



A registered Apple Macintosh User Group  
May 2005~ Still only \$2.00



## Next Meeting May 18, 7:00 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at p.m. at Joseph Lane Middle School, 2153 NE Vine, Roseburg, Oregon. (Go to the front door and look for signs leading you to room #8.) Experienced and new computer users are welcome!

## Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Introduction of members and guests
3. Questions and Answers
4. Program: This month we are privileged to have Chris Kliz (Apple's Mug Ambassador), from Grants Pass, demonstrate Tiger (the new operating system from Apple) and give us information about MacCamp. She also will tell us about the upcoming Rogue Valley Mac Exposé '05

## Special Event

We are planning on having dinner (a bite or two) with her, at Elmer's (on the 18th), at 5:45 P.M. Feel free to join us and get

*Continued on Page 2...*

## April ABCC Meeting Featured G-Mail Program

The April meeting of the Apple Blossom Computer Club featured a presentation by Phil Bowser about Google's trial balloon email system. Although still in Beta, the feature seems to be very stable and full of features. Google's take on email is that saving mail in file folders requires the user to remember where the mail was placed. Did I put that letter from Mom into "Family" or "Holiday Planning" or "4th of July" or "Misc."? Why not just keep all your mail in one big pile on Google's computers and let the powerful search engine dig through it for you?



To accomplish this, Google had to up the user's storage space from the measly megabyte offered by other web-based mail services to 2 gigabytes. (Other mail providers quickly increased storage size as a result!) They also limited the number of users while in beta. You need to get an invitation from a current G-mail user before you can get in. (There are web sites that scoop up unused invitations and make them available to anybody who asks for free.)

Google then sorts your mail according to topics and stacks them in "conversations" so you can follow the email discussion more simply. The system currently supports:

- Microsoft IE 5.5+
- Netscape 7.1+
- Mozilla 1.4+
- Mozilla Firefox 0.8+
- Safari 1.2.1+

Plus, others will work partially with Gmail's basic HTML view, such as Microsoft IE 4.0+, Netscape 4.07+, and Opera 6.03+.



*Here Phil Bowser studies G-Mail in preparation for his show at the ABCC meeting. Other club members can have fun like this. Just volunteer to show us what you have learned about your computer!*

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc., registered Macintosh and Apple II family user group. The ABCC publishes *The RoseByter* newsletter monthly which is posted to each paid up member and reciprocating user groups. ABCC participates in user group newsletter content exchange. The ABCC also maintains a WWW site at:

<http://www.abccmug.org>  
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## Membership

Just \$20/year! Mail a check along with your name, address and phone number to:

ABCC  
 PO Box 638  
 Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

### President & Web Master

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[brownfox@ramcell.net](mailto:brownfox@ramcell.net)

### Treasurer

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### AOL User Group Rep

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Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Philip Bowser, at [pbowser@mac.com](mailto:pbowser@mac.com). Plain text files are preferred, sent within the body of an email message or as an attachment. Photos, illustrations, and documents in excess of 2 megabytes should be mailed on a CD to:

427 NE Winchester Street  
 Roseburg, OR 97470

Please understand that not all materials submitted will be accepted for publication and those that are will likely be edited.

# Australian Imaging Firm To Use Apple Xserves and QuickTime

Australian firm, AstroVision, plans to launch a satellite to observe the earth in 2008, providing the first live, continuous, high resolution, true color motion imagery from space. The company will use Apple Computer's Xserves arrayed into a supercomputer to process the downloaded data. Since they regard Apple's QuickTime as a worldwide standard, they plan to distribute images to governments, education centers, private sectors and consumer markets.



*Image from the AstroVision website*

The satellite will park in a stationary orbit about 36,000km above the equator so the same image will be continuously displayed. Placing the satellite near 130° East Longitude should provide 24-hour coverage from India to just west of Hawaii. Ground control will command the satellite, and receive, process, and archive the imagery. This data will likely be used to monitor weather, natural disasters, reduce fire and hail damage, improve coastal surveillance, spot aviation and maritime navigational hazards, and improve electrical energy forecasting.

*from mac news network at  
[www.macnn.com](http://www.macnn.com)*



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*... "Next Meeting" from page 1*

to know Chris on a personal level. RSVP to Bernie if you plan to eat so we have a head count for the restaurant.

## Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash	\$1,609.44
Income:	
Dues	80.00
Interest	.51
Expenses:	
Newsletter	26.64
Ending balance	\$1,663.31

*Jim McClellan,  
 Treasurer*

# Electrical Storms and Printer Problems

by  
Phil Bowser



Example #1

It was a dark and stormy night. Lightning flashed all around and the thunder rolled through the valley. Late at night, there I sat typing on my Mac, hoping against hope I would beat my deadline. Despite the crackling electricity in the air, I ignored the effect high voltages could have on various integrated circuits because I trusted my multiple lightening arrestors and the back-up battery system. There was another loud thunderclap, and all the lights went out.

Darkness surrounded me. All except for the light from my screen, and the light-emitting diodes on my computer and the battery, which kicked in as expected. I knew I had a few minutes to spare, so I kept on working through the screeching warning alarm. Shortly thereafter, the lights

came on, my equipment returned to sipping alternating current, and I set about dismissing several dialogue boxes that told me that my external drives had not been shut down properly. I restarted the printers. All was well.



Example #2

Until I tried to print a color image. It turned out way too blue. (See example #1.) I double-checked my settings and tried again. Still too blue! Had my color printer been zapped?

Clearly, it's time to run the Epson *Printer Utility* that came with the printer. There was an option to check the nozzles, so I ran that and obtained the print-out you see in example #2. But of course, there was nothing to which to compare, so at first I wasn't quite sure what to make of it. Closer inspection revealed a gap and some extended lines that suggested something was missing.



Example #3

Let's launch the *Clean Nozzles* option, shall we? The printer hummed and shook for a couple of minutes and then stopped. I ran the *Nozzle Check* again and voilà! (Yes, I know the official ABCC spelling is "walla." It's late and I'm feeling a bit wild...) Clean nozzles! (See example #3.) I tried printing in color again, and received the full-colored image you see in example #4.



Example #4

So, the next time your color prints look particularly off, try cleaning your nozzles!

[Phil hopes that other ABCC members will share their adventures in Mac Land. Even a small discovery, such as the one described above, could provide the cure for a major headache for one of your comrades! Send your musings to him at [pbowser@mac.com](mailto:pbowser@mac.com).]

# Mac 911 Help Desk

## By Christopher Breen

### Subpar Service

I want to highlight text in an application, choose Send Selection from that program's Services menu, and watch as a new message opens in Apple's Mail with the selected text ready to send. Instead, the Mail application window comes to the fore, but the message with the selected text does not. Is there a solution for this problem?—Larry Singer

Look at the goal rather than the tool. The Send Selection service is an inadequate tool not only because it doesn't bring a new e-mail message to the fore, but also because it works only with Apple's Mail. When I want to mail a chunk of text automatically, I use Script Software's \$30 macro utility, iKey. It gets the job (and any number of other jobs) done, and it does so with any e-mail client you want to use.

Incredible as it may seem, clicking on Sherlock's Movie Information for a link may be the only way to view movie trailers in Sherlock.

With iKey, I created a macro for copying text to an e-mail message; the macro copies the selected text, launches my e-mail program, hides other applications to ensure that the e-mail client is the foremost app, creates a new message, and pastes the copied text into the message body.

### Multilingual Mac

I want to use Mail's Autocorrect spelling feature in French but keep the Finder in English. Can I apply language preferences individually to

Apple's applications?—Eric Maillard

By default, no. You can, however, choose a different spelling checker and use it to check your text. I suggest the free CocoASpell, Kevin Atkinson's Mac OS X implementation of the popular open-source spelling checker. After installing CocoASpell and its supplemental French dictionary, you can ask it to use that dictionary in any OS X application that uses Apple's spelling checker (including Mail).

This requires some configuring. For example, when you type *le singe est dans l'arbre* ("The monkey is in the tree"), Mail signals its ignorance of the whereabouts of *le singe* by placing a red line under *l'arbre*. Simply control-click on the underline, choose Spelling from the resulting contextual menu, and choose Française (ASpell) from the Dictionary pop-up menu. Mail will then come to grips with the fact that *le singe* has made himself at home in a nearby tree. For finer control—such as a French-Canadian dictionary and the ability to assign particular dictionaries to specific applications—try Rainmaker Research's \$40 Spell Catcher X.

