



BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

January 2005

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

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 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 20th**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will be 6:30 PM at the Bluebonnet Library. The topic this month will be *An Introduction to iPhoto* by Isaac Traxler. The presentation will cover the basics of iPhoto including importing pictures. 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>).

Here is the meeting schedule:

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| 6:30 PM | Welcome and recent news |
| 6:50 PM | Don's Distraction |
| 7:00 PM | iPhoto Presentation |
| 8:00 PM | Questions and answers |
| 8:30 PM | Adjourn to Brewbachers |

Meeting is at Bluebonnet Library!

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

December Gathering

In December we replace our regular meeting with a holiday get together. This year, as for the last several years, we met at Brewbachers on Bluebonnet. It was wonderful to have a chance to talk and visit. This is the one chance a year to really get to know each other. Thanks to each of you that showed up. I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with you.

December Newsletter

You can quit worrying about having missed the December newsletter. There was not one. Due to significant repair to the back of the house, I just ran out of time. We did not have a December 2004 newsletter. So, you can quit blaming the mailman.

AAPL

This has been a very interesting month for Apple. In fact, the last two months have been something. Back when we last met in November Apple was in the mid \$50 range. Since then, Apple has inched up to a high approaching \$70 just before MacWorld. Wall Street did not disappoint. MacWorld had some amazing announcements. So, Apple's stock went down. But by the end of the week it had rebounded and closed over \$70. Amazing! Each time Apple reaches

a new level, it just seems to rest a while and then head up some more. Wonder what the year has in store?

MacWorld San Francisco

January 10-14 was MacWorld in San Francisco. On January 11, Steve Jobs gave his customary keynote presentation. Apple's stock price had climbed in anticipation of the announcements that were anticipated (rumor sites were full of impossible claims, pictures and rumors). When the keynote was over, it was obvious that the pictures were all wrong. It was equally obvious that many of the ideas were pretty close. One person attending the presentation said that Jobs was not as animated as in the past and blamed it on the leaks published on the rumor sites.

Regardless, MacWorld was amazing. Steve continued the process of re-inventing Apple. Rather than just another set of

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incremental improvements, Apple made announcements that are best described as risky. Here is a quick overview of the keynote presentation:

- Started with a Sony high-definition prosumer camera
- iDVD now supports HFV and wide-screen; one click tape-to-disc burning, new themes, faster, better integration with other iLife applications and creation of disk images
- Garage Band showed off multi-track recording; Garage Band did get a series of typical incremental improvements
- iWork was announced along with the death of AppleWorks; includes Keynote 2 and Pages; Pages is a template-based word processor that blends into the page layout realm; supports import/export of MS word documents; \$79; just need spreadsheet to displace MS Office
- Mac Mini; \$500 Macintosh
- iPod success and increased support by car manufacturers
- iPod Shuffle

iPod

The iPod story read like a fairy tale. Struggling computer company releases over-priced music player to significant negative press response. People started buying them. In spite of the price, sales took off. Apple becomes the owner of the market in spite of competition from Sony and others.

At this point Apple has shipped over 10 million iPods, including 4.5 million this last quarter. Growth of sales has been phenomenal. The iPod line includes the iPod, iPod U2, iPod Mini, iPod Photo and the new iPod Shuffle.

The iPod is available with a 20 or 40 GB hard drive, includes the click-wheel controller, an LCD display, and FireWire/USB 2 interfaces. It is white with a chrome back. The iPod is 4.1" x 2.4" x 0.57" (20 GB) or 0.69" (40 GB) and weighs about 6 ounces with battery. Via its close integration with iTunes it is a simply amazing way to listen to music. Numerous applications have been developed that move its functionality almost to the realm of PDAs (without data input) or handheld gaming devices (not as good, but improving). The iPod also makes an excellent external hard drive including the ability to be bootable. Priced at \$299 and \$399, these models are the newest versions of the original iPod.

The iPod U2 Special Edition is an iPod 20 GB with a black face (instead of white). The back has the signatures

of the U2 band members. A \$50 credit towards The Complete U2 collection is included. I was never particularly impressed with this model until I saw it in real life -- truly beautiful.

The iPod Mini has 4GB a 4 GB hard drive and sells for \$249. It is 3.6" x 2" x 0.5" and weighs 3.6 ounces including battery. It is available in 5 colors. When Apple released the iPod Mini, people were clamoring for a smaller (size and storage model). The iPod Mini was everything people wanted. Unfortunately it was priced higher than many were willing to pay. It was immediately pronounced a failure. In spite of this, it has been very successful and continues to have healthy sales.

