



# Rmug News

October 2005

## This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning  
October 8, 2005 9-11:30 AM

**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 donuts will be 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 using  
games to compare a variety of Mac  
platforms. Related personal creativity  
projects, wisdom and issues as well as  
the usual Q&A.

## Contents

Presidents Letter	1
RMUG Information	2
Secretary's Notes	3
Old Dogs / New Tricks	4
Video Formats	4
For Sale	6
Abbott & Costello	6
Back Up or Else	7
Humor	8
Editorial	9
Our Host	10

## Rmug Officers

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

## President's Letter

Hello again fellow Mac enthusiasts,

Computer games have a bitter sweet relationship with many computer users. One school of thought is that the computer is for work, period. Games are a waste of time and any 'real' computer user should be using the computer to get something accomplished, be it Word documents, scientific calculations, or movie editing. Games should be left to the Nintendos and Play Stations of the world, not an honest-to-goodness computer.

Another school of thought, supported by a billion dollar industry, sees the computer as a gaming device. Entire companies build strictly 'gaming' computers. In reality, these are some of the fastest home computers on the market. Writing documents, editing images and building web sites are certainly possible on such machines; similarly a Ferrari can be used to get groceries from the market.

Two uses for a computer, I think most of us fall somewhere in the middle. I see the computer as a tool to simplify some of lifes tasks. A game, like TV, is a simple escape tool. If a computer can provide a recreational opportunity, great. Some games demand a terrific investment in time from the user, where as others can be played for a few minutes then quit. There are a wide variety of games, even for the Mac, and companies are coming out with new ideas all the time. This months meeting we are hoping to introduce the group to a gamut of different games. Hope to see you there!

Marcus Harner

# 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, 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:

MINUTES - RMUG MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

The September meeting was held at the home of Jim and Donna Pace in their beautiful back yard. Eighteen members attended. Thank you, Jim and Donna.

The following are answers to questions asked.

Michael said, when installing Tiger, to back up at least Panther's two document folders, users folders (Mozilla – Bookmarks are in here) and any other personal information. Do an Archive/Install as this keeps settings from the old system and brings them into the new install.

Recommendations for external hard drives. A) Bill Benton – 250G from OWC. B) Charlotte – Seagate 150 has a 5 year warranty. C) Michael Maxtor 250 and Hitachi 250 both have extended warranties. . An aside from someone If hard drive serial # or model # has a BB in it, don't buy. Have not proved to be the best machines.

Michael says two things to look for when buying an external HD are 1) As much storage as you can afford (more than double the storage inside your machine so you can clone your internal hard drive, and 2) Make sure it has an external power block. Also, does it have a fan to cut down noise and heat. (Mini Mac uses small PowerBook fan.)

Suggested if you upgrade, at least move from 1G to 2G; move from G4 to G5; and/or from single processor to dual processor. If you have a tower, consider adding a second hard drive and putting Tiger in it. You could boot from either as long as you use a firewire drive.

Ron Brink just upgraded to Photoshop CS, Suite 1, and recommends a 2.5 dual processor and lots of memory for this – go from 2G to 4G of RAM.

For those still in Panther, Toast 5 is iffy in Panther. Buy Toast 6. Get free upgrade to 6.1.

Also, if you upgrade to Panther 10.3.9, be sure to upgrade all 3rd party software. Example: Upgrade Safari to 1.3.1.

It is illegal to use broad band if you don't pay for it. From a coffee shop, etc., you can pay by buying food or drink.???.

There was much information on converting Super 8 movies to video for use in iMovie. Ron recommended taking Super 8 film to a professional as it is very time consuming and hard to find all the old equipment to do it yourself.

Marcus demonstrated Safari/Browser Customization. I'm sorry, I couldn't watch Marcus and write the steps quickly enough for the steps to make sense to you. Please see Marcus if interested.

Michael has a new Epson 4800 printer, 16 x 44, 8-color prints.

Laurie Hallum pointed out that there are a lot of Macintosh classes offered on the Internet from Shasta College.

Reminder from Ken Lorenz. Send in reviews of any new software you buy or win. Reviews, positive or negative, lead to more software for us to raffle.

Our next meeting will be October 8 at the YAKS Koffee Shop, 3274 Bechelli Lane. The program will consist of using Games to compare a variety of Hardware Platforms.

The Board Meeting will be over lunch following the regular meeting.

Jacque Martin, Secretary

## Old Dogs New Tricks:

### DIGITAL MOVIES

The digital movies software and cameras are beginning to make its mark in our family life. Don't be surprised if someone, somewhere comes up to you and says, "Smile you're on... my web cam." O.K. the famous TV show said, "...you're on Candid Camera."

