

The South Bay Mug MACINTOSH

A Monthly Cupful For South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members, May, 2009

WELCOME TO SBAMUG'S FIRST MEETING IN OUR NEW HOME

Lomita VFW Hall

1865 W. Lomita Blvd.

(between Western and Walnut, on the north side of the street)

Check page 7 for a map or retrieve from our website: www.sbamug.com)

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

The South Bay Apple Macintosh User's Group (a.k.a., the SBAMUG) is leaving the Redondo Beach Knob Hill Community Center. Thanks to the Knob Hill staff for all they have done for us for many years.

**Our meeting time is the same: 6-30 - 7:30 p.m. for Beginners/Switchers Question Time
7:30 - 9 p.m. - General Meeting Presentation**

This month our main presentation will feature "Table Topics", including sessions on Quicken, iPhone, iPod, Social Networking, and Genealogy. Come with your questions, issues, tricks and secrets about these topics. We hope to make this a quarterly event so suggestions on other topics are very welcome.

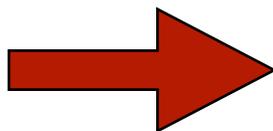
Admission: Free

Parking: Free

Chance to win a Best Buy gift card or WACOM table in the raffle.

Be there and tell all your other Mac friends, iPod and iPhone users, too.

**Thanks to Allison Sheridan for our April
Social Networking Presentation**



President Glen Terry and Podfeet's Allison Sheridan took time out at the April presentation to check their iPhones. Allison is also willing to speak again in the future. Check out her website: www.podfeet.com.



P. O. Box 432
Redondo Beach, CA
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310-644-3315
Email: info@sbamug.com



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 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:.....Glen Terry
Vice President:.....Bob Goodman
Secretary:.....Wayne Inman
Treasurer:.....CW Mitchell
Directors at Large:.....Dave Nathanson,
George Kiefer, Louise Polsky, Martin Laurent,
Chuck Mulvey, Fran Pullara, Dorothy Weeks
Membership Director:.....CW Mitchell
User Group Ambassador:....Bob Brooks
Server Director:.....Dave Nathanson
USPS Liaison:.....Don Myers
PD Disk Editor:.....Jim Pernal
Programming:.....George Kiefer, Dorothy Weeks
Newsletter Editor:.....Fran Pullara
Newsletter Proofreader....Bill Berks
Membership Development....Martin Laurent
Raffle Chairman:.....George Griffiths
Raffle Director:.....Chuck Mulvey
Refreshments:.....Louise Polsky, Taffy Rath

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 - 156

Thank You Member Renewals:

Tim Desmond, Ed Dietz, Sandra Ceman, Glenn Scoble,
Paul Sako, Bruce Brown, Arnold Silver, George Kiefer,
Cleve Hildebrand, Dick & Taffy Rath.

MONTHLY CALENDAR

1st Sat. - **SBAMUG Core Group Meeting @ announced locations, 10 a.m. - noon**
1st Thur. - Long Beach MUG @ Emerson School, Palo Verde & Willow, Long Beach, 7 p.m.
1st Sat. - Orange Apple UG, Orange Coast College, Chem Bldg, Costa Mesa, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
3rd Sat. - Adobe Tech Exchange Toyota Bldg. on Gramercy near 190th, 9 a.m. - \$10
Last Wed. - **SBAMUG Monthly Meeting**
Last Tues. - West Orange County MUG @ Emerson School, Palo Verde & Willow, Long Beach, 7 p.m.
Last Sat. - TRW / Northrop Ham Radio & Computer Swap Meet, 7 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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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

PUBLIC DOMAIN CD (PD CD)

by Jim Pernal, PD Editor



Bob Brooks (l) and Jim Pernal work at their laptops during a recent beginners presentation.

Shareware is defined as programs you can try out, and if you like them, pay the developer the fee. Often features may be limited until you pay the fee and get the registration code. **Freeware** is defined as free programs, but retain copyright control by the developer. **Public domain** is defined as free programs that don't have copyright control.

I have researched and written the monthly PD CD column in the newsletter for many years. I also make the physical CD that you can purchase for \$5 at the back table at our monthly meetings. My columns are also on the club's Wiki.

