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Volume 26, Issues 7 - 8



mini'app'les newsletter

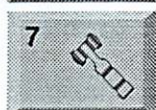
the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.



| J U L Y 2 0 0 3 | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 7:00 SIG | 8 | 9 9 PHOTOSHOP! | 10 10 SIG | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 7:00 Apple | 16 | 17 17 SIG | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 6:30 SIG | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 6:00 Mac ? 7:00 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |



AppleWorks SIG
 July CANCELLED (Vacation)
 John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949
 hunkins@mac.com.



Board of Directors
 mini'app'les members welcome.
 1011 Rice St, St Paul
 Les Anderson 651-735-3953



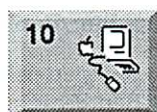
VectorWorks SIG
 July, August CANCELLED
 (Vacation)
 Charles Radloff 952 941 1667



Photoshop-Digital Imaging 7 P.M
 Augsburg Library
 7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
 Gary Eckhardt, 952-944-5446



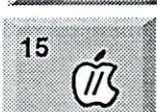
Microsoft Word SIG 7 P.M
 Eagles lodge
 9152 Old Cedar Ave Bloomington
 Tom Ostertag, D 612-951-5520 E
 651-488-9979



Macintosh Main
 Call for time & location
 Robert Marking 651-442-2702



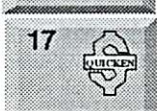
iMovie SIG
 July, August, September
 CANCELLED (Vacation)
 John Pruski, 952-938-2818



Vintage Mac / Apple SIG
 Augsburg Library
 7100 Nicollet Ave S, Richfield
 Tom Gates 612-789-1713



Macintosh Consultants SIG
 Embers 7:00 AM
 7525 Wayzata Blvd
 St. Louis Park
 Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124



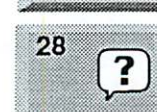
Quicken SIG 7:00 PM
 Eagles lodge
 9152 Old Cedar Ave Bloomington
 Dale Strand, (612) 824-1685



FileMaker Pro SIG
 Megaclean
 769 Kasota Ave S.E.
 Minneapolis MN 55414
 Steve Wilmes 651-458-1513



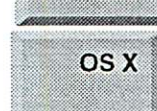
Meet Your iMac / Mac SIG
 Merriam Park Library
 1831 Marshall Avenue
 St. Paul



Macintosh Novice SIG
 Merriam Park Library
 1831 Marshall Avenue
 St. Paul
 Richard Becker, 612-870-0659



Programming SIG
 For meeting time contact
<http://www.visi.com/~andre/>
 Andre Benassi 763-786-3891



OS X SIG
 CANCELLED

See August 2003 Inside on Page 3



mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343

Board of Directors:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| President | Les Anderson 651-735-3953 anderslc@usfamily.net |
| Vice President | Tom Gates 612-789-1713 tgates@isd.net |
| Secretary | Jim Nye 763-753-3899 nyej@lycos.com |
| Treasurer | Don Walz 651-426-5602 |
| Marketing Director | Greg Buchner 952-883-0195 gbuchner@mn.rr.com |
| Publications Director | John Pruski 952-938-2818 johnpruski@aol.com |
| SIG Director | Dave Peck 651-423-4672 huntn@charter.net. |
| Director at Large | Bert Persson 612-861-9578 |
| Membership | Erik Knopp |
| Mac Software | Bryan Lienke |
| Apple II | Owen Aaland |

Introduction – 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. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

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.

Advertisers – For information, see Newsletter Ad Rates box within this issue.

Newsletter Contributions – Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343, or tostertag@usfamily.net

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 1st of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Manager, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

Newsletter Layout: John Pruski 952-938-2818, Bert Persson 612-861-9578

mini'app'les BBS – Internet only access

mini'app'les WWW site: <http://www.miniapples.org>

mini'app'les e-mail: miniapples@mac.com



The mini'app'les Newsletter is an independent publication not affiliated, sponsored, or sanctioned by Apple Computer, Inc. or any other computer manufacturer. The opinions, statements, positions, and views herein are those of the author(s) or editor and are not intended to represent the opinions, statements, positions, or views of Apple Computer Inc., or any other computer manufacturer. Instead of placing a trademark symbol at every occurrence of a trade-marked name, we state that we are using the names only in an editorial manner, to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark.

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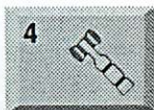


mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

612-951-5520

| AUGUST 2003 | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------|----------------|---|----------------|-----|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 7:00 | 5 | 6 7:00 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 7:00 | 20 PHOTOSHOP! DIGITAL IMAGING SIG | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 / 31 | 25 6:00 ? | 26 | 27 | 28 6:30 | 29 | 30 |



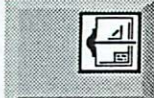
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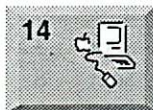
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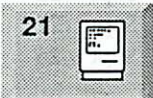
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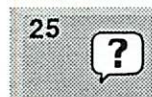
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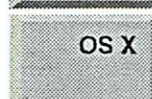
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Programming SIG
For meeting time contact
<http://www.visl.com/~andre/>
Andre Benassi 763-786-3891



OS X SIG
CANCELLED

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time and a few cents to drop us a card, you save the club some money and you get your newsletter delivered promptly to your new address. If you don't inform us, the Post Office puts your newsletter in the trash (they don't forward third class mail) and charges the club for informing us of your new address. Change of Address should be sent to the club's mailing address: mini'app'les, Attn: Membership Director, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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September 2003 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for September 2003. Please pencil these events on your calendar. As always, when doubtful of a SIG date, time, or location, confirm with one of the following:

- At www.miniapples.org
- The cognizant SIG Leader

| | | | |
|-----------|------|----|---------------------------------|
| Wednesday | Sept | 3 | AppleWorks nee ClarisWorks SIG |
| Monday | Sept | 8 | Board of Directors meeting |
| Tuesday | Sept | 9 | VectorWorks SIG |
| Wednesday | Sept | 10 | Microsoft Word SIG |
| Thursday | Sept | 11 | Macintosh Main SIG |
| Tuesday | Sept | 16 | Vintage Mac/ Apple SIG |
| Wednesday | Sept | 17 | PhotoShop / Digital Imaging SIG |
| Thursday | Sept | 18 | Macintosh Consultants |
| Thursday | Sept | 18 | Quicken SIG |
| Monday | Sept | 22 | Meet Your iMac / Mac SIG |
| Monday | Sept | 22 | Macintosh Novice SIG |
| Thursday | Sept | 25 | FileMaker Pro SIG |

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 (or an e-mail) away. Please call only during the appropriate times, if you are a member, and own the software in question.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware | 1, 5, 7 |
| AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw | 6, 7, 8 |
| Classic Macs | 10 |
| Cross-Platform File Transfer | 5 |
| FileMaker Pro | |
| FirstClass | |
| iMacs | 13, 15 |
| iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie | 16 |
| Mac OS Classic | 7,13 |
| Mac OS X | 15, 16 |
| MacWrite Pro | 12 |
| Microsoft Excel | 2, 5, 14, 15 |
| Microsoft Word | 5, 15 |
| MYOB | 14 |
| Networks | 10, 15 |
| New Users | 1,9,13 |
| PhotoShop | 3, 11 |
| PowerBooks / iBooks | 10,13, 15, 16 |
| Power Macs | 15 |
| Quicken | 2, 14, 16 |
| QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro | 14 |
| WordPerfect | 4 |
| VectorWorks | 17 |

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----|
| 1. Les Anderson | 651-735-3953 | DEW |
| 2. Mike Carlson | 218-387-2257 | D |
| 3. Eric Jacobson | 651-645-6264 | D |
| 4. Nick Ludwig | 612-593-7410 | DEW |
| 5. Tom Ostertag | 651-488-9979 | EW |
| 6. Owen Strand | 763-427-2868 | D |
| 7. Bruce Thompson | 763-546-1088 | EW |
| 8. Pam Lienke | 651-457-6026 | EW |
| 9. Tom Lufkin | 651-698-6523 | EW |
| 10. Ben Stallings | 612-870-4584 | DEW |
| 11. Gary Eckhardt | 952-944-5446 | EW |
| 12. R. J. Erhardt | 651-730-9004 | DEW |
| 13. Richard Becker | 612-870-0659 | EW |
| 14. Ardie Predweshny | 612 978-9774 | DEW |
| 15. Andre' Benassi | 763 786-3891 | EW |
| 16. Dave Peck | 651-423-4672 | DEW |
| 17. Charles Radloff | 952-941-1667 | D |

D: Days, generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E: Evenings, generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

W: Weekends, generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Please call at reasonable hours, and ask if it is a convenient time for them. By the way, many of these volunteers can also be contacted on our BBS. We appreciate your cooperation.

If you would like to be a Members Helping Member volunteer, please send an e-mail message to John Pruski on our BBS, or call him at 952-938-2818, with your name, telephone number, contact hours, and the software or hardware areas you are willing to help others.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|------|
| 1/12 page | 2.25" Width x 2.5" Height | \$5 |
| 1/6 page | 2.5" Width x 5" Height | \$10 |
| 1/3 page | 2.5" Width x 10" Height Vert or 5.5 H. | \$20 |
| 1/2 page | 7.5" Width x 5" Height (save 5%) | \$30 |
| 2/3 page | 5" Width x 10" Height (save 7%) | \$40 |
| Full page | 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%) | \$60 |
| Outside back cover | 7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height | \$50 |
| Inside back cover | 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height | \$60 |

All ads must be prepaid and submitted on electronic media. Ads of \$20 and under must run for a minimum of three months.

Mail inquiries to: PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343
Phone inquiries to: John Pruski, 952-938-2818

Board of Directors Meeting Monday, May 5, 2003

Submitted by Jim Nye
mini'app'les Board Meeting
Minutes May 5, 2003

Present- Bruce Thompson, Jim Nye,
Les Anderson, Bert Persson. Greg
Buchner, Eric Knopp, John Pruski, Dan
Buchler

Adoption of agenda- motion made to
post PDS .M/ B T/ GP

Approval of Minutes minutes accept-
ed, M/JP/ GB

Treasurers Report- Don Walz ill.
Nothing to report. Noted that all bills
have been paid.

Officers and Coordinators Reports

(a) President- Les Anderson-Club
Insurance policy is being looked into.
Questioned cost of insurance when all
that is need is liability insurance.

(b) Past President Bert Persson-
Brochures will be made up to hand
out for the Apple center at the Strictly
Business Show Convention May 14
& 15.

(c) Marketing- Greg Buchner-no new
business.

(d) Membership -Eric Knopp- nothing
new.

(e) .Secretary- Jim Nye - President
Anderson had members introduce
themselves to acquaint new members
to the board..

(f) Publications Director- John Pruski-
no problems, but could use more
newsletter articles

Unfinished Business

(a) Don Waltz has cleaned and
destroyed out old records such as
deposit slips

(b) discussed insurance policy and
changes, haven't heard back from
Agent yet.

(c) 50(c)3 paper (defines non-profit
organization status) will be kept in
the archives.

(d) Dropped members- talked of need
and ways to help new novice mem-
bers.
New Business

(a) novice Work Shop May 17, 9 am-
12pm. Notice will be sent to
Newspapers & placed on web site.

(b) election-13 ballots cast- all candi-
dates receive unanimous votes.

