



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



Next Meeting June 15, 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/guests
3. Questions and Answers
4. Program: Bernie will demonstrate using Applejack (the repair program which everyone was afraid to use, at the March meeting, because it involved using the Mac's basic Unix). There is an article on Bernie's experience with Applejack in this month's newsletter. Have a look.

A number of us will have attended the Rogue Valley Mac Exposé '05 in Grants Pass on June 12. We'll discuss what took place and hand out 'stuff' that we brought back with us.

5. We'll also plan our annual 'feast' for July or August.

Apple Liaison Featured Speaker At May Meeting

Chris Klitz is the current President of the JoMacs User Group and the Apple NW Regional Liaison for Mac User Groups. You may remember her content-heavy presentation style from her visit to the ABCC last year. She returned to provide the May program, describing her adventures with Apple's new "Tiger" operating system, Mac Camp, and the plans for the upcoming Mac Expo at the Josephine County Fairgrounds.

TIGER: Chris recommends always backing up your data and then doing a clean install of a new operating system. This gets rid of all those little bits needed by the old OS but not by the new. The Spotlight feature is getting a lot of attention. Unlike Sherlock or Find File, Spotlight organizes what it finds into categories, shows thumbnails, fonts, etc. It's constantly indexing information as it comes and goes through your Mac, so older machines may be noticeably slower. iPhoto now shows you almost all file formats. Your old favorite, Rendezvous, is now called Bon Jour and it auto-connects to anything that it can find. Mail has some minor improvements, and the junk mail filter works great. And, of course, the Dashboard Widgets are fun and interesting, although you can't always imagine yourself using some of them on a regular basis. Check www.dashboardwidgets.com to find more than you will ever need.



Chris shows Dennis some "Tiger Tips" at the May ABCC meeting.

MAC CAMP: the Portland Mac Users Group sponsors a camp at Silver Falls State Park conference center. Typically it starts Friday evening and runs through Sunday morning. Meals and lodging are included, plus a half-dozen classes or more. The whole place is networked for the duration of the camp, so you can stay up with your geek friends as late as you wish (or hike to the falls.)

MAC EXPO: This year, the Southern Oregon Mac Expo will be held June 12 at the Josephine county fair grounds. Take highway 199 to the Cave Junction exit. The second light should put you out at the fairgrounds, where you will find the displays, raffles, and classes at the Arts Building. Anyone for car pooling?

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:

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Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Philip Bowser, at 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.

*suggested by bernie
condensed from <http://www.unsanity.org/archives/000410.php>*

Exercises in Futility Part 2: Repairing Permissions is Useless

Uppdate: Despite what Apple's Knowledge Base Article says, Repair Permissions does not repair permissions on any third party software (or any Apple software outside of the Base System). I just checked this by changing the permissions on FontAgent Pro and then repairing permissions. The permissions were not set to their correct values. This makes repairing permissions even more useless as it can't be used for any non-apple software. It also explains why installing CHUD or iPhoto from iLife '05 would cause the incorrect warnings to appear.

I guess I should explain what repairing permissions is and isn't. Repairing permissions goes through all the Package files (.pkg) in `/Library/Receipts/`. A receipt package is created when (and only when) you install something using Installer.app (Apple's installer). First it creates a temporary package based on all the files in the package. Then when you install, it creates the actual package that contains a listing of all the files you installed from that package. You can see these two steps if you open Installer.app's Log window and choose "Show everything". The package lists the

paths for all the files along with the permissions Installer.app set for them when they were installed (those permissions are part of the actual package in which the files were installed from). You can correctly assume that Repair Permissions won't touch any files in any of the user's home folders since Installer.app can't target user folders specifically, only any folder or a specific path, and there are no packages in `-/Library/Receipts/`.

A Bit of History

Does anyone actually remember when Apple first offered the ability to repair permissions and why it was needed? I do. Apple introduced the Repair Privileges Utility as a download for machines running Mac OS X 10.1.5. This was back in the long ago time when Macs would still boot Mac OS 9 and the default environment for a lot of Mac users was still Mac OS 9. Mac OS 9 didn't care about permissions at all. Mac OS 9 was Mac OS X's worst enemy in this area. If you booted into Mac OS 9 and ran some common applications, compressed and decompressed files, moved or renamed files, or (worse) ran a disk utility like Norton, they could completely destroy the permissions for many files that OS X needed to boot or run correctly. Since this was a relatively common occurrence and a huge support issue, Apple introduced the Repair Privileges Utility. When Mac OS X version 10.2 "Jaguar" came around, Apple rolled it into Disk Utility where it belonged. But by this time it

