



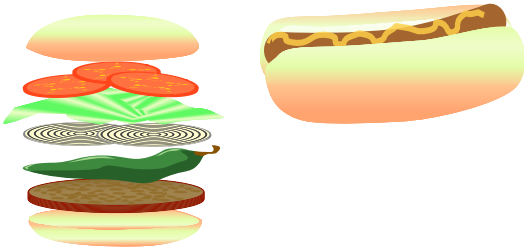
Rmug News

August 2006

This Month

RMUG Picnic, Saturday
August 12, 2006 11:30 a.m. Till ?
Directions in NL online announcement.

Tri Tip Picnic



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President's Letter

My friend Spuds Mac and I were talking about the World Wide Developers Conference (WWDC) that is being held at Moscone Center West in San Francisco August 7th through 11th. Spuds is convinced that Macintosh is going to join Sony or some other movie studio and become the worlds largest entertainment company. Spuds contention is the newest iPod with a built in phone will be called the iPhone and will change the way we listen to music. This will mainstream the idea of carrying MP3 music players with us wherever we voyage away from our entertainment centers. By dropping the iPod portion of the name and building a world class telephone with a built in iPod new customers will try an Apple and be exposed to it's superior quality. Spuds was telling me about some sort of study that had been done and the juxtapose of the story was if you could convince someone to carry their music everywhere, you could later convince that same person to carry their movies. I said, "what you are telling me is that Apple isn't trying to get us all addicted to our iPods for music, but get the whole world hooked to immediate music gratification" so that later Apple can hook us with "immediate video gratification"? Spuds answered, "and you will enjoy every minute of the evolution". I asked what kind of proof does he have that Apple is about to release a phone and he showed me some as yet unused commands that were installed into our existing iPods, courtesy of Apple's June 28th iPod updater package that includes telecommunication related text strings such as "kPhoneSignalStrength, clPhoneCallModel and prPhoneSettingsMenu".

Always liking to rile up the ol Spuds just for the fun of it, I taunted him with what if these iPod code strings were not for phones per say, but what if it was for some sort of Video Rental mechanism to allow iTunes administrators access to our computers and iPods for the purpose of deleting movie files after an agreed upon rental period? I think I saw Spuds spit up a real fur ball as he bashed my idea of Steve Jobs knuckling under to the pressure of the big movie studios. Spuds does not believe Apple will ever offer rentals as that is not in their business model. Apple develops the highest quality hardware and software and leaves rental business to others. Apple will not rent you music but they sure bend over backward to sign new artists including Metalica to sell you their iTunes version. But Spuds did

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 242-1800 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.

PRESIDENTS LETTER CONTINUED:

say that if Apple ever did offer rentals it would be because they had purchased Block Buster or some other large renter of movies. He doesn't think the Mac demographic would want to rent vast amounts of movies, but instead most of us all like to have the biggest movie collection on the block. I countered - what if the movies were 99¢ for 3 days or \$1.99 for 7 days? Spuds conceded we would all rent a few, but he is convinced we are all closet collectors. I had to laugh thinking to myself, I am sitting here on a stack of three SE30s that had long ago retired, but I just could not take working computers to the junk pile.

Just when I thought Spuds had calmed down I made a reference to Star Wars where Obi-Wan Kenobi says "Luke, let the force be with you". Spuds started drooling and I could tell he knew a secret he wanted to slip if I would just ask the right question? My clue was "let the force be with you" so I kept picking and picking. Finally, Spuds pulled a prototype iPod from his breast pocket and there was a large color screen on the top 1/2 and a big flat area on the bottom. Spuds started pointing at the bottom portion of the unreleased iPod and the screen on the top 1/2 lit up with a menu. I asked, what was the trick - where were the controls? Spuds just laughed and told me to point my finger just below the screen and it did not matter how I held the iPod as long as I kept my fingers off the face. Sure enough, when my finger was about 1 inch away from the face there was my favorite iTunes menu. The only thing it was missing was the 3D hallow gram pop up menu that R2-D2 used to deliver messages! I told Spuds that is what I wanted from him for my birthday and he just chuckled. "All you will get is E-Books and only if you are good. What did he mean by E-Books? Aren't those the ones you actually read on your screen or have a program read them to you? I was not sure and Spuds was departing, so I wished him a safe journey and asked him to stop by the next time he came through Northern California. Spuds yelled back that he would indeed enjoy my hospitality and one more story he wanted spread was "newest

version of Toast 7 will incorporate Blu-Ray support for the Mac". Too cool, I told myself as I have been waiting to hear which direction Apple will go in ultra high density DVDs.

dalej

Old Dogs/New Tricks:

LOOK MA, NO WIRES.

