



Rmug News

May 2008

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
May 10, 2008 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 photo and movie editing with Printshop and Popcorn; personal creativity comments, wisdom and issues as well as the usual Q&A. Be sure and bring those questions..

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- Dale Josephson- President*
- Jim Pace - Vice President*
- Charlotte Ruskowitz - Treasurer*
- Jacque Martin - Secretary*
- Louise Zegers - Librarian*
- Ken Lorenz - Editor*
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- Joe Zegers*
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President's Letter

Macintosh mania is striking the North State as we now have JET Tech & Best Buy as authorized Apple retailers. For the most part we can buy Apple computers & peripherals right here in River City. I have not checked with JETT, but when I was in Best Buy they told me they handle the whole line of computers with two exceptions (Mac Pro & Mac mini). Apple is also holding back on a number of peripherals such as the Apple Modem? Best Buy did have a USB modem, it just was not an Apple modem, so I had to go elsewhere for a real Apple modem.

Speaking of real Apple products, I recently acquired a 16GB iPhone with optional Bluetooth headset. It is by far and away the best cell-phone, iPod, mobile email, mapping, youtube device I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Aside from the cost being equivalent to a small Mac mini, there are no downsides I have found as of yet anyway. The "where am I" feature on the maps is limited here in N. California as we have so few cell towers (the guesstimate is off by as much as 2 or 3 miles). From my driveway west of town the iPhone says I am standing on 273 south of Buena Ventura by a mile or so. The cell service is no better than it was with my old AT&T phone. The iPhone will be 1/2 of the product demo for May while the other 1/2 will be on Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean online game. It has been 10 years since a game grabbed me as Pirates of the Caribbean has. Dolores originally started playing Pirates of the Caribbean as an assignment from one of her clients who wanted an evaluation of whether it was an acceptable game for her client's grandchildren? After I lost Dolores to the game for two months I felt I should see what the excitement was all about? On Sunday the 13th of April I went online & joined the game for 6 months (\$50) and on the first day I made it through 5 levels of the game. Then over the course of the next 14 days I have moved up 13 levels. If you can devote 2 to 4 hours a day to the game it is not all that difficult to daily move up one level through about level 14 or 15. Pirates of the Caribbean is a social networking game so there are dangers if your kids are not taught to keep private things like age, location, etc private. The other night a 15 year old boy was trying to meet up with a lady who told him she was old enough to be his mother and she further scolded him to not list age & location! This is a Disney game

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:

so there are monitors on the system and in fact we have seen players banned for a few days for using acronyms of swear words. While we are all playing the part of an old salt there is no salty language allowed. Here is the website if anyone wants to take a look: <http://apps.pirates.go.com/pirates/v3/#/news/currentnews.html> . System requirements are OS 10.4.6 or newer, G4 or newer and a broadband connection. This game does use more of the system than anything else I have done in recent years. It is such a CPU hog we are getting Dolores a new iMac as soon as the 20" iMac gets updated (rumors say very soon). Our good friends Don & Lil loaned us a dual 2GHz G5 with 2.5GB RAM and a new Samsung 21.6" monitor. My two year old 2GHz MacBook with "my" new Samsung 21.6" monitor is noticeably smoother and faster.

If anyone does decide to join in the fun and they want a buddy who has much more power to help them in their quests please feel free to contact me. I will try and accommodate you with my avatar "Eureka Jack". Dolores has 3 characters all on different levels, and the one I join in quests is "Pirate Joy". As I write this article I am at level 18 and Dolores is at level 27, so we will see what level we are playing in two weeks at the RMUG meeting?

By the way, this game lets you design your own avatars with tools from Disney so most of us have different appearances. Mine is so different I thought Dolores was going to wet her pants when she saw my "little" Eureka Jack avatar, as she laughed so hard she was bumping into walls. Hey what can I say? I wanted to be a rough & tumble little guy - not my real world big softy.

dalej Michael, the club's Ambassador, was able to get a free demo copy of Popcorn. Popcorn shrinks DVDs. Lori Hallum won the demo copy which was raffled. Lori will demo it at the May meeting. E-mail Michael at rmug@rmug.org for group pricing.

Secretary's Notes:

The April meeting was held at YAKS Koffee Shop. Approximately 25 members and guests attended. New members are Louise Sherrod, Merrill Pitts, Paul Bunch and Val Marhefka. Welcome! Dale led the beginner's class. Michael fielded questions from the intermediate group.