(c) legal papers

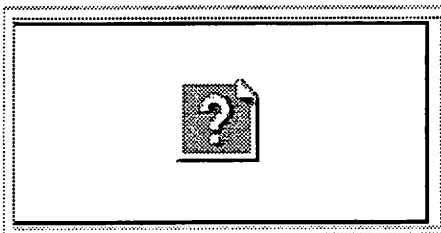
Secrets of an eBay Novice

Submitted by Dave Peck

-I have been active on eBay for about
a year. I've sold about 60 items and
I've purchased approximately 10
items. I have 49 positive ratings, 2
neutral ratings, and zero negative rat-
ings. You'll read more about ratings.-If
your new to eBay, I can tell you
enough to get going and survive bid-
ding. The eBay site has tons of docu-
mentation describing how to "buy",
"sell", "rate", "complain", you name it.
But it can be overwhelming for a new
user. The first stop is to select Help on
the main eBay page. I can't over-
emphasize the importance of your rep-
utation on eBay. You sink or swim
based on your reputation. If many
people trash you, regarding your hon-
esty, responsiveness, timely shipment,
payment, or condition of item sold, I
imagine you'll find it tough to sell
and buy items. As a buyer, if you
don't follow through with the pur-
chase, your reputation will suffer. And
as auctions are binding contracts, if
you misrepresent a sale or fail to fol-
low through on a purchase, it is possi-
ble that you could experience some
form of legal jeopardy. I'm no expert
in this area. Overview

In a nutshell, the process of ebay sell-
ing or buying consists of the follow-
ing parts: Register Sell- List item

(or) Buy- Find item & submit
bid Compete Transaction (buyer pays,
seller ships item) Submit
Feedback Register
It's fairly easy. Select "Register Now"



eBay Main Page

off the Main eBay page. Fill in all of
the required info including name,
address, user name, & password. No
credit card numbers are required, but
you will have to decide how you want
to purchase items and receive pay-
ment for items sold. Payment Methods
There are several ways to pay- person-
al check, PayPal, and credit cards. But
as the person selling, most of us don't
have a Visa or MasterCard account
that allows us to receive credit card
payments like a retail vendor.
Although I can't confirm this, I sus-
pect that you will hinder yourself as a
seller if you only accept personal
checks. The issues are, the time it
takes to mail a check, allow the check

to clear, and bad checks. Some people
don't want to wait two weeks while
their check clears. They won't bid on
your item. And if it turns out to be a
bad check, you will have lost a sale.
There is no guarantee that the next
time the item goes up for auction that
it will do as well. Of course the flip
side is that it could do better the sec-
ond time around. But who needs the
hassle? This is where PayPal comes in.
I've had good luck with PayPal. PayPal
is like an online bank. But they pay a
low interest rate. And PayPal charges a
nominal fee for buyer/seller transac-
tions. Except they don't charge to add
or remove money from your PayPal
account. You send funds from your
real bank to your PayPal account or in
reverse. These funds are used to pur-
chase items. People can send
Visa/MasterCard payments to your
PayPal account. It provides the fastest
and most convenient method for buy-
ers to pay you. Especially for buyers
who live outside the United States.
PayPal provides a means for interna-
tional buyers to easily convert their
currency into U.S. Dollars. I have
heard of PayPal complaints such as a
PayPal payment being made, but not
making it to the seller. Then can-
celling the transaction or ending up
sending two payments or some simi-

lar headache. But I have not experienced any difficulties with my PayPal account. I saw one occasion where a buyer ended up sending me two payments. I refunded one of those back to him- an easy process. But he was frustrated with PayPal. Complaints eBay does have an official means to file a complaint. This has the potential of hurting the reputation of whoever the complaint is filed against. And there is Square Trade, an online means of settling disputes. I did not feel like paying to join Square Trade, so I have not become a certified Square Trade seller. But you can use Square Trade, even if you are not a member to attempt to complete the sale. My experience is that if someone refuses to buy, from a practical standpoint, you are out of luck. I'm referring to small dollar items. If something big \$\$ is sold, that might be a different story as eBay auctions are binding legal transactions. Selling -General Selling Philosophy My Big Sell Mac in the Title (if applicable) Include a Picture Timing Item Description Using HTML Pricing Shipping Mechanics of Posting -General Selling Philosophy Selling is the easiest of the two tasks. Before selling it's recommended that you familiarize yourself with all of the eBay categories (found on the main eBay page). Decide which category best suits your item. You can also search for identical items already listed on eBay by selecting "Search" from the main eBay navbar. You may find your item (being sold by others) in several categories. -Look at how many of your items are currently listed on eBay, how many of them are "in-play", and what prices they are being bid up to. Since I'm partial to games, I've done a search on "Warcraft", a popular Real Time Strategy Game that is available on both Mac & Windows computers. A list of 683 items pops up. Kind of a long list, huh? It turns out that the game is dual platform, but there are other games which are not. So you would not want to bid on a Windows version of a game for your Mac. This also applies to other computer peripherals like printers. Make sure it is compatible with your Mac before bidding. This applies more to buying than selling, but hopefully gives you a hint at how to structure an auction if your selling a Mac product. -Over on the left side of this page will be a column that lists all the cate-

gories where your search produced results. Notice the categories in this graphic start with Consumer Electronics. A sub-category of Consumer Electronics is Video Games. You will also notice another major category- Computers & Office Products, of which sub-categories are Software, Apple Macintosh, & Input Peripherals. -There are many Warcraft Titles, but I want the game Warcraft III. If I click on the category Video Games, a new window opens revealing all the items found under my search that belong to this category. And on the left side of this window, I can also refine my search to look for Warcraft III or Warcraft 3 in Video Games. There is no telling how people will list this item or to what categories. But the best bet is Video Games. Under Video Games there are several Apple Categories. Remember that Warcraft titles appeared in Computers & Office Products. There is a good chance that many people don't know what they are doing on eBay and list items in inappropriate categories. -My Big Sell Last Summer, I had a Clamshell iBook to sell. I found a computer dealer online who was willing to pay \$300 cash, if I purchased a new computer from them. The quote they gave me was good for a couple of weeks. I would have to pay shipping to them, about \$24. I went to eBay and found a limited number of my model iBooks for auction. And they were being bid up into the mid \$400s. So I knew I could put it up for a 7 day auction with a \$299 start price and see what happens. Buyers typically pay shipping, so it was win-win for me. If it came into "play", at a minimum, I would save on my shipping costs. My timing was right and I stumbled into a situation where this computer was covered by a 3 year extended AppleCare warranty which I had purchased. It still had 4 months left on the warranty. And the warranty was transferable to the new owner. So I could say this computer was still under warranty- a huge selling advantage in my opinion. Something to think about when you decide on purchasing an extended warranty. You might ask, "What do I do if the computer is not under warranty?" You add a clause to your auction, with a bold letter type, saying to the effect that while you verified the computer is in good working order before shipping,

