



South Bay Apple MUG Macintosh

December 2018/January 2019

A Monthly CUPFUL for South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members

How to Use Instagram from a Real Computer, by podfeet

I'm trying to be one of the cool kids and use Instagram. I don't entirely get yet what it offers that I don't get from Facebook and Twitter, but I'm trying. My niece says it's her happy place because it doesn't seem to be as filled with as much anger as Twitter and it doesn't feel as creepy as Facebook (even though it's owned by Facebook.). I want to be happy too, so I'm trying to be better at Instagram.

My first act was to move Instagram out of a social folder and onto my home screen so I'd even remember to open it. Then I started adding people and looking at their photos. I have to say, there is something peaceful about scrolling through images and tapping the little heart. It feels good.

I started contributing some images myself, and there are things I like and things I don't like about Instagram. I like that I can select a photo, write a clever caption and then tell Instagram to post to Facebook and Twitter as well. Nice to have it in one step. But then I have to go back into Facebook and change Instagram handles to real names. On the Twitter side, you can't edit the message so you just kind of hope that their Instagram and Twitter handles are the same. It's a good thing that Steve is @spsheridan on Instagram and Twitter since he's the person I'm most likely to include.

While the experience is pretty good on the phone, I spend a lot of time on my Mac and I'd prefer to do my 'gramming from there. There's no app for the Mac though. Heck, there's not even an app for the iPad.

There is no November meeting. Our next meeting will be Dec 12.

Dec 12 Meeting Table Topics/Pizza Party

The December 12 meeting (originally scheduled for Dec 13) will include the beginners session at 6:30 as usual, **free pizza** and the election of Club officers for 2019 (it's not too late to submit your name if you would like to become an officer, see sbamug.com/volunteers).

Don't miss the meeting! See page 2 for details.

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Welcome to the SBAMUG South Bay Apple Mac User Group

Meetings: Lomita Veteran's Hall,
1865 Lomita Blvd, Lomita
Mail: PO Box 432, Redondo Beach,
CA
90277-0432
Phone: (310) 644-3315
Email: info@sbamug.com

Members, friends and colleagues are invited to attend our monthly meetings (usually the last Wed. of the month). The \$35 annual membership dues entitle you to receive this monthly newsletter by mail or online, plus many more benefits (page 8). To become a member or get more info please visit our website sbamug.com



Lomita Veteran's Hall,
1865 Lomita Blvd, Lomita

SBAMUG Monthly Calendar

Dec 12: Pizza Party

Jan 30: Mac OS Mojave

Other Meetings:

SBAMUG Meeting Format:

6:30—7:30 p.m. Questions & Answers and Sharing: *Everyone* is welcome, beginners encouraged

7:30—7:50 p.m. 'iSocial' – shoot the Mac breeze with others over a cookie*

7:50—8:00 p.m. Announcements

8:00—9:00 p.m Program

**Refreshments provided; donations appreciated!*

Submit suggestions for topics or speakers, or articles, ideas & original artwork for this newsletter to pjmyerz@gmail.com by the last Wednesday of each month. Articles may be edited to fit space.

- 1st Wed each month – SBAMUG Core Group, 7:30 pm. Join Google+ SBAMUG community, or email: info@sbamug.com.
- 2nd Sat. each month - SMOG, 9AM in Costa Mesa, ocmug.org
- Last Sat. each month - Northrop Grumman-Ham Radio & Computer Swap Meet, 7--11:30 a.m. Meet at SE corner of Marine/Aviation Blvd, Redondo Beach
- Los Angeles Portable Users Group: Mac OS X, iPhone, iPod, MacBook, etc., lapug.org/
- Find more: <http://www.apple.com/usergroups/>

Officers & Volunteers:

President: Kent McDonald
VP: open
Secretary: Wayne Inman
Treasurer: CW Mitchell
Directors at Large: Dave Nathanson, Arnold Silver, George Wilde, Joan King, Pete Myers
PD Disk Editor: Jim Pernal
Membership: CW Mitchell
Member Development: Pete Myers
Programming: Kent McDonald
Greeter: open
Server Director: Dave Nathanson
Newsletter: Pete Myers, Bill Berks
USPS Liaison: CW Mitchell
Refreshments: Arnold Silver/Andy Paroczai

Membership Report – 89 members!

