

# Maclanta

A Publication of the Atlanta Macintosh Users Group

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Jaddie Dodd, Editor

## From Our Chair

by Doug Franks

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The year 2000 has arrived and I hope everyone had a happy holiday and a great New Year.

AMUG is starting this New Year off in great shape. We have a seasoned Board that's already implementing some innovative ideas that will make being a AMUG member more rewarding than ever.

We've established a consistent location for our twelve general meetings at Macquarium. Special thanks go to Jay Cann, the Chief Technology Officer of Macquarium, for sponsoring our group. If you have not been to one of our general meetings, please make plans to do so. All of our presenting guests were most impressed with Macquarium's technologically sophisticated abode.

Along with our Big presenters—like Apple, Adobe and Microsoft—we'll be doing something a little different at our general meetings. Some new topics will have more general appeal to all of our members. Some of the meeting topics will be online banking, online auctions, genealogy, gaming and home networking, to name a few. Something else new for this year will be the post-meeting social. This will give members a chance to meet and interact with other AMUG members in Macquarium's casual environment while enjoying refreshments courtesy of AMUG.

We're also doing some new things on the educational front. Along with the successful Super SIG Saturdays that are scheduled once a month, we're happy to offer the MacCollege—a mixture of the Super SIG Saturday, MacClinic and a general meeting. These events will take place twice a year and will be extremely informative to both novice and experienced Mac users. The event will be held at St Joseph's Hospital's educational wing. If you haven't seen St Joseph's facilities, you're in for a very special treat! Special thanks go to member Stan Allen of St Joseph's for all of his generous assistance in securing this venue.

For the bargain hunter in us all, we will hold two Swapfests at North Atlanta High School this year and we are bringing back the AMUG Auction as a part of one of the Swapfests. Special thanks go to Steven D'Andrea, teacher at North Atlanta High School and AMUG member, for sponsoring the Swapfests. The deals at our Swapfests are unbelievable, so don't miss them!

To keep all our members well informed, we're in the process of a major BBS upgrade and enhancing our Web site. We'll tell you more as details develop.

In closing, we've laid the groundwork for a super year. The only variable is your participation. If you've never attended an AMUG event, try it and you'll leave feeling enlightened. If you've been to one, then bring some friends along to show them how just one event more than pays for their membership.

Finally, I'd like to say thanks to all who have helped make AMUG such a special group in the past and to those who will be contributing in the future.

*From Our Chair . . . at left*

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### Mission Statement of the Atlanta Macintosh Users Group

The Atlanta Macintosh Users Group enhances the experience of users of Macintosh and other computers, fosters a sense of community, provides access to resources, and presents opportunities for education.

<http://www.atlmug.org>

## Super SIG Saturdays

by Michael Henigan

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Here are AMUG's Y2K Super SIG Saturday dates:

January 8	February 12
March 11	No sss in April
May 13	June 10
July 8	August 12
September 9	October 14
No sss in November	December 9

The Super SIG Saturday meets at the Education Wing in St Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta.

There are four sessions scheduled as follows—

SESSION I	9AM—10:45PM	DTP
SESSION II	11AM—12:45PM	FileMaker Pro
SESSION III	1:30PM—3:15PM	Internet
SESSION IV	3:30PM—5:15PM	Multimedia

If you'd like further information or wish to offer feedback regarding Super SIG Saturday events, please contact Education Director Michael Henigan on the BBS at [michael\\_henigan@atlmug.org](mailto:michael_henigan@atlmug.org) or by voice phone at 404.688.2882. Enjoy!

# Our Proposed 2000 Budget

by *Kelly Hilliard*  
*kelly\_billiard@atlmug.org*

Here's our proposed budget for 2000. We plan to vote on it at our next general meeting. Please direct any questions or comments to me via email.

