

# DOUBLE CLICK

A Monthly Publication of Macintosh Users East (MaUse)

May 1993

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## This Months Meeting May 26

By : Hugh Amos

This months meeting will be on Wednesday May 26/93, at our regular location, St. Thomas Church, in Brooklin. A map showing the location of the church can be found on page 8 of this publication. Shareware disk sales start at 7:00PM. The meeting starts at 7:30PM.

Ed Falkowski from Cal-Ahco and Steve Arms from Micronet will speak on **Storage Solutions**.

It is amazing how fast computer data storage space can be used up. It will be interesting indeed to hear expert opinion on how best to manage this facet of our computers.

Nowadays, there are many types of storage devices to choose from and it is not always clear which is the best choice. Some of the devices that come to mind are: internal and external hard drives; removable hard drives; floppy drives; optical drives; optical drives; tape storage; portable hard drives; etc..

So..... bring your questions to the May meeting and join us for an interesting and informative evening. (it could possibly save you some money on future storage expansion for your Mac.)

See You At The Meeting!  
Hugh Amos

**MaUse**  
Macintosh Users East



## Executive Contact List

Please feel free to contact any of the following individuals if you have comments or questions relating to Macintosh Users East or Macintosh computing in general.

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## Hard Drive Technical Support Questions

by John G. Catalano

Casa Blanca Works publishes Drive7, a popular universal formatter for the Macintosh. To help you understand your Macintosh a little better, what follows are typical questions answered by their technical support department. Maybe you have some of the same questions.

### What does SCSI mean?

It stands for "Small Computer Systems Interface," a standard that defines the interface for peripheral devices. It provides for parallel transmission of data, thereby allowing for high-speed transfer. Translation: A set of standards defining how equipment connects and talks to other equipment.

### What is a Driver?

A driver is a small piece of code that controls a part of the computer. The hard drive driver resides in a hidden partition on your hard drive. That partition is set by the formatting software and can be from 6k to 32K. Apple's SCSI Manager guidelines suggest a minimum 16k partition size. The hard drive driver is code that acts as the gateway between your system and the hard drive itself. It lets each know of the others' capabilities.

### What does "Format" Do?

The Format operation completely erases the disk, preparing it to receive new data. Once formatted, a drive can be initialized for use with a computer. Pressing the Format button in many formatters actually performs three functions: 1) Erases all data (formats the drive); 2) Initializes the drive, (writing a new directory & partitioning); and, 3) Installs a new hard drive driver in the driver partition.

### How does "Initialize" differ from "Format"?

After a drive is formatted, the initialization process divides it into partitions and installs the hard drive driver in one of those partitions. This process also erases the location of the data on the drive. If you've used your drive on a Macintosh before, you generally just initialize.

### What does "Update" mean?

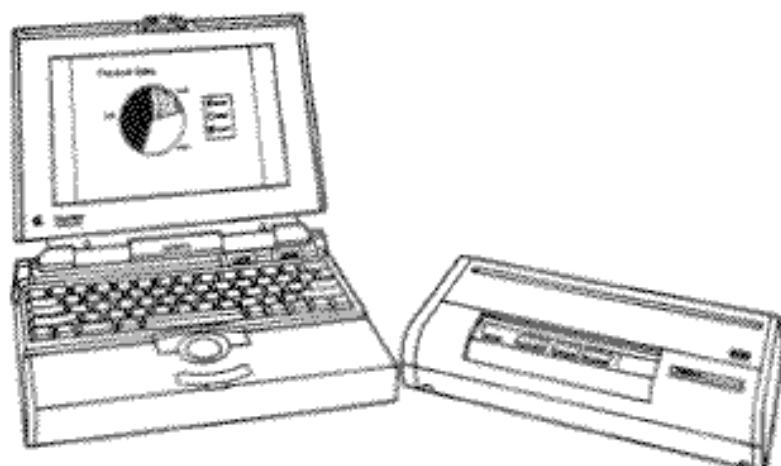
When you Update your drive, you install just the new driver partition information. Nothing else is changed. If a formatter can "take over" the space allocated by the old driver partition on your drive, you may press the Update button. If the space allocated is too small, Update is gray.

(continued on page 4)



Your Apple Macintosh Dealer in Durham Region  
333 King Street West  
Oshawa, Ontario Ph: 433-7033

## Now Macintosh users can print on the go with the portable, powerful Kodak Diconix 180si printer/serial



For great portability, combine a Macintosh PowerBook computer with a Kodak Diconix 180si printer/serial.

### New interface kit lets this fast, lightweight powerhouse print with Macintosh and IBM-compatible computers

The Kodak Diconix 180si printer was called "the only truly portable tractor-feed printer currently available," by *PC Magazine* in their August, 1992 issue. Now this remarkably compact, lightweight printer can also print from Macintosh computers.

The Kodak *Mpower* 180si interface kit, listing for \$39.95, contains the necessary hardware and software you need to print from popular Macintosh computer applications.

As the 180si printer weighs less than three pounds and measures 2" x 10.8" x 6.5", it's ideal for printing at the office, at home, or anywhere in between. (It takes up less space on your desk than the current issue of *MACUSER*). Combine it with a Macintosh PowerBook notebook computer, and you've got a very powerful, portable combination.

If you travel often, the portability of the Kodak Diconix 180si printer/serial is a plus, as it easily fits in a briefcase. An AC adapter/charger comes with the printer, allowing you to recharge the five size "C" Ni-Cad batteries that can be used to run the unit. Kodak estimates about 50 minutes of continuous printing from a fully charged set of batteries.

For those who switch between the Macintosh and IBM-compatible platforms, this Kodak printer offers the added advantage of solid performance in both worlds. On the IBM-compatible side, it emulates Epson FX-85 and IBM Proprinter modes, as well as a Kodak Diconix small printer command set.

Macintosh users will appreciate its full System 7 compatibility, page-manipulating capabilities, and screen dump/draft print options. The printer will operate with System 6.02 or higher.

Black ink print cartridges are list priced at \$13.95, and cost per page of printing is quite reasonable. Quality modes range from draft to best, with four choices available in total.

If you need a compact, easy-to-transport printer that works with your Mac and your IBM-compatible computer, the Kodak Diconix 180si printer/serial (with the Kodak *Mpower* 180si interface kit) is an excellent choice. It's also available at an excellent price. While the printer lists for \$419.00, it's often available at a lower street price. This printer is portable, compatible, and affordable!

If you'd like more information about the Kodak Diconix 180si printer/serial and *Mpower* 180si interface kit, or the full line of Kodak color and black-and-white printers, call toll-free: 1-800-344-0006.

Or write to:  
KODAK Printer Products  
Eastman Kodak Company  
903 Elmgrove Road  
Rochester, New York 14653.

## Hard Drive Technical Support Questions

by John G. Catalano  
(continued from page 2)

### What is Partitioning?

Partitions allow you to store and retrieve data independent of one another, much like having multiple drives on your desktop. Theoretically, a large drive will read and write data to a single partition faster if the drive is divided into smaller partitions. Many formatters allow you to create single or multiple visible partitions and to select partition attributes. These include: password protection, locking a partition, designating a boot partition, or automatically mounting a partition at startup.

### Are there hidden partitions on a hard drive?

Yes. In addition to the visible partitions, most formatters write two which are hidden: The first is the Apple Map Entry, which tells the computer that that drive is initialized for the Macintosh. The second is the hard drive driver partition. After that, the visible Operating System partitions are visible.

### What are some direct "Test" calls?

Each hard drive will understand a set common of commands sent to it via software. One suite of these commands are Test. Two common ones are SCSI Verify and Scan Drive. A "SCSI Verify" command checks that each block on the drive is good. A "Scan Drive" test, which reads data from each block on the drive, stores it in memory, writes it somewhere else, reads the copy, and compares it to the original. If they are the same, it continues. If they are different, it reports an error and writes out the bad block.

### What about writing out bad blocks?

All good formatters will write out bad blocks as part of their formatting process, and give you the option to disable that feature. Once the bad blocks are written out, the drive will not attempt to write data to them. As bad blocks appear during normal use over time, good formatters will move your data to a stable location on the media.

### What is Parameter RAM?

Parameter RAM is an area on a chip on the Macintosh logic board that stores information about the Mac's hardware settings, such as Chooser and serial port information, color, keyboard, and monitor settings, as well as the SCSI bus configuration.

### How is the SCSI bus related to the PRAM?

If you are having consistent SCSI recognition problems or hangs, your SCSI bus could be "confused." Resetting the PRAM may help by bringing the Mac SCSI bus information back to the factory default settings.

### What happens when I reset (zap) the PRAM?

When you zap the PRAM, you return all the PRAM information, including the SCSI bus information, back to the factory defaults.