that it is being sold AS-IS with no warranty. But there could be a danger. Can you guess what it is? The danger is that if it arrives non-functional at the destination, the buyer might give you a negative rating. Fortunately, for all ratings, the rated person as buyer or seller, can post a response. Where you could counter the negative rating by stating the auction specified sold as-is. But think about it. If you get enough of these kind of ratings- the item arrived inoperative, it may hurt your ability to sell used items on eBay. I don't have a solution for this. I've sold one HP printer as-is and it arrived ok. But if it hadn't and I got a negative rating out of it, I would think about selling items like this. -Mac in the Title For computer items, make sure it says "Mac compatible". If your selling a Mac item, that also comes in a PC version, I think it's a savvy move to put (Mac) in the auctions title. So if someone does a search, they will be able to easily pick out your Mac version among all of the PC versions. And PC users will be warned off. If the item is both Mac and PC compatible, I place (Mac/Win) in the auction title. -Picture People want to see a picture of what they are buying. In many cases it is not required to have a picture of the actual item. A good example of this is a game, where I take a picture of the manual or the jewel case artwork. With printers, I scan a picture of the item either from the box or the documentation that came with it. A digital camera is a good alternative. A picture of the actual item would be good for all auctions, but especially important for unique or collector items, household items like china, nick-nacks, or something expensive like a car. In the case of a car, multiple pictures might be in order. During the auction listing process, you will be able to browse your hard drive for the picture to be used for the auction. Your picture should be a .GIF or .JPG. These are two different graphic formats that utilize compression to make the image file smaller. You can identify a JPEG picture because it will have the .jpg suffix attached to the name. Picture name examples: mypicture.jpg or mypicture.gif. If the picture is scanned, there is a good possibility that the result will be a .TIF (a different standard). TIFs are not compressed and result in large file sizes.

eBay will accept pictures file sizes only so large. I can't tell you exactly, but you don't want your picture to be larger than about 300k. This is why GIFs and JPEGs are better. You might need to use a shareware program like Graphic Converter to convert your .TIF into a .GIF or JPG. I also use Graphic Converter to scale the picture down to no more than 3"x3". When saving JPEGs, I use a mid quality setting. This reduces the pictures file size. JPEG View, a free program might be able to convert TIFs into JPEGs, but I've not found an OSX version to test.

Timing
I have no scientific proof what-so-ever, but in my opinion the day and time of day is important for listing an auction. This becomes clearer when you understand how buying works. Basically, to get the most action on an item, you want the most potential buyers bidding on it. Auctions can be designated 5 or 7 day. Unless a bid-and-forget type bidder, has over-bid (over paid) on an item, the auction is going to be won by someone actively working the auction (sitting by their computer). You might disagree with me, but I tend to think the most people are available after dinner during the week, or even better, on the week-end. Especially games. If you see the method to my madness, game auctions should end after school is out.

Item Description
Make sure you describe the item, and it's condition. If it's computer related, is it Mac, Windows, or dual platform compatible? Does it have minimum system requirements?- post them. There is a separate spot in the auction posting process to state the auction starting price and what kind of payments you will accept, but I feel the need to also state this in the item description. An example is posted at the end of the article.-Using HTML in Auction Posting

When it comes to posting an auction, you will have to describe the item. You can use plain text and type right into the text-entry box. But your description will have no formatting, no paragraphs or bold face, just one lump of text. You want some formatting. If you are familiar with HTML (the computer code of the internet) or know how to use a HTML editor like GoLive or Dreamweaver, it can be a real plus to make up your add in HTML. This allows you add Formatting, such as paragraphs, bold

type, insert links, and do other fancy things. If this is too much trouble, when posting an auction, you will notice a link to the right of the item description text-entry box. A link that will take you to a help page that illustrates basic HTML formatting using HTML tags. These tags can be inserted directly into your text to make paragraphs and bold face appear. HTML tags tell a browser (like Netscape or Safari) how to display a particular section of type. This is a HTML tag to designate a paragraph: <p>. A paragraph starts with a <p> at the beginning of the paragraph and a </p> (slash p) at the end.-Pricing

This part of selling can be tricky. You must balance the absolute minimum price your willing to accept for the item against the possibility that you are pricing your item to high to get it into play. Once the item is in play, you are home free. It means someone has agreed to make you minimum payment. And if your lucky it could zoom in price. But none of that happens until it is in play. Then you have bidders that have made an emotional commitment to your item. Sometimes they pay more than they initially planned, because they realize someone is competing with them for this item. If they lose it, then they will just have to start over on another auction. I can guarantee that if there are 100 Smooch Beanie Babies listed for \$1, and 5 of those bears are in play for \$3-5, that if you list your Smooch for \$15, it's just not gonna happen, the sale that is. Unless you have something that sets your Smooch apart, it's just going to lay there. If there is something special about an item, it had better be highlighted in the auction and possibly in the title. Don't discount the value of foreign buyers. My experience selling to foreigners has been good. Sometimes they will pay top dollar due to item rarity where they live. But with a possible language barrier, there could be problems. In the auction listing you designate to what locals you are willing to sell. I have sold Mac items to people in England, Germany, Israel, Norway, and other foreign locals. My biggest surprise was selling an 8 year old (original \$99) joystick to an individual in Israel for \$75. Plus he paid \$30 shipping for it. It is really important that you talk about shipping outside the U.S. in your item description.-Shipping

It's up to you how much you want to talk about it. But the clearer you are the better, to avoid post sales problems. The USPS site and UPS site both have postage calculators to help you. I use two separate paragraphs in my auctions- one for shipping in the U.S. and one for foreign shipments, including Canada. When listing the auction, you can place a shipping price in the auction form if you know it, or you can simply say Buyer pays shipping.

But most people want to know how much shipping is. I place most of this info in the item description. For a game, where I know what the shipping will be, I do put a price in the auction form. Most games ship in the U.S. for \$2.00 media rate or \$4.60 Priority Mail, with \$1.30 insurance (optional).

One other note- For something like a printer, I usually fudge up a couple of pounds on the weight. I'd rather have them send me too much money than too little. For a big ticket item, I do refund excess shipping that the buyer sends me. Don't be one of these people who tries to make a few extra dollars on shipping!-Mechanics of Posting an Auction

I'm not going to take you through posting an auction step by step. It's not that hard to fill in the info.

Remember the points listed above. Select Sell on the main eBay page. Select Auction as the selling method and continue from there. I have included an example of a auction posting at the end of this article.*****Buying

-Search for Item to Bid On
Don't Bid Until Don't Get Confused
Prices Low for Newly Posted Items
Reserve Pricing? Proxy Bidding
Buying Strategy
Golden Rule Bid-n-Forget
Go For Broke vs Two Step
Go For Broke
Two Step Tracking an Auction- Search for Item to Bid On
Check the categories and do searches as mentioned earlier in this article. When reading an auction focus on these points:
Initial Price
Sellers Reputation- If there are lots of complaints, beware.
Item description
A comprehensive description?
Condition of item
Is this item what you really want?
Verify Model number if it has one.
Computer Item- Mac Compatible?
Does it have a Reserve Price?
Shipping Costs- Are they specified?
Is Insurance an Option?
Location of item- Do you want to deal with

someone who lives overseas? Accepted payment methods.-Don't Bid Until Don't bid until all of your questions are answered. On the auction page, use the Ask the Seller a Question to email the seller with your questions. Ideally this happens early in the auction as it might take a day or two to get a response.-Don't Get Confused Make sure you are bidding on what you think you're bidding on. Look at item picture and check for applicable model numbers or other means of identifying the item.-Prices are lowest for new Auctions

Remember the prices are always going to be lower on items just posted. They will be highest when the auction is about to end. If they are priced high at the beginning of the auction, maybe you don't want it.-Is it Reserve Priced?

Reserve pricing provides the means to list an item at a incredibly low price. The catch is, the seller does not have to really sell the item until the Reserve Price is met. You might get excited about the brand new X-Box (\$199 retail) listed for \$1. But I can almost guarantee that the Reserve Price won't be met until you are close to retail. I suspect the seller will not let it go much below the Reserve Price. The way I deal with Reserve-Priced auctions, is I bid on them up to what I consider is a good deal and if the Reserve Price is not met, I walk away from it. But you must be prepared to pay for what ever you bid on. While improbable, it's not impossible, that if you bid \$100 for the new X-box, even if the Reserve Price is not met, the seller might let you have it. Then you are supposed to complete the transaction.-Proxy Bidding Something you should be aware of. Proxy bidding is eBays bidding convention. You can find it in the eBay Help Center. Let's say your eyeing a Beanie Baby that has a current bid value of \$10. And you bid \$11. Immediately you get a message back, that you have been outbid. How could that happen? Was someone sitting there kicking

No. Proxy bidding allows you to bid your maximum price with one bid. For my example, lets say the Beanie Baby you want is listed for \$10 and there are zero bids on it. So \$10 is the starting price. If you're willing to pay \$20 for the Beanie Baby, you bid \$20, but the auction price will still show \$10. What has changed, is that the item is

now in-play, it has one bid, and you are the current winning bidder at \$10. The second bidder sees this item and decides to place a bid for \$11. As soon as the bid is placed, the price jumps to \$12. And under this circumstance, you are still the current winning bidder. The second bidder gets a message telling him that he was outbid. That is because you initially bid \$20, indicating you are willing to go to \$20. The second bidder can place additional bids, the price will jump, and he will continue to get "out bid" messages until he bids \$21. At this point, the second bidder becomes the current winning bidder. This can be used to your advantage.-Buying Strategy I don't consider myself an expert. I developed (stumbled into) these secret bidding strategies after losing several auctions. I am happy with the results. You can use these methods only if you agree that if you ever come up against me bidding in an auction, you'll remember the good advice I gave and step aside. Yeah right. OK, here goes. Unless you over bid (over pay) for an item, or there is minimal interest in the item, I can guarantee that you'll rarely win an auction by using the Bid-n-Forget method. You want to win auctions and get good deals too. Maybe, over-pay if the item is a hard to find collectors item? Then who is to say what it's worth? Follow one of the strategies below to save a little money. The best auctions to bid on are the ones where there is a large gap between the current price and your maximum bid price. After you read the methods, you'll understand why this is better.-Golden Rule of Bidding

In all cases, the Golden Rule of Bidding, if you can help it, is don't show any interest in an item until the very last minute. What good does it do to put the item in play and bid up it's price early? In my methods you wait until the last minute to start your assault. I give timing guidelines, but the closer you cut it, the better. Speaking of Timing.... This may

seem apparent, but now do you know when there is only a few minutes left in an auction? You want to be looking at the eBay page where the auction is listed. I would not use my own clock. The time the auction ends (Pacific time) and how much time is left is posted on the Auction Page. If you stare at this page long enough, you'll see that the time does not refresh,

unless you hit the "Refresh" button on your browser. With about 5 minutes to go, you should be hitting the Refresh Button often until it's time to act. I have a Cable Modem connection to the internet. This makes a difference in page refresh rates. If your using a 56k modem or slower, you should check out how fast your pages refresh. If it's an issue, just make sure your clock is right when you start bidding. Three Strategies Bid-N-Forget-Go For Broke Two Step-Bid-N-Forget Example- On day 2 of an auction, you bid \$200 for a new camera that retails for \$400 and then wait to see the results after the auction is closed on day 7. If you don't want to win many auctions use Bid-n-Forget. But due to real life commitments, sometimes it's unavoidable.-Go For Broke vs Two Step