Please wear membership card as your name tag - you may notice your first name is in larger letters on your card - so it can be used as a name tag at the meetings.:

Welcome New Members: Evelyn Dow

Thank You Member Renewals: Chirs Brooks, George Kawahara, Del McCulloch, David Nathanson, Karin Petersen, Don Whinfrey, John Fahey, Ginger Clark.

If your name is not spelled right or your expiration date is wrong, contact cwmitchell@sbamug.com for correction. Or contact CW for everything membership, dues and benefits. Please watch for your renewal letter, then sign and date it and return it with \$35 check (in enclosed self-addressed envelope) or bring letter with payment (cash, check, PayPal) to meeting.

THE SOUTH BAY MUG (ISSN 1058-7810) is published monthly for \$35 per year by South Bay Apple Mac User Group, 2550 Via Tejon, Suite 3J, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274. Periodicals postage paid at Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE SOUTH BAY MUG, P.O. Box 432, Redondo Beach, CA 90277-0432.

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SBAMUG December 2018 Shareware

This is the December shareware article, since we did (will) not have a November meeting. Seven items this month. Quite a few graphics programs this month.

Acorn 6.2.2: Imaging application. Filters, easy resizing. Bug fixes and better Mojave OS compatibility in this version. Requires OS X 10.11.4. \$14.99 <https://flyingmeat.com/acorn/>

GIMP 2.10.8: This free photo manipulation app is open source. Photo retouching, format conversion, image composition, are a few of the things it will do. OS 10.6+ <https://www.gimp.org>

GraphicConverter 10.6.6: Mature program that seems to still get updates after all these years. Lots of new features. Powerful batch mode processing. OSX 10.9+. \$40.00 <https://www.lemkesoft.de/en/image-editing-slideshow-browser-batch-conversion-metadata-and-more-on-your-mac/>

MacFamilyTree 8.4.2: Genealogy program. Lots of folks in the group are interested in genealogy, so even though I had it last month, here is the next revision. \$60.00 OSX 10.10+ Intel <https://www.syniumsoftware.com/macfamilytree>

Pacifist 3.6.1: Lets you extract individual Apps out of .pkg installer packages. OSX 10.8+ \$20.00 <https://www.charlessoft.com>

Pcalc: Scriptable scientific calculator. Works decimal, hex, octal, and binary bases. OS 10.8+ \$9.99 <https://www.pcalc.com/mac/index.html>

Unit Converter NS 2019: Unit converter. Metric to US and vice versa. Supports Dark Mode in Mojave. OS X 10.7.5+ App Store. \$1.99

See you at the December meeting.
Jim Pernal PD Editor

Donation

Thanks to George Wilde for his donation of a Mac Pro to the Girls and Boys Club of LA Harbor. If you have any Apple hardware to donate, email me: pjmyerz@gmail.com.

SBAMUG Election

The election of MUG officers for 2019 will be held at the December meeting. The election slate is as follows:

Directors: Dave Nathanson, Arnold Silver, George Wilde, Joan King, Pete Myers

President: Kent McDonald

VP: vacant

Treasurer: CW Mitchell

Secretary: Wayne Inman

SBAMUG depends on its member volunteers to perform the many functions that keep it running. Currently, the VP and Greeter and two Director positions are not filled. We are trying to find a new Secretary to replace Wayne Inman who has served for so long that nobody can remember when he started. Also, several of the club directors are filling more than one position. Positions that are filled, but in need of new blood are Newsletter Editor and Program Chairman.

It is not too late to volunteer! The descriptions of several of these jobs are listed below. See our web page sbamug.com/volunteers for all job descriptions. If you decide to help out, send an email to info@sbamug.com.

- Vice President - perform all the duties of the president, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the president.
- Secretary - keep a copy of minutes, mail and other forms filed in a big book, available at the office during business hours. Experience with small business management and/or bookkeeping is desirable but not necessary for this position. Secretary must have an office or home office which is accessible 9 - 5, Mon - Fri.
- Directors at large - attend meetings and Core Group meetings, help out with club activities as needed.
- Greeter - attend meetings, greet members as they arrive, make sure nonmembers are welcomed and provided with newsletters and flyers.
- Program Chairman - attend Core Group meetings where topics and presenters are discussed. Make arrangements with presenters.
- Newsletter Editor - gather articles for newsletter, use page layout software (Pages, for example) to produce newsletter, send completed pdf to printer.

