



# Rmug News

January 2005

## This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning  
January 15, 2005 9-11:30AM

All Mac users, new & old are invited to attend the next RMUG general meeting in the classrooms at:

**Little Country Church**  
**873 Canby & Churn Creek Rd.**  
**Redding, California**

(RMUG IS NOT CHURCH AFFILIATED)

Coffee and donuts are served during our "Get Acquainted" time, 9am to 10am. There are classes for "Beginners" and "Intermediate" from 9:15am to 10:00am.

Topics this month will include discussion of MacWorld and dissemination of the great things found and learned there, general Q & A and movie projects presented; time permitting.

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## Rmug Officers

*Marcus Harner - President*  
*Jim Pace - Vice President*  
*Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer*  
*Jacquie Martin - Secretary*  
*Dale Josephson - Librarian*  
*Ken Lorenz - Editor*  
*Barbara Benefield,*  
*Louise Zegers,*  
*- Hospitality*

## President's Letter

### Paper vs. the iPod

My daughter's school maintains a list of library reading books categorized by grade level. By reading books on the list the students can gain points to achieve their scholastic goals. The list is large, thousands of titles, and published as a web page on the internet. It is a trivial task to go to the website and print the books of a certain grade level. The lists are very helpful in retail book stores or the county library to find books to read.

However, me, being a member of geekdom international, thought it would be handy to store a list of books on my wife's iPod. So one night I set off on the intellectual to turn the simple HTML list of books into a sortable text file readable by the iPod. After several hours of tinkering I did! First I saved the web site's source code as an HTML file on my iMac. Using a free trial of BBEdit I changed the HTML file into a "Tab-delimited" file. A free trial version of File Maker Pro was then used to make the text file into a simple database. Once in a database I can sort the books by title, grade level, or author. File Maker Pro is then used to export a small list of books, about 1000, to another text file. This text file is then translated to a web page format that the iPod can read and sent to the iPod using another downloaded program called VoodooPad Lite. Even though this project kept me up until the wee hours of the morning, I could now scroll through a list of possibly thousands of books.

A problem was soon identified. On the iPod it took several minutes to scroll through even a moderate list of books. So even though I could store thousands of titles, it would take 30 minutes to find a title. Scanning through the printed list was much quicker. Adding up the cost of the software used, if I had actually bought it rather than using trial copies, and the iPod I estimate it costs about \$800 to carry around a list of books electronically. To print a similar list it took about \$0.08 worth of paper and ink. The price/performance ratio of a printed list was far better than the iPod. Lesson learned: The newer method is very possible not the best method. Now, if I could only make a piece of paper broadcast my collection of Bing Christmas carols...

# RMUG Information

**Why RMUG?** The Redding Macintosh Users' Group was formed to help members and new users obtain maximum enjoyment and performance from their computers. This is accomplished through group activities and our direct affiliation with Apple™.

**Resources:** RMUG resources include monthly mailings from Apple™ and numerous outside vendors. We have a library of public domain programs, games and shareware software. We have videos and other computer-related guidebooks and information.

**Meetings:** RMUG meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:30 AM at Little Country Church, 873 Canby Rd. Room B-6. (we are not church affiliated) The meetings give members and visitors an opportunity to share information, opinions, personal experiences and techniques regarding Macintosh computer systems—hardware & software.

**Membership Information:** We invite you, as a guest, to attend our next monthly meeting. If you decide to join RMUG, your membership fee includes your whole family. We need your help as much as you need ours! Please participate!

**Welcome To Our Meetings:** Call the President, Marcus Harner at 245-0895 or contact other RMUG officers for help. Go to <http://rmug.org/membership.html> for numbers.

**Membership Dues:** \$24 / year. Includes newsletters, access to shareware, monthly workshops, troubleshooting help. Payment of dues can be made at the monthly meetings or send them to: *Charlotte Ruskowitz 6538 Mossom Ln. Anderson CA 96007* . Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Thank you, Michael, for a very interesting December program on how to inexpensively make a Jukebox by recycling some of your old equipment.