Please note that in addition to resetting the parameters back to the factory defaults, zapping the PRAM also deletes "Get Info" comments you may have added.

### How do I reset (zap) the PRAM?

Always reset the Parameter RAM from a "cold" start, not a "Restart".

If you are running System 7, hold down these four keys when you boot the Mac: Command, Option, P and R. The Mac will blink and restart itself. Release the keys.

If you are using System 6, allow the Mac to boot to the Desktop. Hold down the Command, Shift, and Option keys while you select "Control Panel" from the Apple menu. You will be asked if you want to Zap the PRAM. Click "Yes."

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MUG NEWS SERVICE, 1992

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November 18, 1992

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## How to Buy a Used Computer

By Robert Wright

It's time to upgrade that aging Mac Plus to something spiffier. You make a trip down to your friendly local dealer, only to come back depressed by the cost of being up to date. It occurs to you that perhaps you should check out the used computer market to get more bang for your buck. Well, there are bargains to be had out there, but only a savvy shopper can negotiate the pitfalls and come out with a good deal.

The first thing you should do is decide what kind of machine you want. If you want the latest and greatest model it will be in short supply and you will not get much of a price break. Try for a model that has the power you want, but has been on the market for a year or more. A top-of-the-line machine will tend to hold its value much better than one a little older. Quadras, this year's fastest models, can't be found in the ad pages, but the Mac IIfx, last year's fastest machine, is not too hard to find. Right after the Quadras were introduced, there were many IIfx's on the market as the speed freaks sold off their older machines to upgrade to the latest and greatest.

Once you have determined which model to buy, decide what kind of other goodies you want. Do you want a color monitor? Extended keyboard? Big hard drive? Laser printer? Make a list of your dream system, but be prepared to compromise. The more specific you get about what goodies are included, the less likely you are to find a system that matches exactly. You may want to



buy the computer itself on the used market, and then get the monitor you really want from a dealer.

Once you have your list, go to your dealer and get prices. For comparison's sake you need to know what these things cost new. Buy a copy of the Recycler (a want ad and used merchandise resale paper available at convenience stores), or a local newspaper. Read the computer ads carefully to get an idea of what similar systems are going for. By this time you should have a good idea of what you want and what you want to pay.

The traditional approach is to go out and look at each system. This has some advantages — you can compare the relative merits of each system — but I use another way. I determine what an excellent bargain price for the system that I want would be and I run an ad in the Recycler that looks something like this:  
WILL PAY \$1200 IMMEDIATE CASH FOR MACINTOSH II.  
CALL XXX-XXXX.

Often this will snag the seller who is checking the paper to see what he should ask for his machine. He sees your ad and decides to take the money and run. You get a great price and he doesn't have to spend his nights answering phone calls about a computer for sale.

#### How to check out a machine

The nice thing about checking out computers is that, if they run now, they probably will continue to run. Start the machine and mouse around a little. Duplicate a couple of files, open and close a few windows. The files should duplicate without errors. The mouse should not be jumpy or sticky. Open the Key Caps DA and check that all the keys work. Listen for odd noises. You should hear the low whine of the fan and an occasional noise from the hard drive as it works.

Les Mannos of Manco Industries, a dealer in Burbank, CA, gives these tips for checking out a machine. Format a floppy disk in both regular and high density formats. Copy files back and forth. If possible, check to see if the disks can be read on another machine. The monitor's picture should be clean and steady, no shimmering or wavering. Look closely and see if an image is burned into the screen. If you use a screen saver it will get no worse, but you may find it annoying.

Always test the equipment. Print something on the printer, scan something on the scanner, etc. Never buy anything that you haven't seen working.

#### Configuration

You can tell how much RAM a computer has by selecting "About the Finder" or "About This Macintosh" under the Apple menu. The size of the hard drive can be determined by opening its main window, selecting "View by Icon" and looking across the top of the window. Always check these things yourself. Inexperienced users often don't know what these things mean and

can give you incorrect information.

#### Machine type

You should be very sure of how to identify the model of computer that you are buying. The identifying information is on plates on the back. A little confusion goes a long way in this area. A good example is the SE/30. This machine is a compact Mac, has a 68030 processor and can support an external color monitor. Its predecessor, the SE, has a 68000 processor. It runs at roughly one-quarter the speed and does not support color. A Mac SE with a 20 MB hard drive is often advertised as an "SE/20," leading the unwary to believe that they are getting something just a little under an SE/30.

