



MacSIGnals

Macintosh Special Interest Group

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A monthly meeting notice and other related information published for the members of the Boeing Employees' Computing Society - Macintosh Special Interest Group (MacSIG).

March Meeting

Our March 27 meeting will feature a demonstration of Apple's Time Capsule by Bennie Ferrell of the Kent Station Mac Store. At the April 24 meeting, we'll look at the Pinnacle Video Capture for Mac, a device for transferring analog video from camcorders or VCRs to the Mac, and resume the iMovie tutorial. For the May 22 meeting, we've tentatively scheduled a demo of FileMaker's personal data base product, Bento.

February Meeting

This month's meeting featured a presentation by Bob Davis, the Apple Rep assigned to the Tacoma BestBuy store, on the products/services released at the January Macworld expo and those announced by Apple during this past week.

Mac OS X 10.5 (Leopard) is out and already 10.5.1 and 10.5.2 updates have been released. Intel is moving ahead with its CPU upgrades and is carrying Apple along with it. The MacBook Air and MacBook Pro feature the Core 2 Duo Penryn processor with improved energy efficiency and a new instruction set which will provide a speed boost for those applications optimized to utilize it. The MacBook Air is the super-thin, 3 pound laptop with no internal optical drive. Both the MacBook Air and MacBook Pro lines have the multi-touch trackpad which supports the "gestures" introduced on the iPhone and iPod Touch (pinch zoom, rotate, vertical scroll and horizontal swipe). The MacBook line still has the single-touch trackpad. The MacBook line has a 13" screen, 2.1 or 2.4 GHz CPUs, 1-2 GB RAM, 120-250 GB HD and are priced from \$1099-\$1499. The MacBook Pro line comes with a choice of 15"-17" screens, 2.4-2.5 GHz CPUs, 2 GB RAM, 200-250 GB HD and are priced from \$1999-\$2799. The MacBook Air starts at \$1799. An external optical

drive, the Apple SuperDrive, is available for \$99.

Time Machine is Apple's built-in automated backup in Leopard. It is enabled with a single mouse click. After a full initial backup, it can be set to perform incremental backups as frequently as hourly whenever it detects that changes have been made on the internal hard drive. Apple has just released a hard drive, Time Capsule, which integrates with Time Machine and incorporates an 802.11n wireless router, essentially combining the Apple Extreme base station with a hard drive. While Time Machine will work with any wired external hard drive, Time Capsule is the only hard drive which can perform wireless backups. It comes in 500 GB and 1 TB (terabyte) capacities priced at \$299 and \$499, respectively. It also includes USB 2.0 connections for printer sharing and additional external USB hard drives as well as a built-in firewall and encryption security. Apple also has the 802.11n Apple Extreme base station for \$179 and the 802.11g Apple Express base station with iTunes audio streaming for \$99.

The iMacs come with 20"-24" screens, 1-2 GB RAM, 2.0-2.8 GHz Core 2 Duo CPUs, 250-500 GB HD and SuperDrives, ranging in price from \$1199-\$2299.

Apple has cut the price of the 1 GB iPod Shuffle to \$49 and introduced the 2 GB iPod Shuffle at \$69.

The AppleTV has been updated to 802.11n and comes in 40 GB and 160 GB versions priced at \$229 and \$329, respectively. AppleTV now handles youtube and Flickr movie files, but they can only be streamed, not downloaded. The iTunes Store now handles video rentals/sales as well as music. The rentals are time-limited: 30 days from download to watch the movie and 24 hours from start of

playback to complete it. New releases are \$4.99; older releases are \$3.99. HD movies may be purchased for \$9.99.

Boeing employees and retirees have access to discounts at the Apple-operated stores, the online store via the web at <http://www.apple.com/eppstore/boeing> and by phone at 1-800-MY-APPLE. The MacBook Air, Time Capsule and the pink iPod Nano, all introduced at MacWorld/SF, are available for order.

SIG Chairman Gary Cohen mentioned a new product from MacSpeech which had been introduced at Macworld. Dictate will be replacing iListen as its premier speech recognition application. iListen had featured the Phillips speech recognition engine, but when Apple switched from PowerPC to Intel CPUs, MacSpeech was able to license the Nuance speech recognition engine, the same one which powers the Dragon Naturally Speaking product, which is only available for the Intel CPUs. This is a completely new product and cross-grades are available for owners of iListen. The recognition accuracy is much higher than before and the training period is greatly reduced as well.

The MacSIG has just purchased a new 20" Intel-based iMac to replace its old Power Computing Mac clone. It includes a 2.4 GHz Core 2 Duo processor, 4 GB RAM, 320 GB HD, SuperDrive, Airport Extreme 802.11n wireless networking and Bluetooth capability. It comes with Leopard (10.5) and iLife '08 pre-installed. Including shipping, it cost \$1673 from Small Dog Electronics.

Submitted by

Gary Cohen

MacSIG Chairman

Membership Update

by Denny Carlton, Membership Meister (e-mail: dennyc@scn.org)

We remain at 52 Mac members, 40 retirees and 12 employees. Richard Kennedy was dropped from BECS as he failed to renew and his grace period expired. However, Jim Boyle rejoined our Sig after a few months absence. Welcome back Jim.

Based on BECS membership update, dated 2/21/08, Lawrence Swigart is in his final month's grace period and will be dropped if he does not renew before the next BECS update.

Four members have February renewals due and are in their first month's grace period. Six have March renewals. February renewals are: Doug Buffett, Donald Grish, Robert McKinney and Dan Timm. March renewals are: Robert Becker, Jerry Bowers, Ken Groom, Robert Holland, Don Huling and Granderson Russell. Three members have April renewals: Al Koury, Peter Stobart and Al Viswanathan.

The above information is provided as a gentle reminder in case you may have forgotten. If your name appears above and you don't plan on renewing or if you have sent in your renewal, please let me know by telephone 253-277-0347 or by the above e-mail address, so that I can update my roster and keep you on the MacSIGnals mailing list.

Renewal fees are \$18 for employees and \$12 for retirees. Renewals can be turned in at BECS and SIG meetings or mailed to BECS Membership, PO Box 3707, M/S 4H-58, Seattle, WA 98124 (for retirees) or just M/S 4H-58 for employees. All renewal fees should be by check only (no cash) and BECS rules require you to use the renewal/consent form with your check. Be sure to mark the Mac box, record your e-mail address and sign the "release and indemnity" statement on the bottom of the membership form.

--This area reserved for member input--

There was no February Prize Drawing :

BECS Web Page: www.becs-wa.org

MacSIG Web Page: <http://www.becs-wa.org/MacSIG/macsig.htm>

MacSIG Meetings

Usually held on the **fourth Thursday** evening of every month at **7 p.m.** in **Room D** at the Boeing Kent Recreation Center, 22643 83rd Ave S. in Kent, WA, USA, on the third planet from the sun.

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