



January 2005

Apple Bytes

A publication of San Leandro Macintosh User Group



Happy New Year

MacWorld is coming, MacWorld is coming. Once again it is time for our annual pilgrimage to the Exalted SOUTH (only) Hall of Moscone so we can all pay homage to our most revered leader of the Cult of Macintosh.

What, oh what, will the great Stevie lay upon us for the forthcoming glorious year of surprises ahead? Only "HE" knows and we can only stand, or sit, and listen to the tower of babel that we must endure at the keynote. Besides, it is kinda fun.

Hey! It is just part of that game that we have opted to endure on an annual basis since we joined this group. I'm not complaining, you understand, just commenting. I too plan to pay handsomely for the priviledge of attending the keynote once again.

Update 10.3.7 has been released. Several workarounds have been created to help make it work. This seems to be the order of the day since System 10 was released. Don't worry about it. Things will all be better when the illustrious Tiger makes it debut on April Fools Day and we can all pony up another \$129 again. As per the norm, it is all part of the evolutionary process. Some day... maybe...

Enough already!

Club Calendar for January

Jan 2005

6... SLMUG General Meeting 7:30 pm
San Leandro High School
Room 507 (Shop 7 Graphics Lab)
2200 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro (Info: 510 828-9314)
SLMUG Board Meeting. Normally held after the general meeting at a nearby eating establishment.

20... SLMUG Mac SIG
The Mac SIG meets on the third Thursday in Room 507, the Shop 7 Graphics Lab. Items for discussion are brought by you, the attendees. Discussions are specific to your problems and requests.
(Info: 510 828-9314)

February 2005

3... SLMUG General Meeting 7:30 pm
San Leandro High School
Room 507 (Shop 7 Graphics Lab)
2200 Bancroft Ave.
San Leandro (Info: 510 828-9314)

The Fine Print

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Kline's Korner

Mac OS X

MacWorld SF 2005

Some announcements you should expect:

According to Forbes, Apple Computer and Motorola could soon show the mobile phone they are developing to play music purchased from Apple's iTunes online music store. "We've said we have something coming on this in the first half of 2005 and we're definitely on schedule for that. Hopefully you'll be able to see more about it soon," said Eddy Cue, vice president in charge of applications at Apple. "What we've talked about is something that is valuable for the mass market," Cue added. "It has to be a phone in the middle-tier of the market, not a \$500-tier phone. It has to be very seamless to use. And we're very happy with the results." Cue reportedly declined to say whether CEO Steve Jobs would introduce the phone at next month's Macworld Expo in San Francisco.

There are now reports that this may be totally untrue. We will just have to wait and see.

More likely is that Apple will announce a sub-\$600 Macintosh along with its own brand of iPod speakers. Apple is expected to introduce a G4 iMac without a monitor that will retail for below (US) \$600. The unit will easily plug into any display or television.

Apple's First Quarter Financial Report is to be Webcast on January 12th right in the middle of Macworld Expo week in San Francisco. The webcast may be watched via QuickTime streaming from this Apple web page. Some great numbers are expected.

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/qtv/earningsq105/>

Belkin should announce TuneStage, a Bluetooth stereo solution. TuneStage will consist of two components - a receiver and a transmitter - which will connect any iPod via wireless Bluetooth link to any stereo system. The receiver will connect to a stereo via 3.5-inch minijack or RCA left and right ports, and Belkin is currently considering whether to additionally include an optical Toslink output on the final product. TuneStage's transmitter will attach to the top of the iPod, enabling it to wirelessly broadcast audio to the receiver and act like a "remote control" for the playback of iPod audio, explained Belkin product manager Randall Stowasser.

The success of Apple's iPod has bred its own industry - there are now more than 200 accessories available for both the full-sized iPod and the Mini.

Belkin sells accessories such as a backup battery unit and a voice recorder. To date, Belkin has shipped over 1.5 million iPod accessory units. Belkin expects the number to "at least" double over the next 12 months.

Griffin is another company basking in iPod's reflected glory. Griffin markets a dozen iPod accessories, including iTalk and the clever iBeam which converts the iPod into a laser pointer and flashlight. Mainstream firms like JBL have also entered the iPod market with products like the iPod speaker.

IDG World Expo announced “Live On Stage,” a new educational feature for all attendees at Macworld Expo in San Francisco (January 10-14). Live On Stage offers over 20 hours of free training classes by industry experts; it will take place on the exhibit hall’s main stage beginning at 11:00 a.m. each day of the event. Live On Stage will also feature two Macworld Expo update sessions per day as well as the Macworld Best of Show Awards on the final day of the event. The Live On Stage program runs daily from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Day one (Tuesday January 11) includes four sessions that provide tips, tricks and demonstrations about the iPod digital music player.

