MACMAD

Next Meeting

November 20, 1984 - Tuesday, 6:00 pm
Eau Gallie Library - Pineapple Avenue and Eau Gallie Causeway

Featured Program

!!!!DataBases!!!!   Steve Dagley, Creative Computer Services

This Month in Macmad....

President's Statement to the General Membership
Where we are and where we are going....

Nibbles and Bits   All the news that fits, and some that doesn't....

Fongola   Presidential musings about the library....

Apple Watch   Speculations on the state of the Mac....

Contest   What to do with your spare time....

Classifieds   Unclassified....

President's Statement to the General Membership

The Macmad club is dedicated to the promotion of the Macintosh Computer and it's user community. The goals of the club are to make available to it's members the full resources of a Macintosh public domain software library, to provide information on electronic communication and to inform the members of new hardware and software products. To these ends monthly meetings are being held, a board of directors has been established, a newsletter is being published. Many people are at work to build a good club. In less than three months we have grown to almost 50 members and there is every reason to expect our dramatic growth to continue.

You, the member's, also have the greatest responsibility. We need you to input to the library and we need you to voice your opinions on issues that affect the club's operation. We don't need you to come to a meeting and grab some software and run. With your help we can become a real and viable force in the international Macintosh's communitiy. We can affect the "business" of Macintosh's on a local level. We can get support from national Macintosh groups and Apple corporation itself. I need help, the club needs help and the club needs you to help.

Thank you,

Mike Fong

Nibbles and Bits

Recognition!   In responce to Mike's request, one way you can contribute to the club is to write for Macmad. If you have a new piece of software that's more exciting than Pong', share your exuberance with us. Conversely, if you think they owe you double your money back for being an involuntary Beta test site, help save the rest of us from a similar fate. Articles on homebrew programs are also good. A super contribution would be to put the software in the library and write a description for the newsletter. Another article idea would be a helpful user's guide for those perverse utility programs that are in the library via Compuserve. Further details of how to become famous and spare your reluctant editor grief appear at the end of this issue.

In the spirit of avoiding Edsels and acquiring Mustangs, let me share some items from publications Mac owners don't always see. (This catagory includes almost everything except Macworld). A+ Magazine', which has an excellent Macintosh section, and Infoworld' have both done **hard disk** reviews in the past month. Their verdict - Wait. Even though there are over 5 manufacturers of Mac hard disks currently shipping, the Mac Finder doesn't seem up to the task and gets lost in all those files. If you can't wait a few months (see **Apple Watch,** below), the Corvus is their favorite so far. It partially solves the Finder problem by breaking the disk down into volumes, but still gets confused about the actual size of files it is storing, thus making transfer of files from the hard disk back to floppies (as in backup) somewhat chancey.

Also in the current A+ is the beginning of a series on how to use the **MacAssembler'**, and in the November issue an excellent article by Thom Hogan on the **Finder**. The latter is especially recommended to those people who have crashed their system with those forementioned perverse utilities.

The September issue of MicroDecision' magazine had an unusually good comparison of the new Mac languages **MacPascal, MacForth and MacBasic.** Your reluctant editor intended to publish the results of the benchmark tests they ran, but he can't seem to find his copy of the magazine. Suffice it to say Forth won, and surprisingly (to me anyway), interpreted Pascal was bested by Basic. Of course, MacBasic hasn't hit the streets yet. This brings to mind yet another idea for a future Macmad article, how about your impressions of the various development environments that are just now becoming available? Is Hippo C any good, or what?

Infoworld reports that a letter writing campaign is underway by some other Mac user's groups around the country. The complaintants are petiioning Steve Jobs to lower list price of the **512K upgrade**, $1000 somehow being unfair to early Mac purchasers (like myself). Frankly, your reluctant editor thinks this is a case of looking a gift horse in the mouth. Apple had to pay premium prices to get the first 256K RAM chips in the world available in production quantities just to make the upgrade available in the first place. Then they made the upgrade available at the same price as if you had bought a new machine and threw in $250 worth of software to boot! I ask you, would General Motors let you upgrade your one year old Chevy from a 4 to a 6 cylinder engine for the difference in the price of those engines when they were new? And then throw in 250 gallons worth of gasoline?

Good news, for some. If you are one of the lucky ones that get to purchase on the Apple National Major Accounts plan (ie: Harris Employees), the deal just got better. This in response to belated discounting by IBM in their National Accounts programs to try to stem the Mac tide. You can tell your unenlightened IBM friends that their deal just got better too. Ain't competition wonderful? See your dealer for specifics. I don't know if this is a permanent thing, or just a pre-Christmas sale.

November, 1984

Fongola: Club News by Mike Fong

One of the major benefits of our club is the library. The library is currently in a slightly disorganized state, however, I am working on a way to organize it. In any case a form of configuration control is needed and Neal Lebedin is working with me to solve this problem. We now have over six disks of useful programs.

There will be no open library at meetings as there were in the past. We are too big now to allow that much confusion. If you are contributing to the library your file will be copied at the meeting. To get things from the library is a little tougher. As an interim measure, I will make the library open to all once a week at the following dates and places:

Nov. 14	6-9 pm.	My home
Nov. 19	"	"
Nov. 20	"	Contributions only. Eau Gallie Library
Nov. 27	"	My home
Dec. 6	"	Some bar
Dec. 12	"	"
Dec. 17	"	"

Please call me at 676-5928 to confirm dates and times. Arrangements can also be made to satisfy specific requests, such as a time and place for FIT persons at FIT.