Department:		Auction	Chair	Election	Education	Membership	Communications	Program	Publicity	Secretary	Telecom	Treasurer	Unclassified	TOTAL
Income	Membership Dues					\$20,000								\$20,000
	Interest Income											\$700		\$700
	Merchandise Sales												\$2,000	\$2,000
	Sales/Events	\$2,000												\$2,000
	Total Income	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$700	\$2,000	\$24,700
Expense	Software				\$500	\$250						\$100		\$850
	Printing	\$200		\$75	\$300	\$1,500	\$1,000			\$100		\$75		\$3,250
	Meeting		\$750											\$750
	Post Box Rental									\$150				\$150
	Stamps/Mailing	\$100		\$50	\$500	\$250	\$1,750					\$160		\$2,810
	Office Supplies			\$20	\$50	\$100	\$250			\$100		\$50		\$570
	Telephone	\$100	\$100		\$50	\$350		\$100						\$700
	Courier		\$100			\$100								\$200
	Legal		\$75							\$50				\$125
	Accounting											\$500		\$500
	BBS Services										\$4,500			\$4,500
	Venue expense	\$150			\$250			\$1,000		\$200				\$1,600
	Advertising	\$500							\$3,500					\$4,000
	Bank Fees											\$360		\$360
	Insurance												\$250	\$250
	Merchandise							\$0					\$1,500	\$1,500
	Total Expense	\$1,050	\$1,025	\$145	\$1,650	\$2,550	\$3,000	\$1,100	\$3,500	\$600	\$4,500	\$1,245	\$1,750	\$22,115
Net Income														
	Net	\$950	(\$1,025)	(\$145)	(\$1,650)	\$17,450	(\$3,000)	(\$1,100)	(\$3,500)	(\$600)	(\$4,500)	(\$545)	\$250	\$2,585

# MacFixIt's Apple Year In Review

by Ted Landau

## Hardware Bonanza

Back in the dark days of 1996 and 1997, when people were predicting Apple's imminent demise, if people asked why I was still sticking with a Mac over a PC, my answer would be simple: the Mac OS. The Mac OS, despite the advances in Windows and despite the problems Apple's had with sticking to a strategy for updating its OS, was (and still is) far simpler and more pleasing to use. Especially so when trouble strikes. The Mac OS's direct access to the System Folder is a ray of sunshine compared to Windows's use of the Registry, driver settings and so forth.

As for hardware, the Macs were just okay. You could generally get better and faster hardware for less money by going with a PC. Price was simply the burden you had to bear to get the Mac OS. The year 1999 saw all that change. The Mac OS is still superior of course. And PCs are still cheaper than Macs (although not by as much anymore). What's different is that the Mac hardware is no longer merely "okay." This shift began in 1998 with the release of the iMac. But it came into full bloom in 1999. The year got off to a fantastic start with Steve Job's keynote address at Macworld Expo in San Francisco. Here he introduced the new blue and white Power Mac G3s and the lifesaver-colored iMacs. The new G3s revitalized Apple's Pro desktop lineup, almost matching the iMacs for "coolness." (As an aside, the keynote was, in my opinion, the best one Steve has ever done. I can still see that bank of 50 iMacs all net-booted from Mac OS X Server. Wow!)

But this was just the appetizer. Few could have predicted that these new Macs would already be replaced with major new upgrades before the year was over.

## A Complete Overhaul

Over the next several months, Apple released the bronze keyboard PowerBook G3s and followed that with a series of spectacular product introductions: the iBook, AirPort, Power Mac G4s, Cinema Display, the iMac DV, and most recently a new 15-inch flat panel Studio Display. And the original G4 Macs have already had a significant upgrade to the Rage 128 Pro accelerator version. I was sufficiently impressed that I immediately traded in my Revision B iMac for an iMac DV and I plan to get a Power Mac G4 in January (finally scrapping my Power Mac 7500). I suspect I will also get a new PowerBook before 2000 is over. The new hardware is so improved that if you can afford the money, you will definitely want to trade up from your older Macs.

Think of it. In the last 12 months, Apple has had at least one major upgrade, sometimes two, for every product it makes. There has never been a time when Apple had so much new hardware that was this innovative and exciting.

And it's not over yet., A major redesign of the PowerBooks is expected next month. Whew!

## Bumps In the Road

Of course, there were a few bumps in the road.

The biggest "bump" was Apple's problem getting enough G4 chips for the Power Mac G4 lineup. This led to Apple's, for the first time in its history, downgrading the CPU on its existing line—from 500, 450 and 400MHz to 450, 400, and 350MHz. And they did this without a drop in price. For a brief 24-hour period, they even canceled all existing back orders, forcing users to reorder at the increased cost. However, amid the uproar of protest that followed, they rescinded.

Making matters worse, this protest was on the heels of another G4-related fiasco—a firmware upgrade for the blue and white G3 Macs that had a "secret" feature: the upgrade blocked the Mac's ability to use a G4 processor upgrade. Fortunately, third-party developers have found a way around this silly move by Apple.

The G4 downgrade was really just one part of a larger problem: Apple was struggling to have supply keep up with demand for almost all of its products. For example, the iBooks were announced in June and released in September. Still, it was not till December that users could get an iBook more or less off the shelf. While I suppose many computer companies pray for this sort of over-popularity problem, it is still frustrating for those users having to wait a month or more to get their computer (as I did for my iMac). And it does hurt sales—even though the iBook somehow emerged as the most popular laptop of the fall! Happily, Apple worked hard to catch up and users are now getting their orders within a few days of placing them.

