



Rmug News

October 2006

This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning
October 14, 2006 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 guest
speaker discussing Mac bells and
whistles, also another Akvis plug in demo,
personal creativity comments, wisdom
and issues as well as the usual Q&A.

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

President's Letter

Fall is here and we all owe Ken a giant thank you for continually providing the glue to hold this club together. Ken sent all of the regular newsletter contributors an e-mail late last week asking for this month's articles. It seems every one of us had something on our minds. I was busy closing down a home in San Jose that is in the final stages of escrow, Jim is in the L.A. area working on his mother's old home trying to get it fixed up and Charlotte has a full plate with Frank having a medical procedure. All of these reasons are more than an excuse to skip writing a newsletter article, but what are the odds of all of us letting Ken down in the same month? Ken, I for one want to say thank you and I am sure we all appreciate your time and effort in keeping RMUG a viable club.

Here is what I have been doing at J.E.T. technologies the past couple of weeks. Most of you know that Apple has given a speed boost to the iMacs and come out with the 24" model. I have had three 24" iMacs in my shop and they are jaw dropping both as a piece of art and as a very functional computer. They are not a user serviceable machine though, so if you need to swap a HD you will need to seek the help of a professional. There are four PDF documents that John & I followed closely when we swapped a 250GB HD out to install a 500GB HD. It probably took John about 30 to 40 minutes to get the HDs swapped and the iMac reassembled. The iMac RAM is easily accessible through an access panel at the bottom of the screen. It is just everything else is under the monitor and to do any serious work you must pull the whole monitor out to get to the electronics. I will say that Apple missed an opportunity to add a second HD to the 24" iMac, as when we had the iMac disassembled there was a large empty spot in the upper left quadrant that a true geek like myself wants to hold something like a second HD.

On a Dark Side note I will say if you are forced to run Windows on your Intel Macintosh, then Parallels is a wonderful way to accomplish this. I have a client that has a number of GPS units that only communicate with Windows and he has a wonderful

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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:

mapping program that needs Windows, as there is no easy replacement on the Macintosh side. Last week we ordered our customer a 20" iMac with a 500GB HD, 2GB of RAM, Parallels and Windows XP Professional. I set the computer all up and pulled his data from his old Macintosh into his new Intel iMac. I then installed Parallels and it crashed immediately. Well, it is the Windows World, right? So I went to the Parallels website (<http://forum.parallels.com/>) and in support I found a forum I could join. I quickly joined and made a post requesting help and in one hour flat the answer was posted by the Parallels staff. It turns out the new iMac and the new Mac Pro have a slightly different chip than the earlier Intel Macintoshes, so I had to run a patch, and the patch location was provided right there on the forum. After I installed the patch I was able to install Windows XP Pro, Norton's anti virus, Spybot Search & destroy and Ad Aware. When I was all through installing maintenance tools, I ran them and guess what, I had 5 minor infections already. Well, it is the Windows World right? Now back to Parallels - this is the slickest implementation of Windows on a Mac I have ever seen. With a two key command I was able to jump out of full screen Windows back into the Mac OS, and to get back into Windows all I had to do was click on the Windows Desktop inside of Parallels. I give Parallels an 8.5 on a scale of 1 to 10 and the support staff was amazingly responsive.

On an upside here at JETT we have a new version of Spamphibian that appears to be stable and is fighting Spam the way it was intended to. It turns out that some of my spam fighting tools was fighting each other and I just needed to believe in the "force". I had done quite a bit of research and most of the people who were using Spamphibian were having much better success than we were here at JETT. I analyzed what the differences were and besides my total e-mail volume being 2 to 10 times greater than most Spamphibian users, the big difference was I was employing 10 other filters that had helped me out for

years. I knew that something was killing my Spamphibian and something had killed a new filter named CounterAgent II. The common thread was the 10 filters I loved and believed were helping me. A voice from the "force" came to me and said, "Dale, trust in the force & remove the 10 old Filters and you will be OK." I mulled it over for a night and came into work and setup my Intel Mac mini with a clean install of Tiger. I threw away almost all of the software that gets installed even before I updated the system. After updating and repairing Disk Permissions I installed Spamphibian, and it has been a wonderful two weeks. I am not saying that I have stopped Spam. I am stating that Spam is about the same, but I am now running just one program on a standalone computer and my CPU usage on my dual G5 server dropped from 110% to 5%, and Spamphibian's server dropped from 45% to 5%. I am now in the process of adding REGEX rules to Spamphibian to do custom spam blocking and it is working very well. I was able to add one filter back to the mail server itself, and it was my new CounterAgent II. Presently I am only using half of it's potential as I turned half of CounterAgent II off so that it would not start another turf battle with Spamphibian.

