



Rmug News

October 2008

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
October 11, 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 a demo
of Print Shop 2 and Skype the internet
telephone application. Personal creativity
comments, wisdom and issues as well as
the usual Q&A. Be sure and bring those
questions..

Contents

President's Letter	1
RMUG Information	2
Secretary's Notes	3
Crashes Take Toll	3
System Updates	5
Carlin on Aging	5
Mobile Broadband	6
Editorial	8
Jett's Mac Class Schedule	9

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

President's Letter

The iPod Classic is probably the last iPod to come with a mechanical HD. At \$249 it is a great deal and may become a collectors item as my tealeaves say Flash ROM is the future of storage on Apple's pocket sized multimedia devices. With 120GB of storage, iPod classic can hold up to 30,000 songs, 150 hours of video, or 25,000 photos. The current line of iPods all use Flash memory to replace the HD and range in size from 1GB to 16GB.

My friend and inside spy, Spuds Mac, stopped by my family reunion in Covelo over the weekend to taste our skewered salmon and to slip me a couple of juicy tidbits. Spuds says he has seen rail cars full of 3 new laptops about to be released by Apple. I asked which models and Spuds replied all current laptops are obsolete and will be replaced by the start of the holiday buying season. Spuds (who is a dyed in the wool Mac man), said he has started using VM ware Fusion version 2 to run a couple of PC applications without the hassle of installing all of Windows. Spuds seemed pleased, as his serial number from version 1.1 was working just fine (thank you) on the newly released 2.0 version.

Apple has issued a recall on the USB power adapter included with the iPhone 3G. Apple has received reports of the metal prongs breaking off of the adapter and remaining lodged in power outlets, creating the risk of electric shock. According to Apple's support article on the recall, the adapter was included with every iPhone 3G sold in the US, Japan, Canada, Mexico, Columbia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru. The adapter was also available as a standalone accessory in those countries, as well as Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Users with ultracompact power adapters should immediately stop using them until they exchange them for a new, redesigned ultracompact adapter.

In the meantime, they should charge their iPhone 3G by connecting it to their computer with the USB cable that came with their iPhone or by using a standard-sized Apple USB Power Adapter (with fold up prongs) or with a third party adapter designed to work with the iPhone, such as

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 – 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 (530) 241-8227 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:

a car charger. Apple notes that replacement adapters, which will not be available until October 10th, will contain a green dot on them in order to make identification simple.

Dalej

Next Meeting at YAKS: October 11, 2008. Mary Gilliland will demo some new things you can do with Print Shop 2. Think ahead - - the Holidays are coming. We also have a copy to raffle. Mary will also show us how easy it is to talk to your family and friends who live at a distance using Skype.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Secretary's Notes:

The September meeting was held at YAKS Koffee Shop. Twenty-six members and guests attended. Guests were Laurie Mathew and Belva Sullivent. Laurie has a new iMac with Leopard and had questions. Belva is the president of the PC Computer Users Group of Redding (CUG). Belva became a member. Welcome!

Dale led the beginner's class. Michael fielded questions from the intermediate group.

There were questions such as how to get DVD music/information from one piece of media to another, but I guess I was talking. Ask Michael if you have a need to know this information. The classes were shortened this month because we wanted to save as much time as possible for our guest speaker.

Reminder: Macintosh classes are available weekly at Anderson Senior Center. Beginner's class on Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Michael Peters. Advanced class on Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Dale Josephson.

Presentation: Tom McVay, representing OakTree Software, demonstrated Accordance 8 Bible Software, designed for Macintosh computers. This is software for working in a scholarly manner with information in the English Bible. I was fascinated by the maps and timelines Tom showed us. Segments were individually priced. Want more information? Go to <http://www.accordancebible.com/about/index.php>. Thank you, Tom.

Crashes Take Toll:

Alex Payne, a 24-year-old Internet engineer here, has devised a way to answer a commonly asked question of the digital age: Is my favorite Web site working today?

In March, Mr. Payne created downforeveryoneorjustme.com, as in, "Down for everyone, or just me?" It lets visitors type in a Web address and see whether a site is generally inaccessible or whether the problem is with their own connection. "I had seen that question posed so often," said Mr. Payne, who perhaps not coincidentally works at Twitter, a Web messaging and social networking site that is itself known for frequent downtime. "Technology companies have branded the Internet as a place that is always on and where information is always available. People are disappointed and looking for answers when it turns out not to be true."

There is plenty of disappointment to go around these days. Such technology stalwarts as Yahoo, Amazon.com and Research in Motion, the company behind the BlackBerry, have all suffered embarrassing technical problems in the last few months.

A while back... a sudden surge of visitors to Mr. Payne's site began asking about the normally impervious Amazon. That site was ultimately down for several hours over two business days, and Amazon, by some estimates, lost more than a million dollars an hour in sales.

The Web, like any technology or medium, has always been susceptible to unforeseen hiccups. Particularly in the early days of the Web, sites like eBay and Schwab.com regularly went dark. But since fewer people used the Internet back then, the stakes were much lower. Now the Web is an irreplaceable part of daily life, and Internet companies have plans to make us even more

continued on page 4

CRASHES TAKE TOLL CONTINUED:

dependent on it. Companies like Google want us to store not just e-mail online but also spreadsheets, photo albums, sales data and nearly every other piece of personal and professional information. That data is supposed to be more accessible than information tucked away in the office computer or filing cabinet. The problem is that this ideal requires Web services to be available around the clock — and even the Internet's biggest companies sometimes have trouble making that happen.

Last holiday season, Yahoo's system for Internet retailers, Yahoo Merchant Solutions, went dark for 14 hours, taking down thousands of e-commerce companies on one of the busiest shopping days of the year. In February, certain Amazon services that power the sites of many Web start-up companies had a day of intermittent failures, knocking many of those companies offline. As Web Traffic Grows, Crashes Take a Bigger Toll.

The causes of these problems range widely: it might be system upgrades with unintended consequences, human error (oops, wrong button) or even just old-fashioned electrical failures... An electrical explosion in a Houston data center of the Planet, a Web hosting company, knocked thousands of Web businesses off the Internet for up to five days. "It was prolonged torture," said Grant Burhans, a Web entrepreneur from Florida whose telecommunications- and real-estate-related Web sites were down for four days, costing him thousands of dollars in lost business. Web addicts who find themselves shut out of their favorite Web sites tend to fill blogs and online bulletin boards with angry invective about broken promises and interrupted routines. The volatile emotions around Web downtime are perhaps most prevalent in the discussion around Twitter, on which users post updates on who they are with, where they are, and what they are doing. According to Pingdom, a Web monitoring firm, Twitter was down for 37 hours this year through April — by far more than any other major social networking Web site. Instead of simply dumping the service and moving on with their

lives, Twitter users have responded with an endless stream of rancor, creating "Is Twitter Down?" T-shirts, blog rants and YouTube parodies, and posting copies of Twitter's various artfully designed error messages. "This is a free service. It's not like anyone's life is depending on Twitter," said Laura Fitton, a consultant and self-described passionate Twitter user.

"Twitter is all about the things we discover we have in common, so right there, Twitter failing is a huge thing we have in common," she said. "It's fun to complain to each other and commiserate." Twitter has said its downtime is the result of rapidly growing demand and fundamental mistakes in its original architecture.

Jesse Robbins, a former Amazon executive who was responsible for keeping Amazon online from 2004 to 2006, says the outcries over failures are understandable. "When these sites go away, it's a sudden loss. It's like you are standing in the middle of Macy's and the power goes out," he said. "When the thing you depend on to live your daily life suddenly goes away, it's trauma." He says Web services should be held to the same standard of reliability as the older services they aim to replace. "These companies have a responsibility to people who rely and depend on them, just as people going over a public bridge expect that the bridge won't suddenly collapse." By some measures, despite the high-profile failures, the Internet is performing better than ever.

"There are millions of Web sites and billions of Web pages around the world," said Umang Gupta, chief executive of Keynote Systems, which monitors companies' Web performance. "These big high-visibility problems are actually very rare." But perhaps they are not rare enough. Not long ago... Google App Engine, a service that lets people run interactive Web applications, was unavailable for several hours. Among those affected was Mr. Payne, who had just shifted downforeveryoneorjustme.com over to Google's servers. It was inaccessible as well.

By BRAD STONE
NYTimes.com

System Updates:

Installing system updates or any updates that come in through the Software Update application is quite simple! Of course there are a few tips I would like to offer.

If you have very important files, documents, music, anything, I would recommend backing that stuff up before you install any updates. It may sound like a pain but it can really be worth it sometimes. If you really want to go above and beyond that you could clone your hard drive (<http://www.shirt-pocket.com/SuperDuper/SuperDuperDescription.html>) so that in case the update goes bad you can just restore your drive and it will be just as it was before. You should not only back up when you install updates though; backing up your data should be part of your normal computer using routine!

If you ever have issues with installing system updates there are a few things you can check over. First make sure that you have enough disk space for the update. When you launch Software Update it will check with Apple services to see if there are any available updates. If there are, it will display the name of the update and the size of the download. You can check the amount of space you have left on your hard drive by right-clicking on your Macintosh HD icon located on your desktop and clicking on Get Info from the menu that pops up, alternatively you can click on the Macintosh HD icon on your desktop and press Command/I. This will bring up a little window with details about your hard drive. In the General section you can see the format of your drive (usually Mac OS Extended), the capacity, amount of space available and how much space you've used. Obviously check out the amount of free space. If you don't have enough free space, you will need to delete some of your files, or better yet, move them to another disk.

