



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



Next Meeting September 21, 6:00 ~ 7:30 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at the Douglas County Library's Ford Meeting Room. We will provide beginning Mac instruction for members of the public. Please plan to attend and help out. Bring your Mac, if you can!

Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 6:00 P.M. (NOTE: this is a change from the usual start time.)
2. Show off what Macs can do.
3. Have fun.
4. Maybe go out for a little celebratory ice cream afterwards?!?

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash \$1,665.44

Income:

Dues	80.00
Interest	0.55

Expenses:

Newsletter	32.95
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Ending Balance \$1,713.04

*Jim McClellan,
Treasurer*

ABCC Meets at My Coffee to Plan "Meet My Mac Night" and Test WIFI

The August meeting of the Apple Blossom Computer Club was held at the *My Coffee* restaurant in Roseburg to check out their free WIFI Internet connections, and plan this month's free computer class at the Douglas County Library Ford Meeting Room, Those in attendance also got caffeinated and pastried-up as a bonus.

The *My Coffee* connection was flaky for some reason, but only for the Macintosh machines in the room. The signal was not strong enough to reach out to the tables just beyond the front door. This is a subject that needs further investigation - anybody want to research WIFI in restaurants and write a story for the 'Byter?



Eight ABCC members stopped by My Coffee to plan the "Meet My Mac" night.

Plans are coming together for "Meet My Mac" night. We get the meeting room from 5-8PM, but the public doesn't come by until 6PM to give us some time to set up. Stan Steigart designed a poster (which needs to be distributed here and there by ABCC members, by the way.) Marie Rasmussen will serve as hostess and direct folks to stations where various topics get discussed. Jack Webster will demonstrate a genealogy application. Brian Sundquist will pump out tunes using GarageBand. Susan Callahan will prove that people of any age can make iPhoto do tricks. Dave Johnson has promised to stand about and add to the ambience. Phil Bowser has distributed news releases to media around the state and will show off his letter-writing skills. Scott Dawson, computer museum curator wanna-be, will bring along a couple of computer for those who can't bring theirs from home.

The intent is to give absolute newbies some basic instruction about how to use a Mac, thus giving back to the community. It should be a fun event, so every club member should attend. If your computer is portable and you want to demonstrate something, bring it along. If you have a curious friend or neighbor, bring him/her along. If you want to learn a little more about your friendly Mac, wander among the exhibits and pick up a trick or two.

If you want to help out, please contact Philip Bowser at 673-8219 or pbowser@mac.com.

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.

Provided by Terry Cooper

DVD Industry Insider Report #9

The great thing about this business is that: A) it's the other guy who is causing all of the problems for consumers and B) it's the other guy who is making all of the money. "They" are all correct. PC makers see the big bucks in consumer electronics and have begun to morph their products into entertainment/home communications systems. PC makers branch out into mediocre cameras/camcorders and LCD/plasma displays.

The PC marketers were quick learners and before the holiday season we all saw what Rob Enderle, principal analyst at the Enderle Group called a backward condition for the industry where accessories were selling the computers. HP changed their systems to handle digital photography. Gateway came out with a family of digital cameras, camcorders and TVs. Sony has always ridden the wave of digital photography and video, as has Apple. Dell quickly jumped on board with a number of packaged solutions that included computers/printers/digital cameras/large LCD monitors and more.

While PC manufacturers only tested the waters with media center systems last year, they were serious about becoming mainstream consumer electronics competitors this year. PCs that didn't look like PCs were sold to replace stereos, VCRs, TV control units and more. Inter-Video - long the leading producer of DVD player software - sold their home theater solution software into HP, Fujitsu, Hitachi, Sharp, Legend and other manufacturers' home

entertainment systems.

As you might expect, Microsoft is also aggressively working to spread its tentacles into every part of your home. Fortunately there is an option which many manufacturers are also embracing - open solutions Linux. This space could become very interesting over the next 12-18 months.

Burners to Burn

Today's DVD burners have become multi-writing hydras that all look fairly similar except for the names on the front. Burning speeds have hit 8x (10 minutes for a 4.7GB burn) and shortly they will be 16x (under 5 minutes to write a complete disc) - with no increase in price.

Prices have dropped so rapidly for the DVD burners you buy today that Japanese manufacturers have all but ceased their own manufacturing and outsourced it to Taiwanese and mainland China manufacturers. Korea's LG continues to be the world's highest volume manufacturer but Taiwan's BenQ clearly has a goal to replace them as the leader. Next you have AccessTek (MSI), LiteOn, Quanta, AOpen and mainland China's TLS, Funai and SVA Group. Profits are so hard to come by that Pioneer and NEC have already moved much of their production to the mainland and Matsushita (Panasonic) will be there shortly.

