

MUGShots

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**Macintosh Users Group of
Southern New Jersey**
www.mugsnj.org

What is Apple Doing?

By Stan Horwitz

Apple's 30th birthday was April 1st, but Apple has not publicized it. In his keynote speech at the MacWorld Expo in January, Steve Jobs said Apple would commemorate its 30th anniversary. When? Next year?

Apple announced several new products since January, but Apple has not rung in its birthday. Thirty years of innovation is a big accomplishment.

In the days and weeks leading up to April 1st, speculation was running rampant that Apple would unveil a new iPod with a much larger display to replace its iPod with video. This new iPod is supposed to have touch screen controls. That new iPod did not materialize. Apple reportedly has severe supply problems with the new display.

Apple replaced all its iMacs and laptops with Intel-based models this year, but Apple needs to update its desktop Macs. A 64-bit dual core desktop Mac would have been a great way to ring in Apple's 30th birthday and make its high end customers happy.

Apple did two interesting things since my previous column. First, Apple offered a new U2 iPod with 30GB capacity for \$329. The U2 iPod has a red click wheel and signatures of U2's band members on the back. We consumers can now pay \$30 more for a U2 iPod with the same specs as a regular 30GB iPod! I suspect that Apple morphed existing iPods into the U2 format to reduce inventory for the release of a new iPod line.

The second interesting move on Apple's part this spring is its new iPod nano giveaway. Last summer, Apple gave away a free iPod mini with each new iBook that was purchased by any student. The iPod mini was replaced last September with the iPod nano. Apple is giving an iPod nano (after rebate) to any student who buys a new MacBook. Could Apple be reducing its iPod nano inventory to phase it out? I have no idea if this is what's behind Apple's move, but I would not be surprised to see Apple replace the iPod nano this fall, or perhaps offer an upgraded version with more capacity, or maybe morph the iPod nano into an iPod cell phone or camera!

In the past, my predictions about what Apple would do in the future were way off base. Only time will tell, but I think we can expect to see some major changes in Apple's iPod offerings within the next six months. Unfortunately, I see no reason to believe Apple will revamp its desktop computers during that same time frame.

Leaders On Line

Bill Achuff..... UserGroups@aol.com
 Jim Anderson..... andersonj@rowan.edu
 Joan Balster..... jbalster@gccnj.edu
 Maria Arguello..... arguello10@comcast.net
 Carole Dadino..... carolar@jersey.net
 Nate Gable..... nagable@comcast.net
 Gerry Harpole..... ger316@earthlink.net
 Stan Horwitz..... stan@temple.edu
 Don McGinnis..... macginnis@mac.com
 Frank Petrie..... phranky@mac.com
 Frank Santoro..... calcio@comcast.net
 Walt Vennell..... ragamuffin@comcast.net

Why Join MUGSNJ?

Membership in MUGSNJ offers several benefits!!

1. Free Workshops
 Free tech support
 Member Discounts
 Fellowship
 Mac Usage Ideas
 Discounted Subscriptions
 MUGShots Newsletter
 Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

Worth the Surf

Here are a few web sites that any Mac user should be aware of:

Technical Support

www.mugsnj.org/links

www.macfixit.com

www.macentral.com

www.apple.com/macosx/resources/

www.powerpage.org/

Software Downloads

www.versiontracker.com

www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/

www.macupdate.com

Hardware

www.smalldog.com

www.jandr.com



Your friendly MUGShots editor standing in Apple's new 5th Ave. store in Manhattan.

Secretary's Corner

What a busy week. As I write this, we're experiencing a situation with missing MUGSNJ stuff including our cabinet. (Hopefully everything is back to normal by meeting time.) All the info and CD for June's meeting was in the cabinet, along with the manuals we plan to sell. The ladies in Allied Health couldn't have been more helpful in tracking down where everything in 503 was stored, room 437. They even called security to open the room and Joan's new office for me. I was really hopeful as I recognized items that were in room 503 like the owl and the mannequin. I looked everywhere and found some of the things that were in our desk but not the cabinet.

