



# Rmug News

December 2005

## This Month

RMUG Meeting, Saturday morning  
December 10, 2005 9-11:30 AM

**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 "Election  
of Officers" for 2006. Also, wish lists with  
great gift ideas along with personal  
creativity comments, wisdom 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

Fellow Mac Users,

I think we have a communication problem. Some Windows users still do not fully understand that computers do not have to be complicated, clumsy, and confusing. Being the good people that we are, I guess we just haven't convinced enough people that there are computer choices. Perhaps many Windows users out there have held on to the general misconceptions of Macs. The old stories of 'Well, all Macs are expensive' or 'There's no software for the Mac' or my favorite 'Isn't Apple going bankrupt?' are hogwash. I must admit that really, every single person that I've met and has used one of those old fables for an excuse to promote the other platform has never used a Mac. They have not experienced arguably the best GUI to date. The people I do know that have used a Mac and still use a PC generally do so because of some specialty software or hardware that is not Mac compatible. They understand that the Mac is simply a better computer and sympathize with the fact that they are easier to use and more productive.

Of course, the selfish question is 'Why should we care?'. Two reasons; first, I see computer education as a gift to someone. It is a good thing if I can introduce them to something that can make their life easier. Second, economically, more Mac users equates to more software choices for me.

Being the holiday season I surely do not advocate telling everyone that has spent several hundred hard earned dollars on a new PC that they just bought a piece of...well...metal and plastic. Hopefully we can talk to them, communicate with them, before they purchase their new computer and convince them to invest in the best OS money can buy.

Happy Holidays and I hope to see everyone at the next meeting.

Marcus Harner

# 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, 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, NOVEMBER 12, 2005

The November meeting was held at the YAKS Koffee Shop. Thirty members and guests attended.

We have two new members: Pat Andrews and Louise Moore. Welcome.

Colleen Latimer brought her new G-4 Laptop. Michael used the video projector to show the steps he used as he set up the laptop and registered it with Apple.

The following are tips and answers to questions asked.

. If all the headings are gone on your mail program, click the little oblong on the top right of the page to restore all the headings.

. Mouse recommendations? Michael likes a track ball - \$79 up. Chuck likes the Logitech track ball – Less expensive. Allen likes a hand held mouse ball for use while walking around. All USB track balls will work.

. What to do if you forget your password in OS10? Have to erase your entire computer and reinstall. **BE SURE YOU HAVE EVERYTHING BACKED UP.** When reinstalling, it is safer to check 'Archive and Install' which will archive data in a different folder.

. Barbara asked how to allocate more memory to Netscape. OS10 does not allow you to allocate more memory to certain programs. Solution: Buy more RAM than you think you will ever need.

. Jim's Pismo froze while running OS10.3.8. To quit, hold power button down for 30 sec to a minute until quits. You may have to take your battery out to turn the computer off. If so, turn your surge protector off, or plug the computer into the wall and then take the battery out. There is also a reset button on the back.

. Looking for an old Apple system? Both Apple Store and Mega Max sell them.

. Ron is an advocate of spending money on technology for kids NOW rather than save everything for their future education. Kids being current on new technology now IS their future education. Don't handicap your kids or grandkids.

. Dale likes new Apple iPod Video, 30GB and 60GB. 30GB holds up to 7,500 songs, 25,000 iPod-viewable photos transferred from iTunes, and 1000 videos. Download videos for \$1.99 ea. with no commercials.

. We had one iWork 30-day demo for a door prize, and Michael thinks there is another copy. It contains hundreds of templates for the Mac, has a built-in iLife media browser, and, with Keynote 2, helps you build photography portfolios, interactive slideshows and animated storyboards. Sells for \$79. Note: Would whoever selected the first copy as a door prize like to do a demo for the club?

. Michael offers classes at the Anderson Senior Center every Monday from 1 – 3 except Holidays when the building is closed.

Nominations for Officers for 2006:

Jacque nominated Dale Josephson for President. Dale has agreed to serve if elected.

Pat Henderson volunteered to run for Librarian should Dale be elected President.

