



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



ABCC Holds Strictly Social Pizza Party for All Members and Family, Some Tech Talk Sneaks In Between Bites Anyway

Next Meeting August 17, 5:30 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at My Coffee, 1700 Garden Valley Blvd, at 5:30 PM. This is a WiFi hotspot, so bring your WiFi enabled gear.

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M. (NOTE: this is a change from the usual start time.)
2. Drink good coffee.
3. Eat baked goods.
4. Fiddle with the wireless internet connection.
5. Plan the club's public meeting next month on "How To Use A Mac."

Treasurer's Report

Beginning cash\$1,724.23

Income:

Dues..... 00.00

Interest 0.55

Expenses:

Postage37.00

Newsletter29.44

Pizza Meeting..... 92.90

Ending balance\$1,665.44

Jim McClellan,
Treasurer

The July meeting of the Apple Blossom Computer Club was held at Abby's Pizza Restaurant. Almost three tables were needed to accommodate the number of members and family members who attended. There was plenty of pizza to keep everybody happy, and those interested in talking about technology tended to cluster together so as not to pester (too much) those who subscribed to other interests.



We tried all night to get a photo of ABCC club Ambassador, Terry Cooper, without pizza in his mouth, but we were (obviously) not successful.



So many ABCC members that the converging lines of perspective make them appear to fade off into the distance!

The August meeting will involve planning a public event sponsored by the club - "How To Use A Mac." The meeting will be held in the Ford room of the Douglas County Public Library to show people as yet unfamiliar with the Mac interface how easy it is to learn.

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc., registered Macintosh and Apple][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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Winston, OR 97496

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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.

From the Publisher's Website

Andy's Tiger How-To Book

The new cat's out of the bag, and Andy Ihnatko gives you a hundred reasons to fall in love with the Tiger. Packed with sage advice—and plenty of humor—this beefy volume holds your hand through installing Tiger, helps you diagnose and cure common

problems, introduces you to more shortcuts than you ever imagined, and provides tips on everything from using Spotlight to choosing a tattoo. It's not only the greatest Mac OS X guide ever, it's surely the most entertaining.

Exciting Chapters

- * Automator—your servant for boring-yet-complex tasks
- * Spotlight—to find anything on your Mac instantly
- * Dashboard—a pile of useful tools just a keystroke away
- * Troubleshooting step by step—amaze your friends!

Preface Excerpt

"Here, I'm going to help you out before you even start leafing through this thing. If you run an \$8 FireWire cable between a pair of Macs running Tiger, the OS automatically creates an ultra-high-speed network between the two, with zero help from you. It's one of the easiest and quickest ways to swap files or play network games, and you can even use this mini network to 'share' an Internet connection!"

"See? Have the other books' authors done so much for you at this stage? Please keep this in mind as you make your purchasing decision."

—Andy Ihnatko

About the Author
Andy Ihnatko, self-described as America's 42nd Most-Beloved Industry Figure, has been a leading voice in the Macintosh community for over fifteen years. Currently *The Chicago Sun-Times'* technology columnist, he contributes to numerous periodicals and speaks regularly at conferences and workshops. You can enjoy his blog at www.andyi.com.

Review

Stone Studio Create

I was chatting with a new friend on Spymac.com and he asked me if I had ever used a program called Create from Stone Studio. I had never heard of it and he told me how much he liked it and that I could get a free full working demo from Stone for 30 days. I went to the site, downloaded it, and within a week I had bought it! That's how much I liked it. I'm still learning the program, but I've used it enough to evaluate it. Here are some of the vital bits of information:

The website is found at www.stone.com. Create is only one of the applications for sale. You can buy it separately or buy the entire suite at quite a savings.

Create is a fantastic page layout program. With it you can create a layout for a flyer, bulletin, book, magazine etc. It is fairly easy to learn, though it does many things other DTP programs don't do, so some of the ways it does things are a bit different than you may be used to. I am not finding the learning curve to be very difficult. The company has excellent tech support and the author of the program wrote me within a few hours after I inquired about showing this program for WAMUG. You'll also find great resources and a users forum online.

I've used PageMaker for many years. I've not been happy since PageMaker turned into InDesign. I have found it more complicated to use and very frustrating at times, plus it is a very big and expensive program to keep updating. When you buy Create, you get a lifetime of FREE updates. What other company does that today? Create is much simpler to use and so far I've been able to

do anything in it that I wanted to do in InDesign. A further advantage is that Create can turn your layouts into web pages on the fly. Just for fun I just turned this article into a web page in about 2 seconds. Unbelievably easy to do.