I've recently been asked to include the shareware fee for those programs that are shareware. Often the free programs will ask for donations to the author or some charity. For the latter, I just state Freeware. For the shareware programs, try the program out first. If you like it, you are the one who will have to decide if the shareware program is worth the fee to you!

There are seven programs this month. Some of the programs are updates of earlier versions. When I see a long list of updates and bug fixes, as well as new features, on a well-recommended program, I feel I need to include the update.

1Password-2.9.15.dmg Password Manager program. This is one of the updates I mentioned,

and there are plenty. It has an automatic strong password generator feature in addition to password management. OSX 10.4-10.5 PPC/Intel Shareware \$39.95

Bean-Install.dmg A new word processing/text editor program. It has the usual font and style selections, margins, and inline graphic insertion. Can import Word .doc files, saves to .rtf, rtf with graphics, and PDFs too!. Use when you don't need a high power complex word processor. Freeware. OSX 10.4/10.5 PPC/Intel.

Genesis-41_1.zip Hewlett-Packards HP-41 series calculators were the highest end calculators they sold. You could get thermal printers, memory card (strip) readers, and extra memory modules. There were also specific modules for math, physics, engineering etc. When this is a virtual emulator of this calculator and they state 99.9% compatible to the real thing. OSX 10.5 only. Shareware \$39.00

InerziaTimer_1.3.zip It is a countdown timer with many hours of range and a chronometer (Lap Timer) with a lap button to record multiple laps. May have some slight error in the multiple lap timing per the description. OSX 10.4/10.5 PPC/Intel. Freeware.

Mactracker_5.0.7.zip Yes, this is a valid update, since it now includes the new 2009 Macs! Great database of all the Apple Macintosh computers, displays, printers, etc. over the years. Freeware. OS X 10.3.9 to 10.5 PPC/Intel

PopCharX42-Install.dmg Type special characters with having to know the keyboard combinations. Displays all the special characters of any of your fonts. OSX 10.4/10.5 PPC/Intel \$29.99 Shareware.

SpamSieve-2.7.4.dmg Great spam filtering program for most e-mail clients. (Apple mail, Eudora, Outlook Express, Thunderbird, etc.). OSX 10.4/10.5. Shareware \$30.00

The CD for this month will be at the June 2009 meeting as the May-June CD and I'll catch you at the June meeting (won't make the May meeting).

How To Choose Your Perfect Mac

Courtesy of Matt at <http://www.macgurulounge.com> - March 24, 2009

Over the past few months, many people have written in asking for advice on how to buy a Mac. To be honest, most people are looking for me to help them convince themselves on an “up-sell.” For example, there are plenty of people who want to know why they should purchase a MacBook Air instead of a MacBook. If you exclude the Air’s wonderfully small size, the MacBook is a far better value, but it’s going to make sense for some people to spend the extra \$500-\$800 on the Air.

My goal in this article is to get you thinking about what is important *to you* in your computer. If you’re a computer user who always has “power envy” and need to have the fastest Mac available, buy a Mac Pro. For the rest of us, though, it’s worth contemplating how our computer dollars are best spent. The following explanations and recommendations are purely my own and do not translate into any truth about computers. Take them with a grain of salt and use your best judgment at the Apple Store.

What kind of Mac users are there?

In my experience, especially after three years at the Apple Store, I’ve come to believe there are four types of computer buyers that actually have different, meaningful needs (regardless of *why* they buy computers):

1. **Media Professionals.** I’m talking about musicians and audio content producers, Photoshop pros and desktop publishers, and video editors. These are not people who want to dabble in iMovie. They run Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, In Design, and Quark XPress for their livelihood.
2. **Gamers.** Gamers are people who use their computers for a variety of tasks, but in the end, they want powerful machines for playing games, usually for hours on end. They are the ones most likely to have “power envy,” albeit with a partially good reason: new games

require a lot of power.

3. **Stylish Laptop Owners.** The reality is that there are people who will buy the \$1299 Aluminum MacBook instead of the \$999 white MacBook because of the more expensive model’s style. The same holds true for the \$1999 MacBook Pro purchaser who needs nothing more than the MacBook, as well as most people who buy the MacBook Air.
4. **Everyone Else.** I know this is going to make you angry, but whether you’re the CEO of a Fortune 500 company who sits in Word, e-mail, or a database all day; *or* you’re student; *or* you’re a parent buying a home computer; *or* you’re an aspiring blogger, most of you actually do not have any special computer *needs*. You may have completely different *wants*, and that’s O.K.; we’ll focus on those next.

Now, you might argue that people who buy computers for games and for style are buying based on wants rather than needs. That’s true to some extent, but my grouping above is to show you where most people place their #1 priority: media production, games, style, and “general use.” Whether you think it’s a good idea to put games or style first is another question altogether.

Separating Needs From Wants

While you can consider many needs and wants for your computer, I’ve narrowed these down to the 10 most common criteria new buyers have asked me about. These exclude the *style* criteria, since there’s no right or wrong answer here. If style is a “want” for you, try to narrow down your choices based on your other needs and wants, then decide how much style is worth to you. (If you go to the author’s website, there is an excellent graph to see.)

- **Portability.** This deals with the ability to easily take your Mac with you. Obviously, laptops fit this bill, and desktops do not. Of course, the Mac mini is small enough that you *could* take the computer with you, but you’d need to have a monitor and keyboard in each location you want to use it to truly consider the machine portable. At the same time, most laptops are about an inch thick and weigh 5

lbs. The Air is much lighter and thinner. The 17" MacBook Pro is larger and more expensive but has a much longer lasting battery.

- **Expandability.** This criterion is all about adding additional internal components, such as hard drives, video cards, and other PCI Express cards. The Mac Pro is the only Mac that can do this, even though most Windows desktops have internal expansion slots. You can add components externally to all Macs, and most Macs have user-accessible slots for adding RAM.
- **FireWire.** All Macs used to ship with FireWire, but the Aluminum MacBook and MacBook Air have dropped FireWire ports and rely exclusively on USB. The white MacBook still has a FireWire 400 port, whereas other Macs have at least a FireWire 800 port. Many external storage drives, digital video cameras, and audio processing boxes use FireWire, though the majority of external devices rely on USB.
- **Dual Display.** Since the Mac mini was updated over the last month, the entire Mac line is now capable of having two screens mirror each other *or* capable of having two screens span a left and right side.
- **Gaming.** Gaming has significantly improved on the Mac platform since Apple switched to Intel processors, but it has only been since the Mac mini was updated in 2009 that the entire Mac line has a dedicated NVidia graphics card. Thus, while all Macs are *capable* of playing games such as Unreal or World of Warcraft, the laptops simply do not perform as well as the desktops. The MacBook Pro is clearly better than the other laptops at gaming, whereas the iMacs and Mac Pros are very capable.
- **Internet Productivity.** This category includes anything you can do on the internet — surf the web, write email, blog, banking, instant messaging (including video messaging), and anything else. All the Macs do these tasks very well. Sadly, Adobe's Flash and Microsoft's Silverlight are still not optimized for the Mac as much as they are for Windows, so they will tax the processor more than other applications.
- **Business Applications.** Business applications can be best described as data-entry

applications. Microsoft Office, Quicken, Quick Books Pro, iCal/Address Book, and any other business tool you can think of requires very little processing power. Thus, all Macs run these applications very well.

- **Photo Editing and Desktop Publishing.** This is the hardest criterion to analyze. If you're just using iPhoto or laying out a newsletter in Pages, all the Macs are more than capable of handling your work. If you're a professional photographer or handle a local newspaper, in all honesty, you should be using a 24" iMac or Mac Pro. Why? Because all the other Macs have 6-bit displays that do not display true color. Instead, the screens are "dithered" — meaning colors are blended to approximate the colors you want to see. This is fine for most of us, but for professionals, it's unacceptable. The slower speed of the laptop hard drives (unless upgraded) also limits photo rendering speed.
- **Video Editing.** The same analysis as in photo editing applies here, but the hard drive speed is even more of a factor. Video files are huge, and the faster your hard drive is, the faster you can manipulate the video. Mac laptops and the mini have 5400 RPM drives (unless you customize the MacBook Pro drive to include the faster 7200 RPM drive). If you're a video professional, consider a Mac Pro or 24" iMac unless you truly need the portability.
- **Audio Editing.** Audio editors also want to take advantage of fast hard drive speeds and large amounts of RAM, but here, a dithered screen doesn't matter. All Mac computers except for the Air include audio inputs, though professionals will likely add their own components. Consider the limitations of the MacBook not having FireWire if you are looking at a portable audio studio.

