



BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

January 2004

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
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 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 January meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **January 15th**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. This month's presentation will be our **Annual Game Review** by John Quebedeaux. John has been a Macintosh user for a long time and has played games throughout. John will cover some classic Macintosh games as well as some new ones. This should be a great meeting. Start the new year out right -- come join us! Members and guests are welcome. After the meeting, we will have our normal Social Hour at Brewbachers. 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.

December Gathering

As has become tradition, BRMUG did not have a regular meeting in December. Instead, many of us gathered at Brewbachers (our normal post-meeting site) and got to know each other all over again. It is great to be able to catch up with everyone and find out how things are going. Hope you all had a great Christmas. Happy New Year!

AAPL

After a month of less than exciting value, Apples's stock price took a nice jump just in time for the meeting this month. After falling below \$20 in the last month, AAPL rebounded to over \$23.50 (with a high above \$24). This rise is certainly welcome. No one particular thing can be pointed at for the big jump -- just the way it goes in the Apple world.

MacWorld

MacWorld was this week. In keeping with recent tradition, Steve Jobs provided the keynote speech. And nothing earthshaking was announced (following the recent pattern). But a lot of things were announced, released, or demonstrated. In fact, for a low profile event, there was a lot of potential for a big event. It just needed one more relatively big item.

1984 - 2004

The MacWorld keynote started with a comparison of 2004 to 1984 (20 year anniversary for the Macintosh). This

included replaying the infamous 1984 commercial -- sort of. It seems the Apple folks had a little fun. An iPod was added to the runners waist during this version.

Xserve G5

Apple finally released a revised Xserve with a G5 processor -- actually single of dual. The new Xserve is still 1U thin (1.75 inches) and is available with 1 or 2 2.0 GHz G5 processor(s). [*The Vir-*

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ginia Tech Cluster would need 30 racks containing 42 Xserves today instead of the 90+ racks of PowerMac G5s.] It supports up to three serial ATA drives (the loss of the 4th drive was probably needed to provide cooling room for the G5s). The Xserves are based on a new version of the G5 that is smaller and uses less power. This paves the way for future G5 laptops.

in their own portable music device. This will bring HP customers to the doors of Apple's iTunes Music Store. So Apple is willing to license the iPod for cloning? Interesting...

iPod Mini

Apple has released a smaller version of the iPod (obviously some people thought the iPod was too big). The new

and computational clusters. The ACG advances Apple in the computational direction. Grid technology is the idea of using cycles on many machines to jointly solve a problem. Machines can be dedicated to computation or they can compute when idle. Grid Computing is very big in the scientific world (and bleeding over to the business world). One of the challenges faced in Grid Computing is identifying systems to use and scheduling code to execute. Xgrid from Apple hopes to solve part of the first problem by automatically discovering systems via Rendezvous. Apple has also implemented scheduling software. Xgrid comes with a software development kit to aid in porting scientific applications. If the Xgrid simplifies Grid Computing half as much as iMovie has simplified video editing, it will change the world far more than iTunes has. This is one to watch.

This Month: Annual Game Review by John Quebedeaux

Final Cut Express 2

Apple released version 2 of Final Cut Express. Final Cut Express is supposed to be a product between iMovie and Final Cut Pro. iMovies is for amateur/beginner film makers. Final Cut Pro is for professionals. Final Cut Express is supposed to be for folks who want or need more than iMovie but are not prepared to move up to Final Cut Pro.

iLife Update

When iLife was originally released, it included iMovie, iTunes, iPhoto and iDVD (the only way to get iDVD without buying a SuperDrive equipped Macintosh). Each of these products has been updated. GarageBand has also been added to the bundle. The price has remained \$49.

GarageBand

GarageBand is a new software product from Apple. GarageBand allows you to produce musical tracks. The tracks can be played, recorded to CD, or used with iMovie. GarageBand supports input from USB and Midi devices. This program adds tremendous value to the \$49 iLife package. An expansion pack is available that includes additional music loops. GarageBand is a low-end recording studio package. Kind of the iMovie of record studio software (with SoundTrack [\$299] at the high end). I bet Glenn can't wait to try this one out!

HP/Apple Alliance

HP is licensing iPod technology to use

iPod measures 3.6" by 2" by 0.5" (iPod is 4.2" by 2.4" by 0.62"). The new mini iPod uses a smaller hard drive and is available with a 4GB hard drive. Other than the smaller size and smaller hard drive, it appears to be all iPod (including the \$249 price).

