



Rmug News

September 2008

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
September 13, 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 Oak Tree Accordance Software.
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

Fall is fast approaching as the wild-land smoke retreats from the valley floor. This summer has gone by too fast in many aspects and too slow in other areas. Too fast have the camping and vacationing days slipped by while the six weeks to clear the air of forest fire smoke was way too slow for my liking.

The August RMUG Picnic at the home of Jim & Donna Pace was a great success and all who attended had a fun time.

The RMUG website will be new by the time of our September meeting. Please bring your suggestions and comments to the September meeting or email me at mrdalej@mac.com. We are in a period of change and growth so please do let your thoughts be known so that we can better serve your needs.

In September we have Oak Tree Software giving RMUG a presentation of their Accordance 8 Bible Software. Having a software vendor from out of the area is a treat and I hope you all make the September 13, 2008 meeting. There will be the usual RMUG stuff, beginners, door prizes, raffles, etc. and a real live presenter that most of us have never met. Accordance 8 is a tool used by theologians, researchers and just general people wanting to study the interactions within the Bible. This presentation is not about religion, it is about how to do research within the Bible and how to see who interacted with whom and when. I recommend everybody arrive early as we may have the biggest turnout in recent memory for this months meeting. Along the line of arriving early if anyone sees an elder or someone needing a seat, I hope all members will help to accommodate our visitors as they may be new members the following month.

Schools have all gone back into session and as usual small schools need the public's help to keep up in the computer field. If anyone has a G3 or G4 with FireWire they were thinking of donating, may I suggest Manton Elementary as a good home for your old equipment. You can even make arrangements with me (mrdalej@mac.com) and I will pick up your computer, wipe the hard drive and get it ready for classroom use. And just so everyone knows all I ever charge Manton

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.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED:

Elementary for these donated computers is \$10 for a new battery. Remember the kid you help today may in the future be your doctor, teacher, county administrator or mailman, so pay ahead and help them be the best they can be.

dalej

Secretary's Notes:

Instead of an August meeting at YAKS, we had our annual RMUG picnic at the home of Jim and Donna Pace. Approximately 28 members and guests attended. Thank you so much Donna and Jim for hosting us at your lovely home. The gardens are just beautiful. We had a great time.

Thanks go to the Zegers and Benefields for procuring the tri tip for sandwiches, beans, a salad, and all the utensils and fixings that the club provides. Thanks also to all the cooks who attended who brought delicious salads and desserts to accompany the hot dishes. We all enjoyed lots of good food!

And games! Charlotte Ruskowitz brought a ladder golf game, and Barbara Benefield brought a lawn dart game. They were always in use. Great idea! Thanks Charlotte and Barbara.

Next Meeting at YAKS: September 13, 2008. Tom McVay, representing OakTree Software, will demo Accordance 8 Bible Software, designed for Mac. Want more information? Go to <http://www.accordancebible.com/about/index.php>.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Right to Vote:

This is the story of our grandmothers, and great-grandmothers, as they lived only 90 years ago.

It was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to go to the polls and vote.

The women who made it so were innocent and

defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive.

Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of 'obstructing sidewalk traffic.'

They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold.

Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the 'Night of Terror' on Nov. 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food--all of it colorless slop--was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because--why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining?

Last week, I went to a sparsely attended screening of HBO's new movie 'Iron Jawed Angels.' It is a graphic depiction of the battle these women waged so that I could pull the curtain at the polling booth and have my say. I am ashamed to say I needed the reminder.

All these years later, voter registration is still my

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RIGHT TO VOTE CONTINUED:

passion. But the actual act of voting had become less personal for me, more rote. Frankly, voting often felt more like an obligation than a privilege. Sometimes it was inconvenient.

My friend Wendy, who is my age and studied women's history, saw the HBO movie, too. When she stopped by my desk to talk about it, she looked angry. She was--with herself. 'One thought kept coming back to me as I watched that movie,' she said. 'What would those women think of the way I use--or don't use--my right to vote? All of us take it for granted now, not just younger women, but those of us who did seek to learn.

The right to vote, she said, had become valuable to her 'all over again.'

HBO released the movie on video and DVD. I wish all history, social studies and government teachers would include the movie in their curriculum. I want it shown on Bunco night, too, and anywhere else women gather. I realize this isn't our usual idea of socializing, but we are not voting in the numbers that we should be, and I think a little shock therapy is in order.

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy.