As we said before don't expect to see many of these names on the shelves of your local store. Instead look for I/Omagic, Iomega, Apex, Memorex, Plextor, Digistor, Sony, HP, and a ton of super cheap store brands. Oh and don't forget they will be more readily seen as a stan-

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VENDOR OFFER WATCH

9/1/2005 Edition

Provided by The MUG Center

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Intriguing Development - 15% discount on iRemember; available in U.S. only. Expires 9/30/05

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MacAddict magazine - Up to 78% off annual subscription; available in U.S. only. Expires 6/30/06

macHOME magazine - \$15 off annual subscription; available in U.S. only. No expiration

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MYOB - \$25 off First Edge & \$100 off Account Edge; available globally. No expiration

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Peachpit Press - 25% off all titles by joining the Peachpit Club; available globally. No expiration

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Recosoft - \$10 discount on PDF2Office Personal; available globally. Expires 9/30/05

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ard part of your computer - Mac, Dell, HP, Gateway, Alienware, Sony, eMachines and yes store brands.

As if that wasn't good enough in a few months we'll have burners that will write dual layer (DVD-9) discs. CD (700MB) and DVD (4.7GB) media prices - especially R - are about as low as they can go and it is extremely difficult to tell good discs from bad discs until they have been written to—then it's a little late.

Dual-Layer Coming

Dual layer media may be about double the cost of the single layer discs that may sound a little expensive but we are looking at 6.5GB Vs 4.7GB - double the capacity. In addition, it's going to be in short supply because dual layer media is just very difficult to make and the early producers have only begun producing and shipping in any volume. It will take 3-4 months before volumes are increased to the point where it will be widely available. Still it will only be available this year from a couple of media manufacturers.

The dual layer burners “should” be able to write today's discs - it's just a matter of controlling the intensity of the write laser. The discs will be readable on existing players (the units already read dual layer movies). So expect the burners to be introduced with very aggressive pricing.

Why? Well despite what your sales rep will tell you making a dual-layer writing burner instead of a single-layer writing device isn't that tough. All they had to do is change some of the firmware to

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new image derived from one at <http://www.world-cell-phones.com/>



from www.chinaview.cn

Study Says Mobile Phones OK

Ten years of using a mobile phone regularly will not likely result in brain cancer, researchers said on Tuesday. The study, published in the online version of *The British Journal of Cancer*, studied 678 people with acoustic neuroma and compared their use of mobile phones over a 10-year period with a group of 3,553 people who had not developed the condition.

Researchers found no link between the risk of developing a tumour and the number of years for which mobile phones had been used. But amid public concern about a possible link, the scientists who conducted the largest study so far on the subject said they could not rule out a higher risk over a longer period.

The results of our study suggest there is no substantial risk in the first decade after starting use,” said Anthony Swerdlow of the Institute of Cancer Research. “Whether there are longer-term risks remains unknown, reflecting the fact that this is a relatively recent technology.” he said. Professor Peter Rigby, chief executive of the charity Cancer Research UK, said the latest study is a great step towards resolving the issue of whether mobile phones cause brain cancer. “Mobile phone have only been used widely over the past decade so we won't know the long-term effects for many years,” Professor Rigby said. However, it's important researchers continue to monitor phone users over coming years as mobiles are still a relatively new invention,” said Julie Sharp with the same institute.

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control the laser diode's write/read strength. Previously you had two strengths (write and read). With dual layer the laser had to be controlled for writing to layer 0 and layer 1 and reading the data. That's it for the hardware.

The media

That's a whole different challenge because it required different dyes for the two recording layers, spacers and special metal reflectors. Then all of these components have to be put together in just the right manner and the correct automated production technique. Not an easy task, hence the initial limited availability of the media.

In addition, keep in mind you will probably be writing single layer media most of the time because you won't be writing a full 8.5GB of data or up to 16 hours of video that often, the slightly higher price and slightly lower availability of dual layer. But that's okay because when you need the added capacity—you really need it!

Next at Plate

Just when you almost had the +/-, R/RW and the meaning of the X performance numbers figured out "they" have announced the next generation products. Yes there's another struggle coming. This time it is Blu-Ray Vs HD DVD. Both technologies will store five times more information than today's burners - about three hours of high def video. Sony showed their Blu-Ray burner at CES and will be shipping in a couple of months to dealers. Expect the initial prices to be about \$1,500. The media

- which will be in a cartridge - will be priced about \$35 per disc. Before you ask, no it won't play in your home DVD player.

Hollywood hasn't backed either yet and they certainly won't endorse two different standards. This is "nice" to know but you won't be running out to buy one of the burners for at least a year unless you're one of those people who simply have to be the first in your



neighborhood with the newest, most techie toys.

As Jon Peddie, President of Jon Peddie Research, points out the prices are going to be high. They won't be backward compatible. They will be initially targeted for professionals and business applications.

We doubt if we'll see "consumer" products until at least mid-2005. Then you can only play the discs on the system you wrote them on or on an equally compatible new stand-alone reader/player which "may" read your older DVDs. Keep in mind the discs will be in cartridges which was the thing any number of "experts" said was foolish when the first writable DVD products were introduced about four years ago.

