



Rmug News

March 2007

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
March 10, 2007 9-11:30 a.m.

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

Yaks Koffee Shop
3274 Bechelli Lane
Redding, CA

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

Topics this month will include a
demonstration of Second Life, personal
creativity comments, wisdom and issues
as well as the usual Q&A. Be sure and
bring those questions..

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Rmug Officers

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

President's Letter

Regrettably, I will probably bore most RMUG members with this month's article as I try and explain what has kept me busy for the last 6 to 8 weeks. I have been upgrading Apache, and programming a new web-store using ".php" for the main language with a smattering of HTML for ascetics and MySQL for database storage. I have been using ".php" (a cross-platform programming language for web applications) to build a new E-Commerce server that was developed in conjunction with "The Fly Shop" on Churn Creek Road. "The Fly Shop" is the largest user of the bandwidth at JET Technologies L.L.C. and I believe they may be the busiest e-commerce site connected to a local brick and mortar store in the north state.

From Wikipedia, the definition of "php" is: PHP: (Hypertext Preprocessor) a reflective programming language originally designed for producing dynamic Web pages. PHP is used mainly in server-side scripting, but can be used from a command line interface or in standalone graphical applications. The sole implementation is produced by The PHP Group <http://php.net/> and released under the PHP License. It is considered to be free software by the Free Software Foundation.

From Wikipedia, the definition of MySQL is a multithreaded, multi-user SQL database management system that has, according to MySQL AB, more than 10 million installations. MySQL is owned and sponsored by a single for-profit firm, the Swedish company MySQL AB, which holds the copyright to most of the code base. <http://mysql.com/>

The Macintosh powered web store can be seen at <http://store.theflyshop.com/> and I encourage everyone to give it a look. If anybody is looking for fly fishing supplies I encourage you to try "The Fly Shop", as they are bigger than Wal Mart when it comes to fly fishing equipment. We locals can even place a web order and avoid shipping charges by choosing "Local Pick-up" when choosing "Delivery Information" at check out time. The store is not 100% finished, but it is fully functional and taking orders. Terry at

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 – contact any club officer for meeting location. 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, Dale Josephson at 242-1800 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.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED:

“The Fly Shop” and I will work on making the web-store pretty as time permits. If you have suggestions for improvement please feel free to forward your ideas.

For the geeks in our group here is the skinny on the new server: The processor is a 2 GHz Intel Duo, Server OS: Darwin 8.8.1, Database: MySQL 5.0.24, HTTP Server: Apache 2.2.2 (iTools 8.2.2 <http://www.tenon.com/>)/Mac OS-X 10.4.8) mod_ssl/2.2.2 OpenSSL/0.9.7, fast cgi 2.4.2 and PHP 5.1.5 with Zend 2.1.0.

dalej

Secretary's Notes:

MINUTES - RMUG MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 2007

The February meeting was held at YAKS Koffee Shop. Thirty members and guests attended.

New members were: John Przypek and Marti Weidert. Guests were Rose Hatchett, Laurie Masterson, Gari Merrifield, Mike Johnson, and Diana. Sorry Diana, I did not get your last name. Welcome to everyone!

Jim Pace led the beginner's class, and Michael and Dale fielded questions from the intermediate group.

Question regarding Disk Warrior. Use it from the CD – do not install it. Use Version 3.0.3 with Tiger and 3.0.4 with the Intel Macs. Michael demoed how to make a back-up copy of Disk Warrior using Toast. Toast 8 (\$79) is the newest, but Toast 6 (\$29) will still work.

Toast 8 has a conflict with iTunes. See Dale or Michael if you want more information. Appleworks is being phased out and replaced by Pages. Dale does have an updater for OS 8 & 9. See Dale.

WORTH REPEATING:

Are you getting your questions answered at RMUG meetings? Raise your hand and ask your question – and ask again until you are satisfied. Chances are more than one person can benefit from the answer to your question.

OR Send an email to RMUG@RMUG.org with your question. Michael monitors this website.

OR Michael holds classes at Anderson Senior Citizens Center in Anderson on Mondays, 1–3 p.m. While Michael is in the hospital and/or recuperating from his surgery, Dale will hold the Monday class in Anderson.

AND be sure to check the new Forum. Get a password from Dale. The address is : http://www.forum.rmug.org/simpleforum_pro.cgi. OR There is a link to it on the RMUG website, <http://rmug.org>. then click on the “Help” link at the top right.

Ron Brink demoed ArtRage 2 (\$19.95 from artrage.com):

First Ron demonstrated a Graphics Tablet, ‘Wacom’ brand, that he has used for years to practice his drawings. He draws on the screen with either a cordless mouse or a pressure sensitive pen.