Exhibitors for the 2005 MacWorld SF are now just short of 250. At this time only the south hall will be used. This is the hall where the Apple booth is located and is considered to be the main hall. You can see the exhibitors list at <http://www.macworldexpo.com/live/20/events/20SFO05A/exposition/exhibitorlist>.

More on dealing with phishing attacks:

The Anti-Phishing Working Group, a “pan-industrial and law enforcement association,” provides information and advice for dealing with phishing attacks, which are attempts to collect personal information such as credit card numbers through the use of bogus email and web sites.

The group maintains a prominent list of recent phishing attacks and an archive of older attacks, plus advice on how to identify such attacks and what to do if you fall victim to one. It also provides a mechanism for reporting new attacks, plus news of trends and counter-measures.

If you’ve a need for more speed and delight in that little thrill that comes from diddling your Mac, then try this little tweak on for size:

- Open Firefox
- Type “about:config” in the address bar
- Change “network.http.pipelining” to “true”
- Change “network.http.proxy.pipelining” to “true”
- Change “network.http.pipelining.maxrequests” to 30

Double clicking the items will either invoke the desired change (ie from true to false) or present you with a dialog where you can type in the appropriate numerals.

And, by the way, Firefox has now been downloaded 14.2-million times. On December 11, IGM noted that the alternate browser had surpassed 10-million downloads, which means that approximately 1.4-million copies are being snatched up every week.

Hope to see each of you at MacWorld.

Enjoy

iVeZeen and iGlasses for iSight

Review: By Bob Shayler

Two applications are available that enhance the iSight video camera and iChat software. Both work flawlessly and both do exactly what they are advertised to do. They have some overlapping features but each has its own target market.

iVeZeen is designed to give the iSight camera the ability to record Quicktime movies and provide enhanced controls for the camera. iVeZeen works as a separate application; it is not integrated into iChat itself. If you choose to use iVeZeen to control your iSight, you cannot at the same time use iSight with iChat.

iVeZeen's strong point is its ability to record Quicktime movies with an iSight. It is extremely simple to use. You just click the "Record" button in the iVeZeen window. iVeZeen can activate itself based upon motion detection so it can be used as a security device or to record activities of children and pets who may be difficult to pose.

iVeZeen has enhanced settings for an iSight. The user can set hue, saturation and brightness. Camera focus can be manually managed including a close-up mode. The image can be "sharpened" although I did not see much difference with this setting. Sound settings include the option to record sounds or not and set the audio level.

But given all these features, the reason to purchase iVeZeen is its ability to record movies easily. It has no edit features, but neither does one need to learn anything about iMovie or more complicated application to make a simple movie for the web or home use.

iGlasses does not make movies but it does give you complete control over your iSight (and many other web cameras) and it operates seamlessly within iChat. Once installed, iGlasses settings can be changed in iChat under the "Video" pull-down menu. You can set the image for: Standard, Extra Bright, Super Bright, Enhanced, Black and White, Sepia, Crazy Colors, Night Vision, and Macro Focus. You can set the camera to mirror the image (left to right) and turn it upside down in case your camera mount holds it upside down.

I found the brightness settings very useful. As iSight users well know, the iSight does not perform well under low light levels. The Griffin SightLight hardware add-on has not proved useful for me; it gives a green tint and does not provide much brightness enhancement. The "Extra Bright" iGlasses setting gives a clear, bright image even in the relatively dark artificially lit room where I use my iSight.

iGlasses gives superb control over your web camera and works within iChat. iVeZeen makes it possible to record movies effortlessly with your iSight camera but does not work within iChat. I bought both so I would have both feature sets.

iVeZeen is available from Boinx software online at www.ivezeen.com for \$14.95. iGlasses is available from the Ecomm Network at www.ecamm.com/mac/iglasses/ for \$8.00 or \$14.95 for the iChatRocks! Bundle that includes iGlasses and three other software packages.

See them both demonstrated at the January 6th meeting.

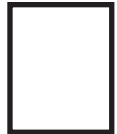
January 6th meeting features...

Stan Kline will demonstrate Mac the Ripper and Roxio Popcorn. These are two new programs that can help make your recording life easier. Bob Shayler will demonstrate two new programs to make iSight easier to work with. As usual, this should be a fun meeting. Don't forget your dues.

20-inch



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Main Meeting - Jan 6th