"Look ma, no hands" was the old saying from a kid riding a bicycle, some times just before a fall. Our never-ending electronic marvels leave us with big eyes and mouths open. Now it is, "Look Ma, no wires!" All of us with computers have learned to live with a proverbial "rat's nest" of wires; wires from computer - to monitor - to printer - to scanner - to telephone - to mouse - to keyboard - to modem - and more.

While this was happening we were learning to live with a garage door opener with no wires. Our remote control clicker for our TV and VCR had no wires. A remote control for our automobile would lock, unlock, turn on the lights and start the engine with no wires.

Now the computer industry is converting: a mouse with no wires to the computer; printers with no wires between the computer and the printer; computers that can send and receive information from each other without wires; wireless telephones sending E-mail and Internet to a computer. Will wonders never cease? I think I was born 30 years to soon!

Of course there are limits. The main limit is distance. Like the garage door opener or the TV remote control you must be close to get them to operate. But this is so much better than the "rat's nest" of wiring we now live with.

Since your eyes and mouths are wide open with wonder lets continue. Casio is manufacturing watches with a camera built into the watch. Also, they manufacture a watch with a GPS system that can tell you where you are anywhere on earth.

"Look ma, no wires."

Allen Hall

Secretary's Notes:

MINUTES - RMUG MEETING, JULY 8, 2006
The July meeting was held at the YAKS Koffee Shop. Twenty members attended.

We have four new members - Kay Wilson, Michael Kelly, and John and Elaine Skeete. Welcome.

Michael Peters was ill, so Dale Josephson led one question and answer session for the combined beginner and intermediate groups.

Timbuktu Pro: This software is useful if you want to be able to access and work on another computer – for example, your children's computers. DSL is nearly mandatory for this.

We looked at the Shasta County Historical Society web page, www.historicalsociety.org
Dale uses some of these old historical photos as screen savers on his computer.

There was an interesting discussion on the connection between a DSL modem, router and the computer. Way over my head. See Dale if interested.

In answer to a question regarding easy to use cameras, some cameras were named such as Kodak Easyshare. Apparently Consumer Reports had a good article on this in their June or July issue.

Rumor has it that Intel just invested \$600 million in Clearwire. Also, that Microsoft and Apple might join up to sell movies online less expensively, perhaps three price points.

Kay's brother gave her a turquoise-blue G3. She lives in Redding, and in answer to what DSL she should subscribe to, suggestions were AT&T for \$12.99 for one year or Charter for \$39.99. Dave Capp likes Clearwire. Apparently Frontier goes down quite often.

The special subject classes at Jet Technologies are going well. There is a

schedule in the RMUG Newsletter, or call Jet if interested.

August Picnic Saturday, August 12, 2006:

In lieu of the August meeting, our annual picnic will be at the home of Jim and Donna Pace, 2847 Balaton, Redding CA. The club will purchase cooked tri tip for sandwiches, beans, salad and bread from Kent's Market. The club will also furnish the condiments, paper plates, napkins and flatware, etc. Members attending are asked to bring their own drinks plus a dish to share: Last names starting with A-M - Salads or an appetizer; N-Z - Dessert. Come any time after 12:00 and be sure to bring your swim suit.

There was no Board Meeting as we did not have a quorum.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Wi-Fi Exposure:

Security researchers have sounded the alarm for wireless Internet users, warning them that their laptop computers are vulnerable to attack by hackers. The flaws could allow thieves to gain access to passwords, bank accounts, and other private information even when the system is not connected to the Internet.

According to David Maynor, senior researcher at network security firm, SecureWorks, and fellow researcher Jon "Johnny Cache" Ellch, the problem is with the software built into wireless-networking hardware that allows it to communicate with a computer's operating system. A criminal exploiting the flaw could send malicious code to an unprotected laptop and gain complete control over it via its Wi-Fi card.

The two presented a video demonstration of how the vulnerability could be exploited on a MacBook by taking advantage of software flaws specific to Apple's OS X operating system,

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WI-FI EXPOSURE CONTINUED:

during the opening day of the Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas. But, they added, similar flaws exist in Microsoft Windows and the Linux open-source operating system, as well, so the majority of all computers, including desktops, are also susceptible.

