



Rmug News

November 2008

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
November 8, 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 officer
nominations, a demo of iLife applications
by Dale and Barbara. Personal creativity
comments, wisdom and issues as well as
the usual Q&A. Be sure and bring those
questions..

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Rmug Officers

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

President's Letter

Last week Apple announced a new lineup of laptops and my friend Spuds Mac was on the phone freaking out. Spuds was absolutely shocked Apple had discontinued his personal favorite model, the 17" MacBook Pro. Just to double check Spuds, I went on-line to the Apple web-site and sure enough there was a whole list of the new laptops and not a word about the 17" MacBook Pro? While Spuds and I were talking on the phone and sending each other e-mails with details of the new lineup, an epiphany hit Spuds and I about the exact same moment as Apple finished putting up the new web-page, and we both felt so foolish as the MacBook Pro 17" is fine and well. It was just a glitch on the Apple web-site that did not show the 17" MacBook Pro for the first hour after the other models were all introduced. Spuds and I have made a pact to never criticize Apple for at least 3 hours in the future, as we learned an important lesson in that if a model were actually discontinued Apple would have said so on their web-page. The lack of a single model from a web-page during model introductions was nothing more than web-developers being unprepared to put up the whole "new" web-site during the product launch and Apple's penchant for accuracy. Keep up the good work Apple and if the truth were known Spuds probably sweated more during that hour than he has in years of aerobics classes.

Now speaking of new laptop models, I think Apple has hit a home run. I do see the beginnings of a trend that probably foretells the future of FireWire. The new MacBook including the aluminum model has "NO" FireWire. If you want FireWire you need the \$999 entry level MacBook or the MacBook Pro line. There is a new external monitor port on the MacBook line (except \$999

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:

model) called the Mini Display Port. I do wish Apple would tell us why this port is better than the mini DVI or regular DVI ports? My laptop bag is getting fuller and fuller as Apple keeps introducing adapters. The lineup of MacBooks run the gambit from a dual 2.0Ghz to a dual 2.4Ghz while the MacBook Pros range from a dual 2.4Ghz to a dual 2.6Ghz model.

Apple has also introduced my dream monitor, and although it is pricey, it is not so high priced that I can't dream about owning one. The new "Apple LED Cinema Display can turn your new MacBook into a desktop in three easy connections. The universal MagSafe connector charges your notebook. A new Mini DisplayPort connector makes attaching an external display even easier and faster than before. And a USB connector provides access to three USB 2.0 ports. There's also a built-in iSight camera, microphone, and speaker system that provide a true desktop experience. Made of aluminum and glass, the LED Cinema Display is the perfect companion for the new MacBook family".

There is one more development I would like to point out. Apple is selling Solid State 128GB HDs for \$500 to \$600 depending on which model you custom order it with. This is the future folks, and HD failures will just be urban legends in a few years. If any of you hit the lottery and are wondering what to get me for Christmas, this would make a GREAT stocking stuffer.

<http://store.apple.com/us/product/MB382LL/A?fnode=MTY1NDA5OQ&mco=MTkzOTAzMA>

Dalej

Secretary's Notes:

The October meeting was held at YAKS Koffee Shop. Twenty-six members and guests attended. Laurie Voss became a new member. Guests were Nate Cook and Sue Sheredon. Welcome! Dale led the beginner's class. Michael fielded questions from the intermediate group.

There were lots of interesting discussions such as

- 1) Synchronizing Quicken on your laptop and main hard drive. The new Quicken 2009 is supposed to be good.
- 2) 'Desktop' in OS10.4 and 10.5 doesn't exist. Apple has even created a 'Downloads' folder for you to automatically use.
- 3) iDVD can make chapters (iMovie cannot). Try using a free trial of DVD2One to separate or combine DVDs. It maintains chapter markers.
- 4) Firefox 3 in combination with OS10.3 have a problem. Go back and use Firefox 2.
- 5) New Intel Macs with Leopard are vulnerable to viruses that don't infect the older Macs because they speak the Intel language. Suggest you don't leave the Windows (Intel) side of the computer on all night. Get good virus software. The free version of AVG is probably worth what you paid for it.
- 6) And much, much more that I didn't get down. Disclaimer! What I did get down may not be 100% accurately reported. Ask Michael if in doubt.

Nominations are open for RMUG Officers and Board Members for 2009. We encourage you to take a turn at any of the positions that interest you. For sure, we need a Newsletter Editor as Ken resigned as of December some months ago!! He and Donna travel both summer and winter.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

The Ambassador (Michael) reported that several new pieces of software were given us for raffle, such as Spring Cleaning. Please write a short review of any software that you win. It helps us to show that we do raffle off the software we receive, which encourages companies to send us more.

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: Mary Gililland demoed Skype, the free service that allows you to use your computer to talk with and see the party you have called (and they can see you). We saw her talking with her grandson in San Diego and her brother in Saudi Arabia. You do need to send an email first so they know your Skype name. Mary also did a very thorough demo of Print Shop 2 for Mac OSX starting from scratch. She showed how to make a database (she had made one of the names, addresses, etc., of personnel at her school). She then showed us how to fill out the custom fields in Mail Merge (letterhead, envelopes, name tags, etc.), and how to print out any or all of this information from her database. There were some good questions. Thank you very much, Mary.

