

The South Bay Mug MACINTOSH

February/March, 2010

A MONTHLY CUPFUL FOR SOUTH BAY APPLE MAC USER GROUP MEMBERS

Guess Who Came the Farthest to the January Meeting?



It was Terri Slaven from England. A long-time SBAMUG member who moved back home in 2008, she says her membership dues are well worth the e-group information and the Q&A's at the occasional meeting she can attend.

Did You Know That We Have a Sale or Give-Away Table at Every Meeting?

After you are greeted at the main door at our meetings, keep walking until you see the sign that says Sale/Give Away Table.

All we ask is that if no one is interested in the items you've offered, take them back with you at the end of the meeting. There is no disposal of electronic equipment at the VFW.

iPad Dominates the Tech News

Ever since Apple's CEO Steve Jobs announced the new iPad last month at MacWorld, every computer site features the speculative good, bad and the ugly of this innovative new release. It has yet to be shipped.

This early review by Ed Shepard, from Barkings, Small Dog's Apple Blog (<http://blog.smalldog.com/>) synthesizes it for a non-techies. iPad was also briefly a topic of conversation at the MUG meeting in January. Read what Jim Pernal wrote about it in our e-group on page 6.



Apple unveiled its "latest creation" this week, the massively anticipated iPad tablet. First things first – we're blown away by the iPad's potential. It's beautiful, extremely functional, and relatively affordable, starting at just \$499.99. When Apple says it's their "most advanced technology in a magical and revolutionary device at an unbelievable price," they're really not exaggerating.

But we have to be honest – we're still adjusting to the name. "iPad" doesn't convey the elegance of the device. In a worse-case scenario, it might even remind some people of certain other products. However, it's not so bad when a product's name is its most questionable feature. Certainly Apple has the market research to select a winning name – even if it seems weird to us right now. The name "MacBook" used to sound corny, but now we like it.

In our opinion, the iPad is going to be wildly, massively, amazingly successful. Why? First, and perhaps most importantly, this device is

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Welcome to South Bay Apple Mac User Group (SBAMUG)

You, your friends and colleagues, are invited to attend our monthly meetings. Our membership dues are only \$35 per year, entitling you to this newsletter by mail or online each month.

If you would like to become a member or get more information about SBAMUG, feel free to check out our web site at:
<http://www.sbamug.com>.

Our meetings are held at the:

Lomita VFW Hall
1865 Lomita Blvd. - Lomita, California
(see map & directions on page 7)

Officers & Volunteers:

President:.....LJ Palmer
Vice President:.....Bob Goodman
Secretary:.....Wayne Inman
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Directors at Large:.....Dave Nathanson,
George Kiefer, Louise Polsky, Martin Laurent,
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PD Disk Editor:.....Jim Pernal
Programming:.....George Kiefer, Dorothy Weeks
Newsletter Editor:.....Fran Pullara
Newsletter Proofreader....Bill Berks
Membership Development....Martin Laurent

Membership Report:

(You may notice your name is in larger letters on your card. That is so it can be used as a name tag at the meetings. Contact Membership Chair CW Mitchell at cwmitchell@sbamug.com if you have spelling corrections. Your membership cards are in the mail!

Current Membership - 154

Thank You Member Renewals: Bill Berks, Douglas Baker, Walt Fierberg, Janet Johnson, George Lewison, C.D. Knauer, Marvin Lubofsky, Fran Pullara, Erik Nilsson, Jan Taylor, Bob Lay, Philip Gruskin, Louise Polsky, Michael O'Kane, Charles Mulvey.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

1st Sat. - SBAMUG Core Group Meeting @ announced locations, 10 a.m. - noon
Last Wed. - SBAMUG Monthly Meeting 6:30 p.m., VFW Hall, Lomita
Last Sat. - TRW / Northrop Ham Radio & Computer Swap Meet, 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

At Apple Computer's User Group site, <http://www.apple.com/usergroups/>, you can search for other meetings you might wish to attend.

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Members are invited and encouraged to submit articles and original artwork for publication. Newsletter deadline is the last Wednesday of the month. Articles may be edited to fit in available space. Please send to: redondowriter@sbamug.com

February Public Domain CD (PD CD)

by Jim Pernal, PD Editor

There are seven programs this month, or eight if you count that VLC has separate versions for PPC and Intel machines.

