meeting update,
or want to tell your club what's on your mind...

Voice Mail
612-627-0956

Two New eDOMs for Apple IIGS

by Tom
Gates



Software
News from
Your
Software
Director

IIGS.28 America Online User Group Forum September 1990 Disk of the Month

First Start version 4.4 - a program for moving the files of a system disk to the ram disk then booting the ram disk.

WordSearch GS version 1.5 - a shareware word-search generating program. WordSearch is a tool that allows you to create word mazes.

Text Screen Saver - a new CDA for your Apple IIGs that allows you to *save the text screen to disk*. Useful for saving screen displays, capturing screens for inclusion in articles or other text documents, or nearly anything. Saves both 40 and 80 column screens under both ProDOS 8 and GS/OS—no fuss, no muss. Docs included.

Making Icons - an AWGS file with instructions on how to create an Icon using **DicEd** (an icon editor). This is the first in a series of tutorials on this subject. Included are fonts used to create the document. Just put these in your System/Fonts folder if you don't have them.

ShowPic 4.7 - the latest release of ShowPic, NDA for displaying graphics on your IIGS.

Transprog Program Selector—contains an init, an NDA, a S16 file and dox. The combination of these three allows one to select a run list of files that will:

- run on bootup upon a keypress, thus bypassing your program selector
- allow you to quit from one program directly into another bypassing your selector
- (depending on memory) allow you to maintain your programs in memory until you deselect them or the Memory Manager HAS to purge them.

Lots of options, nicely done. Shareware.

Check.Writer—an AppleWorksGS 1.1-specific collection of data base, word processing, and template files that will automate the painful bill-paying routine. \$5.00 Shareware.

TFF Base Converter version 1.1—a NDA which allows you to convert numbers from any of four bases (Binary, Decimal, Hexadecimal, Octal) to any other one of these bases, with ease. It features an easy user interface and is in a movable window, not a dialog window, so it can be active while working in the desktop. It is the only base converter that allows you to take converted numbers and put them directly on the IIGS Clipboard with the click of one button, for effortless pasting into programs and documents (no more memorization or scribbling on little paper bits!). It works with any desktop program. This NDA is shareware—details are in the ReadMe file.

ShowPic NDA version 4.7—this version fixes the bug that caused the NDA to crash when doing a Screen Save. Also added is the ability to advance through directories like in the older Standard GetFile routines (if only one folder is "Accepted") or skip over folders (if more than one file is selected). This NDA does a lot with IIGS graphics; it displays Screen, APF, **PaintWorks**, and **Print Shop GS** graphics, converts to 320 or 640 mode with or without the default palette, converts 320 mode to 640 mode color or grayscale, and saves in Screen, APF or Double Height APF. Does it all, and works like a slide show also. Please read the documentation.

Twilight! Screen Saver—a completely modular screen saver contained in a Control Panel Device for the Graphic Control Panel new to system disk 5.0. It uses 'blanker files' to

do interesting things while saving your screen, such as stars shooting at you, a 1.5" rotating globe bouncing around your screen, and even a module in the style of Brian Greenstone's **Orbzone** that lets you draw the shapes to be animated. If you're interested, you can write your own blankers for Twilight. This program is Shareware: \$10. Another quality product from Bad Luck Software and DYAA!

Switch Control Panel version 2.7—a control panel utility for the Apple IIGS. Switch slots, speed, display, etc, etc. Set permanent or non-permanent (till next reset) changes, and do it while launching programs. Save settings to file. Lock out CP access. One shot ramdisk sizing. Setup a custom boot for running that favorite game at slow speed, then reset and boot back into the hard drive. Shareware \$15.

IIGS.29 America Online User Group Forum September 1990 Disk of the Month

QuixElect II - an upgrade of the original QuixElect Program Selector. Features include: (All New!) **Application**

Launcher! Lets you easily and quickly define and launch ProDOS 8 applications. No more searching through layers of subdirectories (folders) each time you want to launch frequently used programs.

Launch More Files. Includes instructions and a small program for modifying **SHRINKIT.SYSTEM** (available in the ShrinkIt libraries), a small ProDOS 8 program that can be made to allow QuixElect II to launch certain ProDOS 8 System (SYS) programs.

Passive Virus Checker. Checks ProDOS 8 System (SYS) files automatically for

viruses when you launch them. Complete documentation is included.

QuickBoot version 2.0 - allows IIGS owners with hard drives to boot slot 5 or 6 as easily as hitting Control-OpenApple-Reset. No need to waste time booting into GS/OS...hit RESET and go! Version 2.0 Installer program will now patch any "PRODOS" system file on your boot partition, so users who boot into ProDOS 8 or use Vulcan HDs can benefit. The patch itself has been rewritten to avoid crashing non-GS systems. Shareware! There have been some operational changes...read the docs!

Wisconsin Rummy version 1.1 - is the needed update to version 1.0. The game is similar to Rummy Royale and Michigan Pool. You play against two computer players. Similar to the other card games Euchre v2.4, Sheepshead v1.1, Hearts v1.0, and Solitaire v1.0.

Hearts GS version 1.0 - the classic game of Hearts is brought to your computer in the same style as Euchre, Sheepshead, and Wisconsin Rummy. You can play 4 or 5 handed. Other "home rules" are selectable from the Options menu.

Biff Tale GS - the object of this game is to get the treasure inside a castle. To get the treasure you need to find two keys in different mazes. The game shows pictures of the area around your man. There are many weapons and armors to choose from at the weapon shop. There are other places in this game like the hinter and healer.

MenuTime version 3.0 - is a new desk accessory that automatically puts a real-time clock in the far right of desktop-based programs. It is \$4 shareware.

New Design Master Icons - icons that came with Design Master that have been recolored to look more attractive. Also added is a special folder icon for

those who have DM loaded onto their hard drives. The folder *must* be named Design.Master unless you use an icon editor (IconEd, DIcEd, etc.) to change it. Other than that...just copy this file into your */System/Icons folder and away you go!

GIF—> 3200 color version 0.20 - converts any size, any color GIF pic to either \$C1 or 3200 format. V0.20 has a new median color feature that greatly enhances coloring. This program will blow you away. Throw away SHRconvert and use this. Docs are in program under Apple NDA table. Have fun!

Current Apple System Software Available Through Mini'app'les

Software	Version	Date	Format
Apple II, II+, //c, //e			
DOS 3.3 System Master	n/a	09/10/85	5.25"
Apple II System Disk	3.2	07/16/90	5.25"/3.5"
ProDOS 8	1.9	07/16/90	5.25"/3.5"
Apple IIGS			
GS/OS System Disk	5.0.3	10/26/90	3.5"
GS/OS System Tools	5.0.3	10/26/90	3.5"
Macintosh			
System Tools	6.0.7	10/09/90	3.5"
Printing Tools	6.0.7	10/09/90	3.5"
Utilities 1	6.0.7	10/09/90	3.5"
Utilities 2	6.0.7	10/09/90	3.5"
HyperCard Program	2.0	08/31/90	3.5"
HyperCard Stacks	2.0	08/31/90	3.5"
HyperCard Ideas	2.0	08/31/90	3.5"
HyperCard Help	2.0	08/31/90	3.5"
Your Tour of HyperCard	2.0	08/31/90	3.5"
ImageWriter LQ Disk 1	2.0	07/18/88	3.5"
ImageWriter II/LQ AppleTalk	2.0	07/18/88	3.5"
Communications Toolbox	1.0.1	03/20/90	3.5"
32-Bit QuickDraw			3.5"
LaserWriter	6.0		3.5"

Apple System Software disk prices are as follows:
 3.5" System disks \$3.00 each.
 5.25" System disks \$1.00 each.