Next Meeting at YAKS: November 8, 2008. Software within iLife will be demoed. Barbara Benefield will demo iPhoto and Dale Josephson will demo iMovie and iDVD.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Pogue On Basics:

"One of these days, I'm going to write a book called, 'The Basics.' It's going to be a compendium of the essential tech bits that you just assume everyone knows--but you're wrong.

(I'll never forget watching a book editor at a publishing house painstakingly drag across a word in a word processor to select it. After 10 minutes of this, I couldn't stand it. 'Why don't you just double-click the word?' She had no clue you could do that!)"

Many readers chimed in with other "basics" that they assumed every computer user knew--but soon discovered that what's common knowledge isn't the same as universal knowledge.

I'm sure the basics could fill a book, but here are a few to get you started. All of these are things that certain friends, family or coworkers, over the years, did *not* know. Clip, save and pass along to...well, you know who they are.

* You can double-click a word to highlight it in any document, e-mail or Web page.

* When you get an e-mail message from eBay or your bank, claiming that you have an account problem or a question from a buyer, it's probably a "phishing scam" intended to trick you into typing your password. Don't click the link in the message. If in doubt, go into your browser and type "www.ebay.com" (or whatever) manually.

* Nobody, but nobody, is going to give you half of \$80 million to help them liberate the funds of a deceased millionaire...from Nigeria or anywhere else.

* You can hide all windows, revealing only what's on the computer desktop, with one keystroke: Windows key+D in Windows, F11 on Macs (or, on recent Mac laptops, Command+F3; Command is the key with the cloverleaf logo). That's great when you want to examine or delete something you've just downloaded to the desktop, for example. Press the keystroke again

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POGUE ON BASICS CONTINUED:

to return to what you were doing.

* You can enlarge the text on any Web page. In Windows, press Ctrl and the plus or minus keys (for bigger or smaller fonts); on the Mac, it's the Command key and plus or minus.

* You can also enlarge the entire Web page or document by pressing the Control key as you turn the wheel on top of your mouse. On the Mac, this enlarges the entire screen image.

* The number of megapixels does not determine a camera's picture quality; that's a marketing myth. The sensor size is far more important. (Use Google to find it. For example, search for "sensor size Nikon D90.")

* On most cellphones, press the Send key to open up a list of recent calls. Instead of manually dialing, you can return a call by highlighting one of these calls and pressing Send again.

* When someone sends you some shocking e-mail and suggests that you pass it on, don't. At least not until you've first confirmed its truth at snopes.com, the Internet's authority on e-mailed myths. This includes get-rich schemes, Microsoft/AOL cash giveaways, and--especially lately--nutty scare-tactic messages about our Presidential candidates.

* You can tap the Space bar to scroll down on a Web page one screenful. Add the Shift key to scroll back up.

* When you're filling in the boxes on a Web page (like City, State, Zip), you can press the Tab key to jump from box to box, rather than clicking. Add the Shift key to jump through the boxes backwards.

* You can adjust the size and position of any window on your computer. Drag the top strip

to move it; drag the lower-right corner (Mac) or any edge (Windows) to resize it.

* Forcing the camera's flash to go off prevents silhouetted, too-dark faces when you're outdoors.

* When you're searching for something on the Web using, say, Google, put quotes around phrases that must be searched together. For example, if you put quotes around "electric curtains," Google won't waste your time finding one set of Web pages containing the word "electric" and another set containing the word "curtains."

* You can use Google to do math for you. Just type the equation, like $23*7+15/3=$, and hit Enter.

* Oh, yeah: on the computer, * means "times" and / means "divided by."

* If you can't find some obvious command, like Delete in a photo program, try clicking using the right-side mouse button. (On the Mac, you can Control-click instead.)

* Google is also a units-of-measurement and currency converter. Type "teaspoons in 1.3 gallons," for example, or "euros in 17 dollars." Click Search to see the answer.

* You can open the Start menu by tapping the key with the Windows logo on it.

* You can switch from one open program to the next by pressing Alt+Tab (Windows) or Command-Tab (Mac).

* You generally can't send someone more than a couple of full-size digital photos as an e-mail attachment; those files are too big, and they'll bounce back to you. (Instead, use iPhone or Picasa--photo-organizing programs that can automatically scale down photos in the process of e-mailing them.)

* Whatever technology you buy today will be obsolete soon, but you can avoid heartache by learning the cycles. New iPods come out every

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POGUE ON BASICS CONTINUED:

September. New digital cameras come out in February and October.

* Just putting something into the Trash or the Recycle Bin doesn't actually delete it. You then have to *empty* the Trash or Recycle Bin. (Once a year, I hear about somebody whose hard drive is full, despite having practically no files. It's because over the years, they've put 79 gigabytes' worth of stuff in the Recycle Bin and never emptied it.)

