



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



## Next Meeting Thursday, May 18, 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 and guests
3. Questions and Answers
4. Program: This month our own Phil Bowser will lead a discussion and demonstration in digital photography. Primarily showing how to copy the images from your camera (or digital card) onto your computer and how to minimize those images for sending via E-mail. If time allows, we'll review a few techniques for improving the quality of those images.

Bring your digital cameras (and something to take notes on/with). Bernie will provide a card reader for different digital cards.

## ABCC Debates Free Software Policy

At the April meeting of the Apple Blossom Computer Club, the members discussed the best way to handle free software provided by various vendors. You see, there really is a price attached, typically in the form of the promise of a demonstration at a club meeting, or a review in the club newsletter. As much as people appreciate the software gift, finding somebody to demonstrate the software is often difficult and finding somebody to write a review for the newsletter is even more difficult. (If you need proof, thumb through the back issues for the last time an ABCC member — other than the editor—created an article for this newsletter!!)

So, with some reluctance, the club agreed to say “Yes!” to the latest vendor offer and people stepped forward to demonstrate and write reviews. We'll see how it goes this time. Many user groups all across the country routinely receive free software deals and members report feeling really good when they get a piece of software that costs more than their dues. But the club needs to follow through on its responsibilities to keep the freebies coming. If you sign up to demonstrate or review software, make sure you meet your deadline! And don't worry about the mechanics of your newsletter review—your humble Editor will make sure you look good in print!

## iPhoto Demonstrations Featured at Next Club Meeting

The May 18 meeting of the ABCC will feature demonstrations of the free photo storage and manipulation software, iPhoto. Members requested this topic at the April meeting.

Bring your camera, your laptop, and all the cables you need to connect the two. Experienced club members will show you how to get pictures out of your camera and into your computer so you can fiddle with them. Should be fun—bring a friend!



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  
13748 Lookingglass Road  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

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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.

from [www.gigapxl.org](http://www.gigapxl.org)

## The Gigapxl Project

What do you do for fun after you have co-invented the world's first infrared laser rangefinder, developed lasers for eye surgery and space weapons, and designed cameras for espionage and the Hubble Space Telescope? If you are physicist Graham Flint, you build a roll film camera that exposes a 9"x18" image that can be scanned at a resolution of 1000 megapixels! (Actually, that was the goal six years ago; with recent improvements in technology, it looks as though a 6,530 megapixel image is possible.)

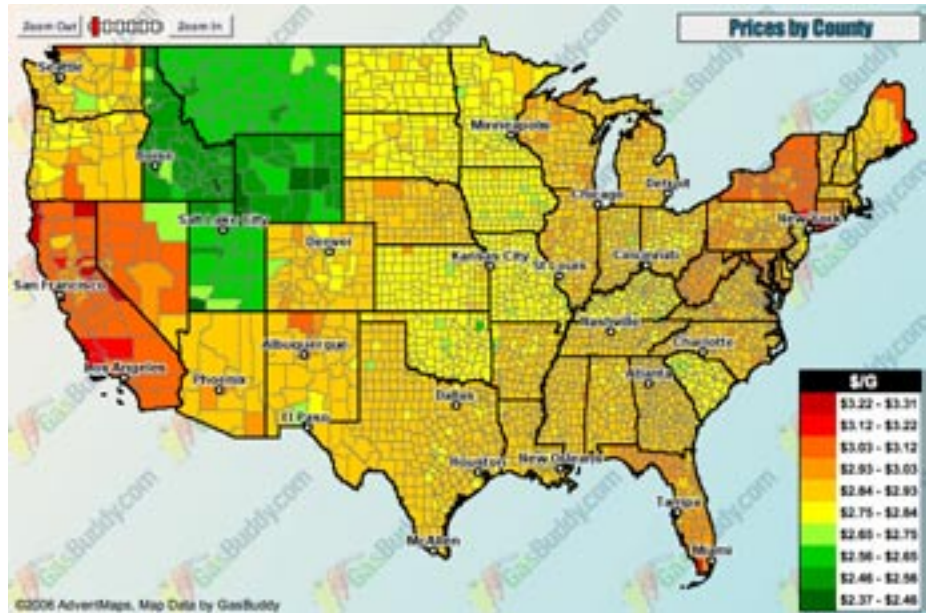
To put this in perspective, first understand that the human eye places a limit on how much detail can be seen. To see all of the information in a 1 megapixel image, we need a minimum of 8 square inches of print size. A 1000 megapixel print needs a print about five feet high and ten feet long (50 square feet.) However the close-up sharpness of the two prints will be the same.

