



Rmug News

June 2004

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday Morning
June 12, 2004 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 a Create demo by Michael as well as i-DVD and i-Movie demos by Dale, Jim and Michael. Charlotte may also discuss net recording.

Contents

RMUG Information	2
Member Tips	3
Secretary's Notes	3
Virtual PC 7	3
Librarian's Corner	4
Photoshop Book	4
"CD" Rot	5
Fax in eMail	7
Gucci Apple iPod	8
Editorial	9
Our Host	10

Rmug Officers

Dale Josephson - President
Jim Pace - Vice President
Don Lapray - Treasurer
Mary Gililand - Secretary
Charlotte Ruskowitz - Librarian
Ken Lorenz - Editor
Barbara Benefield,
Louise Zegers, Pat Hiner
- Hospitality

President's Letter

Summer is here and rumors are everywhere. Last week an out of work engineer told me that Apple was about to release a 42-inch display with a brushed aluminum frame. I laughed a big "yea right" and bought the tipster lunch and a bus ticket to New York as he fears the infamous chokehold used by Shasta County Deputies on unemployed tipsters. Then a couple of days ago John Oswald said, "hey look at this picture of Apple's new 23-inch brushed aluminum monitor." The new monitor John was viewing on the web is supposed to be released at the Mac Developers Conference later this month. There are rumors that new G5s will have more expansion bays for 5 1/4 inch devices such as CD/DVD. Then rumors abound everywhere about G5s breaking the 3Ghz speed barrier and possibly even faster. Microsoft has released a 2004 version of Office for both Windows and Mac OS. Most critics have panned the release as a lot of money for not very many new features. I have spoken with two Mac users who are fortunate enough to have the new MS Office and they both loved the new release. Apple's new laptop to covet is an iBook G4, with a PowerPC G4 processor running at speeds up to 1.2GHz — optional DVD-burning SuperDrive, expanded memory capacity, advanced wireless networking capabilities, and the impressive stability provided by Mac OS X version 10.3 "Panther", and with pricing as low as \$1099.

Once in a very long time an inexpensive program comes along that is worth crowing about and my hat is off to Charlotte for showing me Photo to Movie. This is a great tool to add to your video-editing suite if you want to take still pictures and make movies. Photo to Movie is not a complete replacement for iMovie - it is a great work along-side program for iMovie. Photo to Movie gives you 1,000% more control over the Ken Burns effect as compared to iMovie and it handles very high resolution pictures slightly better than iMovie does.

continued on page 3

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, Dale Josephson at 244-7262 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: Don Lapray, 1745 Crosby Lane, Redding CA 96003. Please make check payable to: Redding Macintosh Users' Group.

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER
CONTINUED**

Good news about iDVD and G5s. My only experience with burning DVDs is at the helm of my G5. I thought this program was broken or would not work on my G5, to say the least. I tried for two weeks to get a DVD to burn with stock Apple software and finally gave up and installed Toast, which does DVDs perfectly. On Friday morning Al, John and I were having a morning bull session and I voiced my frustration at following the instructions I had printed out from iMovie and iDVD and getting exactly nowhere. John also has a G5, so he said, "let me try". He did not want to know about any instructions (wise man). He took three small movie trailer clips and dropped them into iMovie. Under File he went down to Share (used to be export) and then when the short wide menu appeared he chose iDVD. When iDVD started we checked our progress by hitting the preview button and "wolah" there was a movie playing. We then double clicked on the burn button and ten minutes later he had a DVD ready to play. Not to be out done, I opened my George Dunning movie project in iMovie on my G5 and then followed John's procedure and thirty minutes later I had a DVD ready to be played.

dalej

MEMBER TIPS

How about a section of the NL especially for tips used by members. What has given me this idea is the fact that Charlotte usually sends a tip or neat thing she or Frank have learned to do with their computers almost every month. It would be great if other members would do the same thing. It dosen't have to be much, just a brief description of your find and how you use it.

You send the info I'll make the room and put it in the NL.

