BRMUG

Baton Rouge Macintosh User Group

News and Views

May 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*
Glenn Matherne *vp@brmug.org*
Don Ballard *treasurer@brmug.org*
Don Ballard *sec@brmug.org*
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 May meeting will be held at the **Bluebonnet Library** on **May 20ᵗʰ**, the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 P.M. This month's presentation will be an **Introduction to iMovie** by Isaac Traxler. Mac OS X and the Macintosh continue to grow as the digital hub of your life. iMovie was one of the first steps Apple took in this direction. iMovie is an application that allows users to easily download video from a DV camera, organize and edit the video clips and produce movies. This month I will try to give you an indication of what it is like to get started with iMovie. 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 Agenda	
6:30 PM	Welcome, Apple News
6:45 PM	Feature Presentation
7:45 PM	Questions and Answers
8:30 PM	Meeting ends

Meeting is at Bluebonnet Library!
Visit http://www.brmug.org/next-meeting.html for more information.

April Meeting

The April Meeting was called "Places You Should Know About." Don Ballard and I showed a wealth of places to llok on your Macintosh and on the Internet to find useful information about the Macintosh, Mac OS X, and Apple. I hope you learned a few things and enjoyed the meeting!

AAPL

Apple stock ahs seen another month go by and the price has been relatively stable. Throughout the month the price has stayed in the $26 to $28 range ending last week at just over $27. After a good month previously, with no significant news Apple stock weathered a month with several good pieces of news pretty much unscathed. Once again, Wall Street manages to impress me with their unpredictability.

PowerBooks Updated

After a long run without updates, the PowerBook line got some attention from Apple engineering.

Speeds are now 1.33 GHz for the 12" and Combo 15". The 15" SuperDrive model and the 17" are now boosted to 1.5 GHz. SuperDrives are now up to 4x. Prices are the same before upgrades.

iBook Updated

Apple also revamped the iBook line boosting processors to 1 and 1.2 GHz G4s. the 14" model is available with a SuperDrive now.

iPod Mini

The press attacked Apple when they announced the iPod Mini saying the new product was not very impressive and over-priced (worse than the storm of complaints the original iPod generated). The iPod Mini has had some minor hiccups and production has been lower than expected according to Apple. Of course this should not have mattered for an over-priced, under-featured product like the new iPod Mini (if you believe the press). As it turns out, this has mattered supremely. Nobody can get enough iPod Minis. They are still selling as fast as they show up. Current production is being slowed because Apple cannot get enough of the 4 GB hard drives. I guess we can continue to hope the press continues to judge new Apple products as "inadequate.".

Final Cut Pro HD

iMovie's big brother just grew up some more. Final Cut Pro now edits High Definition Video. And the price has not changed! It also supports multiple people editing the same HD project simultaneously over the new Apple Xsan (Apple's new Storage Area Network filesystem). This update makes it possible for a much larger audience to do 100% of their video production from camera to final product on a Macintosh. Apple is quickly eliminating an entire ultra-expensive industry with their video and audio product line.

Apple Announces Xsan

Apple has been shipping the Xserve for a while now (a disk drive subsytem that can be attached to computer systems when large amounts of reliable, high-speed disk is needed). The large amout of disk that the Xserve makes available to Mac OS X starts to push at the OS limits. Apple has finally addressed this issue. Xsan is an enhanced file system for Mac OS X that allows files up to 16 TB to be created. In addition, Xsan allows multiple drives/Xserves to be glued together to appear as a single disk resource (important when users are working with lots of 16 TB files). Xsan supports up to 64 computers sharing the

disk simultaneously. While this product means nothing (right now) to the home user, this will become a pivotal product in Apple's efforts to take over the video production market. And at $999, this product is very inexpensive compared to the competiton.

Apple Announces Motion

Adding to its professional video product line, Apple announced Motion. Motion allows editors to add full motion graphics to video. Motion integrates totally with Final Cut Pro and iDVD Pro. I am beginning ot think havin Steve Jobs at Pixar and Apple is a really good thing.

