



Apple Blossom Computer Club
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group



Jul '08
still only
\$2.00

The

ROSE BYTER

Next Meeting

July 17

The Dogwood Motel
Cookout/Potluck
28866 North
Umpqua Hwy

Agenda

1. Meeting starts when you get there.
2. The fire should be lit about 5:30 PM. Come early and play.
3. You should already have RSVP'd your party would attend.
4. New biz: Lay out your lucky pot. Bring something you like to share.
5. Program: Burgers 'n Dogs and some fizzy flavored waters on ABCC (well, your dues, really).
6. If you bring beer, have a designated driver or stay the night.

<http://www.dogwood-motel.com/>



YOUTUBYTER

by Dave Archer <dave@davearcher.com>



Dateline: Youtubyter - July '08

My Fellow Members: Meet Mr. Grenadier. Typified by large heads with large mouths and eyes, grenadiers have slender bodies that taper greatly to a very thin caudal peduncle or tail, hence their common name "rattails." They bury themselves in sand, waiting for days for a gulp of deep sea food. Who says a "better mousetrap" isn't possible.

First, I would like to thank all members who came to my house for our June meeting. I had a great deal of fun showing my collection of oddities and art. Thank you all for making a hermit happy!

YouTube has grown so big it's just about insane. They talk in terabytes. Walt explained "terabytes" to me yesterday, and if you ever "need" to know, ask him. I remember this much: "they're really big."

A gentle reminder: I title my pieces

"Youtubyter" meaning "also" as in "You-too-byter," meaning please send your favorite YouTubes to me at: dave@davearcher.com for inclusion in my articles. Thank you-too!

Only two YouTubes this time as I've been having computer problems again, and it slowed me down. Plus Scruffy hid my homework.

1. --- Even if I put this YouTube in before, it's worth a replay:

Louis Armstrong sings **It's A Wonderful World**

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

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

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<http://YouTube.com/watch?v=vnRqYMTpXHc&feature=related>

2. --- The next YouTube is for my big brother Dale, aka: "Chewybubba." Okay Dale, I know it's the wrong side of the Civil War, but the Rebels had some good songs too. Dale just got back from a large Rendezvous, with camp photos that reminded me of the camp in this movie. A deleted scene featuring the "Song of the Rebel Irish," from the film "Gods and Generals," Lyrics are below.

<http://YouTube.com/watch?v=7EAcieN3BW8&feature=related>

LYRICS:

Oh, not now for songs of a nation's wrongs,
not the groans of starving labor;
Let the rifle ring and the bullet sing
to the clash of the flashing sabre!
There are Irish ranks on the tented banks
of Columbia's guarded ocean;
And an iron clank from flank to flank
tells of armed men in motion.

The Irish green shall again be seen
as our Irish fathers bore it,
A burning wind from the South behind,
and the Yankee rout before it!
O'Neil's red hand shall purge the land-
Rain a fire on men and cattle,
Till the Lincoln snakes in their own cold lakes
Plunge from the blaze of battle.

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Traffic r perations e eeds e ews Tools

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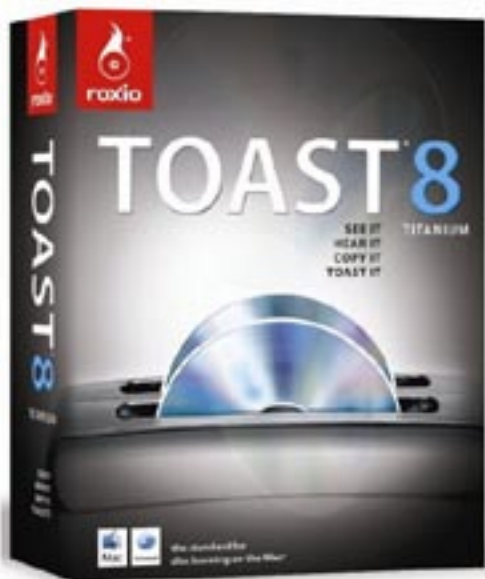
by Jim McClellan <mcclellan@charter.net>

Recently, I was invited to a two-day conference in Portland in late July. I was also directed to a website with many materials, including information that would be needed at the conference. I downloaded some of the materials. The downloads were PDF files that looked great on my laptop. When I decided to print out a copy to take with me somewhere else, the printout looked like the graphic above; unreadable. I tried copying the readable text on-line and pasting it in a blank document that I thought I would print. The result was just like the graphic! Ugh! I found the font name, looked it up and found that it was mainly a screen font. I tried several different ways to get the

material to print in a way that I could at least figure out what the words were. But, no luck.