You can go to Instagram.com from a real computer, and at first it will look like you can only get links to download the app on the iOS App Store or the Google Play store, but there's a button that says "continue as" and you can log in from there. At first I was happy! Except when you get into your account, you'll notice that you can only view other people's content and heart or comment on their images. There's no little plus button at the bottom of the screen so you can't contribute your own images. I *have* to be able to contribute, it's in my nature!

User Agents

I've got a solution to the problem with Instagram and as you learn about it, remember it's not just useful for instagram.com. It might help you with any website that doesn't want to let you play from a real computer's web browser.

You may remember Bart talking about how we have a digital fingerprint on the Internet, and how one of the ways we can be identified is by the information in the header of our web browser that's sent to any sites we visit. One of the pieces of information in the header is the device and browser version you're using. That information is called the User Agent String.

If you go to instagram.com using a mobile device, Instagram does include the plus button to add your own images. So all we need to do is trick the website into thinking we're on a mobile device when we're actually on our big girl computers. We need to change our User Agent to pretend to be a mobile browser.

This is a common technique used by developers as a way to see how their website looks on different devices, so it's not too hard to do. I'm going to walk you through how to do this starting with Safari using the Developer tools, and then we'll take a look at Chrome and Firefox.

Safari

Open Safari Preferences and select the Advanced tab. Check the box at the bottom that says Show Develop menu in menu bar.

You will now see a new item called Develop in the menu bar of your Mac when Safari is open. Select Develop, pull down to User Agent, and then slide over and choose Safari iOS 11.0 iPhone.

With your User Agent set to mimic the iPhone, instagram.com will refresh and now you have a set of menus at the bottom. There's a home button, search, the + button we were looking for to add our own images, the heart, and the little person that shows you your own posts. It looks just like the real Instagram app. Now that we have our + button, we can add an image.

You probably know that Instagram was made to have

square images, but they've recently decided to allow us to do rectangular images. If you're on a mobile device, you'll notice a little double arrow in the bottom left that you can tap to change from square to rectangular. On the desktop browser though, even when pretending to be an iPhone, the image might come in really big and you won't see the double arrow. Simply scroll up (and maybe even to the left) and you'll eventually see the button. *Finally*, you can hit Next, write your clever caption and then share. Sadly you don't get the option to share to Facebook and Twitter but at least you can post a photo to Instagram from your desktop!

By the way, once the developer tools are visible in Safari, you don't have to mess with that again. However you do have to change the user agent every single time you open Instagram, but it's not too hard once you get used to doing it.

Chrome

We don't want to leave our Chrome and Firefox friends out in the cold, right? They should get to play on Instagram too! We'll start with Chrome, which is surprisingly unintuitive.

The good news is you don't have to turn on the developer tools because they're always available in the menubar. In the far upper right of any Chrome window, you should see three vertical dots. Tap on the dots, and choose More Tools, and then Developer Tools. If you're a keyboard junkie, just use option-command-I to open them. (I imagine that's control-alt-I for our Windows brethren.)

This turns on a big panel at the bottom of the Chrome window showing the Console which can be quite intimidating. It's a confusing mess with many tabs and menus and other glop. If you can shield your eyes from all that, look for another set of three vertical dots on the far right side of this new panel you've opened. Choose More Tools again and this time choose Network conditions. Things will get a little less intimidating (other than the 5 menu bars in this lower panel). You'll finally see User agent and a checkbox that says Select automatically. Disable that check box and you'll be shown a pulldown where you can choose your device. I chose Chrome iPhone.

Unlike on Safari where it refreshes automatically when you change the User Agent, you will need to refresh Chrome to see the change to Instagram. You will now see the + button to add your images to Instagram. Sadly you have to keep this giant console pane open at the bottom while you play in Instagram. If you close it, Chrome refreshes and puts the user agent back to automatic.

I have to say, Chrome's path to happiness is ugly and clumsy at best. But one of the reasons people like Chrome is because of the vast extensions library. I did a quick

search and found an extension entitled “[User-Agent Switcher for Chrome](#)”. With this extension installed, I now have a nice little button right in my menubar next to 1Password that I can tap and choose from an array of options, one of which is iPhone 6. This will give you the little + button on Instagram. If you love Chrome and you need to do this often, I’d sure consider using an extension instead of the glop-ridden Developer Tools Path!