There was an Intermediate discussion regarding virus software for Macs running Windows. Repeated from last month - - if you are using Windows on your Mac, be sure to use an antivirus software. AGV, free from GRISOFT.COM is a good one. Also discussed was how to partition your hard drive for Windows programs; i.e, Bootcamp automatically partitions your hard drive; there are VMware emulators; etc. In answer to a question on where to buy RAM, the suggestion was to check several supply sources before buying RAM, but to always buy quality.

Byron is having trouble getting one of his office hard drives fixed. Apple in Sacramento cannot seem to fix it. Suggestion was that he try the Apple authorized repair dealer in Eureka with whom others have had very good luck.

Dale reported that, in addition to Best Buy, Jett is now an Apple authorized dealer in Redding.

There are a few T-shirts left for sale.

Ken reminded us that he will not be our Newsletter Editor after December 2008. He has met with great difficulty finding internet connections out in the desert and elsewhere on their travels. So, the club is looking for a volunteer to step forward now to learn from Ken the software he uses to produce the newsletter.

Reminder: Macintosh classes are available

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SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

weekly at Anderson Senior Center. Beginner's class on Monday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Michael Peters. Advanced class on Friday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Dale Josephson.

Presentation: Jack Parker demoed his Flight Simulator game program, X-Plane 9. Jack got the plane out of the hanger and treated us to a flight from the Redding Airport up to and around Lake Shasta, then down for a look at Red Bluff, and then landed us again smoothly back at the Redding Airport. Jack told us that pilots can use this simulator game for some of the hours they need to log for instrument landings to renew their pilot licenses. It was a very smooth flight. There was so much interest in the simulator game that the club is getting a copy to raffle in the very near future. Thank you very much, Jack.

Next Meeting: May 10, 2008, at YAKS. Lori Hallum will demo Popcorn and Dolores and Dale will demo Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean online game. Dale may also demo his new iPhone...
Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Ode To Spellcheck:

Eye halve a spelling chequer; it
came with my pea sea.

It plainly marques, four my revue,
miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word
and weight for it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar
write -- it shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid, it
nose bee fore two long.

And eye can put the error rite -- its
rarely ever wrong.

Louise

Blogger- Bashers:

This writeup of the MacBook Air might seem kind of peculiar, considering that my official review appeared in The Times back in January. But I've got to get something off my chest.

I get tons and tons of e-mail feedback — hundreds of messages a week. Most of it's instructive, constructive, interesting, funny, friendly.

But every now and then, a couple of messages come in that really irk me. These messages tell me how wrong I am about something I reviewed, which is fine — but they come from people who have *never even tried the product.*

It was that way with the iPhone, in the time after it was announced but before it was available. "This will be the biggest flop since the Cube," went the critics. "No removable battery? Nobody will touch this thing." Etc.

The blogs were full of this stuff.

As it turns out, they were massively, humiliatingly wrong. Four million iPhones were sold in the first 200 days. Its sales surpassed Treos, Windows Mobile phones — everybody but BlackBerry.

So what's the lesson here? Simple enough: those vocal pre-release blogger-bashers are terrible predictors of a product's success or failure.

All of this brings us to the MacBook Air. When it came to public pre-opinion, I knew I had another iPhone on my hands. Here it was, another Apple product with a stunning and sexy design, gorgeous software — and several missing standard features. (In the Air's case, those features included a removable battery, an Ethernet jack, a FireWire jack and a built-in DVD drive.)

So confident was I that the spec-peepers would dump on this machine, I actually tried to pre-empt them in my review. I tried to explain that

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BLOGGER-BASHERS CONTINUED:

looks, size, shape, fit and finish actually matter, actually affect the pleasure you get from a machine. "But for anyone who shares Apple's admiration for elegance," I wrote, "the tradeoff is worth it. This laptop's cool aluminum skin and smooth edges make it ridiculously satisfying to hold, carry, open and close. You can't take your eyes or your hands off it."

Needless to say, my tactic didn't work. The feature counters blew right past my attempts to describe the differentness of this machine and dumped on it. "This will be the biggest flop since the Cube! No removable battery? Nobody will touch this thing!" Etc.