"The problem itself isn't really an Apple problem," Maynor told the Associated Press. "This is a systemic problem across the industry."

WiFi Attacks!

To launch an attack exploiting the Wi-Fi driver flaws, a hacker would need to be within the range of a Wi-Fi signal -- normally about 100 feet. That distance, however, is subject to change as wireless technologies significantly extend the reach of a WiFi signal. That could increase the threat from hackers.

Maynor and Elch refused to provide specific details or conduct a live demonstration of their research for fear it would fall into criminal hands. But, Maynor did say they were able to remotely identify the wireless driver running on a specific computer and drop a "root kit," i.e., hacker software, into the MacBook, which allowed them to create, read, and delete files on the computer.

The test was conducted using third-party wireless hardware rather than the original wireless equipment Apple ships with the laptop. The duo refused to identify the make or model of the wireless device so as not to give potential hackers a heads-up. But, Maynor said, the flaws are so common that he would have little trouble finding a vulnerable computer at any Internet cafe.

Buggy Drivers

According to Maynor, the main problem is that wireless cards are controlled by a mix of several hardware and software developers.

These developers are often under a lot of pressure to quickly get their products to market, and do not invest enough time in perfecting their software.

The pair decided to go ahead with the demonstration because of the danger it presents to wireless users, particularly as a connection to the Internet is not necessary for intruders to exploit the flaw. Wireless cards, unless disabled, constantly broadcast their signal to any network in the vicinity and most are configured to automatically connect to any available network. So, any computer with an active wireless card is at risk.

"We want to educate developers and hardware makers about this threat before it becomes a wide-scale issue," Maynor said. "We're not talking about something that people don't know about, but a lot of people don't know the severity."

Yahoo News
Walaika K. Haskins, newsfactor.com

Using Podcasts:

Our son (who is a graphic designer, Mac flavor of course!) is visiting with us this weekend & showed me the wonderful world of podcasts. I had asked him to show me how he sharpens images, & he showed me how to find video podcasts of tutorials that show how to do everything step by step.

Podcasting has become a popular medium not only for news and chat enthusiasts, but for tutorial authors as well. Easily and cheaply made, some of these are decidedly amateurish and boring. Others, however, are informative, crisp and professionally produced. Once you've discovered the latter, you can "subscribe" to these podcasts and receive them automatically in iTunes.

Open iTunes and access the Music Store. In the "Inside the Music Store" box click on "Podcasts". Once there, enter your search in the search area below the "Account" box (NOT the search area in upper right labeled "Search Music Store").

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PODCASTS CONTINUED:

Type in "tutorial" then choose from the resulting list. Get more info on a podcast by clicking the arrow to the right of the podcast tutorial. Once there, if you see a little television symbol next to a title, you'll know it's a video podcast.

For example, click the arrow next to "The Russell Brown Show" to see a description and list of all his Photoshop tutorial podcasts. At the far right click on "Get Episode" to download the podcast into iTunes on your Mac. Though he's a bit eccentric, he's very good at explaining technique. Click "Subscribe" and receive new episodes when they're posted. It'll also list previously posted episodes you can download and view by clicking "Get" next to the title.

Some podcasts are professionally presented, succinct and informative while others drone on and on. It takes trial and error, or recommendations, to sift through them all (Russell Brown: good; Photoshop TV by the Photoshop Guys: bad).

A terrific source for InDesign tutorials is TheIndesigner. As with most podcasts, the videos can be accessed through the podcaster's website as well, in this case, theindesigner.com. "PhotoWalkthrough" can stretch a tutorial out over several chapters while "One Minute Tip" offers just that. "Radiant Vista" offers great tutorials, especially from a photographer's point of view (higher resolution versions are at the website, radiantvista.com). If the podcaster maintains a website there'll be a link at the info window.

Some of these tutorial creators are experimenting with offering iPod versions of their work, though they prefer a higher resolution, offered at their site, than the iPod can offer.

Bottom line: experiment with search terms and find the ones that work best for you.