Notes:

- The Macintosh System Tools and Utilities disks are available only as a set of 4 disks.
- Members must present proof of ownership of HyperCard in the form of the HyperCard start-up disk or a Macintosh CPU sales receipt dated August 11, 1987 or after.
- The Hypercard upgrade is available only as a set of five disks.
- GS/OS System Disk and System Tools are available only as a set of two disks.
- ProDOS requires 64K of memory on the Apple II and II+.

IRR - Interest Rates & Returns - a Appleworks GS spreadsheet template that contains three "programs". Compounding, TaxRate Equivalents, and Total Return. Unlike other programs and/or templates that do the same thing, but very awkwardly, or that are difficult to use, these are very straight forward.

Information taken from from information on disk



Apple IIGS Woes: Boy Did I Get Took

by Tom
Michals



Editorial


December, 1987, the Twins had won the World Series. I wanted a unique computer. Macs were high priced, so were loaded-down PCs. The Jr's had just disappeared. Personal computing was taking off. The Apple was a toy. IBM scared me off by needing to buy a lot of extra boards and peripherals. The new GS's graphics impressed me. **AppleWorks** sounded and looked like a bag of tools. Of course I was impressed with **Paintworks**, **Draw Plus** and **Writers' Choice**. I thought the mouse was the greatest input device since the light pen. I went for all the marbles. Two disk drives, 3 1/2, 5 1/4. 1 meg of memory wow! (My TRS-80 had 16K and cassette.) With the GS I thought I had power. Also, I needed a color printer, some disks and some games. \$3000.

For the next year I fought bugs in programs, disk swapping, slowness, and software didn't quite do what I wanted. Soon I upgraded to **AppleWorks GS** and **Paintworks Gold** and **Merlin 16**. I was being updated out of hundreds of dollars. I used **Graphic Writer II** for a Cub Scout newsletter. Moving graphics between programs was my worst fear, that 1 meg of memory was not enough.

In 1989 I began using **Appleworks GS** for home finances. I got **Graphic Writer III**, an upgrade to **AppleWorks GS**, and **Print Shop GS**. Also, I joined mini'app'les. Several people in the Dakota County area also had GS's and wanted to help each other. When I received authority from the mini'app'les board of directors to start the Dakota County SIG, the other GS people were all too busy.

By 1990, I had four floppy disk drives, a Ram-Keeper and a 4 meg Harris sauce card. I still needed a Transwarp or Zip Chip and a hard drive. Now I was Apple SIG Director. The Dakota County meetings were mediocre. The summer was difficult—one meeting no one showed up. In the fall we moved to Burnsville HS and had some excellent meetings in a nice facility. Still not a whole lot of people showed up. The club members take but seldom put back in., except for a few who do: *Jason Mooney, John Sutton, Bill Foreman, Lester Drankwalter, Randy Wood and Mark Kaldun*. We even have some regular attendees: *Larry Bolten and Jack Bellows*. I enjoy the mini'app'les Board members and those members who go to virtually all meetings. Without them the club would collapse.

1991 is the year that the yuppy Mac people will need to drive the club. The Apple members will decrease, but need each other even more than ever.

Me and my GS will continue to use **AppleWorks**, **Print Shop**, **Merlin**, and games until I run out of money. But now I have the program **SMART MONEY GS**. 


Another HyperCard Upgrade

by Peter
Fleck



Macintosh
HyperCard
Software

Clariss recently began shipping HyperCard 2.0 and it's an upgrade from the version available to user groups (HyperCard 2.0v2, I believe). Some bugs have been fixed including some that caused problems with printing on non-PostScript printers—like the ImageWriter. You can order the program by calling Clariss at 1-800-628-2100, ext. 92. Price is \$49 whether or not you have the user group release (at least that was their policy the last time I called).

A list of bug fixes can be obtained on the All-American Information Services BBS, 338-8844 (300/1200/2400 baud), in the HyperCard section. I'll see if I can make a copy available on the mini'app'les BBS. 

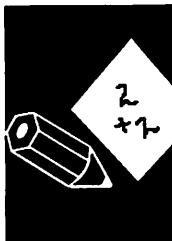
Mini'Info'Net

Your BBS

892-3317

MECC 90 Showcases Options in Educational Computing

by Linda
Bryan



Computing
in the
Schools

I spent two and a half days at the 1990 MECC convention in Minneapolis in November. Although I'd visited this convention as a teacher in the mid-80s, I was now out of touch with how far education had come. This convention gave me a crash course in future shock.

MECC (Minnesota Educational Computing Corporation) is a quasi-private institution. It originated in 1973, funded by the State of Minnesota to promote the creation of educational software and to bring computer access to Minnesota schools. Eventually it abandoned that part of the mission concerned with distributing computers, although it still makes a number of peripherals available to schools at discount rates. Besides developing software, MECC today works at creating teaching materials and training teachers to use them. It also acts as a clearinghouse for educational technology, especially by hosting this convention yearly. It reports to the Minnesota Legislature, but it is run as a private business.

Schools can buy a membership in MECC by paying a membership fee based upon school population. Minnesota schools still pay fees that indicate a most-favored-member status. Member schools are given rights to copy from MECC's voluminous software collection at \$1.00 per disk.

Many schools cannot afford educational software unless it is MECC material. For example, a small Lutheran school district in Nebraska has no funds for a MECC membership, but each individual school asks a generous parent to pay for a single school membership, in this case about \$100. Says a teacher who is also the designated computer coordinator of one of these schools, "I don't have much in

my bag of tricks except MECC material, but that usually is sufficient to satisfy most teacher requests."

The MECC collection of software grows yearly. The company is still developing software at a great rate for the Apple II line of computers, but is also branching out to develop materials for Macintosh and MS-DOS machines. Topics for MECC products include software operation concepts, content-area concepts, and teacher education concepts.

The company's all-time favorite, **Oregon Trail**, has gone through three incarnations: an original that ran on the original Apple II and II Plus, an enhanced color version that plays music and makes geography and hardships on the trail more understandable, and a super-version called **Wagon Train 1848** to be released this spring for the Macintosh. It features animated graphics, sound, and multi-machine communication to allow for cooperative learning, plus all the bells and whistles that are Macintosh. In addition to the US versions, MECC's Japanese partner has requested the rights to adapt and market a Japanese version of Oregon Trail.

MECC's convention is usually held right before Thanksgiving. A two-day pre-convention on Saturday and Sunday allows MECC to offer intensive coverage on topics like how to get a technology grant. Pre-convention tickets cost extra and require preregistration.

Even a standard ticket is gold. Some districts send their computer coordinators or administrators. Some send teachers who have shown strong interest in educational computing, especially those who act as leaders or catalysts. Many districts in

the Twin Cities area share the wealth by asking a different teacher to use the district's convention entry badge each day. Some attendees sport badges marked "Exhibits Only"—although they cannot attend the regular convention sessions, they learn a lot and see the breadth of educational computing by carefully studying the many booths on the display floor at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Exhibits open to all attendees on Sunday. By the end of the day, many vendors say, "I had no idea there would be so much attention at my booth!" and teachers walk about with "literature" bags stuffed full. Two days later, some vendors have nothing left to give away; their tables simply hold legal pads with names requesting information by mail.

On Monday and Tuesday so many convention presentations are scheduled into the hotel's portable-walled convention rooms that no one can attend all of them. Teachers dash from one session to the next, hoping to get a seat. Chairs protrude from meeting rooms into the hall when unlucky last-come listeners demand to hear a particular speaker. And other frantic attendees jump from one session to another during the presentations, grabbing the main idea and some handouts and hopping up to get the same in a second and even third session during the same time slot.

The presenters are intrepid users of technology. They are teachers, administrators, consultants, and college instructors who will use any method at hand to get the message across.

In fact, the Hyatt Regency probably has few conventions that use presentation equipment as intensively as this one. **Hyper**
MECC GOTO page 26

The Apple //e-Vax LAN Connection

by Tom
Ostertag



Apple II
Techniques
and
Hardware

I've related this tale to a number of people who have an interest in communications between mainframes and Apples, so I thought that others who haven't heard it might be interested. (It also gives me an opportunity to fulfill a promise I made to the editor ...)

