



The

**ROSE**



**BYTER**

Next Meeting

**Tuesday**

**August 21. 5:30 PM**

**Commissioner's  
Room, County  
Courthouse**

The meeting room is on the main floor on the right side as you enter from the front steps, in room 216.

**Agenda**

1. Meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.
2. Introductions of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New business
5. Program: Maintaining a desktop and email "netiquette"
6. Vote to authorize acquisition of projector used in item 5\*
7. Questions & (maybe)Answers

**New variable and tentative meeting schedule:**

**September: Monday, the 17-th**

\* Curiously, despite the presence of a projector in the room, we can't use it. That must be done by a county employee. Since we've been talking about getting one for a long time and there was no time to get a vote before the fact, we picked one up that should work for our purposes. It goes back if we don't approve it.

**To Goog or not to Goog, that may not be the question**

by **Pete Lipshutz <lipshutz@gmail.com>**

But as far as Google mail is concerned it may be worth your attention—is it any good or just another overhyped email program.

Frankly when a big player such as Microsoft, etc. comes out with something that is supposed to be good I usually fall back into my cocoon with thoughts of—do we have to go through this again—sometimes remembering how under appreciated Panorama performed and how elegant and intuitive it was relative to the competition. There is always a *deja-vu*.

So... when my daughter in New York informs me that Google mail is great I, of course, reenter my cocoon. Then she says that all the professionals are using it here and that I would like it—she is sure—all of this is what I didn't want to hear— but on the other hand—earthlink mail was getting on my nerves.

So I took her advice and signed up to Google mail and was actually pleased to find the following features:

- The inbox is automatically refreshed when a new message is received— better so far anyway
- Appears to have a good spam blocker
- All conversations—Google-speak for emails—are shown as a file when there are previous e-mails—

you see them all as a file cabinet drawer

- Saves drafts every few minutes
- Pictures in attachments are shown as miniatures in email
- Has spell check and other bells and whistles
- If you are a chat buff—buttons beside your contact list will light up when any of them are on line
- Easy access to contacts in a side bar and super easy and quick email sending
- Big for me—the format of the inbox is condensed so that more are available in a single view—that and the first few words of the content are shown—no video or graphic adds in inbox
- Sends more than 2 attachments at a time
- Going on 3 gig of storage space on their server
- Display can be set to regular or HTML
- Displaying or not displaying graphics in "conversations" is user defined and remembered
- Searches all emails for words, names, etc. and displays as a group—very slick—also, one can star or name them as they come in and then bring up the group
- One can have more than one account
- Many features and, as I used it, I become aware of new ones—

# Letters to the Editor **2**

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>

## Membership

Just \$20/year! Send with your name, snail- & e-mail address & phone to:  
ABCC  
13748 Lookingglass Rd.  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

### President

Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>

### Treasurer

Jim McClellan  
<mcclellan@charter.net>

### Apple Ambassador

none

### Web Master

Still up in the air a bit

### AppleScript Guru

Jack Webster <jackw@rio.com>

### AOL User Group Rep

Phil Bowser <philip574@aol.com>

Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Walt Pawley, at <walt@wump.org>. Plain text files are preferred, sent within the body of an email message or as an attachment. Mail physical media to:

**676 River Bend Road  
Roseburg, OR 97470**

Please understand that materials submitted may not be used and those that are will likely be edited.

Copyright© 2007, All Rights Reserved



To: Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>  
From: Jim McClellan <mcclellan@charter.net>  
Subject: Dear TRB Editor

Dear TRB Editor:

I've been told that I should quit programs rather than close them. In simple English that an old man can understand will you please explain the difference between closing and quitting programs and when each should best be used.

Thank you!

--

This puzzled me, so wrote back ...

I know what Quit-ing a program is - choosing Quit from the program's menu (or any of equivalent alternatives). But I don't know what "close" means the way you've used it. Generally, "close" is an operation that has to do with windows. Can you clarify?

Here's the next round of email. As you can see, we were rapidly getting nowhere.

On 8/4/07 10:38 AM -0700, Jim McClellan wrote on Re: Dear TRB Editor

>I guess I have once again shown my ignorance. If  
>quit and close have the same effect on a program,  
>then it makes no difference in the size  
>of available RAM.

That was not my point at all! I don't know what "close" means the way you used it. The two terms generally do NOT have the same effect on programs.


