



A registered Apple Macintosh User Group  
March 2006~ Still only \$2.00



## Read The Proposed By-Laws Change!

The By-Laws Committee of our club has been diligently revising our current By-laws. Any changes must be read at a general meeting then voted upon at the following general meeting. Accordingly, you can read/download the revised By-laws at [http://www.abccmug.org/By-laws\(proposed\).pdf](http://www.abccmug.org/By-laws(proposed).pdf). It's only available via the above URL and not via the Web site.



What we would like you to do is read the revised By-laws (the revisions are in red or crossed through) and if you have any comments, list them by page and line number so that you can discuss them at the March meeting.

Send your comments to either Jim ([mcclellan@charter.net](mailto:mcclellan@charter.net)), Bernie ([brownfox@ramcell.net](mailto:brownfox@ramcell.net)) or Brian ([cottagehill@cmspan.net](mailto:cottagehill@cmspan.net)) a.s.a.p. so that they can be prepared for discussion at the reading of the proposed By-laws at the upcoming March general meeting.

We strong ask that you make a copy of the proposed By-Laws and bring them with you to the discussion meeting on March 16 as some people have a hard time reading from the projected image on the screen at the front of the room. Thanks,

*--Bernie Fox, president*

### Next Meeting Thursday, March 16, 5:30 ~ 7:30 PM

The Apple Blossom Computer Club will meet at Joseph Lane Middle School, room #8 for it's monthly meeting.

### Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.
2. Introduction of members/ guests
3. Questions and Answers
4. Program: Proposed By-laws

### Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash.....	\$2,007.93
Income:	
Dues .....	60.00
Interest .....	.74
Expenses:	
Newsletter .....	30.51
Meeting Handout .....	7.20
Postage .....	39.00
Ending Balance .....	\$1,991.96

*Jim McClellan,  
Treasurer*

## Teaching Acrobat New Tricks

The February meeting of the Apple Blossom Computer Club featured a presentation by Bernie Fox on the Adobe Acrobat application. (The full application, not just the "reader.") This program converts text and images to a description of the page. The reader program that matches your particular brand of computer will then render the document, even if your machine is different from the one that created the document. That's why Acrobat files have the ".pdf" extension; it means "portable document format."

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>  
Copyright© 2006  
All Rights Reserved

## Membership

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

ABCC  
13748 Lookingglass Road  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

**President & Web Master**  
Bernie Fox  
[brownfox@ramcell.net](mailto:brownfox@ramcell.net)

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

**Apple Ambassador**  
Terry Cooper  
[tscooper@charter.net](mailto:tscooper@charter.net)

**AppleScript Guru**  
Jack Webster  
[jackw@rio.com](mailto:jackw@rio.com)

**AOL User Group Rep**  
Phil Bowser  
[philip574@aol.com](mailto:philip574@aol.com)

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.

# Goodbye PowerBook, Hello MacBook

## By Bill Davies,

This laptop starts at \$1999. Why so much when Intel products are a commodity? Where's the \$699 laptop we all wanted?

Notable improvements to this new pro laptop are the inclusion of a built-in iSight videocam, a screen that is almost as bright as an Apple Studio Display, and a cool new magnetic power supply that will simply fall away from the laptop if someone trips over the power cord. Apple is mum on battery life, claiming that they don't have adequate data yet to make a representation. (Interesting, since the whole rationale for switching to Intel was more power per watt.)

Conversely, people have noted that Firewire 800 is nowhere to be found, the laptop lacks an internal modem (you have to buy an external USB modem), the display has 86,400 fewer pixels than the Powerbook display, the SuperDrive doesn't support dual-layer media (functionality that was standard on all 2005 G4 Powerbooks), S-video requires an adapter, there's no mention of the acceleration-detection technology that Apple was trumpeting for last year's laptops, there's no

12" version, and there's no 17" version. And in the "can't decide if it's good or bad department," there is a slot for an Express Card/34" but to date no one has found a manufacturer that makes anything to go in there. It was hoped that this laptop would have some flash memory that would allow a user to instantly save all work and shut down, and then



*Image from [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)*

upon restart, have the computer be instantly on and ready to go. Some had speculated that the Express Card slot might be used to hold flash, but so far, the best I've heard is that someone might make a media card reader to fit in there. So that's the good, the bad, and the ugly about the MacBook.