Also on the Gigapxl team you will find Catherine Aves, who helps to find software and hardware that can handle these large images, and Michael T. Jones, who hopes to use this technology to preserve the 788 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in ultra-high resolution. Their website features a number of their images from around the world, with enlargements to demonstrate the detail. Reprinted below—with permission (thanks, Gigapxl team!)—is a shot of Point Lobos Reserve, near Carmel, California. The close-up shows cormorants from a point just left of center. Both images are copyrighted by the Gigapxl Project.



## Found-Cheap(er) Gas!

To find the least inexpensive gasoline around, go to [www.gasbuddy.com/gb\\_gastemperaturemap.aspx](http://www.gasbuddy.com/gb_gastemperaturemap.aspx). This will show you a map of the USA with each county colored according to the current gas prices. Mac users control-click (Windows users right-click) on a county to list the stations. For example, a control-click on Douglas County, Oregon, takes you to [www.oregongasprices.com](http://www.oregongasprices.com). If you really want to help with this project, you can sign up to be a “gas reporter!”



### Mac 911

By Christopher Breen

#### *Delete incorrect Mail addresses*

I've entered some incorrect addresses when addressing new e-mail messages in Apple's Mail. Now when I create a new message and enter the first couple of letters of an address, these unwanted addresses appear. Since they haven't been entered on a card in Address Book, I can't find them to delete them. How can I rid myself of these bad e-mail addresses?

-- Helen Pressel

When you create an e-mail message and type the address in Mail, the program puts the address--whether right or wrong--in its cache. To remove cached addresses in the version of Mail that shipped with OS X 10.2.8, select Window: Address History,

select the incorrect address in the resulting Address History window, and click on Remove From History.

In Tiger's version of Mail, go to Window: Previous Recipient and do the same. The command's name is different, but it works in a similar way. In the Panther and Tiger versions of Mail, you can remove these addresses by allowing Mail to automatically complete the incorrect entry, control-clicking on the address, and then selecting Remove Address from the contextual menu (see "Boot Bad Addresses").

#### *Raise the dead drive*

I installed the Tiger (OS X 10.4.3) update, and now my Power Mac G5 can mount DVD movies but refuses to play them. What's wrong?

--Via the Internet

If you've been using your Mac for longer than the life span of a moderately hearty butterfly, you've heard that after installing an OS upgrade--say from OS X 10.4.1 to OS X 10.4.2--you should immediately dash to Apple's Disk Utility (/Applications/Utilities), select your startup drive from the list of drives at the left of the Disk Utility window, and click on Repair Permissions to put any errant file permissions back in line. I've found doing so to be an absolute necessity for this particular update.

After I installed the update on my brand-new 20-inch iMac G5, the SuperDrive refused to read a perfectly legitimate software CD. Spin enthusiastically, it would, but mount, it would not. When I repaired the Mac's permissions, a slew of out-of-whack ones appeared in Disk Utility's main

*Continued on page 7...*

from macnexus.org

## Digital Camera Noise

Bill Davies, writing for MacNexus, recently became interested in digital “noise” when he replaced his 2.0 megapixel camera with a newer, smaller, 5.0 megapixel camera. Much to his surprise, the new 5.0 megapixel camera didn’t seem to be as sharp and clear as the older camera!

Investigating further, he learned that camera sensors have little photodiodes that send out an electrical signal whenever they are struck by light. These things are incredibly small and sensitive. Thus, they can even send out a little electric jolt in the complete absence of light. Hit repeatedly by photons, they sometimes send out a little electricity and sometimes send out a lot more. It’s called “variability.” Things like heat and the light sensitivity that you dial in can create stray bursts of electricity, too.

These electrical signals are eventually interpreted as the red, green, and blue “pixel elements” of a photo. So any signal that is not directly produced by an object in your picture winds up being an off-color dot in the final image. These “bad dots” are called “noise.” It’s a bit like the hiss you hear in the background of audio tapes.



Here’s a grab shot of some sheetrock in a room Bill is remodeling. The right half is the original image, showing the specks of odd color - the noise - that show up particularly well in the uncomplicated, uniform-colored areas. On the left is the same image improved with NoiseBuster.

Noise tends to be hard to detect in complicated textures, but smooth areas of a single color (such as a shadow, blue sky, or blank wall) make it stand out. If you can view the three separate channels of your image, you’ll probably notice more noise in the blue and the green than in the red. Professional camera have processing programs built in to remove this stuff, but apparently Bill’s teeny, tiny camera did not have such luxuries. What it did have, was noise!