Apple Updates iTunes

With the release of iTunes 4.5, Apple has added a lot of new features. The new version was accompanied with a period daily free song downloads. This led to Apple selling and downloadin 3.3 million songs in a single week (maybe they will figure out a way to make money from the iTMS).

iTMS Issues

It seems the record industry is finally taking notice of the iTunes Music Store. Even though retail sales of CDs are down, total music sales are up over the same quarter last year. While this seems like good news, the record industry is not seeing the profit increase they would expect from the upturn in music sales. When Apple first started the iTMS, it seemed like a simple idea that might fill a ninche market (how the world always views Apple products). Since its introduction, iTMS has remained the most successful online music service. Its pricing model has been copied (with minor increases in many places) by most of the new online music stores. The record companies are announcing that $).99 is not an adequate price for a song and wat the price raised. So far Apple is refusing. Support Apple and let the music industry know what you think.

iTMS New Plan

Apple understands their reliance on the big music companies. But they seem to know stuff the companies don't. Steve Jobs happens to like some music that is obscure and out of print. In recent months, iTMS has been approaching comapnies and offering to sell "out of print" music. For example, Motown says that 90% of their catalog is not currently

available for sale on any media. Apple is hoping that music companies will decide to make their idle songs available to iTMS. Since iTMS needs only to store a single copy of the song, the information about it and sales records, adding a new song is very easy and inexpensive. Apple is hoping the desire for profit will cause the music companies to list their full catalogs with iTMS. This makes money for the record companies for almost no effort (producing an accpetable master). It makes iTMS more attractive because it will have more choices than other services (hence be more likely to have just what you want). Apple seems to understand a lot more about the music industry than anyone thought. They may not single-handedly save the music industry but they sure are giving it new ideas to think about.

iBook/PowerBook Debate

The debate over whether you should get an iBook or a PowerBook has once again surfaced. The upgrade of iBooks to G4s took a lot of the performance advantage the PowerBook had away. The Power Book is still faster (1.33-1.5 GHz vs 1-1.2 GHz). Beyond the 12" models, the PowerBook 15" is larger than the iBook 14", not to mention the 17" dream. Video cards are much better in the PowerBooks. In particular, iBooks only mirror video (fine for use with overheads or desktop monitors). PowerBooks allow spanning (having the interanl screen and the external screen dispaly different things at the same time). Spanning is a huge adavantage (many studies exist to show the advantages of multi-monitor use).

2004 Meeting Calendar

January 15	Annual Game Review	John Quebedeaux	Bluebonnet Library
February 19	iTunes, iTMS, and Music	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
March 18	Adobe Illustrator	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
April 15	Places You Should Know About	Don Ballard, Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
May 20	Introduction to iMovie	Isaac Traxler	Bluebonnet Library
June 17	iCal/AddressBook	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
July 15	Networking Macs	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
August 19	Mac OS X Hints	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
September 16	Safari Customization	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
October 21	iDVD	TBA	Bluebonnet Library
November 18	Keynote	Don Ballard	Bluebonnet Library
December 16	Holiday Gathering	Everybody	Brewbachers

Tentative Meeting Topics
Send ideas to *newsletter@brmug.org*.

PowerBooks also support more memory when maxed out.

PowerBooks include a PCMCIA slot and iBooks do not. PowerBooks weigh just a little less than iBooks and typically have much better quality displays. Most people find the look of the metal PowerBook much more appealing than the while finish of the iBook. PowerBooks also include the lit keys for working in low-light settings.

As you can see, the two products have a lot in common but they also have a number of features to distinguish them. High-end work clearly goes to the PowerBook. Starting at $500 less, the iBook wins if price is the dominant consideration. In between becomes a trade-off between features and price. For what it is worth, iBook sales have picked up a lot.

