



BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

December 2003

BRMUG Information

Member Meetings

Regular meetings are held the third Thursday evening of each month at BlueBonnet Library at 6:30 P.M.

Planning Meetings

The Thursday after the regular member meeting the planning meeting is held at 6:15 at Calendars on Perkins near Essen.

About BRMUG

For more information call the User Group President, Isaac Traxler, 225-926-1552 or send e-mail to info@brmug.org or check our web page at <http://www.brmug.org/>

BRMUG Volunteers

Isaac Traxler president@brmug.org
 Glenn Matherne vp@brmug.org
 Don Ballard treasurer@brmug.org
 Don Ballard sec@brmug.org
 Richard Johnson m1@brmug.org
 Jeff Sheldon m2@brmug.org
 Contact anyone above if you have suggestions for BRMUG.

After the Meeting

Join us at Brewbachers on Bluebonnet after the BRMUG meeting: fun, food, open format. Get to know each other.

Newsletter Articles

Please submit newsletter articles to newsletter@brmug.org. Articles are printed on a space available basis. Submissions are welcome!

The December meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Brewbachers** on **December 18th**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. This month is our annual Holiday Gathering. Instead of a normal meeting, we will meet at Brewbachers on Bluebonnet) and enjoy each others company. This is a wonderful chance to talk one-on-one with your fellow BRMUG members. I hope to see everyone there! Thanks to each and every one who has helped make BRMUG fun over the last year. As always, members and guests are welcome. If you need help getting there (<http://www.brmug.org/about-brmug.html>).

Meeting is at Bluebonnet Library!

Visit <http://www.brmug.org/next-meeting.html> for more information.

November Meeting Review

Our annual Gaming meeting did not happen in November again. It had to be rescheduled to January because John Quebedeaux who is planning to do the presentation had to make a business trip that spanned the meeting time. Instead, I did an overview of Panther. Since Panther was just released, this turned out to be rather timely. In preparing for the meeting, I was concerned that I would not have enough to talk about. It turns out that Panther has enough new features that I could make another meeting of it. I hope every one present enjoyed the meeting and learned some interesting things about Panther.

AAPL

Apple stock has fluctuated from \$20 to \$22 a share over the last month. Various announcements and awards have made little impact on the actual stock price. Indications are that new Macintoshes are selling pretty good. Rumor sites talk about the normal incremental improvements over the next several months -- nothing that should hold purchases up. I have been a little surprised that the stock has not done better. Of course, this quarter has traditionally not been a great one for Apple.

Macintosh to Turn 20

The 20th anniversary of the Macintosh is upon us. The 1984 Superbowl hearded

the beginning of a new era. The 2004 Superbowl is coming. We know that Apple/Pepsi ads for the iTunes Music Service will be present. Sources claim that Apple has not bought any other commercial time at the Superbowl. Of course, one continues to wonder. Rumors have recently started appearing about Apple doing something to celebrate the 20 years of the Macintosh (special anniversary model). No real details yet.

iTunes Store

More awards and honors continue to arrive -- far to many to bother to list. But another milestone has come and gone. iTunes sold its 25 millionth song on Friday (December 12). It just happened to be: "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!" by Frank Sinatra. I wonder if Apple gave that song away for free? Seems like something special should have been done. Wonder how much the rate of sales will change as a result of the Pepsi/iTunes promotion?

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Mac vs Windows Security

After several good months in the PC magazines, the Mac bashing appears to have returned. PC Magazine (who seemed to be trying to play on a level field) published an article by Lance Ulanoff. Lance says he used to be a Mac guy back in the SE-30 days but then moved over to Windows in the 3.1 days. I guess he believes himself to be an expert in both worlds after having run Mac OS 7 and Windows.

The basic fact underneath his article is the combination of a security flaw reported in Mac OS X (since patched) and a combination of default settings that were not chosen to maximize security. He is right, these items do (and did) produce the potential for Mac OS X to be successfully attacked. He uses the usual excuse of "not enough Mac users" to explain why these problems were not exploited and the Internet brought to its knees. It disregards that the combination of events needed to exploit these problems are much less than 1% of the Macintosh world. He says he hopes that things like this should teach Mac users to not look down upon the Windows users when the next mail virus hits (as it did a while back).

He is right. We should not be so smug. It is possible to happen to us. It will eventually happen to us. And the potential for once in the last 2-3 years compared to the quarterly (at least) reality of Windows' viruses is a set of odds to let me breathe a little easier. Maybe someday the Macintosh will be as ugly and dangerous a place to live as Windows is now. When that time comes, I might very well decide to live somewhere else. In the interim, the grass is still a LOT greener here.