Since neither Jim nor I have enough hair left to bother tugging any loose from our scalps, I decided it was time to call him and see if I could figure out what he was really asking. After some discussion, it became clear that the whole subject was the result of things being unclear in the first place. Put another way: one of the great benefits of the Mac OS for users is also one its greatest weaknesses—it allows users to do some things with a computer that

they want to do without them having to understand almost anything about how any of it really works. It's a bit like most people's approach to driving modern cars—they have automatic transmissions, power everything and a red display that lights up telling you the car needs service and even that gets routinely ignored by a lot of drivers.

A related issue is our typically

**<— Letters 2** cavalier attitude toward language. We routinely misuse words and expect others to understand what we mean despite our having made little real sense. Indeed, the abuse of language is the mainstay of politics. Take the email as an example. Jim posits that “quit and close have the same effect on a program”. I confess, I have no problem attaching a meaning to “close the program” being essentially the same as “quit the program”. We probably use the former with greater likelihood than the latter. But Jim did not say “... the program”. He just said “...quit and close...” leaving the subjects of the verbs to my imagination. Since I’m a long time geek, my imagination is quite willing to come up with numerous possibilities for what the verbs are supposed to apply to and they’re usually not the same things.

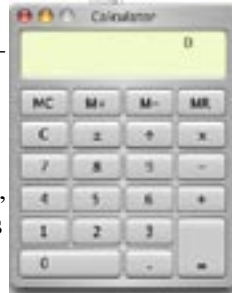
The Mac OS doesn’t really help make these distinctions clear, either. For example, typical windows in Mac OS X have a little button in the upper left corner that is referred to as “the Close Button”.

 Its function is to request of the the program displaying the window that the window be closed. You should read that last sentence again. It doesn’t say that the button’s purpose is to close the window, despite the end result potentially being just that. Why put it the way I did? Because it’s more the truth that way. Are you likely to read that in the friendly documentation (if any) for the program? Probably not. Should you care? That’s a harder question to answer by far but if it makes you curious about how to use your language to describe events on your computer more precisely, than the answer is, “Yes.”

## Quiting and Closing

In Mac OS X, I’ll say there are essentially four different types of programs.

1. **OS level programs that are “just there”.** You normally don’t see artifacts from them directly at all. If you have to worry about these, you probably don’t need to be reading this.
2. **Faceless programs.** These are frequently things that you can run but they only create ASCII characters or silently write to files, if that. They’re usually something you’d do in (Dreaded) Terminal. You can “see” them via the Utility program Activity Monitor (formerly Process viewer).
3. **Programs that come and go with their associated window.** For these programs, closing their window and quitting the program are essentially the same thing. Calculator is an example of such a program. When you click the Calculator’s Close Button, not only does the Calculator face (the window) go away, the Calculator program also quits. You can see this by looking at your Dock for dinky black “triangles” or holding down the Command key and striking Tab (the latter is very handy) before and after clicking the close button.

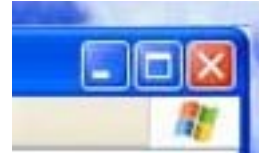


4. **Programs that DO**

## NOT quit when their last window is closed.



These are most of the “normal” applications on your computer— word processors, photo and movie programs, data base programs, etc. Note that this behavior is quite unlike the behavior programs under MS Windows when their windows are closed via the “check box” in their upper right corner. Again, you can see this for yourself by using the Dock or the Cmd-Tab.



So what? Maybe, for you, not much. But for some people, the distinction between programs of type 3 and 4 above can be troublesome. For example, someone may call, complaining that their computer is not doing anything but has become slow. I’ll ask them if they have any programs running. They say, “No.” But what they really mean is that they don’t see any windows—they’re looking at their desktop (ie. the background). When I ask them to test this by looking at their Dock, they usually don’t see the little black triangles so I ask them to hold down the Command key and strike the Tab key. They’re often surprised that a host of icons appear. What they’ve done is clicked away all their open windows via their Close Buttons but all the type 4 programs are still there running. This may or may not be a real problem depending the mix of programs, how much hard disk space is available, etc. But if you’re trying to diagnose a problem, it’s generally better to eliminate as much potential interference as possible. It’s the KISS principle.

## <-1 To Goog or not to Goog, that may not be the question

pleasantly surprised.

- And I almost forgot —the price is right—it is FREE

I’ve been using it for 3 months now and must admit that I have become fond of it—if you haven’t tried it

already, you may find it of interest.

To Goog or not to Goog—I think my daughter had a good idea.

# Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

4



## Remember These?

Yesterday is was blistering hot. Once upon a time, I'd work in the fields all day in such radiation. **Things have changed—mostly me, I suspect.** I no longer relish the unrelenting heat or find the smog filled air particularly comfortable. Both of these were common in the Los Angeles basin where I spent several stints growing up, on and off. In those days, no one had air conditioning. So I try to get down to the river in the late afternoon or early evening when the house is warmer than breezes blowing by—we still live without air conditioning. This evening was most interesting. An eagle flew down river right over me at an altitude of about 40 feet. It clasped a fish in its talons. The combination of eagle and fish reminded me of a WWII torpedo bomber. The eagle was flapping strongly, faced into the wind blowing up the river. At first it looked as though it was trying to pick its way through the armada of turkey vultures swirling about in the air currents above. But they paid the eagle no mind, hunting for their own food. The eagle gained altitude slowly, having to work hard despite what I considered a pretty good head wind. But that flow was apparently not consistent with altitude. The eagle would find an updraft and bank and flap its way up and up, soaring from updraft to updraft. I watched for along time. Eventually, it settled on a direction and headed south and kept going until I could no longer see it. It surprised me that an eagle would fish along my sec-

tion of the North Umpqua from such a long way off, especially since there is fishing “ground” much closer to the area into which it vanished.

**Sold Out! The Internet is full ...** or, it will be in about five or six years according to ARIN (American Registry for Internet Numbers). Should you be concerned? Well, in a word, yes. Actually, the demand for IP (Internet Protocol) addresses is so large that it's essentially sold out now. There are some holders of large blocks of IP addresses who may be willing to sell a bunch but that would be mostly a stop gap kind of thing at best. The solution has been in the offing for quite some time—conversion of the Internet from IPv4 to IPv6 addressing. IPv4 uses 32-bit numbers (usually written as “dotted quads” like 207.68.183.32). IPv6 uses 128-bit numbers (usually written as “coloned octets” like 2001:5c0:87b0:0:20d:93ff:feeb:d14b). The roughly  $4 \times 10^9$  IPv4 addresses compares to the slightly larger  $3 \times 10^{38}$  IPv6 addresses. Most modern operating systems have at least some support for using IPv6 addressing already. The real problem is getting the Internet service providers (ISPs) of the world to begin routing IPv6 traffic directly. There are some serious issues involved to make this happen. The problem is that that routing is done by noting that packets with addresses that are close together generally need to go to the same place. Routers build tables of partial addresses that relate packets coming in on ports to the ports on which to send them out. With IPv4, these tables can get pretty unwieldy. In truth, the tables needn't get a whole lot bigger for IPv6 because they relate more to the number of router ports than to the size of the address space ... if there's reasonable aggregation of like addresses into like spaces. But it will mean changing out a lot of equipment; not a high priority in the infrastructure business where longevity is

nearly synonymous with profitability. And there's another major issue—your software. Almost any program that communicates with other programs will need updating to deal with IPv6 addresses. The overwhelming reason for this is the typical notion when things are new that some fixed size field will hold far more than will ever be needed. It has almost never turned out to be true. Disk drives are one area where “more than big enough” has proven inadequate repeatedly. Believe it or not, an operating system needn't lock itself into such things but people who typically create them don't seem to care.

Reportedly, several major politicians are upset that so little progress is being made in converting America's medical care to a paperless operation. They are concerned about not tapping into the great savings that IT (Information Technology) is touted as being able to bring to the fore. Now I must preface this opinion with the fact that I know little or nothing about the medical business. Still, I feel quite certain that getting the cost of medical expenses down has very little to do with the high cost of paperwork. Sure, it's an issue but moving from paper to computer based data is very unlikely to change the cost very much. Indeed, I rather suspect it will actually raise costs, especially in the early years. It's inherent in the foolishness of our economic system. We collectively believe that competition for markets produces the best results—indeed, it's something of a definition of “best”. Nothing like circular definitions to guarantee “success”. Of course, this is what we have in medical records automation—many proprietary “standards” all trying to get the market share to kill off their competitors. No doubt billions of dollars will be spent fighting these wars, **leading us to use what will almost certainly be a hideous mess that morphs out of the war.**

## <--Water Blogged Wump

Sadly, the decisions about what to do will be made by people whose primary qualification is that they're greedy. Were I an idealist, I'd have some suggestions for avoiding the mess. But aging has accumulated just as much skepticism of idealistic ideas as it has for the effects of our economic system. Kind of a "dammed if you do, dammed if you don't" thing.