I have no idea what the Air's sales are like, so I can't yet say that the blogger-bashers were wrong again. I do know, however, that the Air has precisely the same effect on people (who actually *see it*) as the iPhone did: they're awestruck. They want to hold it, to touch it. "It's a chick magnet," said one guy on a plane. Well, yeah, except that actually, both genders usually want a gander.

What is it about this thing? Newsweek tech columnist Steven Levy wrote about how his Air disappeared when (he believes) it was hidden in some newspapers that his wife threw down the compactor chute. TV host Charlie Rose showed up on the air with a massive black eye, having tripped on a pothole while carrying his Air and, as he fell, opting to save it instead of his face.

I had a weird experience, too. After having used Apple's loaner review unit for a couple of weeks, I reached over to pick up my existing Mac laptop, the five-pound MacBook. After the Air, it felt like a piece of Soviet Army field equipment. When I tried to pick it up one-handed, I thought I'd break my wrist.

So that's it: I bought an Air for myself.

When I was getting it loaded with my programs and files, I deeply mourned the lack of high-speed file-transfer options like FireWire. A couple of times, I was seriously grateful for the optional Ethernet USB dongle — in hotels with wired Internet but no wireless, for example. And I'll repeat my advice from the original review: this machine doesn't make a great primary computer, thanks to its smallish hard drive.

Otherwise, though, I've lived and flown with this machine for a month, presented nine talks on it, and have not missed its missing features one iota. It's plenty fast and capacious as a second machine.

Meanwhile, when your laptop has the thickness and feel of a legal pad and starts up with the speed of a PalmPilot, it ceases to be a traditional laptop. It becomes something you whip open and shut for quick lookups, something you check while you're standing in line or at the airline counter, something you can use in places where hauling open a regular laptop (and waiting for it) would just be too much hassle.

It's the same lesson I learned when I reviewed the Flip "camcorder" a couple weeks ago: if you change the shape and concept of something enough, it ceases to be that thing. It becomes a new thing, or a descendant of that earlier thing. But it's no longer the original thing, and you can't judge it on the same yardstick.

David Pogue - NYT

Bejeweled:

I got Bejeweled 2 version 1.0.0 by PopCap games, Inc., about a year ago through the RMUG raffle program. I play it in Classic mode as the action is not easy because of my hand - eye coordination. There are seven different gems in the game. Puzzle is challenging but the same all the time. Endless never ends.

The game is played by lining up identical gems horizontally or vertically three in a row and they go

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BEJWELED CONTINUED:

away and the ones above fall to replace them with new ones filling in from the top. If you line up four, one of them becomes a power gem. When the power gem is included in a line it explodes and wipes out the eight gems next to it. If you get five gems in a row you get a Hyper Cube. Any gem you move to a Hyper Cube removes all of those like it from the grid that is eight by eight.

In Classic and Puzzle mode, if you get a high enough score, the classic has a similar savable game called Twilight. It is played the same as Classic except in every other move the gems are replaced from the bottom not the top, and the puzzle mode gives you Cognito which is more challenging.

I have not gotten a score high enough to get the Endless or Action to give me choices.

After getting a score of about 1,700,000 in Classic I thought I would quit playing, but in mid December my grandson, age 7, came to stay with us while they remodeled their home. I started a game to show him how to play, but could not get to the "no more moves" end of the game until three months later with a score of 40,435,291.

This is possible because the game lets you have several players who can log in under their names. When you log out or quit, the game is saved then when you return you have the choice of continuing where you left off.

Some time during play I found the possibility of getting SIX gems in a row. I do not know if the game supports, and rewards that or not?

Jim Pace

Good & Bad:

Samsung SyncMaster 216BW monitor review. About one month ago my venerable 19" Samsung 931B decided to give up the ghost and a friend had just loaned me a Samsung 216BW for a different computer. It had great color, field of depth and zero dead pixels. I thought why do extra homework when it appears a quality 21" monitor can be had at Costco for \$259.00. The monitor came with a DVI cable as well as a power cable and this monitor has both DVI & VGA connections. I give it a two thumbs up rating!