So, all the folks who are thinking that this is a reason to jump for joy and to point out the Mac OS X is not perfect and can have problems, let me say the following. First, we Mac users knew long before the rest of you did that Mac OS X is not perfect. Secondly, we sure are glad it is so much closer though. So, no, I do not think this one problem (or the 100 more that will happen in the future) will come close to making me quit feeling cocky. Or shutting me up. The odds are still in my favor. The Windows people are still facing weekly security flaw reports with new major ones just about every month. With any luck, I will get to cherish this Mac report for another 2-3 years.

Panther Notes

The notes from the November BRMUG Presentation on Panther are on the BRMUG web site. You can find them by going to the Mac OS X page (<http://www.brmug.org/osx.php>) and then clicking on Panther. Please let me know about suggestions to add to this page.

BRMUG History

When BRMUG started Mac Pluses and SEs were fighting for majority among BRMUG members. Today, many of the members are in the G3 to G4 to G5 migration.

BRMUG has changed a lot since it began. It started as a student group at LSU. It became both a student and community group (it appears to have merged with a community organization at this time that dates back to the pre-Macintosh days). It is now a community group with just a few ties left to LSU. We still offer discounts for student members. BRMUG had a nice newsletter very early in its history (the original issues were done in PageMaker). A few years later the current logo was adopted. Early meetings centered on software applications (like AppleWorks, MacWrite, Word, Excel, PageMaker, SuperPaint, Photoshop, ...).

BRMUG embraced the Internet very early (compared to many user groups). Internic reports that the domain *brmug.org* was registered on September 22, 1995 (and paid for through September 2006). We even negotiated discounts for the early Baton Rouge Internet pioneers (remember Intersurf?). During this time many of the meetings took on an Internet flavor. Typical topics were dialup PPP, browsers, configuring TCP/IP and terminal emulation. Somewhere around here, the Annual BRMUG Picnic came into being (funny how eating and the Internet came to BRMUG about the same time).

And then the Internet became ubiquitous (the picnic has remained once a year). And most of the Internet related topics disappeared. At the same time, articles in the newsletter and meeting discussions became peppered with URIs (We started with URL - Universal Resource Location that became URI - Universal Resource Identifier).

Some meeting topics seem to be universal. People still need help customizing, enhancing and repairing their environment. Using standard tools like word

processors, spreadsheets and browsers are sure bets. Professional products like Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Final Cut Pro would make popular topics. iMovie, iTunes, AppleWorks, Keynote and browsers appear to be sure winner topics. Does this match your desires and needs? Anybody interested in presenting one or more of these? The professional software products suffer if not presented by someone who knows them (it also helps if they have creative graphic and layout skills).

BRMUG has always had members of all age ranges. We have always had a pretty diverse group of members (lawyers, accountants, educators, computer professionals, graphic artists, publishers, manufacturers, clerks, students and more). From the start, BRMUG sought to help any and all Macintosh users. We have tried very hard to live up to the club motto: *Helping Macintosh users more effectively utilize their systems.*

Very few non-profit organizations last this long. BRMUG has grown and adapted for over 10 years. Each time the world has changed, the Macintosh has changed or the user membership has changed, BRMUG has tried to change and adapt. I hope that you feel that BRMUG is still a useful part of your life and then you benefit from it. In fact, that is the only reason it should exist -- so that Macintosh users can benefit from it.

So what can BRMUG do to help you get more use from your Macintosh? This is a serious question. Sometimes the group leaders are able to guess and do the



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right things. Sometimes our guesses are wrong. Sometimes we get requests we do not know how to respond to. Sometimes we are just too slow to respond.

The Macintosh world is growing again (after several dark years). Now is the time for BRMUG to grow. We need to new people to do presentations. We need new authors for newsletter articles. We need design ideas and content for the web site (the web site has actually been completely rebuilt using PHP and site templates. It now needs design ideas for new templates and the graphics to go with them). We need new members to take BRMUG through the next ten years.

The Macintosh continues to be strong in print and graphics fields. It is becoming dominant in the film industry and is strong in the music field. Consumers are starting to embrace the Macintosh and the iPod. The Macintosh has become an idea that includes iMacs, eMacs, PowerMacs, iBooks, PowerBooks, iPods, iTunes, iTunes Music Store, Keynote, Final Cut, Safari, ... Macintosh is much more than a computer -- it is becoming a way of life.

