

Maclanta

A Publication of the Atlanta Macintosh Users Group

January/February 2001

Chris Waldrip, Acting Editor

Chairman's Report

by Michael Henigan

(michael_henigan@atlmug.org)

Welcome to the New Millennium, in other words, Happy 2001!

A new year brings about a new Board of Directors all of whom have exciting ideas on how to improve on the quality of life for our members and Macintosh community in the Atlanta area.

I am proud to be able to lead our 2001 BoD as we continue with past programs and bring new ideas and programming to AMUG. In the several meetings that the board has held already, we have exciting plans that we hope to implement in 2001 and beyond, so hang on to your hats, we are ready to explore and use the potential of our members.

Who are the 2001 Board of Directors? Glad you asked, here is our new Board and the positions they hold:

Michael Henigan	Chair
Jay Cann	Vice Chair & Education Director
Phillip Byrd	Membership Director
Stan Allen	Programming Director
Kelly Hilliard	Treasurer
Kathy Grawe	Secretary
David Whitehead	Publicity Director
Bruce Barrett	Special Projects Director
Chris Waldrip	Communications Director (Acting)
Doug Franks	Past Chair

Our directors are bursting with ideas that will bare results for both YOU as a member of AMUG and US as a Macintosh Community/Organization.

What are some of these ideas you ask? Well some of the ideas we are working on include: a new AMUG brochure that will be circulated among our friendly area retailers and the Apple Market Center; revision of our By-Laws; produce an electronic version of Maclanta, our bimonthly newsletter; Introduce and run AMUG Demo Days (where AMUG'ers working with local retailers to demo Macintosh products and spread Mac news); and improve our meetings and meeting attendance.

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As you can see we have a lot of exciting things we wish and hope to accomplish, all these ideas ultimately leading to increased membership and increasing the AMUG name in the Atlanta community.

We need your support and assistance if we are going to carry out everything we plan to do this year. If you would like to help, have an idea, a suggestion, or please, even if you have a criticism, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We have an open administration and as Chair, I am always available if you wish to talk about AMUG. Call, e-mail or drop me a note if you'd like.

On a final note, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our January meeting on the 16th. Apple Computer will be our guest — just a few short days after Macworld San Francisco! We will also be voting on the 2001 Budget and voting on the approval of our Communications Director.

See you at the next meeting,

W. Michael Henigan, Chair

AMUG Mission Statement

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.

Our Proposed Budget for 2001

by Kelly Hillard

(kelly_billard@atlmug.org)

Here is the budget proposal for 2001. 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	Edu	Membership	Comm	Program	Publicity	Secretary	Telecom	Treasurer	Unclassified	TOTAL
Membership Dues					\$13,000								\$13,000
Interest Income											\$500		\$500
Merchandise Sales												\$1,000	\$1,000
Sales/Events	\$2,000												\$2,000
Total Income	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$1,000	\$16,500
Software				\$150									\$150
Printing	\$70		\$75	\$125	\$375	\$1,300							\$1,545
Meeting		\$200							\$114				\$200
Post Box Rental													\$114
Stamps/Mailing			\$50	\$75	\$1,150	\$2,000							\$3,375
Office Supplies	\$75	\$40	\$20	\$5	\$900	\$10					\$50		\$1,100
Telephone					\$320								\$320
Courier					\$30	\$40							\$70
Legal									\$550				\$550
Accounting											\$475		\$475
BBS Services					\$100					\$2,200			\$2,300
Venue Expense				\$300			\$800						\$1,100
Advertising								\$1,000					\$1,000
Bank Fees											\$600		\$600
Insurance									\$475				\$475
Public Relations		\$140										\$1,000	\$1,140
Merchandise												\$500	\$500
Total Expense	\$145	\$380	\$145	\$755	\$2,875	\$3,350	\$800	(\$1,000)	\$1,139	\$2,200	\$1,125	\$1,500	\$15,414
Net Income	\$1,855	(\$380)	(\$145)	(\$755)	\$10,125	\$3,350	(\$800)	(\$1,000)	(\$1,139)	(\$2,200)	(\$625)	(\$500)	\$1,086