Another bump was the iBook. I found it to be a mild disappointment. While it definitely has "geek chic" appeal, and its price is very attractive, I am not ready to buy one. For starters, it only comes with 32M of RAM standard, has no DVD drive option and weighs more than a PowerBook. Add the fact that it has no built-in microphone (there goes Mac OS 9's Voiceprint feature) and no video-out port. Defenders argue this is to save cost and is part of the point of an iBook. If you really need all those features, that's why there is a PowerBook. Still, a microphone and a DVD drive seem exactly what the iBook target audience would want (and the iMac has them!). I suppose we'll have to wait for the iBook II for these features to appear. Finally, I am also one of those who would like a bit more of a conservative exterior. How about a toned-down graphite iBook SE?

## iMac Bulls-Eye

In contrast to the iBook, I find the new iMacs to be close to perfect. They deliver just about everything on the wish list of requested features of the original iMacs (FireWire, DVD, better graphics card, better sound, easier internal access) and at a great price. And the low-end model wisely breaks the sub-\$1000 barrier.

Question: What Mac has an all-in-one design, no fan, and lim-

ited expandability (including no SCSI port)? Did you say the new iMacs? You'd be right. But it is also true of the original 1984 Mac. In many ways, the iMac is the reincarnation of Steve Jobs's original vision of the Mac.

### What's In a Name?

I couldn't write this year-end review without mentioning my irritation with Apple's recent policy on naming its Macs. In an effort to make all Apple's models fit into Steve's two-by-two grid (consumer desktop, consumer portable, pro desktop and pro portable), and to keep its naming scheme simple and easy to remember, Apple gives similar or even identical names to very different models. This forced Apple to adopt clumsy naming conventions when it became necessary (such as for troubleshooting) to make distinctions between models. For example, do we really need names like "Power Mac G3 (blue and white) vs. Power Mac G3 (beige)? Or how about PowerBook G3, PowerBook G3 Series, and PowerBook G3 Series (bronze keyboard)? Then there's the iMac (in all its Revision A, B and C variations) followed by the "iMac (slot loading)." And finally the Power Mac G4 (PCI) vs. Power Mac G4 (AGP). This last one was almost deceptive. In ads they were all simply called Power Mac G4s, although the low end PCI G4 was really a radically different (and inferior) computer from its siblings. Happily, the PCI model has already been discontinued. Okay. End of complaint.

### Let's Not Forget the Software

With all of this hardware hoopla, you could easily lose sight of the fact that Apple also delivered two significant upgrades to the Mac OS this year, exactly on schedule: Mac OS 8.6 and Mac OS 9.

Also, back in January, Apple introduced Mac OS X Server. Later in the year came QuickTime 4, Final Cut Pro and iMovie. All very impressive. But it was still hardware that took center stage. Software was the sideshow.

Next year, things are likely to be different. Early in 2000 Apple has promised, at long last, the release of Mac OS X. This is the convoluted descendent of the original Copland OS (that was promised to us years ago) and the Rhapsody OS (that was promised when Apple acquired Next). However, it's likely that you'll need at least an Apple-branded G3 to run it.

### Apple Storms Wall Street

It's not just Mac enthusiasts who have taken note of all of Apple's recent success. The media have almost completely turned

around, with effusive praise and glowing cover stories now the norm. Even more spectacular is the meteoric rise of Apple stock. Starting out the year in the low 30's, it rose to almost 120 before falling back to below 100. It should still finish out the year more than tripling in value! (I'm glad I didn't sell my shares!)

From its new products to its record stock value, Apple is definitely on a high-speed and exciting ride. I, for one, am very glad I stayed on board. And it only promises to get better in the year ahead.

### On the MacFixIt Front

Finally, a few personal notes about the year on MacFixIt.

This year saw several significant changes. Most notable was the arrival of the MacFixIt Forums last June. The Forums have quickly grown into what many have called the best troubleshooting board on the Web. Thanks for helping make the Forums a smashing success!

This was also the year that I added staff to MacFixIt. MacFixIt is no longer a one-person operation. Thanks to Shawn (MacFixIt's first hire), Ilene (the Forums wouldn't exist without her!), Charlie, John, Pam, and all the rest. You've made my workload less and MacFixIt a better site.

Finally, this past year, MacFixIt received more awards and recognition than it garnered in all its previous years combined. Here are just four examples:

Yahoo! Internet Life cited MacFixIt as one of its Best of the Best Sites for 1998.

Macworld named MacFixIt as the Best Troubleshooting Site on the Web.

