



GET # INFO

Upcoming Programs

March 2006

Apple Update

Francis Shepherd, Apple Systems Engineer, will give us an Apple Update and a look at the exciting new features of iLife '06.

The evening will include the monthly Question and Answers and a door prize.

Elections take place this March. We are looking for dedicated Mac users to move our organization forward. Contact anyone on the Executive Committee if interested.

Member Favorites are short presentations by members on their favorite freeware or shareware application, game, script, tool, trick or tip. Members are invited to step forward to present; there is plenty of room on the schedule.

If you wish to be included on the schedule please contact Allen Emory at aemory@earthlink.net.

PREZ SEZ



President Duane Reaugh

As you may know by now, Steve Jobs announced the new Intel based Mac Mini with improved audio, 4 USB ports and built-in wireless and Bluetooth. About the only option is the Combo Drive or the Super drive. And it ships within 24 hours. I have been playing around with an Intel iMac and it is much faster than the old iMac for Universal Binaries. PowerPC apps are about the same speed (or a little slower). The latest version of EyeTV came out with support for the Intel Macs just in time for the Olympics. If you

remove all the commercials, human interest stories and what speed skater said this about that, you can condense four hours of Olympic coverage into about 2-1/2 hours.

Apple also announced a new iPod stereo dock. It looks pretty cool but is a little pricy at \$349, and that is with a very crowded field. I wish them the best of luck but I am not rushing out to buy one today. Maybe Francis Shepard will bring one to the March meeting and I will change my mind.

Lastly, this is my last month as President of TMUG. Allen has done a great job as VP and sure he will a great TMUG President. We have a fine slate of officers but TMUG really needs everyone to help. TMUG is the only computer hardware group in the RTP area. Ten years ago, there were several PC hardware groups but most of the user groups for the PC are application oriented like MS Exchange or Filemaker. This will be the 21st (or 22nd, nobody is quite sure) year TMUG has been operating and, with your help, we will make it another 20 years.

— Duane



Courtesy of Apple

iPod Hi-Fi includes the Apple Remote, a removable grille, an AC power cord and 10 Universal Dock adapter.

TMUG Officers

NOTE: Officer e-mail addresses will be changing soon!

President

Duane Reaugh
p@tmug.org

1st Vice President

Allen Emory
vp1@tmug.org

2nd Vice President

Melanie Crain
vp2@tmug.org

Secretary

Ruth Landa
secretary@tmug.org

Treasurer

Stefan Jeglinski
treasurer@tmug.org

Web Master

(open)

Postmaster

Paul Lemieux
plemieux@tmug.org

Get Info Editor

Lisa Colwell
editors@tmug.org

Listserv Administrator

Chips Chapman
velomac@mindspring.com

TMUG Committees and their Chairmen

Programs: Allen Emory
Membership: Alec Whittaker
Web site: Melanie Crain, pro tem

<http://www.tmug.org/>

Apple, the Apple logo, the MacOS logo and Macintosh are trademarks of Apple Computers, Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries.

TMUG NEWS

From the Treasurer:

Our total paid membership currently stands at 90, two of which are in their grace period.