At next month's RMUG meeting Dale will arrive early to help get User Names and Passwords for the RMUG forum for those that want to use the web forum. The board has not finalized any guidelines, but I believe if we use common since the forum could be a very useful tool for the Macintosh Community of Northern California. The forum is located at http://www.forum.rmug.org/simpleforum_pro.cgi and anybody can view our posts, but you will need a User name and a Password to write posts. A rule from another forum I am a member of seems like a good one here and that is "we all use our real names or if you must use a nick name it should be one that you have been associated with for years and years". As an example my username is "dalej". I was out at Chris & Beth Sullivan's home the other day and Chris liked the site, so I gave him a username. Now I hope all of our old RMUG members find

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PRESIDENTS LETTER CONTINUED:

the site and we get the RMUG forum working like the Parallels forum where I got an answer in just an hour.

Safari has a bug with emptying it's cache. The bug comes up when you are trying to view a website and things just don't come up right, so you go under the Safari menu and down to Empty Cache. I have found that quite often Safari still hangs up or shows outdated info. Here is my workaround that so far is working 100% of the time. Go to any other website and when it comes up on your screen, go under the Safari menu and down to Empty Cache. Now go back to the original site you were having problems with and everything should work now. If it does not then maybe it is the websites problem and not the Cache in Safari.

Dale Josephson
J.E.T. Technologies L.L.C.
(530) 242-1800

Secretary's Notes:

The September meeting was held at the YAKS Koffee Shop. Thirty-three members attended.

We have two new members - Don and Pat Ackerman. Welcome!

Dale led the beginners class and Michael fielded questions from the intermediate group.

Michael's Monday afternoon class at the Anderson Senior Citizens hall will start September 18, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Michael showed us very affordable portable speakers for the iPod – “Groove Cube” from Small Dog for \$19. An AC Adapter for them is \$5, also from Small Dog; otherwise you furnish 4 AAA batteries. You put the iPod between the two speakers and plug it into them. It can be used with anything that has a head phone jack.

Michael showed Mary Gililland, and the rest of us, how to download and save video from her point and shoot video camera to her computer.

Charlotte said G Mail (Google Mail) won't open in Safari now. Google updated it, but Safari may not have updated yet. Michael suggested updating Safari.

Michael said there is a browser for OS9 Apple Macintosh users. It is iCab and costs \$29 from Apple. Mozilla 1.2.1 used to work. Try that if you still have it. With reference to other browsers, Netscape 7.2 is the last update for Netscape. Try Firefox. Those who use it seem to love it.

Dale reported on new hardware from Apple:

- . Mac Mini
- . iMac in 17”, 20” and 24 “ models
- . MacBook (replaces iBook)
- . MacBook Pro (replaces PowerBook)
- . Mac Pro (replaces G5)

Here is another testimonial for the Epson PictureMate Printer. There is a \$59 special at EpsonUSA.com for this usually \$99 photo printer. Will print a proof sheet of your pictures, and then prints 4x6 copies of the ones you want for \$.29 each. Paper and ink are at Best Buy in 100 sheet packs.

Dale has started a Forum link to be accessed from the RMUG Website for members only. Request a user name and password from Dale. Forum.rmug.org/simpleforum Knowledgeable members will offer answers to questions posted on the forum. Answers and/or discussion will no doubt be informative and useful to more than just the person who posted the question.

On Intel machines, OS10.4.7 has mail problem with large attachments. To get out, you may need to: File Quit or Force Quit.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be Saturday, October 14, 2006, at Yaks Koffee Shop. Guest speaker, Don Peterson, will discuss the ‘Bells and Whistles’ of Macintosh.

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SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

Michael is planning to demo another Akvis plug-in.