Editor

SECRETARY'S NOTES:

Hi to All. Things are finally heating up outside, so I guess it is time to just sit and not do much or to play with the computer. We had a problem with ours and it was one of those that you forget about till something goes wrong. While we were gone I, of course, not only turned the computer off but also turned the power strip off. Well, I guess the battery went dead and when we got back the date that was set inside the computer was 1904. Some of the programs that my husband uses would not work, so after some trial and error, I figured out that was the problem. I reset the date and then emailed Dale and asked him if there could be a problem with the battery being dead? He said that 99% of the time if the battery goes dead you will start to have other problems. So off to Jettnet we go. I am glad that I had them take the old battery out and put the new one in - it was in one of those strange places. This is the first time that we have had the battery replaced, the computer is about 4 1/2 years old. I may never have to replace it again. If the computer is still working in another 4 1/2 years, I will really be surprised. Looking forward to seeing you all on the 12th. Remember, if you have an idea for a topic for our meetings just let me or one of the other officers know.

Mary

VIRTUAL PC 7

Microsoft Corp.'s Macintosh (news - web sites) Business Unit (MacBU) confirmed that the upcoming version of Virtual PC would not ship with Office 2004 when it is officially released next week. The new version of Virtual PC will be the first compatible version of the Windows emulator available for owners of Apple's Power Mac G5.

"Virtual PC for Mac Version 7 will be available in the second half of 2004," MacBU Product Manager, Jessica Sommer, said in a statement given to MacCentral. "At that time Virtual PC 7

continued on page 8

LIBRARIANS CORNER:

Here's a little tidbit I found that solved a question I had. I had tried to delete all cookies in Explorer & they always came right back. Not so in Netscape. Found this answer at MacFixit & it works! Thought it might be something to include in RMUG newsletter.

Deleting cookies in IE 5.2.3 (Panther)

I found that, whilst it has proved impossible to delete all of the cookies without an additional wiping program, the only rule seems to be that you cannot delete ALL of them. I nominated one that I didn't mind saving (such as the one which autologs me into this site) and then deleted the rest.

It isn't a totally satisfactory solution as one cookie will always need to be there but it is the best I can suggest.

From a post by MushiMushi:

Charlotte

PHOTOSHOP BOOK:

More and more members (like me) are going the digital camera route for their photos. I wanted to know how to fix my digital photos and found a book by Scott Kelby entitled "The Photoshop Elements Book for Digital Photographers". For those using more advanced versions of Photoshop he also has versions for Photoshop & Photoshop CS. They can be purchased at Barnes & Noble (for a noble price) or at Amazon.com for almost \$10. less. This book seems just right for amateur digital photographers who want to make big improvements in their photos.

Scott starts at the beginning - with the File Browser - showing you how to organize and find your photos on your computer. The very 1st thing Scott recommends doing is saving your pictures on a CD. At the beginning of Chapter 1 he writes, "Plug your card reader (CompactFlash card, Smartcard, etc.) into your computer and the images will appear on your hard drive. Before you do anything else, before you even open Photoshop, you need to burn

these photos to a CD. Don't open the photos, adjust them, choose your favorites, and then burn them to a CD, burn them now right off the bat. The reason this is so important is that these are your negatives, your digital negatives, which are no different than the negatives you'd get from a film lab after they process your film. By burning a CD now, before you enter Elements, you're creating a set of digital negatives that can never be accidentally erased or discarded, you'll always have these digital negatives".

Next he describes how to create a CD-jewel box sized contact sheet with thumbnails of the photos on the disk. When you go back to look for a photo the thumbnail will let you see if the one you're looking for is on this disk and has the filename so it is easy to find the exact photo you want.

In Photoshop Elements, go to File > Print Layouts, and choose Contact Sheet. In Photoshop choose File > Automate > Contact Sheet II. When the Contact Sheet dialog appears, under the Source Folder section, click the Choose button and the standard Open dialog will appear. Navigate to your newly burned CD and click the Choose button. Then you pick the width and height of your jewel box cover (the standard size is 4.75" x 4.75") and the resolution for images. 72ppi is fine as the thumbnails will be small and don't need a high resolution. The Thumbnails section is where you pick how many columns and rows. The last box, "Use Filename As Caption" should be checked so when you spot the photo on the cover, and see it's name then you can just open Photoshop, then navigate to that file.