I caught up with Owen outside his office and explained our situation stressing the importance of finding the supplies for our meeting program. He spent over an hour trying to track it down with no luck. Both Owen and the Allied Health ladies tried to find a guy named "Ed" who, evidently, was in charge of the room clearing project. Like our cabinet, he was nowhere to be found. I gave Owen my phone number as he assured me he would do everything he could to find all our stuff. When found, I will run down and retrieve the "Meeting In A Box" for our meeting. Hopefully, we soon will be assigned a storage place close to or in our new meeting room.

With Walt recuperating, all this couldn't happen at a worse time as he is more forceful in solving problems such as this. He is communicating with Owen on the situation. We figured, with all the new books we were going to sell, supplies, give-aways and software, plus our new coffee maker, hot water maker, refreshments, supplies, coffee, tea, hot cocoa and the cabinet itself, if not found, we may be out, close to, \$1,000.



Carole Dadino
Secretary, MUGSNJ

UPCOMING EVENTS

Information about
South Jersey Apple Users Group
meetings is at www.sjaug.org

CompUSA in Mt. Laurel
Introducing the all-new MacBook
July 1st at 12:00 - 1:00 PM

CompUSA in Princeton
July 1st at 02:00 PM-03:00 PM,
From camera to DVD
with iMovie and iDVD

CompUSA in Mt. Laurel
July 8th at 12:00 PM-01:00 PM.
Mac: It's All About the
Internet and Sharing

CompUSA in Philadelphia
June 10th at Noon-1:00PM
iLife '06:
Music, Photos, Movies, and Blogs

CompUSA in Mt. Laurel
Jul 29th at 12:00 PM-01:00PM
iLife '06:
Music. Photos. Movies. Blogs.

A list of additional workshops
is available on the following web site:
seminars.apple.com

A Software Review

Aperture Version 1.1.1

Reviewer: Maria O. Arguello



Software Publisher: Apple Computer, Inc.

Price: \$399; \$149 Education

Minimum System Requirements:

See <http://www.apple.com/aperture/specs.html> for a long list of system requirements.

Test System: 15" 2GHz Intel Core Duo with 2 GB DDR2 SDRAM and a Dual 2.5-GHz G5; 4 GB DDR SDRAM; both with OS 10.4.6

Overall Rating: 3.5 out of 5 apples

Apple's *Aperture* was developed for professional photographers. So, what am I doing working with it, if I am not one? I use it because I am an avid photographer and take a lot of photographs. I need an application that will allow me to process a multitude of photos efficiently and elegantly.

Aperture lets me adjust RAW photos, do non-destructive editing, access Photoshop easily, work with two monitors, etc. At first I thought it was only for RAW images but it also handles JPEG photos just as elegantly. I have no problem importing RAW images from the Sony DSC-F828, the Nikon D70, or the Nikon D200 (DNG, NEF, and SRF).

Aperture is not a replacement for Photoshop. It does not composite images, does not output to RGB, has

few filters, nor does it do layers. That being said, one can access Photoshop to do all these things and return to Aperture easily.

As only Apple can do it, Aperture's interface makes you drool with its elegance. It sports a gray background with buttons. The bezels are clean and there is no brushed metal. The palettes are fixed in place and can be summoned with quick key commands. Some palettes are hidden when in Full Screen mode where photos look amazing while you work comfortably. Learning quick key commands is paramount to using Aperture efficiently and quickly.

Stacks are a tool exclusive to Aperture. It is my favorite feature and the one I use the most—besides the editing tools, of course. You can set the stacking to occur in various modes like Auto-Stacking, whereby Aperture stacks a couple hundred photos using capture date info and grouping them together making a visual pile of pictures. You can vary the stacking time and set it for photos taken within 15 seconds, 30 seconds, 45 seconds. You can also unstack, stack manually, and split a stack. You can quickly look at a stack and pick your favorite pic, make it the Select pic, and close the stack. The stack will only show you your favorite pic while close.

Photographers need an easy way to find photos quickly, and Aperture's solution shines in this category—adding keywords and a pic rating system to make photos easy to find.

The standards like IPTC and DNG were established so that there would be a long-term and open standard for working with and providing information about images long after they've been taken. But in Aperture there is no export of DNG files, an Adobe format.

Aperture at times produces unexpected noise that cannot be removed with selective color or Curves as those features don't exist in Aperture. The premise of Aperture and the RAW format is quality input and quality output. This is another disappointing flaw in Aperture.