Firefox

If you thought Chrome was complicated, it’s got nothing on Firefox! I found the instructions on [howtogeek.com/...](#) but they’re so geeky I didn’t even test them out! After how easy the extension was on Chrome, I went hunting for one for Firefox. I found [User-Agent Switcher by Linder](#) which is compatible with the latest version of Firefox (unlike some others.) It’s got 74K users and 3.5 stars so I gave it a whirl.

I have to say of all the solutions, this was the prettiest. Tapping on the extension in the Firefox menubar opens a pretty little grid of icons to let you choose mobile vs. desktop and which OS you want to use. I tapped on the Apple logo under mobile, hit refresh on Instagram and there was my little plus button, ready to let me play like the cool kids.

Bottom Line

The bottom line is that I’m really annoyed that so many services are going mobile only. But in the words of one of my favorite geeks, Knightwise, we can make technology work for us! If you want to see pictures of Forbes and Tesla, and maybe a geek image from time to time, I’m @podfeet on Instagram.

The New iPhones Look Fine. But My Old One Is Better Than Ever,

by [Jeff Sommer](#)

Apple’s new offerings are so good that I’m not buying a new iPhone. I expect to save hundreds of dollars this year and enjoy what I’ve already got, because, thanks to Apple, my old iPhone 6 is performing better than ever.

This is the result of two unusual moves. One was Apple’s release this month of a new operating system that not only makes its new iPhones run well, but can also radically improve the performance of millions of old ones.

The other action was Apple’s decision last winter to let iPhone owners replace deteriorating batteries at a sharp discount under a program that [continues](#) through the end of the year. In combination, the two measures have thoroughly rejuvenated my old phone, and have the potential to do so for many others.

I don’t attribute this to pure altruism on Apple management’s part. Making old products run well for a long time is truly “the right thing to do for our customers,” Tim Cook, the company’s chief executive, [said](#) about battery replacement program. But it is also a smart business practice that can help Apple investors prosper over the long term, even if its actions deter some consumers from buying new iPhones now.

Unless articles like this one spur millions of people to defer purchases, Apple may have found a business strategy that allows the company to have it both ways: Charge ever more money for fancy new phones, while enhancing its reputation by providing value-oriented consumers with reliable products that can last for years.

What’s the magic that has rejuvenated my iPhone and given it powers it didn’t possess when I first bought it, nearly four years ago? The answer is mundane. My old iPhone started getting younger in February, when I took advantage of the Apple discount to replace the phone’s aging battery for \$29, down from the usual \$79 out-of-warranty fee.

Until last winter, I had never even thought of replacing an iPhone battery. I accepted that it would wear out every couple of years, and assumed that because of the way Apple had engineered the iPhone, the smart move was to replace the entire device with a new, improved model. My phone appeared to be on its last legs. It ran out of power in a few hours, and sometimes shut down inexplicably.

But then came Apple’s “[batterygate](#).” A furor arose as multiple iPhone owners [reported](#) that their devices were malfunctioning. It turned out that Apple had issued a new operating system that deliberately throttled speed when decaying batteries couldn’t cope with the normal tasks involved in running the phones. Could this have been a case of planned obsolescence of a nefarious sort, the deliberate ruination of a perfectly good product to spur sales of a new one? I am not convinced that it was, although suspicions have been rampant for years that this kind of behavior might be standard for big tech companies. Facing widespread criticism, as well as lawsuits that are [pending](#) in California, Apple apologized late last year.

In a [statement](#) at the time, the company said it had meant well and had merely been trying to keep phones working longer. Critically, Apple said it would offer expedited services at lower prices for owners of old phones who wanted to replace their batteries. In March, [the company also issued](#) a minor operating system upgrade that made it easier for iPhone users to understand what was happening to their batteries.

While my new battery made my phone serviceable again, I still assumed I would have to replace it when Apple introduced the new models, and a new operating system, in September, as it does just about every year. New operating systems typically make old phones slow to a crawl.