Back in late '88, my supervisor at work requested that I get on the Vax 8250 local area network (LAN) so I could receive electronic mail and have telephone messages relayed to me quicker. He also requested that my fellow chemists get their computer (an Apple //e) hooked up to the LAN. I was working on a project with a group of engineers that were connected to the Engineering LAN and all of the Vax LANs are directly connected.

I talked to the electronic techs in our department and they remembered that our department had strung out four cables that ran by my office and also by the other chemists's office. Good! The techs dropped the cables down into our offices and attached DB-25 connectors to the end. I had a modem in my Apple but realized that wouldn't work, so I traded that for a Super Serial card.

So, the system was physically connected, but what software to use? First, there were several copies of **Softerm** setting around, so I took one of those packages. **Softerm**, a program that was written for the Apple II+, was in DOS 3.3 and had the problem of inverse capitals printing mousetext on the screen. You guessed it ... the menus were all in capital letters and the selector was an inverse bar. Also, the program needed to have a card in a slot with a little keyboard so the Apple could produce the PF keys required by a VT-100 terminal. I did manage to upgrade the program to eliminate the mousetext, but the rest was the same and the setup procedure was a bear. Even though I did get the program to work with my setup, I didn't find **Softerm** to be the final answer because, being in DOS 3.3, I had to boot the disk separately every time I wanted to access my mail.

The next program that I tried was **ProDOS AppleWriter**, which has a telecommunications module (?) build in. I had played with it several times and even asked if anyone else in the club had tried it. I did run across an ad for an enhancement program from Tilde Software that mentioned a patch that made the module work. I sent for it. Since my working copy of **AppleWriter** has more patches that a ten year old bicycle tube, I figured what the heck ... another patch or two shouldn't be any big deal. When I received the disk from Bob Holdsworth at Tilde, I installed the patches without any problems

and tried it. It didn't work ... sort of. To begin with, the Vax would recognize that I was there and log me on. From that point on, however, it told me that everything that I typed in was invalid or unrecognizable.

I did manage to twist the arm of one of the software techs (an MS-DOS guru!) to play with the settings on the LAN without any success. All the while, he kept telling me that I couldn't access the LAN with an Apple //e. We reset the baud rate, the parity, the stop bits, terminal type to unknown so the LAN wouldn't send any control characters or other garbage for the VT-100 emulation.

Nothing worked. While this was going on I had also ordered **ProTerm** from Checkmate, **EVE 2.3** and **Tam Dave Whitney**. With this whole arsenal of programs, something should work. Anyway ... while I was sitting at my computer playing with **AppleWriter** because it would recognize my sign on, one of the MS-DOS types came in to ask a question. He saw what I was doing and made a comment that it looked like a line feed was being left at the beginning of each line and the Vax didn't like it, but wouldn't ignore it. Well, the old light bulb went on. I went into the print menu in **AppleWriter** and changed the CR from 1 to 0 and tried it again. Eureka, it worked! I immediately sent a message to the software tech telling him that it worked. His answer is not fit to be printed here, but he wasn't too happy.

So I was on the LAN with a **ProDOS** program and able to use electronic mail easily. We finally settled on full duplex, 2400 baud, even parity, 1 stop bit and 7 data bits. The Super Serial Card seemed to loose characters if the rate was left at 9600 baud. As for the Vax, we set that for 2400 baud with an unknown terminal type and disabled most of the Vax features since a lot of them were specific for VT-100 emulation.

There was still the problem of VT-100 emulation. I could receive VT-100 coded messages, but they were full of garbage (I just deleted the junk, and still do ...) and I still didn't have access to the database in **Production** that I needed to access.

ProTerm, which I had already tried without success, was supposed to have VT-100 emulation. The problem was that **ProTerm** wouldn't recognize the LAN or vice versa. After some frustration, I finally called Checkmate (who was supporting the program at that time) to give them a piece of my mind about what a stupid program they had. It seemed that you could not use VT-100 emulation with a null modem driver. VT-100 emulation worked with a standard modem, but not on the LAN. As I was talking to the Tech Support person, he very calmly said that I

The New Print Shop: Comments

by Tom
Ostertag



Apple II
Software
Review

had to set the configuration and then go to the Install Hardware function and choose Default to save the configuration as the default and then reboot the program. I asked where it said that in the documentation and his answer was that it was undocumented. Nice going ... Anyway, after following his instructions, ProTerm worked fine. The closed-apple codes that are listed in the manual do indeed work. With that little bit of information, I was on the LAN in VT-100 emulation and able to access the database that I needed.

Now for the best part of the story. While I was going through all of the trouble previously described getting on the LAN with my Apple //e, my fellow engineer talked to the Computer techs who told him that he couldn't get on the LAN with an Apple //e. So he went and told our Supervisor that he needed a Mac to get on the LAN. Well, our supervisor bought him a Mac and the techs hooked him up.

In the meantime, a lot of other people were trading in their Apple //e's for Macs and there were lots of Apple //e's listed as surplus. When my supervisor finally found out that I had managed to get my Apple connected, the low cost factor made lightbulbs flash in his head. He told me to collect the surplus Apples and set them up for mail terminals for the rest of the Engineering Staff that didn't have terminals. When the dust finally settled, there were fourteen Apples on the LAN. There were more Apples on the LAN than any other type of computer and that was too much for the computer gurus to handle. Every time there was a problem with the system, they blamed the Apples. But we all know the real truth ... The Vax was just too embarrassed to admit that it was talking to all those Apples.

The New Print Shop (NPS) is supposed to be noncopy-protected and therefore able to be copied (actually installed) onto a hard drive and used from there. I was all excited about this prospect since the New Print Shop is a fairly large program with lots of sub programs that load different parts of as they are used. Running from a hard drive is certainly a lot faster. Anyway, the first time I tried the hard drive installation, the program asked if I wanted to install the New Print Shop on /PROFILE (the name of my hard drive) so I knew that it recognized the hard drive. However, the next thing that happened was a hard crash that I had to reboot to get out of the program. I asked around and the best advice was to rename my hard drive. I waited a while before trying that but I had the same results. Finally I called Broderbund and they told me that the New Print Shop would only install on SCSI hard drives, which mine isn't. So, okay, I resigned myself to running NPS from my 3.5" drive.

That was that until I talked to *Bill Warner* and he said that he didn't have any problem installing NPS on his Sider hard drive. Now, that contradicted what Broderbund had told me, but I still didn't think much about it. When I received the January issue of *A2-Central*, I read one of the letters on the last page where the writer mentioned having trouble installing with a Timemaster HO clock card. When he removed the card, the program installed and ran without any trouble even when he replaced the clock card.

I have a **Timemaster HO clock card** in both my Apples, the one at home and the one at work. Right, NPS wouldn't install on either with the card in place. When I removed the clock card, NPS installed on the Pro-

file hard drive at work and ran without any problems. When I did the installation at home, where I was going to use the program, it got to the first menu screen and died... hard. I finally determined that NPS wasn't initializing my Aux Memory Card correctly and so I had to write a two-line basic program to run the Ram drive initializer and then start the New Print Shop. After I did that everything works fine.

Just a comment—the New Print Shop works great from a hard drive. But all of the fonts, borders and graphics sure take up a lot of disk space. I may have to get a bigger hard drive just to have all the artwork on line when I want to use it.

The New Print Shop looks a lot like **Print Shop GS**. There are a lot of the same graphics and fonts that they have in common. The GS version looks a lot nicer on screen, but the New Print Shop is more than adequate for my Apple //e. I'm sure glad that I have a hard drive though, because running the program off of a floppy disk drive would seem pretty slow. NPS has the annoying habit of querying the drives every time it wants a font, border, etc. and if a 5.25" drive is empty it sits and spins for what seems like an eternity...

I thought that I would pass this along in case anyone else was having a problem with the New Print Shop.