The Board Meeting will immediately follow the general meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Jacquie Martin, Secretary

Old Dogs/New Tricks:

MACINTOSH AND IBM

O.K. so I am prejudiced, but I will try to be fair. A few years ago, two men working for IBM thought the computer was great, but too hard to operate. They developed a system where you did not have to memorize keys on the keyboard. Their system permitted you to point and click on the word PRINT. The old system required you to hold down the command key while you touched the letter "P". Or some other combination of keys on the keyboard.

Through the years, IBM and compatible systems have been using the program called Windows. The windows program uses the same idea as the Macintosh – point and click. The IBM and compatibles are using a system now like the Macintosh was using 15 years ago. An article in the US News and Word Report called Windows a clone of the Macintosh.

Now the two systems are close enough together you can learn on one and adapt to the other. But the system you learn on will forever be the greatest thing since peanut butter.

The computer is here to stay. It will continue to change our lifestyle. Several years ago when automobiles were first being introduced, two older men were discussing

the automobile. One said, "Oh, I guess they are okay, but they will never replace the horse." He was right. Horses are still being used. But I am sure he could never imagine the change the automobile has made in our lifestyle.

In the same way, computers will never replace the pencil and paper. One cannot imagine the changes that lay ahead of us because of the advent of the computer.

I suspect one day in the future there will be a program on the "Traveling antique road show." The guest will show up with a pencil and paper. She will say, "I found this in an attic of an old house, but I don't know what it is." He will say, "It is called a pencil and paper and it was used..."

Alan Hall

In Memoriam:

Hello R.M.U.G. members . . .

I have some sad news to relate to you.

The former newsletter editor, Lifetime member, and good friend to R.M.U.G. has passed away. Larry de Laubenfels was the editor when I joined R.M.U.G.

He later helped me when I took over the job when he decided that it was just too much for him to do. Larry and his wife Carol have done much to keep me involved in R.M.U.G.

Without their help and support I would have long since departed.

I would not have been able to keep up with this fast paced industry and I would be at home with my old performa, just plunking away at the keyboard.

I will surely miss His vocal encouragement as well as his generosity, yes I will miss him dearly.

R.M.U.G. has lost a benefactor as well. He donated much to the club. I do hope we can get his wife Carol to come to some meetings and stay involved in R.M.U.G.

I am sure we would all benefit from her continued involvement.

Michael John Peters

Entangling The Web:

After a decade of explosive growth, a revolutionary new technology transforms the American economy. It allows people to communicate and do business across great distances faster than ever before. Critics, however, contend that access is controlled by a few large corporations eager to abuse monopoly power in order to gouge consumers and crush competition. Congress responds by enacting anti-monopoly rules and authorizing regulators to enforce them.

That might sound like a happy ending for the current debate on “network neutrality,” in which Congress is being encouraged to restrain the appetites of the biggest Internet service providers. But it actually describes a similar drama from 1887, when Congress created the Interstate Commerce Commission to regulate railroads, the high-tech industry of the day.

Unfortunately, the story is a cautionary tale. After President Grover Cleveland appointed Thomas M. Cooley, a railroad ally, as its first chairman, the commission quickly fell under the control of the railroads, gradually transforming the American transportation industry into a cartel. By 1935, when it was given oversight of the trucking industry, the commission was restricting competition and enabling price increases throughout virtually the entire surface transportation industry. Decades later, in 1970, a report released by a Ralph Nader group described the commission as “a forum at which transportation interests divide up the national transportation market.”

It’s tempting to believe that government regulation of the Internet would be more consumer-friendly; history and economics suggest otherwise. The reason is simple: a regulated industry has a far larger stake in regulatory decisions than any other group in society. As a result, regulated companies spend lavishly on lobbyists and lawyers and, over time, turn the regulatory process to their advantage.

Economists have dubbed this process “regulatory capture,” and they can point to plenty of examples. The airline industry was a cozy cartel before being deregulated in the 1970’s. Today, government regulation of cable television is the primary obstacle to competition.

Of course, incumbent broadband providers do have some limited monopoly powers, and there is cause for concern that they might abuse them. Last fall, the chief executive of AT&T, Ed Whitacre, argued that Internet giants like Google and Microsoft should begin paying for access to his “pipes” — never mind that consumers already pay AT&T for the bandwidth they use to gain access to these services. If broadband providers like AT&T were to begin blocking or degrading the content and services of companies that didn’t pay up, both consumers and the Internet would suffer.