Michael nominated all the current officers of the club for another term. The current officers are:  
President – Marcus Harner  
Vice President - Jim Pace  
Treasurer - Charlotte Ruskowitz  
Secretary - Jacque Martin  
Librarian - Dale Josephson  
Editor - Ken Lorenz  
Hospitality - Barbara Benefield, Louise Zegers

Program: Jimi Bonogofsky presented Garage Band. Garage Band is a tool for recording and

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## SECRETARY'S NOTES CONTINUED:

mixing music, either your own or pre-recorded loops that are included.

First, Jimi played a completed pre-recorded tape utilizing many loops that she and her brother had made plus provided ones. She then showed us how to make a tape. She made loops for us by playing her keyboard, sang, and selected various other pre-recorded loops to produce a complete work, which she then edited and played for us.

She then showed us a tape of a folktale for which she read the story and made the musical track. Jimi said you can sell tapes or loops you have made using Garage Band because you had purchased any songs used in the beginning.

Thank you very much, Jimi, for this wonderful program. You are a very, very talented young lady.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be the THIRD Saturday, January 21, 2006, at Yaks Coffee shop. Board meeting to follow. (We moved the meeting one-week later because of Mac World.) The program will be a round table discussion of Mac World. If you are fortunate enough to go, please plan on participating.

The Board Meeting will be over lunch following the regular meeting.  
All are welcome to attend.

Jacquie Martin,  
Secretary

## Submit Requests:

### Second Notice:

What would you like?

What demonstrations would you like to see at the next several RMUG meetings?

Submit your suggestions at the November meeting so that we can begin to get things lined up for next year.

jimpace@jett.net

## Old Dogs New Tricks:

### DIGITAL CAMERAS

Huh, what's that? A part of the computer revolution that is changing all of our lives is having its effect on our ability to take pictures. The digital camera is among the latest in computer accessories (it is more than a gadget).

An artist can draw a line or a shape with his brush and it is a sharp line in contrast to the background. Our older cameras could take a picture with a line and most of the time it was a little fuzzy compared to the background.

Printers (like newspapers) found a way to draw a line and print a picture with little dots. When the dots were small enough your eye could not tell the difference between the little dots and a smooth line. A magnifying glass was often used to determine how many dots there were per square inch.

The computer industry needed to draw lines and shapes. The computer monitor was displaying very small squares. Lines that were horizontal or vertical (+) it could draw very well. But lines that were on an angle (/) or circles (O) looked like very small stair steps. The computer and digital cameras now use very very small squares called "pixels." They are so small they are measured in Millions per square inch. This is so small the human eye cannot detect the squares so an angle or a circle or a picture looks smooth and sharp.

The digital camera does not use film. It uses a memory device called a "Memory Stick" or a "Smart Card". A business card folded into thirds is approximately the size of the memory device. These can hold hundreds of pictures. All of the pictures or any one of the pictures can be printed or stored on your computer. The memory device can be erased and used over and over.

No film to buy. No exposure to light. No trips to the store to have pictures developed. Hundreds of pictures can be stored on a small memory device. Take 10 or 20 pictures of the same item,

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## Photo Printing Cost:

Why Do-It-Yourself Photo Printing Doesn't Add Up.

Prices of printers have dropped up to 30 percent in the last few months thanks to a savage price war. Is this then the time to buy a photo printer for your home?

After all, for about \$200 you can get the Hewlett-Packard Photosmart 8250 that in just 14 seconds spits out a photo that equals the quality of those coming back from the photo finisher in an hour. For the same price, Canon's iP6600D prints a borderless 4-by-6-inch photo in 46 seconds, but also prints on both sides of dual-side photo paper.

The catch is that after you make an initial investment, you are going to pay at least 28 cents a print, if you believe the manufacturers' math. It could be closer to 50 cents a print if you trust the testing of product reviewers at Consumer Reports.

In the meantime, the price of printing a 4-by-6-inch snapshot at a retailer's photo lab, like those inside a Sam's Club, is as low as 13 cents. [Snapfish.com](http://Snapfish.com), an online mail-order service, offers prints for a dime each if you prepay. At those prices, why bother printing at home?

Consumers seem to be saying just that. For the 12 months ending in July, home printing accounted for just 48 percent of the 7.7 billion digital prints made, down sharply from 64 percent in the previous 12 months, according to the Photo Marketing Association International (a trade group for retailers and camera makers). The number of photos spewing out of home printers is up quite handsomely, however, because of the overall growth of digital photo printing - up about 68 percent from the year-earlier period - but retail labs clearly have the advantage.