Other Considerations

Screen Size. Media editors and people with poor vision can take advantage of large screens — like the 17" MacBook Pro and the 24" iMac. More screen real estate means you can see more of your content without having to scroll. It also allows you to enlarge text without sacrificing too much screen real estate.

(continued on page 6)

Perfect Mac (continued from page 5)

Backlit Keyboards. The 15" and 17" MacBook Pros have backlit keyboards which increase battery life by lighting the keys with LEDs rather than the light coming off of the screen. That way, you can turn the screen brightness down, see the keys, and increase battery life.

Video Playback. Whether you occasionally play a DVD on your computer, watch a TV show on Hulu, or use your Mac as a home media server, all Macs are capable of handling DVDs and high-definition streams. More processing power = more capability, but they're all capable of handling at least one stream.

Value. I love laptops, but they will never be as good of a value as a desktop computer. If you want to get the most computer for your money, the low-end iMac is still a better computer than the 17" MacBook Pro. If your iPhone does most of what you need when you're away from home, maybe you don't really need a laptop.

eBay, Craigslist, and the Refurbished Apple Store.

Finally, don't forget about buying used Macs. I do it all the time (I think it's a sickness).

Macs tend to have fewer problems than Windows computers, and they definitely have higher resale values. Thus, investing in a used Mac can be a smart investment, especially if you're unsure whether you want to spend \$600 or \$2,000 on a new computer. The online Apple Store also sells refurbished computers that have full one-year warranties, which is another good option.



I hope that this article has given you a few things to think about in purchasing your new Mac. My article is certainly not exhaustive, and you might disagree with my assessment. No problem. In fact, you should add your ideas to the comments section so that other readers have a chance to consider them before they make a final decision.

PLEASE WEIGH IN ON SPEAKERS AND TOPICS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IN THE FUTURE

Now that we are moving into our new home, we would like your input about topics and speakers for upcoming meetings.

If our Table Topics presentation goes well at our May meeting, we probably will begin this format quarterly. But, that leaves five more months to fill. December is our holiday party when we eat pizza and exchange gifts.

George Kiefer and Dorothy Weeks are our Programming Chairs and they would love to hear from you. George's e-mail is: geomtav@dslextreme.com and Dorothy can be contacted at dhweeks@sbamug.com.

Many of you have expertise in applications others may want to hear about. We welcome your participation. Or, do you know someone at work or in your community who might like to present?

Below is member Louise Polsky, our refreshment chairman who gave a presentation of photo books in March. Do you love those brownies we have at our meetings? She is the baker and our refreshment chair as well. She was a little nervous about presenting, but she pulled it off like a pro--and so can you!



Lomita VFW Hall
1865 Lomita Blvd.
Lomita, CA 90717



MAY 2009 MEETING

Wednesday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.

Lomita VFW Hall
1865 Lomita Blvd., Lomita 90717
(see map at left for directions)

Our location changed, but our format hasn't. 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 will follow. At 7:30 p.m. President Glen Terry makes general announcements and introduces the speaker. Instead of a speaker, we will have a Table Topic forum this month.

Table Topics Forum

This is your opportunity to hear more about Quicken, iPhone, iPod, Social Networking and Genealogy. Come with your questions, issues, tricks and secrets.

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Speaker and Topic TBA. Check the eGroup and the wiki for more details.

Thanks, Refreshment Committee, for all your hard work every month. All goodie donations are deeply appreciated.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR SBAMUG MEMBERSHIP

For only \$35 per year, your benefits include:

- **E-group communications list**
- **Monthly newsletter in the mail 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 meetings**
- **Occasional free software**
- **Special discounts from merchants**

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

PERIODICALS

South Bay Apple Mac User Group
P. O. Box 432
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 Application & Fees to Meetings or Mail to:
SBAMUG
P.O. Box 432
Redondo Beach, CA 90277