Last month I wrote about my efforts to update the FTP client, then finding out that even that didn't completely fix the problems. I speculated that Luke Mewburn would tell me what I was doing wrong. In a way, he did. He pointed out that the problem I was experiencing was a function of the FTP server. Since compiling the latest FTP client was a snap, I figured the server would be no sweat either. Ah ... yes ... so much for rational expectations. It turns out that there are some comparatively sticky issues to deal with, most of which revolve around system security. And, of course, **Apple just has to set up files a bit differently than at least some other versions of \*nix.** Figuring that out was a minor problem. Making sense of the compilation environment is a much more vexing problem. You see, it's been made "easy". From what I can see, about every five years since I routinely worked with compiling programs day in and day out, a new layer of "easy" has been added to the process. The processes in all these layers are still under intense development and intertwined with one another. If you think the personal relationships in soap operas are complicated, you ain't seen nuthin' yet, so to speak. "The compiler", aka gcc=Gnu Compiler Collection, is a trash bag crammed with compilers handling lots of different programming languages. The rules for figuring out what sort of activity gcc is supposed to do are tied, mostly, to the file name extensions given in the command. But the real fun comes with all the options—well over 500 of them. By itself, gcc is a

sort of giant pit to fall into. But gcc is only one part of one layer. There are other compilers. They get chosen by a process known as "make" which processes a Makefile to figure out what to do. These files aren't exactly intuitive to the casual observer. Worse, they are written by a configuration process which is a shell script that explores your computer to figure what it can and can't do. Enough? I wish. Even this stuff is created by a process known as autoconf which is a kind of macro processor. Is it easy enough for you yet? Sheesh... Ah, well. I managed, working on and off over the last week and half, to get a version of the ftp server to not only compile but to actually work! I suppose I would feel really impressed with my acumen ... if the FTP server were a really complex program. It's not. As programs go, it's really very simple. [Since writing this paragraph, I've heard from Luke. He says he's going to take my findings into account for the next release of tnftpd. Sure hope I got something right.]

Recently a number of national legislators have been asking why NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) awarded a bonus fee to a contractor working on weather satellite programs suffering from schedule delays and significant cost overruns. The GAO (Government Accountability Office) reported on July 10 that cost of the National Polar-orbiting Environmental Satellite System and the new Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R have nearly doubled though NOAA is now asking for fewer of them with reduced abilities. That and the launch date is now scheduled for 2013 instead of 2009. Members of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee did not understand why the contractor for NPOESS, Northrop Grumman, would receive a \$123 million bonus. Ahh ... why, indeed. When I first saw the lead into this story, it sounded a bit odd. It turns out to be quite the opposite, ie.

business as usual. I got a clue about that when I first saw that it was really a NOAA, NASA and DOD project. While NOAA and NASA are both organizations able to absorb enormous amounts of money all by themselves, **adding DOD to the equation is a sure fire means to spend, spend some more and spend again ...** all, of course, without any real idea of what the money is being spent on. Mind you, I don't exactly think of these expenditures as "waste". I know a number of people who work in various "skunk works". While they don't say what they do, on the rare occasions when I get to talk with them, it's clear that technology and the science on which it rests are getting a heavy duty polishing. But I do think the politics are a sad case. On the one hand, we have this idea that mashing up various agencies' interest into one vehicle will somehow save money. Perhaps this would be true with just NOAA and NASA. But with DOD stirred into the brew a much bigger pot is generally needed. The DOD parts of a project have to be kept secret, which makes communication of critical facts nearly impossible. So, what one typically does is build something, have a DOD review, which naturally rejects everything as not meeting its unknown real requirements, so it can be re-engineered. Then the cycle repeats. Eventually, something potentially acceptable may result. This is a good way to save money?

Ya gotta give Hewlett-Packard credit for having guts. HP has developed a color-matching system that will supposedly help people do color coordination. For example, **in a beauty salon, the operator would hold up a "specially designed color reference chart" next to the client and zap a picture via cell phone** to HP's color-coordination server computers. The computers recognize the chart, correcting the data for the known features of the chart (messing with charts could prove amusing) and face detection algorithms pick out and color

## <--Water Blogged Wump

correct it for lighting conditions. Then the consumer's face color is compared to a database of 260 women with different skin tones. This results in a message recommending the makeup to trowel on that looks "best". Of course, there are other uses for this technology. I like the suggestion of using it in health care. I can see it now. In the emergency room the nurse holds the color chart whilst the doc clicks the button on the cell phone and waits for HP's computers to come back with just how hypoxic the patient is based on how blue the patient is. While it may be good thing to properly identify the color of something, going on to claim what goes best with it or what it means is something else entirely.