— Stefan

BOOK REVIEW

Getting Started with Aperture

Author: Estelle McGechie

Publisher: Peachpit Press, \$34.99

Level: Beginner to Aperture

Requirements: Mac OS X 10.4.3 or higher, ApertureReview

Reviewer: Maria O. Arguello

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 apples

This Apple Pro Training Series book of tutorials lives up to its reputation for ease of understanding; *Getting Started with Aperture* contains lots of color graphics, and clear step-by-step lessons to get you up to speed quickly with Aperture. Designed for the professional photographer, Aperture is Apple's newest program for managing, editing, and archiving digital photographs, and can only be used with powerful Macs to take advantage of its enormous power. The lessons in the book take the reader through efficient workflows using professional photos. The lessons are based on the official Apple Pro Training tutorials that come in PDF format with the Aperture program. They are guaranteed to enhance the beginner's knowledge of Aperture. I saw several Aperture demos at Macworld San Francisco 2006, including one by Derrick Story and one by an Apple tech on the exhibit floor. When I got home and thought I was ready to work with Aperture at an advanced level, I had a rude awakening as to how much I had forgotten in ten days. I particularly wanted to remember how to apply exposure adjustments to six photos at once. *Getting Started with Aperture* has a great Index that took me immediately to the pages for the Lift and Stamp tool. The written explanations were accompanied with stunning graphics to further help the visual learner like myself. I used the Lift and Stamp tool to apply adjustments to many photos at once at the click of a button. With time to spare, I got busy writing my book review. I also found the explanation for removing Red Eye helpful, not so much for solving my problem, but for reassuring me that I was doing it correctly and that it was Aperture that wasn't quite removing Red Eye in all my photos very well. I have to go to an external editor like Adobe Photoshop CS2, or even to iPhoto '06, to get this task done. The Red Eye removal tool in Aperture works well with the main subjects but not with Red Eye on distant spectators in an auditorium setting. The book has an extensive glossary and a thorough, informative Table of Contents. Estelle McGechie's writing style is clear and easy to understand. The book's 183 pages are non-threatening and readers will find it very manageable to read, especially because it's full of illustrations making it perfect for the beginning user of this advanced application.

Copyright © 2006 Maria O. Arguello, MLMUG arguello10@comcast.net

Cruising With My Friends and Heroes

A Review by Pat Fauquet

Several years ago I noticed the Geek Cruise advertisements in *Macworld*. Having just taken my first cruise with my non-geek husband, I was intrigued by the concept of spending a week on a ship taking classes from the people whose books and magazine articles I read. These are the same people I travel to Macworld Expo to see in sessions and seminars. The opportunity to book passage on the MacMania 4-Photoshop Fling 3 Geek Cruise presented itself this past summer. Although my husband was not interested in the trip, my sister and a close friend were ready to set sail. Neil Bauman, the Captain of Geek Cruises and his wife Theresa were a joy to work with in planning our trip. They were there to answer questions, help with filling out the online forms and to provide encouragement throughout the booking process and through the cruise itself. They thoughtfully suggested we plan to arrive in San Diego, our embarkation point, a day or two early since we would be departing in early February and I live in the Washington DC area where snow storms can close the airports for several days. We were booked into the Westin Horton Plaza in San Diego for the night before our cruise. It is a beautiful hotel, right in the middle of the tourist area of San Diego. Our room was well-appointed and spacious, if a bit above the price I would normally pay for a hotel room. That evening there was a pre-cruise cocktail party held in the hotel for Geek Cruise faculty and students. The food was tasty and plentiful and the party gave us a chance to meet many of our fellow travelers and the people who would be teaching our classes for the next week. While a number of cruisers did not attend the party, it was a valuable experience for those of us who did attend. Since we could not board the ship before 3 p.m., and the hotel checkout was before noon; a tour of San Diego had been arranged by Neil and his staff. Although I had lived in San Diego for several years on two different occasions, the tour was fun and interesting and our travel-mates were fellow Geek Cruisers, so we had another opportunity to get to know each other before the cruise began. Our luggage was stowed under the bus and at the end of our tour; we made our way to the cruise terminal. Once again, the preparations Neil and his crew had made for our embarkation made the process quick and easy. For those who have not been on a cruise, the first order of the day is a mandatory lifeboat drill before the

ship leaves the dock. Following that, we attended a Bon Voyage party aboard the ship where we received our name tags, Geek Cruises ball caps and schedules for the busy week ahead. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet and mingle with still more of our cruise mates and the faculty. While there were over 140 people signed up for the Geek Cruise and they were accompanied by another 100 spouses and partners, we were only about 15% percent of the total passengers on the cruise. Our cruise took place on the MS Osterdam, a Holland America ship. Our accommodations on the ship were wonderful. Our room was spacious with a large veranda, adequate closet space, and a good-sized bathroom. While there were

three of us, we were not crowded in our Deluxe Stateroom. However, it was the second largest type of room available on the ship and rooms such as ours were far more expensive and much larger than the least expensive cabins offered. If you plan to share a room with three adults, consider such an upgraded cabin. Our first day at sea, a Sunday, was filled with class sessions and

activities as our ship headed for our first port of call, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. There were two class periods that first day and there were four different classes offered during each period. Attendees were encouraged to move to a different class if we knew the material, found the topic too difficult or felt the urge to try something else. I attended Power-User Productivity in OS X Tiger, given by Bob LeVitus, in the morning. However, that meant missing classes being taught by Bruce Fraser, Andy Ihnatko and Deke McClelland teaching with Derrick Story. Hard decisions had to be made immediately! In the afternoon, I split my time between Deke's second class and Automator taught by Sal Soghoian. Since it was the day of the Superbowl, most of the cruisers found their way to televisions after classes to watch the game. After a wonderful dinner and a trip to learn my way around the ship, it was time for bed. However, since I am addicted to the Internet and e-mail, I first signed up for wireless access and shuddered at paying \$100 for 240 minutes of Internet access. The service was via satellite, and it was as slow as I had been led to expect it would be, but e-mail and selected Web surfing were possible! The morning found us making our way into Cabo San Lucas. On the days that the ship is in port, Geek Cruise classes are not held. You can spend the day however you want. We decided to take advantage of the tours that could be booked through the cruise line. After



continued on page 4

continued from page 3

spending about an hour wandering around in the shops at the wharf in Cabo San Lucas, we boarded a wooden “pirate” sail boat and went whale watching. In Mazatlan we took a city tour that included a visit to a cathedral, shopping and a visit to a local cultural show and a chance to see a cliff diver. It was definitely tourist fare, but as first time visitors to Mazatlan, we did get a chance to see the area and learn a little about it. The next day we went to Puerto Vallarta, the southernmost city on our trip. Once again we took a bus tour. This one stopped at a tequila factory, a farm, and another historic church with stops for shopping along the way. Once again, we saw many of the sights, even if many of them were viewed from a bus seat. Each evening, upon our return to the ship and before dinner, Geek Cruisers and their traveling partners was invited to attend special activities. One night, it was a Mac Gems shootout between Bob LeVitus, Leo Laporte, and Steve Wozniak. The MacMania Trio, made of up Bob LeVitus, Andy Ihnatko and Chris Breen, presented short concerts on two evenings. We also had special presentations by Steve Wozniak and Andy Inhatko. Other evening activities were a Macworld/Apple question and answer session, and a presentation by Bert Monroy on “The Evolution of Digital Art.” All of these sessions were wonderful and added to the Geek Cruise experience. Since they took place “after hours,” they were open to our Geek Cruise traveling companions. On four evenings Leo Laporte and various faculty members hosted “The Ingenious Bar,” a time to ask questions and visit with the group before dinner. Once again, these sessions enhanced the Geek Cruise experience. The final special program was a photo-session with the entire faculty. The Geek Cruise photographer took each Cruiser’s picture with the group. I will treasure that photo of me and my Geek heroes for many years. While I have high praise for the work of Neil Bauman and the rest of his staff, there were a few things that could have been better on the cruise. We ran into a few scheduling conflicts with the shipboard activities and had to move two of our after-hour sessions at the last moment. This meant some cruisers were unable to find the event. When dining aboard ship, cruisers are assigned to a specific table. While this worked well at larger tables, it was not a good arrangement at smaller tables. We saw fellow Geek Cruisers dining alone because their tablemates had chosen a different dining option for the evening. Dining alone is seldom fun and shipboard considerations did not allow for easily changing tables. At the end of the cruise, we had the opportunity to fill out a survey, and Neil has assured us that he is listening to and acting on our suggestions for improvements on future cruises. Would I take another Geek Cruise? Most definitely! I had a wonderful, educational week. I had the opportunity to get to know my fel-