Copy Programs for Apple II's

by Tom
Gates



Apple II
Software

Well, some of you may have heard the Central Point Software is releasing version 9.1 of **Copy II Plus** and then will no longer be supporting the product. Before you get all worried that this is their way of putting another nail into a coffin for the Apple II computers, be aware that rumor also has it that they are also dropping support on the Mac and IBM versions as well.

One comment made was that it is felt with much of today's software needing to be installed on hard drives that the programs have to hard drive installable right out of the box. This means, no more weird unformatted block searches and the like built into the programs. OK, that's great that it's only taken software companies ten years to see the light. But where do I go for a good copy program for my computer?

Let's look at this in two parts. What **Copy II Plus** had going for it was the great disk and file copy program it contained "and" the host of utilities that have been built into it over the years that work on both hard drives and floppy drives alike. Such things as disk and file verification, create and delete subdirectories, view text files in text or data mode, changing the **BOOT** program name on DOS 3.3 disks, compare files, an application launcher and the list goes on.

Copy Programs

First, let's look at some copy program options. On the II+, //e and //c machines there are a couple of options open. If you are in need of doing entire disk copies on a somewhat regular basis, Bill Basham has a super program, **Diversi-Copy**, that works with 5.25" and 3.5" disks. (Some of the old timers with Apple II's may remember Bill's **Diversi-DOS** software, a high-speed DOS 3.3 replacement. I still have the sticker on my 5.25" drive.)

One of the beauties of **Diversi-Copy** is the way in which the disk copy is made in one pass. For example. With **Copy II Plus** when making a disk copy, first the program formatted the duplicate disk, then it made a second pass to copy the data. With **Diversi-Copy**, the track is formatted, copied and verified at the same time in a single pass.

If you are making several copies of a disk (something I do a lot of for the library) and your setup has enough memory to store the entire disk (either 5.25" or 3.5") the speed from this program is incredible. I use a single 5.25" for making copies (you can use two) and have a difficult time taking the new copy from the drive, putting another blank disk into the drive, put a label on the new copy and put it into a disk sleeve before the program has completed the copy.

With the two-drive copy option you load a blank disk into each drive and start the copy process. **Diversi-Copy** then alternates between the two drives as it completes the copy in one or the other. You almost need an octopus to keep up with the speed of the process on 5.25" disks.

As far as a disk copy program specifically for the IIGS computer, I can fully recommend **Photonix** from the Free Tools Association (FTA) in France. I have personally labeled **Photonix** as a disk copy 'machine' rather than a program.

As the program boots from its disk you are presented with the push-button controls of a machine rather than a program. And once you've overcome the awe of the push-button panel the next thing you notice as you move the mouse around is that it's not connected to some wimpy arrow. Instead you are in control of a mechanical arm that could be attached to **Robo-Cop**.

But, so much for aesthetics. Does it work as well as it looks? Yep! While limited to doing disk copies of 3.5" disks only, I have yet to come across anything (except maybe a real disk duplicating machine) that will duplicate a disk as fast as **Photonix**. The program contains options to read only the used blocks on a disk (this can greatly speed up the read time of the original disk - especially if only a very few are used) and also has a very nice reorganization feature. The reorg feature reads the original disk into memory then goes through a process of putting all fragmented files back together into contiguous space.

The best example I have is an **AppleWorks** data disk with several hundred small files in about a dozen different subdirectories. Over time, the subdirectories had become split into many pieces and spread all over the disk. (it was very interesting to do a file map of this disk) It would take up to 30 seconds just to save a file to this disk and sounded like the drive's read/write arm had gone spastic. After reorganizing this disk with **Photonix**, the time to save a file has been reduced to a few seconds.

Back to its copy abilities. When I make several copies of a disk for the library, the copy time per disk averages about 35-40 seconds each. Compare that to other software packages. **Photonix** also will format, write and verify a disk in a single pass and also gives you control over the interleave of the new disk. Some copy programs only allow you to create a new disk with the same interleave as the original. This is not a big problem, but in the case where you may have

lots of 3.5" disks formatted at a 4 to 1 interleave for ProDOS16 or the early versions of GS/OS, you can specify the 2 to 1 interleave and get the benefits of the disk speed increases since GS/OS 5.0.

Utility Programs

Now secondly, let's address those that are in need of the utilities as well as disk and file copy options. Probably the best all purpose software would be Glen Bredon's ProSel packages. These run on //e and //c machines and there is a ProSel 16 package with options particular to the IIGS.

ProSel is a very good all-around package with loads of features that handle every thing from simple file manipulation to hard drive management. One of the programs included in the package that has saved many a user from pulling those last precious hairs from their head is **Cat Doctor**. This program gives the Apple II user with a little savvy and knowledge of how things work within ProDOS, the tools to fix darn near anything that may go wrong with a file. Also included are utilities like Info Disk (just about anything you ever wanted to know about your disk) and Block Warden to allow you to work with individual block of data on the disk.

If you have been around the Apple II for some time (5 years or more) you may have a problem in that you have disks from the many operating systems used on the Apple II over the years. Trying to figure out what to do with those PASCAL and CPM files you can't work with any longer? Here is where a utility program specific to this problem comes in real handy. **CHAMELEON** does just as its name implies, it will mesh with either the ProDOS, DOS 3.3, PASCAL or CPM operating systems and let you move files from any one to any other. This program works with 5.25" drives on any Apple II.

Last but not least are the utilities that come with Apple's system software for the Apple II and the IIGS. On the //e, //c side are the utilities on the **ProDOS System** disk. These disk and file utilities allow you to copy a disk or file, do most standard disk and file commands as catalog, rename disk or file, etc. The system disk also contains a utility called **FASTCOPY**. My comment about most utility software supplied by computer manufacturers (Apple, IBM, DEC, etc) is that it works. **FASTCOPY** is by no means the fastest disk copy program available for the Apple II, but it works.

If you are running the IIGS desktop environment under GS/OS version 5.0 or later, you have a number of utilities available to you directly through the desktop. GS/OS allows you to copy files or disks by dragging the icons from one disk to another. Create new directories by pressing OA-N when a disk or other folder is open on the desktop. Deleting files is done by dragging the file

icon to be deleted to the trash can icon on the screen. Also, disk and file verification utilities exist as options in the menu bar.

While the built in system utilities serve well for many purposes, sometimes it is necessary or desirable to use third-party products which in many cases fill a number of the gaps left by system software. Or they significantly enhance existing utilities by adding tremendous speed and/or many additional options.

I hope this article has offered a little insight to the products available to fill the gap left by Copy II Plus. I have enjoyed using the software over the years and hope that even though Central Point may not have plans for doing further development of the program, that it continues to be available for some time through the many software sellers.

CHAMELEON, **PHOTONIX** and **DIVERSI-COPY** are available as shareware products through the mini'apples user group library.

ProSel is a commercial product available through Glen Bredon address, city, state, zip.

GS/OS and Apple II System disks are available through mini'apples by license agreement with Apple Computer.



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Mac Beginners: What is a SIG?

by James
Horswill



Your
Organization

This month, I'm going to depart from my usual practice of explaining the basic techniques for using the Macintosh. Instead, I would like to use this space to encourage you to attend meetings of the Special Interest Groups.

Many new members are uncertain about what SIGs are, and what goes on at their meetings, while others fear that they may not be welcome if they aren't experienced in the area in which the SIG specializes. Yet, if you don't attend SIG meetings regularly, you're missing one of the chief benefits of being a mini'apples member.

Special Interest Groups are simply forums for the exploration of particular areas of interest. There are SIGs for those interested in desktop publishing, programming, and HyperCard, to name just a few. There is no requirement that you know anything about these areas. The only prerequisite is an interest in the subject.