I have set my computer so that the default for reading PDF files is Acrobat, not Acrobat Reader. My reason was that with Acrobat, I can "usually" edit PDF files. Other people have said that I should be using Preview for this, but I have never been pleased with it. Anyway, somehow the other day, when I opened one of the PDF files that I wanted to print, it was opened in Preview. With out thinking, I printed it and lo and behold, it printed beautifully!

Now, I will be using Preview more often!



I think that Walt gave me Toast 8 to review for selfish reasons [Heh, heh, heh! -Ed.]. He was saturated with all my whining phone calls whenever I was trying to get something transferred onto one of those little round disk things. It was clear to him that I needed some help, something simple that that would say, “What do you want, Master?” and then do it for me.

Walt and many of you may not need this program. He has all these complex and mysterious ways to do it all, but I can never comprehend all the nuances of the logic involved, so that a few months later when the need again appears, his counsel and advice has become either lost or confused.

What I wanted is something EASY. So far this application seems to be filling the bill. To start out with, it comes with a printed User Guide. Hooray! Not only is it printed, it actually tells how to do stuff, and the directions make sense and, even more surprising to me, they work. I will admit that my first attempt to copy a DVD folder from the desktop gave error messages, which I ignored. There appeared a beginning blue line, task-completion bar, so I stuck with it. After a shower and another 20 minutes, I still had only a few millimeters of the task completed so I bagged that try. So now, try another way. Insert the DVD in the computer and follow the simple

directions. “Extracting” took about 11 minutes but I used the choice for a slower, higher quality. Writing to a new DVD took about the same amount of time but the finished product, written with the slower speed was, I think, better than the original. First hurdle passed.

One caution, If you have only one disk drive and want to copy DVD’s, your computer will have to place the contents, using up to 15 GB, on your hard disk until it can make the copy. It automatically removes it when you are finished, but you do need the room temporarily to do it this way.

Next, it was time to try a CD. They say that they can have more formats than in any other program and they have many options under Formats: Audio, Photo, Video, and a Copy mode. Under audio, they have CD, Music DVD, and MP3. By the way, under Copy they even list Blu-ray. I don’t think I’ll be able to test that one.

The program has a large “content area” and just to the right of this is the media browser, a window that lets you select what kind of stuff you are interested in copying, and a second window with a list of that kind of media. Down in the righthand corner there is the big red **burn** button with a “space indicator” (or gas gauge) that lets you know how full the CD or DVD is with the stuff you place in the content area. On the left side of the content area are all the easily-selected choices for the task you have in mind that then show your various options when you have made that selection

Back to my music CD. I pulled up my audio files on the “media browser” from its pop down window, then in the second window scrolled down to my choice. Then I just started dragging them onto the “content area” where they would pop up to the top in the order I had dragged them there. I love the space indicator. I could just keep adding to the content space until I had filled the CD space. I got 1-1/2 CD’s

onto my new CD — 21 songs in all. Neat.

Now, with success going to my head, I thought, “I wonder whether this thing can make a Photo DVD as easily as it claims.” I have been wanting to make a DVD of a bunch of old kid’s slides that I’ve digitized. I have the slides pretty well organized and even went to IDVD for a try, but hit the wall. I figured that maybe it was time to go to a new computer and Leopard, thinking perhaps that would let me do that DVD. What if I could do it with my old computer and its programs. Think of the changeover pain I would be spared.

So, here goes. I changed the media browser top window from audio to photos, and in the bottom window pulled up the big album I wanted and dragged it into the content area. Toast automatically placed them into five sections, seeming to be limited to about to about 100 slides in each. Now I realize that I should create my own sub groups to allow more logical skipping around on the finished DVD. Anyway, with the things I wanted in the content area, and the gas gauge showing I had plenty of room, I pushed the big red button again, using the better-quality/slower-speed setting. In something like 15-20 minutes I had created a preliminary and experimental family-slide DVD that I had been waiting for years to see, and it played on my TV. It played beautifully. Thanks, Walt. So now I’ve been encouraged to descend deeper into my iPhoto program and look also into some of the features in Photoshop that will help me create a better finished product DVD. But whatever it turns out to be, I know that getting it transferred onto some sort of disk won’t be the problem. It is clear that the capabilities of the program are far greater than my needs, but I like the fact that I don’t see hitting the wall in the reasonable future if my needs expand.



