# South Bay Apple MUG
# Macintosh

vol 22, issue 3  **March 2022**

*A Monthly CUPFUL for South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members*

## Our next SBAMUG Meeting via Zoom: Wednesday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

The March 30 meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a Q & A Session during which the Units conversion function of the Mac Calculator App will be demonstrated. Everyone is welcome, and any and all questions are encouraged, from beginner to advanced. The main presentation, beginning at 7:15 p.m., will summarize the new-product announcements by Apple at their virtual "Event" on March 8, 2022. Some hardware products have new colors and/or new processor chips.The upgrades involve iPhone, iPad, Mac and Display hardware. Hopefully we will have a discussion by our members regarding the absence of the hoped-for announcement of a new 27-inch iMac based on M1.  ***Join us!***

## IN THIS ISSUE

## JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS!
## WE MISS YOU!

### Instructions on using Zoom…

1) A Zoom meeting invitation will sent to everyone who is signed up on the club's email list (everybody@sbamug.com).

2) To be added to the mailing list, follow the instructions at https://www.sbamug.com/our-sbamug-email-group/

3) When you receive the Zoom invitation email, save the link to your calendar so that on the day of the meeting, you can find it more easily.

4) To join the Zoom meeting, click on the link provided in the invitation email.  This will allow you to install the free Zoom app.  The meeting invitation will also include a meeting ID and password, which you may need.

5) *DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ZOOM?* Anyone having trouble logging on to the Zoom meeting online should call CW Mitchell at 310-644-3315 before the next meeting and he will help you get logged on.

*Yes, we know you can't schmooze over ZOOM meetings…but the **upside** of ZOOM is you save money on gas (this makes it worth a lot right now!), you can bring your pet(s) to the meeting, and you can enjoy all the drinks and snacks you want!*

# Welcome to the SBAMUG!
## (South Bay Apple Mac User Group)

Members, friends and colleagues are invited to attend our monthly meetings (usually the last Wednesday of the month). Annual membership entitles you to receive this online monthly newsletter, plus many more benefits (see page 8). **The $35 annual membership dues are waived for 2022.** Visit sbamug.com to become a member or to get more information. **Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice.**

**SBAMUG Virtual Meeting Format:**

**6:30-7:15 p.m.** Question & Answer Session
*Everyone welcome, beginners encouraged!*

**7:15-8:00 p.m.** Announcements & Presentation

**Membership Report:**
**71 members (as of 3/1/22)**

**Thank You, Member Renewals!**
Jay Ankeney, Herbert Epp, Hank Folson, Julia Jensen, Milan Korach, Victor Kosuda, Peter Myers, Gundula Schneider, Margaret Wehbi

**Membership-related Information/Questions:**
Contact CW Mitchell at cwmitchell@sbamug.com
- for information about membership, dues and benefits
- if your name is misspelled or the expiration date is incorrect on your membership card

**Two EASY Ways To Renew!** Look for renewal letter
1 - Sign and date the form and return it with payment* using the enclosed self-addressed envelope; or
2 - Bring form and payment* to meeting (when in-person meetings resume**)

*No payment required for 2022 as club fees have been waived
**At in-person meetings, please wear your membership card as a name tag. Your first name is larger so it's easier to read.

**Virtual Meetings:** Online via Zoom
**In-Person Meetings:** Lomita VFW Hall
1865 Lomita Blvd., Lomita
**Mailing Address:** C.W. Mitchell
4861 W. 136th St., Hawthorne CA 90250-5631
**Phone:** (310) 644-3315
**Email:** info@sbamug.com
**Website:** http://www.sbamug.com

**Officers & Volunteers:**
President: Kent McDonald
Vice President: Jim Pernal
Secretary: Nancie Silver
Treasurer: C.W. Mitchell
Directors at Large: Dave Nathanson, Arnold Silver, George Wilde, Joan King
PD Disk Editor: Jim Pernal
Membership: C.W. Mitchell
Member Development: Nancie Silver (publicity). Jim Pernal (website updates)
Programming: Kent McDonald
Server Director: Dave Nathanson
Newsletter: Nancie Silver
USPS Liaison: C.W. Mitchell
Refreshments: Arnold Silver/Andy Paroczai