* You don't have to type "http://www" into your Web browser. Just type the remainder: "nytimes.com" or "dilbert.com," for example. (In the Safari browser, you can even leave off the ".com" part.)

* On the iPhone, hit the Space bar twice at the end of a sentence. You get a period, a space, and a capitalized letter at the beginning of the next word.

* Come up with an automated backup system for your computer. There's no misery quite like the sick feeling of having lost chunks of your life because you didn't have a safety copy.

Circuits
From the Desk of David Pogue
Tech Tips for the Basic Computer User
By DAVID POGUE

Security Warning:

Beware of MacGuard..

MacWorld reports that Intego, the maker of Virus Barrier and Net Barrier, two security applications for the Mac, have issued a security warning about an application and service called MacGuard.

According to Intego, MacGuard is a.. rogue program that pretends to be a security

application that will protect your Mac. Once installed, MacGuard reports bogus information about your Mac, including the presence of adware, spyware, and other nasty malware that does not actually exist. You are then directed to a web site to purchase the full MacGuard service to 'remove' the reported malware.

Intego believes the ultimate goal of MacGuard is to harvest credit card information for resale in the identity theft market.

By Tom Nelson, About.com Guide to Macs

Tips and Tricks:

Don't Touch Your Mac During Software Updates

This tip's headline is a bit alarmist—so let us clarify. When you are running software updates, or installing new security patches, you shouldn't do anything with your Mac while it's running through the last Optimizing System Performance phase of a software update. Launching applications while your Mac is performing this last phase of a software update can potentially damage system library files. In the worst case, there is a chance your Mac won't be able to start up again without significant troubleshooting.

So how should you run software updates?

We recommend you run security updates at the end of the day. Ideally after restarting and with no other software running at the time. While Apple's software update feature does not make it easy to tell when a particular update was released, we generally recommend waiting about a week after a major update is released before you install on your Mac. For our clients who schedule regular monthly maintenance visits, we generally run all software updates on each Mac once a month after a fresh reboot.

~ Creative Techs
LIMac Forum, Long Island, NY

Free Online Language Translations

Here's an interesting question I received recently: "I have a site that attracts visitors from all over the world, so I often receive emails in Spanish, French, and German. Is there a tool that will help

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TIPS AND TRICKS CONTINUED:

me translate them to English? I also want to write back in their languages." Fortunately, there are some excellent (and free) online translation tools available. Remember the babel fish in "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"? It could instantly translate from one language to another. The web version of Babelfish can translate words, paragraphs or entire web pages to and from English, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.

Babelfish can't translate text into Bostonese, Martian, Smurfish, Jive, Elmer Fudd, or Swedish Chef, but of course clever programmers have found a way. Read on to learn about Babelfish and eleven other online language translation tools here:

<http://askbobrankin.com/free_online_translations.html> ~ Bob Rankin
InternetTourbus.com
via Mouse Tales, NorthCoast MUG, Berea, OH
Submitted by Barbara

Quick Image View

Here is a cool Leopard trick and it is like magic for people who look at images all the time.

Click on a JPEG icon and press the space bar. Up pops your image. This works for PDFs also. It is a fast way to view images that you want to view quickly without opening them up in an application like Photoshop. The trick uses Apple's Quicklook.

Lynn Rybarczyk

Quick Mac Tip Videos

There are several dozen excellent video tutorials posted throughout Apple.com. The Business section has some of the best. They include topics such as Battery Optimization, Restricting Spotlight, Merge PDFs With Ease, Deleting Securely, and many more.

The videos are short and sweet and get right to the point. It's definitely worth any Mac users time to check them out -- you'll almost certainly learn something new.

See them here: <<http://www.apple.com/business/theater/>>

~ Ed
Small Dog Electronics

Spotlight Menu-bar Calculator

The Spotlight menu (upper-right corner of the screen) is also a tiny pocket calculator in Leopard. Hit Command/Space, type or paste 38*48.2-7+55, and marvel at the first result in the Spotlight menu: 1879.6.

You don't even have to fire up the Calculator.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, ORPeachpit Press

Submitted by Charlotte

"We Speak Mac"

JETT.NET

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Internet Service Provider
Web Hosting - Website Design & Maintenance
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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

There should be something of interest for everyone in this issue...
Until next month..

Ken



Jett's November 08 Mac Classes:

Hi Everyone,

Here is my schedule for November 2008

Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 2 pm - Basic OSX
Thursday, November 13, 2008 at 10 am - iPhoto
Tuesday, November 18, 2008 at 2 pm - iMovie
Thursday, November 20, 2008 at 10 am - Basic OSX
Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 2 pm - iTunes/iPod
Thursday, November 27, 2008 - Happy Thanksgiving

\$25 PER PERSON PER SESSION

The Tuesday classes are from 2-3:30 PM and Thursday classes are from
10-11:30 AM

You must register for classes as class size is limited to 5 people.

Call the office at 242-1800 to sign up.

Thank's

Kate