>From there, he shows you how to size, crop and straighten a photo. Then, it's on to correcting over and under exposures, adding a fill flash and correcting red eye. There's an excellent section on color correcting photos. Scott also shows you step-by-step how to use masks to make selections.

There are also sections on how to repair and restore damaged photos, along with professional photo retouching secrets. And there is a great

continued on page 5

PHOTOSHOP BOOK CONTINUED:

section on digital plastic surgery and body sculpting. (I know I will find this one interesting!) Chapter 8 covers many photographic special effects, including: adding motion, creating depth of field, using color for emphasis, sepia tone, creating montages, replacing the sky, and making a panorama picture even if your camera doesn't have this feature.

There are also techniques on how to make poster size digital photos, how to create photo backdrops, flesh tone correction, masking, sharpening, getting rid of digital noise, converting color to black and white, retouching, water marking photos, and much much more.

You can go to his website, where you can download the same photos he used in the book and follow right along with the projects.

Charlotte

“CD Rot”

Dan Koster was unpacking some of his more than 2,000 compact discs after a move when he noticed something strange. Some of the discs, which he always took good care of, wouldn't play properly.

Koster, a Web and graphic designer for Queens University of Charlotte, N.C., took one that was skipping pretty badly and held it up to the light.

“I was kind of shocked to see a constellation of pinpricks, little points where the light was coming through the aluminum layer,” he says.

His collection was suffering from “CD rot,” a gradual deterioration of the data-carrying layer. It's not known for sure how common the blight is, but it's just one of a number of

reasons that optical discs, including DVDs, may be a lot less long-lived than first thought.

“We were all told that CDs were well-nigh indestructible when they were introduced in the mid-'80s,” Koster says. “Companies used that in part to justify the higher price of CDs as well.”

He went through his collection and found that 15 percent to 20 percent of the discs, most of which were produced in the '80s, were “rotted” to some extent.

How to care for CDs and DVDs

Do:

- Handle discs by the outer edge or the center hole. Your fingerprints may be acidic enough to damage the disc.
- Use a felt-tip permanent marker to mark the label side of a CD. The marker should be water-based or alcohol-based. In general, these will be labeled “nontoxic.” Stronger solvents may eat through the thin protective layer to the data.
- Keep discs clean. Wipe with cotton fabric in a straight line from the center of the disc toward the outer edge. If you wipe in a circle, any scratches may follow the tracks of the CD, rendering them unreadable. Use CD/DVD-cleaning detergent, isopropyl alcohol, or methanol to remove stubborn dirt.
- Return discs to their plastic cases immediately after use.
- Store discs upright (book style) in their cases.
- Store discs in a cool, dry, dark place with clean air.
- Open a recordable disc's package only when you are ready to use.
- Check the disc surface before recording.

Do not:

- Touch the surface of the disc.
- Bend the disc. This may cause the layers to separate.
- Use adhesive labels, since they can warp the disc or unbalance it.
- Expose discs to extreme heat or high humidity. Don't leave them in sun-warmed cars, for instance.
- Expose discs to extremely rapid temperature or

continued on page 6

“CD ROT” CONTINUED

humidity changes.

- Expose recordable discs to prolonged sunlight or other sources of ultraviolet light.

For CDs especially do not:

- Scratch the label side of the disc. It's more sensitive than the transparent side.
- Use a pen, pencil or fine-tip marker to write on the disc.
- Try to peel off or reposition a label. Again, you risk unbalancing the disc.

The rotting can be due to poor manufacturing, according to Jerry Hartke, who runs Media Sciences Inc., a Marlborough, Mass., laboratory that tests CDs.

The aluminum layer that reflects the light of the player's laser is separated from the CD label by a thin layer of lacquer. If the manufacturer applied the lacquer improperly, air can penetrate to oxidize the aluminum, eating it up much like iron rusts in air.

But in Hartke's view, it's more common that discs are rendered unreadable by poor handling by the owner.

“If people treat these discs rather harshly, or stack them, or allow them to rub against each other, this very fragile protective layer can be disturbed, allowing the atmosphere to interact with that aluminum,” he says.

Part of the problem is that most people believe that it's the clear underside of the CD that is fragile, when in fact it's the side with the label. Scratches on the underside have to be fairly deep to cause skipping, while scratches on the top can easily penetrate to the aluminum layer. Even the pressure of a pen on the label side can dent the aluminum, rendering the CD unreadable.