**Other Meetings:**
- Tuesday (6 days after last Wednesday) - SBAMUG Core Group, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Contact CW Mitchell at cwmitchell@sbamug.com or send email to info@sbamug.com for core group Zoom meeting invite.
- 3rd Thursday every other month - InDesign User Group, 7:00 p.m. at various locations in LA area, laidug.com
- Last Saturday each month - Northrop Grumman - Ham Radio & Computer Swap Meet, 7:00-11:30 a.m. Meet at SE corner of Marine/Aviation Blvd, Redondo Beach (visit w6trw.com to see if swap meet is cancelled due to Covid-19)
- Los Angeles Portable Users Group: Mac OS X, iPhone, iPod, MacBook, etc. at lapug.org/
- Find more: http://www.apple.com/usergroups/

# March 2022 Shareware

Spring is here! Six items this month.

**EazyDraw 10.7.2:** Latest update to this long running Vector drawing app. Mostly improvements and Intaglio import. (Intaglio has conditions on import)
OS 10.13+ $95.00
https://www.eazydraw.com

**GrandPerspective 2.6.2:** This program graphically shows disk usage with a file system. Improvements in this latest version.
Mac OS 10.9+ Free
http://grandperspectiv.sourceforge.net

**Growly Draw 1.4.6:** Simple drawing program for casual users. Vector and bitmap images. Imports and exports many formats.
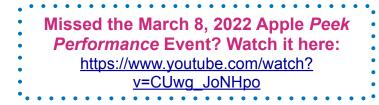Mac OS 10.8+ Free
https://www.growlybird.com/draw/index.html

**Mactracker 7.11.2:** Detailed database on every Mac computer, iPhones, iPads, iPods, mice, keyboards, displays, etc. MacOS 10.12+ Free  https://mactracker.ca

**Thunderbird 91.6.0:** Email client. Has own contacts. Filtering controls. Mac OS 10.12+ Free https://www.thunderbird.net/en-GB/

**VinylStudio 12.5.2:** Lets you record vinyl records and tapes. Burn as Audio or MP3 cds. Split tracks. Integrates with iTunes (Music App) Mac OS 10.10+  $29.95 https://www.alpinesoft.co.uk

See you at the March meeting online.

Jim Pernal, PD Editor

**Missed the March 8, 2022 Apple *Peek Performance* Event? Watch it here:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUwg_JoNHpo

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## SBAMUG Officer & Volunteer Update

Pete Myers has resigned from his volunteer positions with the club, including his role as one of the Directors-at-Large and from his duties with Member Development. Pete was also Newsletter Editor for five years. The SBAMUG Officers & Volunteers would like to thank Pete for his many years of service to the club. He has been a consistent contributor in many areas, including his efforts recruiting new club members, updating the website regarding newsletters and meetings, preparing agendas and minutes for the monthly Core Group meetings, and his many monthly SBAMUG Newsletters containing a variety of interesting and informative topics.

👏 Thanks, Pete! 👏

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## Helpful or Interesting Links

Third-Generation iPhone SE Is Another Great Bargain
https://tidbits.com/2022/03/08/third-generation-iphone-se/

Three links about cookies (but not the edible ones!)
(1) What are cookies? Learn about the origin of the term, the types of cookies, and their history
https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_cookie
(2) Clear the history and cookies from Safari on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch
https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201265
(3) Manage cookies and website data in Safari on Mac
https://support.apple.com/guide/safari/manage-cookies-sfri11471/mac

Learn about five hidden features in the Mac Mail app
https://oneminutemacman.com/hidden-mac-mail-features/

# Apple: Design Macs for Other Types of Professionals

Apple makes a big deal about how it designs Macs for "pro" users. And yet, speaking as someone who has been working professionally as a writer, editor, and publisher in the Apple world for over 30 years, Apple doesn't seem to be catering to pro users like me or most other Mac professionals I know—journalists, doctors, lawyers, accountants, consultants, and more. Just pulling from [the most recent MacBook Pro press release](#), it would seem that pro users:

- Have pro video workflows that would benefit from dramatic performance improvements

- Need 64 GB of unified memory for their pro workloads, where it will be "game-changing"

- Care so little about macOS that they would previously have considered a PC for rendering their "extreme geometry and textures"