#### Overpriced machines

Beware the overpriced machine — there are many of them. A Mac Plus bought several years ago may have cost \$2,000 or more. Its owner adds another \$1,500 in software (not hard to do) and other doo-dads, such as an ImageWriter printer, external disk drive and a 1200 baud modem. His total investment comes to \$4,500 and he believes that a price of \$2,500 is a great deal. The fact is that a new Mac Classic II (twice as fast as a Plus) with a hard drive costs around \$1295 — and has a one year warranty. You may not need the external disk drive or the ImageWriter. A 300 dpi ink jet printer, such as the HP DeskWriter, goes for about \$395. The 1200 baud modem was fast a few years ago, but now 2400 baud modems cost under \$100. Beware the seller who is trying to recover his investment.

#### A word about software

Should you pay for those stacks of software alongside the machine? The answer is usually no. You probably already own a set of programs that you know and like. If you don't sell your programs with your old machine, you can just install them on your new computer. In order for software that has been purchased used to be legally yours, the seller must write a letter stating that he has sold the software to you. You can send this letter to the software company and they will remove his name from the list of registered users and add yours. This will make you the legal owner of the software and make you eligible for future updates. If the program is expensive, it is wise to call the company and ask them exactly what they require to transfer software from one owner to another. If the owner never sent in the registration card, things are easy. All you must do is fill in your name and mail it in.

Software vendors generally allow the use of programs on only one machine at a time. This even includes older versions of the same program. If the seller upgraded Word 3 to Word 4, you cannot buy Word 3 while he keeps Word 4. The company will only allow one of you to be registered. If you buy a machine without getting the software registered in your name, you will be out in the cold as far as updates and documentation are concerned, and you will be violating copyright laws as well.

Also be aware that most used software is an older version. If you want the latest version, get the upgrade price from the company as well. Some upgrades aren't cheap.

The strongest argument against buying used software is that it may not suit your needs. A \$500 collection of kids' games and educational software isn't worth anything if you don't have a child. What is a \$700 font collection worth if you think that Geneva and Times are all anyone would ever need? Absolutely nothing. Choose the software that you want and find the best price that you can for a copy of it new. If some software that you can make use of is included in the package, ask these questions of the seller:

- Will you turn over all disks and manuals, and write a letter stating that the software has been sold to me?
- What version do you have? (Check the upgrade price for that version with the company.)

Make your decision based on the seller's answers, and don't pay for software that you won't use.

**What about crooks?**

I have to mention it, but if someone says a computer is "hot," it may not mean that it runs really, really fast. From Detective Cheryl Skinner of the Burbank, CA Police Department, Meda Wardrobe of the Glendale, CA Police Department, and Dave Weisner, retired Los Angeles PD officer, here are some tips to avoid trouble, unfortunate incidents and stolen goods.

- When someone calls about a machine, always get a phone number and call him/her back. This way you have a way to trace the person's actual location. Some thieves have called about ads, pumped the person for information on the equipment for sale and then dropped by when the person was not home for an extra-special bargain. If you are loose with your information you may also say things like, "No, you can't come see it tonight, we're going out to a movie."
- If you use the "Immediate Cash" trick, do the same thing. Get the number and call them back. You can often get the person to come to your house, but if you are going to his place this may avoid your being lured to some dummy location to be deprived of your cash more immediately than you might have planned. Also, have a friend with you — as you would with any transaction involving a lot of cash.
- Check the serial numbers, model numbers and logos to see if they look okay. If any of these have been removed or altered in any manner, keep away.
- Ask to see the driver's license of the seller and write down the information. If the equipment is stolen this will give the police something to work with. A criminal may be reluctant to give identification or may offer some reason why he does not have any. Do not buy unless you get some good ID.
- Get the original receipt for the merchandise if available. If it is not, get a written receipt from the seller stating what equipment was sold, to whom, by whom and for how much. Get it dated and signed.
- If you use a dealer, use someone that has been recommended to

you or has a good reputation.

- Don't buy anything at a street corner. None of this "Hey Joe, I got a deal for you. It just fell off a truck." Use your gut feelings in talking to people who are selling privately. Don't meet anyone at an unusual location, away from a business or residence. Be careful of swap meets.
- Don't give out personal information such as your address, etc., to the seller. If he is dishonest he may use this to rob the stuff right back.
- You can call many local police departments and they will run the serial number for you. But if you are suspicious the best thing to do is back away from the deal. Most people in this world are not crooks, but the crooks are out there, so don't make things easy for them. Trust your instincts. Remember, there ain't no such thing as a free lunch.