I think that this is a good time and place to thank some people. I wish to thank Richard for his long term participation in the leadership of BRMUG for many years. I would like to thank Bob for his help for so many years and his continued support. John Quebedeaux deserves special thanks for his years of service and periodic return for presentations and support. There are many others that deserve to be honored and I apologize for not taking the time here to do so. I do believe that Glenn Matherne and Don Ballard deserve special thanks and honors for all the work, time and effort they have devoted to BRMUG over the last 5-10 years. They have kept things going. We should thank Matthew Dodd for making sure BRMUG has had an Internet presence from day one. For the last 6 or 7 years, Matt has hosted BRMUG on one of the systems he owns in the Washington DC area. And being a true friend, he has not taken a penny for his services. Many people have helped and continue to help BRMUG. We really are community.

This brings us to today. It is time for the next generation to step in and carry BRMUG to the new Macintosh world. The world where the Macintosh is the digital hub of the future. The world where

the dream and idea that is and was the Macintosh become more evident and obvious than just the hardware. The Macintosh world has been re-invented over the last couple of years. Lets breathe new life into BRMUG and help it continue to grow.

What a ride. It has been an honor to be able to hitch on to this ride for so long. I can only dream about where y'all will take me now...

by Isaac Traxler

Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for the New Year!

BRMUG Change Idea

BRMUG relies on members to do presentations and write articles. In the past, we have never done anything to reward members for these contributions. Maybe it is time to change this policy. I have spoken Don (and a few others) about a new idea. I am presenting here to see what the membership thinks.

I propose that BRMUG reward members who do a meeting presentation by extending their membership by two months. I propose we reward members who provide substantial content for a newsletter (an article of reasonable size, at least 1/3 of a page) with a one month membership extension. Extensions should be limited to no more than

twelve months earned in a twelve month period.

Please let me know what you think. Will this encourage to write an article or do a presentation? Should we do more? Should incentives not be provided? I believe that non-profit organizations should be led without pay (as long as they stay small enough that running them does not become a full-time job).

The officers and members-at-large do not get any benefits. They provide direction, and vision. These things should come from the inside. Newsletter articles and presentations take real work to prepare and produce. This work should be rewarded. Keeping economics in mind, BRMUG cannot start paying significant money for these activities. But our treasury is solid enough to risk this investment. I am hoping to get new people to start writing articles and doing presentations.

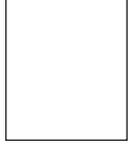
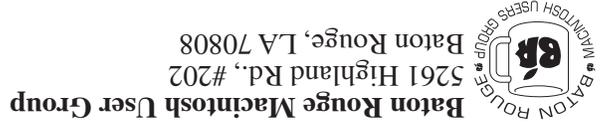
BRMUG really needs people to do presentations on page layout (InDesign/Quark), Graphics (Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand), and video (iMovie, Final Cut, Final Cut Pro). To do these products justice, the speaker needs access to a system with the resources to run these packages, the knowledge to use them and the creative skill to show what they can do. My creativity just does not extend this far. Feel free to step up and volunteer.

Book, magazine, product and web site reviews make good newsletter articles. Take the time you spend reading and write up a review. I can assure you that the time you spend thinking about what you read will dramatically increase your comprehension of the material. I also know that others will benefit from your experience (save time and money, learn about good and bad resources).

Thanks for the support in the past. Now lets step it up a notch and improve the newsletter so that it really does *Help-Macintosh users more effectively utilize their systems.*

by Isaac Traxler

In January John Quebedeaux presents our Annual Gaming Meeting



This Month:
Holiday Gathering
 at the Bluebonnet Brewbachers

Hiroshima 45
Chernobyl 86
Windows 95

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS RECEIVED BY ALL
 BRMUG MEMBERS, CONTRIBUTORS, AND
 REPRESENTATIVES.**

The Baton Rouge Macintosh Users Group is a non-profit organization dedicated to Macintosh Users. Our mission is to help bring these users together in order to keep them informed of Apple Computer, Inc.'s trends, visions, and educate them on how to best use this most cost effective, easiest and friendliest of all platforms: **The Macintosh.**

If you are in the position of selling, supporting, or using the Apple Macintosh computer or any of Apple's products, we would like your participation and support for the benefit of our membership and your customer base.

Everyone is invited to attend the meetings. For a complimentary newsletter, or flyers to give out to others, or any information about the group contact the following BRMUG Ambassador: Isaac Traxler, President, (504) 926-1552, e-mail: president@brmug.org. We'll be most happy to talk to you about the Macintosh!

Send this form with \$15 (\$10 with copy of current school id for students) check payable to BRMUG to: BRMUG Treasurer, 5261 Highland Road, #202, Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

BRMUG Membership Form 12/2003

Name: _____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

Home Phone: _____

Office Phone: _____

Things the club should do:

My interest areas:
