WAC Journal

March 1991   Volume 5   Number 3

President's Peelings
By L.E."Tuck" Tucker

As the time for our annual renewal of the majority of members is coming to a close, I wonder why some members have not renewed. Are we loosing touch with the local computer users, or is it that there are just too many activities competing for our time?

We, the members of WAC, Inc., have tried to present a forum for education and information exchange about Apple II computers and their compatibles since we were incorporated in December of 1986. There have been presentations on new computers to some of the oldie but goodie programs. We have yet to have a representative from a hardware or software company show, but that is mainly due to the size of our user group. Yet, what more can we offer? What other activities are you looking for?

We have been given the suggestion of a family picnic during July or August, as those are meetings where the building is sometimes hard to get access to. Would a group like to visit another user group in the area, say Eugene or Portland? WAC is only as good for its members and community as we can meet your needs, so help your officers by letting us know what it is that you are looking for in a user group.

Meeting Notes

· **March 21**
HyperStudio Redeux

Notes

Please check your address label for renewal information. It will tell you when your membership runs out and if you need to renew this month. This is the last newsletter you will receive if you haven't paid your dues!

The Computer Store is moving out of Focus this weekend. They are moving to Ferry street just down from Trend College. I don't have their exact address but can get it for you if you need it. Just call Larry.

Contents

Wac Journal

The WAC Journal is published monthly. Authors should submit their articles in hard copy or disk or send it via modem to the editor at the above number by the first of the month. The WAC Journal is an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by Apple Computer, Inc. The opinions, statements, positions and views stated herein are those of the author(s) or publisher and are not intended to be the opinions, statements, positions or views of Apple Computer, Inc.

Meetings-Regular Membership

The Regular Membership Meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month, with a start time of 7:00 p.m.. The meeting is held on the Chemeketa Community College campus, in Building 2, Room 113. The general public is invited to attend.

Meetings-Board of Directors

The Board of Directors Meeting is held a half hour bafore the regular meeting at the same location.

Editor's Notes
By Bobbi Kirk

A modem is a terrible thing to waste...have you used yours today? Now that we have a bbs of our very own there's no excuse for letting your modem just sit there doing nothing. Get on line! Leave a message for someone! Join a forum! Download a file! Get immediate help for your problems and answers to your questions! Or as they say...just do it!

Now that Salem is no longer a toll call I've been calling several bulletin boards around town to see what they have to offer. Most of them are free and some of them are even fun. But I must admit I like ours best. Last week I was able to leave messages for fellow board members Larry and Neal, and get immediate answers to my questions. I was also able to download both their articles for this months Journal as well as upload an updated member list to Neal. And the best thing about it for me is the timing - I leave my message when I have time and they read it when they have time. Are you beginning to see some of the advantages of modeming?

If you're unsure about how to go about getting on the bbs let Larry or Neal know and I'm sure something can be arranged. Due to Chemeketa's phone system we have not been able to demonstrate a "live" modem program but maybe we can arrange another kind of demonstration if enough people show an interest.

In case you think modems couldn't be of benefit to you let me give you one example that should be of interest to anyone using their computer for business applications. If you have anything, a report or brochure or business form you have designed on the computer you can send it, via modem, to a service bureau (like Salem Type) and they can

Teachers' Column
By Kirk Gamble
and Darrell Robertson

I said this third article from me would be about computer education at Gervais Elementary where I work. Since this is my first year there, and there is no definite computer curriculum to follow, I have been slow at figuring out what the school does for computer education. I finally sat down with the superintendent this past week and asked.

He started teaching computers in 1979 with a few Commodores. He taught Basic and they worked on graphics. They bought a couple more Commodores that are still in the building. They added 3 Apple IIe's, and this year they bought 2 Mac Classics. The office has two Tandy computers and one Mac SE. The library is the place where students get to spend some time at computers. Two of the Apple IIe's float around the school between classrooms and the principals office.