1Password-3.0.7.dmg Well, this was on last month's listing, and I will have it in this month's listing too. Version 3.02>3.07. There are lots of feature updates and bug fixes. The CD will contain both, so if you have the CD choose this version to install. 1Password is a high recommended password manager. OSX 10.5+ PPC/Intel. Shareware \$39.95

iBloodTracker-1.dmg This is a program to keep track of your blood pressure, weight, and heart rate. You can generate charts and print them out to show to your doctor. OSX 10.4 -10.6 PPC/Intel. Shareware \$ 25.00

iPhotoLibraryManager-2.dmg An update to this program, you can manage multiple iPhoto libraries and transfer photos back and forth between libraries. You can split or merge different iPhoto libraries. OSX 10.4 to 10.6 PPC/Intel. Shareware \$19.95

Levelator-2.0.6.dmg This is the program Allison Sheridan uses for her Podfeet podcasts. She highly recommends this. This will level out the sound levels of spoken text files. Just drag and drop a AIFF or WAV file onto the program icon, and in a few minutes the program will spit out a new leveled output file. OSX 10.4 to 10.6 PPC/Intel. Freeware

RatRace.zip This is a time tracker and estimation program with color labels on tasks to assign priorities. It also has smart folders. OSX 10.4 or better. Shareware \$29.95

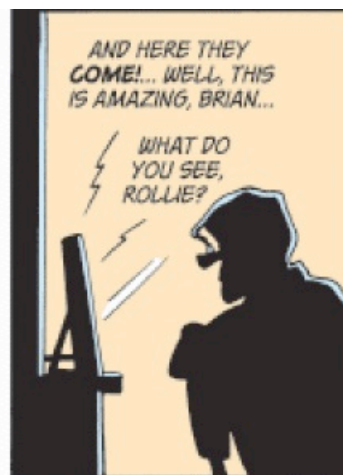
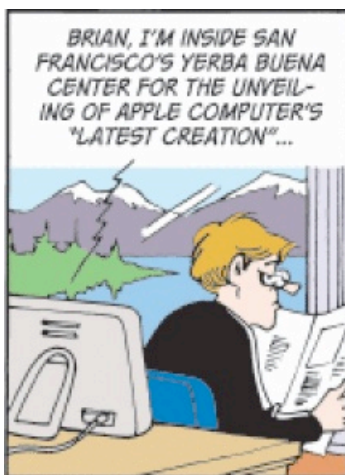
TimeMachineEditor-1.dmg This is an update of this program to change the saving intervals of Time Machine from the default one hour time. Bug fixes are in this version. OSX 10.5 to 10.6. Freeware

vlc-1.0.5-intel.dmg & vlc-1.0.5-powerpc.dmg Latest version of this media player program. Handles a great number of audio and video formats, many that Quicktime can't handle. PPC/ INTEL on OSX 10.5 or 10.6. Freeware

The CD for this month will be at the February 2010 meeting as the January-February CD.

Catch you at the February meeting .

Garry Trudeau's Take on MacWorld



THE BEST CAMERA: APP AND BOOK

Freshly Squeezed Reviews: The App and The Book

Frank Petrie writes Freshly Squeezed Reviews for TMC-LNC, a list-serv for Apple Mac newsletter editors. The only requirement for using articles from this source is to give credit where credit is due. He rates products from 1-10 and The Best Camera is rated 10. His Freshly Squeezed format is like peeling an orange metaphorically.

Product: The Best Camera
Author: Chase Jarvis Worldwide
<www.thebestcamera.com/>

Requirements: iPhone
App Price: \$2.99

Book Price: \$13.59 paperback; \$9.99 Kindle

Test Rig: iPhone 3Gs

The axiom: "The Best Camera Is The One That's With You" is pragmatic and true. The best shots are accomplished through your creativity, not through the bells and whistles of any device. Oh, you can clean things up in post-production but you still need to start with a photo that's evocative.

"The Best Camera " is also an inspirational 3-part 'ecosystem' created by world-renowned photographer, Chase Jarvis. Introducing an iPhone app that allows you to shoot, edit and share your images; a book that celebrates photography with any camera; AND a thriving, online community made of iPhone images from around the world. Today we are looking at an app, a book and a community. In short, an aesthetic movement, or as Mr. Jarvis puts it - 'an ecosystem.'