### Finding Sherlock's Movies

Sherlock's Movies channel has stopped downloading trailers. I've trashed the `com.apple.Sherlock.plist` file in the hope that this would help. It didn't. Do you have a hint?—Paul Miller

Yours is a two-part problem. Sometimes movie previews don't load because of a failure on Apple's end. In such cases, you can wait until Apple fixes it, or you can simply

click on Sherlock's Movie Information For link, which will whisk you to the Moviefone site, where you can view the trailer (See screenshot). If Apple has managed to get the feature working again, vaporize not only that `.plist` file (found at your user folder/ Library/Preferences), but also Sherlock's cache folder (your user folder/ Library/Caches/ Sherlock). If that doesn't work, create a new user account, switch to that account, copy its `com.apple.Sherlock.plist` file and Sherlock cache folder to the root level of your hard drive, switch back to your primary account, and replace that user's files with the ones from the account you just created.

### Phoning It In

When I used FileMaker Pro on a Power Mac 8600, I could develop and run a script that dialed the phone. FileMaker 6 and 7 lack this functionality. Can I get it back?—Bob Coffield

OS X doesn't support the Dial Phone script step. All is not lost, however. Automated Workflows' \$15 Dial Phone From X, an AppleScript-based program, can dial the phone from applications including Address Book, Microsoft Excel, and FileMaker, with the assistance of Macron Soft's \$12 ABDialer 2. Quite a Character

*Professional technology writer, Christopher Breen supports user groups by allowing us to print his help column free of charge. If you need a technical book, consider one written by Chris as a "thank you."*

# Stolen Credit Card Numbers and Companies with a Clue

by Adam C. Engst  
<ace@tidbits.com>

Credit card number theft is one of those events that seems to happen only to other people... until it hits you. That just happened to me, and the repercussions proved a bit more instructive and far-reaching than I would have initially anticipated.

**Awkward Dating** -- The first hint that something was wrong came when Tonya was reviewing the charges on the MasterCard we use solely for business purchases. There was a \$19.95 charge to something related to Yahoo, but it wasn't possible to tell exactly what service from the limited information on the credit card statement. Tonya knew she hadn't ordered anything online that could have generated such a charge, and when she asked me, I couldn't remember anything either. To verify that I wasn't simply losing my memory, I searched all my received email around the date in question, and even went so far as to search my OmniWeb history for Yahoo URLs around the date.

The situation was becoming more curious, so Tonya called the phone number on the credit card statement, and waited on hold for a while. As she waited, she realized that what she had called was Yahoo Personals - Yahoo's online dating service. She immediately yelled for me to get on the phone, figuring that the whole situation was just going to generate snickers

for the customer service people if they heard a wife calling to find out about a dating service charge on her husband's credit card. I was good and refrained from making jokes about how I didn't even get any dates from Yahoo Personals once the customer service people came on the line.

<<http://personals.yahoo.com/>>

Eventually we got them to tell us that the Yahoo Personals account did indeed have the same user name as my My Yahoo account (I immediately changed that account's password, just for good measure), but that the birth date listed with the Yahoo Personals account



did not match either of our birth dates. That was sufficient for them to cancel the account and refund our money.

**Cleaning Up from Cancellation** -- The Yahoo Personals customer service rep recommended that we cancel the credit card used, which we were already planning as the next call. Our credit card issuer was totally on top of it, cancelling the card and issuing us another one before we'd even had a chance to explain the full situation. Tonya keeps records of merchants that are automatically withdrawing from that credit card, so next she reset all of those accounts. The morning was shot, but it seemed that we were out of the woods. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be.

A few days later, Tristan and I were out driving when I remem-

bered that our other car likely had a flat tire due to a slow leak I'd been monitoring. That normally wouldn't have been an issue, but Tonya had an appointment before we would be home, and I wanted to alert her to blow up the tire and to remember her cell phone in case she needed me to come change the tire while she was out. In New York State, it's illegal to drive while talking on a cell phone unless you're using a hands-free system, so I pressed the speed-dial number for home and handed Tristan the phone so he could give her the message. A few seconds later he gave me back the phone, saying "It's being weird." I pulled over and listened, and indeed, I'd somehow ended up with Verizon Wireless customer service. I hung up and tried again, and got them again. This time I waited until I could talk to a person, who promptly informed me that they had disabled our service because the monthly bill had been rejected by our credit card - apparently one auto-withdrawal had slipped past Tonya's record keeping. Luckily, I was able to use another phone later to walk Tonya through inflating the tire, but the credit card fraud was increasing in annoyance.