Mac Today selected MacFixIt as one of its "Top Ten Web Sites of the Year."

Zap.com named MacFixIt as one of the Zap 200 Best Internet Sites.

Thanks to all of you who have supported MacFixIt over the years and have helped to make all of this possible.

*Editor's Note—AMUG members are heartily encouraged to visit MacFixIt on the World Wide Web at <http://www.macfixit.com>. MacFixIt is unquestionably the best single stop for Mac OS troubleshooting information. AMUG thanks Ted for allowing us to print his Apple Year In Review in our newsletter.*

## Macworld San Francisco 2000 Highlights

by Jaddie Dodd

[jaddie\\_j.\\_dodd@atlmug.org](mailto:jaddie_j._dodd@atlmug.org)

Probably the most shocking event of Macworld San Francisco was a non-event. That is, Steve J. didn't announce any new hardware, much to the chagrin and amazement of industry pundits.

Several popular Mac-centric Web sites forecast Apple hardware announcements at next month's Seybold conference in Boston or at an Apple-sponsored media event.

Apple announced that its initial investment of \$12.5 million in Akamai is now worth over \$1 billion since Akamai had its IPO. Apple is partnering with Akamai to bring QuickTime streaming to end users' desktops. Further Apple investment news was that Apple committed \$200 million to EarthLink, the Internet service provider that recently merged with MindSpring.

*See "Macworld" on back cover.*

# AMUG Special Events

by Michael Henigan

michael\_henigan@atlmug.org

I'm pleased to announce the following Special Events for AMUG in 2000.

## Saturday April 8, MacCollege at St Joseph's Hospital

This event is an expansion and combination of MacClinic and Super sig Saturday. There will be four class sessions and four classes per session, for a total of sixteen classes for the day.

We're looking for ideas and suggestions for classes you'd like to see. Possible ideas include basic word processing, an introduction to scanning, building your own Web page, etc.

Please contact Mike Henigan if you'd like to offer suggestions or to offer to teach a class in your areas of specialty.

## Saturday, April 29, Swapfest, venue to be announced

This is the time for our Spring Swapfest, save your treasures and odds and ends to swap or sell to the members that can't live without them. There will be doorprizes and a raffle. Tables are \$15 for non-members and \$5 for members.

## Saturday, September 30, Auction and Swapfest, venue to be announced

Come one, come all, to the Annual Auction & Swapfest. There will be bargains up for auction that you will not want to miss! Save your dollars and old wares for swapping at this special event. This event is our most popular.

## Saturday, November 11, MacCollege at St Joseph's Hospital

Our fall MacCollege is an expansion and combination of MacClinic and Super sig Saturday. There'll be four class sessions and four classes per session for a total of sixteen classes for the day.

We're looking for ideas and suggestions for classes you'd like to see. Possible ideas include basic word processing, an introduction to scanning, building your own Web page, etc.

Please contact Mike Henigan if you'd like to offer suggestions or to offer to teach classes in your area of specialty.

# AMUG Calendar

## January

- 15TH, Saturday Basic Systems Training (*The Internet*), New Horizons Computer Learning Center, 10AM-1PM. Contact Jaddie Dodd at jaddie\_j.\_dodd@atlmug.org or by phone at 770.945.4930.
- 18TH, Tuesday General Meeting, Macquarium, 7 PM-9 PM. Apple presenting. Contact Doug Franks at doug\_franks@atlmug.org.

## February

- 5TH, Saturday New Users sig, Creative Circus, 10 AM-noon. Contact John Kanaly at john\_kanaly@atlmug.org.
- 12TH, Saturday Super sig Saturday, St Joseph's Hospital, 9AM-5:15PM. Contact Mike Henigan at michael\_henigan@atlmug.org.
- 15TH, Tuesday General Meeting, Macquarium, 7PM-9PM. Presentation on online auctions. Contact Doug Franks at doug\_franks@atlmug.org.

# Systems Training Class

by Jaddie Dodd

jaddie\_j.\_dodd@atlmug.org

Our first free monthly Systems Training Class in 2000, designed for beginning Mac users, gets underway on January 15, from 10AM until 1PM at New Horizons Computer Learning Center near Northlake Mall. Interested parties should contact me by email or by phone at 770.945.4930 to reserve a seat.

This month's class is going to cover the Internet. We're going to talk about email, Web browsing and downloading files. We're going to show you how to optimize your email and Web browser so that both of these tasks are easier, more convenient and more fun. We're also going to show you how to optimize your Internet connection settings so that you spend less time troubleshooting and more time surfing.