But enforcing such a “pay to play” scheme might be more challenging than Mr. Whitacre suspects. As every music-downloading student knows, there are myriad ways to evade Internet filtering software. Moreover, an Internet service provider that denies customers access to content risks a serious consumer revolt. Unlike a one-railroad Western town, most broadband customers can choose between cable and D.S.L., and a growing number have access to wireless options as well.

With several promising new technologies on the drawing board, the market for broadband will grow only more competitive. Congress should let the marketplace develop rather than constrain it with regulation. Lawmakers should certainly be mindful of unintended consequences. The Interstate Commerce Commission’s regulations on transportation lingered for decades after their usefulness expired. Any neutrality regulations passed by Congress this year are likely to have a similarly dismal future. Choice and competition will do a better job of protecting Internet consumers than government bureaucrats ever have.

Timothy B. Lee
New York Times

Mac Maintenance:

Top 10 Tips to Keep Your Mac in Top Form

1) Keep Things up to Date

Make it a point to check for Apple software updates once a month to keep your system running optimally. From the Apple menu, choose Software Update (make sure that your computer is connected to the Internet). Software Update will assess the Apple software on your computer and check our servers for new versions. If it finds any, the updates will appear in the Software Update window. Select the checkbox for the software you want and then click the Install button to download and install the software.

I recommend that you check more frequently than once a month. I have my system preference set to check once a week.

2) Put Your Toys Away

You're not 5 years old anymore - make it a point to clear off the mess strewn about across your desktop and put your files away

where you can easily find them. This can help prevent accidental file deletion (you may inadvertently select and trash a wanted file with your undesirables) and help you find things much more efficiently. You can get organized by creating new folders (in the Finder, press Shift-Command-N) and arranging them into a workable hierarchy for your files at hand, or you can move your files into existing folders.

Boy, you should see Hapy's desktop - he needs to do this. He has an Apple 30-inch Cinema Display and if you look at his desktop it is covered by hundreds of little icons of files that he keeps there!

3) Name Your Children

Untitled folder 8, Word027.doc, DSC_1366.jpg, you've probably got a few (or way more than a few) files and folders that you've felt less than inspired to properly name. Then suddenly you need to pluck that prized picture from your ginormous collection of DSC_0001.jpg to DSC_1400.jpg named files, if you only knew which number it was. Go through your generically-named files and folders and give them more descriptive names so you can find what you need fast (though it can find files quickly, Spotlight won't find your tabloid-ready Bigfoot picture if you left the file alone with its cryptic camera-given name).

4) Prune Through Your File Forest

To reduce the amount of clutter on your hard drive, free up some disk space by archiving large, seldom used files (learn how here), and be sure to name the resulting archive file appropriately too, so you know what's in it. Delete any unnecessary or outdated personal files whenever possible and anything that you no longer want or need - just drag them all into the Trash and don't forget to empty it. Be brave. Your computer will reward you with improved performance.

5) Repair Disk Permissions

It's a good idea to make sure that your disk permissions are in good working order on a regular basis, especially after upgrading or installing new software. Open Disk Utility (find it in /Applications/ Utilities) and select your hard disk icon in the left pane. Click the First Aid tab, then click Repair Disk Permissions to start the



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MAC MAINTENANCE CONTINUED:

process, which can take a few minutes to complete. If Disk Utility finds any issues, it'll fix them along the way.

6) Back up Your Files

To prevent losing your prized or important files, make it a point to back up your keepsakes on a regular basis. You can back up files onto a CD, DVD, external hard drive, iPod, iDisk, or other storage medium and then delete the copies on your hard drive to free up some space. To learn how to back up files, choose Mac Help from the Help menu in the Finder and do a search for back up files. To get some ideas of what and what not to back up, see this page.

Buy .Mac and use Apple's excellent Backup software that comes free with your .Mac subscription!

7) Restart Your Computer Every Once in a While

While your Mac can happily hum along 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, you should restart it every once in a while to refresh the system if you're in the habit of keeping your computer running all day and night. This can help clear issues before they arise.