The doctor admonished the men: 'Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity.'

Please, pass this on to all the women you know what we women had to go through to receive the privilege to vote.

We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women. Whether you vote democratic, republican or independent party--

remember to vote. History is being made and we need a strong leader for our country. So get to your voting booths and make your voice heard. We don't need to be "beaten down" any more.

If you won't be in town to vote November 4th, 2008. . .call your election center and have them send you a ballot. . .come on gals, we can do this.

Submitted by Jacquie Martin

Pogue's List:

David Pogue's Gadget List of 2008

Two years ago, totally strapped for a column idea, I resorted to raiding my own e-mail Inbox. There I found a reader request:

"I would love to see a feature where you list what you personally use. Call it Pogue's List or something. It would be great to see what someone as plugged in as you uses personally. Everything tech -- watch, laptop, TV, car, digital camera, film camera, like that."

What's really surprising to me is how many readers have written to request an update of that list, especially lately.

Actually, the time is probably right. This year alone, I've bought several of the products that I reviewed in my column. So here it is: Pogue's List 2008.

* Camera. When the picture counts, I grab our Nikon D80 and its Amazing 11X Image-Stabilized Lens (Nikon's 18-200mm zoomer, which cost almost as much as the camera). It's a fast, loaded, prosumer digital S.L.R. that takes jaw-droppingly beautiful pictures. (I sold my old D50 to my sister.)

But the Nikon is big and bulky, so my wife carries a Canon SD700 IS shirt-pocket camera; it's also a rockin' machine. It has image stabilization, it's fast (processing and focusing), it takes really great movies and the pictures are superb for a little cam. Unfortunately, its autofocus just died

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POGUE'S LIST CONTINUED:

this week. So I'm pretty sure I'm going to replace it with the Canon SD890 (5X optical zoom--unheard-of in pocket cams) or the SD950 (which has a 0.6-inch sensor, much larger and therefore better than the usual 0.3-inch or 0.4-inch sensor in pocket cams).

* Camcorder. No question here: Canon HV30. It's a hi-def tape camcorder that doesn't kid around with image quality; when they say high definition, they mean it. And it's got everything: top-loading tape door, mike jack, headphone jack.

To me, all those non-tape camcorders (hard drives, DVDs, memory cards, etc.) have two huge drawbacks. First, all of them--ALL of them--compromise image quality, even the ones that claim to be hi-def, because they have to compress the image to fit the limited storage.

Second, I don't understand where people think they're going to store all their movies. Once the hard drive or memory card gets full, you have to empty it onto your computer's hard drive. And then what?

I have a drawer containing 200 MiniDV tapes, documenting the lives of our three kids. I'd need NINE 300-gig hard drives to store all that. And what are you going to do when the drive dies?

* Cellphone. I occasionally grumble about Verizon, but never about its network; the signal stands head and shoulders above the other companies.

I've been a longtime fan of LG's Verizon phones. When my 8100 died, I treated myself to the 8700, a silver, brushed-metal, superthin flip phone; it was the best-looking phone in the store.

As I wrote last October: "The sound quality amazing. The screen is brilliant. And I took some sample shots with the 2-megapixel camera and found it even better than my own LG."

Unfortunately, "the darned thing is so thin and slick, it's hard to hold; a rigid thin slab is not actually very easy to hold in your round, fleshy palm." Oh, and this phone erased the magnetic strip on two hotel-room key cards before I got smart and started keeping them in different pockets.

I concluded: "If I had to do it over again, I would not have bought this expensive, classy, impractical two-seater roadster. I'd have bought the Toyota Camry that my wife did: the LG8300. It's a nearly perfect cellphone."

(Why don't I own an iPhone? Because AT&T has feeble coverage where I live, and because I'm on a two-year Verizon family plan.)

* Computer. I live on a MacBook Air. In the five months I've owned it, I've missed having the built-in DVD drive once; missed having FireWire about six times; missed the speed of a more serious machine about 20 times.

But I still consider those small sacrifices for the pleasure I get out of this machine the rest of the time. I use it like a glorified Palm Pilot. You pick it up with one hand. It turns on instantaneously. I've even read through e-mail while standing in the X-ray line at the airport.

I also just bought a Dell Inspiron 530s (total, delivered and taxed: \$497). It's a tiny little box that you can lay horizontally under your monitor, which is exactly how I have it. My favorite feature is the front panel: memory-card slots, USB, audio in, headphones, and so on. I'm constantly plugging and unplugging stuff, so it makes total sense.