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Applejack v1.4.1

by Kristofer Widholn

(<http://applejack.sourceforge.net>)

A Review

by Bernie Fox

<brownfox@ramcell.net>

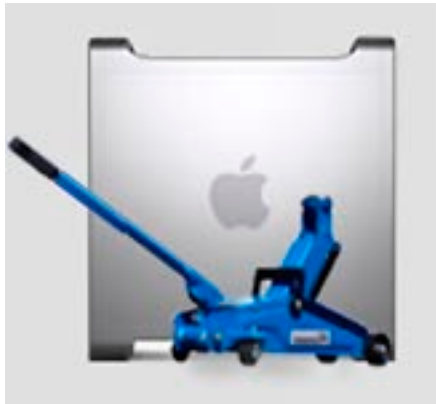
At our March meeting we decided not to demonstrate *Applejack* because most, if not all, those present were afraid of using Unix (or weren't willing to experiment). Since then I've come across great reviews about *Applejack*, so I decided to give it a try. The entire experience of getting and installing the program, by itself, makes a good story as does as my experience actually using the program. *Applejack* is a free-ware program but the developer would accept donations and is for OS 10.2, 10.3, 10.4.

I downloaded a copy (version 1.4) and was surprised that the package (.pkg) installer didn't appear as the standard installer package but as a folder (after expanding the .dmg file). When I double clicked on the .pkg, *Pacifist* launched so I attempted to install *Applejack* using it. The installation appeared to proceed normally but when I actually tried accessing *Applejack* (I'll go into more details about actually using *Applejack*, later.) all I got was a message that the command *Applejack* wasn't found. My first conclusion was that there was something wrong with my computer so I proceeded to use *DiskUtility*, *Cocktail* and finally *DiskWarrior*. *Applejack* still appeared as a folder .pkg.

I'm a member of a number of BBSs and one particular one does have a bunch of knowledgeable members so I posted my problem. One of the suggestions was to re-install the OS 10.2.8 Combo updater (I'm using a 233MH G3). So I went

through the process of updating. The interesting thing was that the Combo Updater did appear as the correct .pkg installer, so I was sure it wasn't my computer that was causing the problem. After all the 'repairs', I still had the same folder .pkg of *Applejack*. I decided that *Applejack* won't run on a G3 and gave up on ever using the program (actually it is a script that makes use of Unix command line for those of us that are Unix ignorant).

Being the stubborn mule that I am, I decided to go to the programmer's Web site where I was able to



obtain an E-mail address to contact him. Needless to say, he couldn't understand why I got a folder .pkg and why the program wasn't available after I installed it.

Kristofer (the programmer) decided to send me a few different versions of *Applejack* (including the latest one he was working on, version 1.4.01). Turns out that one of the version (1.3) that he sent, used an old type of installer (not a .pkg installer). Using that installer I was able to overwrite the invisible (yes, invisible) file that had been previously installed, as well as installing the 'man' file that wasn't installed. The 'man' file is a Unix file which actually is the manual or description of how to use *Applejack*. I'll go into more detail later on how to bring up this

'manual'. It's good that *Applejack* is invisible as running *Applejack* either in Terminal or on your booted OS can cause a lot of problems.

So once again I rebooted into single user mode (holding down command-S when one restarts) and there appeared the directions for using *Applejack*. When I notified Kristofer of my success he sent me a copy of the final version of 1.4.1 and recommended that I install it, as there were a number of problems with version 1.3. Again, the expanded .dmg file appeared as a .pkg folder. *Pacifist* installed it properly and everything works as it should (except for the .pkg installer appearing as a folder). Kristofer thought that perhaps creating an .pkg installer using Tiger (Apple's newest OS) might not work on my G3 or in Jaguar. We never did solve that problem but it did give me an idea. Recently I purchased a new G4 iBook and I'm running OS 10.3.9 on it, so I copied the 1.4.1 .pkg folder onto a Flash Drive and when I opened the drive on the iBook, there was the correct .pkg installer. Truly strange. BTW, I did install version 1.4.1 via the .pkg installer onto my iBook as this (on a laptop) is where *Applejack* can have its greatest use.

Well, so much for the interesting experience trying to install *Applejack*. Now onto the actual using and functions of *Applejack*.

Applejack is a utility for running basic Mac OSX diagnostics and troubleshooting the HD (including deleting possible problematic system cache files) using **SINGLE USER MODE**.