THE JUICE

APP - With Best Camera you can utilize a single filter or layer several filters to create a unique, more advanced effect for your pictures. This app makes it simple and easy. With a palette of 14 filters from which to choose, you can change your image to black and white, saturate your colors, create a cinematic look, brighten, darken, or crop your picture on the fly. "There are four "signature" filters that can be identified by the flags - they offer the slickest one-touch option for a filter. Further to the right on the dock, you'll find an assortment of 10 additional filters that can act as one-touch filters, or are great "tools" to correct images that were poorly captured originally."

COMMUNITY - With the simplicity that we've come to expect with instant messengers, Best Camera shares your photos with the same services that help you stay in touch with your friends at Facebook, Twitter, e-mail, or www.thebestcamera.com. With the simple check of a box, you can decide where you want share your image(s). It's that simple.

BOOK - If you are looking for visual inspiration or just want to see what's possible with mobile phone photography, pick up a copy of "The Best Camera Is The One That's With You." It's the world's first photo book featuring exclusively images from a mobile phone, although you wouldn't know their origins from the results.

THE PULP

Best Camera delivers as promised. I sat for over one hour trying a multitude of settings on a single portrait. And when I was finished, I had three different versions that I found hard to choose from.

The book is worth buying on its own, even without the app. Mr. Jarvis has a tremendous eye for composition. And the pictures in his book will most definitely get you to pick up your iPhone and start looking at your surrounding environs with a different eye.

THE RIND

I would like to see a single slider with each filter to give me a smidgen more control. But it's not a deal breaker by any means.

SUMMARY

Even at such low prices, there are few apps that I consider a no-brainer, a must have. This is one of those rare exceptions. If you have an iPhone, you HAVE to have this app in your arsenal.

Now, turn off the computer, get off your butt and surprise yourself. **RATING : 10 of 10.**

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MEMBERS CORNER



Michael O'Kane, who hosts SBAMUG's iPhone sig group, shows Refreshment Chair Louise Polsky yet another app.

O'Kane is Watching Kurzweil's BLIO With Interest

When CES met in Las Vegas last month, there were several readers on display but Mike O'Kane got me interested in BLIO (<http://blioreader.com/>)

You can read about it and watch a video at Ina Fried's CNET site. (http://surchur.com/tb/blio/http://ces.cnet.com/8301-31045_1-10428479-269.html). In a nutshell, Kurzweil, the computing pioneer, who among other things helped develop modern text recognition software, has been working to use digital technology to improve reading for the past 30 years. After years of work on how computers can help those with learning disabilities, Kurzweil is now taking aim at the masses.

His latest project, BLIO, is an effort to improve the emerging electronic book field with software that turns e-books into more than just a digital copy of the print edition. Blio, which is due out next month, is software that combines a full-color digital book with the ability to add Web content, video, and professionally narrated audiobooks.

Keeping Up With the Wildes - George and Marney

At the January meeting, I was chatting with Marney Wilde and she showed me a fascinating website she put up after she and George recently cruised on the U.S.S. Amsterdam in late December. Starting in Long Beach, their ports of call included Avalon, Cabo San Lucas, Acapulco, Huatulco, Chiapas, the Panama Canal, Golfo Dulce, Puerto Caldera, Corinto, Puerto Quetzal and Mazatlan. You can read about it, see photos, read critiques and learn a lot of things about the trip at Marney's Wilde Adventures (<http://www.wilde.org/travel/amsterdam09/>).



Marney Wilde shows your editor her website.

George, however, is the map man for the numerous cruises they have taken over the years. All his maps correlate with Google Maps and between the two websites, you can stay busy a whole evening. Check George out at his Wilde Adventures site (<http://www.wilde.org/wildeadventures/>).

I'm hoping I can convince the Wildes to do a presentation at a future meeting so we can not only go on a virtual trip with them, but learn a lot about preserving our own travel adventures.

iPad Dominates the Tech News (continued from page 1)

incredibly useful. Full iWork access, full iCal and email access, full-screen web browsing, and a larger keyboard are just hints of the beginning of the iPad's utility.

We think the true groundbreaking aspect of the iPad continues to be the app store. As long as “there’s an app for that,” the iPad will rule.

There are already tens of thousands of specialized apps for every type of professional – doctors, lawyers, writers (and in this Internet-powered age, who isn't a writer), and so on. Personally, there are many writing, photo, and video apps I've wanted to use on a larger screen, powered by a more powerful processor than is available in the iPhone. The iPad is just the device for that.

