

3rd TUES OF MONTH



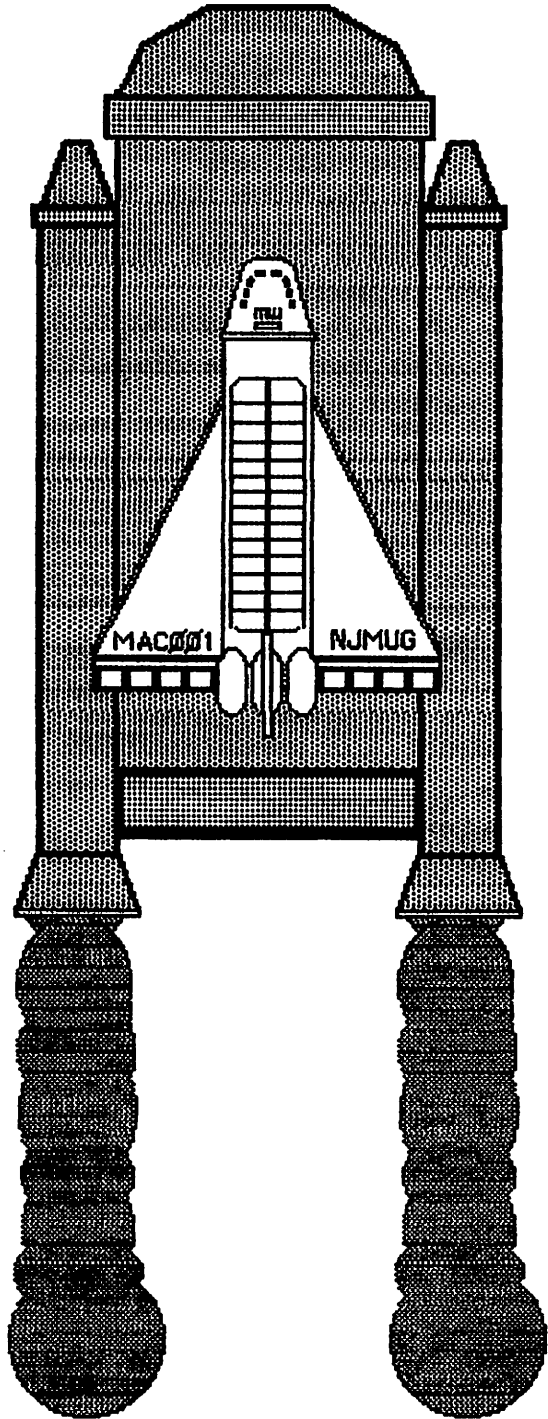
# The MacLedger

The Official Newsletter of the New Jersey Macintosh Users Group

Volume 1

Number 1

Page 1



NJMUG  
takes  
off.....



# Control Panel

The Staff of the MacLedger



# Mouse-to-Mouse

An Editorial by Mike Waldorf



## The MacLedger™

The Official Newsletter of  
The New Jersey Mac Users Group

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Staff: Editor-Mike Waldorf

Reporters-Ed Kietlinski

Dave Pomerantz

Adam Green

Chris Bochna

### Reporters Wanted:

If interested in writing an article for The MacLedger, send some E-mail to The Editor on the NJMUG Bulletin Board System (Phone Number (201) 478-6466).

Hello, Macintosh Users of Northern New Jersey! I'm Michael Waldorf, the editor of The MacLedger. I would like to warmly welcome you to our first meeting and give a brief introduction to The MacLedger.

The MacLedger is the Official Newsletter of NJMUG. The officers of the New Jersey Macintosh Users Group plan to distribute this publication at every meeting, but we need your help and support. At present, the newsletter staff consists only of the officers of the club and the editor. What we really want is to hear from you. The officers have many other responsibilities to perform, and your submissions to The MacLedger would be appreciated. All you have to do is either post up the article on the NJMUG BBS (details to follow) or, if you don't have a modem, you can bring submissions to any of the club meetings.

This is the first issue of The MacLedger. Within a few months, we hope to include more regular articles. Soon to come: Print Shop (graphics gallery), Note Pad (adventure game hints), and Get Info (question+answer). If you have any ideas for new articles, contact The Editor at one of the group meetings or leave a note for him on the BBS.

