



# BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

June 2007

## 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](mailto:info@brmug.org) or check our web page at <http://www.brmug.org/>

### BRMUG Volunteers

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 William Sellers [m2@brmug.org](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@brmug.org). Articles are printed on a space available basis. Submissions are welcome!

The June meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **June 21<sup>st</sup>**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. The meeting will be 6:30 PM at the Bluebonnet Library. Last month we had several folks new to the Macintosh at the meeting and they had a number of questions. In an attempt to address these questions and a number of others, this month BRMUG will present -- *Frequently Asked Questions*. Several of us have looked far and wide to try and collect some good questions and we will provide the best answers we can at the meeting. Please feel free to bring your own questions. Hopefully we can dynamically answer them. The goal of this meeting is help folks new to the Macintosh overcome some of the early hurdles while also trying to answer some of the nagging questions for the long time users. 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	Frequently Asked Questions
8:30 PM	Adjourn to Brewbachers

## Meeting is at Bluebonnet Library!

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

### May Meeting

Glenn Young who has switched to the Macintosh over the last year provided us an excellent cost benefit comparison of Windows and Macintosh. He clearly showed that the Macintosh is very close if not cheaper to own than a Windows machine (comparing a MacBook Pro to an entry level Toshiba laptop). While the MacBook Pro was a higher initial cost, the Windows machine needed money spent on hardware, software and maintenance over a 3 year window to match the MacBook Pro. It also consumed more time ( spent running disk defragmenting and updating anti-virus software). I believe a little more detail might have even made the MacBook Pro an even clearer winner.

Thanks a bunch Glenn. You did an excellent job of making a business case for switching to the Macintosh.

### AAPL

Good news is fun to deliver! Again! At last month's meeting Apple was at just

under \$110. And I was talking about it continuing to go up (with a lot of concern for my mental health).

This month has not disappointed. Apple set a new all time high at \$127.61 and closed today at just over \$125 with a Market Cap of \$108 billion.

Suddenly it does not look unlikely that Apple can eclipse HP's Market Cap of just over \$120 billion. Maybe even Intel's \$140 billion is within sight.

From middle of April to middle of May Apple went up \$20 a share. From middle of May to middle of June Apple has gone up another \$15. That is almost 25% growth in 2 months.

Of course, the end of the month will be very important. When the iPhone

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starts shipping on June 29 we will all be holding our breath. The first 2 weeks of July will be very scary and maybe very exciting.

If you are a gambler at heart, this may be the time to go for it. If the iPhone does decent and nothing else goes wrong, I can easily see Apple go up another \$10-15 a share (15 will put Apple larger than HP).

And rumors indicate Apple may have some other tricks up their sleeves for the next few months. Once again, assuming the iPhone does not tank, and other things keep going along like they have, the future is going to be very, very bright.

### *iPhone News*

While we all wait for June 29 and the debut of the iPhone, Apple has begun talking about it already. They announced today that battery life should be much better than originally forecast (up to 8 hours of talk time...). If this is true, it really makes the early rumors of 30 minutes or less seem silly.

Apple also announced that the top will be optical grade glass, not plastic to prevent scratching. Looks like some upgrades have already happened to try and avoid some of the common iPod complaints.

Apple is even beginning to talk about limited capability for 3rd party software on the iPhone. It would appear that widgets, at least will be supported.

Looks like Apple is listening to the many comments being made and they are trying to find a happy medium between their desires/needs and the demands of the potential customers.

So far, so good. In 2-3 weeks we will know a lot more about whether Apple can make a successful first phone or if they will have to learn the hard way like most of the other vendors.

### *Safari 3.0 Beta*

Without a lot of hype, Apple released a beta of Safari 3.0. You can download it and install it. It replaces your existing version of Safari (uninstalling it with the provided uninstaller returns the current version).

The new version claims to be faster, has tabs that can be dragged (this works great!) and is available for PPC Macs, Intel Macs and Windows. Yes Windows.