For those of you who missed the meeting, officers for next year are as follows:

Marcus Harner - President  
Jim Pace – Vice President  
Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer  
Jacquie Martin - Secretary  
Dale Josephson - Librarian  
Michael Peters - Ambassador  
Louisa Zegers and Barbara Benefield - Hospitality  
Ken Lorenz – Newsletter

Marcus is working on the 2005 Program Schedule. Please bring ideas to the January meeting of what you would be interested in for the coming year. For the January meeting, if you attended MacWorld, Marcus would appreciate your participating in a discussion of MacWorld highlights.

NOTE: The January meeting will be the third Saturday due to MacWorld. Also, please remember, DUES ARE DUE.

Jacquie Martin  
Secretary

## WANTED:

A late model G3 or G4 iMac or eMac. I am wanting to upgrade my machine and would be interested in purchasing another members machine if they were upgrading to a tower or brand new iMac.

If you are considering an upgrade, give me a call and maybe we can work out a mutually beneficial deal.

Chuck.  
(530) 275-1147  
toybert@awwwsome.com

## LIBRARIANS CORNER:

Tips for Archiving on CD-Rs

[MacInTouch.com](http://MacInTouch.com) has an ongoing discussion of how to ensure the long-term reliability of your recorded CDs (CD-Rs). Many readers agree that name brand makes a difference.

The best archival brands we know of are Verbatim, Maxell, TDK, Mitsui, and Taiyo Yuden. Verbatim's DataLifePlus CD-R media is particularly worthy of trust: it has a 100-year life expectancy, which has been confirmed by accelerated aging tests.

One source of good advice is "The 7 Fatal Mistakes People Make When Burning Data, Music or Photos to CDs," a free, 91-page white paper in PDF format, available at <http://www.cdsleeves.com/7fatalmistakes.html>.

Some highlights:

- Sunlight can ruin a CD-R in as little as 2 hours; UV light damages the dye.
- Sharpie markers may ruin a CD over time. Use TDK's CD Mark marker instead (\$5 for four).
- Paper labels are not proven to last, the adhesives MAY eat into the CD over time, may partially come off, and may jam slot-loading CD drives.
- The top of a CD is more vulnerable to scratches than the bottom.
- Hard cardboard mailers provide the best protection for a CD, but cost more to mail.

More tips area available at: <http://www.itl.nist.gov>.

More info: many "brands" are simply CDs bought from a variety of manufacturers, then "branded" with the name of the company you buy them from. The least expensive discs are most certainly this way. If you want to check your CDs to see if they are beginning to fail, try using the free CD-R Scanner utility, available at [www.SacraSoft.com](http://www.SacraSoft.com).

Charlotte

## Apple High Marks:

In its latest issue, Consumer Reports has once again looked at the computer industry and rated hardware companies on their products. Apple Computer Inc. topped the charts in a couple of categories, including repair history and tech support.

Consumer Reports notes that satisfaction with tech support in the desktop computer market is one of the lowest rated services they measure. Since 2001 consumer satisfaction has continued to dwindle, but the report singles out Apple as providing its customer with above average support.

"In this atmosphere of low expectations, Apple Computer has actually raised its support satisfaction for the desktop computers over the past three years to levels well above all competitors, while offering the most reliable desktop hardware," the report says.

With so many of the other companies falling in tech support satisfaction, Consumer Reports concludes, "companies aren't investing enough in their support operations."

In contrast, for Apple the organizations says, "Apple's superiority in all aspects of support, including waiting on the phone and Web support, suggests that it invests its support resources wisely."

Overall, Apple scored 76/100 in tech support with Dell and Gateway tied for second with 57/100 -- HP and Compaq pulled up the rear with scores of 52/100 and 47/100 respectively.

For repairs and serious problems reported by consumers, Apple again had the best score with just over 10 percent of respondents reporting serious issues. Gateway had the worst record with slightly over 20 percent. Sony, Dell, IBM, HP and Compaq fell in between.