I think it's better to talk about this before describing these methods. There are no hard rules for when to use one method over the other. These methods are most effective when there is a large price gap between the current price and your maximum price. And when you are competing against an active bidder who is trying to win an auction by bidding it up dollar by dollar. If all competing buyers place their maximum bid with one minute to go, then the item goes to the highest bidder. The Go For Broke method might be used if there is not a lot of desired items listed, you really want the item, and you've decided to pay up to your maximum price. The Two Step method is better if there are a lot of low cost auctions posted and your not convinced you need to pay the maximum price. At least not initially.-Go For Broke

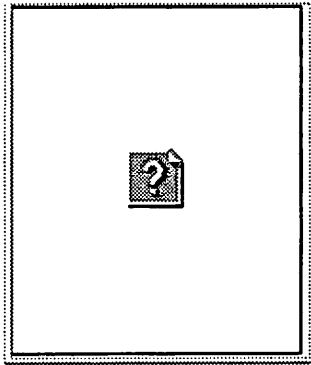
With 30 sec-1 minute left in the auction, (start hitting the refresh button) you place your maximum bid. You either get it or you don't. If you get an "out bid" message, then it's not meant to be. Walk away. The advantage is not giving any active bidders a lot of time to react. If they try to inch-up the price, (remember how Proxy bid-

ding works, they win run out of time, and you win.-Two Step Method This method works best when there are many items listed (the item you want in other auctions) and your trying to get your best price against an active bidder. It's also simple, but has two steps. I'm repeating myself, but the ideal auctions are the ones with a large gap between the current price

and your maximum price. With 2 minutes left in the auction, place a bid half way between the current price and your maximum price. Then watch the auction page. If you're listed as the winning bidder, wonderful! But you must hit the "Refresh" button on your browser every couple of seconds to make sure the info reflected on the auction page is accurate and you are still the winning bidder. If your competition is active, you may see an immediate reaction if they place their maximum bid. If a bidder is trying to incrementally "up" the bid, it might take a while for you to lose the winning bid. But your hoping the other people run out of time. For example, let's say a recently released video game which sells new for \$50 is listed with a start price of \$14.99. You've decided your maximum price is \$29. So you place a bid for \$20 with 2 minutes left. Your hoping your competition is trying to peek out the lowest winning bid. So it takes time to place a bid for \$16, get the out-bid message, bid for \$17, get the out-bid message, so forth and so on. If you don't want to bid your top dollar, wait and see what happens. Maybe you'll get it for your mid-price bid. If you see the price jump up past your mid price bid, then place your max bid. Hopefully you have not run out of time. If your competition is trying to step the price up (to get the lowest price), they will run out of time and you'll win. If you decide you really want this item, (up to your max price), even if you are still listed as the current winning bidder, with 1 minute left, bid your maximum price. It's really cool when the winning bid goes to the other bidder, you place your maximum price, and time runs out before your competition can react. That is why you wait till the last minute to start. You can see that the larger the price difference between an item's actual price and your maximum price is a good thing. Now if competing bidders all place their maximum price, the item goes to the highest bidder. If your competing against someone who is raising the bid dollar by dollar, they will run out of time. And you'll win. --Tracking an Auction

eBay allows you to designate an auction for tracking. And if you use Explorer (as your browser), under the Tools Menu, there is The Auction Manager. Example Item Description I recently auctioned an Epson Stylus

Photo 820 printer. It sells new for about \$100. I got it free with a computer purchase. Since I don't care for Epson printers, I put it up for auction starting at \$34.99. It sold for about \$60. Buyer paid for shipping. Because it was a printer, I had more verbiage than I would when selling a game. Take a look at the actual closed auction. Be advised this auction will no longer be visible in about 90 days. The item description below is for an HP DeskJet 855C printer I sold last year. Item Description Starts Here: HP DeskJet 855C Printer



eBay Help Center

(Mac/Windows) Workhorse printer, dual platform support Mac/Windows. In excellent condition. From quality standpoint, one of the best printers HP has built. Has separate Black and Color ink cartridges. Includes power-cord and Mac serial cable. Important Don't Skip- This printer is used on a daily basis and has worked great, but it is being sold as-is. Used ink cartridges installed, may need replacement. PC cable not included. Payment coordination- My work schedule this month has me traveling Thursday-Sunday. Auction will be over on Monday night. With quick PayPal payment, will be able to ship before Thursday. Otherwise will ship following Monday. System Specs Prints black text 4-6 pages per min, color text 1-2 pages per min; Black Resolution 600dpi, Color Resolution 300 dpi; has built-in Scalable Fonts; Media Size: US Letter, US Legal, Executive, European A4, A5, US No.10 envelope, European DL envelope, C6 envelope, Index Card, plus other sizes; For Mac, uses AppleTalk serial cable (included). For Windows, uses Centronics 1284-B receptacle cable (not included, but this is a standard printer cable for Windows PCs.); Black Ink Cartridge: 51645A Color Ink Cartridge: 51641A. All sales final. Payment method: PayPal easy and fast

(includes Credit Card payments through PayPal). eBay Payments also accepted. Postal money order 3rd choice. Personal checks not accepted. If mailing payment, please do so within 3 days. International Buyers- PayPal allows you to open an account and make payments in US dollars. It is available in over 30 countries. Check it out. Also see Outside US Shipping, below. Shipping- Buyer pays for shipping. I will ship USPS, FedEx, or UPS at your expense, with or without insurance. I live in Minneapolis, Mn (USA). If you live locally, I'll be happy to coordinate delivery and save on shipping costs- willing to coordinate delivery in the Twin Cities metro. A quick check of the USPS Domestic Calculator page indicates that a 20 lb package to Florida costs \$21 for Parcel Post or \$26 Priority Mail. Insurance is \$2.00. If the package costs less than the quoted price, I will refund the difference. Without insurance, I have no way of tracking the package so buyer assumes responsibility for lost in the mail. Winning bidder needs to coordinate shipping method with me after auction. Any questions about shipping, please email me prior to bidding. Outside US Shipping to be paid by buyer as charged by US Postal Service, FedEx, or UPS. Any questions about shipping, please email me prior to bidding. Please be sure you are willing to pay international shipping before bidding. -Wrap Up That's about all I want to talk about. There's a lot more to learn at eBay. The best way is to jump in and get your feet wet. But there should be enough here to get you started. eBay Links A recent auction eBay: Non Paying Buyer PayPal PayPal Participating Countries eBay: File a Complaint Square Trade

A handy Device

Submitted by Jim Nye

Every since my son left home we've only had one telephone line. This has cause extreme anguish with my wife who is unhappy about missing telephone calls when I'm using the computer.

Finally, I got the ultimative, either quit using the computer or get another house telephone line. But I must say, I was reluctant to get an additional telephone line for my limited use of the computer. I puzzled over that for time, and then remembered seeing an advertisement that allowed a computer to be used on a single telephone line and yet receive telephone calls.

I looked in vain on the internet to find one of theses devices. Finally, I called Radio Shank who said they had

a gadget, called "Catch A call", that would work on my computer for me.

With their sales pitch, I bought the device for \$ 53, but I was suspicious that it wouldn't do the job . The instructions on the package said that you needed "call waiting" to use the device and it then would keep the internet connection for 10-30 seconds. I thought , " what happens after 10-30 seconds"? In spite of my suspicion's , I bought the device with the condition that if I wasn't happy with it I could return it.

I hooked up the device and it didn't work. A friend of my wife said she called and got a busy signal. I started to return the device, thinking it was worthless, when I rechecked the connections and found that I had connected it up wrong. (my mistake, it

was very easy to connect up.) This done , I started the computer up and shortly after got a ring. The caller was on the line and the device worked. My concern about the device turning the computer off was not a worry either, because to reestablish the connection I just needed to restart the remote access up again or if on an internet page press refresh.

My one line telephone problem was solved Now my wife is off my back, and she can get her incoming calls any time I'm on the computer. I'm a hero now!

MS to stop development of IE for Mac.

Submitted by Andre D. Benassi

Microsoft has decided to halt development of Internet Explorer for Mac. You can read about it [<http://maccentral.macworld.com/news/2003/06/13/explorer/>] here.

What does this mean for us? There will be no new features in IE. If there are any updates, they will be bug fixes or security updates.

This is not surprising to me. There haven't been any new features in IE since it was released for Mac OS X. Apple probably knew that MS was about to drop support, since they recently came out with an excellent new web browser for Mac OS X called

[<http://www.apple.com/safari/>] Safari.

What other options do we have for web browsers? Plenty! Just for Mac OS X, there is Safari, [<http://channels.netscape.com/ns/browsers/default.t.jsp>] Netscape, [<http://www.mozilla.org/projects/camino/>] Camino, [<http://www.opera.com/products/desktop/index.dml?platform=mac>] Opera, [<http://www.omnigroup.com/applications/omniweb/>] OmniWeb, [<http://www.icab.de/>] iCab and probably some others that I always forget about. And some of these (Netscape, Opera, iCab) are even still in development for Mac OS classic (Typically Mac OS 8.6 through 9.2).

So, in my opinion, there is no reason to worry. IE does not make MS money like some of their other products do (like MS Office for Mac), so it is no surprise that they are dropping it. I don't feel that this is a sign that they are going to drop support for other products, most importantly Office.

So now is a great time to get out and try some of these "alternative" browsers. They all do pretty much the same thing as Internet Explorer. And they will even gain new features in the future if people decide to support them, unlike Internet Explorer.

Repairing Permissions

Submitted by Bruce Thompson

The other day my desktop machine was running sluggishly and I was having trouble loading some software. I have a dual 1.42 GHz, and the last thing I want is a sluggish feeling! Patio asked me when was the last time I had "repaired permissions." Well, I had never repaired permissions and didn't know why I should. I ran the "Repair Permissions" utility from the Disk Utility supplied by Apple with the

system and bingo, that sluggish feeling was gone and the software loaded without problem. Ah...I thought, here's a topic Kibbles & Bytes readers might want to hear about. Most of the following material is paraphrased from Apple's Knowledge Base.

What are Permissions?

Mac OS X is based on a UNIX-style operating system that uses permissions in the file system. Every file and folder on your hard disk has an asso-

ciated set of permissions that determines who can read, write to, or launch it. Using iMovie and one of your movies as an example, this is what the permissions mean:

Read (r-)

You can open an iMovie if you have the read permission for it.

Write (-w)

You can save changes to an iMovie if you have the write permission for it.

Execute (-x)

You may launch the iMovie application if you have the execute permission for it. This permission is only relevant for applications and other types of executable files.

If you have "rwx" permission, you can do all of the above. Permissions for a folder behave similarly. With read-only permission to a folder containing documents, you can open and read documents but not save changes or add new documents to the folder. Read-only (r-) permission is common for sharing files with guest access, for example.

You (Owner), the Group, Others

Abbreviations like "rwx" and "r-x" describe the permission for one user or entity. The permissions set for each file or folder defines access for three entities: owner, group, and others.

Owner - The owner is most often the user who created the file. Almost all files and folders in your Home directory will have your user name listed as the owner.

Group - Admin users are members of the groups called "staff" and "admin." The super user "root" is a member of these and several other groups. Non-admin users are members of "staff" only. Typically, all files and folders are assigned to either "staff," "admin," or "wheel."

Others - Others refers to all other users that are not the owner or part of the group for a file or folder.

Root: The "Super User"

In Mac OS X, a super user named "root" is created at time of system installation. The root user has complete access to all files and folders on the computer, as well as additional administrative access that a normal user does not have. In normal day-to-day usage of your computer, you do not need to log in as the root user. In fact, the root user is disabled by default.

Issues Related to Permissions

Permission settings may affect behavior. Here are issues with troubleshooting suggestions:

Application installers, Applications folder

A third-party application installer incorrectly sets permissions on the files it installs, or even the entire Applications folder. Symptoms of the Application folder's permissions being set incorrectly include applications appearing in the dock as question marks, and/or not being able to connect to the Internet. It is also possible that software installed while logged in as one user will be inaccessible when logged in as another. To avoid this, make sure you are logged in with your normal user account when installing software that you wish to use with that account.

Files created in Mac OS 9 may appear in Mac OS X with root ownership. When you start up in Mac OS 9 on a computer that also has Mac OS X installed, you can see, move, and delete all files, giving you the equivalent of root access. For this reason it's a good idea not to move or open unfamiliar files or folders when started up in Mac OS 9.

Power interruption

The file system may be affected by a power interruption (improper shutdown) or when it stops responding (a "hang" or "freeze"). This could affect permissions.

Emptying the Trash

In some circumstances, folders for which you do not have write permission can end up in the Trash, and you will not be able to delete them or the files contained in them. Remember that in Mac OS X there is not a single Trash folder. Instead, each user has a Trash folder in the Home directory (named ".Trash"). There is also a Trash folder for the startup volume, and Trash folders for other volumes or disks. Issues with emptying the Trash are much less likely to occur in Mac OS X 10.2 or later, since the Finder empties the Trash as the root user. However, issues may still occur with files on remote volumes for which your local root user has no special privileges.

Other symptoms that may be solved

by running the Repair Permissions utility include printing difficulties and difficulties playing music purchased from the Apple iTunes Music store.

How to View and Change Permissions Using Get Info

The Mac OS X Finder can be used to inspect and modify permissions settings for some files and folders. You can only change permissions for files and folders of which you are the owner. This can aid in troubleshooting permissions-related issues. To view and change permissions in the Info window, follow these steps:

1. Select a file or folder in the Finder.
2. Choose Get Info from the File menu.
3. Choose Privileges from the pop-up menu in the Info window.
4. Using the pop-up menus, change permissions settings as necessary
5. Optional: If you are changing permissions for a folder and you want the changes to apply to enclosed folders as well, click Apply. Apply only appears when you Get Info for folders.

Note: Changes made using the Info window take effect as soon as they are made, even before closing the window.

Viewing and Changing Permissions With Terminal

The Terminal application is located in the Utility folder in the Applications folder. You may use Terminal to inspect or change permissions. Unlike the Finder's Info window, the sudo command gives you the convenience of root access without having to log out and back in as root.

Warning: Basic knowledge of the command line is required to utilize this tool. Data loss and/or unusable system software may result if the Terminal application is used improperly. I am not going to get into talking about Terminal mode in this Kibbles & Bytes issue -- that is another whole issue or two!

So, what do you do if you feel that you have permissions problems? Look

continued on page 15



mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Membership Application, & Renewal Form

| |
|---|
| Name: _____ |
| Company (if mailed to): _____ |
| Address: _____ |
| _____ |
| City, State, Zip: _____ |
| Phone # (Home): _____ |
| Phone # (Work): _____ |
| Phone # (cel-phone): _____ |
| Occupation (if Applicable): _____ |
| Membership ID # (if Renewal): _____ |
| e-mail: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if OK to contact you by e-mail. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if this is a change of address notice. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if you are interested in volunteer opportunities. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if you want your name added to Members Helping Members List. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if you want your name withheld from commercial and other non-club mailing lists. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check if you were referred by a club member (if so give members name). |

New Members & Renewing Members

Specify your level of support:

- \$25.00 One Year
- \$45.00 Two Year
- \$60.00 Three Year
- \$15.00 Student One Year* (must be a full-time student at an accredited institution)
- \$100.00 Corporate One Year

Please Make
Your Checks Payable to:
mini'app'les

Please address
Your Payment to:
mini'app'les
P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

Thank You for your support!

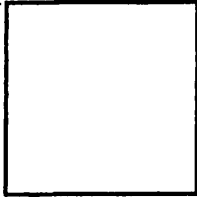
Dear mini'app'les
Please direct this to the:
 Membership Director
 Software Director

1st fold

2nd fold



Mini'app'les
P.O. Box 796
Hopkins, MN 55343-0796



Last Fold - Seal with Tape

Attention:

 Membership Director
 Software Director

continued from page 12

in your Applications folder-->Utilities-->Disk Utility and launch it. Select the hard drive or partition you wish to fix and click on the First Aid tab and choose Repair Disk Permissions. Depending upon how many files you

have, this process may take several minutes.

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Benefits of your mini'app'les membership include:

A one year subscription to our monthly Newsletter

A free account on the mini'app'les BBS (60 minutes/day)

Communicate with other mini'app'les members plus get up to date information on mini'app'les events and meetings. Get assistance from other members.

Eligibility for frequent drawings of free equipment, software, and books.

Just a few of the many items given away free in the past include: Connectix QuickCam, Quickeys, Books from Peachpit Press, MacSoft Games & Software, T-shirts and software including Apple OS 10

Periodic special User Group discount offers on equipment and software.

In the past, Apple, Hayes, Brøderbund, and APC Power Protection (Business Security Products), among others, have offered mini'app'les members significant discounts.

Plus, you're supporting all of mini'app'les' special interest group (SIG) meetings that you can attend each month.

***It's easy to recoup your cost of membership
with the above benefits.***



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Hopkins, MN 55343
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Permit 2537

 **mini'app'les** membership card

EXPIRES: Life ID# 160

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