Most SIGs meet on the same day of each month. For example, the Desktop Publishing SIG meets on the fourth Wednesday. The calendar on the front of the newsletter will tell you when the various SIGs meet. The subject of the meetings will also be listed, if that information was available at press time. Unfortunately, you may not always get your newsletter by the first of the month, because it is sent by low priority mail. This means that you may get the current calendar after some of the meetings have already occurred. There are many solutions to this problem.

First, each issue of the Newsletter has the next month's calendar on page 4. This won't tell you the subject of the meeting, but at least you'll know the date. Then again, both the calendar on the cover, and that on page 4, list the name and telephone number of the SIG Coordinators. If you're unsure of whether the subject of the meeting will be of interest, you can always give the Coordinator a call. You also can call mini'apples Voice Mail at (612) 627-0956. This is a recording which lists the calendar for the following two weeks. (You can also leave messages there for officers and members of the board, should you have any questions). If you have a modem, you can call the mini'apples BBS at (612) 892-3317, where you can find the calendar, and leave E-mail messages. Finally, you can give me a call. I'm the Macintosh SIG Director, and you can reach me at (612) 379-7624.

Don't be shy when you go to a SIG meeting. Introduce yourself to the other attendees and to the SIG coordinator. You may also see people with name tags wandering around, mumbling to themselves. These may be members of the Board, Coordinators, or other strange people. Introduce yourself to them, too.

Most SIG meetings include a question and answer session. There are no rules about what kind of questions may be asked. They needn't even bear any direct relation to the supposed subject of the SIG. So, by all means ask questions. Don't be shy. You can't get an answer to your question if you don't ask it. I promise that no one will regard your query as silly or trivial. In fact, the chances are good that other people at the meeting will be wondering about the same thing.

In some SIG meetings, the question and answer session comprises most of the evening, but in others there is some sort of presentation. This might be a demo by a company rep of newly released software, or a presentation by a mini'apples member. It's surprising how much you can learn from these demonstrations, even when you have no particular use for the product or technique discussed.

There is often a coffee session after the meeting, and this is an excellent time to become acquainted with other members and get answers to your questions. This newsletter has already published one of my rants about the value of coffee sessions, so I'll only say, "Go out for coffee, please!"

I'd like to tell you about a few of the SIGs now, and in the months to come I'll be telling you about others. Since this is the Mac Beginners column, let's begin with the Mac Novice SIG.

Tom Lufkin has been Novice SIG Coordinator for as long as I've been a member of mini'apples. The nature of the group has changed little in that time. We meet at the Highland Park Library at 7 pm, the fourth Monday of the month, (barring conflicts with holidays). There is always a question and answer session, where even the most basic questions are encouraged. Tom's credo is, "There's no such thing as a stupid question." Most questions get answered, because many people who have been using the Mac for years attend these "novice" meetings. People like *Nan Kolbinger*, *Kathy Overby*, *Ken Edd* and *Richard Becker* are inexhaustible fonts of information.

There's often a presentation of some sort at the Novice meetings. Tom might give the demonstration himself, or he might invite someone like *Ian Abel*, *Charles Bjorgen*, or *Michael Fraase* to make the presentation. Sometimes, we become so involved in the question and answer session that we never have a formal presentation. There is almost always a coffee session at the Baker's Square on Ford Parkway after the meeting. I have made many friends at the Novice meetings, and I always look forward to them.

Another group which beginning Mac users might find particularly useful is the Microsoft Works

SIG. *Ken Edd* is the SIG Coordinator, and he describes it as "A place where people can get together and talk computers for a couple of hours." He doesn't want it devoted strictly to Works. Drop by, even if you don't use the program. There is always a Mac available, and as relatively few people attend the meetings, there is ample opportunity for hands-on experience. The Microsoft Works SIG meets at the Highland Park Library on the third Tuesday of the month. Watch the calendar, though, because there is no meeting in June, and the SIG changes to meeting on Monday in July and August.

The Dakota County SIG has recently been divided into Mac and Apple II sections which meet concurrently at Burnsville High School. The members are still in the process of deciding upon a direction for the group, so this is an excellent time to start attending meetings. You can have a say in how the group is constituted, and where it is going. *Tom Michals* is the SIG Coordinator, and the group meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Joy Kopp's Macintosh Computer Art and Design SIG is on temporary hiatus while she finds a new meeting place. Joy says, "We're not dead, we're just regrouping." This SIG doesn't fit neatly into any category. Most attendees are professional people who use the Mac for a wide variety of applications, such as DTP, graphics and illustration, multimedia, animation, clothing and toy design, and fine arts. "Anything that's not databases or accounting," according to Joy. She wants the group "to provide a mechanism for disseminating timely information about the technology and application of the technology." She doesn't want "hardware and software sells."

Joy says that she sees the meetings as providing "information we need to know as professionals." She adds, "My choice of topics for these meetings has been very selfish. I sit down and think about what kinds of things I need to know about." She wants the group to provide a forum, "where people can find each other. The answers to our questions are not in the users manuals. They are in other people's experience." Keep your eye on the calendar for the new meeting time and place.

In the coming months, I'll be talking about other SIGs. Until then, look at the calendar on the cover of this Newsletter. Pick out a meeting. Go!

Really Truly Exactly 100%

by Patrick
Neal Cannon



Macintosh
Desktop
Publishing

Do you ever need to output a Mac graphic to an exact size? You may have noticed that an "exact" inch (or centimeter or pica or furlong) specified in **MacDraw**, **FreeHand** or whatever is not quite ruler-accurate when the LaserWriter puts it down on paper. It's one of the reasons people pay the extra bucks to a service bureau for output from a Linotype or similar imagesetter.

When I worked at a Lino service bureau I learned by trial and error just how accurate the Lino was. We often did graphics in **FreeHand** and **Illustrator** that were then printed on control panels for various kinds of machinery. The engineering drawings that specified all the dimensions routinely stated a requirement for accuracy of plus or minus one hundredth of an inch (0.01"), and sometimes one thousandth (0.001"). But that's no problem 'cause the Lino's an expensive precision machine; at normal resolution (1270 dots/inch) you should be accurate to the nearest 1/1270th, right? Not quite.

On anything a few inches across we were right on as far as we could tell, but then we did some stuff that was twenty and thirty inches long (on the Linotype 300 you can print a page that's almost twelve inches wide and several feet long). We found to our disappointment that our art came up about a sixteenth of an inch short! As a test I drew a couple of identical rulers in **Illustrator** at right angles to each other on the page and printed them on the Lino. Then I compared them to each other and to an assortment of the best real-world steel rulers I could find. I found that across the paper, *i.e.* in the direction perpendicular to the paper's movement, we were on the money. In the other direction, however, we came about a tenth of one percent short. My unconfirmed guess is that the paper—as it's pulled from its cassette through the machine—is stretched a tiny bit and shortens up once the tension is off.

So what did we do? Select All, Group and Scale Vertically (vertically only!) by 100.15%. (100.1% is noticeably too small, I found, and 100.2% is too big.) This is a breeze in **Illustrator**, **FreeHand**, **Canvas** or (I think) **MacDraw II**.

Be sure to save a copy of your artwork without this little stretch, 'cause you know you'll probably have to come back and make changes, and I for one wouldn't want to be testing whether your 100.15% artwork scaled back down (vertically only, remember) by, let's see... 99.850224663005% is *exactly* back where it was.

Finally, this is for paper output from one particular Linotype 300. While I'd guess you'd run into something similar on any other imagesetter, the exact stretch probably varies. And clear film probably stretches less but that's a test I haven't done.

Gloom and Doom: Graphics Tips from the "I've Been There Myself" School

Compiled by
Emmeline
Grangerford



Macintosh
Desktop
Publishing

I've been listening to some Mac users who use their machines for their livelihood. These people love their Macs but sometimes I think the Macs don't deserve the love. Gripe, gripe, gripe is often what I hear. How can people who willingly do such complex work find pleasure in swapping stories of how many things go wrong?