**A final word to the wise**

Computers get better, faster and cheaper all the time. The best argument against buying used equipment is the speed at which technology changes and prices drop. When considering used equipment look carefully at what is available new. Often your best choice is to go for the comfort and security of a new machine with a one-year warranty. For the intrepid bargain hunter, there may be a great deal out there waiting just for you... but you have to stalk it armed with the best weapons — caution and knowledge.

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**Double Click Classifieds**

Sunday, May 16, 1993 10:47:25 AM

DC Classifieds Item

From: Administrator  
Subject: Ad  
To: DC Classifieds

Student for Hire - Recent grad from Durham College seeks computer-related work. Areas of interest: administration, installations & repair. 435-3723.

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# After Dark Contest **ENTRY FORM**

**GRAND PRIZE: \$10,000 CASH!**

**Plus Three Categories:**

**Windows Programmer Category**

First Prize: COMPAQ Contura 3/25c Model 84 PC

Second Prize: NEC MultiSync 5FG 17" Monitor

Third Prize: Wacom 6" x 9" Graphics Tablet

**Macintosh Programmer Category**

First Prize: Fujitsu 2.0 GB M2652SA Hard Drive

Second Prize: NEC MultiSync 5FG 17" Monitor

Third Prize: Wacom Art Z Graphics Tablet

**Computer Artist Category**

First Prize: Epson ES800C Color Scanner w/interface Kit

Second Prize: NEC MultiSync 5FG 17" Monitor

Third Prize: Wacom Art Z or 6"x 9" Graphics Tablet

## ENTRY FORM:

Please accept my / our entry in the following category:

Macintosh  Windows  Computer Artist

Macintosh Module Name

Windows Module Name

Computer Art Module Name

My / Our Name

Company

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

I heard about the After Dark Module Contest from:

Trade Show  Friend  User Group  Magazine (if so, which one?)

Send your compiled module(s) on disk with entry form to:  
After Dark Display Contest Entries  
Berkeley Systems, Inc., 2095 Rose Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Prizes by:

**COMPAQ**  
**NEC**

**EPSON**  
**WACOM**

**FUJITSU**

- ▶ One \$10,000 Grand Prize will be awarded to the best overall entry in the contest.
- ▶ All winners will receive Flying Toaster Trophies and T-shirts.
- ▶ T-shirts for honorable mentions in each category.
- ▶ Winners' modules may be used in future versions of After Dark.

Entries will be judged on originality, appearance, and functionality. Berkeley Systems will undertake first round judging. Top 10 entries in each category will be judged on August 11 in the offices of Berkeley Systems, Inc. by:

### Judges:

Cathy Abes, Associate Editor/Departments, Macworld  
Christopher Barr, Senior Editor, PC Magazine  
Jean Cassagne, Chief Editor, Golden (France)  
Frad Davis, Columnist, Windows Sources  
Steve Fox, Senior Features Editor, PC World  
Yukinari Fujisawa, Editor, MacPower (Japan)  
Sean Geer, Editor in Chief, Windows User (U.K.)  
Elke Huff, Editor, Win Magazine (Germany)  
Alan Jones, Editor, Australian Macworld  
Bart Nagel, Art Director, Mondo 2000  
Francois Yves Le Gal, Chief Editor, Info PC (France)  
David Needle, Editor, Computer Currents  
Henry Norr, Editor, MacWEEK  
Simón Pérez, Editor, Macworld España  
Pamela Pfiffner, Senior Editor, MacUser  
John Plunkett, Creative Director, Wired Magazine  
Stefan Scherzer, Editor in Chief, Macwelt (Germany)  
Paul Schindler, Northern California Bureau Editor, Windows Magazine  
Wendy Taylor, Associate Editor, PC Computing Magazine  
David Ushijima, President and Publisher, Macworld Japan  
Rebecca Waring, Executive Editor, New Media Magazine  
Jon Zilber, Editor in Chief, Corporate Computing

### Requirements:

- ▶ Programmers must submit compiled, working After Dark modules (using the SDK included in the After Dark package). Macintosh modules should be compatible with the complete Macintosh family, Windows modules should be on a 3.5" disk and work with 286, 386 and 486 processors and Windows version 3.x.
- ▶ Artists must submit digitized art in PICT, TIFF, PICS, .BMP, or .PCX format, along with a detailed script or story board describing how the module would run, and a description of how the art was created. Animation loops and QuickTime sequences encouraged. Color art, as well as black and white, is recommended.
- ▶ All entries must be received by midnight, July 15, 1993 and must be accompanied by an entry form (photocopies permitted). Late entries will not be considered. Group efforts welcome. Multiple submissions permitted, but each module will be judged in only one category. Please do not send originals. Disks will not be returned.