Second, the iPad is going to be fun. It's perfect for watching movies, YouTube clips, or TV shows, it offers a novel gaming platform (and tens of thousands of games in the iTunes Store), and it's a knockout ebook reader. It's ideal for any room – following a recipe from the [Epicurious app](#) in the kitchen, reading in bed, watching “Lost” while your partner watches “Knots Landing,” and so on.

The iPad fills a niche between a full-sized, full-featured notebook computer and an iPhone / iPod touch. It's great for people on the go. By “on the go,” I don't just mean on the road, traveling (though it will be great for many people on short trips). I also mean “on the go” around the office, home, or around town on a busy day of appointments.

Sure, there have been Debby Downers on the iPad. Some people are claiming to be underwhelmed, or disappointed by the iPad. Really? By what? Lack of camera? We're calling them out. These are the same people that poo-pooed the original iMac, original 5GB iPod (which originally cost the same as the entry-level iPad), even the iPhone. Maybe we'd agree with them if the iPad cost the rumored \$999. But even the top-of-the-line model iPad tops out at \$829.

iPad rules. Apple hasn't announced firm ship dates yet, but we hope to be carrying them as soon as they're available. We can't wait.

Pernal Weighs-in on iPad

Dr. Allan Boodnick asked on the SBAMUG eGroup, “No reaction to the new iPad?”

Beginner's Group and Q&A Moderator Jim Pernal replied on Jan. 28, “Well it's interesting. We discussed it at the meeting last night.

But the one fact is that it runs Version 3.2 of the iPhone software. So it is not a Tablet Macintosh Computer.

It will have iPad versions of iWork-- Pages, Numbers, and Keynote. It can drive external displays so it may make a good presentation platform. But, without multi-tasking, I can't see it a replacement for creating heavy iWorks based content. Leave that to a Mac computer.

Can it print without having to go through a real computer is still an open question? Since I spend so much time in Microsoft Office at work, I'm not really interesting in becoming a iWork power user. I really doubt Microsoft will port office over to the iPad; although technically it would be possible, if somewhat limited.

The iBook end of things is a definite plan to get into the Book/Newspaper content that devices like the Kindle have now.

The Prepay 3G data plans looks good to me. But will they hold these prices?

As LJ said the \$29.95 "Unlimited Plan" is not really unlimited. I can't use an iPhone or cellphone at work and being a cheap 3 min/ month cellphone user, the iPhone ATT plans didn't make sense for me.”

So, what do you think? Post your replies to the e-group.

Lomita VFW Hall
1865 Lomita Blvd.
Lomita, CA 90717



SBAMUG MONTHLY MEETINGS

Last Wednesday of Each Month - 6:30 p.m.

Lomita VFW Hall

1865 Lomita Blvd., Lomita 90717

(see map at left for directions)

From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. our moderators open the meeting with questions and answers for beginners and switchers. Open discussion, questions and information sharing follows, time permitting. At 7:40 p.m. the president makes general announcements and introduces the speaker.

Wednesday, February 23, 2010

James Pernal - CDPedia, DVDPedia, and Bookpedia

These three Bruji Software programs are cataloging software with Net search and Bar Code Scanning. Jim will show us a number of ways to sort and export the catalogs.

Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Presenter and Topic TBA

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Joan King - Bento/Bento iPhone App

We will learn how to download a template from the Bento site, import data from Excel, use of templates and syncing.

JOIN, RENEW OR GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP

\$35 Per Year – The Best Buy in Town Hands-Down

- E-group communications list
- Monthly newsletter in the mail and at our website
- Password privileges for the Wiki
- Free web space and e-mail on our own server
- WordPress application to build your website
- Access to your own blog using WordPress
- Mini swap-meet at some meetings
- Occasional free software
- Special discounts from merchants

For further information, contact Membership Chair CW Mitchell at cwmitchell@sbamug.com.

Application form is on the back page of this newsletter.

PERIODICALS

South Bay Apple Mac User Group
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Redondo Beach,
CA 90277-0432



SBAMUG Membership Application

South Bay Apple Macintosh User Group provides Mac owners and users with a local source of shared knowledge and experience through monthly meetings, training seminars and our monthly newsletter.

Individual and family membership is \$35 per year payable to SBAMUG.

New Member Member Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Special Computer Interest: _____

Model of Macintosh You Use Most: _____

How did you hear about SBAMUG?: _____

Comments: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Bring your Application and Fee to our General Meeting

or MAIL to the above address