8) Check for Viruses

Macs don't get anywhere near the amount of viruses that Windows PCs are prone to, but that doesn't mean that they can't get infected. If you don't already have antivirus software, you may want to consider making a purchase. If you have the software installed, be sure to keep your virus definitions up to date, you can find the latest updates on your software manufacturer's website.

I guess I disagree with Apple here, I have not seen any viruses infecting Mac OS X yet and I think that virus software right now is a waste of money. That may change. Mac OS X is not invulnerable but right now it is very very safe.

9) Optimize Your Hard Drive

To ensure the best system performance and keep file damage to an all-time low, optimize your hard drive once a year. Third-party utilities such as Alsoft Disk Warrior Optimizer and Micromat Tech Tool Pro will defragment and optimize your drive.

Again I have some questions about the value of optimizing your drive. Do not do this without having a complete backup. I have not found any benefit from using third-party software to optimize your hard drive.

10) Clean the Outside Too

Dust and other debris can harm your computer's innards if you allow the stuff to build up around your workspace. Use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth, feather duster, or canned air to clean your Mac's outside as well as the surface areas around it. You can use a slightly water-dampened cloth to clean the screen. Do not use any type of liquid cleaner to clean your Mac.

Mac Maintenance Checklist
From Small Dog

Completing Forms:

I've been going "nuts", trying to remember how I have filled in forms, such as applications, on my computer. This problem has had me baffled for at least a couple of years. I did it several years ago, but forgot how. I've even asked our membership if anyone knew. Well, I finally figured it out!

First, you must have GraphicConverter. That is most important. You can download it for free, off the internet. I had this program for many years, on a couple of my older Macs, and am ashamed to say that I never paid anything for it till a couple years ago. I think it cost me \$30 or \$35, and it's well worth it.

There are many things you can do with GraphicConverter, but I'm ashamed to say, "I have not become an expert. Not by a long shot!" This is like many things I've bought. I use it for what I want, and beyond that I haven't taken the time to learn much else.

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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

Another issue with something for everyone. The member produced content is always fun and appreciated. Alan's articles are always easy to understand and identify with. Barbara's article on completing forms with GraphicConverter is a great idea. I tried it with a very old version of GC. It did not work just as Barbara had described it, but it did work. There have been many times in the past that I could have used that trick. Now, if I can remember the instructions the next time I could use it. It is this kind of input and the subsequent knowledge that keep me enthused about and involved with this club.

As always, I hope you are all paying attention to what is going on in this country with respect to our human rights, civil rights, civil liberties, etc. We will have the kind of government and country that we elect and deserve. It is so important to be an informed voter. Pay attention, educate yourself and vote!!

PS: Thank you for the words of encouragement Dale..

Ken



Jett's October Mac Classes:

October 10th at 2:00 PM - iPhoto

October 17th at 2:00 PM - Basic OSX

October 26th at 10:00 AM - iTunes/iPod

October 31st at 2:00 PM - Basic OSX

Phone 530-242-1800

COMPLETING FORMS CONTINUED:

Here are the directions for filling out forms using your computer as a typewriter.

1. Take a picture of the form by pressing Apple-Shift-4. Your cursor will change to a cross-hair. Place the cross-hair at the top left corner, and drag it to the opposite bottom corner. When you let up on the mouse, you will hear a "click", like a shutter clicking. If you have no other pictures on your desktop, a PDF will appear, and will be titled Picture 1. (If it's not on the desktop, as mine is, it might be saved somewhere else. In that case, just press Apple F , and type in Picture 1 to find out where it is.)
2. Open Graphic Converter. GraphicConverter first step will pop up. Press Cancel. GraphicConverter is still open, even though you haven't chosen to do anything that's listed. You haven't "Quit" the application yet.
3. Now, drag your PDF, titled Picture 1, to the GraphicConverter Icon.
4. A toolbox will appear next to the document you're going to work on. With your mouse, choose the letter A. Mine automatically uses a size 18 font. If you want to make the font smaller or larger, or choose a different style, double-click on the letter A.
5. A text box will appear, and you can type anything you choose. Caution: As soon as you go to a new line, you cannot edit the previous box. You can use the eraser, shown in the toolbox, but sometimes it's easier to just start over. If you're going to type several lines, you need to make the text box larger, to accommodate more writing. Notice that the text box has "ears" in the corner, so you can drag the corners out, or in.

Barbara Benefield