I really shouldn't reward Dell with any more business, considering how furious I am to this day about the design of my previous machine, a Dell Dimension 4550 tower. It had front-panel USB jacks, too, but they were hidden behind a door that was hinged at the top and only opened about two inches. You had to crawl on the floor with a flashlight every time wanted to plug something in. I sure hope that designer has found some other career.

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POGUE'S LIST CONTINUED:

* Mobile Internet. This is the greatest splurge, and the greatest convenience, in my entire portfolio: a Sierra Compass 597 cellular modem from Sprint. It's a tiny, 2.5-inch stick of plastic that slides into the MacBook Air's USB slot and gets me online at impressively high speeds.

The service costs \$60 a month, which I find slightly outrageous--it's clearly designed to gouge corporate drones on expense accounts.

But I have to tell you, in my travels, I've seen every kind of Wi-Fi hot spot under the sun. And Sprint's cellular Internet beats the nation's network of increasingly flaky hot spots any day of the week; in many a hotel room, it's turned out to be much faster than Wi-Fi. Not to mention that it gets me online anywhere, even in the 99.9 percent of America where there is no Wi-Fi signal.

I've never found a dead spot, and the software is much slicker (and requires less time to connect) than the equivalent modems from Verizon.

* Movies. I bought the Vudu box this year (\$300). Its hard drive contains the first 30 seconds of 5,000 movies. When you pick one to watch, it starts playing immediately--and the next section of movie downloads in the background. Great quality, huge selection, elegant software.

The best part: no monthly fees. Movies cost \$2 to \$4 to rent, or \$15 to \$20 to buy, meaning that they stay on your Vudu hard drive forever. So when life gets busy, I don't pay anything.

The service keeps improving since I reviewed this thing last September. More hi-def movies, more TV shows, better features.

I canceled my HBO and Showtime subscriptions--something like \$240 a year--which made very little economic sense for us.

If I'm lucky, I have time for two or three movies in a month, so it's much more economical to pay as I go.

* Car. Toyota Prius. Wow, what a great car. In April, I tried to buy a second Prius--and was told there's a 10-month wait. Thanks a lot, gas crisis.

* TiVo. I bit the bullet and bought the Tivo Series 3, the hi-def masterpiece machine (which has, grrr, already been discontinued). Runs like a Swiss watch, has never let us down. Still the best DVR software and features on the planet. Subscribes to my favorite Web videos. When I'm away, I can program it from across the Internet.

Looking over this year's Pogue List, I can see that, in my middle age, I've gotten fancier in my tastes. A few years ago, you wouldn't have caught me dead with that \$60-a-month cellular modem.

But life is short, travel is hard. And at its best, technology makes the most of both.

David Pogue-NYTimes, Circuits

End of Email?

As the younger generation shifts to texting and instant messaging, some think the 'old fashioned' way to communicate is dying.

Peter Deng isn't big on e-mail.

The problem, he explains, is that the format is too, well, formal.

"I use e-mail really sparingly," says the 17-year-old Elk Grove resident who will be a senior this fall at McClatchy High School in Sacramento.

E-mail, he explains, is reserved for communicating with teachers or -- oh, the irony -- getting MySpace and Facebook notifications.

Deng's pal Terren Wing sees it this way: E-mail offers less at-your-fingertips convenience.

"I'm just attached to my cell phone," explains the 16-year-old McClatchy High student. "I really only use e-mail for (sending) attachments or keeping up with (school) assignments."

Deng and Wing aren't, obviously, the only teens shunning e-mail in favor of other platforms such as texting, instant messaging and social networking sites like Facebook and MySpace.

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END OF EMAIL? CONTINUED:

Microblogging sites such as Twitter and programs such as Skype, which allow users to make phone calls using the Internet, are also popular.

A pair of 2007 studies conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project showed that teens are steadily drifting away from the old-fashioned medium.

While 92 percent of surveyed adults said they regularly used e-mail, only 16 percent of teens made it a part of daily life while text messaging (36 percent), instant messaging (29 percent) and social network site messaging (23 percent) gained in popularity. As teens and 20-somethings and, increasingly, other generations, bypass their in-box in favor of other formats, is e-mail endangered?

"I don't see it as being phased out – it's still important," Deng says. "(But) texting is simpler, you can just say 'what's up?' An e-mail should be of a more decent length."