For example, *Maridee Ennis* is a desktop publisher with Image Communications/Laser Set of Minnetonka. If anyone has a deeper, more personal relationship with Aldus Technical Support by telephone than Maridee, I'd like to hear about it.

She has kept a jot list of the collected wisdom of the Aldus help line that she has decided is too useful to keep to herself, so she sent it to me. The following tips are collected from countless long distance telephone hours, especially regarding problem files that became more problematic after PageMaker 4.0 was released.

The bottom line on Maridee's Aldus connection: She has learned that she should do more formatting of graphics in PageMaker and less in FreeHand. She also has come to believe that her working copy of FreeHand was corrupting material subtly, and these subtly corrupt files were destabilizing the documents they were placed into. The amount of detective work she had to do was massive. I've tried to categorize the notes she took under a few general headings. I've also included a number of tips from other sufferers.

Solving Troubles: PageMaker Graphics

Allocating memory

- Increase the allocation of memory granted to PageMaker under MultiFinder (Get Info dialog, File menu on the Desktop).

Noting Error Codes

- When things go wrong, keep a list of the error codes that come up on screen so you can tell Tech Support what your computer is saying.
- A list of PM 4.0 error codes is being compiled by Aldus. Every time you phone them, you should ask for a copy of the list, because when it's available, it will be available for the asking.

Converting PM 3.02 files to 4.0

- A trick for a cleaner transition when opening a PM 3.02 file into PM 4.0—Do a global recompose before opening into 4.0.

Importing FreeHand Graphics

- Don't use cut and paste. Export the graphic from FreeHand to make a Freehand.eps file,

then import it (Place command) into the PageMaker document. The reason? The placed files are "cleaner." The copy and paste method carries not only the EPS language but also the copy/paste instructions, which complicate the PageMaker document.

- If you are embellishing a TIFF in FreeHand, delete the TIFF from the file before you save it. Export only the FreeHand portion. Retain the TIFF file on your drive. Import the TIFF and the FreeHand.eps graphics separately into PageMaker, then reassemble the combined graphic within PageMaker.
- Avoid using compressed TIFF when placing graphics in FreeHand and reexporting them.
- There are many varieties of compressed TIFF. Some create problems.
- If you are scanning a graphic for position only (not to be actually printed from the laser printer after the page is laid out), scan at low resolution (150 dpi). The reason? It keeps the size of the PageMaker file down.
- Crop your TIFFs in the scanning program or in a scanning cleanup program. Don't import excess TIFF material into PageMaker and expect to crop it there.
- Maridee isn't sure what this means, but Tech Support says that **Adobe Type Reunion** "disrupts the FreeHand search/pass."
- Use Image Control within PageMaker to reverse graphics rather than bringing an imported graphic into FreeHand to reverse and then exporting it to PageMaker.
- Recognize that FreeHand doesn't do well with PICT graphics.

Starting Fresh

- Throw out the PM Default file from your System folder. PageMaker will make a new one the next time you use the program.
- Turn off the RAM Cache (Control Panel).
- If you're having problems with FreeHand, allocate more memory to it (Get Info dialog on the Desktop) so it will work better under MultiFinder.
- Work with a good System, not necessarily the latest System. Some users are keeping current at the expense of compatibility with their own systems. System 6.0.5 was released for the Mac IIfx. Most users don't need it. System 6.0.3 is recommended for Mac II and others.
- Speed up the redraw of ATM type by bumping up the ATM font cache to 160K (Control Panel, ATM dialog). This assumes that you have enough memory in your Mac to allocate extra memory to ATM.
- Work with a more recent copy of PageMaker

4.0. The first shipped PageMaker was slightly different from the one now being shipped.

More from Hard Knocks H.S.

Quirks of PageMaker 4.0

- Pulling the menu over and over to assign tabs in PM 4.0 isn't much fun, but if you select a number of paragraphs with different tabs in them, then go to the Tabs/Indent dialog, you will see the tabs currently set for the *first* of the paragraphs. Click OK and the tab pattern will "cascade" down to all the other selected paragraphs.
- PM 4 requires users to think hard before they delete returns. Because users of PageMaker 3.02 are used to the lower return dominating a previously formatted paragraph when a return between two paragraphs is deleted (as **Microsoft Word** does), users of PM 4.0 may be shocked when the uppermost, now-deleted return formats a paragraph below it. Usually this formatting change cannot be undone by a simple Undo. Instead the user has to remember the specifications and reformat the paragraph or reapply the style that was in the paragraph before its neighbor was deleted. Forewarned is forearmed, folks.
- When you move from page to page, be sure to click your cursor into the story on the new page. Otherwise, you might alter text on the previous page because the cursor is still in it.

Backing Up Your Software

The best way to make your backup disks of a commercial program if you only have one floppy drive is to:

1. Insert the original.
2. Type *Command E* to eject it.
3. Insert the blank, formatted disk.
4. Drag the shadowed icon to the blank disk to begin the copying.

This method is better and "purer" than copying material to the hard drive, then to the backup floppy.

Typeface troubles

- Don't use Apple screen fonts with Adobe printer fonts. (This item from Adobe Tech Support)

Compatibility

- **FlashWrite** (a CDEV) is bad news: not always compatible with other software.
- **Canvas 2.1** will not rotate a "picture object" such as a scanned image saved as a PICT.
- **MacDraw II** will not properly interpret a Canvas PICT if it is opened in the regular fashion. It refuses to read it as being of proper size. But when the PICT is pasted into MacDraw II via the Clipboard, MacDraw accepts the image. But a new problem occurs: it turns the single-headed arrows (drawn with

the Canvas line tool set to arrow mode) into arrows with a second arrowhead atop the first. Strangely, the topmost arrowhead becomes a separate object, with the ability to be deleted. A pain in the neck and a waste of time, but the user can cope: each extraneous triangular arrowhead must be selected and deleted. ("Oh, yeah, we've heard of that happening but I've never seen it myself," says a Deneba Tech Support voice.)

from material by Maridee Ennis, Linda Bryan, Darryl Zurn

Letters continued from page 7

amount of digital material, including fill for a slug of eDOMS. (So far little information on these files has been written into articles.)

SIG Correspondents

Members and SIG directors who attend a meeting sometimes feel the responsibility to share the fun, knowledge, and camaraderie of meetings with those who didn't attend. Obviously, we are especially weak in this category at present. Thanks especially to *Tom Michals* and *Tom Ostertag* who have kept the spirit of this section of the Newsletter going. A proposal to be considered this month that the Board authorize a SIG notes reporter for the SIG meetings may bring this feature back into prominence in the Newsletter.

The Mini'Info'Net BBS

Yes, I am a snoop. If there is something good on the BBS, I may lift it for the Newsletter. Especially if it's written on the Newsletter board. If you don't want me to pick up something you write, better mark it.

Emmeline Grangerford

She is behind in her dues and doesn't get listed in the membership lists, but Emmeline is always listening for stories of bugs and viruses and things gone wrong. If you have a topic for her particularly unsuccinct and slightly biased prose, better contact me.

Board Members

Some Board offices require Newsletter communication with the membership. The Board minutes are typical—*Randy Dop* uploads them to me after the meeting so that I can get them into the layout under way at that time.

Some sources I wish I had:

I need authors who write about the schools. I need lots of tips, both the sadder-but-wiser and the now-I'm-a-power-user kinds. I need people who explain how they used the computer to solve problems. I need material on how to convert data from one format to another. I need kids writing about computing for other kids to read, and kid artists to submit graphics for the Newsletter. I need articles on old Apples and on new Apples, on beginner topics and advanced topics, on software and hardware, on using common software and exotic software. And I always need fillers, those mini-articles that fill less than a half page and prevent my wasting space that you've paid to see filled.

You'll find that I've not always been successful in collecting a full smorgasbord for each issue. But in general we have been able to put something in that is useful to each member. If this has not been the case, please contact me.—Linda

HyperTalk 2.0: The Book

HyperTalk 2.0: The Book by Dan Winkler and Scot Kamins. Foreword by Bill Atkinson. Bantam Books.