The home movies will not compete with the movie industry. There are a few million dollars difference between your home movies and the commercial type. But, the digital movie cameras and software are beginning to narrow the gap. Let's examine the functions.

A few years back, home movies were introduced, and the 3-minute film was usually a few jerky, fluttering moments of someone walking toward the camera and waving. Since you only had 3 minutes, you would try to fill it up with as many friends as possible. Film and the developing were expensive. The process of gluing 3-minute films together was tedious and not very successful.

The digital industry has changed that, since you are not buying film and developing it, you can take more pictures (digital is more like VCR tape – you can use it over and over).

The film and TV industry has a 2-minute rule. It is very rare to have a shot last over 2 minutes without a change. Even a speech which lasts 30 minutes will change camera view, zoom in, zoom out, view the audience, show someone listening intently, show a graphic or test, or in some way change the scene within 2 minutes. More than 2 minutes becomes boring. Remember the old rule? If you want to make friends – don't show them your home movies.

"Digital film" (not the correct term, but used for illustration) can easily be edited. One minute from the end of the film can be cut out and moved to the front. A section that does not have good lighting can be deleted. A funny section can be copied and put in over and

over. The computer editing this whole thing can wipe one scene to another with a wipe from left to right, fade one scene to another, insert some big bold text, or put a comic figure sitting on your friends left shoulder. Your husband's ugly brown jacket can be changed to green to match your dress, and on and on. You can have your own 2-minute rule.

Home movies are not ready to compete with the movie industry yet. You cannot be the new Cecil B. DeMille and remake the "Ten Commandments" next month. But the home movies ain't what they used to be. Are you ready to change?

Allen Hall

## Video Formats:

### Feuding Video Formats

When most people shop for camcorders these days, they look primarily at models that record onto MiniDV cassettes. MiniDV is a terrific format. The tapes are small, inexpensive and available in any drugstore.

The recordings are digital, meaning you can make copies of copies of copies, each as perfect as the original. And you can connect the camcorder to a Mac or PC, transfer the footage from the cassette, and edit it using software that came with the computer (iMovie or Movie Maker).

But the people want smaller camcorders. And MiniDV tapes aren't getting any smaller.

So electronics companies have come up with all kinds of alternative recording materials. Many popular camcorders record directly onto tiny DVD discs that you can pop into your DVD player. Even smaller camcorders record straight onto memory cards. JVC makes one camcorder that records onto removable Compact Flash hard drives, and another that records onto a large-capacity, seven-hour, 30-gigabyte, non-removable hard drive.

continued on page 5

## VIDEO FORMATS CONTINUED:

All of this would be great except for one thing: these camcorders don't store the video in the DV format (that is, the signal format that traditional digital camcorders store on their MiniDV tapes). Instead, they use something called the MPEG-2 format.

Now, MPEG-2, as a video file format, can be sensational. After all, it's the format you get when you play a DVD from Hollywood.

But as a camcorder format, MPEG-2 leaves a lot to be desired.

For one thing, the picture quality isn't nearly as good as MiniDV. (The manufacturers are fond of saying that their camcorders record video in "the same format used by DVD's," but that doesn't mean the quality is anywhere close. The quality of MPEG-2 varies widely, depending on how much picture data per second that a certain file delivers to the screen.)

Worse, consumers can't edit MPEG-2 files without a considerable expenditure of time and money. In my experience, Premiere Elements, iMovie and Movie Maker don't even recognize MPEG-2 files. (I spent \$20 on Apples MPEG-2 Plug-in for QuickTime, which is supposed to let programs like iMovie open these files but it didn't, at least with the .MOD files that the JVC hard-drive cam creates.)

If you want to edit your home movies, then, you have only two choices. First, you can use the (usually awful) software that comes with the camcorder. Second, you can invest in much more technical programs; according to their Web sites, Apple's Final Cut Pro (\$900) and Pinnacle's Studio MovieBox DV (\$200) can open and edit MPEG-2 files. Adobe says that its Premiere Pro can open such files with the addition of a \$300 plug-in called MPEGPro.

I'm not an expert on video formats. But one thing I know for sure: The experts tell me that

MPEG-2 is a format designed for playback, not for editing. There are numerous different "flavors" of MPEG-2 to reckon with, too.

If all of this sounds like a complicated, expensive hassle, you're right. And, as camcorderinfo.com's Robin Liss wrote me recently, "I don't know if most consumers know when they buy a tapeless camcorder that it's going to be so hard to edit the video in any program outside what is shipped with the camcorder."