Apple announced this last week. At the same time Apple's stock price dropped between \$5 and \$8 last week before returning today. Odd.

Many experts have been quick to point out that Safari seems to work fine on Windows but offers no compelling reason for people to switch to it. That said, over 1 million copies of Safari for Windows were downloaded in the first 48 hours. And remember -- Apple made no big deal about this. There was no previous version to check and say a new one is available (like FireFox has).

Numerous bugs were found almost immediately. Apple released a security/bug fix release within days to resolve most reported issues. Maybe we found where some of those programmers that could have been working on Leopard were moved to?

So why would Apple release Safari for Windows? And right now?

Many say so that developers can start working on applications for iPhone without having to buy a Macintosh (iPhone also uses Safari).

Some say that Apple is hoping to increase the market share of Safari to the point that web developers will design for it (along with IE and FireFox).

Maybe Apple was just trying to make it easier for web developers. Many web developers use Windows systems. Having to stop and go to a Macintosh (if available) to see how there site works on Safari has to significantly reduce testing of web sites with Safari. If Apple makes sure that Windows Safari renders the same way Mac OS X Safari renders, they have made it much easier for Windows web developers to test their sites on Safari. Many web developers already test their sites on IE and FireFox (sometimes Opera also). Adding Safari to this list would make using a Macintosh and Safari a lot easier.

### *MacBook Pro update*

Apple recently updated the Macbook Pro line (just after filling most orders that were placed in advance of the June 30th end of year period).

All models got newer cpu chips and now support a maximum of 4 GB RAM. Graphics were updated also.

The 17" model is available at 2.4 GHz and comes with 1680 x 1050 display 2 GB of RAM, 160 GB 5400 RPM SATA drive, 8x dual layer SuperDrive, NVIDIA GeForce 8600MGT (256 MB), dual link support, and 802.11n wireless for \$2,799.

The 15" now uses a LED backlight (no mercury used) and has a screen resolution of 1440 x 900. It is available

at 2.2 GHz and 2.4 GHz. The 2.4 GHz model is almost identical to the 17" and costs \$2,499 (one less USB port). The 2.2 GHz model includes a 120 GB 5400 RPM SATA drive, and 128 MB of video RAM for \$1999.

These are healthy updates for the MacBook Pro.

### Need a New Printer?

Normally I hate to think about getting a new printer. You really need one (or two -- laser and inkjet). Buying the printer is only the start (toner/ink/...).

Now might be the right time to get a new printer though. Prices seem to be getting very reasonable. As always, I encourage you to consider the cost of consumables in with the price of the printer (a cheap printer with expensive ink is no bargain).

In a perfect world, the printer is fast, produces good output and the ink is cheap enough that you do not mind using the printer.

While the world is not perfect, the printer world is getting a lot closer. On the laser side, monochrome printers are almost cheap. I have been very pleased with Brother laser printers (inexpensive, cheap toner, quiet, fast and small). The Brother HL-2040 (2400 x 600 DPI, 20 PPM, USB) for \$64 after \$25 rebate. Toner cartridges are \$51 for 2500 pages (not so great).

The Brother HL-5250 (refurb) has been as low as \$120 in the last couple of weeks (1200 DPI, 30 PPM, duplex, ethernet, USB). Toner cartridge is \$56 for 7500 pages (this printer rocks).



**BRMUG Mailing Address**  
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For more information call the User Group  
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 e-mail: [info@brmug.org](mailto:info@brmug.org)  
 web: <http://www.brmug.org/>

HP, Samsung and Epson printers have also been available at a nice discount recently. I tend to shy away from Lexmark because of ink/toner prices.

As I said, now looks like a good time to look for a new printer.

