

# The RoseByter



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



## Next Meeting Thursday, November 17, 5:30 ~ 7:30 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at Joseph Lane Middle School, room #8 for it's monthly meeting. Please note this is a change from the old date and time!

### Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.
2. Introduction of members/guests
3. Questions and Answers
4. Program:
  - a. Report from the Nominating Committee.
  - b. Bernie will present a program (DVD) from Adobe on the new features of Photoshop CS2.

### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash .....\$1800.90  
 Income:  
   Dues .....120.00  
   Interest ..... .57  
 Expenses  
   Newsletter .....27.39  
   Sept. meeting materials.....14.00  
 Ending Balance .....\$1880.08

*Jim McClellan,  
Treasurer*

## How to Improve Attendance?

The October meeting of the Apple Blossom Computer Club had only four members in attendance. President Bernie Fox wants to hear some great ideas for getting more people there! A recent survey showed that about 50% of the small group responding found the new day and time not so good for their schedules. (Of course, it was probably the other 50% that said, "switch to Thursday!") Others had life get in the way as follows:

\*\*\*\*\*

Had planned on attending but I became very ill the day before and could not make it. Slowly recovering now. Was thinking about you all though. Hope to be there next month. Have invited a couple of people to our meetings. Hopefully we will be increased by two next month.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Bernie, I truly meant to come it was on my calendar, I had invited a friend who works for UPS and just bought an Apple, but he doesn't get home til 8PM. I don't have an excuse, I just blew it. Sorry

\*\*\*\*\*

We were not in the overwhelming majority: we have a daughter who rides in Pony Club on Thursday evenings and my husband rarely is home from work before 6:30 p.m. - which is why we cannot attend on the new

schedule. Sorry. But thank you for the newsletter!

\*\*\*\*\*

I was home with the flu. My grandchildren with their generosity, shared theirs with me. I had entered the new time and date on my calendar, and it would have worked well. Very sorry

\*\*\*\*\*

The time conflicts with my schedule. And I haven't been to a meeting in years but I do believe in supporting the club via my dues.

\*\*\*\*\*

HI: I JUST JOINED SO HAVEN'T MUCH OF AN OPINION YET. THURSDAY IS A BAD NIGHT FOR ME. THANKS

\*\*\*\*\*

*Continued on Page 6...*

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**  
Bernie Fox  
[brownfox@ramcell.net](mailto:brownfox@ramcell.net)

**Treasurer**  
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[mcclellan@charter.net](mailto:mcclellan@charter.net)

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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.

## The Caring Case Collection

We all aspire for win-win situations. Here's one. You can look fashionable and stylish wearing the Komen MicroFiber Tote and at the same time be giving to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Mobile Edge has pledged to donate to the foundation 10% of the proceeds from the sale of the following: The Komen Milano, The Komen Microfiber Tote, The Komen Pink Suede Tote, The Komen Pink Leather Tote, and The Komen Paris Computer Backpack.



*The Komen MicroFiber Tote  
Manufacturer: Mobile Edge MSRP:  
\$129 For information, visit:  
<http://www.mobiledge.com>*

*Specifications: Exterior dimensions  
(l x w x h): 18x14.5x5 in. Fits laptops  
up to (l x w x h): 15x11x2.5 in  
Color: Black/pink*

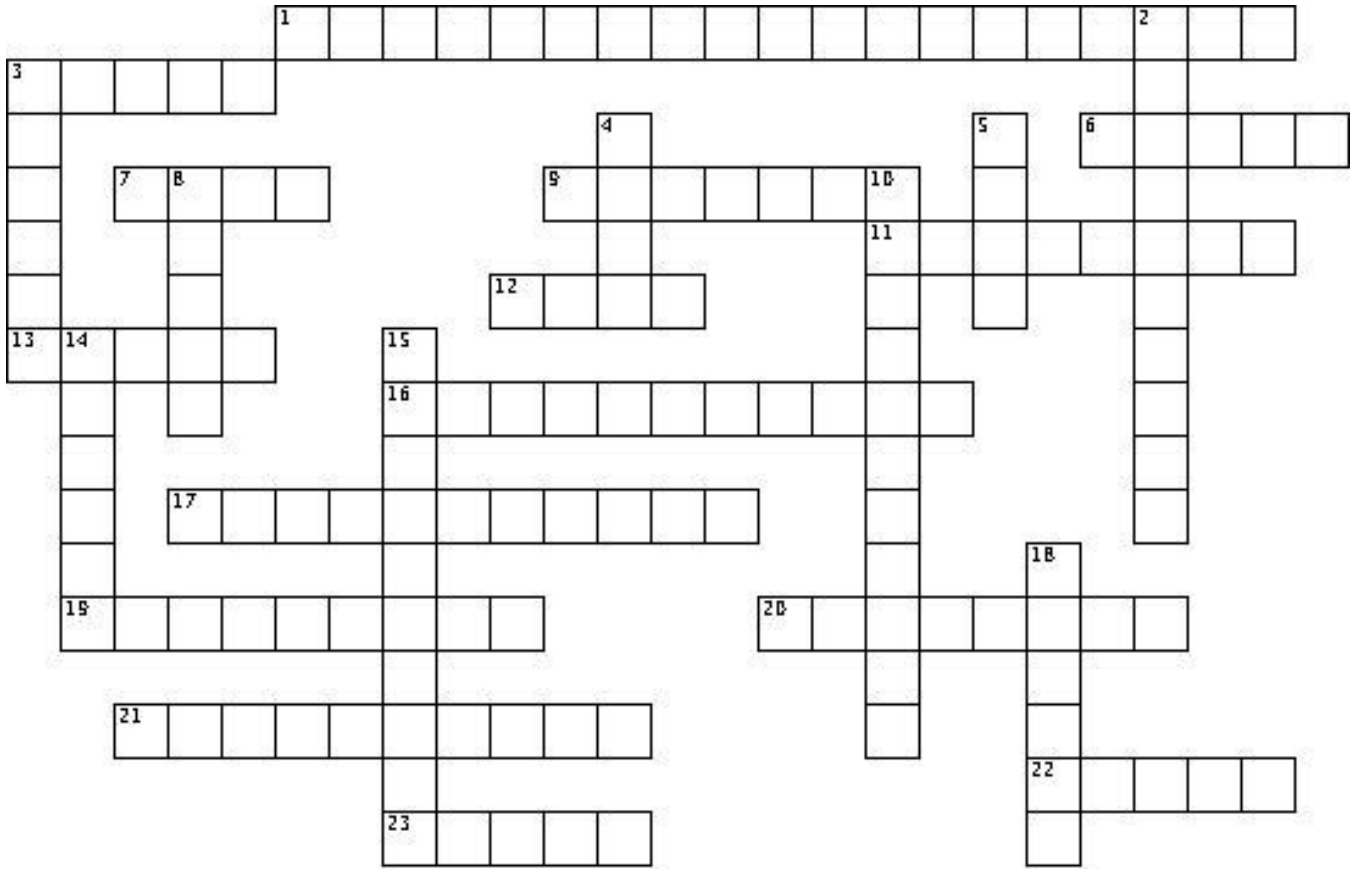
It is about time that a company has taken on the mission to design a computer bag that offers style, innovation and protection for the 52% women who buy Consumer Electronics in the US. Good-bye forever, boring, masculine looking computer bags for me. Mobile Edge states that The Caring Case Collection was designed “for women, by women, and for the benefit of women.”

The Komen MicroFiber Tote is stylish and functional. You would never know I was carrying my Apple 15” PowerBook in it. The design I wanted to review was The Komen Milano (all pink) bag but it was my fault that I didn’t specify that model. The model I received, The Komen MicroFiber Tote is absolutely gorgeous. It looks more expensive than it is. It is made of a durable black material with pink handles and pink body trim sporting a detachable Pink-Ribbon keychain. It has a well-padded computer protection compartment, which is also removable for dual functionality. I removed the insert completely for the sake of this review and found it very fashionably made of a shiny silky material that feels waterproof or at least weather resistant although Mobile Edge makes no claims it is so. I can wrap my laptop with the included microfiber bag for additional scratch protection, designed in white and pink, to carry the laptop alone in this bag and leave the tote to carry all my other stuff. The steel tips at the bottom of the bag keep it off the floor and sitting up straight. The bag has lots of useful pockets, my favorites are the “detachable cosmetic/accessory pouch,” the interior zippered pocket and the outside EZ access pocket. The care and atten-

*Continued on page 4...*

# Puzzle Time!

## A Few More Things



### Across

1. TV show available from iTunes
3. Apple to use these microprocessors beginning in 2006
6. Apart from White, the other colour the iPod Nano is available in
7. Computer that now includes a built-in camera
9. Female Artist who just released entire catalogue exclusively on iTunes
11. Support for these files was added to iTunes 4.9
12. Now features a 2.5-inch screen
13. Mac OS X 10.4 is commonly refer to as
16. Popular series of books now available exclusively from iTunes
17. Apple's First Two Button Mouse
19. Feature introduced in iTunes 5.0 that helps find music
20. Media Control Software bundled with new iMac
21. Personalized Music Recommendations introduced in iTunes 6 (3 words)
22. Company that produced the movie shorts released on iTunes with iTunes 6.0
23. Car company to be the the first to include text-to-speech capabilities