But where I really want to focus my attention is whether Apple made this jump to Intel without becoming a fish out of water. In late December I got to thinking (when I saw ads from other PC manufacturers who were using the Core Duo chip and logic board) that maybe what Apple should be doing is letting these large volume shops like Acer and Dell make the hardware, put an Apple licensing chip on the logic board to let Apple derive

*Continued on page 7...*



## Japanese Mouse Shocks Muscles As You Work

*(Editor's note: Should you visit this web page at [www.thanko.jp/kinniku\\_mouse.html](http://www.thanko.jp/kinniku_mouse.html), you would have to read Japanese to make sense of it. What follows is the result of asking to see a "translation" of the page. There are some rough edges, but you probably get the idea!)*

At first glance, it is the normal mouse, but the EMS which operates the how this mouse, due to USB bus power (the Electrical Muscle Stimulation) the system is built in, it is is. In the home and net surfing, even with in the office and work, secretly muscular reinforcement and the body, it is possible to utilize even in the little healing.

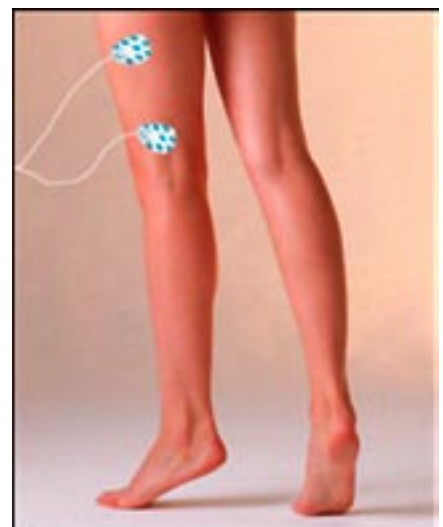
Of course, the workmanship which does not have complaint as a mouse! Because resolution is the 800dpi with optical system, without problem it is operational even in some job. Usually you be able to utilize it increases as the normal mouse and, because also the eye which was seen is the normal mouse, it is available only around it is what without becoming aware! When liking you to utilize the EMS system, if you insert the cable of attachment, completion of preparation! If power source the switch is turned on, it operates, with the mode Change-over Switch change of stimulus mode of 3 types has become possible. When just a little becoming tired and the like, around the refreshment how how probably will be?

♡ 法人のお客様

Either the safety design does not make a foolish mistake! Because power source when 1 hour it elapses, automatically becomes off, forgetting to turn off power absent-mindedly, feeling at rest, it can utilize.

The cable for the pad of attachment is connected to the divergence section which is on the middle of the USB cable. The pad is stuck to use to the place where such as shoulder and waist we would like and the power which if in the mouse is turned on, it is start of use!

Pushing the strength switch which is on mouse side, adjustment of degree of stimulus has become possible depending upon receiving. When the mode Change-over Switch is pushed, it is possible to change the stimulus mode of 3 types.



## Product Review: Elgato EyeTV2 Reviewer: Maria O. Arguello

Elgato's EyeTV2 is Mac PVR Software. You can watch TV on your Mac, program EyeTV2 to record favorite shows and export them to your iPod with video, or burn them as DVD to play back on your wide screen TV. It's like a TiVo for your Mac.

Elgato has done a great job updating the software for EyeTV. It now costs \$49 but it's worth it. It is better integrated and easier to use. The first thing you notice is the new look of the on-screen remote control. But there's much more to the beautiful aqua design. For starters, now there's an integrated Electronic Program

Guide (EPG), making it very easy and convenient to look up your programs. In the old software version you had to open a browser to get to the Titan Program Guide and view the schedule. You still cannot set Favorite Shows through the built-in EPG. If you want to record the next season of The Shield, you have to enter each episode manually. You can create Playlists, like albums in iPhoto, to organize your recordings in folders by category. Now recorded programs include show information, which before you had to fill in yourself. You can automatically add new recordings to the play lists. You can also create favorite channel lists.

There are two new quick export buttons, to "Burn with



Image from [www.elgato.com](http://www.elgato.com)

Toast," (Toast not included) and to send to the new iPod with video. When you export to the iPod, settings for the best iPod viewing are automatic or you can choose from an extensive list of presets and file formats. You can also set schedules to export automatically to your iPod. Simply choose Automatically export to iPod and when the recording is complete it will be sent to iTunes and be ready for syncing with the iPod. In

*Continued on page 6...*



Jeff posted the following on [www.reflex8.com/blog/2006/02/19/gmail-web-storage-for-mac-os-x/](http://www.reflex8.com/blog/2006/02/19/gmail-web-storage-for-mac-os-x/)

## Gmail Web Storage for Mac OS X

For the past couple of months I have seen utilities that turn Gmail into web storage for Microsoft Windows XP and Linux. The

applications allow you to use Gmail as though it were a hard drive on your computer. I have been searching for a way to do this in OS X and have finally found an application for the job.

Although it does not mount Gmail to the desktop, it allows for fairly easy uploading and downloading of data to Gmail. The application is called gDisk and can be found here: <http://gdisk.sourceforge.net/>.

I highly suggest everyone to check out this utility. Even if it is just for casual use, it can be a life saver when you need to take files with you from place to place.

For the programmers out there, gDisk is open source and was developed using X Code.

