COMPUTER USER GROUPS AND
APPLEWORKS HIDDEN FEATURES

AppleWorks

AppleWorks is one of the most popular programs for the Apple Computer. This integrated program allows you to as easily write a letter as to use a data base or spreadsheet. All three file types can exist simultaneously in your computer's memory or desktop. You can easily switch data between a data base, a spreadsheet, or a letter in memory and can have up to 12 files on your desktop at once. If you use AppleWorks the following user group information may be of some value to you.

User Groups

One can find an array of computer user's groups around the country. A User Group is a computer club or group which is dedicated to communicating and sharing information. Some groups act as general information organizations catering to specific brands of computers. Others may focus on topics ranging from specific issues, such as religion and society, to those involved with the computerese of computing itself. There are user groups which provide elements of regular mail involvement and those with bulletin boards accessible by both mail or phone.

T.A.W.U.G.

The AppleWorks User's Group (T.A.W.U.G.) was originally headquartered in Louisiana, now it is in Denver. This is a regular mail or limited bulletin board organization that collects and distributes diskettes full of AppleWorks files. At this point their order form has 44 full disksides for your use. There are no membership fees.

Why would you want to join such a group? Let me answer that by saying I felt very comfortable using AppleWorks, yet I was surprised at how much other people had discovered about this package and were willing to share with me through T.A.W.U.G. I found I was able to do a lot more with AppleWorks, in a lot less time.

For example, I had thought about making a data base file to print a simple certificate of recognition, though I hadn't taken the time to create my own. Lo and behold one of the T.A.W.U.G. diskfiles has one. I was able to customize the file to meet my own needs in a miniscule fraction of the time I would have invested in creating one from scratch.

A typical T.A.W.U.G. disk has little or no remaining space on it because it is filled with all three types of regular AppleWorks files (e.g., getting your Imagewriter to print a whole document in boldface, or a spreadsheet with a ready-made grade book). You'll find that accessing and using these files saves you a lot of time and you will learn more about AppleWorks each time you
use them.

Most of the templates, as they are called, include several files relevant to various levels of education. For example, template #41/42 has files dealing with everything from the Teachers Idea and Information Exchange to tips on using Print Shop. Other files allow you to print forms for budgets, organizational charts, and more. There is a spreadsheet calculator that the author states fascinates students in the way it is set up as well as giving them insights into programming a spreadsheet. Another one allows you to print out flash cards for multiplication tables and worksheets. A database on geometry formulas quickly gets the user information in several ways. One letter explains the use of a file called "G" which allows you to create a region in a word processor document for a graph. There are databases on libraries of children's books to meteor showers.

Be forewarned, it may take you several days to view and evaluate all the templates. I assure you, though, that you will get your money's worth in entertainment value just going through them. There are other disks which include a complete catalog of T.A.W.U.G. offerings, a good utility disk, and a T.A.W.U.G. sampler. To get a taste of a very good user group tailored to AppleWorks, send a check for $3.00 made out to "Computer CACHE." Ask for the T.A.W.U.G. Sampler Disk.

Write to: T.A.W.U.G.
P.O. Box 24789
Denver, CO 80224-0869

B.R.A.C.

The Big Red Apple Club is a general software mail order and information group. A membership fee of $12.00 per year, buys you a well done newsletter with various items of information ranging from name-brand software reviews to user group generated software that is very well priced. Two examples of ones I use from B.R.A.C. are Imageworks and Softgraph. Each costs about $6.00. Imageworks has 40 fonts including stencil, Hebrew, byte, blippo, Roman, or Kryllic. The same disk contains Apple's Printer Tool Kit (which does not come with the new ImageWriter II) that allows you to print graphics in several sizes. The other package, Softgraph is really a companion disk to Imageworks. With it you can print a spreadsheet data in a circle graph, a line graph or a bar graph—all neatly labelled. Softgraph has good documentation and much more. B.R.A.C. also sells the first 24 T.A.W.U.G. templates for around $12.00.

Write to: B.R.A.C.
1105 South 13th, Suite 103
Norfolk, NE 68701
A.B.U.G.

The Apple Bits User Group out of Kansas City is one of the best local groups for general interest/information. They do have people who can help with hardware questions as well as those who are versed in AppleWorks and ProDos. Some are generally all-around computer gurus. They have a very informative, and at times humorous, newsletter and several kinds of monthly meetings ranging from a general one to the so-called S.I.G. (special interest group) meeting. S.I.G. topics may be over graphics, modems, AppleWorks, or anything of interest to members. They also have an extensive library of public domain software. A.B.U.G. is a very first class operation with an active bulletin board that puts you in contact with experts and enthusiasts who are willing to help answer your questions. Membership is $20.00 per year and gets you discounts of up to 15% at several Kansas City area stores.

Write to: A.B.U.G.
Box 368
Mission, KS 66201

I know there are other good User Groups around dealing with the same interests as those I have mentioned. C.A.L.L. Apple is the largest group worldwide with a magazine style newsletter full of articles, hints, secrets of programming and more. Any of the Apple dedicated monthly publications such as "InCider," "Nibble", "A+", or "Open Apple" will list User Groups.

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