Charlotte

Hard Drives:

The hard drive in your computer is the data center of the computer. It's where all of your programs and data are stored between the occasions that you use the computer. It's the most important of the various types of storage used in computers (storage media such as CD-ROMs, tapes, removable drives, etc.) The hard drive differs from the others primarily in two ways: size (usually larger), and speed (usually faster). Your hard drive plays a significant role in the following important aspects of your computer system:

Performance: The hard disk plays a very important role in overall system performance, probably more than most people recognize (though that's now changing as hard drives get more attention). The speed at which the computer boots up and programs load is directly related to hard drive speed. The hard drive's performance is also critical when multitasking is being used or when processing large amounts of data such as graphics work, editing sound and video, or working with databases.

Storage Capacity: This is kind of obvious, but a bigger hard disk lets you store more programs and data.

Software Support: Newer software needs more space and faster hard drives to load it efficiently. It's easy to remember when 1 GB was a lot of disk space; heck, some might even say it's easy to remember when 100 MB was a lot of disk space! ;)

Reliability: One way to assess the importance of an item of hardware is to consider how much grief is caused if it fails. By this standard, the hard drive is the most important component by a long shot. Hardware can be replaced, but data cannot. A good quality hard drive, combined with smart maintenance and backup habits, can help ensure that the nightmare of data loss doesn't become part of your life.

Hard drives are amazing in terms of the technology they use and how much progress they

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HARD DRIVES CONTINUED:

have made in terms of capacity, speed, and price in the last 20 years. The first hard drives had a capacity of 10 megabytes and a cost of over \$100 per MB. Modern hard drives have capacities well over 100 gigabytes and a cost of less than 1 cent per MB! The speed of the hard drive and its interfaces have increased dramatically as well.

When considering real world daily use of hard drives, and contemplating a hard drive purchase, computer users typically ask these three questions: Is this hard drive fast? Is this hard drive well manufactured? Is this hard drive going to last? Hard drive performance is important because hard drives are one of the slowest internal computer components, and therefore often limits the performance of the system as a whole. Quality and reliability are critical with hard drives, because they are where your data resides! No other computer component can lead so readily to disaster if it fails.

It's useful to see benchmark scores on hardware before you plan a purchase. But you should keep them in perspective. The biggest mistake people make is to over-value the numbers they read about various hardware benchmarks. Use them as a rough guideline. A month or two down the road you probably won't even remember what "your benchmark scores" were, and they certainly won't matter much to you. Lots of people try to get the very fastest hard disk but don't consider other equally important issues: quality, reliability, warranty, and data backup. People agonize over which hard disk is a teeny bit faster than another -- and then never defragment their file system, or fill the hard disk up with junk so it runs less efficiently. Be sure to keep the big picture in view. Bear in mind that whatever is on the top of the hill in the hard drive world doesn't stay there for long. Sure, it's a good feeling to think you are getting the fastest drive around. But every few months, a new model comes out that's faster than anything that preceded it. If you really want to always have the best hard drive, you have to keep buying more hardware, which is an expensive proposition that few opt for.

Many people take their hard drives for granted, and don't think about their reliability much (other than worrying about their drive crashing some day). While the technology that hard drives use is very advanced, and reliability today is much better than it has ever been before, the nature of hard drives is that every one will, some day, fail. It is important to understand how drives fail and why, and how to interpret what manufacturers claims about reliability really mean.

The most common specification related to drive reliability is mean time between failures or MTBF. This value, usually measured in hours, is meant to represent the average amount of time that will pass between random failures on a drive of a given type. It is usually in the range of 300,000 to 1,200,000 hours for modern drives today (with the range increasing every few years) and is specified for almost every drive.

This number is very often misinterpreted and misused. To be interpreted properly, the MTBF



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HARD DRIVES CONTINUED:

figure is intended to be used in conjunction with the useful service life of the drive, the typical amount of time before the drive enters the period where failures due to component wear-out increase. MTBF only applies to the aggregate analysis of large numbers of drives; it says nothing about a particular unit. If the MTBF of a model is 500,000 hours and the service life is five years, this means that a drive of that type is supposed to last for five years, and that of a large group of drives operating within this timeframe, on average they will accumulate 500,000 of total run time (amongst all the drives) before the first failure of any drive.

The service life of a modern hard disk is usually about three to five years. Interestingly, the claimed service life is often longer than the warranty period for the drive. For example, the service life might be five years but the warranty period only three years. Think about what this means. Basically, it says that the manufacturer thinks the drive should last five years, but they aren't going to bet on it lasting more than three!

In actual operation, however, the reliability of a hard drive depends as much on how the storage subsystem is implemented as it does on the characteristics of the drive itself. No implementation factors can make the drive more reliable than it is specified to be, but mistakes in the way the drive is used can sometimes make it less reliable.

