

SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club



BITS & BYTES



WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

April 2009 Volume XIV Number 4

General Meeting- April 28 2:00 p.m.

The Prez Sez...

By Lyn Morse

As I listen to the news about flooding and tornados and snow and iced power lines downed, I'm glad I'm here in Sun City Palm Desert. I know I live in earthquake country, but it seems that every region has its own natural catastrophe lurking in the future, so I'll be a Pollyanna and enjoy the warmth and sun but keep prepared for when/if our catastrophe happens. (And it won't hurt to keep my fingers crossed.)

I've rediscovered a book that I liked back in my Missouri Ozark days...The Farmers' Almanac. I don't know if Harris' Farmer's Almanac is the one I remember, but it will do.

I'm particularly smitten by the 'words of wisdom' at the bottom of each month's page. Even though March is almost gone as I write this, I have to share those words of wisdom from the March page: "Character is pretty much like a window glass; when it is cracked, it is cracked both inside and out." That pretty much says it, doesn't it?

For those of you who wonder what a Blog is, you missed a great presentation by Denise Welch at the March general meeting. It's no longer a generational thing; the news recently had a feature on a young person doing volunteer work in one of the African nations communicating with family in the States via blogging. No telephone charges!

The computer year is fast drawing to a close. That means election time for your Board is upon us. Pat Palladino is again chairing the Nominating Committee. If you would like to run for an office, contact Pat. Please, do NOT nominate someone else; that person may not want to run. Instead, encourage the person to contact Pat to get his/her name on the ballot.

Pat will be announcing the ballot at the April general meeting, and asking if there are others who wish to be added. Ballots will go out via U.S. mail after the meeting.

As you can tell from looking at the schedule, classes are dwindling in number. More volunteers are needed to step forward and share their knowledge and experience. Basic classes are always in demand; you don't need

to know everything about a program to teach it. Shelia would like to hear from you. Her telephone number is always on the back page of Bites and Bytes, along with that of all Board members.

And so it is now time to share April's words of wisdom from the Farmer's Almanac: "The only weapon that becomes sharper with constant use in the tongue."

What's Missing?



This is where you usually find information on the Program for the next General Meeting.

Jerry Katler, our Director of Programs, is still working on those arrangements. So stay tuned in and watch for an email from Kent McDonald with a reminder about the meeting and program.



MAC



SIG

**By Jim Logsdon and
Shirley Allan**

Mac attendees saw an Easter Rabbit on the screen as they arrived showing that you can use iWork-Page Layout to be creative. Shirley started off the meeting with information from the Annual Apple Shareholders meeting including the new iMacs with faster CPUs, AirPort firmware and other new releases since March 3rd. More on the demise of AppleWorks was hinted at by MacWorld authors recently implying that the Snow Leopard release would probably be the end of this great application. The Safari Public Beta has been out for a few weeks and already third party programs such as *Safari 4 Modifier* are appearing to provide access to disable some of the default settings that folks don't like. Shirley said that Beta's work fine in a lab setting but when a Public Beta is released for consumers, Apple may find more bugs causing changes in Safari before issuing it as a Software Update.

Jim Logsdon presented some new items from Apple and remarked that David Pogue thinks it is a master stroke to allow programmers to develop apps for the iPhone. He believes there will be a quantum leap in sending data back and forth with these new apps. For example, you can type in gas and the phone will bring up the nearest

gas stations and their prices. Most apps are free but developers can now offer enhanced versions for an extra charge. Apple earns a 30% commission of this increasingly important revenue source. Jim passed around a picture of Apple's new iPod Shuffle which looks smaller than a flash drive and has controls on the ear phone cables. If desired, this new Shuffle audibly announces the Tunes. Jim went into more detail on the Safari Public Beta saying that it is lightning fast but that some folks don't like loosing the Progress Bar and question other changes. Apple's marketing strategy has brought a price drop to the New 24" iMac, but the 20" remains the same. The recession and higher relative prices has hurt sales of Apple's computers. The latest data shows a monthly YOY drop of 6%; the first decline in 3 years. Perhaps more ominous, it's share of Market also declined, however, the company's growth when seen over a longer time frame is stunning. Favorably, it's Operating System is still regarded by all Reviewers to be better than Windows. Also Apple products have imprinted favorably on the critical youth market. This new emphasis was conveyed by a young mother who in a WSJ article declared: That when purchasing the needed replacements for her fam-