The glut of viruses and spyware typically found on Windows PCs didn't pass by Consumer Reports unnoticed -- "Another factor working in Apple's favor," said the report.

By Peter Cohen MacCentral  
Technology - MacCentral

## Old Dogs New Tricks:

### THE COMMERCIAL COMPUTER

Do business on the computer? You better believe it! Buy products. Sell your stuff. Pay bills. Use credit cards.

I received notice from the DMV I could pay my annual vehicle registration over the Internet. Remember how we used to stand in line at the DMV office.

Then they let us mail our registration. No standing in line. Checks, stamps, and envelopes were the new thing. Now you can use your computer and credit card to pay the bill. Get used to it, computers are here to stay!

Lets follow the system. Banks do not like to process checks. In the banking system they have exchanged accounts (not actual cash) among themselves for years. Now this system is reaching into the public sector. Credit cards allow us to buy almost everything without writing checks, except for their monthly billing. Even this can be automatically withdrawn from your checking account.

Social Security is deposited into your personal checking account each month (no checks). Automatic withdrawals pay your monthly bills without using cash or checks.

Most banks allow you to view your accounts and do business over the computer. For example, you can transfer money from your saving account into your checking account. Or, when a CD matures, you can deposit the funds into

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## OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS CONTINUED:

your checking account. All of this can be done from your computer at home.

No trip to town, no standing in line, no car to drive (with expensive gas).

Some software companies allow you to send them, via computer, all of your monthly bills; they pay the bills, and withdraw the total from your checking account. No checks are exchanged.

Get used to it, computers are here to stay, cash may soon be a thing of the past.

By Allen Hall

## Don't Click Send:

If you've heard it once, you've heard it a hundred times. It's the story of an e-mail message that came back to bite its sender in the backside. Some people never learn.

Who hasn't hit "Reply to All" when they meant for only one person to read their witty retort? Who hasn't forwarded a chain letter, only to incur the wrath of people they hadn't seen in five years, but whose e-mail address they happened to have handy? And who hasn't sent an off-color joke and wondered, belatedly, "Gee, I wonder if Betty will be offended?"

They're all mistakes. And what some people may not realize is that sending the wrong e-mail to the wrong person can be more than monumentally embarrassing. It can cost you a job, or even a few months in jail. If you're composing an e-mail message that resembles any of the following disasters, just step away from the keyboard and go for a walk to clear your head.

1. "I hadn't [CENSORED] for years, but yours was [CENSORED] and very good for me too...." Thus began a sexually explicit e-mail

sent by Claire of London to her boyfriend Bradley at a prestigious law firm. Evidently the boyfriend forwarded it to six friends, who forwarded it to their friends, and so on, until millions around the world were intimately acquainted with Claire's sex life. A hoax? Maybe, although press reports said the boyfriend was actually disciplined by the law firm, which subsequently issued a new e-mail policy. The lesson? Save salacious details for your memoirs.

2. "YOUR URGENT ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED...." Scam spam, like this classic, should die in your inbox. It's a popular gimmick, in which a deposed leader or some other citizen of (usually) an African nation wants to give you millions of dollars. All you have to do is get in touch and, eventually, let the person know where to wire the funds. Don't expand the potential circle of victims by forwarding these messages to friends, no matter how blatant and silly they are.

3. "Check out these hot pix I found on [insert Web site here]." Dow Chemical, Hewlett-Packard, the New York Times, and hundreds if not thousands of other companies have fired employees for shuttling pornographic e-mail around the office. Take a cold shower instead.

4. "My boss is an @\$\$#!?! and you can tell him I said so." Odds are you won't have to tell him--there are a dozen ways he can see your message, from e-mail-scanning software to other employees accidentally (or deliberately) forwarding it to him. Better to do your complaining at the water cooler.