If there isn't any second startup CD or HD available (which one

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Web Watch compiled by The MUG Center

<http://www.mugcenter.com>

Web smarts By now, you may think you know pretty much everything you need to about surfing the Web. But as browsers and Web sites continue to evolve, our surfing habits don't always evolve with them. Here are seven habits that any self-respecting Safari user should have right now. <http://www.macworld.com/2005/04/features/tipsweb/index.php?lsrc=mwrrs>

Store your Home folder on a USB flash drive to take between Macs. Or maybe you are just interested in the novelty of being able to carry all of your 'stuff' around. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050423203849332>

Is your Mac ready for a smooth transition to Tiger? Maybe you're in need of a Spring housecleaning anyway. Check out these tidy tips from Derrick Story, then roll out the red carpet for Mac OS X 10.4. <http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/04/26/tiger.html>

I love the way the RSS Visualizer screen saver looks, especially on my TV. The only thing I don't like about it is the blue background. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050425173919124>

Got a Mac that supports Quartz Extreme? Learn how to

use Tiger's new RSS screen saver. <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/wlg/6968>

I have found the key to save the music videos from iTunes Music Store, now that the old method of grabbing the QTPluginxxxxx file in the tmp/501/ folder doesn't work any more. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050425164738812>

Installing Mac OS X Tiger can be as easy as inserting the OS disc and clicking a few buttons. But if you want to customize your install and take this opportunity to tidy up your Mac in the process, this exhaustive tutorial will show you everything you need to know. <http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/04/29/tiger.html>

You can do some mighty cool stuff with the new audio system in Tiger. Want to apply realtime AudioUnit effects such as reverb or pitch to your main sound out? <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=200504261547021>

Anyone who has 'switched' to the Mac, or has experience on a PC, knows that the PC makes the Mac look like a dog when it comes to web browsing. This is true for all browsers on the Mac. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050420025219402>

Some simple steps to enhance your security and privacy in Mac OS X Tiger. <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/wlg/>

7007

When I updated to 10.4, I realized I hadn't used Classic for a very long time. I wanted to remove it, and prevent the Classic System Preferences pane from appearing. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050430120117382>

Widgets are lickable pieces of software... Once you've licked to your heart's content, though, how do you add them or remove them from your collection? <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/wlg/6996>

I don't really like the "Green Plus" for window maximization: it seems random and unpredictable, and is not available with a keyboard shortcut. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050428173653581>

Woo hoo! Smart folders do make sense! <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/wlg/7005>

New in OS X 10.4, Safari has RSS capabilities which automatically refresh feeds every 30 minutes. In my opinion, this is not often enough. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050429092245984>

A little HTML, a dash of JavaScript, and a sprinkle of CSS and you can create your own Dashboard widget. Andrew Anderson shows you how. <http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/>

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...“Applejack from page 3 probably doesn’t carry around with a laptop), or the GUI (Graphic User Interface) cannot be started (meaning that you just can’t boot up), it can be impossible to repair the startup disk, or fix permissions. *Applejack* will function as *DiskUtility* would if you booted from your original installer disk. It will repair the disk, repair permissions, cleanup cache files and remove swap files and do more. It can search for corrupt preference files (.plist) and remove them. It will not update prebinding as *Coctail* or *Onyx* would nor create a new directory as *DiskWarrior* does. But you can get the computer working again.

WARNING: USING APPLE-JACK OUTSIDE OF SINGLE USER MODE CAN BRING YOUR SYSTEM DOWN!!!!!! So don’t even try and don’t get mixed up between ‘Single User Mode’ and ‘Terminal’. THEY ARE NOT THE SAME!

Here’s the steps to follow once you’ve installed Applejack:

I. Restart/bootup computer. After the ‘bong’ sounds, hold down the ‘command’ and ‘S’ keys (you’ll start up in ‘single user mode’). You’ll get a ‘Terminal’ type of screen and nothing else. [Shades of DOS, eh?]

II. When you get a prompt (all the text stops writing), type ‘applejack’ (no quotes) and press the ‘return’ key.

III. Choose the task you want (a, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and hit the ‘return’ key.

- a. is auto pilot (runs 1 through 5)
- 1. is repair disk
- 2. is repair permissions
- 3. cleanup cache files
- 4. validate preference files
- 5. remove swap files

IV. Follow the directions to quit or to reboot. That’s it. I enjoyed using the number sequences as I was able to watch as *Applejack* ran through its tasks. I do believe one has

access to removing any corrupted preferences files only by using step 4 and not using the auto pilot.