ArtRage is an amazingly creative art program. I felt immediately comfortable viewing it as it's design resembles Photoshop. But with ArtRage, one is creating art, not just tweaking photos. There are menus that expand showing many kinds of tools (brushes, pens, chalks), paints and colors, layers, controls, tutorials, support, and a marvelous forum where Ron has found other members to be most helpful. You can save your work and export it as Photoshop, JPEG or BitMat files. Kagi guarantees security of your work. Thank you very much, Ron, for a very interesting demonstration.

(Michael has several discount codes that Ambient Design sent to RMUG for Artrage 2.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

Please contact Michael if you are interested in one.)

Discover Your Mac movie:

Charlotte Ruskowitz worked on this demo. There is so much in "Discover Your Mac" that she ended up asking Michael to show a small movie he has on how to use the many facets of Spotlight. This can be viewed at <http://www.discoveryourmac.com>. Thank you Charlotte and Michael.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 10, 2007, at Yaks Koffee Shop. Michael will demo Decorator, another Akvis plug-in. Marcus Harner will demo Second Life. The Board Meeting will immediately follow the general meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

.php Files:

When I started working with ".php" programming files I was frustrated because my Searchlight search would not find the contents of ".php" files. One day I renamed one of my ".php" programming files with ".txt" extension and did another search. Low and behold the contents of my ".txt" file was right there? Now I knew that for some reason Spotlight was not searching through these program files that are no more than simple text files with an extension of ".php". I did what any inquisitive mind should do. I searched Google with my question and found the following website:

http://guides.macrumors.com/Adding_filetypes_to_Spotlight#Index_PHP_files

The contents of the website gives very good instructions on how to enhance Spotlight.

Before anyone considers following these instructions though, let me warn you this is for the professional and those that have a recently backed up HD. The instructions are going to have you install the developer tools that can be found on the Tiger DVD that came with your computer or upgrade. I will stop here as I really don't want everybody doing what I did, I just want to present a problem and solution I came across thanks to Google.

dalej

Appleworks Tips:

Don't you hate it when dates wrap, like "January 1, 1999". Here's a tip from AppleWorks wiz, Cindy O'Hora to help keep your dates together.

Cindy O'Hora is an elementary school volunteer with a degree in nursing, a gift for inspiring children, and a trove of tips on nifty things you can do with AppleWorks. A longtime Mac user who has learned just about every trick in the book, Ms. O'Hora dispenses her nuggets of hard-earned wisdom with warmth and humor.

Sticky Dates

When you type a date, you want the month and numeral to stay together like this January 1, 1996. But what if your sentence lets the word January fit on the first line, but sends the numerals to the next? YUCH!

Of course, you clever thing you say, "I'll just go before the January and hit return". True, for the moment this works. The only problem is that if you resize the font or change your formatting the whole thing becomes a mess.

What's a word processing person to do?

In AppleWorks, use the Sticky Space feature!

Get in the habit of holding down the option key when you type a space in dates. This will put the space there but link the words and numerals. So

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APPLEWORKS TIPS CONTINUED:

as you reformat, the date will stay linked. You might also choose to do this with proper names.

I've been ClarisWorking since the Dark Ages. I just learned this trick and had to pass it on to you. Go try this! I played with it for a couple minutes and now I'm a reformed user.

If you use invisibles in your editing you will not see a special symbol for sticky spaces. You'll just get a regular space symbol.

Quickly print one copy of your document without going through the Print dialog.

Bypass the print dialog completely and print one copy of your document by holding down the option key while selecting the File menu. This will reveal a new menu item, Print One Copy.

Quickly select large blocks of text or cells quickly without dragging the mouse.

There's a little-known shortcut in AppleWorks to select large selections in the spreadsheet and the word processor. To quickly select a range of text without dragging the mouse:
1 click where you want the selection to start;
2 scroll to the end of the selection; then,
3 click on the end point while holding down the shift key.

Be careful not to click anywhere else in the document while you're scrolling—if you do, you'll have to go back and reset the selection beginning point.

Move text or spreadsheet cells faster than using drag and drop!

Here's an easy way to quickly move a selection, instead of using drag and drop. If you select a block of text, then scroll to its new home and hold down the command-

option keys while clicking once, the selection will move to the click location.

Three easy ways to show invisible characters.

To see invisible characters such as spaces, tabs and new paragraphs click on the button in the button bar to turn invisibles on and off. If you would like to turn invisibles on permanently, set invisibles to "on" in the preferences dialog. Or, turn invisibles on and off using a key command: while holding down the command key, hit the semi-colon key.

Switch between WYSIWYG and standard font menu display on the fly.

WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) font menus are great—except when you're trying to find that elusive ornament font. (If the font menu is WYSIWYG, your ornament fonts end up looking like snowflakes or arrows.) To get around this, hold down the option key while selecting the Font menu. Your font menu appears in the system font and you can select that pesky ornament font with ease.