In February our Systems Training Class will be offered on Saturday, the 19TH from 10AM until 1PM at New Horizons. February's class will focus on Mac OS troubleshooting and maintenance. In this class we'll show you how to figure out what's ailing your Mac and how to thwart such aches and pains before they have a chance to affect your machine. Specifically, we'll cover Symantec's Norton Utilities, Apple System Profiler and Disk First Aid.

We set aside the last 20 minutes of the class for Q&A, but small class sizes in the recent past have afforded us the opportunity to answer individual questions as we discuss the scheduled topics.

AMUG thanks New Horizons Computer Learning Center for its generosity in making its professional resources available to us. New Horizons is the premier facility in Atlanta for hands-on training in popular Mac OS applications like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Director, FreeHand, Painter, FileMaker Pro and others. Contact Gary Dreyfuss at garyd@newhorizons-atl.com or by phone at 404.270.2000 to find out what New Horizons can do for you.

- 19TH, Saturday Basic Systems Training (*Mac OS Troubleshooting & Maintenance*), New Horizons Computer Learning Center, 10AM-1PM. Contact Jaddie Dodd at jaddie\_j.\_dodd@atlmug.org or by phone at 770.945.4930.

*Directions to events on page 6.*

# Directions to Events

## Creative Circus

The new address of the Creative Circus is 812 Lambert Dr. NE, Atlanta, GA 30324.

## New Horizons Computer Learning Center

4053 Lavista Road near Northlake Mall. From Take I-85 to I-285 East. Exit at Lavista Road (Exit 28). Turn right onto Lavista Road. At the second traffic light (Ranchwood Drive), turn left. Go to first light (Weems Road/Marriott Courtyard) and turn right. New Horizons is directly behind the Marriott Courtyard.

## North Atlanta High School

Take I-75 to the Northside Parkway exit. If you're coming from the south (from Downtown), take a right onto Northside. If you are coming from the north (the 'burbs), take a left onto Northside. The school is about 5 minutes from the exit. The entrance is at the rear of the school, so make sure to park in the back, off of Kingswood, rather than directly off of Northside.

## Macquarium

Macquarium is located at 1800 Peachtree Street NW.

From I-85 South exit at Peachtree Street. This exit becomes GA13 South. Take Peachtree Street toward Buckhead. Merge onto Peachtree Street NE. Travel approximately one-half mile. Macquarium is on your left.

From I-75 South take the Fourteenth Street/Tenth Street exit. Turn left onto Fourteenth Street. Travel one-half mile before turning left onto Peachtree Street. Travel approximately one mile and the Macquarium building is on your left.

From GA 400 South take the Sidney Marcus Boulevard exit toward Piedmont Road/Lenox Road. Turn left onto Sidney Marcus Boulevard. Turn right onto GA 13 South (Buford Highway). Take the US 19 North/Peachtree Street ramp toward Buckhead. Merge onto Peachtree Road NE. Travel approximately one-half mile. Macquarium is on your left.

From I-75/85 North take the Fourteenth Street/Tenth Street exit. Pass over Tenth Street. Turn right onto Fourteenth Street. Travel one-quarter mile before turning left onto Peachtree Street. Follow Peachtree Street over the I-85 overpass into Buckhead. Pass Caribou Coffee and Lettuce Souprise You (on left). Take next left into the Macquarium parking lot.

## St Joseph's Hospital (Education Wing)

St Joseph's Hospital is located across the street from Northside Hospital on Peachtree-Dunwoody Road in Atlanta. The St Joseph's Education Center is located on the ground floor of the main hospital. Enter the campus from Peachtree Dunwoody Road and park in the covered employee parking garage. Parking is free. Once parked, enter the hospital via the Stella Maris Out-patient Center. Go past the elevators and turn right. Keep going until the hallway ends and you'll be in the Education Center.

## Atlanta Macintosh Users Group, Inc.

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*Macworld, continued from page 5.*

What Apple did announce, though, was that it sold 1,350,000 machines last quarter, which is more units in a single quarter than ever before. That's one new Mac sold every six seconds!

Apple also announced four new Internet services that it's now offering through its Web site. Collectively referred to as iTools, Apple's new suite of Internet goodies includes electronic greeting cards, free email, a shared virtual hard disk and an online helper that helps you build your own home page.

Steve also demonstrated the next Mac OS, Mac OS X. I watched the dramatic demo live via QuickTime and I can tell you this: Mac OS X will be to Windows 2000 what System 7.5 was to Windows 3.1.

Lastly, Steve accepted the position of permanent CEO of Apple, but said that he wanted to be known as the iCEO, or the "Internet" CEO.

For more detailed coverage, see The Macintosh News Network on the Web at <http://www.macnn.com/features/mwsfkeynote.shtml>.