Continued on page 7

A Hardware Review USB 2.0 HUB/READER

H-Speed USB2.0 Hub and 8-in-1 Card Reader

Reviewer: Stan Horwitz



Manufacturer: Macally (www.macally.com)
Rating 5 out of 5 Apples

On a recent visit to an MLMUG event, I went to Micro Center in Saint Davids, PA. to buy a card reader to load photos onto my laptop.

I needed a USB 2.0 card reader to read Sony Memory Stick and Compact Flash cards. I spent \$45 on this device, which is more than I preferred, but it gives me more functionality. I have been using this device for one month with my MacBook Pro and it works great.

This device is the size of a cigarette pack. It has three USB 2.0 ports and a port to plug the device into a computer. A power port is located on the side. A USB cable was included to connect the unit to a computer. A power pack is included to use with USB devices that need a powered USB hub. The power adaptor supplies up to 500mA to each USB port.

The card reader/writer supports eight. These include: CompactFlash Type I/II, IBM Microdrive, SmartMedia, Memory Stick, Memory Stick PRO, MultiMediaCard and SecureDigital.

If you are need a USB 2 card reader and/or USB hub, this device is well worth considering.

Folding@home: Distributed Computing

By: Larry O'Connor

Today's Macs are loaded with processing power. Most of us use but a small percentage of the computational cycles our systems offer. So consider letting some of those spare cycles get used for the common good....

Enter distributed computing and Folding@home (<http://folding.stanford.edu>) project. This project allows you to help scientists understand the folding of proteins — results might lead to a cure for a disease.

The best part is, the folding application won't slow things down. I've been 'folding' for over a month now and have not noticed any difference with it operating. The application only needs to connect to the Internet to download the protein to fold and to upload the completed fold results, the rest of the time, it just does its thing where the processor cycles are available to spare. Kinda neat to be a part of something like this, and it's so darn easy and painless to be a part as well.

Recently, OWC became the sponsor of the new MRP Talk forums. When you start 'folding@home', it would be fantastic if you did so as a part of team#48057 (<http://tinyurl.com/qu432>). Although the MacResource team is less than one month old, it is nearly in the top 8% of all the folding teams out there. Either way, this is a great cause to be a part of.

There are times when you may want folding to stop. If you are doing something that is processor intensive, disabling the application insures you get all the performance. When running on battery power with your laptop, set the system to run with the most power savings. I am using the application InCrease which does this. It is listed as beta, but this application is trouble free and easy to use, helping me have the best of all worlds for our folding contribution.

Who would have thought how easy is to donate the power of Mac to do some good for mankind.

Thanks to Larry O'Connor at Other World Computing www.MacSales.com For permission to share this TIP

The Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus Summer Visit!



Dr. Mac will visit four local Mac Users Groups from July 7 to 16, 2006. **AND YOU ARE INVITED!** Dr. Mac will visit the Mainline Macintosh Users Group (MLMUG), Princeton MUG (PMUG), Hershey Apple Core, and Washington DC Apple Pi.

On Saturday, July 8, Bob LeVitus will be the main presenter right at the MLMUG's monthly meeting. After that meeting, Jim and Judy Habel of MacOutfitters in Doylestown, will host a free seminar and cookout in honor of Dr. Mac.

On Monday, July 10, 2006 at 6:00 PM, PMUG will host a dinner in Dr. Mac's honor. This event is open to all user group members who are interested in attending. To register for this event and for more information, please visit the web site at www.pmug-nj.org/ or www.whoscoming.com/LeVitus/. The registration deadline is July 5 and the cost is \$27.50 per person.

On Tuesday, July 11, 2006 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM, Dr. Mac will be the main presenter at the PMUG's monthly meeting.

On Wednesday, July 12, 2006, Dr. Mac will be the main presenter at the Hershey Apple Core, in Hershey, PA. Details are at www.hersheyapplecore.com/.

As if that isn't enough, Dr. Mac will be the guest speaker at the annual picnic of Washington Apple Pi in Fairfax Station, VA. Information on the activities and events planned with Dr. Mac is online at <http://www.wap.org/>.