Create has a toolbar that will look pretty familiar to all. With it you can make text, scale objects, rotate, shear, make a variety of shapes and lines, a freehand tool, bezier tool, multiline tool, table tool and an embedded raw html tool. I find these tools to be better for designing than the tools InDesign comes with. They are right there where you need them and they work easily. In InDesign you have a similar palette with a variety of tools and then you have another series of tabs on the side that do more things. I find those tabs very annoying and difficult to use. Create has a very clean look to it. It's a native Cocoa product and it looks and acts as an OSX application should.

Some things I really am enjoying about Create. Drop a pdf file onto it and it opens instantly. Much faster than Adobe Acrobat or Preview. I love that. Create also has a small bar built into the side. You can select anything on the page you are working on and then go to this bar, the well, and change that selected object into a gif, jpeg, pdf, RTE, ASCII, and more.

Create also has a much better and exhaustive library than InDesign and it's much easier to use. It comes with art, effects, images, pages, blends and patterns. You can really do a lot with these libraries and you can add to them and save them for future use. I easily added my school logos in the library so I can access them anytime

I need to use them.

I'm also glad that Create uses the OS fonts, color and spelling modules. I'm so familiar with these now that they are very intuitive to use and nothing to relearn here.

As I said, I was so impressed with this product that I quickly bought it. I've already started using it for school and church projects, replacing InDesign completely. It is just that much easier to use and it will take up a lot less room on your hard drive. It's much faster as well.

Bottom line

Create costs \$149.00 by itself. You can get the entire suite of apps for \$299.00. They do offer educational discounts for the teachers and students in the group. I'll be able to show you much more in the demonstration this month than I can cover here. I think you'll find this to be a program that works like an Apple product should act. I highly recommend it. Check out the website, download the apps and give them a try. The generous 30 day try out period will probably convince you.

--Bob Rockhill

Whittier Area

Macintosh User Group



eBay Buying and Selling

I have been using ebay since 1998. I have both bought and sold items and have learned some things I would like to share.

Buying: Just because you are using ebay, it doesn't mean you are going to get a good deal. If it is a popular item, it can easily get bid up too high. You could buy it at a store for less. Check a seller's "feedback rating" before bidding. This is what past buyers have to say about their experience with the seller. This gives you an idea what your experience will be like. If a seller hasn't sold many things or recent buyers have left bad feedback, it probably is not a good idea to send money to this person. Check the shipping cost before bidding. Some sellers will set this real high. You were wondering why they were selling the item so cheaply?

Use PayPal or a credit card when possible (see below). This gives you added protection. If the seller doesn't ship the item, you can get your money back. Ask the seller questions before bidding. You will find out if they are responsive and helpful. This is a good indication that they will ship fast and the item will be as advertised. Also, you should be sure the item is what you want. Pictures can only tell you so much.

Selling: Take good clear pictures of the item you are selling. It is very important to make a good first impression. Write a good headline that describes what you have to sell and its features. Make the buyer want to look at your

ad. Put your ad under the right product category. There are so many of them. What I do is run an ebay search for the item I am selling, to see where other people have placed theirs. Do another search of "completed auctions". This is really valuable. You can see where the people that made the most money placed their ad and what they said in that ad. You can also get an idea what your item is worth.

Write a clear description. List all the features- model number, how old, used or new, tested or not. Also, make sure you tell what is wrong with it (scratches or damage). You want the buyer to know exactly what they are getting, so there will be no hard feelings later.

Shipping: Make sure you charge enough. Weigh the package before listing (include packaging). An example of what to place in the listing- "Buyer pays shipping from zip code 90604 on package weighing 5 pounds." There are automatic shipping calculators you can use in your ad for UPS or USPS. Use the selection "Only ships to the United States" until you get more experience. You have to deal with customs forms if you ship outside the U.S.

Pack well so there is no breakage. There should be no "rattles" when the box is shaken. Ship it soon. No one likes to wait until you get around to it. Get a PayPal account (see below). It is very handy. You can get the money instantly. No waiting for a money order or check to be sent. The seller does have to pay a 3% transaction fee though.

PayPal: PayPal is now the standard for exchanging money over ebay. Sellers that are large enough to have a store, can let customers use a credit card to buy their wares. It is too hard for us little guys to qualify for a credit card merchant account. PayPal lets buyers use their checking account or a credit card to send money to the seller. PayPal acts like a bank. Once the buyer sends the seller money, PayPal sends an e-mail telling the seller a deposit has been made. The seller builds up a "savings account" at PayPal until they withdraw it or use it to buy things. If you are a buyer, you can sign up instantly to use PayPal.

To become a seller (receiver of money) takes a bit longer. You have to link to a checking account so you can add or withdraw from your PayPal account. PayPal also checks to make sure you are you. This took a week for me.

WARNING: Use a tough password with letters and numbers. No names, words or phrases that a computer with a dictionary, phrase book, and common passwords list can hack. When you are a seller, this account is linked to a credit card and checking account. Make sure it is secure by using a hard password (I have to look mine up). PayPal or ebay will NEVER e-mail or phone you asking for your password. Don't fall for that old trick of the criminal.

I enjoy the convenience of using PayPal. It is well worth it to me.

Alan Webster
Whittier Area
Macintosh User Group

I Gotta Brag!

I am so delighted that I was able to fix my Wacom tablet I gotta tell about it.

I had just replaced the plastic cover and the little Teflon feet on the mouse and it started giving me all sorts of trouble. A post to NCMUG and some other techie list told me to trash the tablet .plist and/or re-install software, etc. and I did those things and it would work for a while and then quit. The light would go out and the mouse would stop responding or the light would be on and the mouse not responding. I began to suspect a hardware problem so I fiddled with the cord a bit and discovered that the light went out when I moved it to the right and came back on when I moved it to the left.

Since my next tablet will be a bluetooth with a new iMac I didn't want to buy another USB, so I went at it with screwdrivers and got it apart. Then I managed to very carefully pull the 5 wire plug (that white rectangular thing you can see next to the light inside the tablet) off of the board. Once free I pulled gently on the wires, and sure enough one pulled out of the cord. Its a bundle of bare wires without a plastic sleeve like the others have.

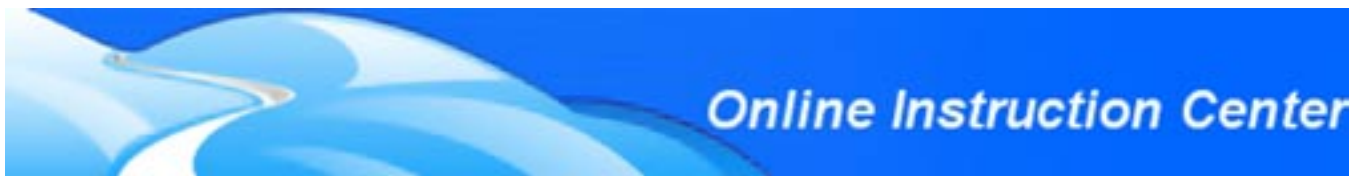
The easy fix would be to cut off the 5 wire plug and trim the wires back and put them on a new plug but I don't know where to find one of those so I trimmed the wires with enough lead on the plug and then, using pliers, pulled the cord out of that fastener thingy that anchors it in the tablet. It was glued so it wasn't easy. Then I trimmed back the wires to where they were healthy again and stripped them. Then I went to Radio Shack where I got some of that shrink wrap plastic tubing for wires and a wire soldering kit.

I have a burn on one knuckle and one on my pinky, but my tablet is back together and working beautifully!

--Ruth Harris

NCMUG member.

*This article originally appeared in NCMUG News
the newsletter of North Coast Mac Users Group, Santa Rosa, CA*



On-Line Mac Course

I was looking through the catalog of online courses and saw an instructor-facilitated course you might want to take. It's called *Working With Your OS X iMac or Macintosh*. Here's a description of the course

"Your Mac comes out of the box with everything you need! Discover the ins and outs of the sleek new Mac OS X Panther Operating System and put yourself

on a faster track for work, home, and school.

An expert instructor will show you how to use the built-in word processor, database and financial management tools. You'll find out how best to search the Web, print all manner of documents and images, send and receive faxes, and bank online.

You'll also discover how to design powerful graphics, presentations, spreadsheets, charts, tables, and presentations. You'll

also discover how to download music from the Internet, work with digital photographs, and edit digital videos.

If you're interested, type the link below into the URL box of your favorite web browser:

<http://www.ed2go.com/cgi-bin/newoic/newcrsdes.cgi?name=wtc&course=wwx&title=Working^With^Your^OS^X^iMac^or^Macintosh>

--Charles Lenington
macsonly@brightok.net

Review of Galerie

This article shows how you can easily post photo web galleries on the MacNexus server. Specifically, this article examines how it would be done using Apple's .Mac service versus how it would be done via MacNexus, and talks about why you might prefer to use MacNexus.

Let's look at the desired end result: you have a digital camera and you want to post photo albums to the web so your friends or family can see the pictures. This article stemmed from a real incident I was involved in. A photographer member of MacNexus was looking for a cost-effective way to do this so that proofs of customer photo sessions could be posted.