- Want to "grade color in HDR on 8K ProRes 4444 video on battery"

- Would be happy if they could "lock in a refresh rate that is optimal for their footage"

- Can afford to connect two or even three $6000 Pro Display XDR screens at once

- Understand performance benchmarks for apps like Adobe Premiere Pro, Blackmagic Design DaVinci Resolve Studio, Final Cut Pro, Logic Pro, Maxon Cinema 4D with Redshift, NASA TetrUSS, and Vectorworks

Apple even lists out the sort of pro users for whom it's designing:

*MacBook Pro is designed for developers, photographers, filmmakers, 3D artists, scientists, music producers, and anyone who wants the world's best notebook.*

Don't get me wrong. Even though I've never used any of the apps listed above, I don't begrudge these people their expensive high-end Macs. Grade your 8K video all day long, folks! (Special thanks to TidBITS Talk user Vortech for [responding to my request and explaining](#) what "grade color in HDR on 8K ProRes 4444 video" means.)

What I am a little miffed about is the implication that if you don't need all the power of a MacBook Pro with an M1 Max chip and 64 GB of unified memory, you're not a pro user. And that extreme performance and massive storage are the only things that matter to professionals, such that those of us whose performance requirements are well served by non-Pro Macs could have no other wants or needs that would improve our workflows and productivity. I can't speak for other fields, but I can think of plenty of hardware and product line enhancements that would make professionals like me more productive. And I'll bet there are many more writers and lawyers out there than 3D artists and filmmakers.

So here are a few suggestions I have for how Apple could build Macs and supporting products that would better fit the needs of a lot more professionals.

## Better iMac Screen Ergonomics and Connectivity

Since 2014, I've used a 27-inch iMac with 5K Retina display. I like almost everything about it except the ergonomics, which are—put bluntly—lousy. The only adjustment Apple allows is screen tilt. You can't raise or lower the screen, much less rotate it if your work lends itself to a screen in portrait orientation. Ergonomics are important, both for everyday productivity and longevity. You can't work as many hours or as effectively if using your Mac is uncomfortable, and that's even more true in the long term.

Working with USB devices is also awkward due to all the ports being in the back of the iMac. This doesn't affect me all that much, but

I've certainly heard lots of complaints from people who need to connect USB flash drives and other peripherals regularly.

The workarounds to these problems are commonplace—and often quite ugly, something that you might think would bother Apple. I've seen lots of iMacs sitting on books or boxes to raise them to an appropriate height for comfortable viewing. And a USB hub puts ports front and center, though I try to avoid UBS hubs because they can introduce instability. Satechi even makes the $89.99 [Type-C Aluminum Monitor Stand Hub](#) that addresses both limitations, albeit in a non-adjustable way.



I'd like to see some of Apple's vaunted industrial design efforts put into making an iMac that conforms to the needs of professionals with different body types and work environments, and that offers easily accessible ports on the front, sides, or bottom of the iMac. If Apple can build a $1000 [Pro Stand](#) that allows height adjustments for the [Pro Display XDR](#)—which can also rotate from landscape to portrait—perhaps it could provide better ergonomics at an affordable price to the rest of us. It shouldn't be that hard—remember this ad for the "desktop lamp" [iMac G4](#)?

**Affordable Standalone Retina Displays**

Speaking of the Pro Display XDR, I get that there is apparently a universe where a $6000 monitor isn't seen as expensive compared to competing products. But in the real world that the rest of us—there's that phrase again—live in, it would be insane to spend two to three times as much on a monitor as on a computer.

I own the last display Apple produced before the Pro Display XDR—the [27-inch Thunderbolt Display](#). It wasn't cheap at $999, but at least it was in the same ballpark as competing screens. After Apple came out with the 27-inch iMac with 5K Retina display in 2014, many of us assumed that the company would release a standalone 5K display as well. That never happened, and to this day, my 27-inch Thunderbolt Display sits propped up on a book next to my iMac—it too lacks height adjustments and accessible ports. Apple discontinued the 27-inch Thunderbolt Display several years later (see "[Apple Discontinues Thunderbolt Display with No Replacement in Sight](#)," 27 June 2016), and the only third-party 5K display still available is the LG UltraFine 5K Display (see "[What Happened to 5K Displays?](#)," 16 November 2018).