Why Do People Set Up Personal Web Pages

by Phil Shapiro
(pshapiro@bis.com)

The idea of a personal web page is intriguing in many ways. At first blush, the idea seems wholly self-indulgent. “Why would anyone want to tell the world about themselves?” is a common first reaction. I, too, thought personal web pages self-indulgent — until I started visiting some on the web. What I found was real people daring to explore a new form of expression, unashamedly telling the world who they are and what they care about. In truth, personal web pages are a whole new form of self-expression. Even people who have personal web pages might not comprehend their full meaning. This article explores some of the ramifications of personal web pages — and the reasons why a person might choose to have one.

One reason someone might set up a personal web page is that they feel their resume doesn’t accurately reflect who they are. A personal web page can be infinitely richer and more detailed than a resume. And it can include recorded music, book reviews, scanned color artwork, recorded poetry, whimsical humor, children’s stories and a whole bevy of other indications of who you are. If resumes are one-dimensional, black and white representations of human beings, then personal web pages can be multidimensional, multicolored representations. If you have ever looked at your own resume and immediately reacted with the word “harrumph,” you’re well on your way to setting up your own personal web page.

Another reason someone might choose to set up a personal web page is that they get tired of having to explain about themselves. It takes real effort to have to bring someone up-to-date about who you are, what you care about, and what you’ve done in your life. At the very minimum, it takes about two hours to tell someone you’ve met about your background and interests. Think of the times you’ve met someone new and how tiresome it can be to have to launch into your entire life history. Set up a personal web page, and skip all that repetitious yapping.

People speak at about 300 baud, and read at about 9600 baud (or faster). If someone is interested in learning about your background or interests, they could do it 32 times faster by visiting your web page than by sitting down to talk with you in person.

Wait, wait, wait, I can hear the objections already. Sure, there are good reasons for people to sit down to talk with one another face to face. But it can be tiresome, boring, and repetitious for people to have to explain the same things over and over again to each and every person they meet. Each of us is given a fixed number of minutes on this planet. We need to cut out the repetitious talking and move on to the more meaningful conversations, or risk being condemned to small talk for the rest of our short lives. <soapbox mode off>

Other reasons for setting up a personal web page? They let people quickly find out who you are. Last month I sent the Washington Post newspaper a letter to the editor. Two days later I received a phone call from a technology editor at the Post, verifying information in the letter. The editor happened to mention that his dad and my dad might have worked together in UNICEF in the 1950’s. How would he know that? From my web page.

My web page also serves as a fast “authenticator.” My letter was on a topic relevant to my work, and my web page let the newspaper to do some fast fact-checking.

Along the same lines, a personal web page can serve as an “authenticating” device when people buy or sell second-hand items over the Internet. If you’re going to send money to a seller, wouldn’t you feel more comfortable if you could first browse their personal web page? Likewise, wouldn’t you feel more comfortable first browsing a buyer’s personal web page before sending them your valuables?

Becoming Connected to Others

Often we journey through life knowing little about each other. You probably know little about any of your neighbors. You could live for 50 years on the same street and be unaware that one of your neighbors shares some of the exact same interests as you.

Truth is, most of us don’t have a clue about each other. Even close friends continually surprise me with interesting facets of their lives I had never known of before. If these friends had set up personal web pages telling about themselves, I might have come to know them sooner and

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Help Needed!

As members of AMUG we all see a need for various tasks and projects to make our organization run more smoothly. What can YOU, as a member Contribute? Why offer your time and help in one of the below activities. It will be fun, entertaining, you meet new people and you can help make AMUG a more successful organization. Oh, almost forgot, everyone who volunteers will be entered into a quarterly drawing. The Prize for the 1st quarter (Jan-March) will be one of the BRAND NEW AMUG Hats (which are only available to AMUG volunteers) AND \$20 in AMUG Auction Bucks (which are usable at the Annual Auction)

Activities:

Meeting Greeters: We are looking for people who can come to a membership meeting 30 minutes early and greet our members and guests and make them feel welcome to the AMUG meeting.

Membership Services:

Phillip Byrd (our Membership Director) could use some assistance at the membership table during general meetings and special events. This means helping to check people in, give our raffle tickets or give out AMUG materials.

By-Laws Committee:

Our by-laws need to be updated and revised and we are looking for volunteers who are interested in the behind the scenes paperwork and policies of the organization to help assist in this task.

Reviewers:

Want to get a new piece of software without having to buy it? Have you ever wanted to be one of those people who wanted to give their opinion about a piece of software or a new book that has just come on the market? Well, here is your chance. There is an abundance of software and software books available to us to review for our newsletter. All we need are volunteers who want to be a reviewer. Contact us about any specific book or software you’d like to review and we will see about getting you the item to review and after you review it, the item is yours to keep!

Feel free to contact Michael (Michael_Henigan@atlmug.org) or Phillip (phillip_byrd@atlmug.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

in greater depth. I could have learned who they were three years ago, rather than today.

One fascinating aspect of the world wide web is that it offers the opportunity to shorten the time period involved in discovering background information about friends and colleagues. By visiting a person's home page you can find a lot about who they are and what they're interested in.

Why is it important for people to know about each others' lives? It's important because otherwise we could all pass through life without the slightest idea of what anybody else is doing. This would be a shame because of the enormous number of missed opportunities for people to connect with each other.

The reason personal web pages are so interesting is that they allow us to better understand where each of us is coming from. And the more you know about where a person is coming from, the better you'll be able to understand who they are.

Human beings are multifaceted. For instance, I happen to have a strong interest in educational technology. But I'm also very interested in special-needs computing, video production, multiculturalism, philosophy, music, history and ethics. One of my strongest interests is equitable access to technology. I also try to follow the arts, for the arts dignify the soul.

My interests and hobbies are all laid out publicly on my web page. Interests and hobbies are a good starting point for building a personal web page. But if your web page is merely a list of interests and hobbies, you're overlooking one of the best tools for letting others learn about you. If you want others to gain a view into who you are as a person, you need to include creative and expository writings on your web page. How you write, and what you choose to write about, reveal essential clues as to who you are as a person.

We live in a world where most of us pass thru life oblivious of our fellow travelers in time. The world wide web is a powerful tool for making all of us a little more informed about each other.

So take time to learn who your fellow travelers are. Take time to tell them who you are. You may be surprised at the connections that result.

Phil Shapiro is a thinker, visionary and writer in the Washington D.C. area. He takes a keen interest in the social and psychological dimensions of online communications. This is the 20th column in the ongoing, "Thinking About Online Communications" series. It comes to us through the generosity of The Washington Apple Pi Journal, the bimonthly publication of the Washington Apple Pi user group. <http://www.wap.org>

Excel:mac 2001

by Alan Kress

(ALAN-C-KRESS@worldnet.att.net)

Unless you have been abducted by aliens and just got back, you would know that the killer spreadsheet app is Microsoft Excel. You may also remember that when Microsoft Excel was only on the Macintosh, people would buy a Macintosh to use Excel. Also ten years ago the business community's killer spreadsheet application was Lotus 1-2-3, now the only thing you hear about Lotus is Notes. To say that Microsoft Excel has taken over the spreadsheet world, is nothing to sneeze at, but even on the PC side of the house there are only a handful of spreadsheet products left, with the number two being light years away. The question then becomes should you purchase/upgrade Microsoft Excel 2001 for your Mac?

The last time Microsoft upgraded Excel for the Mac was Excel 98, which was also packaged with Office 98. This version looked more PC-like than Mac and did not use the Mac technologies. This time out of the chute, this is not the case. The Microsoft Mac Systems Engineers did everything they could to make Excel

2001 as Mac like as possible. They had a company called ICON Factory come in and redefine Excel's 16 bit Icons to 32 bit Icons for the Mac for a new look over. They made the Excel interface to the Mac, as Mac-like as possible. If you look at the tool bars, you will see the tools are more rounded, not squared off as you see in prior Mac versions and all the PC versions. This doesn't mean that they switched the commands around from the PC interface to Mac interface, they kept them the same, so for those of us who uses Excel on the PC don't have to re-educate ourselves on the Mac Interface. They did however change one keystroke though; the used to clear out the contents of a cell, a nice feature in this author's opinion. Now it makes the contents a BOLD Font Style which follows what the PC Excel does.

When you start Excel 2001, it gives you a Project Gallery of templates

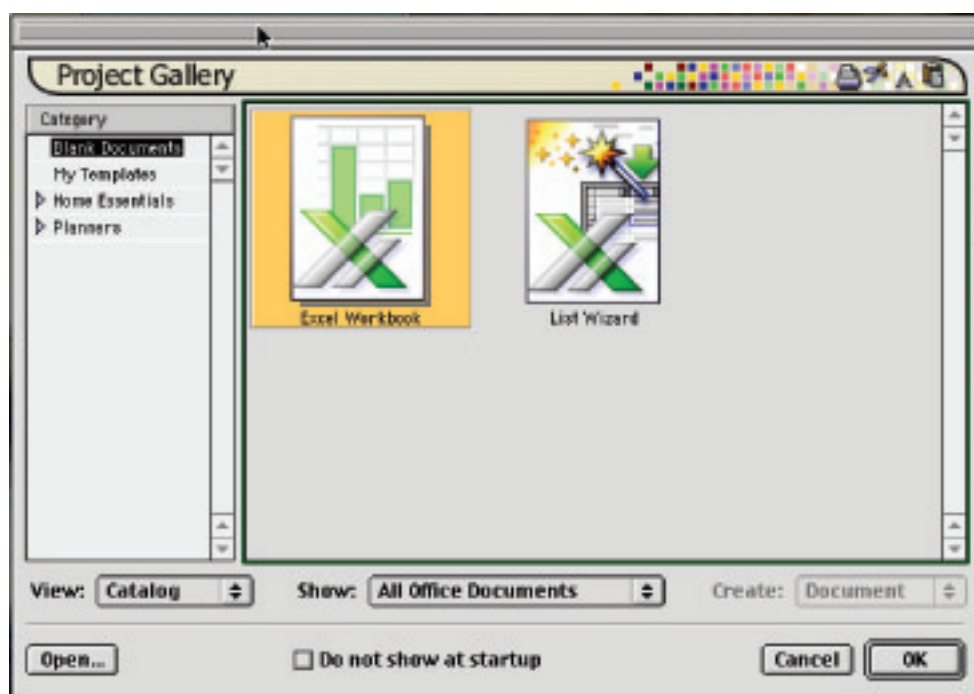


Figure 1

or you to select (See figure 1). This is not only new for the Mac, but does not even exist in the current PC Excel version. This helps in selecting a template to help speed up your work without having to re-create your work from a blank spreadsheet. There is also a calculator Function to help you use or create Excel's functions if you don't want to use the formula Bar. When you click the calculator you get a calculator to help you create formulas (See figure 2).

Like its PC brother, it uses the Virtual Basic

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App to create function and command macros and has a database query function to pull results from your favorite DBMS (Database Management System) and put it into the spreadsheet to manipulate the results. On the Mac side there is an interface to FileMaker Pro. There are over 65,000 rows and 256 columns in which to put your database query results. When compared to Appleworks, whose spreadsheet has 500 rows and 40 columns, you can see that Microsoft Excel is industrial strength. At one time Excel had a Set Database Command that you could create a database in Excel. A release or two ago Excel took that command out not to confuse the Database Community and to bring out their database product called Access, currently only on the PC side. In Excel 2001 the command came back as a List Command. You can now create lists on your spreadsheets and use the excel Database spreadsheet functions. This is better because you could only have one database per worksheet/workbook, now you can have multiple lists with any criteria for each list to find solutions in one worksheet/workbook. The Mac Excel 2001 can exchange and read spreadsheets from it's PC brother Excel 2000. This makes working at home simpler when you have to use the PC brother at work. But not only can Excel 2001 read other Excel spreadsheets be they PC or Mac. They can also read Lotus 1-2-3; Dbase 3 to name a few on the PC side and on the Mac side it can read Appleworks. Of course Excel 2001 has charting capabilities, where you can see you information in picture format in two-dimensional or three-dimensional pictures.

Because Microsoft Excel is not only industrial strength, is the market leader for spreadsheets in both the Mac and PC, and can read everyone else's spreadsheet, doesn't come without a price. And the price is steep. For first time buyers, Microsoft Excel 2001 is about \$358. Its upgrade price is \$134. If you want Excel to interface to a Word Processor, Microsoft Word is the best for Excel to interface to. If you are going to buy those two, then you may as well buy the Microsoft Office 2001 suite. It not only has Excel and Word applications, but also has a presentation app called PowerPoint and something only for the Mac called Entourage which handles e-mail and calendars for Microsoft Office Suite. There is a Flag Later Feature in Excel, where you post this flag to remind you to check the spreadsheet later. The price of Microsoft Office new is like purchasing Word and Excel together and you are getting PowerPoint and Entourage free. The same is true for the upgrade option price for Office.

My buying advice is that this app is not for everyone. If you are just adding a couple numbers in some rows and columns, then stick with Appleworks. However if you are doing things like using functions to figure out, if it is time to refinance a loan or download IRS Income Tax Tables to forecast your tax liability for the coming year, or other things that are number intensive, then Excel is for you. It has a cleaner interface

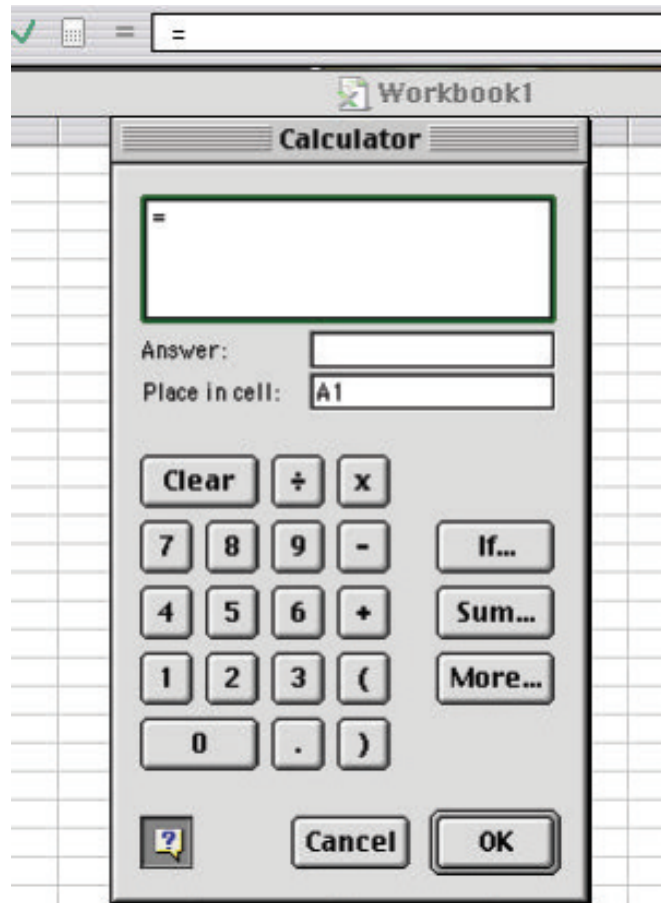


Figure 2

to set up formulas and come up with the answers faster once you learn its interface.

If you have Excel and are wondering if you should upgrade, then I will make the following recommendations. If you are on a 68k Mac, and have a previous version of Excel, I would not upgrade until you upgrade your machine to a Mac G3/G4. If you are more than one version back and are using Mac OS 9, then you should upgrade. I was crashing Excel Version 5 with Mac OS 9. If you are planning to go to Mac OS X, then you should be wise to do the upgrade. While it's cousin Internet Explorer 5 has been set up with Aqua facing and has been carbonized for OS X, I can't find any documentation to tell me if the same has happened to Excel 2001. When you check the list of compatible software with OS X, there are two lists: Classic and Carbon. If you check each list, you will see that Excel 98 is on the Classic list. But there is nothing about Excel 2001 on either list (But it is at least on the Classic List). I talked to an Apple Rep who told me that Excel 2001 was made to handle the OS 9 environment better than Excel 98 and could not tell me anything else. If

you are an Excel power user, then it is worth it to do the upgrade, the changes alone should help you be more efficient in doing your work.

Paper or Electronic?

As more people get Internet-savvy and there is increased interest in digital communications we see a proliferation of e-zines and other electronic newsletters and magazines. This has spread to organizations and Users Groups as well and there seems to be many MUG newsletters available in some electronic version or another.

Several of our own AMUG members have expressed interest in receiving communications from AMUG (as in newsletters and such) in an electronic form. This would be either email and/or email attachments. The file size of course would be determined as to the size of the respective issue.

Our application will be revised to reflect the choice of having your newsletter deliver in paper form or in PDF. We will also be requesting email addresses from our members for our database and for Important News mailing group.

If you are interested in joining our list of members receiving their newsletter digitally (as a PDF File), please email Kelly Hilliard or Phillip Byrd with that information.

Contact Info:

Kelly Hilliard - silversong@mac.com

Phillip Byrd - phillipbyrd@mindspring.com

Directions To AMUG Events

Creative Circus

The new address of the Creative Circus is 812 Lambert Drive NE in Atlanta.

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 about 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 US19 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.

New Horizons Computer Learning Center

4053 Lavista Road near Northlake Mall. 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 the 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 are 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 just about five 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.

January Meeting

Tuesday Night, January 16th @ Macquarium

We'll have two guests from APPLE. First Jack Quattelbaum will be returning to give us the details of all the latest news and product announcements fresh from MACWORLD San Francisco. Then Mike Kozee will be there to talk about the Apple Solutions Experts Program. Come by and learn how to partner with Apple to grow your Mac-Based business. To learn more about this terrific program, visit experts.apple.com

We'll also be having a special AMUG Professional Networking Reception before the start of the meeting. Come by and meet other Mac-based business professionals. We'll have refreshments and a board to post business cards on, so if you're looking to network with other Mac-based business and professional services, this is a perfect opportunity. Of course, all other AMUG members are also invited to attend the reception as well.

Support Your Local Sheriff Communications Director

by Chris Waldrip

(cwaldrip@atlmug.org)

When I heard that the Communications Director position was open I mentioned to Michael that if they needed someone to fill the post I'd be happy to, unless a more qualified individual applied. I guess I was their only choice...

Where here's my first issue. It's not great - the holidays interfered with the deadlines and I'm quickly relearning a lot of my old layout skills. And of course just to put more pressure on me this is one of the most important issues of the year — The Budget Issue.

I'll be the first to admit that I'm no Gutenberg or Aldus. But someone had to do this, and I'm gullable. If any of you have any questions, comments, suggestions, thoughts, critiques, criticisms, witticisms, or any other possible input into what you'd like see added, removed, changed or modified in this newsletter — PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT THEM! And don't be surprised if you get drafted (grin).

Now, here's hoping that this issue arrives at least close to January 16th...