Dan Winkler is the creator of HyperTalk. Scot Kamins is a member of the HyperCard Documentation Team. What better credentials for the authors of a book about the intricacies of the HyperTalk programming language?

The Book is not designed as a HyperCard primer or even a HyperTalk learning guide. You need a good knowledge of both before delving between the covers of this volume. If you're new to HyperCard, the authors recommend Danny Goodman's **The Complete HyperCard Handbook** (now available for HyperCard 2.0). But if you've done a fair amount of scripting and know how to tell a property from a function—as opposed to a command or a keyword—then this book is a requirement.

Even if you've sworn off HyperCard 2.0 because of the confusion surrounding the Claris move, this book has something for you. It covers the entire HyperTalk scripting language and clearly signals to the reader when it discusses Version 2.0 enhancements. It also lists the bugs that existed in pre-2.0 HyperCard—and even a few bugs that exist in 2.0. Almost every page has a scripting example, and these often include comments about how to write the script if you're still using Version 1.2#. (Many of the scripts can be run as is with HyperCard 1.2#.)

As a reference text, **The Book** is easy to use. Commands, keywords, functions, properties, and system messages are each alphabetized in their own chapters. If you're not sure

by Peter
Fleck



Macintosh
Book
Review/
HyperCard

Tips for MSWord Tables

by Peter
Fleck



Macintosh
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Deleting rows, columns, and tables

Use the Table... command under the Edit menu to delete parts (rows, columns, or a selection), or all of a table. (There is a shortcut for deleting a table. Select the table and an extra line or return outside of the table. The Backspace/Delete key will then remove the table.)

To delete just the text in a table or cell, make your selection and use the Cut command under the Edit menu (or Command-x).

Centering text vertically

To center text vertically in a cell, use the Paragraph... command under the Format menu. Under the Spacing option in the dialog box, you can enter how many points you want before and after the text.

Cutting and pasting into tables

The normal cut-and-paste operation works when pasting into a single cell. However, when you want to paste across a row or down a column, the text must have tabs, paragraph, or comma delimiters that match the number of cells in the column or row where you are pasting.

whether something is a property or a function, you can check the Quick Dictionary and get a page reference to the main text. Or look in Appendix F (Vocabulary Categories), which lists commands, keywords, etc., under headings such as "Arithmetic and Trigonometric," "Background," and "Button." Also in the nine appendixes is a listing of all the changes for 2.0, and "Late Breaking News"—additions to the language that came in too late to be included in the main body of **The Book**. (**The Book** was released May 11, 1990; HyperCard 2.0 was released (finally) in October.)

Although intended as a reference, **The Book** is no dry tome. Winkler and Kamins write with a humor that doesn't intrude on the technical aspects of the subject matter—as when they report that the Undo command might not work after issuing the Destroy Machine command. It also includes a dose of Mac trivia. (Do you know why January 1, 1904 was chosen as the Macintosh Day that Time began?)

If you want a book on the new HyperCard features and how to use them, this isn't it. But if you've started scripting and want the reference for HyperTalk, you need **The Book**.

Making your scripting easier

A Menu of Card Components...

by Tom
Edwards



HyperBytes
for
Macintosh
HyperCard

HyperTalk 2.0: The Book by Winkler and Kamins [see review in this issue] has a number of neat little scripts (scriptettes?) that demonstrate how to work with HyperTalk. They are not necessarily the "end-all, do-all" of scripts, for they are meant as examples of the definitions covered within the book. Yet several of them have quickly found a path to my own scripts, and as usual, I can't help but tinker with them to make them more useful within my scripting environment.

Here's a "modification" that I've added to one of the examples from *The Book*:

On page 216 (in the section on the "Delete Menu" command), they give a fairly involved script that builds a menu that contains names of all the fields and buttons on the current card and its background. The intent is to enable scrolling to a component of the card to select its script for editing, something often needed during the development of a stack. Since I usually build a stack based on background fields and buttons (rather than these same items on cards), simply re-ordering the repeat loops of the handler lists the background items before the card items in the scrolling menu. This may be contrary to the "hierarchical structure" of a stack, but it puts the items that I usually work with at the top of the menu to reduce the amount of scrolling... which can be pretty deep for a complex card.

This little routine is somewhat similar to the "Power Tools" stack "listObjects" command, but once built, the menu is always available. It gives you quick access to all scripts, regardless of whether or not they are for hidden items, and saves a lot of toggling between button and field modes to edit scripts. If you go to a different card, you will need to rebuild the menu only if you want to work on a card level item. Similarly, the menu needs to be rebuilt if you switch to another background, but that's a fairly rare need; a stack generally has just a few backgrounds, compared with the number of cards. With a bit more "tweaking," you could get the menu to "automatically" rebuild each time that you went to a new background. Because of the time it takes to do a rebuild (about a tenth of a second for each item added to the menu), manual activation is probably wiser.

The text within *The Book* implies that this handler is associated with a button. Of course you can tie it to that, but I find that placing the script into the stack script, then typing (a macro is nice) the command "buildPartsMenu" into the message box works swell. (It also occurs to me that you could add yet another menu item, right into the

"Parts" menu, that sends the appropriate menuMessage to rebuild itself!)

By adding the three bold lines (these were not in the original script and are bold here just to call your attention to them) before the repeat loops that collect the card and background fields and buttons, I have access to *all* of the scriptable items from the same menu. There's a bit of redundancy here, since the first three items can be called up directly from the keyboard (Option+Command+[s, b or c]), but they don't add too much to the scroll distance down to the usual heart of the work in the buildup menu.

```
on buildPartsMenu
  if "Parts" is in the menus then delete menu "Parts"
  create menu "Parts"

  put name of this cd after menu
  "Parts" with menuMessage "Edit script of Card"
  put name of this bg after menu
  "Parts" with menuMessage "Edit script of Background"
  put name of this stack after menu
  "Parts" with menuMessage "Edit script of Stack"

  - Bkgnd btns
  repeat with bgBtnNum = 1 to the number of bg buttons
    put name of bg btn bgBtnNum
    after menu "Parts" with -
      menuMessage "Edit Script of
      bg button "&bgBtnNum
    end repeat
```

(Note: add three more repeat loops, similar to the one above, to process background fields, card buttons and card fields... they were just omitted here for space savings.)

```
-italicize items with no script
repeat with itemNum = 1 to the number of menuItems in menu "Parts"
  if script of (name of menuItem itemNum of menu "Parts") is empty then
    set textstyle of menuItem itemNum of menu "Parts" to italic
  end if
end repeat
end buildPartsMenu
```

As you can see, I'm great at sorting the tinkertoys into little boxes. Now if I could only use them to build something useful!

More bytes later...TWE



One Computer in the Classroom

from
AppleLink
material



Computing
in the
Schools

Most teachers who have access to one computer on a regular basis have no trouble keeping it busy somewhere at the back of the classroom as a drill and practice tool and a spot where students can take turns at individual tasks such as word processing. Teachers in Iowa are learning that there's a fuller life for their lone Apple computers by bringing them to the front of the room and engaging them as tools for collaborative learning.

Vaughn Murphy and Barry Pitsch, Instructional Computing Consultants and Apple Education User Group leaders at Heartland Education Agency, share their two-day workshop that offers teachers a learning-by-doing experience encouraging teamwork, problem-solving, and using higher order thinking skills as they work with one computer to enhance curriculum.

Day 1

Introductions: Start the session with individual introductions to allow participants to identify colleagues with similar professional backgrounds for future reference. Then form teams of five, and begin with a brainstorming and bonding exercise where each team creates a team name and logo based on a commonality. Share the results.