*by Isaac Traxler*

### **M-Audio Studio Pro 3**

For the past few years, I have been working on the ideal digital audio studio. The problem has been finding computer speakers to match a quality pair of headphones. Running your audio through a stereo amp with stereo speakers produces unbalanced mixes. Surround sound multimedia speaker systems for computers also makes for a sound that's too weak or too boomy. Using headphones only tends to distort your perception of depth and you also don't get to hear sounds reverberating in a room.

So what is the answer. Well, a pair of balanced near field and self-amplified speakers are what is needed. There are literally dozens of company that make speakers from Genelec down to Samson. The price also varies from several thousand dollars a pair to sixty dollars. Usually quality increases with price, but not always.

I was looking to spend under \$200. That limited my options as most of the better speakers are at least \$400 a pair. I narrowed by choices to M-Audio because they are owned by Digidesign and Avid. Their products are usually reasonably priced and work well with Macs.

The most popular M-Audio speakers are the BX-5a speakers with biamping and a 5 inch woofer. Besides being \$300 new and \$200 refurbished, these speakers are a little loud to place next to your computer. They are perfect for a studio control room.

Therefore, I picked the M-Audio Studio Pro 3 speakers for \$99 at Guitar Center, a licensed Apple dealer by the way. The Studio Pro 3 speakers are 3.5 inch woofer with a 5/8 inch tweeter and a totally clean amp. They have a convenient volume control in front with a headphone and an auxiliary in plug in. M-Audio includes cable to connect the speakers together and to a Mac via the out jack. The power supply on the Studio Pro 3 speakers support 110 and 240 for convenient uses in the U.S. and abroad. There are even slanted speaker stands with audio foam to place the speakers at optimum listening angles.

The first pair I bought had a busted volume control and some wiring issues. I had to bring them back to Guitar Center and got a full refund. A week later I bought a second pair and had them up and working in 5 minutes.

I can only describe the sound as really ac-

<b>2006/7 Meeting Calendar</b>			
June 21	FAQ -- Frequently Asked Questions	Team	Bluebonnet Library
May 17	Tale of a Switcher	Glenn Young	Bluebonnet Library
April 19	Intro to Pages	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
March 15	Airport Extreme & Mac Wireless	John Quebedeaux	Bluebonnet Library
February 15	Inkscape and Vector Graphics	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
January 18	MacWorld Recap	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
December 21	Holiday Gathering	N/A	Brewbachers
November 16	Mac Extras & Gadgets you want!	Everyone	Bluebonnet Library
October 19	iTunes And iTS	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
September 21	Software Choices	William Sellers & Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
August 17	Podcasting 101	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
July 20	GarageBand	Glenn Matherne	Bluebonnet Library
June 15	Backup Up Your Mac	Richard Johnson	Bluebonnet Library
May 18	Accessorize Your Mac	Team	Bluebonnet Library
April 20	Mac OS X Maintenance	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
March 16	Automator	Arne Christiansen	Bluebonnet Library
February 16	Overview of iPhoto	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
January	Buddy, Where did you put the Start Button?	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
BRMUG's Meetings at a Glance Send ideas to <a href="mailto:newsletter@brmug.org">newsletter@brmug.org</a> .			

curate and detailed. The sound bass is tight and clean but not boomy, even with the bass booster on. The treble is clean and chimy, but not ice-pick to the ear drums. Even the mid range is good but not warm or bright. I know some people want to have a boomy bass, but for mixing you need an accurate sound. Of course, M-Audio makes a fine subwoofer to work with the Studio Pro 3. I recommend turning it off when mixing to prevent

thin mixes.

The best part of the M-Audio Studio Pro 3 is that I don't get complaints about being too loud and my ears don't ring anymore from using amps and headphones. At \$99 they are perhaps the best computer speakers to own when you're on a budget or if you need good sound and not boom boom thump thump pow. Not that I'm against that kind of music.

*by Glenn Matherne*

This Month:  
**FAQ -- Frequently Asked Questions**  
 by Team

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](mailto: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 6/2007**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Things the club should do: \_\_\_\_\_

My interest areas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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