

GET # INFO

January, 2001

1

COVER:

Without this page, there would be no frontpiece.

Page 1

MASTHEAD:

Your official list of officers; say hello today!

Page 2

MINUTES:

A recap of last month's meeting on Mac gaming.

Page 2

PROGRAM:

A few teasers on what you'll see in the months ahead.

Page 3

MAP:

We'll help you find your way home after each meeting.

Page 4

chickenlittle.com

The wheels fall off Newer's wagon as Apple retrenches with price cuts. Does this portend to lean times ahead?

■ By Peter Henderson

REUTERS

Apple Computer Inc. which said in December it aimed to move a glut of unsold machines, has cut prices of higher end computers by up to \$1,000, the company's Web site showed on Tuesday, Jan. 2. The cuts went as high as \$1,100 on Macintosh servers and were double or more the value of rebates valid in December (which have been ended).

Apple said on its Web site that buyers could "save up to \$1,000" with Apple's "New Year's Resolution." MacConnection said the G4 Cube, which has failed to meet demand hopes, had dropped to \$1,499 from \$1,799 for the 450 MHz version, the top Powerbook notebook computer had been cut by \$800 to \$2,199, compared to a previous \$200 rebate, and a G4 500 MHz server had dropped to \$3,099 from \$4,199. Prices of low-end iMacs were not cut. ▼

■ By Joe Wilcox

CNETNEWS.COM

Wichita, Kan.-based Newer Technology closed its doors with little fanfare after letting most of its staff go.

The 16-year-old company is best known for selling Mac add-on products, such as G3 and G4 processor upgrades, RAM modules, the BOOKENDZ docking station for PowerBook portables, and IEEE 1394 – or FireWire – PC Cards.

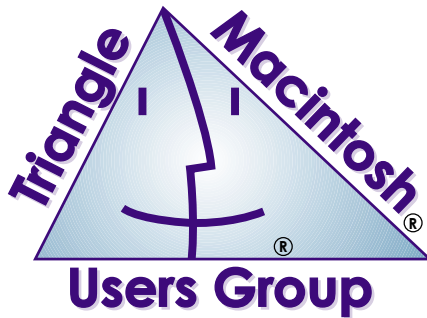
Analysts say Newer's demise casts a shadow across its main competitors, such as Sonnet Technologies and PowerLogix, as well as other makers of add-on products for Macs. Compared with PC manufacturers, Apple relies more heavily on other companies to enhance its products.

Apple's relationship with its third-party partners has been tested time and again. When Apple switched iMac colors in July, the move caught

in the news...



See **NEWER**, page 3



TMUG OFFICERS

President

- Bob Chandler 782-4455
-mvantage@aol.com
- Smythe Richbourg 782-4455
-smythe@macvantageinc.com

Vice President

- Shea Tisdale 530-1122
-shea@networkarts.com
- Chips Chapman 336-226-7425
-velomac@interpath.com

Treasurer

- Jeff Cole 683-8543
-jcole@nc.rr.com

Secretary

- Duane Reaugh 833-8426
-duane@dtsoftware.com

BBS System operator

- Paul Lemieux 460-0736
-plemieux@tmug.org

Training CD librarian

- Bob Seila 541-2214
-robert_seila@tmug.org

Newsletter

- William K. Scurry Jr. 309-0892
-americancaesar@earthlink.net

Ambassador to Apple

- Jeff Gordon 541-4362
-jeffg@tibco.com

TMUG hotline

919-833-8501

TMUG Web site

www.tmug.org

Thanks to Page Planet for Web hosting.

TMUG plays games at X-Mas meeting

■ By Duane Reaugh

TMUG

Jeff Gordon (jeffg@tibco.com), TMUG's Apple Ambassador, talked about several bargains available to TMUG members. There are also rebates going on the G4 Cube and iMacs. The web address to check out these fine bargains is www.mugcenter.com/mugcalendar/thismonth.html.

Chips Chapman (velomac@mindspring.com) talked about Microsoft coming on to present in January (but that has been rescheduled). The February meeting will feature an Apple update, and we may be meeting in a different place. Other topics Chips is looking at for future meetings are: FILEMAKER PRO, HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), Web site hosting and backup.

The Q/A discussion started off with a question about a bronze PowerBook whose batteries worked fine for the first few months, but now only last 20 or 30 minutes. There was no solution offered.

There was a comment about cleaning out the Internet cache. You can do it yourself or use a tool like Aladdin's cleanup utility. When the cache gets to a certain size it can cause problems, so it is good to clean out the browser cache periodically.

A user has an iMac and the box said the modem was capable of 56k throughput, although it is actually only getting 26k. A PC using the same line was getting a higher rate. It was suggested that they look into updating the modem script, but remember – sometimes the software lies about the connection rate. You might want to time an actual download to compare connection speeds.

A LaserWriter 310 printer user gets extra lines when he prints a document. Replacing the cartridge was the recommended solution. The cartridge is more than just toner. It has a lot of consumable parts that can cause lines and as well as other printing problems.

A user recommended the SMC BARRICADE firewall. It comes with extra printer ports. It does require Internet Explorer to configure.

The meeting was about various games and utilities that might make

See **MINUTES**, page 2

From **NEWER**, page 1

many peripheral partners by surprise. At the time, some manufacturers griped about Apple's apparent disregard for them when unveiling new products.

And now Apple's recent sales woes are hitting Mac manufacturers hard. According to sources, a whopping 11.5 weeks worth of Apple inventory sits on dealers' shelves.

Newer could be the first in a long line of third-party Mac manufacturers stung by Apple's inventory glut and slowing sales, he warned.

No one at Newer could be reached for comment. The company's offices are closed. The Web site remains operational, but the company is not selling products or offering technical support. ▼

What's on the horizon

■ By Chips Chapman

TMUG

Scot Travers of Microsoft was scheduled to make a presentation on OFFICE 2001 for Macintosh at the January TMUG meeting. Scot was given the opportunity to attend Macworld San Francisco by his employer. It was a trip hard to pass up, but Scot was committed to making the presentation to us.

We didn't want to be the bad guys, so we have rescheduled Scot for the Office presentation at our April meeting.

Jeff Gordon will lead a discussion on the legal aspects of software licensure. This is a follow-up to some recent discussion on the TMUG-list. Jeff will rely on his

legal background and advise the membership on our rights, the software writers rights, and what we *actually get* when we buy a software or shareware product.

Chips Chapman shared some information on PRINTTOPDF, another handy utility program, in the Stocking Stuffers Notes that were emailed to the group after the December meeting. Chips will show how simple it is to create a simple PDF file without the cost of the full Adobe Acrobat software. The shareware price for PRINTTOPDF is only \$20.

Stay tuned for an update on the February meeting. More details should be available at the Jan. 8th meeting. ▼

From **MINUTES**, page 2

good Christmas presents. Paul Lemieux (plemieux@tmug.org) demoed DIABLO II (\$50). It has an enhanced engine, added character classes and its own skills. A character editor can be used to change the features of each character. It requires a G3 box, 1.5 GB of disk space and 96MB of RAM.

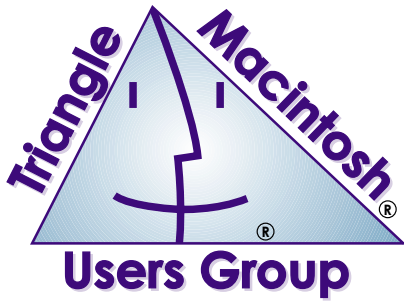
Jeff Cole (jcole@nc.rr.com) showed STAR WARS: EPISODE I PODRACER (\$20). A joystick is recommended. There are different racers, seven different courses (including ice caves, loops, different gravity settings – in case you don't like earth's gravity). It needs 32MB of RAM and an ATI Rage Pro card. Jeff also recommended the BLACKHAWK ergonomic joystick, which can accommodate righties or lefties.

Chips Chapman showed DRAGTHING 2 (\$20). This shareware utility makes folders on the bottom of screen. You can have big or small icons and switch applications with a click of the mouse. It runs on OS

7.55 and up, and It can be downloaded at www.dragthing.com. Chips also showed FINDERPOP, a tool that will expand contextual menus, lists of apps, folders, current apps and memory in use. (This is called pint ware because the \$8 fee will buy two pints of the author's favorite beer.) Go to www.finderpop.com for more information.

Evan Webb showed DEUS EX (\$35) from www.outpost.com. It requires OS 8.1 or higher, G3 and 64MB of RAM, QuickTime 4.0 and 4MB VRAM (Video RAM) This game is about a bio-augmented guy who is trying to stop terrorists. Smythe Richbourg (tsmyther@yahoo.com) demoed the ESSENTIAL POWERBOOK STRIP, which is added to the control strip for battery usage and temperature reading. Lastly, Max Beckman showed ESCAPE VELOCITY (\$20). It was not as bloody as some of the other games. Also, there are plugins to change everything. ▼

Contact TMUG Secretary Duane Reaugh at duane@dtsoftware.com. ■



P.O. Box 28623
Raleigh, NC 27611

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

First Class
Mail

The Triangle Macintosh Users Group meets at 6 p.m. on the second Monday of every month at the Environmental Protection Agency campus auditorium in Research Triangle Park on T.W. Alexander Drive.

TRIANGLE MACINTOSH USERS GROUP
Membership application

Membership & directory Membership only Renewal

Name: _____

Business (if applicable): _____

Street: _____

City/state/ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Membership dues are \$35/year. Make check payable to TMUG and send to

TMUG P.O. Box 28623 Raleigh, NC 27611