I set up Apache on the photographer's G5 machine, and we could easily make web photo galleries using Adobe Photoshop. The problem was, the photo studio was connected to the internet via SBC DSL and from day to day the IP address of the web server would change. Customers could see their proofs at 6 a.m., but by 4p.m. SBC might have changed the IP address and now the customer could not see the proofs. I tried a shareware utility called Internet Connection Keeper to try to keep the DSL connection up all the time, and when that did not outsmart SBC, I had the photographer purchase a router that does a keep-alive packet every 20 seconds. And even with that, SBC kept changing the work IP address at least once a day. So it became quite apparent that we would need to find a network connection other than SBC DSL so that once we posted the photo galleries, their network address would not be changed under our feet.

This led me to examine two other possibilities: Apple's .Mac service, and the MacNexus web server which offers web space to anyone who is a Benefactor member or who has dial up internet with MacNexus. There are two key considerations here: money, and ease of use. First, the topic of money.

Apple's .Mac has a wonderfully easy way to post your photos to their web site, and the service costs \$99 per

year. Apple, as the owner of .Mac, has integrated it nicely with iPhoto, so you can quickly select photos and post them with essentially one click. iPhoto costs \$49 and seems to be updated yearly. So for purposes of argument, I'm going to say that to use .Mac for this, be prepared to spend \$149 a year. For that price, you get 250mb of storage.

MacNexus gives a free web site to anyone who does dial up internet with the club, or who is a Benefactor member. Assuming you have broadband (DSL or Comcast or Surewest), MacNexus Benefactor membership is \$100 a year. To make the uploading of images almost as foolproof as using iPhoto, I set up the photographer member with a program called Interarchy, which is \$29.99 shareware. Just like .Mac, Interarchy can put disk icon on your desktop for the web server where you'll upload your files. So I'm going to peg MacNexus at \$129 a year, even though you would only need to buy Interarchy one time. We don't limit storage. This may prove to be important, as our photographer member has posted six galleries in the last week, and has used up 18mb already. So if she had used Apple's .Mac she would have used 13% of her available space in a week.

What are the key differences? Well for one, Apple's .Mac offers more than just web space. You can post movies, do icards, and you get promotional offers for certain products. .Mac used to include anti-virus software but since it was so bad and worked horribly with Tiger, they don't offer that anymore. .Mac gives you a free backup utility that will back up minimal items on your computer to Apple's server. .Mac lets you synchronize your Safari bookmarks between multiple computers as well as your address book. In the technical support department, .Mac really doesn't let you get to a live human, and relegates you to posting in their forums where other .Mac members may be able to answer your question. (Although this is only my opinion, I view Apple's .Mac as a global user group, disguised as a collection of internet services. Apple has pretty much eyed anything that user groups were doing to stay alive, and made it commercially integrated

with OS X for \$99 a year.)

MacNexus, as you probably know, offers e-mail, web-based e-mail access, and web server access. We maintain online forums for technical support, but also offer classes on how to make a web page, and, you can call a real person if you really get stuck.

Second, the topic of ease of use.

Can a scrappy user group compete with one-click web pages from iPhoto? Before I answer that, let me digress a moment. In the past two months, we have had two members who completely lost their photo libraries because every picture they had was in iPhoto and something got screwed up. So there are bona fide reasons why you might just want to put your digital photos in a folder, and not let iPhoto be in charge of your digital photos. iPhoto makes folder within folder within folder, so if you ever need to find the "original" of an image and iPhoto for whatever reason won't run, you're basically looking for a needle in a haystack. iPhoto is a great program, but when it breaks, as we have seen, the results are ugly. This is why my wife and I just make a folder for each month of the year, and whatever digital photos we take in that month we just drag into that folder using the Finder. iPhoto basically doesn't touch our pictures unless we choose to import some of them into iPhoto for other reasons.

Galerie Program Controls: So how would MacNexus compete with .Mac and iPhoto? As it turns out, I found a wonderfully great free application called Galerie that lets you create a web gallery from any folder of pictures, or from a selection in iPhoto. You can drag a folder of images onto Galerie and you are presented with the window shown in the illustration. You can easily decide how many rows and columns you want. If you want additional color schemes, there are free "themes" you can download let your galleries have different appearances. You can either watermark your images with a graphic containing your name or logo, or you can have Galerie just superimpose a text copyright message on the photos in the font and color of your choosing. And you can have a comment box so that us-

Continued on page 7...

...“Galerie” from page 6
ers can enter comments or give feedback on your photos. All without having to know any HTML.

