



BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

February 2008

News and Views

BRMUG Information

Membership Meetings

Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M. The normal meeting location is the Bluebonnet Library. All members and guests are welcome at the meeting. Following the meeting, an informal gathering at the Bluebonnet Brewbachers usually occurs that all are welcome to participate in.

Planning Meetings

Planning meetings are typically held the Thursday after the regular meeting at 6:30 P.M. at the Bluebonnet Brewbachers. The goal of this meeting is to plan for the future of BRMUG. Officers are expected to attend. Guests are welcome.

About BRMUG

BRMUG provides a web site as its primary mechanism to distribute information to Macintosh users: <http://www.brmug.org>. We provide archives with many of our past newsletters. We have listserv that you can join/read to communicate with other members. You can also contact the BRMUG President -- Isaac Traxler via e-mail (traxler@brmug.org) or phone (225-926-1552).

BRMUG Volunteers

President: Isaac Traxler
Vice President: Glenn Matherne
Treasurer: Don Ballard
Secretary: William Sellers
Member at Large: Richard Johnson

Newsletter Articles

Please submit newsletter articles to newsletter@brmug.org. Submissions that are not commercial in nature are encouraged! Articles are printed on a space available basis.

The February Meeting of BRMUG will be held at the Network Technology Group on February 21st, the third Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. This month, William Sellers will provide a Tour of NTG along with a short talk about Digital Photography. NTG hosting/backup solutions for businesses. NTG took over a very nice facility. It will be neat to see how a professional company hosts services (as opposed to what we do at home). We might also develop a better appreciation of the importance of safe, thorough backups.

NTG is located at the Bon Carre Technology Park (the old Bon Marche Mall) at 7127 Florida Blvd.

Members and guests are welcome. After the meeting, we will have to determine where our social hour will be held.. <http://www.brmug.org/about-brmug.php> has directions and maps

Meeting Agenda:

6:30 PM	Welcome and recent news
7:00 PM	Tour of NTG
7:30 PM	Overview of Digital Photography
8:00 PM	Questions and Answers
8:30 PM	Adjourn for Social Hour

Meeting at NTG! - New Location

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

January Meeting

William Sellers shared a story of a hard drive crash and an example of flaw in his backup/recovery process. Fortunately he had a second backup and was able to recover. He also demonstrated the Mozy backup service.

Lots of discussion about alternate backup answers occurred. Once again, I recommend periodically sending

a copy of your data to somewhere not local. For instance, take one of your backups and periodically send it to a relative on the other side of town, or the other side of the country. If you have a fire having a backup of your data at a remote location. Hurricanes encourage us to desire an out of region relative to take advantage of.

To be a little more obvious, with money you can replace your

Helping Macintosh users more effectively utilize their systems.

computer. You can also replace your software. Your documents might be very hard to replace. The music you have can probably be replaced. But what about your pictures?

With our lives being captured digitally more and more, it is more important than ever to protect and replicate your data.

AAPL

Okay, the last month or so have been bad. AAPL is down to \$122.40 -- a far cry from the high of \$202. But for perspective, it is still 50% higher than it was a year ago. HP's market cap is now \$5 billion more than Apple. For the past couple of weeks the two of the have varied quite a bit with the larger changing frequently. Microsoft's market cap is almost \$90 billion below its peak in the last year.

So, the value is down. From another perspective, that just leaves more room for it to go up.

Baton Rouge Apple Store

Apple is scheduled to open a real Apple Store here in Baton Rouge early next year (March?). A quick Google search will yield all kinds of information. Here is a story the Advocate did: <http://www.theadvocate.com/news/business/12352351.html>. We still have a few months to wait -- but this will be real cool!

New Shuffles

Apple added a 2 GB Shuffle priced at \$69 that will be available soon. The 1 GB Shuffle will remain but will cost \$49.

iTunes Store/American Idol

iTunes Store will be the exclusive source for American Idol performances. You can purchase individual songs for

\$0.99 or you can get the video of a show for \$1.99.

Mac OS X Updates

Numerous updates to Leopard have been released in the last 4-6 weeks. The updates are for the base OS and almost every product. Some of the updates have also been released for Tiger and Panther. Most folks seem to report good results from the upgrade process.

New Mac Web Sites

Several new web sites have come about to help the new switchers. Along with being good for newbies, they have things to offer experienced users.