I recently got an email from Mark David, Editor In Chief of Electronic Design magazine that said, in part, "Because you're part of a small, scientifically selected sample of Electronic Design subscribers, your response is vital to the success of our survey." I get quite a few of these sorts of things, all claiming my response is vital to health and welfare of the future of the world as we know it. **Needless to say, I'm skeptical of that notion.** Occasionally, I've attempted to find out whether there's any real interest in my specific opinion or whether it's just easy to shotgun everyone who subscribes with a message that makes them feel important. I seldom get real answers, if any at all. But Mark and his trusty BlackBerry took the time to answer for real with, "Well, 'randomly selected from our subscriber base' would probably be more accurate...". I was tempted to write back and ask what sort of random criteria was used but I suspect it goes like this: select all subscribers with email addresses; if the probability is greater than zero that a subscriber is in the resulting list, send them an email.

I was reading a letter to an editor of a computer reseller magazine in which Dell was put down because HP would

ship parts or systems on an overnight basis to support emergency situations whereas Dell recommended the reseller buy a spare to support their client. While I guess it's nice for Hewlett-Packard to be willing to support their customers with quick shipments (most likely at high cost - that part didn't come up in the letter), I'm not well impressed by that as a solution to keeping a client's systems running. I'm not well impressed by the reseller's attitude that it is a benefit. Of course, I'm even less well impressed by Dell's suggestion. None of them make any sense ... if maintaining uptime is really important. In such cases it's incumbent on a decent reseller to convince the customer that they need to have the spares in their facility. **I've long marveled at businesses that refuse to buy spares of computer equipment that they literally can't do business without.** If they're going concerns, the cost of down time almost always exceeds the cost of having spares readily available. Even worse, the cost of data loss can be catastrophic. Consideration of redundancy in software, hardware and data is very important for most modern enterprises and seldom given much thought or investment until the failure to have done so bites the business.

**Headline: SECURITY WEAKNESSES JEOPARDIZE DHS FINANCIAL DATA.** Yeah. Wonder where your trillions went? Hey! They've been washed away by government. I mean ... what could be better if you're squandering resources like a flock of ravenous grosbeaks attacking a hapless fruit tree? DHS may well stand for Department of Homeland Security but one seems hammerlocked into wondering just whose homeland they're supposed to be making secure. I have to confess that I don't feel even the slightest bit more secure since DHS was thrust upon us by the brain trust we've seen fit to allow into office. Apparently even Haliburton didn't care for the U.S. security status, preferring to move their headquarters

to Dubai. I guess they can afford it ... now. After all, we've certainly spared little expense enabling their move over the last decade or so. I guess Cheney will have a nice place to visit when his term is up. You don't suppose they have a rooftop trap shooting arrangement near his helipad do you?

I recently got a post with the URL <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2194162/apple-snaps-cups> in it. It points to an article about Apple's recent purchase of the CUPS (Common Unix Printing System) source code and it's principal developer, Michael Sweet. This is a troubling event to a number of people, me included. Sadly, few seem to see the potential (IMHO, likely) consequences. I wonder if this is one of the reasons why Richard Stallman is crafting GPLv3. If CUPS were licensed under GPLv3, Apple would be prevented from closing its future development of CUPS as used in Mac OS X. As things stand now, Apple is free to do just that. Of course, they can't stop others from forking off another version of CUPS-ish software that starts with the last version that was openly available - at least, not yet. Indeed, Apple is even sounding like they intend to provide a strong open source future for CUPS and they might even really do it. But as **people who've had the "warm fuzzies" with Apple chilled and hardened over the years**, many are not particularly thrilled with this development.

In a related matter, you might want to visit <https://mx2.arl.org/Lists/SPARC-OAForum/Message/3858.html>, where you can read a letter from 26 Nobel Laureates to Congress requesting opening access to publicly funded NIH (National Institute of Health) research results (which, of course, most of it is). I can personally attest to there being some real value in having direct access to the actual papers created by the researchers as opposed to "watered down" versions of things created for "the masses" by professional techni-

## <--Water Blogged Wump

cal writers.