The iPod Photo is an enhancement of the original iPod. The iPod Photo comes in 40GB and 60 GB models for \$499 and \$599. Both models are 4.1" x 2" x 0.75" (slightly thicker than the iPod) and weigh 6.4 ounces. The iPod Photo has every feature of a normal iPod but includes a color screen and the ability to store and display photos. Once again, the world was disappointed (wanting a video player). Sales appear to have been very good of these models. The iPod Photo can be connected directly to a TV via its AV cable to show slideshows.

The new iPod Shuffle includes a 512 MB model for \$99 and a 1 GB model for \$149. They are tiny (3.3" x 0.98" x 0.33"). Apple compares the iPod Shuffle to a pack of chewing gum (slightly smaller). It is about the size of most USB memory keys. The iPod Shuffle has a number of differences from its siblings. It has no display and no FireWire. It does have USB 2.0 (accessed by pulling the bottom off). It can be used as storage (you divide the space between music and disk). It includes 4 buttons: volume up/down and next/previous song. It can play songs sequentially or randomly (chosen via a slide switch on the back).

With the release of the iPod Shuffle, Apple has a complete product line with something for everyone. The iPod Shuffle will clearly sell a lot. Many existing iPod owners have already bought a Shuffle or plan to. As flash memory densities increase, the storage of the Shuffle will go up. I believe the Mini will get a larger drive soon (at least 6 GB). I expect the price to drop about \$50. With time, I expect the Mini to displace the iPod as we know it (when storage density increases). I do expect a larger iPod with video capability in a

year or two. But other than the Mini, I don't think we will see many changes in the next 6 months.

by Isaac Traxler

iLife '05

Apple grouped iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie and iDVD together and called it iLife and offered it for sale for \$79. Nobody paid much attention to iLife initially. Why should they? All of the products were bundled with a Macintosh and upgrades were free.

But people who wanted iDVD and had not bought a Macintosh with a SuperDrive started buying it. And then Apple released major upgrades of several products and you could not download them. Slowly, iLife started to sell. Fast enough to make Apple a little money, but slow enough that no one complained to loudly about paying for "free" software. And then Apple added Garage band to iLife. A lot of people wanted Garage Band. Apple now sells quite a number of copies of iLife.

iLife '05 was just released. It includes the following: iPhoto 5, iMovie HD, iDVD 5, Garage Band 2, and iTunes 4.7. All of these are new releases except iTunes 4.7. Apple has been forced to keep allowing free downloads of current iTunes (to propel iPod sales/interest). Other than that, the only way to get these other products is via iLife.

iPhoto 5 was just released. iPhoto has gone through a number of releases in a fairly short period of time. Most of the releases have not been real major. iPhoto 5 now supports importing RAW images and working with them throughout. It



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also supports importing MPEG-4 video clips (finally). They can reside in the same "roll" as the still pictures you import. Photo editing features have been enhanced significantly. iPhoto 5 has enhanced the already wonderful slideshow feature.

iMovie has been good for a while. It is pretty easy to use and full of features. The new version now supports HD. Considering that prosumer cameras have just become available, iMovie is ahead of the curve. iMovie 5 is faster also.

iDVD 5 has gained a lot of features. New themes have been added. iDVD will now burn a DV D directly from your camera. iDVD supports HDV and Widescreen Video. iDVD finally allows creation of disk images instead of only burning DVDs.

Garage Band has turned 2. The new big change is support for multi-track recording. You can record from multiple input sources to separate tracks simultaneously. It has also added a musical notation display. It will automatically convert incoming music to musical notation. You can also edit in musical notation. I guess when Garage Band turns 3, it will compose the music too.

iTunes remains at 4.7. Of course it has been changing constantly over the last year. iLife '05 is a really amazing collection. Any one of these products would be worth the \$79 price to many people. iLife '05 is a tremendous bargain. You can bet that it is on my wish list.

by Isaac Traxler

iWork

When Keynote was originally released, it seemed odd. Keynote was a standalone product but Apple had been grouping things together: Mac OS X, iLife, professional video, and professional audio. This left Keynote and AppleWorks just sort of drifting.