The MacLedger is your magazine, so feel free to ask any questions or give any comments concerning this publication at the meeting.



## About NJMUG

Rules and Policies



The New Jersey Mac Users Group is a non-profit organization created by Macintosh Users for Macintosh Users. The group is dedicated to the sole purpose of the exchange of information on how to use the Macintosh computer more efficiently.

The officers of NJMUG do not condone nor permit the distribution of copyrighted software, or "pirating". Any member engaging in this illegal activity at any of the NJMUG meetings will give sufficient cause to have his/her membership revoked.

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The MacLedger, 6 Cheryl Road,  
Pine Brook, NJ, 07058

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**Special Article:****A Welcome From The President**

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**By Ed Kietlinski,  
President**

When you started to use the Mac, you found that the manuals and documentation were just not enough to answer all your questions. You then moved on to questioning Apple dealers, reading magazines, and books, but that wasn't enough.

Well, now it's time to try out a users group. And what better one is there than the local New Jersey Macintosh Users Group? We offer personal help for Mac users which is unsurpassed by that of any other means.

By becoming a member of NJMUG, you join a family of NJ Mac users who share ideas with you, offer assistance and best of all, become friends. But we don't stop there. NJMUG also offers many benefits to its members.

As a member, you receive the group's newsletter called MacLedger. It's full of information very handy to Mac users. We also provide a Bulletin Board System for all to use and enjoy (more information is available in this issue). At every meeting, we try to provide helpful information on hardware and software products for the Mac. This enables the members to actually see the product in use and get a "hands-on" demonstration of the  
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product. In future meetings, we will probably display some prereleased products, for our members to get an idea of what's coming out for the Mac. This will no doubt save you a lot of heartaches and money, because you will get a preview of products before you buy them.

If you don't have much money to spend on software, this might interest you. NJMUG offers a library of free public domain software, to satisfy anyone's Mac.

These are only some of the benefits that a member of NJMUG enjoys. There are more, but I'll save the details of those for the meeting. You're probably wondering, "How do I join NJMUG"?

Running a group such as this one requires some money. To pay for all our expenses, we collect yearly membership fees. To join for 1 year, all it costs is \$25.00, plus a \$5.00 initiation fee. The \$5.00 fee does not apply when you renew your subscription, it only is paid when a member joins for the first time. Non-members can attend a meeting by just paying a \$3.00 "walk-in-fee" at the door. If you can't attend all the group's meetings, you might prefer to pay the \$3.00 fee at the meetings that you can attend, but you must realize that most of the "members-only" benefits are lost.

I hope that I have answered most of your questions, but if you have any more, you can ask me at one of the meetings. Thank you for your interest in NJMUG.



### Fat Bits



Close-Up on NJMUG Members

by David Pomerantz

#### Who are the officers of NJMUG?

There are four of us on the Board of Directors, each having a title symbolic of our duties. These titles are for your convenience- on the NJMUG BBS, you might find it hard to spell our real names. Ed Keitlinski, chief officer of the group, is known as the President. I am the Vice-president, in charge of many miscellaneous duties. Adam Green, who handles all financial matters, is the Treasurer. Finally, Mike Waldorf, the officer in charge of this publication, is known as the Editor.

Our President, Ed, was one of the officers of his own local microcomputer users group until he joined with the other officers and set up the Northern New Jersey Macintosh Users Group. He is a sophomore at NJIT.

I am the Vice-president, a sophomore at Newark Academy in Livingston, NJ. I live in West Caldwell.

My schoolmate and friend, Michael Waldorf, is a freshman at Newark Academy. In addition to being the Editor of The MacLedger, he is a regular reporter for our school's newsletter, The Minuteman.

Adam Green, the Treasurer, attends  
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Clifton High School. Having excelled in mathematics, he naturally opted for the position of Treasurer.

The position of Secretary is currently open. The Secretary will have the responsibility of taking down the minutes of the meeting and of coordinating the officers' efforts. Any member who wishes to apply for the position should leave his or her name with one of the officers.

We may be young, but our dreams for the growth of NJMUG are great. We formed NJMUG to help the other Macintosh users (both beginners and advanced programmers), and to meet other people who made an investment into the computer for the rest of Us.



## Show Page

Software Review



### Microsoft BASIC 2.0 by Edward Kietlinski Jr.

For those of you that are familiar with Microsoft BASIC (MS-BASIC) you'll notice that the Mac version is by far the best version of BASIC out on the market.

What is BASIC? BASIC is the language that has taught more people to talk to their computers than any other language, because BASIC is very powerful yet easy to learn. The acronym BASIC stands for **B**eginners **A**ll-purpose **S**ymbolic **I**nstruction **C**ode. The abbreviation holds true.

So what makes this BASIC stand out amount the other hundred BASICs? Well for starters, I'm not sure that this is BASIC any more. Microsoft has completely redefined what I thought was the standard BASIC language. You'll notice something strange by just looking at the Desktop. What you'll see is two MS-BASIC icons. No, it's not a special 2-for-1 sale at Microsoft. Instead, it's two almost identical versions of MS-BASIC. The only difference is in the way they perform calculations. The Financial version supports decimal math, and runs slower than the Engineering version, which supports less accurate but faster math.

Remember line numbers? You know, those numbers that were present at the

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beginning of every single program line. Under Microsoft BASIC 2.0, line numbers are now optional. Not only can you omit all the line numbers, but you can use labels instead. In MS-BASIC, a typical program could look like either Figure 1 or Figure 2 and will work exactly the same way. The only difference is that in Figure 2, the program will go to the "INPUTNAME" label instead of line 19229.

In larger programs, this feature is really handy, especially if you have a short-term memory. It's far easier to remember the label "INPUTNAME" than line number 19229.

---

```
|19229 INPUT "What is your name ";name$
|19230 PRINT name$
|19231 GOTO 19229
```

(Figure 1)

---

```
|INPUTNAME:
| INPUT "What is your name ";name$
| PRINT name$
|GOTO INPUTNAME
```

(Figure 2)

---

Have you noticed that in Figures 1 & 2 the BASIC keywords are in bold print? Yes, that's another feature of MS-BASIC. All BASIC keywords are displayed in a boldface type. This serves many purposes. It is for easier to read a MS-BASIC program than other BASICs. It is also a great way to check errors. You

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type in a word, and if it isn't highlighted then you know that it isn't a command word.

Editing in MS-BASIC is now a joy. No longer do you have to enter program lines in the Command window like in Version 1.0. You can edit your programs in the List Window. It even supports the "Find-Replace" feature, which adds to the versatility of this editor.

The biggest improvement to the language is its support of Mac-style programming. Creating a program in the "Macintosh environment" used to take a Lise with an complex programming language and an experienced programmer. Now, with MS-BASIC all the tricky programming needed to create Windows, Menus, etc. is provided to you by a few simple MS-BASIC commands. You will be surprised at the language's programming power.

I found only a few weaknesses in this version of MS-BASIC. BASIC is still weak in representing data structures. It could also use better conditional statements. But the one feature that I miss most of all in this version of MS-BASIC is the "Undo" command. The omission of this command is a serious drawback.

Overall, I thought this was a marvelous version of BASIC and is a great improvement over the first version.

Program Rating-[8] out of [10]:\*\*\*\*\*



## MacCommunications

Using Modems with the Mac



by Chris Bochna

The Macintosh revolutionized the computer world with its pull-down menus and its icon-based environment, but even with its powerful capabilities, you may doubt that your computer can communicate directly with others. This is indeed possible, by sending data over the phone with a device called a MODEM (acronym for "MODulator/DEModulator"). There are many different types, so to choose the right one, you can contact your Apple dealer, or wait until next month, when I go into detail about modems.

With a modem, you can quickly connect to other computers, systems specifically set up to exchange messages and data between callers. You can also read messages left by and leave messages for others. These systems are called Bulletin Board Systems (BBS's).

Our users group has a bulletin board of its own- The New Jersey Macintosh Bulletin Board System. Your computer, with a MODEM, can call the board and find out about what's happening in our group. You can also voice your opinions on how NJMUG is run, and leave Electronic Mail to your friends and the officers. The number of the NJMUG BBS is 478-6466. I am the System Operator, and I hope to see you there.