WWDC - June 28-July 2
WWDC looks like it may be as interesting for Mac users as for Mac Developers. Steve Jobs will give the keynote speech (no big surprise). Included in the keynote will be a preview of "Tiger" -- the next major relase of Mac OS X. Expect Tiger

to have its major features locked by this date with only bug fixes remaining. This bodes well for an August/September release of the next version of Mac OS X (start saving now -- Apple will probably want another $129).

Microsoft Releases Office 2004
Microsoft has released a new version of Office for the Macintosh (the professional version including Virtual PC is still delayed). An educational version for students and teachers (without VPC) is available for $149. Microsoft claims many new features and much better integration with Mac OS X. Visit *http://mactopia.com* for more information. Macintouch already has a special report up from early adopters of the new Office (*http://www.macintouch.com*).

Digital Cameras
If you have not looked at Digital Cameras in a while, it is time to start looking again. 3 MegaPixel

cameras with 3X optical zoom are below $200. 5 MP with 3X are below $300. 4 MP cameras are falling also. 6X and 10X optical zoom cameras are also coming down. It looks like the next few months may be the time to buy!

This Old Mac
Last month, the Matherne family received its tenth old Macintosh from a Mac user migrating to the great Windows XP beyond. Why, I'll never understand. He gave use a mint condition Performa 575 with original shipping crate, manuals and StyleWriter II printer. Of course, he threw in the some software like AfterDark, Lotus 1-2-3 for Mac, Delta Graphics and a few video games for original Macs. There must have been an SE or MacPlus lurking in his past. System 4 and 5 software doesn't work on a Performa 575.

The Performa 575 is best described as a Quadra 605 in an all-in-one package like the Performa 630. This package includes a 265 meg hard drive, a 14 inch Sony Trinitron monitor, built-in speakers, built-in microphone, floppy drive and a 2x CD-rom drive. You can add a zip, CD-RW drive and external hard drive via the SCSI interface. Unlike later Performas like the infamous 5200 and 5300 series, the 575 does have SCSI termination and is very stable. It is in some aspects an early precursor to the iMac.
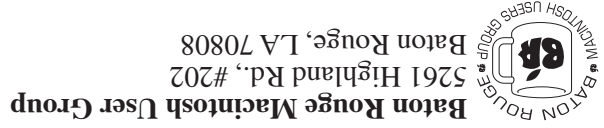
That said, under the hood, the 575 is a real champ. It features a 25 mhz 60040 processor. This means that you can upgrade the OS to Mac Os 8.1. I recommend Mac OS 7.1 for speed and stability. There are a few issues with Mac OS 7.5 and Mac OS 8.1 eats up 75 percent the hard drive space and memory. With only one ram slot, you can upgrade to 32 megs of SIMM memory, 64 megs with certain SIMMs.

So, how does it stack up? To fully appreciate this machine, you need to do a few tweaks, such as intalling Connectex Ram-Doubler and Optimem Ram Charger to maximize your 32 megs of ram and enable cooperative memory sharing. You can add shareware applications to enable Mac OS 7.5 drop and drag and desktop clocks and desktop backgrounds.

I found that it was very usable for the internet with Internet Explorer 4 and Eudora. It won't work very well as a hi-speed multimedia streamer, but fetches email nicely. I'm not ready to watch tv on the web, yet.

All in all, it was a pleasant experience to warp back in time to a Mac that was rock solid on a rock solid OS, unlike some versions of Jaguar and Panther on G4s and G5s. I appreciated the fine design and simplicity of the finder and ease of backup. Apple needs to get back the integrity and simple grace of its early lines.

by Glenn Matherne

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 5/2004

Name:
_____

Address: Street, City, State, ZipCode
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_____

Home Phone:
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Office Phone:

Things the club should do:
_____

My interest areas:
_____
_____
_____

Hiroshima 45
Chernobyl 86
Windows 95

This Month:
Introduction to iMovie
by Isaac Traxler

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