Water Blogged Wump

Any trace of organization in these paragraphs is entirely coincidental

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Our 2008 Wild Asparagus Crop

Sequestered here, as economics increasingly enforces, I watch some TV while I still can (it's essentially going away in 2009). One of the things I try to catch is the noon news on KPIC, not that there's usually much to comment about in particular. Today, there was a report about illegal aliens in Eugene's jails. **"It costs \$95 a day to provide an inmate with food, shelter and medical supplies.** Nationally, about 30,000 people are in custody on immigration holds." I did some quick computations. First, this is costing each of us \$3.47 per year. I suspect the total cost is much higher, what with attorneys' fees, transportation, etc., which aren't included in the \$95/day. Still, I have to wonder why it's so expensive? I do realize that my situation is somewhat unusual but I doubt we spend more than \$9.50 per day to keep me breathing (well, if you ignore the idiotic property taxes, that is ... not really fair because that is part of "shelter" but I like the 10% comparison too much to add it in). Actually, I'd like to have an income high enough for us to spend \$95/day keeping each of us here going. I suspect quite a number of other Americans would as well.

For about three decades I've known that the race to increase clock rates at which computers operate would end against a hard stop. We haven't reached it yet. In fact some recent discoveries and developments may extend its duration, which will make computer salespersons happy; it's easy to sell, "My number is bigger than yours." But the **techno-nerds are really starting to get worried because they don't have a good way**

to develop software on multi-core-processor systems.

Frankly, I don't know what the fuss is about for that venue. The real problem is developing software for systems with thousands (or even millions or billions) of processors (not that the intelligentsia has come

to the realization that such things are feasible). But for something like 16 cores (processors), unless you have some highly specific need to get speed by creating specific parallel processing algorithms (for example: things like Photoshop or video processing), modern *nix operating systems like Mac OS X and FreeBSD can usually keep them busy ... if there's work to do. Raw processing speed is usually less a bottleneck than shuffling data in and out of a processing system. The truth is that few of us need this sort of computing power; consumers aren't going to drive this market. Well, that'll be the case until we quit using hard disks and every processor comes with a glob of memory all its own ... and at least 100 of these fit on a small chip so hundreds of chips can fit on a small board and perhaps a 100 small boards can fit in the unobtrusive computer system. Such a system would have terabytes of working memory, and most probably would seldom have that memory's contents written to an external medium if only because it would take too long for most of us to sit still for. I know of only one outfit doing something sensible in this direction. It's Intelliasys.

It seems that a lot of the technology we've come to rely on for keeping us secure has been "cracked." A group at a university in Germany has subverted the radio-based keys we're all using on our vehicles these days. **They can steal your car or lock you out of it.** Another German group has cracked some sort of RFID card used for fares on public transport. In yet another development, using mobile phones to

make payments, etc., now entails serious risk. I don't mind technology, per se, but I often wonder if we'd be better off if we'd rethink the idiotic massive centralization of everything that's been going on. It's a mind set that's an extension of Henry Ford's manufacturing methods. While such methods brought much that the common man seems to like, the big benefit is to the owner of the business. As time has gone by, it seems that this latter property is becoming the only interest of business. Does it take genius to see that continuing to disenfranchise people who "oil the gears" of business will eventually reduce the business's market?