FTP Disk: Having found the free Galerie program and having seen what it can do, I was determined that MacNexus could offer a service to members with almost the same ease of use offered by .Mac. I just had to resolve the technical issue of how to let users easily upload their galleries to our server, because uploading the pages is the single most daunting part of posting a web site.

So why use Interarchy? For several years now, this application has offered something called an “FTP Disk” which is, outwardly, almost identical to what .Mac does. You put in your login information for the web server, tell Interarchy how to mirror the web space, and an icon appears locally on your desktop that represents your folder on the web server.

FTP Disk Desktop Icon: The tricky thing is that this is not the web server. It is a folder locally on your computer. You can drag a folder on top of it and it copies just as if you were in the Finder.

Mirror Report Results: Then, every five minutes, Interarchy synchronizes that folder on your computer with the web server. So if you store a folder with a web gallery on your FTP disk icon, five minutes later it has been transparently uploaded to the MacNexus web server. You can set the preferences in Interarchy to mirror files both up and down, or to just mirror what you do locally and make it upload to the web server.

Now that you have a handy disk icon on your desktop, we’re ready to make a gallery! First, open the icon for ftp.macnexus.org on your desktop (this is your web space) and make a folder that we’ll use to hold the gallery. Folders should be all one word, i.e., no spaces or funny characters.

Drag your folder of pictures into the little photo “well” in the Galerie main window to tell it what photos you want to process. Turn on the settings you want, and click the button “Generate Gallery.” Depending on the speed of your computer, in about 3 minutes you’ll

have a folder full of html, watermarked images, and thumbnails. Here’s the trick: when you tell Galerie to generate a gallery, it will come up and ask you where you want to save the gallery. All you have to do is navigate in the Save dialog box to find the disk icon for ftp.macnexus.org. Be sure you save into that folder you created!

Local View of Test Gallery: Galerie will then launch your web browser and show you what the gallery looks like by opening the files it just saved on your hard disk. (We know this because it starts out with http:/// instead of http:// and any time you have THREE slashes, that means the web browser is reading locally from your disk, not from the internet.)

What’s the next step? Surprise, there



isn’t one. As long as you use Interarchy, all the drudgery of uploading the gallery will now be taken care of without your intervention. As long as you save the gallery to the ftp disk icon, the upload is done automatically for you.

Now it is time to go to the MacNexus web server and see if in fact the web gallery we just made has been mirrored up to the server. The gallery looked fine when I opened it from my local disk, but what will it look like after Interarchy has uploaded it to MacNexus? Let’s take a look:

Web View of Test Gallery: It looks identical to what we saw when the files were opened locally! We didn’t have to learn anything about what FTP is or how to FTP a web site. When you click on one of the thumbnails, you’re presented with the full picture and navigation bars to go backwards or forwards to the next image.

Closing words: You’ve seen that it is possible to easily make a web photo gallery on the MacNexus web server. Assuming you don’t buy a new Interarchy each year, you end up spending \$100 per year to MacNexus instead of \$150 per year to .Mac. You’re not limited to 100mb of storage. Sure, .Mac offers the

other benefits listed above, so you may feel that it is worth the price for the other things that you get. If you don’t really think you need to synchronize your bookmarks or address book, and you want to just post some photos, MacNexus may in fact be a better value for you, and most of our internet features (other than those mentioned) match their internet features.

Now, what if you really don’t care where you post the photos, but just think that Galerie sounds like a neat tool? Well, you can use Galerie and save either to .Mac or to MacNexus or to any web space that you may happen to have anywhere in the world. That is to say, if you don’t like the web galleries that iPhoto makes, it is possible to use Galerie to

generate the HTML and thumbnails that you then upload to your .Mac iDisk. So this is not an “either or” proposition. The only thing you can’t do is use iPhoto to publish a gallery to MacNexus, because Apple has added proprietary hooks to iPhoto to let it talk directly to .Mac, leaving out the small fry like MacNexus. I can’t fault them for doing this, because they have made a pretty good user experience with their applications, assuming iPhoto doesn’t eat your photo library.

However good the value of Apple’s .Mac, I thought it important to point out how easy it is to post a great web photo gallery to the MacNexus server using a free gallery program and a \$29 ftp program. And if you’re a MacNexus Benefactor member or a dial-up internet user through MacNexus, you have that web space available to you.

For more information about Galerie, visit <http://www.myriad-online.com/en/products/galerie.htm>. For more information about Interarchy, visit <http://www.interarchy.com>

--Bill Davies

<http://www.macnexus.org/>

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 10/31/05

User ID: Mug

Password: Store

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

**RECENTLY
INCREASED!**

30% 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!

Seasoned Oak Firewood

You haul. You split. \$85 a chord
Call Bernie 672-2487

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