low passengers and make some friends I am sure I will keep in touch with. I also got a chance to meet and spend time getting to know some of my favorite authors and lecturers; The whole faculty was friendly and available to the Cruisers. It was an opportunity not to be missed! The cost of the Geek Cruise portion of the trip (\$795) was certainly in line with other training programs and the content offered something for everyone at many different levels throughout the week. At each session, there was enough variety that I had a difficult time choosing which class to take and which ones I would regrettably miss. While it is not possible to book the shipboard accommodations through a third party cruise discounter, the Geek Cruise staff was able to offer me an upgrade to a nicer cabin without adding to the cost of the trip. This type of consideration is not available on every cruise though, so book the type of cabin you feel you need. Traveling aboard the Holland America Line was very pleasant and comparable to my other cruise experiences. The ship was clean and well-maintained. The food was very good, and the services provided by the staff were above reproach. The two shipboard shows I managed to attend were very good. I cannot tell you much about the pools, spa, casino and night life. I was too busy having fun with my fellow Geek Cruisers to spend much time in those. As for the question, am I a good candidate for cruising without the Geek Cruise program? My other two experiences were on short cruises where we visited a different port each day. Although I might be able to be happy with one unscheduled day at sea, just lying around by the pool or watching the sea for two or more days would NOT make me happy. I am a person who keeps busy and the stimulation of classes about my favorite subjects was exactly what I needed to really enjoy a week on a cruise ship. Next time, I will encourage my husband to travel with me. He would enjoy the days with nothing to do, but he could still join me for Geek Cruise activities after-hours. If all of this sounds fun to you, contact Neil Bauman and tell him I suggested you join in the fun. You never know, I may be on your Geek Cruise! For more information about future Geek Cruises, check their Web site at www.geekcruises.com. To see photos of the fun we had, search MacMania on Flickr.com. Several cruisers have posted some of their pictures there.

Copyright © 2006 Pat Fauquet, Washington Apple Pi, patf.fauquet@wap.org. Pat is the Vice-president for Programs, and the Pi Fillings CD editor for Washington Apple Pi.

compiled by The MUG Center, <http://www.mugcenter.com>

Links to cool, interesting and useful information for user group members.

Mac 911: Bending iWeb to your will

iWeb offers some beautiful template pages, but what if you'd like to create pages that don't fit the Welcome, About Me, Photos, Movie, Blog, or Podcast mold? Try a little something like this.

<http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/mac911/2006/01/bendiweb/index.php?lsrc=mrws>

Use iWeb as a NetNewsWire Weblog Editor

Thanks in part to this hint, I was able to build an AppleScript which creates a new iWeb blog entry from the currently-selected NetNewsWire (NNW) news item. Here's how.

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060128141555462&lsrc=osxb>

Easiest Way to Prepare Movies for Your iPod

iTunes 6 has a feature that enables you to convert your existing QuickTime videos to iPod-compatible movies. This is a great feature that a lot of folks don't know about. Previously, you either had to buy third party software or upgrade to QuickTime Pro to easily rip to this custom .m4v format.

http://www.oreillyn.com/mac/blog/2006/02/easiest_way_to_prepare_movies.html?CMP=OTC-13IV03560550&ATT=Easiest+Way+to+Prepare+Movies+for+Your+iPod

Make iWeb create text instead of images

On some systems, users have found that when they publish their iWeb web pages, the text comes out as one large image instead of text. It's been found that this is due to a version of Arial that appears to give iWeb indigestion...

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=2006012617091313&lsrc=osxb>

Set some hidden preferences in iPhoto 6

One problem I've had since installing iPhoto 6 is that I don't have as much control of the zoom slider as I used to. That is, in iPhoto 5 I could zoom and make two photos appear side-by-side in the thumbnail view...

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060127142531616&lsrc=osxb>

iPhoto postcards

Playing with iPhoto printing is one of my favorite past times. This time, I went ahead with Apple's postcard offerings, hoping to finally find a reasonably priced, acceptable quality post card provider. I found it, but there are some things to keep in mind.

http://www.oreillyn.com/mac/blog/2006/02/iphoto_postcards.html?CMP=OTC-13IV03560550&ATT=iPhoto+postcards

Reduce iWeb and Pages disk space utilization

When you install iWeb as part of the iLife '06 upgrade, you'll get a huge 630MB application file. While this made sense (perhaps) for iDVD due to its movie themes (which now weigh in at 1.7GB, but are stored separately)...

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=2006013021501519&lsrc=osxb>

Convert videos for iPod directly in iTunes

I noticed this when clicking through Apollo Pony video podcasts. Only about twenty of almost hundred transferred to my video iPod, because they used different codecs like Sorenson or MPEG1 Muxed. Well, now you can just...