So, he then tried two noise reducing programs. The first product he tried was Noise Buster 1.1 (akvis.com). This is a plug-in. It requires an image processing program that supports plug-ins, such as Adobe PhotoShop.

The second was product was Neat Image 3.11 (www.neatimage.com.) Both had their advantages and disadvantages, so which one you would pick would depend on your needs, how you prefer to work with your photos, and how much money you have to spend on the software.

### Treasurer’s Report

Beginning Balance	\$2,013.53
Income	
Dues	\$140.00
Interest	\$0.79
Expenses	
Postage	\$39.00
Newsletter	\$30.00
Website	\$3.95
Ending Balance	\$2,081.37

--Jim McClellan  
ABCC Treasurer

# FRESHLY SQUEEZED REVIEWS

by Frank Petrie

**Product:** CarbonCopyCloner 2.3

**Company:** Bombich Software  
[www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html](http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html)

**Requirements:** at least 10.4.2; not yet available as a Universal binary, however it does run via Rosetta on the new Intel Macs

**Price:** Donationware

And then Moses rose up his arms. And lightning bolts split the sky and the sea parted. And there, standing on the other side, was Mike Bombich with a new release of Carbon Copy Cloner UPDATED for Tiger! Oh, Happy Day!

Etched in stone tablets were these words from Bombich Software: "Have you ever wanted a simple, complete, bootable backup of your hard drive? Have you ever wanted to upgrade to a larger hard drive with minimal hassle and without reinstalling your OS and all of your applications? Have you ever wanted to move your entire Mac OS X installation to a new computer? Then CCC is the tool for you! CCC makes these tasks simple by harnessing the Unix power built into Mac OS X.

In addition to the features that CCC has provided in the past, version 2 offers synchronization of the source and target as well as scheduled backup tasks. Now you can setup a regular backup regimen that occurs in the background, even if you are not logged in! Version 2 also offers enhancements for lab administrators, including the option to run pre and post-flight



shell scripts, the ability to modify the list of items to be removed at the end of a clone, and the ability to create a disk image on the fly."

Any questions? OK, OK. Simmer down. Let's look it over.

## THE JUICE

Although not yet Universal Binary, CCC has been rewritten to run with 10.4.2. Make a simple, complete, bootable backup of your hard drive. It's also been updated with to play better with Panther and G5s, as well, and several minor bug fixes.

You can also add and delete folders from your back up. And

naturally, you can schedule your back up for when you sleep. You can back up disk images and iPods.

As for support, there's Bombich Software Forums, a place to discuss, praise or cuss Bombich Software, including CCC and an online manual.

## THE RIND

Still can't burn directly to CDs or DVDs, but then again you may have Toast and you most definitely have disk utility.

## THE PITS

Nada.

## THE PULP

With the cult following and that it has grown, plus its solid reputation, I really think that Mike should consider charging for this. It's too good ubiquitous to not charge for (Also, check out DeLocalizer). This is donationware. If you use CCC (and who hasn't at some point) you must, ABSOLUTELY MUST, send Mike a donation.

## RATING

10 out of 10

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Provided by Terry Cooper

## SOFTWARE ... ALWAYS ALMOST READY FOR PRIME TIME

Apple took it on the chin when they had a “minor” heat problem with their Powerbook system. Compaq bit the bullet when they had an input device problem. After weeks of denial, Intel admitted to 486 problems and finally offered to replace millions of chips in the field. We won’t compromise when it comes to hardware quality.

However, install a new software program, from almost anyone, and you know you will be looking at weeks and months of work disruption. Today’s software firms are almost proud of the fact that their products never finished and are always new. Translation ... you’re running your business on partially-complete products.

That’s akin to an auto manufacturer selling cars based on a rough design and customer complaints. Each one that is shipped is improved based on the input and experiences of people who purchased the car last week. As your new car proceeds down the assembly line, they make “minor” enhancements like brakes, engine, electrical, etc., based on customer beta testing and feedback.

While we won’t tolerate problems with other products we buy for the home or office, we’ve come to expect problems with each new software release. We don’t even call them problems anymore. They aren’t bugs. They’re “undocumented features.” Many people relish the fact that they are the first in their group to purchase these



untested,  
unproved and problem-  
riddled products.