Koster has taken to copying his CDs on his computer to extend the life of the recordings. Unfortunately, it's not easy to figure out how long those recordable CDs will work.

Fred Byers, an information technology specialist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, has looked at writeable CDs on behalf of government agencies, including the Library of Congress, that need to know how long their discs will last.

Manufacturers cite lifespans up to 100 years, but without a standardized test, it's very hard to evaluate their claims, Byers says. The worst part is that manufacturers frequently change the materials and manufacturing methods without notifying users.

“When you go to a store and buy a DVD-R, and this goes for CD-R as well, you really don't know what you're getting,” he says. “If you buy a particular brand of disc, and then get the same disc and brand six months later, it can be very different.”

This renders the frequently heard advice to buy name-brand discs for maximum longevity fairly moot, he says.

DVDs are a bit tougher than CDs in the sense that the data layer (or layers -- some discs have two) is sandwiched in the middle of the disc between two layers of plastic. But this structure causes problems of its own, especially in early DVDs. The glue that holds the layers together can lose its grip, making the disc unreadable at least in parts.

Users that bend a DVD to remove it from a hard-gripping case are practically begging for this problem, because flexing the disc puts strain on the glue.

Rewriteable CDs and DVDs, as opposed to write-once discs, should not be used for long-term storage because they contain a heat-sensitive layer that decays much faster than the metal layers of other discs.

For maximum longevity, discs should be stored vertically and only be handled by the edges. Don't stick labels on them, and in the case of write-once CDs, don't write on them with anything but soft water-based or alcohol-based markers.

continued on page 7

“CD ROT” CONTINUED

Also, like wine, discs should be stored in a cool, dry place. Koster's friend Mark Irons, of Corvallis, Ore., stored his CD collection in a cabin heated by a wood-burning stove. The temperature would range between 40 degrees and 70 degrees in the space of a few hours. Now, the data layer of some of his CDs looks as if it's being eaten from the outside.

Irons is still pretty happy with CD technology, since it beats vinyl LPs and tape for longevity. Now that he's moved his discs to an apartment with a more stable temperature, he's noticed that the decay has slowed.

“I'm hoping they'll hold out till that next medium gets popular, and everyone gets to buy everything over again,” he says.

By Peter Svensson,
Associated Press



- Your FAST choice for Internet access in the North State
- Macintosh Service and Repair
- Classes on your site or ours
- RAM upgrades always in stock
- CD Authoring
- Wide range of SCSI cables
- Macintosh batteries
- Trained technicians

School POÕs gladly accepted
(530) 242-1800
<http://jett.net>

Why Fax in the E-Mail Age?

Last week, I bashed eFax for turning what should be a brilliant, money-saving idea-providing a free fax number that routes incoming faxes to your e-mail account-into a sneaky trap for harvesting e-mail addresses. I wrote that it generates a tidal wave of spam. That was certainly my experience. As I noted last week, I switched to Faxaway.com about a year ago (\$1 a month, zero spam).

But many of you wrote this week to chastise me for my harsh words. Most of the responses ran along these lines: “I can find an average of 3-4 unsolicited e-mails per month from eFax (all labelled clearly as being sent by eFax and each explaining that these were sent to support my free account at eFax). I also receive approximately 5 unsolicited faxes per month.” That is not, as I wrote, “a wall of spam taller than the Empire State Building.”

One of you concluded: “It would appear that Mr. Pogue is either mistaken, prone to hyperbole, or intentionally fallacious.” Now, come on, kids-why on earth would I deliberately lie? I mean, apart from boosting my stock holdings in Faxaway.com? (KIDDING! KIDDING!)

I did hear from a number of readers who complained about this or that eFax feature-“If you exceed 20 pages per month for any reason, they require you to upgrade to their paid service or they cancel your service,” for example-but getting a gusher of spam wasn't among the gripes. My guess is that eFax has changed its tune since I was a member, over a year ago. If that's the case, my apologies to eFax for the smear.