New Board Member

Apple has added James Lawrence to its Board of Directors. James is executive VP and CFO of general Mills, Inc. He has also been with Northwest Airlines and Pepsico (This Apple Pepsi thing keeps coming up).

Office 2004

Microsoft demonstrated Office 2004 at MacWorld. The new version adds a number of features including being compatible with the latest Windows version of Office. New features include a notebook/note taking feature (designed to make Office better for taking notes). The professional version of Office also includes Virtual PC.

Virtual PC 7

Virtual PC 7 was announced by Microsoft. It will be shipping in the next several months and will include support for the G5.

Xgrid

Did you know that Apple has an Advanced Computation Group? They do. And they have been busy. The Xserve is a capable building block for server farms

EyeTV Revisited

Remember the USB device from Elgato that allowed a Macintosh to display and record TV broadcasts at limited resolution? They have grown up. They now have FireWire models that record and display full mpeg2 video. They turn the Macintosh into a fully functional PVR (Personal Video Recorder) and provide even more functionality than a TiVo. The new version supports time shifted viewing, pausing, editing of captured streams, and recording to CD or DVD. This new version looks fantastic! FireWire EyeTV 200 lists for \$349. EyeTV 300 is designed for use with satellite receivers.



BRMUG Mailing Address

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For more information call the User Group President, Isaac Traxler: (225) 926-1552
e-mail: info@brmug.org
web: <http://www.brmug.org/>

Visit <http://www.elgato.com> for more information.

Help for Mac OS X

Mac OS X Hints has analyzed many of their contributions and produced a list of 20 steps to help diagnose and fix Mac OS X problems. This is a really good article and worth the time to read even before you have problems. Visit <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=2004011205473937> for more info. Alternately, you can visit <http://www.macosxhints.com/> and search for 20 Troubleshooting Tips. The article includes at least a paragraph about each of the hints as well as a few additional ideas so it really has more like 25 tips).

Rumors

MacWorld did little to satisfy the rumor mill. Apple is expected to make several important announcements in the next few weeks. Upgrades to the PowerMac G5 are high on everyone's rumor list. Apple is expected to bump the clock speed on the product line. Rumors also expect to see another Macintosh line revamped (I am hoping the dualG4 eMac rumor comes true). A \$50 price drop on the iPod mini is rumored for about 3 months from now (when a higher density drive is available). Looks like the iPod mini might become a product line.

Koffice

Koffice is an Open Source software package hoping to reproduce the functionality of Microsoft Office. Koffice has been available in the Linux world for a while and is pretty good. It can be run on the Macintosh on X11. While this works, it is not the same as native Macintosh GUI applications. Koffice has been ported to the native Macintosh GUI. As final version become available, this could be big news. This could bring a really useable, free office suite to Mac OS X.

Mac OS X Explained?

Ever wonder what other people think of Mac OS X? This is an article that a Macintosh and Linux user put together to explain Mac OS X to a Linux User Group. It is a pretty good article and worth reading. It is not necessarily a pro or anti Macintosh article -- merely an attempt to explain Mac OS X to Linux users. While it gets a little technical, it does provide insight into one view of Mac OS X. For more information, visit <http://www.kernelthread.com/mac/osx/>.

Future Meeting Calendar

January 15, 2004 Annual Game Review John QuebedeauxLibrary

February 19, 2004 TBA..... TBA.....Library

We need ideas for future meetings!

Help us develop a plan to fill out 2004's schedule.

Send ideas to newsletter@brmug.org.

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).

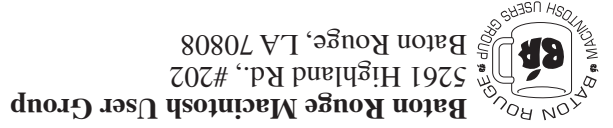
Thanks for the support in the past. Now let's step it up a notch and improve the newsletter so that it really does *Help-Macintosh users more effectively utilize their systems*.

by Isaac Traxler

Happy New Year

2004 is here now. The Macintosh platform looks as strong as it has in a long time. Apple is making money. They are leading the world with regular innovations. They are receiving awards from all over the place. iTunes Music Store continues to be the metric for online music sales. G5s are supposed to reach 3 GHz by summer. G6s will be here in 2005. What a fantastic year to look forward to!

This space available!
Write an article to fill it
next month!



This Month:
Annual Game Review
 by John Quebedeaux

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 1/2004

Name: _____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

Home Phone: _____

Office Phone: _____

Things the club should do:

My interest areas:

