



Rmug News

March 2005

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
March 12, 2005 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 tax prep software demonstration and discussion, personal creativity projects and issues as well as the usual Q&A.

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Rmug Officers

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

President's Letter

I use a Windows PC at work. It is well known and generally acknowledged that Macs are superior to PCs. To make sure others are aware of this, I have a MacWorld 2003 poster of the first flat-panel iMac and a nicely formatted copy of the 'Here's to the Crazy Ones' poem from Apple's Think Different campaign prominently displayed above my desk. I must have read the poem a thousand times in the past three years. It encourages me to use the PC to create better products. I hope to share it with the group again here.

Here's to the crazy ones.

The misfits.

The rebels.

The troublemakers.

The round pegs in the square holes.

The ones who see things differently.

They're not fond of rules.

And they have no respect for the status quo.

You can praise them, disagree with them, quote them, disbelieve them, glorify or vilify them.

About the only thing you can't do is ignore them.

Because they change things.

They invent.

They imagine.

They heal.

They explore.

They create.

They inspire.

They push the human race forward.

Maybe they have to be crazy.

How else can you stare at an empty canvas and see a work of art?

Or sit in silence and hear a song that's never been written?

Or gaze at a red planet and see a laboratory on wheels?

We make tools for these kinds of people.

While some see them as the crazy ones,

we see genius.

Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.

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, 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, FEBRUARY 12, 2005

Four guests were introduced: Pat and Ken Andrews, Michael Sauer and Matthew Parsons. Michael, a recent VP of the Santa Rosa MUG, is a photographer and teaches digital printing. Matthew is a tech person. Both indicated they would be willing to help in any way they could in our club. Welcome!

Bill Benton suggested we brainstorm ways to increase our membership. It seems there are many people out there who use Macs but don't know RMUG exists. Suggestions:

- . A flyer needs to be made to post in businesses that sell and/or fix Mac computers; also post in coffee shops where people tend to use laptops.

- . Advertise that Michael Peters offer a free "Mac Help" class every Monday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Anderson Senior Citizen Center.

- . Free Newsletters in selected locations.

- . Add our web site and a contact phone number to our meeting notice in the Record Searchlight.

- . Raffle a real nice piece of equipment with the person bringing in 5 new people getting 5 free raffle tickets.

- . Write an article for the Business Section of the paper regarding our meetings.

Items the club has that the members can check out and use are (see Charlotte Ruskowitz):

- . CD Burner, USB Connection

- . Converter Box which converts Video to CD (donated by Bill Benton)

Kim asked for information on how to convert cassette tapes to CD. Michael Peters explained it to her. Ask Michael if you are interested.

Michael reported that there was very good attendance at the 'for fee' Photoshop/

Photoshop Elements 2 class he taught on a recent Friday. The club is purchasing Photoshop Elements 2 software to be a raffle item in the near future.

The Board is reviewing By-Laws that will be brought to the membership soon.

We viewed four excellent presentations, two of which were inspired by recent Photo to Movie demonstrations. All give members excellent ideas of what they can put together using their own raw material.

- . Starting from old 16mm. movie film her father had shot in the 30s and 40s, Charlotte Ruskowitz showed a video presentation she had made of her parents, her birth and growing up. Her father had hand made, moved and shot all the titles and graphics. She used period music. She used iMovie. Everyone loved it. Thanks so much, Charlotte.

- . Alan Hall showed two examples of Time Line Projects he has made using a Mini CAD 7.0.1 program. The CAD program allowed him to draw boxes and type into them. He passed around a 36" wide by about 36" long example. He also showed a Hall Family Tree he had made. Using Excel, he merged his family tree information into a World Timeline he had purchased through a home school supply source. Both were impressive. Thank you, Alan.

- . Ken Lorenz treated us to 'A Day at Sundial Bridge.' It was a movie he made from digital pictures of a family outing to see the new bridge. Using Photo to Movie, he incorporated pictures, titles and sound. Thank you so much, Ken.

- . Michael Peters showed how to convert a music video tape to a music video DVD. Thanks you, Michael.

We look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting when Barbara Benefield will review Income and State Tax Software.

By Jacquie Martin, Secretary

HINTS AND TIPS:

Copy & Paste Quickly

There is not one but two quick ways to copy & paste text quickly. You can highlight the text you want and then press Command/C to copy. Place the cursor where you want to drop the text and press Command/V to paste.

Or, you can highlight the text and just drag it where you want it. Depending on your background, I'll bet you thought one of these two ways was something everyone already knew.

Washington (OR) University MUG

Control/Click Secret

Did you know that you can Control/click on words in most OS X applications to bring up a contextual menu that includes access to the built-in spelling checker? You can check the spelling of words, find the correct spelling of and replace misspelled words, and turn the check-as-you-type feature on or off. --Don Dickey

Connecticut Macintosh Connection, West Hartford CT

QuickTime Pro Trick

If you upgrade QuickTime to QuickTime Pro for \$29.99 (<http://www.apple.com/quicktime.5>), there are a lot more capabilities. One of these I find useful is cutting and pasting. For example, I downloaded a .mov file containing more than one Artie Shaw song. I wanted the files as separate songs and in either AIFF or MP3 format.

I downloaded the .mov file and started it playing in QuickTime Pro 6.5.1. Using the small triangle dividers below the time line, I identified the start and finish positions for the first song, "My Reverie," with Helen Forrest singing. The gray area in the timeline now represents that song.

Clicking Copy (Command/C), I saved this song. Command/N creates a new, empty, QuickTime Pro player. Command/V now copies the song into the new playlist. Leave the selection alone for the moment. Now test the ending and the beginning of the song to see that you selected enough, but not too much. I placed the cursor almost at the end and played the ending to make sure I got the entire ending. If I got too much, I can cut the excess using the same technique as above. Test the beginning the same way. If, on the other hand, you did not get enough at the beginning or ending, simply throw the new player away, go back and add gray area to the selection on either end as needed.

Now save the new player with your choice of name.

Go back to the original .mov file and highlight other songs and repeat these three steps. Now what you have is .mov files, not AIFF or MP3 files. QuickTime Pro allows you to create AIFF files from .mov files. With the individual song .mov file open, go the QuickTime Pro's menu, select Export ... and then pick "Sound to AIFF" from the dropdown Export menu. While you are there take a look at all the other conversions you can do with your .mov file.

You can generally assume it is OK to leave the "Options" button and the "Use" pop-down alone. The "Save As" and "Where" areas allow you to rename the file and locate it on your hard drive. Note that the AIFF file ends up being called AIF. Macs only need three letter extensions. I have no idea why QuickTime Pro says it is creating an AIFF file and not an AIF file.

Using this ability of QuickTime Pro you can work wonders with .mov files that contain more material than you wish, or which contains sound you wish to convert to AIFF sound.

Apple Barrel, Ridgecrest CA

credit <http://mac-hints-tips.com/>
Submitted by Charlotte

Free Music:

Free Music Tuesdays

We all know about Apple's revolutionary iTunes Music Store, where we can choose from over a million different songs to legally download for only 99¢ a song (\$9.99 an album). But what some of you might not know about is iTunes' Free Music Tuesdays. Every week, iTunes features one single from various artists in various genres. You can download this song for free. Often, there are other free songs to download (Once, there was even a dramatized version of a Louis L'Amour book!). Check the bottom right corner of the iTunes Music Store home to find a list of the free downloads. These are updated every Tuesday, and are accessible throughout the entire week. But scan the home page thoroughly! Even as I was writing this, I stumbled across a free song which wasn't listed in the Free Downloads window.

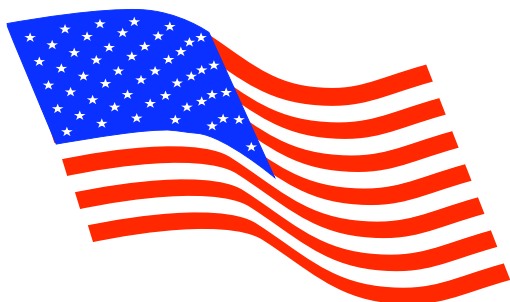
So take advantage of the iTunes Music Store, with Free Music Tuesdays!

By Jimi Kathryn Bonogofsky
AKA: Jimi K <>

Wanted or For Sale:

As a member of RMUG you can place an ad for items you may desire or wish to sell. Not only do you get lots of free technical help, but also a forum in which you can buy and sell with like minded folks. There are many other benefits as well, with one low annual dues payment of \$24.

Ken



Old Dogs New Tricks:

COMPUTERS AND INCOME TAX.

It will SOON be time to do our income tax - isn't that exciting?

NO! No, doing our thing for the government called 1040 is not something to look forward to. But the days of two or three shoeboxes stuffed full of receipts are gone. One of the most popular software programs for keeping our checkbook records straight is Quicken. Quicken or any other program of this type will push you into putting every check into a category. Expense categories would be things like house payments, car payments, utilities, and medical payments. Income categories would be things like paycheck, interest income, or Social Security.

Then comes the nice part. At the end of the year, you can instruct the program to print out a summary of categories. It will print out every paycheck with totals, every interest income with totals, and Social Security with totals. Then, go into the expense categories and print out each of them with their totals. With this information you are ready to adventure into the nightmare called 1040.

It takes most of the work out of our annual drudgery.

But this is not the end of the story. Income tax software is also available. Programs of this type will guide you through the tax forms. When it uses words you do not understand, its "help" function will explain them to you. When you do not know which form to use, it will guide you. If it refers to some bookkeeping format or formula you do not understand, the "help" function will guide you.

When finished, you can send your report over the Internet - no paper work. The government likes it better this way. Your information is in a format their computers can read, the math is always correct, they don't have to mail volumes of instructions and forms, and they will deduct payment from your checking account.

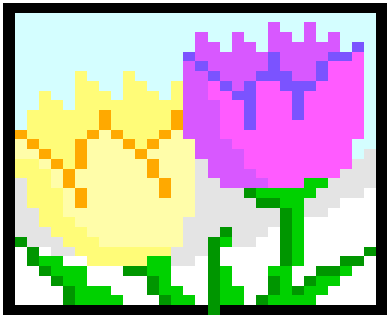
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OLD DOGS NEW TRICKS CONT:

Again - no paper work!

No, it isn't fun yet; but it is faster, cheaper, and more accurate than the old way of delivering shoeboxes full of receipts to your tax accountant!

By Alan Hall



Considering iLife 05:

In today's "State of the Art" column, I reviewed iPhoto 5, the photo-management portion of Apple's new iLife '05 software suite. (I also reviewed the glorious, new, free Picasa 2 for Windows from Google.)

The other pieces of the iLife software suite for Macintosh are iTunes (unchanged in this version), iMovie, iDVD and GarageBand.

GarageBand is loaded with interesting new tools for editing your live audio recordings, including one that changes a male voice to female (or vice versa) and a Fix Pitch button that somehow makes an off-key singer sound in tune. (Miraculously, it doesn't just nudge the entire recording higher or lower; it actually affects individual notes, and only as necessary.) Similarly, GarageBand 2 somehow lets you change the tempo of a piece even after you've recorded the live vocal tracks, seamlessly lengthening or shortening the recorded track without introducing chipmunky side effects.

Now, the iLife programs are filled with welcome little nips and tucks. But Apple clearly considers one feature of iMovie, the

video-editing program, to be the biggest revolution in the iLife '05 suite: iMovie can now download, edit and export high-definition camcorder footage.

Apple evidently believes that it's bringing high-definition, wide-screen editing to the masses. It even renamed the program iMovie HD.

Now, it is true that iMovie is about \$920 less expensive (and light years less complicated) than the next cheapest HDTV editing software. But there are a couple of flies in this ointment.

First of all, who has a high-def camcorder? Only two consumer HDTV camcorders are available so far: JVC's year-old GR-HD1 (one-chip sensor, \$2,500) and Sony's new FX1 (three-chip sensor, \$3,500). Wedding videographers, amateur filmmakers, corporations and early-adopter masochists may be interested, but for everyone else, buying a biggish, black, over-the-shoulder camcorder for four figures might be a bit of a stretch.

Another question: Once you've edited an HD film in iMovie, who'll be able to watch it? You have only two ways to get your masterpiece onto an HDTV set: connect the HDTV camcorder itself to the screen, or burn the movie to a DVD. (iDVD 5 can now burn wide-screen DVD's just like the ones that come from Hollywood — but, of course, a DVD is not high definition.)

In short, iMovie 5 seems to be several years ahead of its time.

Either that, or Apple is counting on another possibility: that iMovie HD itself will help usher in the era of HDTV home movies. Don't laugh; Apple's efforts have prompted similar trickle-down revolutions before. The original iMovie, for example, made video editors out of millions of amateurs, and iDVD was among the first programs to let mere bumbling mortals make professional-looking, Hollywood-style DVD's.

(Another hint, or not: When Steve Jobs unveiled iLife '05 last week at the Macworld Expo, his

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iLIFE '05 CONTINUED:

presentation featured a strange, halting appearance by the Sony Electronics president, Kunitake Ando. Mr. Ando didn't announce any new products or unveil any new collaboration with Apple. But the weirdness of the whole appearance has fueled speculation that there's something going on between the companies that we don't know about.)

Otherwise, the changes in iLife '05 are far subtler than they were in iLife '04. That may be a signal to you that the \$80 upgrade isn't quite so urgent — or it may be a welcome sign that Apple has chosen to polish and refine what it had instead of junking the programs up with superfluous features.

By David Pogue
Circuits: NY Times

“Megapixel Myth”

The "Megapixel Myth" could quickly replace the "Megahertz Myth" of old if current trends continue. Digital camera makers are offering consumers an increased number of features and more technology in their cameras than ever before, but consumers are calling for higher megapixel cameras, sometimes without even knowing if there are benefits in having it.

In fact, many camera manufacturers released five and seven megapixel consumer models at this week's Photo Marketing Association International trade show in Orlando, FL. This, says one analyst, is a trend that will likely continue.

"We are seeing more megapixels in smaller packages with lower price-points," NPD analyst Ross Rubin told MacCentral. "We see in our data that five megapixel cameras will become more mainstream in 2005."

With more affordable five and higher megapixel cameras readily available to the consumer market, there is no doubt they will sell, but will those that purchase the cameras actually see a noticeable improvement? Camera manufacturers say that depending on what you want from a camera, you may not notice a difference going to a higher megapixel model.

"If they just want a 4 x 6-inch print, then they won't see a difference [going to a five or seven megapixel model] -- a four megapixel camera would do just fine," said Charles De Luca, Nikon product manager, Consumer Digital Products & Compact Cameras.

"We try to get people to think about pictures instead of megapixels," said Olympus Product Manager, Sally Smith Clemens. "You need to think about the application; what will you be doing with the camera."

Both companies agreed that megapixels only matter if you plan to print very large pictures or if you crop and blow up a section of a picture to print. So why are the new consumer cameras



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“MEGAPIXEL MYTH” CONTINUED:

coming out with a higher megapixel rating? Competition.

"It happens because of competition," said Nikon's De Luca. "Consumers are demanding it and there are always those consumers that want the latest camera available.

Much the same as the megahertz myth in computer processors, there is more that goes into image quality than megapixels.

"That [the megahertz myth] is a great analogy," said Michael Corrado, Nikon senior product manager Digital SLR Systems. "We rely heavily on optics and so many other things -- it's not just about megapixels."

While megapixel rating is certainly become increasingly important to consumers, NPD analyst Ross Rubin notes a couple of other things that consumers look for when purchasing a camera.

"Price is definitely a driver," said Rubin. "Before that was a trade-off; price versus quality. In-camera modes like red-eye reduction also help people -- for the consumer it's all about taking a better picture."

By Jim Dalrymple MacCentral
Technology - MacCentral

Photo to Movie:

Photo to Movie Review:

I purchased version 3.1 of this program several months ago, and have spent more time working with it than any other I have used, including Appleworks, etc. This is not just a testament to my limited time with Macs and their programs, or my scattered attention issues, but to the relatively easy learning

curve and enjoyability of the Photo to Movie application.

Installing and setting up the program was straight forward and clear. The help feature is intuitive, very well laid out, and easy to understand and use. It is difficult to know where to begin in explaining how the application works or how I use it, other than to say that one simply drags a folder full of photos into the front panel of the application and go to work on making the photos do whatever you want. I did find it easiest to have the photos in the order in which I wanted them to appear when I dropped them into the application. They can be easily moved within the timeline, however. There are many features that I have yet to examine, because I have not had the time. Each project I have completed with Photo to Movie has been complete and satisfying. However, each one takes more time because I am including more features in each successive one. Although all of the projects can stand alone, each one is better than the last. I sometimes wonder if I will run out of time before I run out of features. I am sure that I will get faster at using the application as I become more familiar with the various features.

I would recommend this application to anyone who enjoys taking and saving photos. Because of the ability to include dialog, music, motion within the photos, color and text, I think one can achieve a more dramatic affect with Photo to Movie than with a movie camera.

The only word of caution would be to those who have yet to upgrade to a G4 processor - you should have plenty of RAM and hard drive space. When I first got the program I was using it on a G3 machine, which worked, but when it came to rendering the photo to movie it took a very long time for the rendering process to be completed. One has to remember that one is turning still photos into motion pictures, along with sound and text.

So far I have documented my cousins wedding reception, a 50th anniversary celebration, our vacation last year, a high school reunion, and a trip to the sundial bridge.

Ken

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>
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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

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue. The more member involvement there is - the better. After all, that is what we are about.

Spring is in the air, things are in bloom. One of the nicest seasons in Redding is just beginning, everyone have a pleasant Easter.

An address to an interesting article in the New York Times is provided for your review. I think it says a lot about the current state of our "informed" society.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/03/06/arts/06rich.html?th>

Maintain your awareness of what is going on with regard to fair use rights, civil rights, government secrecy and propaganda. Speak up and get involved when you see abuses.

Ken



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