I'm glad I brought up the topic, though, because some other readers chimed in with some useful pointers. For example, I should have mentioned that with Faxaway, the fax number you're assigned is in the 206 area code. I haven't found that to be a drawback, other than to provide a cheerful little conversation-starter when giving out my fax number to people. But as far as I know, none of these services offer local area codes

continued on page 8

Why Fax? Continued

unless you join specific plans.

I also heard from a fan of yet another service called MaxEmail.com, who pointed out that it (a) gives you the option to send a fax in "fine" resolution instead of standard resolution, (b) gives you the option to receive faxes in PDF format rather than TIFF, and (c) stores received faxes on its Web site for a few weeks. "MaxEmail's signup fee is the same \$10 as Faxaway," wrote this MaxEmail fan. "Its annual cost is \$15/year. Receiving faxes is free. Sending is 10 cents/minute."

Several of you pointed out that Mac OS X can not only receive faxes, but auto-forward them to an e-mail address of your choice. Personally, I can't believe that we're still sending faxes at all in this day and age. E-mail is faster, saves paper and ink, and is both searchable and file-able. (Yes, yes, I realize that sending clippings from magazines is an exception to this blanket statement.)

But if faxing is a part of your life-especially *receiving* them-then any of the online, cheapo fax-to-e-mail services will do the job.

By David Pogue
DavidPogue.com.



**"IT REALLY CREEPS ME OUT
WHEN HE DOES THAT..."**

STEVE BRADENTON

Gucci-Apple iPod

International fashion house Gucci Group has pounced on the market opportunity inherent for third parties in the success of Apple Computer's iPod music player--introducing its own designer iPod carrying case.

Available online through Gucci's U.S. store, the iPod case is available in multiple colors and costs almost as much as an iPod--\$195.

The case is available in this season's Gucci colors--beige/ebony GG plus with dark brown leather trim, green/red/green web carrying handle, and silver hardware.

Gucci's product reflects the healthy market surrounding Apple's product. And Gucci's case may appeal to select high-profile iPod users, such as Victoria Beckham.

Jonny Evans, Macworld.co.uk

VIRTUAL PC CONTINUED

will ship in a box by itself as well as be packaged with Office 2004 in the Office 2004 Professional Edition."

Sommer would not further detail release dates beyond the second half of the year, but she did offer some insight into what caused the delays. Sommer said the MacBU estimated their development and testing schedule based on previous experience with Office development -- the schedule turned out to be longer and more vigorous than expected.

"In addition, there is an edition of Virtual PC 7 that ships with Windows XP (news - web sites) in a box by itself, as well as Windows XP being included in the Office 2004 Professional Edition," said Sommer. "We are waiting for the release of Windows XP SP2 in order to offer the most recent, most secure version of Windows XP to our Virtual PC for Mac customers. Windows XP SP2 release has moved to the end of July, which has impacted our schedule as well."

Microsoft acquired Virtual PC from Connectix in February 2003.

By Jim Dalrymple, MacCentral

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

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

The days of sweat, stickers and dust are here again. Lets see, first it was September, then December, and now it is June. First thing you know it will be September again. In the meantime, we have a hot summer to get through. Lots of things to keep apprized of and new features to learn. This new NL program is becoming more familiar all the time, but I am having trouble devoting the kind of attention to it that is required to familiarize oneself with all the bells and whistles. Will just keep plugging away. Michael Peters has been, and continues to be a lot of help. He seems to have an intuition with computers and applications.

Periodically I like to thank all those who have contributed to this publication. It is a group effort, the more the merrier, thank you.

The cartoon "Saddams Gun" was found by me a week or so ago at buzz flash.com. It seemed rather elegant in what it had to say on several different levels.

Remember, if we do not stick up for our rights no one else will. The disinformation our administration is putting out on the "Patriot Act" is truly alarming. Educate yourselves and speak out.

Ken



Jet Technologies

www.jett.net

Macintosh parts and service by trained technicians who "Speak MAC"

Internet service using Macintosh Servers

Dial-up and Wireless Internet, 10 MB mail boxes, Personal web sites,

Domain Hoasting, Customized Training, Office Network Intergration.

Repairs and Upgrades are our Specialty !

1320 Yuba St. #214 - Voice (503) 242 - 1800

Redding CA. 96001 - FAX (503) 242 - 5901