Modeling: Introduce Tom Snyder Production's **National Inspirer** software. This and many of the company's products are specially designed for a one-computer classroom. Use the National Inspirer's Teachers Guide to help each team complete both on- and off-computer activities that clearly demonstrate the power and purpose of collaborative learning. Next introduce Mindscape's **Rebus Writer**, software which is not specifically designed for a one-computer classroom. Demonstrate what a rebus is, and as a

large group, solve several rebus puzzles together. Have teams compete with one another to solve rebus puzzles and be the first to enter answers into the computer. Ask each team to create an original rebus puzzle to share with the class.

After using each piece of software, conduct a discussion about: what the class liked about the software; what they would change; how it could be tailored to their own classrooms; how it encourages critical thinking; and how it supports collaborative learning.

Software Exploration: Have participants work in pairs. Each pair selects and reviews a piece of software appropriate to their interests and grade levels. Together they devise a lesson for using the software in a one-computer classroom.

Day 2

Sharing: Ask each pair to demonstrate the software previewed and lessons developed the day before. Their lesson should be presented as an active learning model where other workshop participants act as students in a classroom. Facilitate a large-group discussion after each presentation encouraging comments about how the model implements critical thinking, collaborative learning, and across-the-curriculum activities. (Murphy and Pitsch emphasize that participants are learning a process, not a specific list of software, and that they should be able to transfer the information to their own grade levels and areas of the curriculum.)

Extension: Demonstrate a piece of software such as one of Audubon's wildlife products or one of Brøderbund's **Carmen Sandiego** products. As a large group, brainstorm how the software can be used across the curriculum in a one-computer classroom.

Optional Exercise: Pretend you work for Tom Snyder Productions. Design and write the plans for a new piece of software to be published for the one-computer classroom. •

Heartland Area Education Agency supports over 80 school districts. For more information contact: Vaughn Murphy, Heartland Education Agency, 6500 Corporate Dr., Johnston, IO 50131-1603; 515/270-9030.



*MECC continued from
page 15*

Card on the Macintosh was the engine for a lot of presentations. That means that the presenter needed a Mac, an overhead projector, a projection screen atop that, and a portable movie screen to project upon. Some presenters used two or more Macs. Then there were the GS users, with their **HyperStudio** presentations and more projection equipment. It was not uncommon for a presentation room to sport two or three computers, two overheads, and a snarl of cables on the draped presenter's table. Add to that the hardware required by presentations illustrated by gorgeous color images projected from videodisks via computers. I began to wonder if room assignments were made by electrical requirements as much as by vision and seating factors.

Compatibility of systems was not an insignificant issue. One presenter wailed "There's no driver for my videodisk!" as she assayed the assembled gear and realized that her presentation was crippled until new software was loaded into the Mac.

I sampled a number of sessions that gave me an idea of the breadth of the MECC world. A district administrator from a private school projected his speech in animated outline form. His topic—promoting staff interaction and overcoming computer phobia. A college professor of quantitative evaluation announced it is time to teach grading by computer to teachers in a university course, and solicited input from his audience who obviously knew more about the glories and pitfalls of grading programs than he did. An innovative coordinator demonstrated materials marketed by a software developer for promoting better elementary school writing assignments. Another coordinator analyzed the narrow world of teachers in terms of broader concepts, international megatrends that intrude on otherwise traditional disciplines. A Japanese CEO—he wielded transparencies, but spoke through a translator—explained the differences between Japanese and American school computing. (I was surprised to learn that Japanese kids don't know enough Kanji characters to do word processing until late elementary school, so much of their computing is mouse-driven, even if they are primarily working in the MS-DOS world.)

Change is in the air. Students have upended the assumptions that educational theorists once made about them. Teachers are redefining their relationship to the content areas, their students, and the materials they use. Schools are redefining what they are about. That the word "technology" appears so often in discussions of school reform is no longer surprising to me. Sure, we have all seen it in definitions of what students are, of what they do, and of what they will be, but now we find it in explanations of what teachers are, what they do, and of what they must become.

The Sunday night banquet is a lavish meal followed by speakers who have the power to move a crowd of tired but motivated teachers. This year, the superintendent of schools from Dayton, Ohio schools gave his inspired vision of school change, and Minnesota's senator-elect Paul Wellstone pledged to push for child health and education legislation in the Senate. Musical entertainment was provided by the Stillwater (Minnesota) High School Electronic Music Ensemble. These young adults stood on stage in formalwear to switch on their MIDI equipment, a projection screen, and their Apple IIGS. Some of them played rifts on more traditional instruments to augment the preprogrammed sound track pulsing through the room. A multi-age choir from the Minneapolis schools provided the finale, singing "We Are the Future" and receiving fluorescent Apple sweatshirts for their effort.

Teachers at the banquet also were given Apple black sweatshirts with fluorescent Apple graphics. These uniforms thereafter bobbed through the convention rooms and display halls aisles (and nearby restaurants and stores), a strong symbol of the closeness of Apple and the schools.

Some analysts recite a story about Apple's bid that arrived at the last-minute during MECC product adoption proceedings in the 70s. It's their way of explaining Apple's dominance in 80's education. Although Apple fanatics may chant "Apple II Forever!" nothing is forever in school budgeting. IBM and MS-DOS have made great inroads into educational computing. IBM's presence was felt, and Laser and Tandy as well. Apple still holds the educational market, and therefore the display floor, but in the sessions there is a no-vendor-is-sacred attitude. Despite the free sweatshirts and educator discounts, the schools

have to be practical. How can schools get the most bang for their technology bucks? is the question on the minds of the decision-makers who attend.

Apparently, the Apple II GS is now the standard school machine, a powerful and colorful tool for many school applications. Name a concept, you can probably find some kind of GS-driven software for it. Roger Wagner's HyperStudio is the hot GS software application for innovative teachers who want to make custom presentations of classroom concepts. It was featured in many presentations, in many vendor booths, and even by Apple itself.

But the new Macintosh LC was demonstrated with a lot of fanfare even if it wasn't yet available to the schools or anyone else. It will arrive later this the winter, but orders were gleefully taken during the convention. The LC is a Macintosh with modular CPU and an external monitor—plus sound and color—and it will also accept an Apple IIe emulation card and/or an IBM-compatible 286 card. Apple representatives pushed it as the answer to the school question, "What machine is our best hope of staying current the longest?" and to the question, "How can we buy frugally, plan for the future, and yet work with our existing collections of hardware and software?"

For many MECC convention participants, the answers to the question of how to buy wisely lay in the convention somewhere. For others, solutions are a long way off, and in the meantime they need to simply go back to their faculties and school boards to educate the educators in what the world of educational technology is all about.

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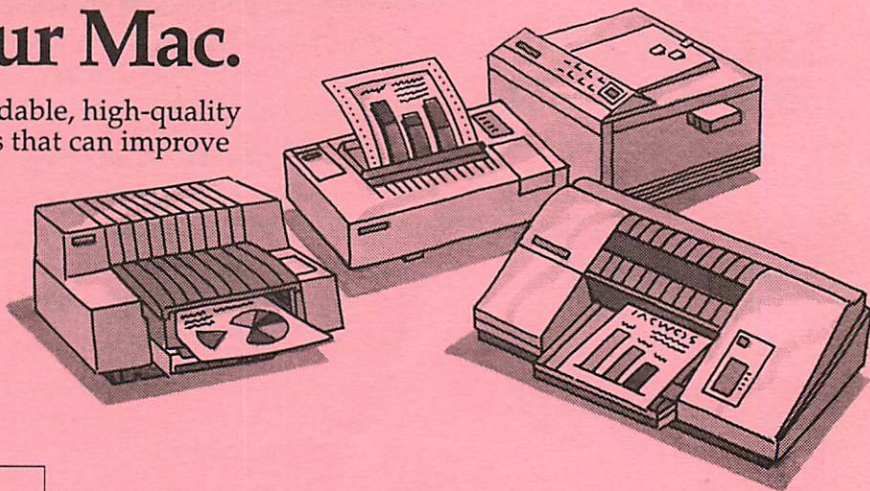
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