The newest site I know of is: OS X Help (<http://osxhelp.com>). This one is only a month or so old. They already have quite a number of articles. I have found a few good tips in them. I believe users new to the Macintosh will find their articles very useful.

Another interesting site is My First Mac (<http://www.myfirstmac.com>). This site is not about just the software side, they also talk a lot about the various hardware choices Macintosh users have. It looks like a cool site.

Another place to check out is Macinstruct (<http://www.macinstruct.com>). The site's subtitle is "The place to learn about your Mac." I suggest you give it a look.

RIP Think Secret

The Think Secret web site is now gone. If you remember Apple and Think Secret were involved in a law suit that was recently settled. Part of the settlement was that Think Secret would shutdown. As its end drew near, nothing seemed

unusual until the magic day and since then it simply says "Forbidden -- You don't have permission to access / on this server."

iPhone/Touch Updated

Apple has added a 16 GB iPhone to their product line (along with the 8G). The 16 GB iPhone is \$499 (\$100 more). The iPod Touch has added a 32 GB model (now in 8, 16 and 32 GB). The iPod Touch are \$299, \$399 and \$499.

MacBook Air Progress

Lots of folks have received there MacBook Air laptops and the news seems to be pretty good. Most folks are very happy with them. A few comparisons between the hard drive and solid state MacBook Air have been published. So far it looks like Apple may have another hit on their hands.

DVD Format War over

Toshiba formally announced the end of HD-DVD leaving BluRay as the winner. While this announcement has seemed imminent for a month or so, looking back 3 or 4 months ago it



BRMUG Mailing Address
 5261 Highland Road #202
 Baton Rouge, LA 70808
 For more information contact the User Group President, Isaac Traxler:
 e-mail: president@brmug.org
 web: <http://www.brmug.org/>

seems very odd. As little as 6 months ago BluRay was dead and it seemed we were just waiting for the announcement. The next 2-3 months did not seem to change the balance much at all. And a couple months ago, the tide started turning and in an incredibly short period of time HD-DVD went from apparent winner to no longer available.

What Next?

The goal of BRMUG is to help Macintosh users more effectively utilize their systems (our motto). Unfortunately, it is not always easy to figure out how to best do that.

We have tried to pick some standard meeting topics that we repeat each year along with a mixture of one-off meetings.

Appealing to switchers is something that we could focus on. This does provide us quite a number of standard topics we could do (Intro to Mac OS X, Safari Revealed, iTunes 101, iPhoto and you Digital Life, ...).

Some of these are already in our mix. But if we focus too much on people new to the Macintosh we risk not offering anything for the experienced Mac user. We need these people so that we can all benefit from their experience.

Of course, when we do a meeting aimed at the experienced user it often overwhelms a beginner.

The balance is very hard to maintain. In addition, after doing this for years, obvious ideas for new meetings just do not occur to us very often.

We include a list of the last dozen or so meeting topics in every newsletter so that folks can get a feel for where we have been over the last year.

Please take a look at the list and do some brainstorming on what we

2007/2008 Meeting Calendar			
February 21	NTG Tour	William Sellers	NTG
January 17	Backup	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
December 20	Holiday Gathering	N/A	Brewbachers
November 15	Leopard Introduction	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
October 18	Laptop Essentials	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
September 20	Podcasting 102	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
August 16	Garage Band Overview	Glenn Matherne	Bluebonnet Library
July 19	iPhone Mania	Don Ballard & William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
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 & William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library

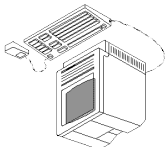
should do differently. It may take a while to put a new topic together but we will gladly see what we can do.

Suggestions are very welcome. Right now the library does not have Internet access available to us. This does limit what we can do and how we can approach things quite a bit. The library system has started the process of

adding wireless to the branches but because of cost it will be a while before all the branches have wireless.

We do have challenges when planning and implementing meeting topics. But please send us some inspiration (Arne -- your suggestion is on the queue). Help BRMUG help you -- send us your ideas.

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This Month:
NTG Tour
by William Sellers

Hiroshima 45
Chernobyl 86
Windows 95

Computers and air conditioners both
work fine until you open windows.

**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 02/2008

Name: _____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

E-mail Address: _____

Join BRMUG Mailing list: YES NO

Phone: _____

Things BRMUG should do: _____

My interest areas: _____