### Down

2. Car company to offer iPod for most of their US range starting from November
3. Camera Built-in to new iMac
4. iPod released September 7th
5. Commencing in November this car manufacturer will feature iPod intergration in their A3, A4 & TT models
8. Device previously included in iMac that now requires external USB device
10. Used to control the iMac from up to 30 feet away
14. Apple's Music Jukebox software
15. Product Apple has had the most fun producing
18. .Mac members can now easily create private, ad-free online communities

“Caring Collection” from page 4... tion to detail, quality, and style are commendable.

I wanted to publish this review in October for breast cancer awareness month. However, no matter what month, any woman or friend who wants to contribute financially to help cancer research can do so by giving a bag from Mobile Edge’s, The Caring Case Collection, as a gift for a special occasion to a breast cancer survivor or to herself while supporting breast cancer research. What is there not to love? One more thing - the Online Apple Store sells only this reviewed model where it qualifies for free shipping.

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More articles by this  
author available at:

<http://Mlmug.org/Reviews.html>.

## World’s Fastest Computer

According to BBC News, the IBM supercomputer known as “Blue Gene” is now the world’s most powerful. Doubling its own record, it recently reached 280.6

trillion calculations a second. Give everybody in the world a pocket calculator, plus a few decades, and you will be able to match the number of calculations Blue Gene accomplishes in one second.

Blue Gene is expected to work on materials ageing calculations, molecular dynamics, material modelling and turbulence and instability in hydrodynamics. A companion supercomputer, known as “Purple” will then use that information to quickly simulate nuclear weapons performance. Previously we needed to actually test nuclear weapons to discover this. Together, the machines will be able to perform half a petaflop. (That’s half a quadrillion floating point calculations a second.)

The machine’s 131,072 processors can also be used to sequence DNA, design drug molecules, and perform calculations on astronomical data. Other non-military uses include weather prediction, automobile design, and disease diagnosis.



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## Neave Labs Do What Google Cannot

Have you noticed that some of the nifty Google features, such as the “zoom-in” world map, are not fully functional on a Macintosh? Google warns us that their stuff is not Mac-compatible (read the fine print, if you can find it!) Enter Neave Labs.!

Neave is a programmer who was fiddling with Flash one day and discovered that he could create a zoom-in world map that is awfully close to what the Windoze people see when they visit Google. You can find it at [http://www.neave.com/lab/flash\\_earth/](http://www.neave.com/lab/flash_earth/). There are also other fun goodies to explore, such as a planetarium, a chance to let your imagination run wild, and on-line versions of some old video games. Give it a look-see sometime!



Screen shot from Neave Labs shown the map, planetarium, and creative exercise options.

From Other MUG Newsletters

## Why Burn a Disc Image

Many data folders contain invisible data files that are used by the application that creates and modifies the contents of the folder. One example is iPhoto that uses the iPhoto Library folder. These invisible files could contain important information like the Keywords, or the alias directory for the Albums of iPhoto.

Unless special steps are taken, simple burn processes like “Burning in Finder View” will not capture these invisible files. The CD produced cannot fully restore the functionality of the original data. All images would be preserved but some image identification information can be missed.

A disc image of folders contains ALL the files, visible or invisible. The disc image process takes more time but all data is captured. Most data folders do NOT contain important invisible files. “Burning in Finder View” is sufficient for these folders. ~Jerry King

*MacFriends Report, Naples, FL*

## Hard Disk Corruption

It has happened to many of us, and is not a pleasant experience: the computer starts to behave strangely and some files seem to mysteriously disappear. If

your computer is showing these symptoms, it might be suffering from a damaged file system on its hard disk.

There can be many causes of this, including faulty hardware in your computer or a power cut at a critical point while the disk is being updated, but the most common cause is software bugs, either in the operating system itself or in an application or other piece of software on the computer.

If you think the file system on your hard disk might be damaged, you should stop using the computer as soon as possible, as any data written to your hard disk might cause further damage to the file system, possibly resulting in loss of files. Use disk repair software to check for and repair any problems before you resume normal operation. Mac OS X has improved the reliability of the file system considerably over Mac OS 9, simply by preventing applications from being able to write data to arbitrary locations on the hard disk, and from overwriting critical system files. In addition, Mac OS X 10.3 (and later) supports a scheme known as “journaling,” which allows it to recover from the computer crashing, restarting or losing power, and restoring the file system to a consistent state.