*More Appleworks tips & tricks can be found at <http://www.apple.com/appleworks/tips/>

Submitted by Barbara

Second Life:

Second Life (SL) is a 3-D virtual world entirely built and owned by its residents. People that have avatars (accounts) are referred to as residents within SL. Residents are free to own virtual land, create virtual objects, engage in commerce, and of course have chat with the millions of other residents. SL may be categorized in the Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game (MMORPG) genre of software, but this would be misleading because most MMORPGs have goals or tasks to be completed in order to advance in the game. In SL there are no set goals, no missions to accomplish and no predetermined mechanism for advancement. SL is more of an open canvas or mechanism to build you own goals

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Belated Thank you:

I would like to N/L a thank you to RMUG and the Skeets family.

In the December RMUG meeting, the usual question was ask, "Who has a question we might answer?"

My question was not the usual question related to some function of the computer or software but I thought I would give it a try anyway.

"Who has a functioning laptop to give away? It only needs to do word processing" I went ahead to explain. We have a lady in our area who is legally blind. She is very talented with singing and poetry but her handicap limits her reading. A song book is impossible for her to read. She can type and read words with a page about 4 inches from her face.

I gave her a test with my laptop and she can read with the lighted background and bold print. "Oh, that is wonderful," she said.

The Skeets family had one available. I cleaned it up and gave it a test. Dale did some additional testing on it. Now our friend has a laptop that will hold the words to all the songs she could ever use. She has poetry and a place to store it. She said, "I have always wanted to write a book and now I can do it."

She has been carrying a large binder with words to songs in bold print. The laptop is not as large as the binder she had to use.

It will take time for her to learn some computer functions and never again will she be able to live without a computer. She will be spoiled for life like the rest of us Mac fans.

Is there anyone who does not believe in Santa Claus?

Allen Hall

This should have appeared in the February issue.
Editor

Old Dogs / New Tricks:

WIRELESS

It came sneaking up on me. No one told me it was coming. It just sort of appeared. No, it was not scary. I kind of liked it. I was called wireless.

Oh, you have seen it around. It started opening out garage doors, and then it started changing the channels of our TV. Next we had wireless phones so we could walk around the room and talk without being tethered to a phone wire. We were accustomed to radios working without wires, and we expected police and firemen to have their radios to work without wires. Truck drivers had to have CB radios so they could "10-4" their buddies. All without wires.

But wireless is taking over the world. Now people are locking and unlocking their cars with a button in their pocket, and the car will turn on its lights so you can find it in a dark parking lot. Some cars can show you a map of where you are and give you directions to where you are going.

The computer world is not to be left out. Information put on your desktop computer needs to be added to your laptop computer. Now you can synchronize the two computers with or without wires. Printers can receive information from your computer and print out your letter without wires between them. Two or more computers can communicate with each other in your house without wires connecting them. Some software permit you to type on your computer with your voice not your fingers.

Cell phones have become the new fad. They are storing more and more information and are now synchronizing with computers.

What is next? Expect to go to a grocery store and wireless information on your cell phone or palm will show you where items are stored: pickles are on isle 6, left side, half way down the isle. The mall will have wireless information showing on your cell phone where the restrooms are or which store has men's shorts.

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OLD DOGS CONTINUED:

Voice recognition and wireless are developing technologies. Expect to be controlling appliances around your home with your voice and no wires. Imagine coming home after work, and as you walk up to the door, you say, "Door unlock, door open, living room lights on, heater on 72 degrees, oven on 350 degrees, bedroom lights on, and on and on.

Come to think of it, maybe wireless is a little scary.

Alan Hall

SECOND LIFE CONTINUED:

and games if you wish. Because the online content of SL is user created, e.g. user created cities, landscapes, activities, social groups, etc., there is most likely a place or group of residents that share your likes and interests.

Marcus



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Goblins at Center:

For Christmas I got a new MacBook, with the intel processor. I had set up a wireless internet service at home and had gotten a wireless mighty mouse. As I am not that computer savvy I was looking forward to Michael's classes at the Frontier Senior Center, and the help that he would be able to give me.

I was excited I was now going to be able to set my computer up, so I took it to the class; little did I know that there were intel goblins waiting to get me.....

I got there and turned on the computer, and tried to get on line, too. I had a few choices as to which networks were open. I tried one and it was too weak so I tried another, but all that happened was that the little ball went on and on. I tried to close it down, but couldn't. I tried to quit, but couldn't. I tried everything that Michael suggested. Finally, I just had to hit the power button. I tried again and had the same results. When I got home everything was fine.

The next time I brought in my mighty mouse the goblins really got me. I had both the blue tooth turned on and the air port turned on. I could not get the computer to work at all!!! I was ready to call Apple I was so concerned.