There must be some technical reason why all of these tapeless-camcorder companies don't store their video in the DV format, just like MiniDV camcorders do. But if they must use MPEG-2, it appears that the only solution, for people like me who want to edit their videos, is for the video-editing software companies to shoulder the burden.

They could recognize that MPEG-2 is an increasingly popular format, and make an effort to upgrade their programs accordingly. Some, in fact, are already thinking along these lines. ("We are working on a better solution," an Adobe representative told me.)

Or maybe someone should write a simple, one-click conversion program. "With the proliferation of MPEG-2 in DVD, memory-based and hard drive based camcorders," Ms. Liss suggested, "I see a HUGE need for someone to make simple MPEG-2-to-AVI conversion software for both Mac and PC. I mean, something where you just put the DVD, the memory card or the hard drive in the computer, press one button, and it outputs editable files. (You never want to edit in MPEG-2, because it's lossy [that is, the quality deteriorates with each pass].)"

In the meantime, here's hoping that shoppers, lured by those cute little pocket-sized camcorders, know what they're getting into: essentially non-editable videos. And since they no longer have the option to lop out the boring parts from their home movies, here's hoping that they have really, really tolerant friends and neighbors.

David Pogue  
New York Times

## FOR SALE:

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## Abbott & Costello:

If Bud Abbott and Lou Costello were alive today, their infamous sketch, "Who's on first?" might have turned out something like this:

Lou Costello calls to buy a computer from Bud Abbott:  
Abb: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?  
Cos: Thanks. I'm setting up an office in my den and I'm thinking about buying a computer.  
Abb: Mac?  
Cos: No, the name's Lou.  
Abb: Your computer?  
Cos: I don't own a computer. I want to buy one.  
Abb: Mac?  
Cos: I told you, my name's Lou.  
Abb: What about Windows?  
Cos: Why? Will it get stuffy in here?  
Abb: Do you want a computer with Windows?  
Cos: I don't know. What will I see when I look at the windows?  
Abb: Wallpaper.  
Cos: Never mind the windows. I need a computer and software.  
Abb: Software for Windows?  
Cos: No. On the computer! I need something I can use to write proposals, track expenses and run my business. What do you have?  
Abb: Office.  
Cos: Yeah, for my office; can you recommend anything?

Abb: I just did.  
Cos: You just did what?  
Abb: Recommend something.  
Cos: You recommended something?  
Abb: Yes.  
Cos: For my office?  
Abb: Yes.  
Cos: OK, what did you recommend for my office?  
Abb: Office.  
Cos: Yes, for my office!  
Abb: I recommend Office with Windows.  
Cos: I already have an office with windows! OK, let's just say I'm sitting at my computer and I want to type a proposal. What do I need?  
Abb: Word.  
Cos: What word?  
Abb: Word in Office.  
Cos: The only word in office is office.  
Abb: The Word in Office for Windows.  
Cos: Which word in office for windows?  
Abb: The Word you get when you click the blue "W".  
Cos: I'm going to click your blue "w" if you don't start with some straight answers. ....OK, forget that. Can I watch movies on the Internet?  
Abb: Yes, you want Real One?  
Cos: Maybe a real one, maybe a cartoon. What I watch is none of your business. Just tell me what I need!  
Abb: Real One.  
Cos: If it's a long movie, I also want to watch reels 2, 3 and 4. Can I watch them?  
Abb: Of course.  
Cos: Great! With what?  
Abb: Real One.  
Cos: OK, I'm at my computer and I want to watch a movie. What do I do?  
Abb: You click the blue "1".  
Cos: I click the blue one what?  
Abb: The blue "1".  
Cos: Is that different from the blue "w"?  
Abb: The blue "1" is Real One and the blue "W" is Word.  
Cos: What word?  
Abb: The Word in Office for Windows.  
Cos: But there are three words in "office for windows!"  
Abb: No, just one. But it's the most popular Word in the world.

continued on page 7

**ABBOTT & COSTELLO CONTINUED:**

Cos: It is?  
 Abb: Yes, but to be fair, there aren't many other Words left. It pretty much wiped out all the other Words out there.  
 Cos: And that word is real one?  
 Abb: Real One has nothing to do with Word. Real One isn't even part of Office.  
 Cos: STOP! Don't start that again. What about financialbookkeeping? You have anything I can track my money with?  
 Abb: Money.  
 Cos: That's right. What do you have?  
 Abb: Money.  
 Cos: I need money to track my money?  
 Abb: It comes bundled with your computer.  
 Cos: What's bundled with my computer?  
 Abb: Money  
 Cos: Money comes with my computer?  
 Abb: Yes. No extra charge.  
 Cos: I get a bundle of money with my computer? How much?  
 Abb: One copy.  
 Cos: Isn't it illegal to copy money?  
 Abb: Microsoft gave us a license to copy Money.