### Requirements

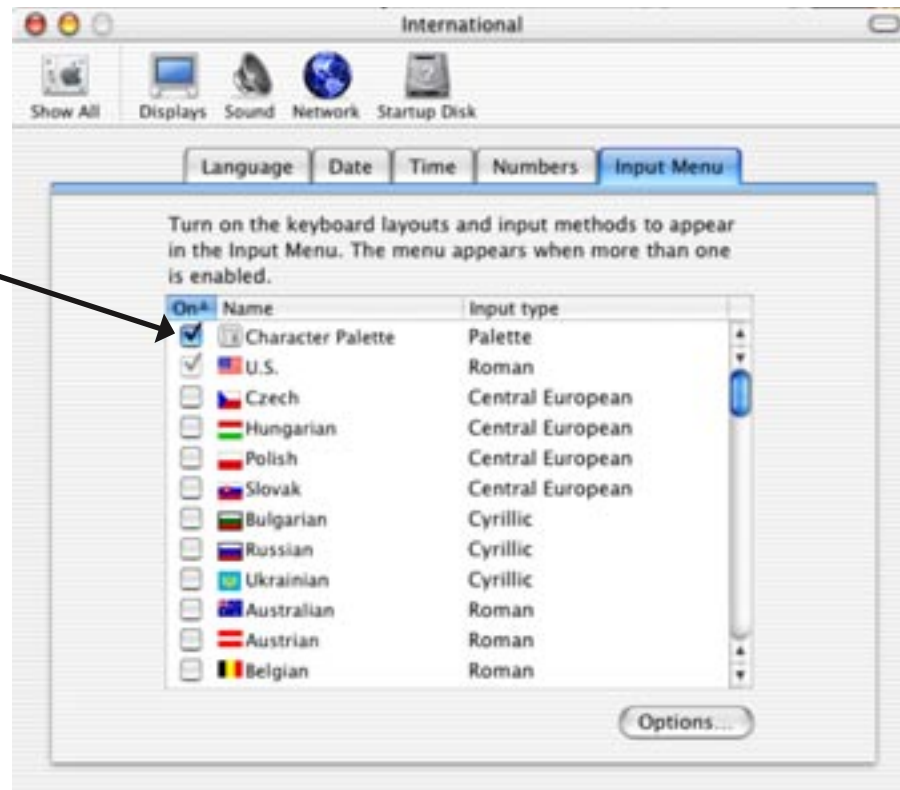
- \* A Mac with Mac OS X (10.3 or above)
- \* A Google GMail account.

## Key Caps vs. Font Book

Looking for Key Caps? Key Caps is a utility that is used for (among other things) finding special characters that aren't printed on the keyboard keys. In 10.3, Key Caps disappeared in favor of Font Book. Strangely enough, though, Font Book doesn't let you insert special characters into a document.

To get the Key Caps functionality back, open System Preferences, and click "International". Click the "Input Menu" button, and put a check box next to Keyboard Viewer. Also check "Show input menu in menu bar", at the bottom of the window. This adds a menu near the top right of the screen from which you can select various keyboard layouts.

*OK, this is an OS-10.2 screen shot, but you will get the idea. See the check mark on the "Character Palette" box? That's where you click to activate it.*



Now you can choose "Show Keyboard Viewer" from this menu to display a floating window that allows you to browse special characters by holding down different combinations of modifier keys (e.g. the command key, command and shift, command and option, etc).



*Again, this is what it looks like in OS-10.2. Click on the little picture to the right of the "Help" pull-down menu, and you can see all of those characters that aren't already printed on the tops of your keys!*

...“Elgato Review” from page 4

addition, EyeTV2 analyzes the recording and chooses the optimum export format of recordings for further processing in applications such as iMovie HD, iDVD or DVD Studio Pro, burning with Toast, and the use of shows on the iPod.

When you export to Toast, it opens the application and you can further customize settings for the best DVD quality. If you want to edit the program and delete the commercials, you have to have a lot of time and a very powerful Mac. For every minute of commercial programming, it takes a minute and forty seconds to ‘compact’ it or delete it with the EyeTV software. If you don’t have the time, then simply fast forward it on your iPod or pay \$1.99 at the iTunes Music Store for commercial-free episodes. Additional features include: •Action button menu for speedier editing •“Invert Markers” command •Clips saved as separate files •Batch export •Dynamically resizable previews

It is very helpful to go to Elgato System FAQ <<http://faq.elgato.com/index.php/main/>> where you can learn what other programs work well with EyeTV2, which is beyond the scope of this review. I look forward to updates from Elgato that will improve the EyeTV2 software for the Mac.