Yet when I got home everything worked fine. What we finally figured out is that if you go someplace and there are too many wireless signals coming in, the computer has a problem. So what I do now is if I am going to take the computer anywhere I first turn off the air port and my bluetooth and I have not had any problems at all.

I do not know if anybody else has had this same situation, and I do not know if there is a way to beat the goblins and still use my mouse. Any ideas would be appreciated.

Mary

iTunes Challenge:

A new online music company said ...that it would make a huge catalog of songs from the world's largest record company, the Universal Music Group, available for consumers to download free.

The company, called SpiralFrog, said its intention was to wean music fans, especially young people, away from illegal downloads and pirate music sites by offering a legitimate source, supported by advertising instead of download fees.

SpiralFrog is the latest to offer a challenge to Apple Computer's hugely successful iTunes service, which allows consumers to download songs legally for 99 cents each, and its many smaller imitators. Though the venture is not the first to try a free ad-supported approach, the backing of Universal, with millions of songs in its catalog from thousands of artists like Eminem and Gwen Stefani, Elton John and Gloria Estefan, Count Basie and Hank Williams, promises to give it instant credibility and scale.

SpiralFrog, which is privately held and headed by Robin Kent, a former advertising executive, said it expected to start testing its service in the United States and Canada by the end of the year and would extend its service to Britain and other European markets next year.

The announcement reflects the music industry's eagerness to experiment with various digital business models and to find a way to overcome piracy and illegal copying, which remain a big problem despite the record companies' efforts to enforce their copyrights in court.

While the industry has tried to encourage the growth of legitimate alternatives like iTunes, some record executives have begun to chafe at Apple's dominance in the online market, particularly its insistence on a "one size fits

all" pricing model, saying it has restricted the growth of digital sales.

For consumers, SpiralFrog's free downloads will come with many more strings attached than Apple's paid ones. Users of SpiralFrog will have to sit through advertisements and will be prevented by special software from making copies of the songs they download or from sharing them with other people.

They will have to revisit the SpiralFrog Web site regularly to keep access to the music they download. And the songs will be encoded in the Microsoft WMA format, meaning they will probably not work on Apple iPod portable music players.

The venture is not the first legitimate one to make music available free. Napster, a former peer-to-peer file-sharing scourge of the record companies, introduced an advertising-supported service this year that lets users listen to a few songs without paying fees. But Napster's free service streams its music to users, rather than allowing them to download and store the files, as iTunes does.

Kazaa, another digital file-sharing network, agreed last month to settle copyright-infringement lawsuits with the music and movie industries. It is also expected to start a free-with-advertising service when it reintroduces itself as a licensed, legitimate distribution business.

SpiralFrog beat Kazaa to the punch with its own announcement, which was reported yesterday by The Financial Times.

"Offering young consumers an easy-to-use alternative to pirated music sites will be compelling," Mr. Kent of SpiralFrog said in a statement. "SpiralFrog will offer those consumers a better experience and environment than they can get from any pirate site."

Mr. Kent is a former chief executive of Universal McCann, a media-buying unit of the Interpublic Group that is not connected to Universal Music.

Neville Hobson, a spokesman for SpiralFrog, said

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 should be pasted into the body of an eMail, or links to articles submitted. It is important that full credit be given to the author.

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>AD Rates</p> <p>\$4-business card</p> <p>\$6-quarter page</p> <p>\$9-half page</p> <p>\$15-full page</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

There should be something in this issue for everyone.

Thank you to those who submitted articles, we all benefit from the effort.

Ken



Jett's March 07 Mac Classes:

Tuesday, the 6th, 13th and 20th - from
2 - 3:30PM - Basic OSX

Thursday the 8th, 15th and 22nd - from
10 - 11:30AM - iLife series

If you have questions or want to schedule a class on a specific topic, please call the office at 242-1800.

Kate

ITUNES CHALLENGE CONTINUED:

the company hoped to pursue licensing deals with the other major record companies — Sony BMG, EMI and Warner Music — to augment its deal with Universal Music, a unit of Vivendi.

SpiralFrog, which is based in New York, did not disclose the terms of its licensing agreement with Universal Music or how it would compensate the company for use of its copyrighted songs. Universal's many record labels control about a quarter of the worldwide market for recorded music.

Given the fragmentation of the digital music business — the hundreds of would-be challengers to iTunes mainly have minuscule shares of the market — analysts said that new services like SpiralFrog would face difficult challenges, despite the lure of free music.

"Few service providers are currently in a position to provide the large audiences that advertisers require, and few pure music providers have the heritage of building a business funded by advertising," said Michele Mackenzie, principal analyst at Ovum, a telecommunications and Internet consulting firm.

The music industry must also manage its relationship with Apple carefully, analysts said...