Do you write Web pages now? Well, if you do, chances are you use some form of "all-in-one wonder" software that insulates you from what's really going on. If not, you'll just be thrilled to know that **HTML5 is now on its way.** And it's about time, too ... or, at least the developers of HTML5 think so. It's been eight years since HTML4.01 was released. Everyone knows all the problems that fixed, right? From my curmudgeonly perspective, HTML3 was just fine. I'm odd man out in that I think all the "advanced" media drivel we're bombarded with while surfing the web is an even bigger waste of bandwidth than all the email touting penis enlargement creme, offering us huge returns on junk penny stocks, seeking our minor financial help in return for a big payday, telling us to log into a phony bank site to verify our codes, etc. — aka, spam. I'm not particularly gaga over gimmicks. I suppose if you have no clue how things work, it may seem pretty gee-whiz. Even so, after you've been wowed a few times by such stuff, do you really like having to pay for the bandwidth it takes to get through all the crap in a reasonable period, so that you can see whether what you're interested in is bob-

<--Water Blogged Wump

bing around in the resulting digital flotsam somewhere. Increasingly, what you are trying to find is likely buried under several pages full of obnoxious advertisements and intermediary links to click. As Mac users, this probably seems stupid (I'd generally agree with that sentiment), but to Windows users, the imposition of numerous levels of "helpful" windows with cryptic messages and buttons to press to get from A to B via X, Y & Z most probably seems perfectly normal. Additionally, if the transition from HTML3 to HTML4 is any guide, the amount of gibberish one will specify to make an HTML5 Web page will probably increase by yet another order of magnitude independent of the content.

How'd you like to pay the bill for powering a 250-trillion-watt light bulb? Well, it is bad, but not as bad as it might seem at first. You see, the bulb only gets to run for 500 femtoseconds at a time. At one pulse per second, that's just 125 watts, average (assuming I got all the requisite zeros in all the right places). Still, for those few femtoseconds, focused the way it is, the light intensity is roughly a billion-trillion, or hexillion, times brighter than sunlight reaching the Earth. This "light bulb" is Los Alamos National Laboratory's TRIDENT facility, a gizmo designed to test things like nuclear fusion, the physics of the "Big Bang" and the effectiveness of ear plugs and filter goggles for scientists standing around watching the thing go off.

Theorized by Leon Chua at Berkeley in 1971, researchers at HP Labs have recently made some thingies coined "memistors" or "memristors" (depending on where you research them). They're made from "wires" that are 150 atoms thick (about 50 nanometers). Memristors apparently "remember" what's been done to them electrically, so they can be used as memory devices. Clearly, they're not very big, so lots of them can be made on the

surface of a chip. They retain their memory without the use of power, so computers made with them would not need to be booted up from scratch each time but simply turned on to run where you turned it off. The memory aspect is a function of which direction current flowed through the memristor last: with a current in one direction, the resistance is one thing; with a current in the opposite direction, the resistance is some other value. There is a small time lag in the switching from one state to another during which the value last run through the memristor can be sensed by applying a current that will initially experience that last resistance. **The notion of memristance is considered to be a fundamental electrical concept:** i.e., memristors are a fundamental component on a par with resistors, capacitors and inductors. Apparently memristance is a property that becomes a more important factor in all electronics as the feature size drops, which seems like it should have risen its head long ago, as electronics has been messing with feature sizes well below 50 nanometers from quite some time.

Apple is missing out on a tremendous opportunity — at least officially, anyway. Micro\$hapht is applying pressure to its customers to switch to Vista by dropping support for everything else they've produced. Lots of those customers are not thrilled with this situation. Indeed, many are vowing to stick with Windoze XP. It's not going to help them much, though. The Micro\$hapht monopoly will force compliance at some point ... unless there's a decent alternative (and probably even then). What's this got to do with Apple? Well, **hackers have been carving on Mac OS X's installer DVDs**, making them workable on a wide class of non-Apple-manufactured equipment. Apple has not exactly been all that helpful in enabling their efforts in some ways. In other ways, they've been very helpful. The problem, IMHO, is that Steve just can't stand the idea of selling billions of dollars of

software without also selling a trillion dollars of the hardware to go along with it. Were Apple **5** to suddenly get serious about enabling Mac OS X on a very wide class of Intel/AMD-based hardware and quit making new versions just to make new versions, it'd sell like proverbial hot cakes. How hard do you think Apple would have to twist corporate arms to buy Apple hardware once they'd adopted Mac OS X? The days when a Mac was very much more expensive than a comparable PC have passed.