But Apple executives said the new system, iOS 12, would be different. Older phones, going back to the 2013 model year, would work better this time, not worse. “We’re focusing our efforts especially on the oldest devices,” [Craig](#)

New iPhones, from page 5

[Federighi](#), Apple's senior vice president of software engineering, said in June. "While it's still early days, we're excited with the results that we've seen."

Apple now reports that in test conditions, older phones are indeed running much faster after iOS 12 has been installed. For example, the company says, the camera app opens 70 percent faster, the keyboard starts 50 percent faster, and under a heavy workload, multiple apps work up to two times as fast. In a full [review](#), Ars Technica, the Condé Nast website, found similarly impressive results.

I downloaded the new software, and my phone works spectacularly now. Some people who installed iOS 12 have reported minor glitches, but that hasn't been my experience. My phone can't do everything the new iPhone Xs can do, but it seems fast enough to me.

Plus, it's doing things it never did before. When I connect it with my car, for example, and start up [CarPlay](#), I can now choose to see Google Maps on the dashboard, not Apple's proprietary and, in my view, inferior mapping system. Allowing me to make that choice is the mark of a confident company.

A lot of other things are possible with my iPhone now. Searching for photos of family members is now staggeringly easy. Most important, the phone's internal capacity seems to have been enlarged: I can read a book, switch to a magazine, start an audiobook app, return to The New York Times website, check my heartbeat and see how many miles I jogged this morning, all without crashing the phone. Moderating this kind of addictive overuse is easier, too, thanks to functions that make it simpler to turn off annoying messages for extended periods. It's like having a new, speedy phone, without having to buy one.

What's the upside for Apple? By supporting my aging iPhone years after what might have been its sell-by date, the company has increased the odds that — when I do actually need a new phone — I will remain in the Apple universe, expensive as it may be to live there. My old phone, which cost \$649 new, seems like a much better deal now, considering all the use I'm getting out of it.

How They Track You, by Lance Whitney

Businesses and others are regularly gathering information about you — whether you're at the store, in your car or at home. Understanding how your data gets collected can help you take more control of your privacy. Here are 13 situations in daily life in which you may be sharing personal information without realizing it:

- Browsing the web
- Shopping online
- Shopping at a store
- Listening to music

- Watching tv
- Cooking a meal
- Researching your genealogy
- Visiting your doctor
- Getting your computer fixed
- Driving
- Renting a car
- Doing research at the library
- Exercising/walking

And here are a few ways of protecting yourself:

- Use a VPN (virtual private network)
- Use a web browser (Tor or Epic Privacy, for example) that bars snoopers
- Search anonymously (Duck Duck Go or StartPage are two options)
- Be wary when using apps (don't share private info)
- Don't share your location

For more details go to <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2018/where-companies-are-tracking-data.html>

Quality Smart Lights That Won't Break the Bank, by Joe Dugandzic of Smarter Home Life (via podfeet)

If you've been avoiding jumping into the smart lighting world because the products always seem to cost an entire paycheck, I may have the solution for you.

In fact, one of the top questions I get from viewers, is "why is smart lighting so expensive?" Well, like other smart home devices, the cost of the company providing free updates for the life of the product is built into the price. But otherwise, companies doing serious innovation in the smart home tend to have pricier products, and that includes smart lighting from brands like Philips Hue and LIFX.

Enter Sylvania, a lighting company that's been around for a heck of a long time. And, over the past several years, has built up their own line of smart lighting products. Originally branded LIGHTIFY and now called SMART+. And you may see the products advertised under the OSRAM name as well, but they're basically the same company.

Instead of creating whiz-bang lighting products with special effects and blinding brightness levels, they're just making smart lighting products that perform as well as "those other guys", but won't short-circuit your budget. With full color-changing smart bulbs starting at around

Smart Lights, from page 6

\$28 and light strips at around \$45, they can be substantially lower in cost than the competition.

Also, for certain lighting categories, Sylvania tends to have a wider selection of products than the competition, including really unique products like their outdoor Gardenspots: Color-changing mini spotlights that can light up the outside of your home, backyard or garden. They're really beautiful and probably my favorite Sylvania smart lighting product.