Apple as solved that problem now. Step one was to kill AppleWorks. It is officially dead. Then they upgraded Keynote and introduced Pages.

AppleWorks has had minimal attention for years. The death of AppleWorks is a mixed blessing. It is good that Apple finally killed it rather than not fix it and keep saying that the new version is coming. The downside is that AppleWorks has a lot of potential and provides a lot of features. AppleWorks included page layout, word processing, drawing, spreadsheet and database capabilities.

Clearly Keynote 2 and Pages do not cover all of this realm. Maybe iWorks will grow like iLife has and eventually cover all of these areas.

Keynote 2 seems to following the trend. It gained 20 new themes. It also boasts integration with the iLife applications (almost all the products re-released increased the ease that they interact with the other applications).

| 2005 Meeting Calendar | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| January 20 | iPhoto Introduction | Isaac Traxler | Bluebonnet Library |
| February 18 | TBD | TBA | Bluebonnet Library |
| BRMUG's Meetings at a Glance Send ideas to newsletter@brmug.org . | | | |

Keynote 2 also can create self-running, interactive slideshows. This is perfect for kiosks. Flash export is also supported. Looks like Keynote is just getting better.

Where Keynote provides the functionality of PowerPoint (and then some), Pages is designed to parallel Word. With Word having been accused of being bloated for years, Pages had a lot to accomplish.

First, Pages brought the them idea to page layout. Apple provides 40 templates (we assume that we can create our own). Pages also integrates with the iLife suite for easy importing of music, pictures, and video. Pages fully supports tables, charts and graphs. Pages flows text automatically around images and through templates.

Pages saves in its own format. It imports RTF, AppleWorks and Word documents. It will export to Word, HTML, RTF and PDF.

by Isaac Traxler

Mac Mini

The Mac Mini has already made a big splash. But before we get to the details of the Mac Mini lets look at the past. The original Macintosh was the low cost sibling of the Lisa. As time went by, the Macintosh did not get much cheaper even though the PC clone world did. This led to the Macintosh having a reputation of being expensive.

Apple has periodically tried to address this issue. The past attempts include the IIsi, the LC, the Classic, the Performa line and the iMac line.

The current iMac line is very reasonably priced for what you get. But lately, the cry for the iCheap has resurfaced. Basically, people dreamed of a less expensive iMac/eMac without a display. While you cannot argue with the quality of Apple displays, many people already have serviceable displays and just need a computer.

The Mac Mini meets these desires precisely. It almost sounds like Apple

has been listening. The Mac Mini is similar to the eMac in design and performance without the display or other extras.

The Mac Mini is a small silver box with a slot in the front, and the back is all vents and connectors. In this case, small is 6.5 inches wide by 6.5 inches deep by two inches tall - like a corner out of a new iMac.

Actually, it more closely resembles a PowerBook or an iBook. It has a G4 just like the Books (1.25 GHz for \$499 or 1.42 GHz for \$599). The slot in the front is for the optical drive. The default is a combo drive (DVD-R, CD-RW). For an extra \$100 you can upgrade to a SuperDrive. The 2.5 inch hard drive (laptop style) is 40 GB and 80 GB, respectively (the 40 GB drive can be upgraded to an 80 GB for \$50).

Memory is a single PC 2700 DIMM slot. By default, it has 256 MB of memory. You can upgrade to 512 MB for \$75 (Do it!). The Mac Mini supports up to 1 GB (\$425 extra from Apple).

The back of the machine is loaded with connectors: the outlet for the power brick, jack for 10/100 ethernet, jack for modem, DVI connector for video, 2 USB 2.0 connectors, a FireWire 400 connector and a audio out jack. In spite of its size, the Mac Mini is fully functional with lots of expansion potential. The Mac Mini also has internal slots for AirPort and Bluetooth.

Basically, the Mac Mini is a PowerBook without display or keyboard. By the way, the Mac Mini does not include a keyboard or mouse (I suggest a good USB duo).

While the G5 is the in thing, the G4 has plenty of life (PowerBook, iBook?). Cooling a G5 in the Mini would have been impossible. The Mac Mini is a good second or interim Mac (expect 1-3 years of useful life). This could change a lot of things!

by Isaac Traxler

This Month:
Introduction to iPhoto
 by Isaac Traxler

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 1/2005

Name: _____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

Home Phone: _____

Office Phone: _____

Things the club should do: _____

My interest areas: _____

