



Macintosh Users Group
www.TheMacClub.org
Laguna Woods Village Macintosh Club
Laguna Woods, California

February 2009, Vol 14 Number 2

GENERAL MEETING * THURSDAY * FEBRUARY 12, 2009
CLUBHOUSE 1 * 7:00 P.M



*"iChat, Skype
and other
instant messaging applications
for Mac"
by
Brian Ramirez and Ashley Turner
of the Irvine Spectrum Apple Store.*

6 p.m. "Ask the Gurus" Q & A

Inside Apple PEALINGS...

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Board Meetings.....Tuesday afternoon, 1:15 p.m., following the Thursday General Meeting each month.

Important Information...

Mac Learning Center Phone..... 268-2263
The Mac Club Web Site..... www.TheMacClub.org
Anne Clark, Web Manager Email: aclark@comline.com

President's Message...

Member **Margot McCartney** has taken upon herself to bring cookies to our general meetings at her own expense. Members of the Village have a reputation for attending events that provide FREE food. This must be the reason for the good turnout at our January meeting. Thank you, Margot for the cookies, you are appreciated.



Board members **Faye Pearl** and **Metche Franke** have taken over conducting the monthly Beginners Computer Information Session that Murray Massin had conducted for several years. Faye and Metche will bring their own ideas to help new computer users have FUN with their Macs. The session is held early in each month. See the Newsletter or our website for future dates.

Anne Clark gave the first Saturday afternoon class on January 24, entitled "How to write a Blog." If there is interest in a Saturday class, different subjects may be offered in future months by different instructors. If you are interested in a Saturday class, and have a class idea, for example Basic Troubleshooting, File Maker Pro, TurboTax, Quicken, iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, iTunes, iCalendar, iWeb, Keynote, Numbers, Pages, iPods, Google Docs, Blogging, Mail, Safari, WiFi, Skype, iChat, Time Machine - or any other topic - please let us know by sending an email to Anne (aclark@comline.com), subject **Saturday Classes**, who will share it with the board of directors and the other instructors.

Browser Choices. I used to be a primary user of the **Camino** browser. Camino is published by the Mozilla Foundation, which also publishes **Firefox**. Camino is specially programmed to work seamlessly on the Mac and it is still a good browser. I then tried Firefox. Firefox is excellent and is gaining a reputation for strong, secure browsing. The current version, 3.05, requires Mac OS 10.4 or higher. The PC version is being adapted by more PC users as they find **Internet Explorer** is not secure. When Apple's browser **Safari** reached version 3, I tried that. Safari is excellent and I now use Safari as my default browser.
cheers.....Charles

Program

February 2009 ***

iChat, Skype, and other instant messaging applications for Mac.

Presented by Brian Ramirez and Ashley Turner of the Irvine Spectrum Apple Store.

iChat, Perfect for “Mac-to-Mac” Video Conferencing.

Visit iChat

Filled with cool new features, iChat turns any video chat into an event. Video backdrops, Photo Booth effects, photo slideshows, Keynote presentations, even movies on your Mac you can share it all using iChat.

Chat from anywhere (or just look like it). Show off (without showing up).

Crystal-clear audio. iChat uses the AAC-LD audio codec to deliver the clearest possible sound during audio chats. A wideband codec that samples a full range of vocal frequencies, AAC-LD sounds great with any voice.

Still the best for text. Text messaging also gets a boost in Leopard, thanks to these additions:

Tabbed chats, Multiple logins, Invisibility, Animated buddy icons, SMS forwarding, Custom buddy list order, File transfer manager, Space-efficient views.

AIM to please. iChat works with AIM, the largest instant messaging community in the U.S. You and your buddies can be either AIM or .Mac users. Text, audio, and video chat whether your buddies use a Mac or a PC. Sign in with your AIM account, and all your buddies appear in your iChat buddy list.

Skype. Free. Best for “Mac-to-PC” Video Conferencing.

Visit Skype.com

Make calls from your computer - free to other people on Skype and cheap to landlines and cell phones around the world.

Skype is jam-packed with great features to help you stay in touch with friends, family and co-workers, share your thoughts and views and find the information you need. You can use it on your computer and on both WiFi and cordless phones. We all love something for nothing. With Skype’s free software, by the way, it works seamlessly with your Internet connection. You can chat away with free Skype-to-Skype calls and never worry about cost, time or distance. Share the love and get your friends to download Skype so you can talk, chat or make video calls for nothing. You can also make local, long distance and international calls to phones and cell phones at great rates too.

Just for starters you can instant message with anyone on your contact list or even use group chat to chat with up to a hundred people. You could hold a conference call with up to nine other people to organize a get-together and then use “SkypeFind!” to search for the perfect venue to hold it.

Brian and Ashley will also take questions from the floor!