5. "Here are 25 reasons why beer is better than women...." This e-mail probably seemed a lot funnier to Chevron staffers before four female employees sued the company over it, charging sexual harassment. That joke cost Chevron \$2.2 million--roughly \$90,000 per reason.

6. "Attached please find your payroll information and home address...." It's always a bad idea to put sensitive information in e-mail. Enron employees found this out the hard way, when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (news - web sites)

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### DON'T CLICK SEND CONTINUED:

posted 1.6 million company e-mails online as part of its investigation into the company. Included along with the relevant business e-mails were employees' performance evaluations, salary packages, bank account and social security numbers, and discussions of romantic liaisons. FERC later removed some of the more personal messages from its database.

7. "We strongly suggest...you should catch up on file cleaning." Thus concluded an e-mail sent in December 2000 urging Credit Suisse First Boston employees to destroy evidence requested in an SEC investigation. As a result of that e-mail, investment banker Frank Quattrone has been sentenced to 18 months in prison for obstruction of justice. The moral here: Breaking the rules is bad. Sending e-mail detailing how you broke the rules is worse. But sending e-mail telling people to delete all evidence describing how they broke the rules could make you an involuntary guest of the federal government.

Daniel Tynan  
PC World

## Bulging Image Files:

Now that digital cameras have overtaken film cameras in sales, users are beginning to encounter a familiar problem -- what to do with the bulging image files and folders filling up computer hard drives?

Software such as Adobe Systems Inc.'s (Nasdaq:ADBE - news) Photoshop and Microsoft Corp.'s (Nasdaq:MSFT - news) Digital Image Suite, both for the Windows operating system, are being heavily promoted this year to tap into growing demand for an easier way to organize, edit and share digital images.

One promise of digital photos was that technology would make it easier to store and organize photographs, compared with the tedious task of filling bulky photo albums and storing fragile film negatives.

But more affordable storage memory and the pursuit of the perfect image have led to a mass of images that have become unwieldy, especially for those users who have been snapping digital pictures for several years.

After overtaking global film camera sales last year, digital cameras are expected to be found in a third of U.S. households in 2004, up from a fifth of households in 2001, according to Consumer Electronics Association Market Research.

San Jose, California-based Adobe, well-known for its Photoshop software geared toward professional photographers and publishers, said that most tech-savvy consumers are looking for "end-to-end" photo editing software that is feature-loaded yet simple to use.

"We've done a better job than anyone in hitting that correct balance," said Jim Mohan, senior product manager for Photoshop Elements.

This week, Adobe is unveiling the latest version of its photo editing software geared toward mid-tier users, Photoshop Elements 3, that will retail for \$100.

Last month, Microsoft unveiled its \$130 Digital Image Suite 10, which, according to the world's largest software maker, was overhauled to provide improved library features and one-step tools for correcting color and exposure imperfections in digital images.

In most retail outlets, the two software packages are going head-to-head. Jasc Inc.'s Paint Shop Pro 8 is another photo editing software tool for the Windows operating system, while Apple Computer Inc. (Nasdaq:AAPL - news) offers iPhoto for Macintosh (news - web sites) personal computer users.

### PICTURE PERFECT

Nearly 15.3 million digital cameras are expected to be shipped in 2004 with total sales topping \$4

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## BULGING IMAGE FILES:

billion, according to CEA Market Research.

"Many people are on to their second digital cameras and taking loads of pictures," said Michelle Richardson, Microsoft's product manager for Digital Image software.

"Organizing editing, creating, sharing and archiving, those are the basic needs that people need to fulfill."

Adobe and Microsoft say the most prominent changes to their digital photo software products has been the enhancement of library-type features to organize and store digital images.

Both offer tools to quickly display a large number of digital images and move them between folders as well as assign keywords and tags.

Indeed, the biggest change in Photoshop Elements 3 from the previous version is the

addition of enhanced organizing functions, said Adobe's Mohan.

The emphasis on photo editing, meanwhile, seems to be on providing one-step tools to correct common image flaws.