You might say this is an example of the wisdom of crowds. Despite the ceaseless

efforts of manufacturers to convince consumers that printing at home is fast, convenient and a whole lot of fun, the evidence shows that many people are tuning out the marketing.

It does not take an advanced business degree for those consumers to see how printer manufacturers like Hewlett-Packard and Canon make their money. They use the "razor blade" business model. It is named from the marketing innovation of King C. Gillette, who in the early years of the last century sold razors for a low price, but made all his money on the high-margin disposable razor blades. Printer manufacturers also use this tied-product strategy.

Printers return relatively low profit margins. But the ink, ounce for ounce, is four times the cost of Krug Clos du Mesnil Champagne, which sells for around \$425 a bottle. Ink is about the same price as Joy perfume, considered to be one of the more pricey fragrances, at \$158 for a 2.5-ounce bottle.

They don't just get you on the ink. Some photo printers force you to buy the cartridge and paper together in a "value pack." The ink or printer ribbon can run out before you are through with half the paper, so you risk building an ever-increasing stack of unused photo paper.

The industry, from the photo finishers to the camera makers, has been concerned since the rise of the digital camera that consumers weren't printing enough pictures. There's a general sigh of relief that the percentage of printed photos has risen from 31 percent in 2003 to a projected 35 percent this year, the Photo Marketing Association says. The trend is slight, but it is in the right direction.

The shallowness of the trend line also suggests that a new culture of photographs has been created. Consumers print their photos, but moreover, they share their photos more often and technology allows them to do it without printing. Cameras now come with liquid-crystal-display screens of 2.5 or 3 inches designed just for that purpose.

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**PHOTO PRINTING COST  
CONTINUED:**

Consumers upload photos for free storage and sharing to [Snapfish.com](http://Snapfish.com), [Shutterfly.com](http://Shutterfly.com) or [EasyShare.com](http://EasyShare.com), a service owned by Eastman Kodak. You no longer have to send printed snapshots to Grandma. You can send a URL. The growing popularity of these services is why Hewlett bought Snapfish and Kodak bought [Ofoto.com](http://Ofoto.com) to merge it into its online service. Wal-Mart and Costco have also created an online service for storing and printing photos. Snapfish allows you to order prints stored online for pickup at your nearest Walgreens.

Storage on the online services is free and for now, they offer limitless storage. Though each one has slightly different merchandise, you can also use them to print out albums, calendars and mugs with your uploaded photos on them.

Ben Nelson, the vice president and general manager of Snapfish, said that surveys of its customers found that 46 percent did home

printing and 45 percent printed at retailers. "We were kind of scratching our heads over that," Mr. Nelson said. What Snapfish came to realize, he said, is that consumers vary their behavior depending on the photo. If they want it now, they print at home. Those with 30 to 40 prints go to a retailer. If they are creating large projects like a mass mailing greeting card or a photo album, they seek a mail-order company.

"We've shifted our services to enable all three," he said.

That's not to say that home printers are always an uneconomical proposition. If you want an 8-by-10-inch photo, a home printer will do it for about a third of the \$3 a copy Walgreens charges. But before you make the plunge on these specialized printers, you should ask yourself how often are you going to do that kind of printing. Dimitrios Delis, who tracks facts and figures for the Photo Marketing Association, says that 85 percent of all prints are the classic 4 by 6 inches.

Any time you print in volumes - like Christmas cards or the Little League team picture - you'll be better off having the retailer handle it. "If they want to make many prints at home, it is not economical or convenient," Mr. Delis said.

Prints made at home will certainly last a long time. That's certainly one good reason that these printers are popular with hobbyists and professionals. Independent studies say that home printers produce copies that should last 80 to 100 years without fading or yellowing, assuming you used leading inks and recommended photo paper. Marketers at Canon and Hewlett like to point out that those studies also show that prints made by photo processors decades ago now show signs of fading. (Today's photo processing machines are supposed to produce prints that will last as long as the home-printed versions.)

What may be the better solution is the home office printer that can double as a photo printer on those rare occasions that you are printing at home. Many come with separate ink tanks, so you don't have to replace all the colors when you



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## PHOTO PRINTING COST CONTINUED:

inevitability run out of black ink. Canon sells clear cartridges for ink so you can verify when the ink is gone rather than rely on the printer to tell you to replace the cartridge.