Apple Watch

What happens in January and is always a sellout?   No, not the Superbowl. Apple's annual shareholders meeting, of course! Last year they introduced the Mac to 3000 inside and hundreds more outside the auditorium. This year expect the show to be better than ever. What to watch for? Well it's only idle speculation, but if I were Apple ......

The first thing I would do is eliminate the single biggest limitation of the Macintosh. Since Japan has solved the memory squeeze (not that big a problem, really), and the rest of the world the software problem, the only fundamental limitation remaining is the lack of on-line disk capacity. I look for double sided drives, just like Data General[t] and Hewlett Packard[t] introduced several months ago. (Steve, what took you so long! Or was the 400K drive a subtle ploy to get us all to buy a second drive?) A 128K single drive Mac with 800K of disk space allowing multiple applications on a disk will really be a fabulous tool at an unbeatable price. Yes, Virginia, bet on an upgrade for us pioneers.

The next announcement has got to be an Apple hard disk for the Mac. Rodime[t] has been shipping 10M 3 1/2" drives in quantity for over a year. They can't all be going to Compaq[t]! I look for an external configuration much like the current second floppy drive, although the thing is almost small enough to fit in the existing cabinet, hmmm.... maybe that's why there is only provision for one internal flex drive on the Mac. If they can keep the price down to about a thousand, Windows[t] or Topview[t] on the IBM[t] PC-XT[t] would seem kind of hohum, compared to a hard Mac at half the price. Another thing that would seem hohum is the Lisa if someone were to add multitasking to the Mac's OS. Does anyone know if there is anything in the Mac's hardware that prohibits multitasking?

The anouncement that is really going to hit IBM in the corporate market, however, is Applebus[t] with a fileserver. Applebus is Apple's proprietary Local Area Network that connects regular intrabuilding Macs for about $50. The fileserver is what's at the other end - a large hard disk that allows all the Macs on the LAN to share common databases. Unlike the IBM PC-AT[t], no master station will be required. Hopefully they will be able to figure out someway to share printers and plotters too.

Why would a Macophile want a plotter you ask? For color, of course. Now I know that color displays are hard on the eyes and color printouts expensive to copy, that's why I never joined St Mac's[1] crusade for color Macs. (Fuzzy thinking like that is probably why St. Mac is no longer with us). Nevertheless, color presentation slides are an emerging application for IBM PC's, and Apple Marketing is not likely to miss the implication of that on the corporate market. The interesting thing about it is the Mac's architecture makes it so easy. The "Style" attributes for text and the "Fill" attributes in MacDraw's[1] objects are already in the Mac's ROMs. Why couldn't an intellegent plotter interface interpret "Outline" as blue and "Crosshatch" as yellow? With the possible exception of MacPaint[1], I'll bet the software you already own is compatable.

The final thing that we should see at the annual meeting is a truely portable version of the IIc, using a 25L x 80C liqued crystal display. For your friends with IIc's, this too will be upgradable. I expect a price of about $500 for this upgrade, making the portable IIc (IIp?) about half the price of the Hewlett-Packard or Data General portables. I suspect a portable (as opposed to transportable) Mac is also in the works, but probably a year away as the high resolution display required for the portable Mac is still only a laboratory curiosity.

Contest

Macmad's first monthly contest has two parts. Part one is to design an Icon for Macmad, no holds barred. Icons are the 32 x 32 bit graphic symbols used by the Mac finder. You can make them easily using "Fatbits" in MacPaint[1]. Submit your entries to your reluctant editor at the address shown in the end of this newsletter.

The second part of the contest is to donate a prize so the guy that wins the first part won't have to be satisfied with just recognition.

Classifieds

Classified Advertisements will be run free by Macmad, at least temporarily. Submitttals should be a maximum of 3 six inch lines, 10 point, high resolution, Macprint. Submit to the address at the end of this newsletter.

Lower the cost of the 512K upgrade! I will pay $100 for the original disks, manuals and warranty cards for MacDraw' and MacProject', included free with the 128K to 512K memory upgrade. 452-5847

PARTNER: Engineer wanted to design internal add-on buffer expansion for imagewriter' printer. Must store one plus pages of hi-res text & graphics, be transparent to Mac operation, and parts must cost less than $20. 452-5847

Homely, middle aged, Mac owner with four small children and loyal wife seeks young, attractive, millionairess for **mistress**. Send picture in care of Macmad.

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' means that this word is more than likely a trademark of somebody or other. Macmad recognizes this, and respectively requests that it, it's members, and especially it's reluctant editor, not be sued.

Macmad is a non-incorporated, non-profit, non-professional, non-formal and only slightly social organization comprised of far sighted people who recognize the Apple' Macintosh' for what it is, and meet periodically to celebrate that fact. Membership is open to all who donate a disk to our software library.

This week, Macmad's officers include:
> President At Large – Michael Fong – (305) 676-5928
> Vice President In Charge – Steve Dagley
> Vice President of Communications – Neal Lebedin
> Vice President of New Products – Open
> Reluctant Editor – Mike Teders
> Membership Chairperson – Bill Neuhaus
> Head Librarian – Open
> Recording Secretary – Open
> Treasurer – Open

Newsletter correspondence is encouraged, however, no compensation can be paid. Your reluctant editor retains full editorial rights. Input format is requested to be six inch wide, high resolution, 10 or 12 point, Macprint. All submittals become the property of Macmad and will not be returned (So don't submit material on disk!). To assure proper delivery and to keep your reluctant editor out of trouble with his otherwise understanding employer, correspondence must be addressed exactly as follows:
> P. O. Box 430
> Melbourne, Florida 32901
> Attn: M. Teders