Unfortunately this system isn't perfect, and it is still possible to get minor problems occurring on rare occasions. Sometimes these minor problems can grow into

major ones, and once the file system has major damage, you are at risk of losing a lot of files on your hard disk. So, how does one deal with these problems, and hopefully catch them before they get too serious?

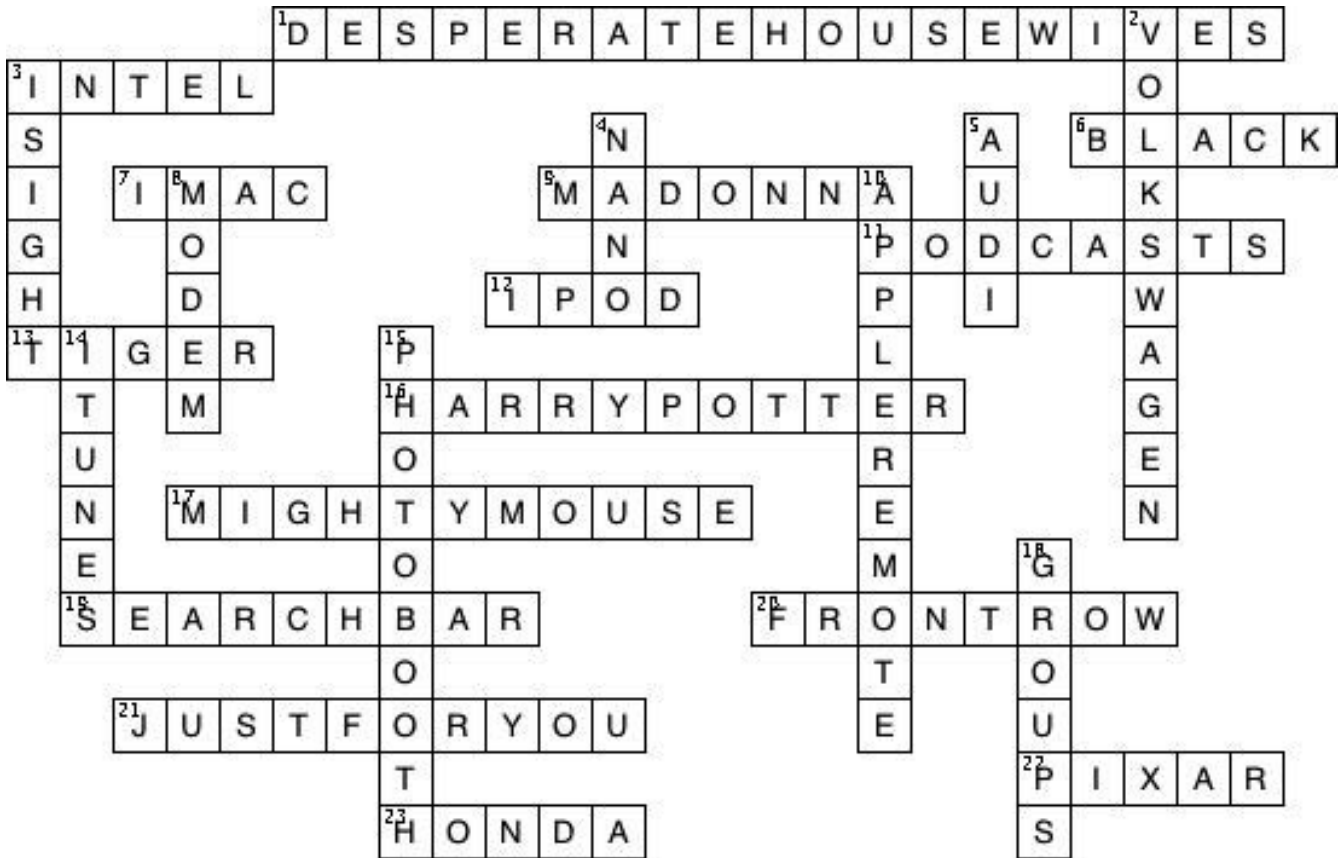
### Disk Utility: First Aid

The primary tool on Mac OS X is the Disk Utility application. It includes a “First Aid” component, which can check your hard disk for any file system damage, and repair simple problems. It is a good idea to regularly run Disk Utility and do a “Verify” on your computer's hard disk to check for any problems. Hopefully this will catch any minor issues before anything serious happens.