Door Prizes. Three door prizes will be given to lucky winners in the audience, (must be Mac Club members and present to win).

Here are the names of the Door Prize winners of the January, 2009, General meeting, in the order drawn:

1. Marianna Spoelder
2. Elaine Stannard
3. Dick Trueman

"Anne's Corner"



Web-based documents - and your own uploaded documents - you can access from any Computer.

Have you ever wished you could access your Address Book when away from home? Now you can. Just upload it to Google Docs, which is password protected, and access it from any computer in the world.

All you need is a Google ID and password. Google Docs is free. Sign up at docs.google.com

Google Docs also provides web-based word processor, spreadsheet and other applications, so you can create documents at Google Docs. They are saved automatically and accessible anytime anywhere. You can give others access and share documents with them to read or download.

If you wish to upload documents that are not currently supported by Google Docs, such as Pages, simply save them as PDF files, then upload them. I saved my Address Book as a PDF file and uploaded it. It has already benefited me by being available to me wherever I am,

Enjoy!
Anne Clark

Intermediate Discussion Group

Would you like to exchange ideas or share/receive advice on more advanced topics and issues than those usually addressed in any of the current classes or the Q&A at the general meetings? If so, you are invited to join the "Intermediate Discussion Group" that will be formed if there is enough response. If you are interested, please send an email with the subject "Intermediate Discussion Group" to Wim Vermolen at wimolen@mac.com.



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Product Liaison — Lee Wight MD

As the newly minted Product Liaison Representative for the Mac club, I will provide periodic reviews of software products that have been offered to our club and other Mac user groups for evaluation. They are usually produced by relatively small software companies and can be quite interesting. An example is the rather excellent program, iBank, reviewed in last month's newsletter.

This month I will take a very brief look at ScopeBox, a high-end video enhancement program. Its use involves plugging your laptop into a video capture device or devices and making various rather exotic adjustments. The program exists at two levels, for either standard definition or high-definition, priced at \$400 and \$700, respectively.

That's what I mean by high-end. Details at <http://www.scopebox.com/>. They will provide a 20% discount to Mac Club members.

We plan to have these applications, and subsequent ones as they appear, available for perusal in the Learning Center on machine number 7.



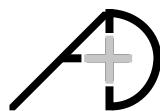
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MacWorld 2009 Report by Wim Vermolen

MacWorld, the big Apple Computer centered computer conference, was held again in San Francisco in January of this year.

It was with some sadness that I entered the Mascone Conference Center, knowing that this would be the last time for Apple to be part of MacWorld. Despite announcements to the contrary, I was still hoping that Steve Jobs would appear with news of a new iMac. I have delayed the purchase of a new computer for myself and even postponed my Christmas gift from my family. Needless to say, I was very disappointed about the lack of new hardware.

Apple did announce new software, however, some of which impressed me favorably. Included in the newly introduced iLife 09 and iWorks 09 releases were updates for all its programs. Note that iLife and iWorks bundle three or more software programs each.

The most anticipated changes were made to iMovie (part of iLife). Last year iMovie 08 was released and although it had revision 08, it was a brand new program to edit movies. The overall reception was less than desirable. In fact it was so bad that Apple had to reintroduce the previous iMovie edit program iMovie 06 (iMovie 07 never existed). Either program could be used independently to edit movies. David Pogue who wrote the book "The Missing Manual" submitted an article in The New York Times criticizing all the things that were missing in iMovie 08. In an hour lecture that I attended, he recounted what happened next. Shortly after the publication Steve Jobs called him personally asking: "Who do you think you are to criticize the latest iMovie program?" Needless to say Steve had not been expecting nor did he like the general criticism the software program received. Fortunately, the new release of the software program iMovie 09 has corrected almost all the prior problems, although lack of a "time line" remains an issue. In addition, stabilization, was introduced as a new feature. A demonstration showed how a movie taken from a jeep on a dirt road became a steady handheld movie. The reader can see this and more on <http://www.apple.com/ilife>.

In addition to Apple there were many other companies displaying their products. Many companies concentrate on software that improve photos. Roxio, the manufacturer of Toast (nine or before) that many of us use to do (legal) copying, introduced Toast 10. With this update it is possible to transfer a double layer DVD to a couple of single layer DVD's. It also records any movie that plays on your computer. A brand new Toast Pro 10 was introduced that has a photo editing program to lighten or darken sections of a photo. It has a completely different approach than the methods used by iPhoto and/or Photoshop.

It was not only interesting to see new software and hardware, but also to hear in person the lectures of David Pogue, Andy Ihnatko (<http://www.cwob.com>), Leo Laporte (KFI-640AM Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 2 pm), Lisa Schnyder King (Photoshop expert), Dr. Mac Bob LeVitus, Guy Kawasaki the evangelist, and others. Companies from outside the United States also had much to offer. iStudio Publisher, a company from England, displayed inexpensive software that can produce newsletters and business cards with watermarks. IRIS from Belgium has new and improved software for their hand scanner. The writer and owner of Germany's Lemke's Graphic Converter was demonstrating version 6.3.