The simple fact of the matter is that most major hard drive manufacturers make very high quality products, and most hard drives provide their owners with years of very reliable service. However, all manufacturers make the occasional bad drive, and sometimes, manufacturers will have a problem with a particular product. If you happen to buy one of these, you will experience a failure, and in all likelihood you will hate that company and avoid their products from then on, perhaps with good

reason. The problem is that many people will generalize this very small sample size into "Brand X sucks", when this very well may not be the case. They just may have been unlucky with what might in actuality be one of the best drives on the market. There are occasions where manufacturers will go into "slumps" and have time where their products fall in quality compared to those of other companies. And of course, if there is a known issue with a specific model, you should avoid it. The key when doing your research is to look for trends.

By Holly Buttura
(Holly@smalldog.com)

Hello... and Thank You!

I just wanted to take a little newsletter space to thank those of you who along with Dale contributed to my getting a DSL connection. I know I am a very lucky person to be appreciated by so many of you.

Most of you know that I have been having some health problems. Well, I am doing much better than I was. I was incapacitated most all of the month of July, spending some time in Mercy Hospital and afterwards spending time on my couch or in my bed. I still have another surgery or two in my future. I will see the Dr. again on the 10th of August and he will map out a strategy for cleaning my left kidney and hopefully removing all traces of the infection that has put me in such a dire situation.

I will try to keep Dale and Ken up to date on any changes.

THANK YOU! Again for all of your Thoughts and Prayers.

I do plan on attending the September meeting. I hope to see you there!

Thankfully,

Michael John Peters

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 align="center">AD Rates</p> <p>\$4-business card</p> <p>\$6-quarter page</p> <p>\$9-half page</p> <p>\$15-full page</p>

Advertisements in the RMUG newsletter will not influence reviews or critiques of hardware, software companies or stories.

RMUG does not endorse any specific dealer or product, but we do encourage the distribution of information which may assist club members in identifying best buys and services.

Editorial

The "Dog days of Summer" are with us. The pool at Jim's place sounds great. Wish we were going to be here to enjoy the picnic on the 12th. Lots going on with respect to the internet, entertainment and our computer hobby in general. Be sure to pay attention.
See you in September..

Ken



Jett's Mac Classes:

Kate is teaching all the following classes. Enrollment for each is \$25.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Introduction to OSX - 1 1/2 hours class • A basic course introducing you to Mac OSX. Topics covered will be: file organization - your stuff belongs in your house, folders with icons on them - never move or rename them, the dock - its purpose and use, accessing the internet, sending and receiving email, the Address book, media sharing between iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD and Pages.

Introduction to iTunes - 1 1/2 hour class • A basic course introducing you to iTunes. You will learn how to import music from commercial CDs, purchase music from the iTunes Music Store, download podcasts, organize your music in playlists, burn custom CDs of your playlists, move music to an iPod.

Introduction to iPhoto - 1 1/2 hour class • A basic course introducing you to iPhoto. You will learn how to import pictures from your digital camera and from a media card reader, organize your pictures in albums, scale and send pictures over email, simple image manipulation with brightness and contrast, export images for back up, create a slide show.

Introduction to iMovie - 1 1/2 hour class • A basic course introducing you to iMovie. You will learn how to import video footage from a digital camera and import still images from iPhoto to begin to build a movie project. You will then add transitions and titles. The feeling of movement in still images is done with the Ken Burns effect. Then import music from iTunes and learn to add voice overs.

Introduction to iDVD - 1 1/2 hour class • A basic course introducing you to iDVD. It is recommended that you attend the iMovie class before the iDVD class. In this class you will export your iMovie project into iDVD. You will add themes and chapter markers to personalize your project.

Introduction to Pages - 1 1/2 hour class • A basic course introducing you to Pages, page layout program. You will explore the various templates and themes for creating everything from newsletters to invitations to brochures. Again the iPhoto library is available to customize your projects.

August 3rd 10 AM • Basic OS-X
August 10th 10 AM • iPhoto
August 17th 10 AM • Excel
August 24th 10 AM - Basic OS-X
August 31st 2 PM • iTunes-iPod

August 8th 2 PM - Basic OS-X
August 15th 2 PM • iTunes-iPod
August 22nd 2 PM • Word Processing
August 29th 2 PM - iPhoto