"It's good to know that when our country is threatened our lawmakers will jump into action to protect us, spending money to form giant new bureaucracies to combat a major menace." **Now, that's not a direct quote from my previous maunderings.** No, it's a quote of Jim Rapoza's sage commentary. Yup. Nothing like passing a bunch of new laws to fix a problem. Or, better, there's nothing like passing a bunch of new laws to create problems. Truly draconian measures may soon be authorized to deal with unauthorized use of IP (Intellectual Property). Something called the PRO-IP Act will create a bureaucracy to wield the weaponry pretty much without any checks and balances. Put another way, the deep-pocket group will have yet another government agency to do their bidding, against both so-called "pirates" and others who're just competitors.

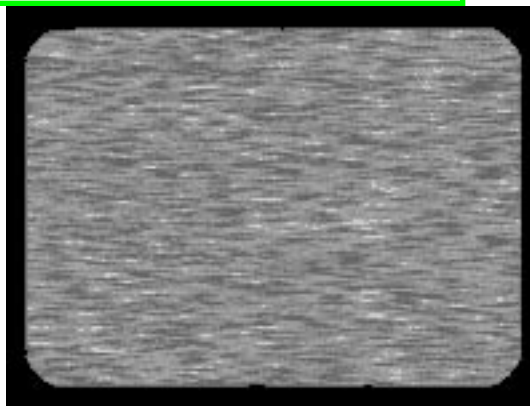
Interested in spy stories? Fascinated by those documents that eventually emerge from government agencies under the Freedom Of Information Act? You, know, the 10,000 page tomes of largely black areas with an occasional word connecting them here and there. I believe we call it "redacting." These days it's not just government (well, unless you see it more as the governmental, military, industrial, entertainment complex) that gets into the redaction act. AMD is suing Intel for being a bad actor in business, employing unfair trade practices to stifle competition. Intel has **6 -->**

The Big DTV Scam

Will Your TV Soon Look Like This?

“On February 17, 2009, all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels.”

Sound familiar? If not, you don't watch much TV or even read much in the way of newsprint. And, you may not care one way or the other because both cable and satellite TV moguls have been hawking up the fact that their services won't require doing anything new (well, at least not this week). But, if you're amongst that group of freeloaders who have come to prefer not paying for the privilege of being advertised at, the government, broadcasters and equipment vendors



are all trying desperately to get you to buy conversion boxes or change receivers so you will be sure to “take advantage” of DTV - Digital Television. There's even a special web site our illustrious federal government has put up to tell you all about it at <http://www.dtv.gov/>. Sounds really great.

As the weight of these messages began to take their toll on my wife and me, we started looking about for a new compatible TV. We also signed up for the two discount cards for converters so we could still use the old TVs in other rooms. We should have waited for the latter. It turns out the cards have a time limit. Guess what: you can't get the boxes locally because no

<--Water Blogged Wump delivered its tome of blackened paper to the courts, which have since made them public. And, why not? The courts stand to make good money copying reams and reams of paper that say very nearly nothing. Of course, these procedures are really just beginning. I have to wonder what's become of the notion of timely justice. So called “justice,” these days, is something that seems to revolve around making lawyers very rich. **The Gowachin are not so foolish as Homo Sapiens.**

In one of those rare coincidences, this paragraph is pretty much about making lawyers rich too. The USPTPO has been granting junk patents by hundreds of thousands for some time. Indeed, since it became clear that just

about any outrageous, obvious-to-the-casual-observer claim that can be written down is patentable, the lawyers have been accelerating the filing of bogus patent claims. The reason is simple: it gives them an excuse to use the court system to either bludgeon people out of business, or extract blood money from those with deeper pockets. **Patent trolling has become big business.** Apple has recently found itself threatened by patent trolls. For example, there's this patent that Apple supposedly infringes on by using flash memory in a unit that can be readily connected other units. Of course, the overwhelming majority of gizmos containing flash memory are only useful because they have this rather generic property, ie. you can plug

one seems to want to handle them. Strike one.

6

On her quasi-periodic forays into the big city of Roseburg, the wife was spending some considerable time wandering around looking at the sea of TVs available. She'd find things that seemed like a good idea in the store, bring home the brochure and I'd look the stuff up on the Web. It's amazing how much crap the stores are willing to pass off as being

really great stuff at high prices. I say that despite having once attempted to operate a retail establishment myself. I was never very successful at taking advantage of other people's ignorance and enthusiasm; I'm not a good salesman.