For more than three years as Microsoft struggled to develop “Win ‘95, the next-generation operating system.” People around the globe clamored to be the first to use the evolving beta software. Microsoft handed out millions of copies of the software. IS and network managers as well as technically sophisticated individuals provided Microsoft testing and trouble-shooting services at no cost. They used the software, documented the problems and

forwarded them to Seattle. As soon as Win 95 was “relatively stable” Microsoft released it to the world.

If the trend is going to continue, it is a strong case for returning to the mainframe era or, as we now call it, thin clients or NC systems. Then, users won’t have to purchase and install new software. Instead, it can reside on centralized corporate computer systems. Then, firms will be able to do a better job of coordinating their “upgrades and enhancements” and simply pay per usage. It’s a unique, revolutionary concept that we haven’t seen for nearly 25 years.

A problem may arise. IS and network management may be slightly less willing to license the beta software.

They may insist that software publishers actually finish a product before they begin working on the next version. If people stop buying work-in-progress software packages, perhaps we’ll be able to produce the workflow improvements we were promised with computers. We’ll have the time needed to master the software packages we have before the next rev is released. And when we receive the software, we won’t have to be test engineers for software publishers and can focus on getting work completed.

--G. A. “Andy” Marken President  
Marken Communications, Inc.  
marken@cerfnet.com

..from Mac 911

window. With these fixed, the drive worked as it was supposed to.

I'm aware that a new update may be out by the time you read this. Regardless, this advice applies from now until Apple says there's a better way. Repair permissions after every update.

### **Save your receipts!**

I can't use Apple's Disk Utility to repair permissions on my 500MHz Titanium PowerBook G4. When I try, I see an error that reads "No valid packages." What's going on?

--Ayrton Camargo

You can't repair permissions if you've moved the BaseSystem.pkg file in your Mac's /Library/Receipts folder. Regrettably, there's a notion floating around the Web that it's perfectly okay to toss the contents of this Receipts folder to free up space. But if you misplace this particular file, which was created when you installed OS X, you encounter this error.

Each package, or .pkg file, in your Receipts folder contains a bill of materials, or .bom file, that keeps track of permissions for the items installed from that package. Disk Utility uses that information to compare the permissions of files on your hard drive with the permissions listed in these .bom files.

If a receipt (and its accompanying .bom file) is missing, Disk Utility can't verify the permissions at all. In most

cases, this isn't a huge problem. Disk Utility goes on about its business because it's unaware of the missing receipt. But it becomes a big problem if the BaseSystem.pkg file is missing, because Disk Utility relies on this particular package to do its job.

The solution to the problem is to put the BaseSystem.pkg file back in the Receipts folder. If you've intentionally removed and deleted it, either pull a copy of the file from a backup you've created or find a Mac buddy who's running your PowerBook's version of Mac OS, grab a copy of this file from his or her computer, and plunk it into the Receipts folder on your Mac.

If you're buddiesless, you can put things right by performing an Archive & Install installation of Mac OS.

### **Resurrect Sherlock**

My copy of Sherlock appears to be dead, and I don't know how to get it up and running again. It worked well under previous versions of OS X but broke when I installed OS X 10.4.--Louise Wazbinski

This behavior could be seen as a fairly broad hint that Sherlock's days are numbered, because most of its capabilities are duplicated by Tiger's Dashboard widgets. (Hold those angry cards and letters, please--I'm not saying that widgets are better than Sherlock; I'm saying only that the writing is on the wall.)

But that doesn't mean I can't

help you. You simply need to clear Sherlock's virtual throat and allow it to start fresh. Dig through your user folder and toss the following folders and files into the Trash:

```
/your user folder/Library/  
Caches/Sherlock/
```

```
/your user folder/Library/  
Preferences/ Sherlock/
```

```
/your user folder/  
Library/Preferences/com  
.apple.Sherlock.plist
```

*Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes, fifth edition, and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (both Peachpit Press, 2005).*

*Find Chris' books at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com). Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>.*



from [pcworld.com](http://pcworld.com)'s blogosphere

## **New 17" Mac Book Pro Unveiled**

Harry McCracken saw the new Intel-based 17" Mac Book Pro at the National Association of Broadcasters show in Las Vegas. So he fired up his blog to pass on the details. It runs a 2.16 GHz Core Duo processor, with a built-in iSight camera. It's a lot like the old 1" thick aluminum laptop it replaces. Up to 5x faster, though. Costs \$2799.

## 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 7/31/06**

**User ID: ipod**

**Password: video**

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!

### 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

### Seasoned Oak Firewood

You haul. You split. \$85 a cord  
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