Unfortunately, you can't use the Verify (or Repair) function of Disk Utility unless you start up your computer from another disk. Apple has provided a method of doing this by including a copy of Disk Utility on the Mac OS X installation CD/DVD which was supplied with your computer. They hid it a little, so you need to know where to look in order to find it: instead of clicking on the “Install” button, look in the Menu bar for Utilities > Disk First Aid.

In Disk Utility, you need to select your hard disk from the list on the left side, then make sure you have the “First Aid” tab selected, and click on the “Verify” button. This will check your disk for any problems. It displays progress information and

*...continued on page 7*



.....  
 ...“Attendance” from page 1

Hi Bernie! As I said when I approved the change, Its not good for me, but if a majority of members will be more likely to come, then I had to support it. Unfortunately I will not be able to make it very often. Tues, or Wednesday are better for me. I talked with my brother in law Tim, and he said the 5:30 time is not possible for him because he works till 5:45pm. Also Tues is best for him, but Wednesday is doable. I have board meetings for the Glide community on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of every month, so I wont be able to get away very often. If those that wanted the new time wont show up, then we'd

better change back, or change to Tuesday.

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm a trustee at Wildlife Safari and they have an annual meeting, which this year was on the 3rd Thursday afternoon in October rather than the 3rd Saturday. I felt I needed to attend this as it was a once a year meeting. I expect to make future ABCC meetings at 5:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday. Thanks for asking!

\*\*\*\*\*

Bernie: Admittedly, we didn't

return the questionnaire about preferred meeting day and time, but 7:00 or 7:30 would be a much better time for us. (5:30 is dinner time!) John usually only attends when a subject of interest to him is scheduled.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Bernie, Sorry I could not make it to the Oct 20.2005 ABC club meeting. I had conflicts as the Native Plant Society of Oregon, Umpqua Chapter meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Mercy Medical Center Community room. [Obviously something isn't right].

...“Corruption” from page 5

a summary of what it found. If there are any problems, they will be shown in red, and it will say that you need to repair the disk. You can do this by clicking on the “Repair” button. Assuming the problem was minor, Disk First Aid should be able to fix it. When finished, you can quit from Disk Utility, and quit from the Installer, then restart your computer to return to normal operation.

### Third-Party Disk Repair Tools

If there is a serious problem, Disk First Aid may not be able to repair it. This is when you need to call in the heavy guns in the form of specialist third-party disk repair programs. These are all relatively expensive, and it is important to ensure you are running the latest version. There have been cases where an old version of a disk repair utility has done serious damage to a file system that has been modified by newer system software.

In the past, the main disk repair was Symantec’s Norton Utilities. This program is no longer being developed, and, more importantly, the latest version is not compatible with Tiger, so I cannot recommend its use, and I would discourage anyone from buying it now.

In my experience, the best program for dealing with a corrupted file system is Alsoft’s DiskWarrior. It takes a while to rebuild the directory on your hard disk,

then gives you the option of previewing its results before it actually modifies your hard disk.

If it has not succeeded in recovering files you know were lost, you can cancel DiskWarrior’s repair attempt, and try other repair tools first. DiskWarrior is certainly a lot easier to use than Norton Utilities, as it doesn’t ask mysterious technical questions whenever it encounters a problem.

Another major disk repair program is TechTool Pro, which also provides a wide range of other tests for your computer hardware. I have this, but I’ve never needed to use its disk repair functions because DiskWarrior has always done a good enough job, so I can’t comment on its reliability or usability.

Another useful program is Data Rescue. This concentrates on recovering files from a damaged hard disk rather than trying to repair it. If you have files on your hard disk that have been lost, are absolutely critical, and you must recover them at all costs, I’d recommend trying this one before anything else, though I haven’t had need for it myself. All of these programs cost around \$80 to \$90.

### The Aftermath

If you were suffering from major damage to your file system, then you may find that the computer is still misbehaving after the damage has been repaired. The most likely explanation is that some critical system files were partially damaged, and they need to be reinstalled. You should try doing a fresh installation of your operating system, and preferably all your applications as well, or restore everything from a known good backup.

### Optimization?

Some disk tools offer a method of optimizing your hard disk in order to improve performance. If you are running Mac OS X, I’d recommend avoiding this. The speed gains are temporary, and the optimization process is risky: if the file system is already damaged, optimizing it is likely to cause serious damage.

-David Empson  
Wellington Macintosh Society,  
Wellington, New Zealand via  
TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA



## 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.

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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

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