Wing also uses LiveJournal to bypass formalities through blog posts and a comments section.

"We used to just yell at each other – 'Why

haven't you returned my call?' – now my friends have blogs (and) we use them to catch up." Not quite granddad's info superhighway. Don't worry, the behavioral shift isn't entirely generational. As e-mail in-boxes overflow with spam, cute-kitten photos, viral video links and all those newsletters you forgot signing up for, we're seeking faster ways to digitally interact. Take Jim Schraith. The 50-year-old Sacramento investor still uses e-mail, sure, but regularly augments it with other platforms.

"I use Skype for business communication (because) it's fairly immediate," he says.

The same can't be said for e-mail, says Schraith, who regularly text messages with his two college-age kids.

"I'm still getting as much – or more – as I did two years ago, but a lot of the quick-communication e-mails have gone away, replaced by Skype or instant messaging," he says.

For Mark Eagleton, e-mail is the form of last resort.

"I rely pretty heavily on (instant messaging)," says the 35-year-old computer programmer who lives in Woodland and works in Sacramento.

"My in-box is filled – I get something like 200 to 500 messages a day; there's just too much to go through," he says. "E-mail is usually only for sending stuff to family (members) or a lot of people at once."

Eagleton is also a big fan of Twitter, a micro-blogging service that lets users post 140-character posts and "follow" friend updates.

"It's great for checking the status of what they're doing," he says. "You can also use it to ask a bunch of people a question at once – it's like a quick instant message service."

Layton Wedgeworth hopes people will start using his new BeenUp2 platform in the same fashion. The El Dorado Hills-based developer describes the service as "Twitter with photos." The idea is simple: Users upload cell phone photos to keep up with friends on the microblogging site.

Wedgeworth says the application, launched last year, is simpler than YouTube and more fun than e-mail – the use of which, he believes, is definitely on the wane.

"I've noticed that, in my circle of friends, we use e-mail mostly for notifications rather than actual conversations," says Wedgeworth, 27. "The real-

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"We Speak Mac"

JETT.NET

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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.

AD Rates
\$4-business card
\$6-quarter page
\$9-half page
\$15-full page

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.

I hope everyone has read Jacquie's article and is planning to vote. We should all take the time and trouble to understand what is at stake and how important this election is not only for us but for the young people of this country.

Until next month..

Ken



Jett's Sept. 08 Mac Classes:

I hope all is well with everyone.

Here is my schedule of classes for September. There will be no class on Thursday September 25 because of the Salmon Ceremony in Oroville that weekend - I will be helping fillet that day. All are invited to attend and sample some of the best salmon you ever ate.

Tuesday, September 9 - Basic OSX
Thursday, September 11 - iTunes/iPod
Tuesday, September 16 - iPhoto
Thursday, September 18 - iMovie
Tuesday, September 23 - Basic OSX

Classes are \$25 each, lasting about 90 minutes. Bring your computer and your questions.

Classes start at 2 pm on Tuesdays and 10 am on Thursdays.
Please call to reserve your place in class - class size is limited.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kate@Jett.net

242-1800

END OF EMAIL? CONTINUED:

time aspect of other platforms is more attractive – e-mail just gets lost in the junk drawer."

E-mail is dead? Long live e-mail.

Don't write the e-mail obituary, yet.

"The death of e-mail has been greatly exaggerated," says Steve Jones, a senior research fellow with the Pew Internet & American Life Project.

"There are more options for communicating, but e-mail still has many advantages over other modes of communication," says Jones, on the phone from Chicago.

For example, e-mail is easy to ignore. And, yes, that can be a good thing.

"You can deal with e-mail at your leisure – it doesn't have the same demand and insistence that other (platforms), such as instant messaging, do," Jones says.

"With IM there's the expectation that you'll always be there, that you'll answer right away – the more people you communicate with, the more you're always on. And that can get pretty exhausting."

And, he adds, although many view e-mail as something quaintly formal, it's an office mainstay.

"It's easily saved, stored and searched (and) it provides a record of our conversations in ways that some other mediums can't," Jones says. "It's considered as good as paper in a business sense."

The kids, Jones says, will eventually figure that out.

"The younger demographic will change the workplace by bringing more tools into it," he says. "But by some extent they will also be changed by the workplace."

And maybe that's not necessarily a bad, fuddy-duddy thing. Or so says Eagleton, the Sacramento programmer...

By Rachel Leibrock - rleibrock@sacbee.com