After all, when this liquid gold is costing you \$65 an ounce, you'll want to use every last drop.

DAMON DARLIN  
yourmoney@nytimes.com

## Apple Discussions:

If you have an Internet connection of any kind, you have access to one of the most useful help systems around—Apple's Discussion forums. Here you can read questions and answers on a wide variety of topics, and post your own questions if you like.

There are separate discussion forums for various kinds of Apple hardware (Macs, Airport, iPod, and so on), and also for the full range of Apple system and application software (iPhoto, iTunes, AppleWorks, and the like); and yes, older hardware and system software are still covered.

There are two levels of participation in these discussions—you can browse existing topics freely from the start, but in order to post questions of your own, you need to register. This is a painless process and gives access to some other interesting areas of the Apple website as well. To locate the discussion area and register to post questions, proceed as follows:

- Direct your Web browser to the address ([www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)).
- Click the tab labeled "Support."
- In the same general area, click the word "Discussions."
- Here you can see a listing of the main discussion forums and, by clicking any one of them, can read other people's questions and answers. You cannot yet, however, post questions of your own. To do this:

- Look for a small "house" icon in the right hand part of the page, and click the word "Login" beside it.
- After reading some general explanation text, click the "Login" button.
- Click the "New Account" button and follow the instructions to create an "Apple ID" and password that you will use in future to enter the Discussions area (at the fifth bullet point above) as a registered user. You will find that after the first time, you won't even need to enter your Apple ID and password to do this—they will be remembered. Seeking help is now quite a simple process:
  - Go to the Discussions page and Login.
  - Click the relevant discussion forum title.
  - Click the link "Post a New Topic" (above the topics list, towards the right side of the page).
  - Enter your question, taking care to make the Subject line as descriptive as possible. Some folk will never read past that line unless the gist of your inquiry is clear from it. Look at other people's postings for good and bad examples.
  - You will note at the bottom left of the message form a pop-up menu labeled "Subscribe to this topic." Leave this menu set to "email," which means that each time someone posts a reply to your question, you will be advised by email. This saves you from having to check the Discussions web page more often than necessary.
  - To post your question, click the "Add Topic" button.
  - The page you then see can be confusing. It seems to indicate that you need to click yet another link to post your question. That is not so. Simply click the "Discussions" link in the header once more, re-enter the relevant discussion forum, and you will see that your question has indeed been posted. If you subsequently revisit your posting (by clicking its entry in the topic list) you will also see any replies that have been received. A row of small icons above each message enables you to reply or take other actions. (You can even edit or delete your original posting if you like.) If you allow your mouse pointer to hover over each icon in turn, you will see what their functions are. Note that if a reply is helpful, you should click the "+" button, which gives a "credit" to its author. People who have accumulated many such credits are promoted to higher "levels," as indicated below

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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 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><b>AD Rates</b></p> <p><b>\$4-business card</b></p> <p><b>\$6-quarter page</b></p> <p><b>\$9-half page</b></p> <p><b>\$15-full page</b></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

I want to thank all those who have contributed to our publication over the last year. Your efforts are appreciated by everyone and make my job much more enjoyable. Thinking about the end of the year reminds me that RMUG dues are due in January. Thinking about appreciation, I want to again thank the various members who have helped me with computer questions and problems I have encountered since last December.

When one considers the benefits that their \$24 dues provides, it is surprising that more people do not join. I have noticed that occasionally folks will show up at a meeting with several specific questions and will corner an individual or the group to have their question answered or their dilemma solved. I wonder if they realize that one call to Apple Care or short visit from or to a tech person would probably cost three times a years membership. The more members we have the better off our group will be. Lets all pay our dues in a timely manner and encourage others to join also. Should we start having folks join the club before helping them with their computer questions or problems? I mean "Hello" what can you get today for \$24 bucks? Wishing everyone a happy holiday season, whatever you do, be safe and enjoy yourselves.

Ken



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## **APPLE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED:**

their names at the left of each message.

The Apple Discussion forums are moderated, which means that you will rarely read anything that isn't reasonably polite and constructive—a welcome change from many of the “open” forums you may have used in the past.

Steve Cooper  
AUSOM News, Melbourne, Australia  
Courtesy of [www.mac-hints-tips.com](http://www.mac-hints-tips.com).  
Submitted by Charlotte