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus is one of our favorite speakers on the Mac. He is very generous with his time and loves to present and meet with Macintosh User Groups. This year is Bob's fifth annual visit to

MLMUG, his fourth to PMUG, his first to Hershey Apple Core and a repeat visitor to the Washington Apple Pi. We are so pleased to see other MUGs join us in sharing this wonderful person.

If you have any questions about the Dr. Mac Summer Visit, please contact Maria O. Arguello at arguello10@comcast.net. Please place "Bob LeVitus" in the Subject line.

Aperture—Continued from Page 5

When it comes to adjusting the images, I am not going to compare it to Photoshop because it is not fair to do so. Aperture does a decent job in this category but if you want to use more robust tools, then you can easily go to Photoshop to do it. This is not good; it is not bad. It just is.

Whether it is cropping, adjustments, or metadata information, batches are applied with the Lift and Stamp tool. You lift the changes from an image and then stamp them onto the other images and it is applied to all of them live.

The Red Eye tool works live, too. Simply adjust the radius and sensitivity, click and you're done.

The straightening tool is not as good as the one in iPhoto. No other application that I know of beats it.

There is a definite need to keep improving Aperture but I am extremely hopeful that Apple has a plan to make this application all that it has promised to be. I'll be looking forward to it.

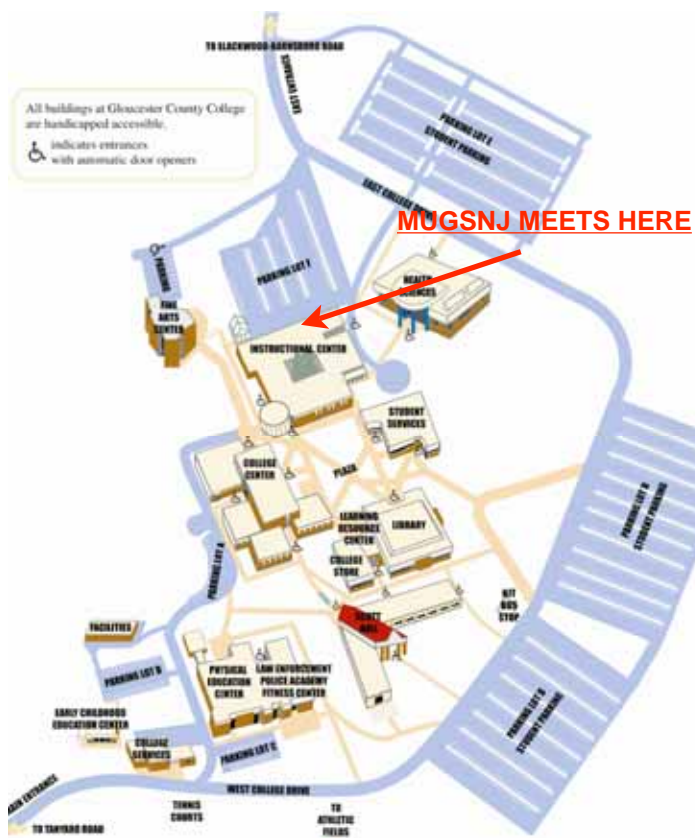


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Maria O. Arguello. Maria is president and vendor liaison of the Main Line Macintosh Users Group (MLMUG). She is the Apple User Group Regional Liaison for the Northeast United States, as well as the Liaison for online groups.



MAP



MUGShots

June, 2006

Macintosh Users Group
of Southern New Jersey
Liberal Arts Dept.
1400 Tanyard Road
Sewell, NJ 08080-9518
www.mugsnj.org
856-468-5000, ext. 6445

MUGSNJ General Meetings are **temporarily located** in room 430 the Instructional Support Center Building at 7:30PM on the last Wednesday of each month. (With Holiday exceptions.) Executive Committee meetings are held quarterly, Feb., May, Aug., & Nov., at 8:00PM in Room 503.

*IT
IS POSSIBLE
THE COLLEGE
MAY BE CLOSED DUE
TO AN EMERGENCY
SITUATION
SUCH AS A SNOW STORM.*

*IF I AM NOTIFIED IN
TIME, I WILL SEND
AN EMAIL ASAP*

~ CAROLE ~

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