I recently purchased a program that I had successfully used years before and the new version has me baffled to the point I may never crack it open again. QuickKeys version 3.2.1 does not seem to be able to record repetitive keystrokes and repeat them more than 3 or 4 times before it croaks on one of it's internal checks? What I wanted to do was have a list of names in an Excel spreadsheet and email from Thunderbird. I have a client who owns a clothing store and they want to send individual emails to all of their clients. It seemed like an easy task to take a name from Excel and open a Thunderbird email template and paste a name in, hit the send button and then return to Excel and delete the name? Three days of battling and I have concluded QuickKeys is not used for repetitive tasks anymore? What a shame as the old OS-9 version was a godsend? Many moons ago I used an Excel spreadsheet to add hundreds of users to a Macintosh email & web server without one single glitch. If anyone wants a less than one month old copy of QuickKeys give me a call and I will sell or trade you for it at a very reasonable price.

dale j



For Sale:

PDF Help:

Brand new RMUG shirt that didn't shrink.
Size: Large (fits like and XLarge), yellow,
with long sleeves. It's freshly washed and
ironed. Paid \$22.50, will sell for \$18 OBO.
[barbara @bbenefie@clearwire.net](mailto:barbara@bbenefie@clearwire.net) or
527-4731

Nikon CoolPix 990 3.34 Mega Pixels,
Soft Case, With Memory card storage,
Camera Strap, Nikon EH-31 AC Adapter,
8 Rechargeable AA Batteries, Charger,
Nikon TC-E3 Tele lens, Nikon Filter Kit,
2 memory cards, USB cable, AV cable,
Nikon ES-E28 Film/Slide Copying adapter.
I spent thousands YOU can have it all for
\$500.00!

I can bring it to the next RMUG meeting and
a sample picture if you wish to see the quality
this camera produces.

Call or E-Mail Michael Peters 530 347-6599
or emjay_pete@yahoo.com

A couple days ago, I downloaded an upgrade after
a message appeared on my computer. Now I
remember hearing, "If is isn't broke, don't fix it."
Well, I thought I broke something, and was just
about ready to start making "HELP" phone calls to
AppleCare, Dale, Michael, or anyone else I could
think of, when I finally found the answer to my
problem. What happened after downloading
Adobe Reader 8.0, was that my Epson printer
wouldn't print some PDF files from the internet. It
would start to activate, then it would stop. When I
tried to print, my print window no longer looked the
same. After doing a lot of searching and not
finding anything that would help, I finally clicked on
Printing Tips in the window below. Boy, do I feel
stupid. It's the most obvious place to find the
answers. Put it in front of me, and I'll miss it every
time! Hopefully, my near-disaster will help
someone else.

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Print as image

At times, you may encounter problems when
printing a PDF file. For example, a PDF file can
contain damaged content such as images or fonts
that cannot be rendered by Acrobat during the
printing process. Choosing Print As Image
bypasses that rendering operation by sending the
printer a rasterized image of the document.

To print as image:

1. Open the PDF file in Acrobat READER.
2. Choose File > Print.
3. Click Advanced.
4. Select Print As Image.
5. Click OK, and then click OK again to print.

Barbara

"We Speak Mac"

JETT.NET

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530-242-1800

Internet Service Provider
Web Hosting - Website Design & Maintenance
Database Development - Hardware Upgrades
Software Installation & Updates
RAM Upgrades - Hard Drive Replacements
Batteries - Cables - Adapters
Software Instruction

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

I recently went through the master RMUG News folder and did a beautiful job of clearing out old information updating and trimming up the archive files, etc. Everything was in such neat and orderly shape I was very pleased with myself. The last time I had backed up this folder was at the end of November 07. Well, you can probably guess what is coming. Instead of backing up the nicely organized folder I shut the machine down because I was in a hurry. The folder disappeared. The next time I went to file something in it it was nowhere to be found. Apparently some way, some how I deleted it.

Of course all of my reserve articles and information generated between the last backup and the last two weeks of April that was not put in the NL was lost. It is so easy not to backup but so costly and frustrating when you haven't and get caught.

Ken



Jett's May 08 Mac Classes:

Bring your computer and your questions.

Cost - \$25. Classes last about 90 minutes.

Class size is limited - please call ahead to reserve your space.

Here is the class schedule for May 2008. I will be out of town for a week in the middle of the month, so there are some blank dates.

Tuesday, May 6th at 2 pm - Basic OSX
Thursday, May 15th at 10 am - Basic OSX
Tuesday, May 20th at 2 pm - iPhoto
Thursday, May 22nd at 10 am - iMovie
Tuesday, May 27th at 2 pm - Basic OSX

Call 242-1800 to reserve a place in class.

Thanks,

Kate

kate@jett.net