Still, one day she brought home a deal that seemed too good to be true. I checked it out on the Web. Seemed pretty good. So, we went in and checked it out in the store, just to make sure that they were selling what they said they were selling (knowledgeless technology salespersons are easy to come by). Rats! I no longer had a good enough excuse to put off getting a new TV. **7 -->**

them into something. Why sue Apple for something that virtually everyone making something with flash memory in it must be violating? Well, Apple is a fat target. If a troll wins a suit, it sets a precedent that will virtually guarantee much more massive paydays to come. If a defendant settles, the precedent is not so strong, but it will still force a lot of hands to fork over a wad of cash for a “license.” It's way past time that this crap was stopped. Judges — those paragons of interpretation of both the meaning of the words we use and the intent of the parties (sounds a bit like clairvoyance to me) — should not merely toss such cases out of court, but should invalidate the patents involved.



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We live in an area that needs a decent antenna to get good reception on KPIC, channel 4. While perhaps not the best thing money can buy, the one we have is not bad, and we got excellent results with the new TV because its receiver is "hotter" than the TV it replaced, which did OK. We were able to get watchable versions of several channels we'd not been able to get before. And, we got a couple of digital channels ... the very thing we'd gotten the new TV for.

One of the digital channels simply puts up a message saying that the signal is too weak to decode. We've never seen any sign of an image or sound from this channel, just the TV's message. KPIC's digital channel did come in. But it was, and remains, very disappointing. If you haven't seen how this stuff behaves, perhaps this will give you an idea. When it works, it's great! The picture is sharp. The sound is first rate. Unfortunately, that is not a common condition for us. Usually, after the channel has been on for a few minutes, the video will lock up in fits and starts and the sound will get chopped up. It may get decent again for a short time or the TV's can't-handle-it message will appear.

So, I did something I'm very poor at: I wandered into KPIC's office and asked if I could interview some knowledgeable people about their transition to DTV. They called into the bowels of the station and out came Mike Hill, their Chief Engineer, who graciously sat down with me to discuss things.

It seems that KPIC has been transmitting DTV for about four years. Exactly when it became regular rather than experimental, I don't know. It was quite some time ago, however. After explaining some of my misgivings about this transition to DTV, Mike clued me into some things that weren't necessarily obvious to this casual observer.

7 The behavior of my TV on

KPIC's digital channel is known as the "cliff effect." What this refers to is a major difference between digital and analog TV. With analog TV, a horrible signal can still yield some intelligible data to the viewer. The weaker it gets, the more noise the viewer has to contend with until, finally, it's simply too weak to discern anything, even sound (usually the last thing to go). DTV, on the other hand, works beautifully regardless of the signal level ... if you have enough. Once DTV's signal falls below a certain level, it simply ceases to function. There's very little gradual decline. It simply falls off the cliff.

Knowing what I do about digital technology, this behavior did not come as a surprise to me. What did come as a surprise is that it should come at such an apparently high signal level. Mike corrected my misconceptions about that, too. Mike told me that KPIC is transmitting its DTV at about 10 times the power of its analog TV, which should be a good thing. The problem turns out to be that KPIC's DTV transmissions are not on channel 4's 66-72 Mhz allocation. Instead, they are on channel 19's 500-506 Mhz band.

I suspect our problem with seeing KPIC's DTV feed is a function of the frequency coupled with the topography in the 1,000 Valleys of the Umpqua. We have a lot of rock sticking up around us. While 500 Mhz is not quite the stickler for line-of-sight signal paths that cell phones are, it's high enough that signal attenuation in the shadow of a hill is severe compared to 66 Mhz. So, if you're in line-of-sight of KPIC's antenna, you'll probably do well ... with them.

Another issue is multi-path. Those of you who still watch analog TV over the air can see multi-path as "ghosts." They are time-shifted images superimposed on the image from the strongest signal path (the one from which the TV is decoding its timing). They are generally caused by reflections from things like, you guessed it, hills. With analog TV, ghosts are annoying. With

DTV, multi-path can simply ruin the decoding even if you have what would be enough signal. However, you won't get too many clues from any sets I've seen that this is what's going on.