Users can automatically correct color and saturation, rather than having to manually adjust levels. They can also change exposure settings to lighten pictures taken without a flash or tone down pictures taken in too-bright light.

Another common photo editing feature is the ability to correct "red eyes" in photographs, where lighting conditions and the angle of the camera causes the subjects' eyes to appear in red.

"You don't need to be a computer expert to edit pictures," said Microsoft's Richardson.

One unique tool in the new Photoshop Elements is a "compare function" that makes it easier to choose the best shot among multiple images of the same subject. Users can select a range of photos and scroll through them, choosing the top pick as they go along. They can also zoom into the same areas of two pictures displayed at the same time.

Microsoft, on the other hand, is touting its "panoramic stitching" tool, which allows users to merge multiple photos of a landscape or wide area into a single, seamless image.

Microsoft, seeing an opportunity in the growth of cell phones equipped with cameras, which CEA Market Research expects will overtake digital cameras by volume, also has a quick-fix feature to correct color and exposure problems commonly seen with camera phone images.

By Reed Stevenson  
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## TIDBITS FROM BILL:

### Historical Tidbits

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs," therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg."

\*\*\*\*\*

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October)! Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term "big wig." Today we often use the term "here comes the Big Wig" because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

\*\*\*\*\*

In the late 1700s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The "head of the household" always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the "chair man." Today in business, we use the expression or title "Chairman" or "Chairman of the Board."

\*\*\*\*\*

Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's

wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, "Mind your own bee's wax." Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term "crack a smile?" In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . therefore, the expression "losing face."

\*\*\*\*\*

Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman. As in "straight laced" . . . wore a tightly tied lace.

\*\*\*\*\*

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

\*\*\*\*\*

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

\*\*\*\*\*

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "minding your 'P's and Q's."

\*\*\*\*\*

One more: bet you didn't know this!

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round ironcannon balls. It was

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## Policies

This newsletter is published monthly for the Redding Macintosh Users' Group and is distributed to all club members.

No other individual, group or business may use any portion of this newsletter without prior written permission.

RMUG News welcomes articles and questions relating to Macintosh or Macintosh compatible computers. Articles may be hand written, typed, or submitted on a 3.5" floppy disk (using any popular word processing program).

Submissions must be accompanied by the author's full name, address and telephone number. The submissions become the property of RMUG unless otherwise specified.

If you have a change of address or other questions, please notify the newsletter editor or other RMUG officer as soon as possible.

Deadline for submissions is the last Saturday of each month. E-mail or deliver all material to:

Ken Lorenz

E- mail submissions to:  
*krlore@cwnet.com*

OR

*rmug@rmug.org*

(stuff files if possible)

## Ad Rates

RMUG members are invited to place "Wanted For Sale" & "Trade" ads in the newsletter at no charge. Business cards or commercial accounts are welcome at the rates listed above. One of the best reasons for belonging to a user's group is to let other people know about your activities, as well as learning what other people are doing with their computers and software. Please give your business cards or ads to the newsletter editor.

<p><b>AD Rates</b></p> <p><b>\$4 – business card</b></p> <p><b>\$6 – quarter page</b></p> <p><b>\$9 – half page</b></p> <p><b>\$15 – full page</b></p>
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Advertisements in the RMUG newsletter will not influence reviews or critiques of hardware, software companies or stories.

RMUG does not endorse any specific dealer or product, but we do encourage the distribution of information which may assist club members in identifying best buys and services.

## Editorial

First of all I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

Secondly, keep in mind that the general meeting this month is going to be on the third Saturday so we can all hear from those who have attended MacWorld in San Francisco.

I would imagine that many of our members have received computer related and or digital gifts this year. I hope that we can have many show and tell sessions from those who received the latest and greatest gizmos. Just mention at the meeting that you would like to share with the group.

Ken



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## **BILL'S TIDBITS CONTINUED:**

necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metalplate called a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations.

However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

submitted by  
Bill

I do not know how accurate this information is or where Bill got it, but it is entertaining.

Editor