It's the Money Honey

Why the dispute? It's all about the money! Even though there are low margins on PC and CE products, the licensing fees are a

big - huge - source of income. For example, Philips which is strong on technology but weak on marketing (at least everywhere but Europe) has set a goal to double its two to 2.5 percent profit margins with royalties. It's good money if you can get it and they've got the CD and DVD patents to make it happen. Sony, Matsushita, Hitachi and Pioneer also realize great returns to their bottomlines for their engineering advances in the two technologies.

Philips is so aggressive in protecting its royalties it has stopped products made in China and Taiwan at the borders and watched them be destroyed. Obviously that didn't sit well with China so they developed their own DVD technology (EVD - enhanced video disc) which is on sale in their country and will probably find limited success overseas — or Philips will blink and adjust their royalty charges.

So what does it mean for you? There are lots of 4x DVDR burners available and they are very cheap. 4x writing or 15 minutes a disc is nothing to sneeze at and the media is economic and readily available. The new 8x burners are already aggressively priced; media is coming into its own. Dual-layer is just over the next hill and will probably write to your existing single layer 4x and 8x media. Blue-laser and HD writers? Let's worry about that next year!

What is Blu-ray?

Blu-ray, also known as Blu-ray Disc (BD) is the name of a next-generation optical disc format jointly developed by the Blu-ray Disc Association (BDA), a group of leading consumer electronics and PC companies (including Apple, Dell, Hitachi, HP, JVC, LG, Mitsubishi, Panasonic, Pioneer, Philips, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, TDK and Thomson). The format was developed to enable recording, rewriting and playback of high-definition video (HD), as well as storing large amounts of data. A single-layer Blu-ray Disc can hold 25GB, which can be used to record over 2 hours of HDTV or more than 13 hours of standard-definition TV. There are also dual-layer versions of the discs that can hold 50GB.

While current optical disc technologies such as DVD, DVD±R, DVD±RW, and DVD-RAM use a red laser to read and write data, the new format uses a blue-violet laser instead, hence the name Blu-ray. Despite the different type of lasers used, Blu-ray products can easily be made backwards compatible through the use of a BD/DVD/CD compatible optical pickup and allow playback of CDs and DVDs. The benefit of using a blue-violet laser (405nm) is that it has a shorter wavelength than a red laser (650nm), which makes it possible to focus the laser spot with even greater precision. This allows data to be packed more tightly and stored in less space, so it's possible to fit more data on the disc even though it's the same size as a CD/DVD. This together with the change of numerical aperture to 0.85 is what enables Blu-ray Discs to hold 25GB/50GB.



With the rapid growth of HDTV, the consumer demand for recording HD programming is quickly rising. Blu-ray was designed with this application in mind and supports direct recording of the MPEG-2 TS (Transport Stream) used by digital broadcasts, which makes it highly compatible with global standards for digital TV. This means that HDTV broadcasts can be recorded directly to the disc without any quality loss or extra processing. To handle the increased amount of data required for HD, Blu-ray employs a 36Mbps data transfer rate, which is more than enough to record and playback HDTV while maintaining the original picture quality. In addition, by fully utilizing an optical disc's random accessing features, it's possible to playback video on a disc while simultaneously recording HD video.

Blu-ray is expected to replace VCRs and DVD recorders with the transition to HDTV over the coming years. The format is also likely to become a standard for PC data storage and HD movies in the future.

World's First Built-In Wi-Fi -Enabled Digital Cameras

Nikon recently announced two Wi-Fi enabled models. The Coolpix P1 and P2 are the world's first built-in Wi-Fi-enabled (IEEE802.11b/g) digital cameras to hit the marketplace. These cameras immediately transmit images wirelessly to a computer or a PictBridge-enabled printer, if you wish as soon as the image is shot. The Coolpix P1 and P2 will be available in September 2005 with a MSRP of \$549.95 and \$399.95, respectively.



The Dock

The “dock” is a small strip of pictures or icons, usually at the bottom of the screen. This is intended to be a convenient place to put often-used applications and documents. You need to know a little bit about how the dock is organized:

If the application is already running (or “launched”), then there will be a little triangle next to the icon. Conversely, those without triangles have not yet been launched.

When you point to an icon in the dock, it enlarges and its name becomes visible.

To launch an application in the dock, simply double-click on it. You can also drag and drop a document created by the application you want to launch onto the icon in the dock.

If you don't feel like using the mouse so much, you can press and hold down the “command” key and quickly tap the “TAB” key. This will jump from one launched dock application to the next. When the application you want appears, release the command key.



These applications are currently “running.” The others are easily available by clicking the picture in the dock, but they have not yet been “launched.” As you work with the applications, you will begin to remember which pictures go with which applications.

Mac 101

Apple Blossom Computer Club
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Winston OR 97496
www.abccmug.org

Mac-101 is a series of one-page explanations of various aspects of using OS-X, intended for the very beginner.

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

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

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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!

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

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