If you have issues with installing the updates it would be wise to run Disk Utility (found in Applications> Utilities) and then repair the

disk permissions. It's also a good idea to run this tool every month or so. Keeps your system running smooth!

Should the Software Update application crash, if you happen to lose power or if something happens in the middle of install system updates that prevents it from finishing, it is possible that your system will not boot or will boot up but will act odd. If this happens you should probably do an archive and install. This will reinstall the system but save all your files and documents. You can do this by using the software restore disks that came with your Macintosh.

The last tip I want to provide is waiting. Software Update is set to run weekly and check for updates. If it finds anything it'll let you know. I usually wait about a week from when that Software Update window comes up until I actually install the update. The only reason I do this is because it's possible that the update itself might have an issue and within that week Apple has time to fix the issue(s) if there are any. Issues could be things like fixing one issue but this could stop some application or function from working correctly. While it's usually unlikely for this to happen because Apple puts these patches through some tests, it is possible.

I've never had any issues with installing system updates, but I've heard of a few people that have, so I think it's pretty safe to say that you won't have issues with install updates. If you do, hopefully you can refer to this article on troubleshooting software updates! ~ Jimmy

Submitted by Charlotte

Carlin on Aging:

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions.

'How old are you?' 'I'm four and a half!' You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you

continued on page 6

CARLIN ON AGING CONTINUED:

back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead.

'How old are you?' 'I'm gonna be 16!' You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life You become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony . YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and MAKE it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!

You get into your 80's and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; 'I Was JUST 92.'

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. 'I'm 100 and a half!'

May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half!!

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay 'them.'

2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down.

3. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the devil's name is Alzheimer's.

4. Enjoy the simple things.

5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath.

6. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person, who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive.

7. Surround yourself with what you love , whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.

8. Cherish your health: If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county; to a foreign country but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.

AND ALWAYS REMEMBER :

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

submitted by Charlotte
RIP George-you will be missed..editor

Mobile Broadband?

Top computer makers, mobile operators and technology providers announced recently.. that upcoming laptop computers would feature mobile broadband making them ready to surf right out of the box.

Led by the GSM Association (GSMA), a global trade association of mobile operators, the group of 16 companies said the "Mobile Broadband"

continued on page 7

MOBILE BROADBAND? CONTINUED:

service mark would be pre-installed on laptop and notebook PCs coming out later this year.

Equipped with "ready to run" wireless Mobile Broadband devices, the GSMA said in a statement that the "always-connected" PCs would be "ready to switch on and surf straight out of the box in 91 countries across the world."

The computers would be preconfigured to connect to the Internet via GSM networks used by many telecom operators around the world.

GSMA's chief marketing officer Michael O'Hara said several hundred thousand of the Mobile Broadband-equipped laptops could be in stores for the Christmas shopping season.

"The Mobile Broadband badge will assure consumers that the devices they buy will always connect -- wherever Mobile Broadband is available -- and that they can expect a high standard of simplicity and mobility," he said.



Mobile Broadband was described by the GSMA-led group as a "compelling alternative to Wi-Fi," whose signals require a "hot spot" and reach a few hundred yards or less.

Mobile Broadband is also seen as a competing wireless broadband network to WiMAX, which can move data faster and longer distances but whose use is not very widespread for the moment.

WiMax uses a licensed channel of radio spectrum and can transmit as far as 30 miles (50 kilometers) with a stronger signal than Wi-Fi and access faster than most current devices.

The GSMA, citing a study by Wireless Intelligence, said more than 55 million people currently subscribe to Mobile Broadband services in 91 countries.

The 16 members of the group plan to spend one billion dollars promoting the Mobile Broadband brand over the next year.

Members of the group include Microsoft, Dell, Lenovo, Toshiba, 3 Group, Asus, ECS, Ericsson, Gemalto, Orange, Qualcomm, Telefonica Europe, Telecom Italia, TeliaSonera, T-Mobile, and Vodafone.

Yahoo News .com

"We Speak Mac"

JETT.NET

JET Technologies LLC
1320 Yuba Street, Suite 101
Redding, CA 96001
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

Everyone should find something of interest in this issue.

Pay attention and vote! Until next month..

Ken



Jett's October 08 Mac Classes:

Hi Everyone,

The weather has finally taken a cool turn and the summer heat and fires are behind us. All we need now is some rain to green everything up again. We will all be in the Holiday spirit before we know it - so now is the time to start on those iPhoto and iMovie projects that you want to share with friends and family when they visit.

Here is my schedule of classes for October.

Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 2 pm - iPhoto

Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 10 am - Basic OSX

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 2 pm - Basic OSX

Thursday, October 16, 2008 at 10 am - iMovie

Tuesday, October 21, 2008 at 2 pm - Basic OSX

Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 10 am - iTunes/iPod

Please call ahead to reserve your place in class - 242-1800

\$25 per session, classes run about 90 minutes.

Thanks,

Kate