Oh yes, if you want to read all about *Applejack* just type into the single user mode window “/man/applejack/” (no quotes) and hit the return key. Follow the directions when your ready to leave. I highly recommend that you install *Applejack*. It can be an invaluable tool when you’re away from home and quite useful even if you aren’t.

Treasurer’s Report

Beginning cash..... \$1,663.31

Income:

Dues \$40.00
Interest.....55

Expenses:

Newsletter \$30.97
Meeting Expense..... 19.75

Ending balance..... \$1,653.14

*Jim McClellan,
Treasurer*

“Web Watch” from page 4...



If you visit the same websites each morning, this Safari tip will make doing so a whole lot easier. <http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/mac911/2005/05/multibookmarks/index.php?lsrc=mac911blog>

[mac/2005/05/06/dashboard.html](http://www.mac2005/05/06/dashboard.html)

Show MacOSXHints on RSS screen saver, or, for that matter, news from any RSS feed. This seems to work on any newsfeed, but here’s an example of how to show MacOSXHints on your screensaver: Change your screen saver to RSS Visualizer... <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050503144058333>

This hint uses Automator to get a URL and convert the text to an audio file, which you can then play on your iPod. This example uses macosxhints.com, but the concept will work for any site. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050503162056347>

There’s limited (and undocumented) support for boolean queries in Spotlight. After ex-

perimenting a little, I found the syntax for OR and NOT. <http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050503165951266>

Even though Tiger has been out for a while now, many of its major features have nuances that haven’t received much press--and there a zillion minor tweaks to discuss. Scott Knaster takes you on a tour of clever, and sometimes even obscure, Tiger goodies. http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/05/13/tiger_tips.html

Google Suggest

Finding stuff in a search engine is sometimes quite difficult. Choose the wrong search terms and you end up with either a squillion hits or none. What we need is a way to see how many hits our search terms are going to generate BEFORE we do our searches. That way we can refine our search terms as we type them.

Enter Google Suggest. Just point your web browser to <http://www.google.com/webhp?complete=1> and start typing. Google Suggest provides you with search suggestions, in real time, as you type. Key in a few letters of a particular search term and Google Suggest displays a list of words it thinks match.

For example, if you search for "Patrick Crispin," Google Suggest shows you keyword suggestions as you key in each letter in my name. It's kind of humorous because, as you type each letter in my name, Google's suggestions include a infamous hotel heiress, a Yankee football team, a sitcom mom, that 'liberty or death' guy, a British pop artist, a Hollywood producer, and then little old me.

The interesting part comes when you get to the letter "i" in my last name. My last name is spelled the exact same way you spell the verb "to make something crisp." [Yeah, I have a weird last name. Sue me. You can find a rather humorous and complete history of my last name at <http://crispin.org/Bob/about.html>

] What Google Suggest shows, however, is that while there are 19,900 pages out there that spell my last name correctly, a full 150,000 pages incorrectly spell my last name "Crispin." Vanity aside, knowing alternative spellings--and the number of hits those spellings generate--can be quite helpful when you do online research. And that's really where Google Suggest excels.

Google Suggest works in Internet Explorer 6.0 (or newer), Netscape 7.1 (or newer), Mozilla 1.4 (or newer), Firefox 0.8 (or newer), Opera 7.54 (or newer), or Safari 1.2.2 (or newer). But there are two catches::

1. Both JavaScript and cookies must be enabled in your browser.
2. You can only get to Google Suggest by going to <http://www.google.com/webhp?complete=1>. You can't get to Google Suggest directly from Google's homepage.

For more information about Google Suggest, check out the free FAQ page at <http://labs.google.com/suggestfaq.html>

Is Google Suggest a replacement for the regular, plain old Google searches we know and love? Nah. But if you aren't quite sure what you're looking for, or if you want to see how many hits a particular search term or phrase might generate, Google Suggest is for you. :)

[Editor's Note: This bit of news is by Douglas Patrick Crispin, author of one of the first

online self-study courses for using the Internet. Among other things, he co-authors the Internet Tourbus, probably one of the essential email subscriptions! Check it out!]
<http://www.TOURBUS.com>

Xbox 360 Demos Run On Macs by Victoria Maciulski

Microsoft recently announced the Xbox 360 gamesystem and showed product demos on an MTV special. It appears that they were trying to beat Sony and Nintendo to market with a new console.

Well, it turns out that the cool clips of video games are actually running on Apple PowerMac G5s! Microsoft confirmed this on May 13. The Xbox systems shown at product introductions are just prototypes. Final systems won't be ready until the end of the year, but the company wanted to announce before the competition, so....