So Apple, if you want to support Mac professionals who need perfectly crisp text but can't even consider spending $6000 on a display, how about releasing a large Retina display that would integrate well with Macs both functionally and aesthetically? It should match the professional-level iMac in size and adjustability so it can serve as a second screen. And it should be designed to fit perfectly on top of a Mac mini as long as that industrial design lasts.

While we're on the topic of displays, I'd like to see Apple—or someone—figure out how to repurpose older iMacs with Retina displays as monitors for another Mac. They remain some of the best screens out there, and it's a crying shame that they can't work as standalone displays. (I am aware of [Luna Display](#) from Astropad, and testing [its recent addition of 5K support](#) is on my list of things to do. But again, such a feature should just be built in.)

**Better FaceTime Cameras with Face ID**

I remain flabbergasted that the FaceTime cameras in even Apple's latest Macs are so pathetic. Even the cheapest iPad and

iPhone put the newest Mac cameras to shame, and quite a few iPad and iPhone models have Face ID support for authentication. We're talking about technology that Apple has used numerous times.

So why isn't it in Macs? Today's professionals spend significant amounts of time in video calls using their Macs, not their iPhones or iPads. While PC users don't have better cameras either, there's no reason Apple couldn't up the table stakes. Wouldn't it be a selling point if the Mac users on every video call were crystal clear and all the PC users were fuzzy? Maybe it would require slightly thicker screens but that's a trade-off I think most people would be willing to make.

A wide-angle FaceTime camera, such as is in the iPad Pro line, would also enable Center Stage, Apple's auto-framing technology that enables the camera to track you as you move around during a video call (see "Center Stage Keeps You in the Video Chat Frame," 23 September 2021). As with picture quality, it would seem to be a significant win for Apple if Mac users had significantly better freedom of movement on calls where it's easy to compare against PC users.

Also, what's stopping Apple from adding Face ID to Macs? All the reasons why Face ID is a win for iPhone and iPad users apply to Mac users as well, perhaps even more so, since most Mac passwords are harder to type than six-digit passcodes. Why make working professionals constantly authenticate when waking their Macs or coming out of the screen saver? Touch ID and Apple Watch integration are nice, but they're more of an interruption than Face ID, and I still type my Mac login password multiple times per day. Microsoft has Windows Hello for facial authentication—I'd like to see macOS catch up with Windows in this regard.

Face ID, coupled with more sites supporting the WebAuthn specification for passwordless authentication, would also save many professionals even more time. Even beyond the additional dance necessary for two-factor authentication, logging into websites is a constant administrative interruption. If our Macs could use Face ID to authenticate those logins without additional interaction, we could spend more time working and less time playing "Mother, May I?" And that easier login process would come with better security, a flip from the usual scenario where better security requires more work.

**Cellular Connectivity Option for MacBooks**

You can get an iPad with cellular connectivity, so why not a MacBook? The lack of a cellular option for Apple's laptops has been a glaring omission for years and is yet another example of how Apple doesn't acknowledge the needs of mobile professionals.

Sure, you can connect your MacBook to your iPhone's personal hotspot, and I've done that on numerous occasions. But it's a workaround that doesn't always work without fiddling, and it introduces yet another variable into what is often a stressful situation. When I *need* Internet access while out and about, it's not to watch YouTube or diddle around on the Web; it's because I have to edit the TidBITS issue on deadline or because our server is under attack.

There's just no reason that the iPad—a perfectly nice device that still lacks the capability and flexibility of a full-fledged Mac —should have cellular connectivity when the MacBook doesn't. Yes, it would add to the price of the MacBook, and yes, it would require an additional monthly data plan. Whatever. We're professionals, and we're happy to spend money that helps us do our jobs faster, better, and more effectively, just like the folks who ante up for a tricked-out Mac Pro.

**More Comfortable and Consistent Keyboard/Trackpad Ergonomics**

Another way Macs let down some types of professionals is in the comfort of constant use. At least those of us who spend our days at the keyboard no longer have to complain

about the widely reviled butterfly keyboard, but there's still room to improve.

Consider the sharpness of the metal edges on all Apple laptops. That doesn't matter much on the sides or back, but on the front, where your palms naturally rest when you're using the trackpad or during brief breaks from typing, the metal edges dig into your hands. I find those sharp corners a constant irritation, particularly during long work sessions.

Older Apple laptops, like the original clamshell iBook and the subsequent white iBook, didn't suffer from this problem. Our blueberry iBook, which I still use on occasion to extract data from CDs, has rounded, downward-sloping palm rests. Sadly, I no longer have my beloved white iBook, which was one of my favorite laptop form factors because of its slightly soft surfaces, but I remember it having beveled edges in front too.

What I've always liked about working on Apple's laptops is the positioning of the trackpad in front of the keyboard, with the palm rests on either side. From an ergonomic standpoint, it's less disruptive than forcing the user's hand off to the side to use the trackpad or mouse, as happens with nearly all desktop setups. It also enables more efficient use since you don't have to move your hand as far to switch between typing and mousing.

I've tried for years to figure out a way to combine a standalone Apple keyboard and trackpad in the same center-focused layout for use on my desk with an iMac, but the way Apple angles them makes it impossible. My personal solution for many years has been a [Das Keyboard Model S Professional](#) coupled with a [Contour Designs RollerMouse Pro](#) in front of it, but I recognize that's a truly odd approach. I do see some keyboard/trackpad combos on Amazon (see [Adesso](#), [Fintie](#), and [IVSOTEK](#)), but the tablet (or rackmount) focus and low prices don't inspire confidence that they would be serious solutions for heavy use.

It's not much of a leap from a keyboard/ trackpad combo to a device that incorporates

all the guts of a Mac into one package— basically the bottom half of a MacBook. That's not fantasy, either. Patently Apple covered [a recently granted Apple patent for a Mac ensconced in a keyboard](#), writing, "The keyboard could include a trackpad to eliminate the need of a mouse when in transport." In essence, it would be a Mac mini with a built-in keyboard and trackpad, easily connected to a display on a desk or even used with a large-screen TV via AirPlay.

Whether it's a standalone keyboard/trackpad combination or one that also incorporates the guts of a Mac, a device like this would help professional Mac users switch back and forth between laptop and desktop Macs without having to change their interaction methods. Less friction, more productivity.

**Professionals of All Types**

In the end, all I'm saying here is that if Apple is going to continue to push the concept that Macs are for professionals, it should expand its definition to acknowledge the vast numbers of professionals who rely on their Macs every minute of the day but don't work with audio, video, or photos. We're professionals, too, even if our tools—email, Web browsers, word processors, spreadsheets, databases, online meeting software, etc.—don't require the ultimate in performance, memory, or storage.

How about you? If you're a Mac-using professional, what could Apple add to its product line or design into a future device that would make you more productive?

Article written by Adam Engst on March 5, 2022

To read the many comments readers made about this article, click on link below and scroll to end. [https://tidbits.com/2022/03/05/apple-design-macs-for-other-types-of-professionals/](https://tidbits.com/2022/03/05/apple-design-macs-for-other-types-of-professionals/)

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

**For only $35 per year\*, you get:**
- Monthly meeting presentations
- 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, opportunity drawings

**http://www.sbamug.com/join.html**
or contact Membership Chair
CW Mitchell at
**cwmitchell@sbamug.com**
\*($35 membership fee waived for 2022)

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### SBAMUG Membership Application

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

**Individual & Family Memberships:  $35 per year\***
**(\*membership fee is waived for 2022)**

☐ **New Member(s)**        ☐ **Member Renewal**

Name:_____
Spouse/Partner Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____
State:_____ Zip:_____
Home Phone: (_____)_____
Member Cell: (_____)_____
Spouse/Partner Cell: (_____)_____
Member Email Address:_____
Spouse/Partner Email:_____
Member computer interests: _____
Spouse/Partner computer interests:_____
Devices you use most:_____
Current level of Mac expertise:
Member: ___ Beginner    ___ Intermediate    ___Advanced
Spouse/Partner: ___ Beginner ___ Intermediate    ___Adv.
How did you hear about SBAMUG?_____
_____
I would like to help with the club. Please contact me at:
_____
Comments:_____
_____
Signature: _____
Date: _____
*Mail your Application (no check needed for 2022) to our mailing address (see page 2), or bring to our monthly meeting at VFW Hall when in-person meetings resume.*