



October 2006

Apple Bytes

A publication of San Leandro Macintosh User Group



OS X 10.4.8...

Well, it came out last Friday and it works fine for me. I haven't seen any issues or problems in the last few days. That's the way it should be.

I, too, have been having problems with my Airport Extreme locking up and requiring a restart to get it up and running again. Bob recently reported that he installed a new Linksys device and the problems disappeared. Granted, these are just nuisance problems.

This design is getting a bit long in the tooth since it has been around for several years now without a major update. Some of the major manufacturers are starting to produce wireless devices with the 802.11n format. It would not be too surprising to see Apple get on the ball and come up with something new and better than the "players." What, oh what, could it possibly be named? Airport Supreme? Maybe... Nah. Not creative enough. Question is... will it be retro fit-able?

I've heard of more problems with the ever popular MacBooks. Fortunately, Apple seems to be putting the fires out. No pun intended. Just be thankful you bought Applecare when you buy Revision 1.

That's it for now...

Club Calendar for October

Oct 2006

5... 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.

19... 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)

November 2006

2... SLMUG General Meeting 7:30 pm
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The Fine Print

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Claire Rottenberg's OS X eBook Guides

As you must recall, Claire J. Rottenberg is a Mac fanatic and language teacher in Israel whom I met via iChat. I have previously reviewed, in an SLMUG meeting, her eBook "Easy Guide" for the OS X Mail application. Now I have obtained (for \$7 via Kagi) her newest eBook Easy Guide, for Safari. Her eBooks are all in PDF format and downloaded from a link one obtains after paying the cheap fee to Kagi.

Her second eBook is just as organized and easy to navigate as her first one. There is a LOT of information included including stuff about Safari features I didn't know (you might but I didn't). Stuff like "collections," "snap-back page," and fonts (the weird ones that sometimes appear). There are 43 images of menu screens and pull-down menus, keyboard shortcuts and a list of Claire's favorite free Safari support applications (such as Acid Search and Safari Enhancer). The eBook is only for the 10.4 (Tiger) version of Safari.

I will be showing it off at the SLMUG October main meeting. You can get it (and should) at:

<http://homepage.mac.com/cjrtools/ebooks/>

iWoz – the book

"iWoz," subtitled "How I invented the personal computer, co-founded Apple, and had fun doing it," is now on most book seller's shelves (only Barnes and Noble doesn't have it) for full price (\$25.95) and at Amazon.com (\$15.57 plus shipping). Some might think this book to be Woz's follow-up to the book iCon (previously reviewed) about Steve Jobs. It is not. This 300-page book, plus a nerdy glossary, is written mostly by the Woz himself and is very much like having a conversation with Woz. His writing style is informal, direct and honest. In a sense, even though he wrote it with Gina Smith, it is an autobiography. Apparently, Steve spoke the book and Gina wrote it down.

Wozniak comes across as a friendly, talkative guy next door who is deep into nerd and geek. A self-described "engineer," he clearly loves what he did and does. He pokes fun at himself and loves to talk about the jokes he played on people (like spoofing President Nixon and the lying to the cops with Captain Crunch in Hayward). He talks about his father (whom he credits with getting him into science stuff), his early school days, his teachers (Miss Skrak in fifth grade and Mr. McCollum in high school), the HAM radio operator (Mr. Giles) down the street who taught him radio and got him a HAM license at age 12, and science fair projects. And he talks about Apple and Steve Jobs (who is much younger than the Woz and graduated from the same high school).

In places the book gets quite geeky, though not enough to discourage the untrained reader. For those who want more geek, there are numerous text panels in the book with details of this and that, plus a nine-page geek glossary at the end of the book.

There is no introduction to the book, but there is an Acknowledgement section the end where the Woz gives thanks and names names of those who have helped "Steve's adventure."

iWoz is tough to put down. I finally fell asleep last night about a hundred pages in with the book still in my hands. I will bring my copy to the SLMUG meeting Thursday, but you really really have to buy your own copy. It is a very fun read.

SLMUG Minutes 9-7-06

The evening started with some folks sharing summer experiences. There was some discussion of the new iMacs and MacBooks. Bob provided printed tech specs to those interested.

Randy Madrid demonstrated several shareware/freeware programs.

SizzlingKeys (v. 3.0.6) is a shareware program that controls iTunes with keyboard shortcuts from any application. A limited version is free, pro version is \$4.95. Randy demoed *SizzlingKeys* and went through the keyboard shortcuts using option, control, and command keys to do the following: previous track, play/pause, next track, volume down, volume up. You can also a box to activate mute, almost mute, show/hide iTunes, show play lists, and search. All of this can be done without going into iTunes. You can download via Version Tracker or Google. *SizzlingKeys* is a must for power users of iTunes.

Next, Randy demoed *FileChute*, a shareware program that makes sending large files easy. Some service providers limit the size of files that can be emailed. In *FileChute* just drag a file and drop it on *FileChute*. *FileChute* puts the file on your .Mac account and generates a web link for retrieving the file all in one step. Next drag the generated link into your email and you're set to go. Your recipients can retrieve the file from a Mac, a PC or any other platform. You can even drop multiple files or folders at once. *FileChute* automatically creates an archive in the format of your choice – it supports dmg, zip, and tar – and sends the archive file. The app works best with a .Mac account, however, once properly set up, it works just as perfectly with non-. Mac servers. Randy uploaded a large file and emailed it successfully!

FruitMenu is another shareware program (\$10). It is compatible with Intel-based Macs. It is a haxie that gives you the ability to customize the Apple Menu and contextual menus. Using a visual editor, you can edit the contents of the menus to suit your needs and taste. To make the haxie completely flexible and customizable, you can assign hotkeys to particular menu items.

A cool freeware app is *StartupSound*. It is software, which controls the volume of the startup sound of your Mac. It goes into System Preferences.

Thanks Randy.

Business: **Jay Ruuska** shared info on *MakeItTakeIt* program, which he has operated for the past 5 years. It is a program that gives computers to students who need one. Storage space has been provided free of charge for the past two years. The firm cannot provide it free any more. The year's cost is \$800. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Randy), seconded (Jim) and carried that "SLMUG pay for up to 3 months of the storage space cost." Jay will negotiate this with SA Storage. He will also put an ad on Craig's List to see if someone would take over the program.

Ed Matlock reviewed the DOM. OpenOffice 2.0 will be native soon so you won't have to run X11. Programs in the DOM includes appzapper, Clean-the-Finder-Preferences, clear dock (shows just the icons), CocktailPE (panther), FontExpolorerX11, iTuneMyWalkman (can download to another), lcc2.1 (Logitech), and MacTracker 4.0.6. MultiClip (freeware), OnyX, OpenOffice 2.0.3, Security Update 2006-004, Skype (works with iSight), and Xbench (tests computer speed, etc.) Thanks Ed.

Dayle Scott, Secretary

October 5th meeting features...

Bob has a couple of items to talk about this Month. Can someone address any issues with the latest Tiger Update? I haven't heard of any. We may have an update from Jay on the Computer project. As usual, Ed will do his Dom thing.



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Main Meeting - Oct. 5th