Company: Elgato <[www.elgato.com](http://www.elgato.com)> Price: \$49 (for a limited time) Minimum System Requirements: Mac OS X 10.4 or higher, Power PC G4 (500 MHz or faster), G5 or Intel Core processor; 256 MB of RAM, 512 recommended. Internet connection required. Test System: Dual 2.5 GHz G5 desktop, OS X 10.4.4 Review date: March 2006 Overall Rating: 4 out of 5

Copyright © 2006  
Maria O. Arguello, MLMUG  
<[arguello10@comcast.net](mailto:arguello10@comcast.net)>



*Mission: Impossible III trailer screenshot (24 fps.)*  
[http://homepage.mac.com/gsf/mac\\_mini\\_dual\\_core\\_mi3\\_trailer\\_screenshot.png](http://homepage.mac.com/gsf/mac_mini_dual_core_mi3_trailer_screenshot.png)

## Core Duo Mac Mini Plays HD Video

An anonymous contributor to [macdailynews.com](http://macdailynews.com) has reported that the new, Intel-based Macintosh Mini, can handle high definition (1080p) MPEG-4 video at 24 frames per second without dropping frames! Using Apple’s new h264 QuickTime decoder, even a basic, 512 Mb Mini with no dedicated video RAM or a separate video card can serve as the basis for a family entertainment center that merges computer, video, and audio with a high degree of quality at a relatively low cost.

...From "Hello MacBook" some revenue, and let the sweat shops do the heavy lifting. We all know that Apple doesn't want you to be able to buy a \$699 Dell and put OS X on it, so what Apple needs is a hardware validator chip on the logic board, and to let other companies bring out the new hardware and pay Apple a license fee. The bean counters in the world have observed that this gives Apple only \$25 or \$75 per system sold, versus the \$400 to \$800 they must make when they sell one of their own MacBooks. (Probably why Apple is not following my advice on this one.) To further test my theory, I went online and tried to compare the one other shipping Core Duo laptop that I had seen mentioned in the first week of January 2006, which is an Acer Travelmate 8200. Other than the fact that the Acer laptop runs Windows XP, it could probably pass for a MacBook to all but the most discerning consumer. It has a built-in camera and a top that swivels 270 degrees.

And that brings me to my next point. Now that Apple has come to play in the Intel sandbox, it can't charge an extra \$1000 for the privilege of having an Apple logo on the computer (even if the Apple does light up). That would be ridiculous. If the components and logic boards are If you're in the market for a new Mac, you currently can choose between a G4 or G5 Mac, and one of the new models with Intel inside. Run through these questions before buying:

- Do you need to run any Classic applications? If yes, then don't get a Mac with an Intel processor, as Classic is not supported.
- Do you need high performance video, as the video cards on the Intel Macs are much superior to the ones on the 2005 iMac G5 and/or Powerbook G4. The new ATI X1600 graphics card offers accelerated MPEG-2, MPEG-4 and H.264 decoding. It will not speed up iMovie authoring, but will certainly offer better performance for viewing iMovies and DVDs.
- How often do you buy machines? Buying "last year's model" with a G4 or G5 will get you up to a 3 year lifespan before the machine loses software update support from Apple. Buying an Intel model gets you 5-6 years of machine life as a supported architecture, although certainly Apple will love you if you buy a new machine every 3 years.
- Do you need to run VirtualPC? Because if largely the same, why would someone pay an extra \$800 to get an Apple on the front? (Granted, you do get OS X and iLife '06, but is that worth my speculative \$800?)

For purposes of argument, I've prepared a chart that compares the



From www.acer.com

Acer Travelmate 8200 (Windows XP) to Apple's new MacBook Pro (MacOS X Tiger). Price-wise the two units are almost identical, but if you read the chart closely, you'll notice that Acer provides more RAM, more hard disk, and a couple of other juicy items. It may not be as gorgeous in its design, but since Apple wanted to play with the big boys, let's face it, Apple is now going to be compared to the big boys.

I don't want to sound completely negative on the MacBook Pro. I think it is a great first step by Apple, and I've ordered one myself because, in my way of thinking, all machines I buy from now on are going to be Intel Macs, so I talked myself out of a dual processor G5 tower for my personal toy, and am starting out with an Intel-based MacBook. I'll get my feet wet with this, and when an Intel PowerMac tower comes out I should be ready to integrate that with the rest of my collection.

--from the Santa Rosa, CA NCMUG newsletter

## 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 4/30/06**

**User ID: user**

**Password: group**

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

BTW-if you go to <http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/offers/vendorcodes.htm>, and use the password "ugvendo" you will find a page of links to a wide variety of discounts available only to Mac user group members!

### 30% DISCOUNT!

As a user group member, you are entitled to a 30% discount any time you order directly from O'Reilly. When ordering, be sure to include the user group discount code: **DSUG**

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

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



### Write For Your Newsletter!

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

### Seasoned Oak Firewood

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