Microsoft purchased a raft of Apple G5's to emulate some of the technology behind future Xbox products. This is possible because the new Xbox is based on a similar IBM PowerPC architecture used in Apple G5 PowerMac computers. The Xbox 360 uses three 3.2GHz symmetrical cores, according to the company. Ever the trailblazer, Apple has been using PowerPC chips since 1994.

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wasn't needed nearly as much since many new Macs couldn't even boot Mac OS 9 thus rendering the fear of bad disk utilities that didn't pay attention to the rules set out by the HFS+ Tech-note ruining the ability to run OS X completely moot.

The Ugly

Permissions won't magically go bad. They won't break suddenly. They don't suffer from bit rot. In order for permissions to change something must change them. Even with Mac OS 9, as long as you didn't modify the files, their permissions wouldn't change. For this reason, repairing permissions as a maintenance task is just a complete waste of time. Granted, it won't harm anything, but it won't help anything either. If you want to be paranoid about permissions then at least use some common sense when doing it and only run repair permissions after using an installer. I am not recommending doing it after using an installer, however.

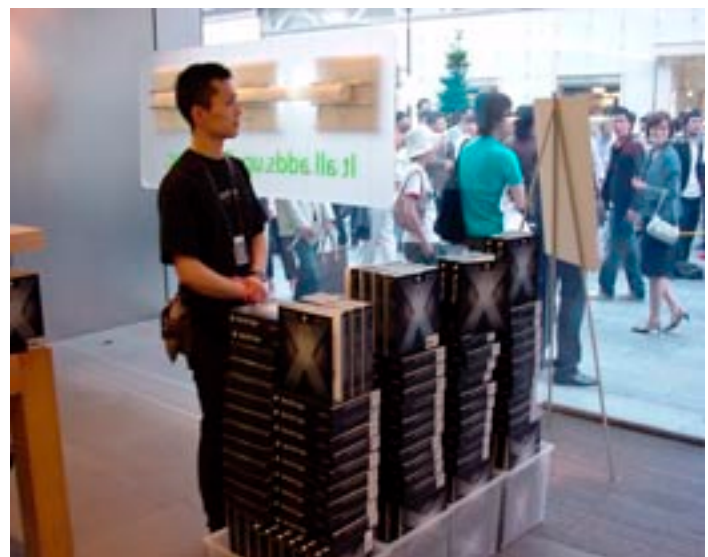
I've only ever found two cases in which repairing permissions would actually help fix something. One is when backing up to a non-local (external) volume (like a FireWire HD, a USB 2.0 HD, or a disk from FireWire Target Disk Mode) via ditto (with the `--rsrcFork` option passed) or Carbon Copy Cloner . You really shouldn't use drag and drop in the finder or cp to backup OS X volumes as important metadata can get lost that way. There is one reason and one reason only I say that the use of ditto or CCC

would require a repair permissions on the volume everything is being backup up to--when the volume has the "Ignore ownership on this volume" checkbox checked. Ignore Ownership on this volume should be unchecked . If it isn't, then none of the permissions will be copied over in the first place and then you have to run repair permissions to make the thing bootable. But I still don't recommend it as any files not installed by the installer won't have the permissions fixed and could be a huge security risk (especially if it is a world writable file). So make sure that box is unchecked. It's checked by default on non-local volumes. Also note that if you don't uncheck that box, you will have to reinstall Application Enhancer as it is permission sensitive and if that box is checked while you're doing the copy/backup it won't have the proper permissions to run. This has come up a lot in support emails but by then it is too late to tell the user to uncheck the box. This item is preventable.

The other case when repair permissions are required is also in the user error category. But this is when installing system services using very outdated instructions that tell you

to assign the wrong value to a now default OS X user. I can't blame them because I thought that I knew what I was doing. In this case repairing permissions was the fix (as long as I made the postfix uid 27). I could have easily fixed them manually, but that was a few more keystrokes and I was feeling keystroke lazy. This item is preventable.

In summary, repairing permissions is useless 99.9% of the time. Permissions don't magically go bad. And you should really throw out "repair permissions" as a troubleshooting step until you've exhausted all other methods of troubleshooting. Repairing permissions can only fix problems with Mac OS X system files distributed by Apple installed by Apple's Installer.app and only as long as a valid receipt is available. Even then, it should never be suggested to others as it won't help and sadly will only make you look like you know less about Mac OS X than you really do. Repairing permissions is the strategy of last resort!



"Tiger awaits customers in Tokyo"

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. 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

Be sure to check out 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!

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.

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