The next week Tonya managed to get the account reinstated, and protested sufficiently vehemently when Verizon Wireless tried to charge a \$15 fee for doing so that they waived the charge. She pointed out that it would have been trivial for them to notify us via voicemail or text messaging that our auto-withdrawal had failed, but needless to say, the customer service drone couldn't do anything but forward the feedback (if even that).

That wasn't the end of the

*Continued on page 7...*

# Using Skype as a Community Media Production Tool

## by Phil Shapiro

Skype was created as a no-cost long-distance phone service. It does that very well. What it also allows you to do, if you're just a little technically-minded and have a homebrew gene or two, is to record your Skype phone conversation, with the other person's permission, to an audio file on a second computer. Once you've recorded the audio, you can edit out the uhms, ahs and pauses, compress the audio and then place it on the web for public consumption.

I've been doing some experiments recording Skype interviews and am writing this article to pass along some tips and pointers. If you'd like to see the results of a Skype interview, see this QuickTime segment of an interview with Taran Rampersad of Trinidad & Tobago. (<http://www.writersforliteracy.org/taran5acv.mov>)

I used the Windows version of Skype for these, as the Mac version was not yet finished. I used an audio splitter on the headphones jack of my Windows computer to split the audio to my headset and then into my iBook. I had a second iBook on hand to record local audio. (i.e. Me. I ran the audio line into an iMic and used SoundStudio shareware recording software to record straight to hard drive. Here is what I learned:

Editing out the uhms and ahs from a recorded interview is time-consuming, but worthwhile. After spending some time working on the interview with Taran Rampersad I asked Taran if he could assist me. I sent him some of the files as uncompressed wav files that he could edit using Audacity open source audio software. (<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>) Since the files were large, I used the free service called <http://yousendit.com>

I also learned a few other things. If the person you're interviewing has their microphone too close to their mouth, the audio sounds overdriven. It's fine to ask them to move their microphone a bit further away from their mouth. When doing an interview of this type, it's perfectly fine to start a segment of the interview over, if either the interviewer or interviewee is not happy with how a segment of the interview progressed.

When the interview is collaborative in style, it's possible for the interviewer to ask the interviewee if there is anything else that ought to be covered. The interviewee can therefore take a much larger role in how the interview progresses. You can even go back and substitute a word in a sentence if both interviewer and interviewee feel, on retrospect, that a better word would fit in a sentence that was spoken. (Or you could easily re-record that sentence and splice it in seamlessly.)

The questions for a general background interview are almost irrelevant. Adding them in took too much work. The answers to

the interview questions stood well on their own.

I am buoyant that Skype will allow a flourishing of interviews with an audio quality that was never possible before. It's useful to note that not all Skype phone calls have a clear audio signal, so you shouldn't plan for success the first time you try this. If the person you're interviewing doesn't sound clear on the computer they're using, have them try from a neighbor's computer or from some other computer they have access to.

Skype was designed as a free phone service. Community media people are beginning to realize Skype may be one of the most powerful new tools in the community media arsenal.

This article was originally written for the Community Media Review, the quarterly publication of the Alliance for Community Media. Thanks are owed to Lauren-Glenn Davitian of CCTV in Burlington, Vermont, for coaxing this article into existence.

-- Phil Shapiro [pshapiro@his.com](mailto:pshapiro@his.com)  
<http://www.his.com/pshapiro/>  
<http://teachme.blogspot.com>  
<http://www.digitaldivide.net/profile/pshapiro>  
<http://mytvstation.blogspot.com/>

## In Memorium

**Raynor, L.E. III**

Age 63, of Roseburg, Oregon, passed away on May 1, 2005. A long time member of the Apple Blossom Computer Club, he will be missed by many.

...“Credit Cards” from page 5 bother, though the next one was purely my fault. I’d set up a Google AdWords account for Take Control that also withdrew money from that MasterCard, and I’d forgotten to inform Tonya that it needed to be added to the list of auto-withdrawal services. As you’d expect, the next time Google tried to charge money to the card, it was rejected, too.

But here’s the difference between Verizon Wireless and Google. Where Verizon Wireless didn’t bother to inform us that they’d disabled our service and thus caused us unnecessary trouble, Google sent me a nice email message, informing me of the problem, telling me that they’d temporarily disabled our ads, and giving me a link to my account so I could enter a new credit card number. The entire process took only a couple of minutes, and most of that was exclaiming to Tonya about how Google had a clue in comparison to Verizon Wireless.

