



BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

June 2008

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 June Meeting of BRMUG will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **June 19th**, the third Thursday of the month, at 6:30

P.M. This month, *Glenn Matherne and William Sellers* will present **GarageBand 08**. When Apple released GarageBand people were surprised. It did not seem to fit with the other Apple software. Time has taught us different. GarageBand is an entry level application for producing sound recordings in the same way that an iMovie provides a method to produce home movies. GarageBand has everything a small band would need to produce an audition tape or an entire album. It is not advanced enough to run a recording studio, but it is an excellent place for the hobbyist to start.

GarageBand uses software and the amazing power built into modern Macintoshes to reproduce most functions of a recording studio in a limited manner. Glenn and William have long been interested in playing music, recording sessions, and producing virtual sessions from individual tracks. Both have used numerous products over the years. While GarageBand is not perfect for all things, it is a great tool for a lot of the needs a beginner has. I am sure Glenn and William will do a good job of showing the strengths of GarageBand as well as pointing out the places it does fit.

I know that Glenn and William are planning to bring some musical instruments and actually demonstrate using GarageBand. This should be a neat meeting! Hope to see you there.

Members and guests are welcome. After the meeting, we will have our normal Social Hour at Brewbachers. <http://www.brmug.org/about-brmug.php> has directions and maps

Meeting Agenda:

6:30 PM	Welcome and recent news
7:00 PM	GarageBand 08
8:00 PM	Questions and Answers
8:30 PM	Adjourn to Brewbachers

Meeting at Bluebonnet Library!

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

Helping Macintosh users more effectively utilize their systems.

May Meeting

Stormy weather was with again for the May meeting. A lot of discussion about Apple and what just happened and what was likely to happen occurred. After that William and I demonstrated using iChat's screen sharing feature. This is an amazing tool. It basically has all the capability of Apple Remote Desktop once the connection is established (which works without a hitch until live demos start). In spite of a slight delay getting sharing going, we were able to demonstrate the process (several times) and show the real value as a tech support solution or as a simple collaboration tool. I knew there was a reason I stuck with iChat over Adium...

AAPL

Like normal, Apple stock prices have been an up and down thing. They looked really good in anticipation of announcements at WWDC. As in May, AAPL topped out at just under \$190. Currently it is just under \$177 with a Market Cap of \$155 billion.

The drop seems related to two factors. The new iPhone 3G is significantly lower priced and does not include payments to Apple from the service carriers. Wall Street is concerned if this new lower price model will provide adequate revenue for Apple. During the WWDC Keynote, Steve Jobs seemed slimmer than recent past and looked a little pale. Speculation has varied from his death is due any minute to he was just a little under the weather. Apple has not commented of course. Realistically, it makes sense that sooner or later he will be sick during one of the periodic keynote addresses he gives.

Regardless, AAPL is still rather healthy with all indications that it could hit \$200 by end of summer. Of course it could also drop by then.

iPhone 3G

The new iPhone is faster, thinner, cheaper and has lots of new software features. Sounds perfect!

The new iPhone supports 3G cellular networks (faster transfer speeds). The new iPhone uses GPS and cell tower triangulation to determine location.

The Application Store is coming (and with it all kinds of magic software for the iPhone -- apparently). Microsoft Exchange support is now included. The latest version of iPhone software also supports encrypted networks (works at LSU finally).

The new iPhone will be available July 11 for \$199 (8GB) and \$299 (16 GB). Maybe the new iPhone will sell 10 million units in a year. The new features and the lower initial price sure look attractive.

GarageBand '08

This month's review is the traveling band's best friend, Garageband '08. Steve Jobs calls Garageband a digital sketch pad for musicians. I would agree that it is a great tool to do demos and professional enough to do a who album on for garage musicians and bands on a budget.

Garageband '08 is the latest incarnation of the much beloved audio portion of the ever popular Apple iLife suite. It features a few new features and tweaks to peak most enthusiasts' curiosity and a few quirks to annoy even the most dedicated Applephile. The question is whether it's worth the \$79 to upgrade from Garageband '06 or wait for a really big update.

Among the new features is the Magic Garageband, an enhancement not unlike Magic DVD, perhaps. Well, yes and no. It does make a quickie music track with instruments, but no you don't work with your raw material. Instead, it's more like the popular Band-In-A-

Box software, where you take a canned song and pick the instruments that play pre-planned tracks in the song. For example, if you select Blues, you can choose harmonica, piano, organ, bass, slide guitar and variations of these instruments in an ensemble to perform a song riff or even a few bars. Unfortunately, you can't change the key, the tempo or even play along. The completed song is exported to Garageband where you can play along or tweak your exported song. Unlike Band-In-A-Box, the canned instruments are too stiff sounding and definitely not tweak-able. I would like to be able to import popular songs to take apart and learn how to play. Maybe just to be able to import sheet music or tabs to liven up the Magic Band in Magic Garageband. ...Needs some work.

I ran Garageband through my usual test on bass and electric guitar and imported a few loops to compliment the modest assortment of instrument loops. All along the way, I kept experiencing weird mouse actions on the control panels and check boxes in several portions of Garageband. This also occurred on other Macs besides mine. Most annoying is the intermittent inability to drag loops from the loop



BRMUG Mailing Address

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For more information contact the User Group President, Isaac Traxler:
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browser to make tracks in my songs or to make quick edits. This could be a systemic problem as it started after I updated to 10.4.11.

What I did like is the ability to tweak each track. Yes, in other incarnations of Garageband, you could pan and adjust volume for each track. Now, you can select add automation and this enables you to fine tune every effect on every track to your satisfaction. This means that you can really make each instrument on each track sound the way you want. In a word, cool.

Garageband now features a master track control. This means now you can fade in and out the whole song at once, instead of fading each and every track by hand. You can also use this master control to change the volume of the song. Although I would recommend setting up auto normalize in preferences to keep from over doing the loudness in a song.

As expected there are a few new ambiance effects in the master control on the right. It seems that Apple wanted us to make movie audio tricks and other reverb and delay effects, that are kind of interesting for special effects, but still off the beaten path. I would prefer more guitar pedal effects and amp modeling not unlike those of Line 6's Pod series. However, ambiance control is a nice touch.

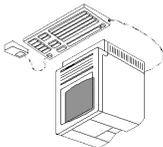
A new feature is the ability to export to multiple sources. You can export to iTunes, create ring tones for iTunes, export to podcasts and burn direct to CD. This means you don't have to export to iTunes to make a master CD, although you might to preview a whole album. I kind of like the ability to make ring tones from my music experiments. Too bad, I don't own an iPhone, yet.

All in all, Garageband '08 is a fairly significant upgrade and an essential part of iLife '08. Despite its quirks, which are probably caused by the OS, it is perfectly usable and effective. Look out neighbors, I'm armed and dangerous....Just kidding Homeland Security Guys.

by Glenn Matherne

2007/8 Meeting Calendar			
June 19	GarageBand 08	Glenn Matherne & William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
May 15	iChat Screen Sharing	Isaac Traxler & William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
April 17	iPhoto Intro	William Sellers	Bluebonnet Library
March 20	iTunes Intro	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
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

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This Month:
GarageBand 08
 by Glenn Matherne and 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 06/2008

Name: _____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode

E-mail Address: _____

Join BRMUG Mailing list: **YES NO**

Phone: _____

Things BRMUG should do: _____

My interest areas: _____