Computer education hasn't been forgotten in future goal setting at the school. Remodeling this summer will reserve space for a computer lab. A computer committee has been formed to help add some direction. The parent club plans to buy a computer a year. The two new Mac's came from the parent club. Funding for expensive equipment is the hardest to come by.

I wish I could say more. The future looks bright except for the slow process of acquiring more computers. I am looking forward to my second year at Gervais.

BBSing
By Neal Layton

Finally the WAC Inc. BBS is online. If you have a modem and haven't called yet the number is 390-9321. It's been quite a challenge to set it up and get it going. I've had all sorts of problems from incorrect documentation to system crashes. After a lot of telecommunicating with the author of the software we are slowly but surely working them out. The main problem is that system keeps crashing while a remote caller is online. I'm told that this is caused by an unclaimed interrupt (this is above my level) so as we (Jim Ferr the author and I) try new things I'll try to keep the callers posted in the system news section which is shown to all callers first thing when they log on.

For now though I would like every one to call and use the BBS. I'm still open to your suggestions. If you have suggestions use the "R)eport to the SYSOP" function from the main menu. If you have any questions for me specifically use the same function. If you have any Questions for anyone else you can use the Email or better yet if it's not private use the public message forums. The public forums are the best way to get lots of user input and experience on whatever question or problem you are trying to figure out. One more note: Using the "C)ontinuous quickscan" from the main menu will let you read all new public bulletins since your last logon.

Hope to see you all online.

print it for you on one of their laser printers or if you need the highest quality, on their linotronic printer. This saves you the expense of a high end printer and gives you very high quality

Who's Who in WAC

By Joe Durst

Bobbie asked me to write up something about what I do with my computer.

First the hardware and software:
I have an Apple IIC (an old one) with base RAM of 128K and an Applied Engineering Z-Ram Ultra 2 card in it with another 512K RAM for a total of 640K RAM. This also gives me a calendar and a clock. It comes standard with a 5 1/4" internal disk. I also have an external 5 1/4" disk, an external 3 1/2" disk, and a 20 megabyte Chinook Technologies Hard Drive. Also a Practical Peripherals 1200 baud modem, an Apple mouse and an Imagewriter II color printer. I use a standard Apple monochrome (Green) monitor. I recently purchased a UPS (Uninteruptable Power Supply) for $189.00 which will keep the computer, monitor and hard drive going for about 10 minutes in the event of a power outage, this is an Emerson Model 10 available through Eoff Electric Co. in Portland. I don't run the modem or printer through it. Larry Tucker & I jointly own a re-inker for Imagewriter ribbons both black and 4 color. Saves some money but it takes time and the 4 color process is messy.

The software I use is mostly Claris Appleworks 3.0. I also have and use Copy II Plus (Version 9.1) although I do NOT sort the directories anymore with it. I think it causes problems on the hard drive. I have a version of Prodos which sorts and prints out the directories and system programs on the monitor screen in the root of my hard drive and I can select by merely moving the cursor to the one I want and pressing the return key to fire up that program. Neat. I also have a program called 'Index' which I run periodically to print out all of the directories, sub directories and programs on my hard drive so in the event of any loss for whatever reason I can reconstruct by using my backup procedures (more later on that). I also use Basic. I do a little bit of programming just for fun and will be glad to share any of that with anybody if you are interested. I would starve to death if I had to make my living programming. I'm a brute force programmer, not an elegant programmer. I recently got a program called Crossworks from Neal (legally) and am looking forward to hooking up my Apple IIC to my IBM Clone (Panasonic Business Partner 286 with only two floppy drives and NO hard drive). It also has some bum extended RAM but will run without it. Crossworks will convert and exchange either direction between Appleworks stuff on the one hand and programs like Lotus 1,2,3, Word Perfect and dBase 2 on the other hand. I'm looking forward to completing this installation soon. Print Shop is one of my favorite fun type programs and I use it quite a bit but it will not run on my Hard Drive and Broderbund, while being sympathetic to my problem, has no immediate fix in the works. I just have to use it from the floppies. My "kid" (he's 39) in Corvallis recently gave me Supercalc 3a. This is a powerful spreadsheet program which I am in the process of learning about. One thing I'm interested in it doing is printing my spreadsheets out in color - bar graphs, pie charts etc. I also have and use occasionally the Apple Systems Utility program.

While I have some other programs, namely Word Perfect, Publish It 3, etc. I just don't use them because Appleworks does most of the things I need.

Now a word or two about what I do with all of this mishmash.

I had a one year job as District Secretary for Rotary International District 510 (Northern Oregon and Southern Washington). The District Governor, Loren Edmonds, asked me if I would be his secretary and I was pleased to accept. I upgraded to the Hard Drive to accommodate this and also upgraded from Appleworks 2.0 to 3.0 in order to gain mail-merge capability. I used this a lot. It was very gratifying to be able to address a letter to Dear Jim, Dear Bob, Dear Charlie and only write it once. There are 61 clubs in D-510 so that means 61 Presidents, Secretaries, Addresses, times to meet, phone numbers, etc. etc. The Data Base in Appleworks did a really neat job in handling this. I only wish It had more than 30 categories. I re-used several throughout the year. I understand there is a program that expands that to 60 but I don't think you can do everything with all 60 that you can do with the original 30. In any event that job is all gone now so it's history. I turned out a lot of paper. The Imagewriter II and Near Letter Quality with good bond paper letterhead stationery does a very creditable job. I'll admit it is not quite as good as Laser or Daisy Wheel letter quality but it's darn good. I also printed a mess of labels not only for our own mailing but for other people who were entitled to the lists. (Don't ever ever turn the platen backwards when you have labels in your printer). Waste a label if you have to but that is a whole lot cheaper and less time consuming than to try to fish out the goop or worse have to take the printer in to have a technician disassemble it just to remove one sticky label that came off on the inside.

Currently I am trying to build up a little business by taking a small company's accounting data in spreadsheet format or pencil data and converting that to graphs so that the owner can see trends, etc. Its easy to compare one thing with another using graphs of any one of several kinds and I'm pleased to say that in a few weeks I have three customers and several more thinking about it. I will use Supercalc to print them in color but it is a slow process taking about 20 minutes to print a one page bar chart in three colors. I can also print them from Appleworks and then take hi-liters in several colors to produce the colors but it just does not look quite as professional as the Supercalc color does.

About that backup procedure. While I have a backup procedure program for the hard drive, I do not use it. I do use either Appleworks or Copy II Plus to make 'Real' copies. Reason: If I ever have to use my 'backup' stuff on someone elses computer I can easily use another IIC or IIE without having to worry. I doubt if I could find another IIC and a Chinook Technology Hard Drive. I 'copy' from the hard drive to a 3 1/2" disk. I have 20 or 25 3 1/2" disks with different volume names. I put the appropriate one in the 3 1/2" drive and work on the hard drive. Whenever I 'save' on the hard drive I turn around and 'save' again onto the 3 1/2". That way I'm only a few minutes from "oblivion".

Well in any event it's a lot of fun and I really think it's too bad that Apple hasn't done something to get more Apple II's into business applications. They do a nice job.

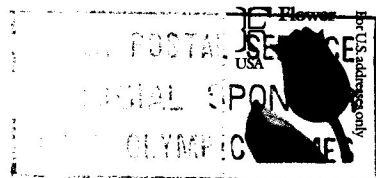output on special projects. And that's just one example!

We were unable to demo HyperStudio last month because of equipment problems. This month Frans is bringing his CPU along to make sure the demo goes well. Come and see what this great program can do!

USER GROUP
C·O·N·N·E·C·T·I·O·N

Willamette Apple Connection,Inc.
P.O.Box 7252
Salem   OR   97303-0053

FIRST CLASS

TO