Temple University's School of Medicine researchers developed a new biosensor that "sniffs out" explosives. It's made from yeast with olfactory receptor molecules from the nose of rats and a green fluorescing protein genetically engineered in. When the yeast "smells" the odor of DNT, an ingredient in the explosive TNT, it turns fluorescent green. The biosensor is being designed into a handheld devices and devices that can be left at a location, then monitored from a distance. You know, **if we used this yeast in commercial bread, we might be able to find bomb makers when they eat lunch at their job.**

I routinely criticize Apple for fixing things that aren't broken. Such behavior requires that we learn a whole bunch of new stuff to do the stuff we already knew how to do and makes old things incompatible with the ever new world. It's akin to the "keep 'em barefoot and pregnant" ploy. And, Apple really does deserve the criticism. So, I was scanning through a copy of Redmond magazine—so titled as to suggest a connection with Micro\$hapht but perhaps not entirely in Mr. Bill's pocket. This notion is quickly corrected by reading the opening editorial which makes it clear that it's of, for and by Micro\$hapht. Then come the articles. I think Mr. Bill has been studying the Apple approach and applying it to just about everything—the whole World of Wintel is all "new". In other words, they've decided to retitle many applications and shuffle their innards. It's great if your objective is to acquire huge sums of money "certifying" hoards of "server managers". One of these days I'm going to have to give Ubuntu a real go. It's a version of Linux that installs in much the same way as Mac OS X, supposedly with no (or at least, very little) need to type a bunch of

**7** arcane commands and provides a GUI (Graphics User Interface

- like the stuff you're used to with the clicking and dragging of a mouse) environment to run things. Generally I prefer FreeBSD but it's not so "user friendly".

Twenty years ago I saw the writing on the wall and it continues to be writ. In the technical world, **if you've risen to a high pay rate on the merits of your work, chances are good that you'll be sacked.** Worse, once sacked you'll be chronically unemployable in your field from then on. In the mean time, the industry that disposed of you is screaming that it can't find qualified people ... so ... it *must* employ younger foreign workers usually referred to as H-1B workers. Enter the 9/11 and The War On Terror. One might think that this would change the attitude about foreign workers, at least just a little. And it has. The trend has become stronger. It's so strong that comparatively few American students care to get involved with technology. At the same time, Congress is looking into leakage of delicate data from its cloistered repositories. I'll bet you can guess what they found. P2P (peer-to-peer) networked archives contain all manner of such data and, if anything, it's getting worse. So, who is putting this sensitive data up in a publicly available manner? While it troubles me that "the powers that be" can't seem to figure out any of this, do we really need to suck in more and more likely risky personnel and put them in charge of such data?

When I was in college, I studied for finals by reading an apple crate or two of paperback science fiction handed down to me by a math professor who might have been considered something of beatnik. **In some of those stories, I read about the Bussard ramjet.** Not an engine for buzzing bombs over London, this peculiar device was posited as a means of interstellar travel. The idea is that at high fractions of light speed, a "scoop" would collect hydrogen and direct it into a fusion reactor to provide thrust. Today I learned that Robert W. Bussard is a

real person who's been working on real problems of nuclear energy for a long time (he was born in 1928, according to Wikipedia). Indeed, he's been involved in numerous of the "wilder" schemes for creating nuclear energy gizmos of the sort characterized by "all the hopeful new things the mainline labs would not try". He's now looking for about \$200M of funding to build a working fusion power generator. Compared to how much is being spent on other mechanisms, this is a drop in the proverbial bucket. The scheme is fairly simple as such things go. Six electromagnets are set up in faces of a cube. When they're energized they form a field that will confine charged particles such a electrons. So, a large number of electrons are injected into the field where they are captured, creating a strong electric field. Injecting protons and positive ions into this will cause them to come together very strongly at the field's center. Basically this crams the protons into the ions so they'll likely fuse. With the right stuff, this creates a cascade of decays which releases a lot of energy via fission, if I read this correctly. Who knows ... it might even be made to work. Frankly, I'm skeptical. The energy density required for fusion is enormous. Stars get away with it by having gravity hold things together because they are composed of immense masses. The stuff we've tried making to do the same thing have so far behaved in a pretty "squirrely" manner to say the least. It all comes down to keeping a whole bunch of stuff together that is inherently disposed not to be in that condition. To see Dr. Bussard and his work, take a gander at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1996321846673788606>.

Just a few minutes ago, a TV newscaster said that we should not leave food out for bears so they don't have to be euthanized. I'm curious how bears are supposed to know what food's been left out for them and what food's been left out for other animals.



Some shots from the cookout at Norman Call's Dogwood Motel up the North Umpqua canyon.



## unClassifieds



Your factory authorized local dealer

walt@wump.org 672-8975

Need a manual?

Discount for ABCC members!



# Apple Blossom Computer Club

<http://www.abccmug.org>

Give it a look.  
Put in your own...