To combat both of these issues, Mike recommends getting a new antenna for your TV. Rather than the big multi-band antennas of the past, you should get a more tightly tuned multi-element antenna with a mesh parabolic reflector. Simple versions are referred to as "bow tie" antennas. Such antennas are not huge and see in only one direction, not two. They might even work.

Personally, I feel like the government and media have been lying through their collective teeth about all this. While it's certainly true that DTV "can" provide high quality picture and sound and, as defined, cram more channels into the available bandwidth, I believe it's also true that many people will simply be cut off from things they're accustomed to regardless of what they do.

Mike did not seem particularly concerned about my opinion. But I think broadcast TV has been forced by law into potentially serious trouble. Even if we manage to get KPIC's DTV feed here via the air waves, unless other broadcasters can share their antenna, you'll minimally need an aiming device on your antenna or switches amongst your many antennas. But I don't believe all that will be necessary because I doubt that the other broadcasters of signals we can see now will be able to provide enough signal to be decoded. Broadcast TV is being forced into an increasingly localized "box."

So what?

Well, consider this little excerpt from some email that wafted through my In-box:

Cable company Charter Communications is suspending a pilot advertising program that would enable advertisers to make targeted ads for consumers based on people's Web searches.

U.S. government representatives attacked the program over pri- **8** -->

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Whoe'er shall march by triumphal arch
Whoe'er may swell the slaughter,
Our drums shall roll from the Capitol
O'er Potomac's fateful water!
Rise, bleeding ghosts, to the Lord of Hosts
For judgment final and solemn;
Your fanatic horde to the edge if the sword
Is doomed line, square, and column!

Taken from Donal Lunny's "Sult - Spirit of the Music" TV series - recorded around 1996.

Mark Knopfler - vocals & guitar
Donal Lunny - bouzouki
Liam O'Flynn - uilleann pipes
Sean Keane - fiddle

--

Dave Archer -- <http://www.davearcher.com> (541) 440-0002
Dave Archer Studios, 1541 Buckhorn Road, Roseburg, OR 97470
SEE DAVE ARCHER STORE

<http://www.cafepress.com/davearcher>

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vacy issues.

"Given the serious privacy concerns raised by the sophisticated ad-serving technology Charter Communications planned to test market, I am pleased to hear that the company has decided to delay implementation of this program," Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., said in a statement Wednesday. Markey chairs the U.S. House of Representatives' subcommittee on telecommunications and the Internet.

Markey also suggested other companies planning similar advertising programs should hold up until the privacy concerns raised can be addressed. Cable television companies, which also generally provide cable Internet access, are able to compile large amounts of data on customers' Web searches, Reuters reported.

Before attempting to implement the program, Charter conducted consumer

focus groups to determine how consumers would respond to the program, Charter said in a statement to Reuters Wednesday.

"However, some of our customers have presented questions about this service as well as suggested improvements," Charter said. "We will continue to take a thoughtful, deliberate approach with the goal to ultimately structure an advertising service that enhances the Internet experience for our customers and addresses questions and concern they've raised."

So, who's kidding whom? We now live in a world where what amounts to covert, private surveillance on a massive scale is taking place by the same people who're feeding you your world view. This is not something that may happen in the future. It's here. Now.

In the past, we relied upon alternatives to keep us informed, perhaps even arriving at some form of truth

from the filtering of the data they presented. Despite what seems to be more freedom of expression than ever, I'm wondering whether what's really happening isn't just the opposite. Unlike a direct declaration of martial law, it's being done bit by bit. Laws are changed, perhaps just a little. Regulations are changed. Economics are changed. Each gets to sink into our collective consciousness, gaining a foothold of acceptability from which the next set of changes is spawned. We don't seem willing or able to toss out the things that hurt us. We just "move forward."



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Coming Soon to an ABCC Near You!

We still have a couple of meeting dates planned more than five minutes in advance. Amazing!

For August 21, we get to tour Creative Images Printing where they should have a brand new high capacity printing press that can print more than one job at the same time. Hey, that's just in time to get the political flyers out.



Then September 18, Ian Schray

of Softpress Systems, Ltd., will present Freeway 5.1: software for building websites.

Perhaps you have some notions? Don't keep them to yourself!

One more thing: There are lots and lots of Mac users in our area. I'll bet you know quite a number who aren't members of ABCC or any other Mac User Group. Encourage them to join.