Cos: They can give you a license to copy money?  
 Abb: Why not? They own it!  
 (A few days later).....  
 Abb: Super Duper computer store. Can I help you?  
 Cos: How do I turn my computer off?  
 Abb: Click on "START" .....

Submitted by:  
Mike Boylson

## Back Up or Else:

What's it going to take to make you realize you have to... Back Up or Else!

So much of your life is digital now—from your family photos to your personal and business financial records—which means it's only as safe as the next virus, system crash, or inadvertent press of the Delete key.

Everybody loves paging through old pictures of vacations and family events, recalling special times and memories. But imagine how you'd feel if these mementos disappeared. If you're using a digital camera and keeping those photos on your PC, it could happen.

In fact, your world is digital now—your memories, your financial data, your crucial documents—and you need to protect what's important to you.

For peace of mind, we urge you to take stock of your digital assets and learn about the various technologies and products that can help you protect them. Everyone will want to safeguard personal data, such as documents and pictures, and given the prevalence of viruses, spyware, and adware (all of which can slow down your PC or destroy your hard drive), backing up your computer's system files and applications also makes sense.

For years, we've told you to back up. And for years, we've run extensive reviews of backup products. Yet we know that most of you still don't back up. More of you now realize what's at stake, though, so we've taken a different approach this time. Rather than reviewing every backup program

continued on page 8



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BACK UP OR ELSE CONTINUED:

## Humor:?

out there, we selected some of the best examples of several different types of backup tools, and we focus on helping you find a strategy that you can implement now.

Often, people complain that backup is too time-consuming. Fortunately, slow, expensive tape drives have given way to fast and inexpensive external USB 2.0 hard drives. With any recent versions of Windows, you can attach the drive to your system and within moments, you'll be able to use it just like any other drive. You can even use your iPod's drive to store backup data. Large drives (300GB and more are readily available) let you store multiple backup sets.

Affordable DVD writers and media provide another useful backup alternative. A single-layer disc stores 4.7GB and a dual-layer stores 8.5GB. Nothing's easier than hard drive backup (including clever network hard drive solutions), but CD/DVD backup gives you the option of storing discs in a safe location. There are also a variety of online backup services that make sense for automated off-site storage that's accessible from anywhere.

We haven't yet reached the point where you can "set and forget" a backup solution, but we're getting close. For the moment, if you want to make sure your data is safe, you need to take an active role. In this story, we give you the know-how and show you the tools available to make the right choices. The products we review help you set the right schedules and choose the right data to protect.

So, c'mon. It's time you started backing up. Ostriches don't really stick their heads in the sand. And neither should you.

Robert P. Lipschutz  
PC Magazine

Football game

A guy took his blonde girlfriend to her first football game.

They had great seats right behind their team's bench. After the game, he asked her how she liked the experience.

"Oh, I really liked it," she replied, "especially the tight pants and all the big muscles, but I just couldn't understand why they were killing each other over 25 cents."

Dumbfounded, her date asked, "What do you mean?"

"Well, they flipped a coin, one team got it and then for the rest of the game, all they kept screaming was: 'Get the quarterback! Get the quarterback!' I'm like...Helloooooo? It's only 25 cents!!!!

from Charlotte

Rexual Relations:

An elderly couple was sitting together, watching their favorite Saturday night TV program.

During one of those commercial breaks, the husband asked his wife:

"Whatever happened to our sexual relations?"

After a long thoughtful silence, the wife, during the next commercial break, replied:

"You know, I don't really know- I don't even think we got a Christmas card from them this year."

From samnpatty

## 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

The meeting this month should be quite interesting, especially to those who have trouble seeing the difference in processor and video card speed. This is all pretty much greek to me but to gamers it is all very important and apparent. Several members, including this one will be bringing different machines in to demonstrate.

In searching articles for this issue I came across several new developments which are coming and I didn't have room for in this issue. They shall be included as time and space allow. I still have a good article from Dale J which has been waiting in the wings for some time now.

The right time will come... With the new technological developments it is even more important that we stick up for our rights as users of these new features which can make our hobby more productive and rewarding. Big business through government regulation would like to dictate what features can and cannot be used. We must vigorously resist this intrusion.

A nice eclectic edition this month. Thanks to all those both near and far who have contributed. Keep em coming..

Ken



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