What will happen next year? I wonder if I will go to a small MacWorld in San Francisco or attend the computer show in Las Vegas, where as some rumors say, I will be able to satisfy my yearly hunger for Apple developments.

Macintosh Learning Center

--- Shell Weinberg

Laguna Woods Town Centre

Laguna Woods Village Community Center, 3rd floor

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday

Learn the fundamentals and basics...

Beginners, new users, PC to Mac switchers

If you have recently become a new member in our Mac Club, or if you are a veteran member and have been reading this column over the years, you may be interested in looking back at some of the columns that have been written to help Mac users understand the **fundamentals and basics** of Mac computer operation.

You can access this series of ten articles, **“Reviewing Fundamentals & Basics”**, by going online, then visit our Club website www.themacclub.org

When the Home Page appears, look on the left side to see the sidebar, now click on **L. C. EDITORIALS**, then single click on a title to view that editorial.

The *“Reviewing Fundamentals & Basics”* series includes helpful information about:

Finder and the Desktop, November 2008
Help, December 2007
Understanding the Address Book, Sept 2007
Monthly maintenance... Mac 101, July 2007
Understanding the Trash, June 2007
Icons... pictures you see on screen, Apr 2007
Highlighting, March 2007
Save and Save As commands, December 2006
Menu Bar and the Dock, September 2006
Mac window, July/August 2006

Apple

In addition, the following list includes a few **other subjects** you may also find worthwhile:

Learning about... Pages,

April, May, June, July/August 2008

Dashboard Dictionary, January 2008

Difference between Mac & PC, May 2007

Orange County Public Library, October 2006

Clipboard, Cut, Copy & Paste, March 2006

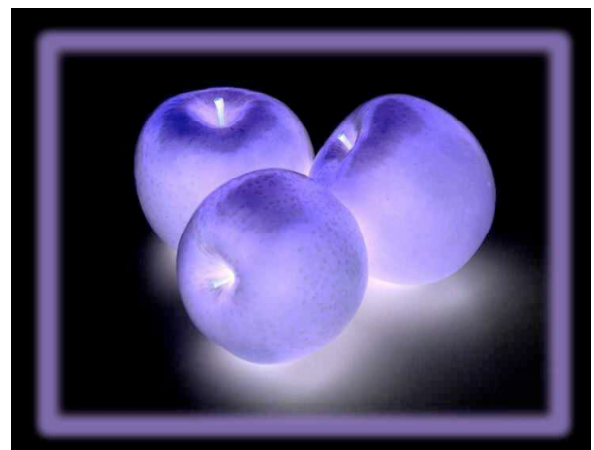
How does one really learn, February 2005

“Grab” ... or take a screen shot, January 2005

POP, PDA, ISP, TWAIN, ???, October 2004

As you will notice, some of the columns were written a few years ago... so be aware of the possibility that things could have changed since the date of the original information.

Due to updates and upgrades you may find items that do not conform to present day functions. If you do experience confusion or any misunderstanding, please come to the Learning Center and ask the Supervisor for help and/or demonstration.





Laguna Woods Village Macintosh Club
Laguna Woods, CA

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A Day To Remember!

🍏🍏🍏 Calendar ■ February 2009

* eMail / Internet CLASS (<i>Anne Clark</i>)	Thursday, February 5	1:00 - 3:00 pm
Computer Beginners SESSION (<i>F. Pearl & M. Franke</i>)	Friday, February 6	1:00 - 3:00 pm
* Mac for Dummies & Pages CLASS (<i>Shell Weinberg</i>)	Wednesday, February 11	1:00 - 3:00 pm
GENERAL MEETING in Club House 1	Thursday, February 12	6:00 - 8:15 pm
PRESIDENTS HOLIDAY (L.C. CLOSED)	Monday, February 16	
BOARD Meeting in Spruce Room (<i>Adm.Bdg.</i>)	Tuesday, February 17	1:15 - 3:45 pm
* Digital Photo CLASS (<i>Anne Clark</i>)	Thursday, February 19	1:00 - 3:00 pm
* Intermediate OS X CLASS (<i>WimVermolen</i>)	Tuesday, February 24	1:00 - 3:00 pm
iMovie Q & A (<i>Michael Moore</i>)	Friday, February 27	1:00 - 3:00 pm

ALL CLASSES (*) ARE DROP-IN with a request for a \$2 donation

Macintosh Computer Learning Center is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

EXCEPT when Classes are given it will be closed, and on **February 16 (Holiday)**

Schedule subject to change, see <http://www.themacclub.org> for the latest information

Mac Learning Center telephone number **268-2263**