To satisfy different customers, Sylvania has two different smart lighting lines, one dedicated for HomeKit, and one that uses Zigbee...like other smart lighting brands. The HomeKit variety is Bluetooth-based and doesn't require a hub. In fact Sylvania shipped the first 60-watt equivalent color-changing HomeKit smart bulb that doesn't need a hub in September 2017. Their Zigbee line has more lighting products, like outdoor floodlights, undercabinet lights, and even wireless buttons and smart plugs. The Zigbee products do require a hub for operation, which they are happy to sell you their neat and compact model for about \$30, or you can pair the lights to something like an Amazon Echo Plus, SmartThings or Wink hub, or nearly any smart home controller that supports Zigbee.

The Sylvania app, to be diplomatic, is just not a fantastic experience. It seems that Sylvania is totally ok with you purchasing their smart lights and controlling them from someone else's system. I don't think they want to be known for their app. It's just not very intuitive and somewhat hard to use even for an experienced smart home guy like myself. If you're using HomeKit, you'll be able to use Apple's Home app, or the HomeKit app of your choice to control the lights.

And it goes without saying that you'll be able to use Siri to voice control Sylvania's HomeKit lights, and Amazon's Lady A or the Google Assistant to control their Zigbee lights when linked up to your favorite smart speaker.

Sylvania sent me a few of their Zigbee products to review, including a color-changing smart bulb, light strip and those lovely Gardenspots, so for full disclosure, I will officially say thanks to them just in case the FTC is reading this. I found Sylvania's lights overall to be quality smart lighting products with more than adequate brightness and decently saturated colors. You can check out my full review with demos, which I'm sure Allison will link to, or just go to [youtube.com/smarterhomelife](https://www.youtube.com/smarterhomelife).

For the lower price and the wider selection of products, Sylvania is definitely a good smart lighting choice for those on a budget.

Links to some of the Sylvania products on Amazon:

- [Smart Bulb](#)
- [Light Strip](#)
- [Gardenspots](#)
- [Zigbee Hub](#)

Go to <https://www.podfeet.com/blog/2018/07/sylvania-smart-bulbs-joe-dugandzic/> for more details and a 16 minute video on smart lighting.

New Hardware from Apple

iPad Pro

The new 2018 iPad Pro (from \$999) has an easy-to-hold design, liquid Retina display, USB-C connector, fast performance A12X Bionic chipset), up to 1 TB of storage and works with a much-improved Apple Pencil. Is it capable enough to replace a traditional laptop? Chris Velazco says "Maybe". Read more at <https://www.engadget.com/2018/11/09/ipad-pro-2018-review/>

MacBook Air

The new 2018 MacBook Air (from \$1199) is lighter and slimmer than the old version, has a sharp Retina display, long battery life, excellent trackpad and touch ID. According to Dana Wollman, it is a better buy than the 12-inch MacBook, but you may want to go with the more capable 13 inch MacBook Pro. Read more at <https://www.engadget.com/2018/11/09/apple-macbook-air-review-2018/>

Computer and Electronics Tutoring

The City of Redondo Beach offers one-on-one tutoring to seniors (50+) in computers, digital cameras and cell phones.

- Where: Veterans Park Senior Center, 301 Esplanade
 - When: Wednesdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM and Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM
 - How Much: \$5 per half hour, \$10 per hour
- Reservations are required. Call 310-318-0650



**Join, Renew or Give a Gift of a
SBAMUG Membership!**

For only \$35/year you get:

- Monthly meeting program
- Get help from our experts via our Email Group
- Monthly newsletter (We publish 11 issues per year!)
- Use our Wiki
- Free web space & e-mail on our server
- Build your own website
- Create your own blog
- Special merchant discounts \$\$\$
- Occasional swaps, free software, raffles

<http://www.sbamug.com/join.html>

Or, contact Membership Chair
CW Mitchell at cwmitchell@sbamug.com

SBAMUG Membership Application

South Bay Apple Macintosh User Group provides you with a local source of shared knowledge & experience through monthly meetings, trainings & monthly newsletter.

**Individual & family membership: \$35/year payable to
SBAMUG**

New Member Member Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____

What are your computer interests?

Devices you use most: _____

Current level of Mac expertise

_____ Beginner _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced

How did you hear about SBAMUG?

I would like to help with the club. Please contact me at:

Comments: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**Bring your Application and Fee to our General Meeting
at Lomita Veteran's Hall
or Mail to our PO Box (see page 2 for our address)**