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060215070653382&lsrc=osxb>

How to boot an Intel Mac from an external drive

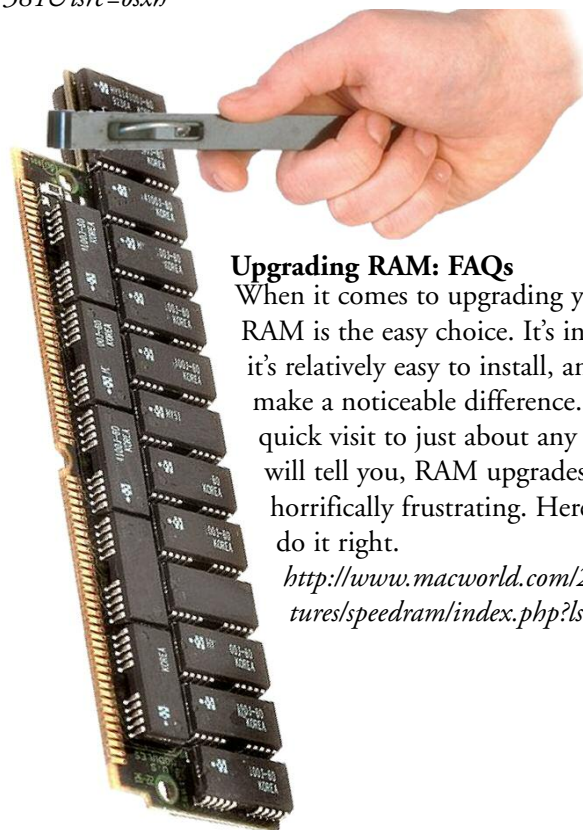
If you've got an Intel Mac, the process for getting it to boot from an external FireWire drive is different than it is for a PowerPC Mac—an Intel boot drive requires a different partition scheme than does a...

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060202061257652&lsrc=osxb>

Listen to the sounds of network traffic

Although it seems this program has been around since 2004, it's still fascinating: Sound of Traffic

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060215145550381&lsrc=osxb>



Upgrading RAM: FAQs

When it comes to upgrading your Mac, RAM is the easy choice. It's inexpensive, it's relatively easy to install, and it can make a noticeable difference. But as a quick visit to just about any Mac forum will tell you, RAM upgrades can also be horrifically frustrating. Here's how to do it right.

<http://www.macworld.com/2006/02/features/speedram/index.php?lsrc=mrws>

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

Modify graphics in iWeb templates

It is possible to modify the graphics in iWeb templates, but it is a bit labor-intensive.

<http://www.macintoshhints.com/article.php?story=2006020408550250&lsrc=osxb>

Create fully customized iWeb templates

I've written extensive, easy to follow, instructions for a not-so-easy task. Everyone knows it is possible to get into the iWeb template files and mess with them, and everyone knows what a nightmare the XML files are.

<http://www.macintoshhints.com/article.php?story=20060208074338284&lsrc=osxb>

Boot Intel Macs from iPods and FireWire drives

Curious about how to booting your Intel iMac from either a USB2.0 iPod or an external Firewire drive? It is possible, and here's how.

<http://www.macintoshhints.com/article.php?story=20060216225428857&lsrc=osxb>

MacBook Pro Reviewer's Notebook

After two weeks away from the office, I returned to a brewing storm: our first MacBook Pro models arrived just as I did...

<http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/editors/2006/02/macbooknotes/index.php?lsrc=mwrs>

Avoid a security vulnerability in Safari

In a nutshell, a shell script can be written and then zipped in such a way that it will automatically expand and then execute on a user's machine. This shell script could, of course, do anything your user could do — including, as an example, installing the Leap.A worm.

<http://www.macintoshhints.com/article.php?story=20060222071126871&lsrc=osxb>

Worried about security on your Mac?

Here's an excellent Web page titled "Basic Mac OS X Security"

http://www.macgeekery.com/tips/security/basic_mac_os_x_security

It provides nine rules which are well defined and understandable for the greater group of Mac users. After the nine rules, there is a link to Apple's 'Common Criteria' page and to a book, *Maximum Mac OS X Security*, available at Amazon.com.