**Following Up on the Credit Report** -- We were relating this story to a friend over dinner the other day, who said she’d had a similar thing happen. In her case, though, the fraud had included the perpetrator changing the billing address related to the card, so she hadn’t even received a tip-off statement. She recommended that we run a credit report as well, just to make sure any additional hanky-panky wasn’t going on with our finances.

A bit of investigation revealed that recent U.S. legislation requires the three major credit reporting companies - Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion - to provide anyone who asked with a free credit report once every 12 months (so you can get one credit report from each

company all at once, or you can request a report from one of the companies every four months to be on the lookout for problems). (Some states - Colorado, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Vermont - also require that residents be allowed to request one or two free credit reports each year.)

[<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/>](https://www.annualcreditreport.com/)

[<http://www.epic.org/privacy/fcra/>](http://www.epic.org/privacy/fcra/)

[<http://www.epic.org/privacy/preemption/>](http://www.epic.org/privacy/preemption/)

Our friend said she’d used another service called FreeCreditReport.com, which gives you a free credit report, but requires that you sign up for a slew of fee-based credit reporting and monitoring services that could be useful, particularly if you wanted to be informed about changes to your credit report over time. You can (and I did) cancel the membership without paying anything - hence the “free” aspect of the credit report, and of course, you can pay about \$10 for a credit report if you don’t want to play the “cancel my membership” game. Luckily, my credit report showed nothing of significant concern, though they apparently think I’m a year younger than I am. I’ll have to fix that at some point. It’s entirely likely that other problems haven’t shown up yet, and I plan to start running regular credit reports in September.

[<http://www.freecreditreport.com/>](http://www.freecreditreport.com/)

**Lessons Learned** --The more you use credit cards, the more likely it is some miscreant will obtain your number and abuse it. It’s mostly an annoyance with credit cards (though not necessarily with debit cards!), since your liability is limited to \$50 in the United States,

and I’ve never heard of anyone ever being charged even that. But the hassle factor can be large, as our experience proved, and credit card fraud could be the first step in a more complete identity theft. So, I recommend the following precautions.

Review your credit card statements every month, and make sure you made every purchase. Thieves often charge a small amount, like our \$19.95 fee for Yahoo Personals, to see if you’re paying attention (and if you’re not, the purchases will increase).

Always keep email receipts for online purchases for reference purposes.

Photocopy the contents of your wallet and store those pages in a safe location.

Keep a list of all automatic withdrawals from your credit card in the event you have to cancel the card.

Write down merchants (like the iTunes Music Store) that might have your credit card number stored for sporadic use.

Visit the Federal Trade Commission Web site for additional suggestions and links to useful resources:

[<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/)



## The Macintosh User Group Store

You are eligible to get good deals on new and refurbished Macs because you belong to the Apple Blossom Computer Club! Here's how to save yourself some money and help your club a little bit at the same time:

- 1) Go to <http://www.applemugstore.com>
- 2) Log in using the following ID and password (which changes occasionally)

**Good through 6/30/05**

**ID=best**

**PW=deals**

- 3) Be sure to mention ABCC's group number, 45. This ensures we get points for all the purchases that our members make.



### 20% DISCOUNT!

As a user group member, you are entitled to a 20% discount any time you order directly from O'Reilly. When ordering, be sure to include the user group discount code: **DSUG**

- Order online at [www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com). Enter the DSUG code where indicated.
- Order by phone at **800-998-9938**. Ask for customer service and provide the representative with the DSUG code.
- Order by FAX at **707-829-0104**
- Order by email at [order@oreilly.com](mailto:order@oreilly.com)

Be sure to check out [ug.oreilly.com](http://ug.oreilly.com) for lots of information and features, such as blogging!

### Write For Your Newsletter!

Most of this newsletter comes from articles written by members of other computer clubs. (The clubs all agree to share newsletter content.) That's fine, as far as it goes, but your Editor believes this letter would be even more interesting and valuable if we would publish stories written by ABCC club members. Of course, that means YOU, gentle reader, will need to take pen in hand occasionally and send in a story! Send them to Philip Bowser (see masthead for address) and receive the grateful thanks of multitudes!

### Seasoned Oak Firewood

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### Free Advertising for ABCC Members!

Members of the Apple Blossom Computer Club can advertise their goods and services in this newsletter for free. Contact the Editor to arrange YOUR advertisement! Keep in mind this is a small newsletter, so there will be space limitations.

### Let Me Write Your Web Page

Long-term ABCC member seeks small-ish web page authoring jobs, reasonable rates.

Phil Bowser  
541-673-8219