#### The Fine Print:

Employees of Berkeley Systems, Inc. and their immediate families are not eligible. Winners will be selected at the sole discretion of Berkeley Systems, Inc. Winners consent to the use of their names and photographs for the purposes of advertising and promotion without further compensation. By accepting their prize, the top three winners in each category and the Grand Prize winner agree to provide Berkeley Systems, Inc. all rights to the module source code and artwork. If Berkeley Systems, Inc. uses that module's source code or artwork in a future commercial release, Berkeley Systems will pay to the winner a further \$1,000.

## About Double-Click

### Contributors:

Hugh Amos  
Macintosh News Service  
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Berkeley

Double-Click is produced monthly, where possible, by and for members of Macintosh Users East (MaUsE), an Apple Macintosh Computer Users' Group serving the Durham Region & environs, for the purposes stated in its constitution. There is no charge for this publication. Articles published in Double-Click may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes by other Macintosh User Groups or interested parties without prior permission. Any other reproduction of any part of this newsletter requires the written permission of the author(s).

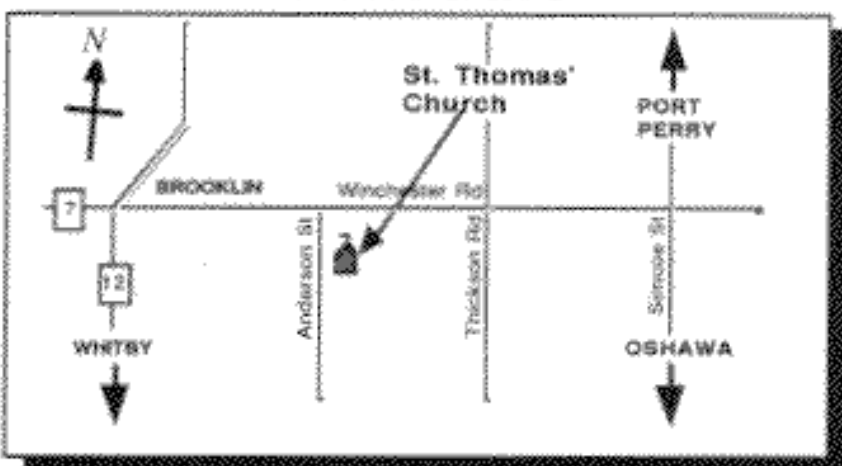
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This month's issue of Double-Click was produced using Clarisworks, a product of Claris Corporation.

### Typefaces:

Headers are set in Helvetica  
Body type is set in Times

## MaUse Meeting Location & Schedule



Members of the general public, guests of MaUsE members, and all regular MaUsE members are invited to attend any of MaUsE's membership or Executive meetings. It is NOT necessary to bring your Macintosh with you...all that's required is an interest in Macintosh computing.

Listed at right is the schedule for 1992. Membership meetings are generally held at St. Thomas' Church in Brooklyn (see map above) starting at 7:30PM. Shareware disk sales begin at 7:00PM. Executive meeting locations vary...call ahead to confirm exact locations/times.

Month	Exec Mtg	Member Mtg
April	1st	28th
May	6th	26th
June	3rd	23rd
July	1st	28th
August	5th	25th
September	2nd	22nd
October	7th	27th
November	4th	24th
December	2nd	22nd
January	6th	26th
February	3rd	23rd
March	3rd	23rd

## Acknowledgements

MaUsE is a member of MNS, the Macintosh News Service, which acts to distribute information/articles between Mac User Groups in North America. Various articles in Double-Click are provided courtesy of MNS and its Corporate sponsors.

Kodak is this month's MNS Sponsor. The Executive of MaUsE and Double-Click Editor thank Kodak for providing this service. We encourage MaUsE members to advocate the products/services of MNS Sponsors.

Each month's MNS disk becomes a part of our MaUsE Public Domain software library and members are welcome to see Bruce Cameron for copies or information regarding the contents of these MNS disks.

# Kodak

**MEMBER**  
**MNS**  
**MUG NEWS SERVICE**