ily's 5, Macs, she will buy considerably cheaper Dells. " I once was CHIC, but now I'm CHEAP !" On the other hand, Jim had a conversation with the Mac Gallery Owner, Dan Eye, and was told that the store has been quite successful ; 180,000 folks went through the store in its first year and, 18,000 purchased items . On Black Friday Mac Gallery realized a \$50,000 day ! Jim said Apple's iPhone may have competition in the June launch of Palm's PRE. However, Palm's partner Sprint/Nextel are considered weak and Palm's record is not inspiring. Microsoft will soon be launching a new Operating System (Windows 7) . Pre launch reviews indicate a huge improvement over Vista. Microsoft also will be opening its own stores a la Apple.

Shirley closed the meeting by showing how to print labels from Apple's Address Book app, playing a brief video on how to download and showing a funny video of a Technical Entertainment Developer's conference featuring David Pogue, author of the Missing Manual series and NYT technical columnist.

The next Mac Sig meeting is on April 17 , at 9:00 a.m. in the computer lab.



PC



SIG

By Kerry Greene

The second meeting of the newly combined Windows SIG (Special Interest Group) and Internet SIG – now called the PCSIG – was very well attended – we even needed to bring in extra chairs. Please plan to arrive early to assure yourself of a seat. We start promptly at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

Kent McDonald began our meeting with announcements that Microsoft will cease to support Windows XP as of April 14th, 2009. Security updates should still be available through 2014 for XP, which is being replaced with Windows 7 later this year.

Another technology upgrade soon to arrive is USB 3.0, which is ten times faster than the current USB 2.0 standard, and will be backward compatible with USB 2.0 devices such as printers, flash memory drives, digital cameras, etc. The downside of this innovation is that computers will no longer come with Firewire ports, since USB 3.0 will be much faster than Firewire. A work-around surely will be available by then for those of us who have devices that can only connect to a Firewire port.

The topic of computer back up was discussed. How to back up and what to back up and the different types of removable media, such as an external hard drive. The most common items to back up include documents, pictures, email address books, Internet Explorer favorites, and data created by other programs such as Quicken. Creating a mirror image of the entire hard drive should only be done using programs like Norton Ghost or Acronis True Image.

Another topic regarded e-mail attachments that won't open. You may not have the program needed to open a specific attachment. To find out what programs open certain files, just go to www.filext.com and search there by entering the file extension of the attachment, which is the three or four letter extension following the file name – example: <my budget.xls> where .xls is the file extension (Excel spreadsheet). You will need Microsoft Excel to properly open this file type. Another problem that is becoming more common

is opening files created in Microsoft Office 2007 where the xml format was used to save the file. If you have an earlier version of Microsoft Office, you will need to download the free Microsoft Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2007 file formats.

Terry Kay showed us how to use the Internet to manage our medications. The Physicians Desk Reference (www.pdr.net) is a good starting place. An additional great resource is www.drugs.com – register there for free and then list your medications and dosages – www.drugs.com will advise you if possibly unsafe interactions exist. Always consult your physician if in doubt.

We also discussed the usefulness (and dangers) of social networking sites such as Twitter and Reunion. The latter will attempt to send messages to everyone in your address book if you respond to one of their e-mails, and should be avoided – just delete any messages from Reunion.

Join us on April 14th at 7:00 p.m. for our next meeting. Learn how to find the best gas prices where you live or while travelling.

Caring for that CD / DVD

From MacWorld – issue unknown

Each time you set a CD or DVD on a flat surface, you're taking a risk that it will get scratched. Even the slightest bit of sliding can create small surface scratches that can damage the disc (its contents).

CDs and DVDs are made up of a complex sandwich of materials. On the bottom (or what we call the data side) there is a thick layer of clear plastic. On top of the plastic lies a very thin layer of reflective metal, where the data is stored as a series of dents (known as pits) and flat areas (known as lands). Crowning the disc is a clear lacquer coating that protects the upper surface from damage and provides a platform for the label.

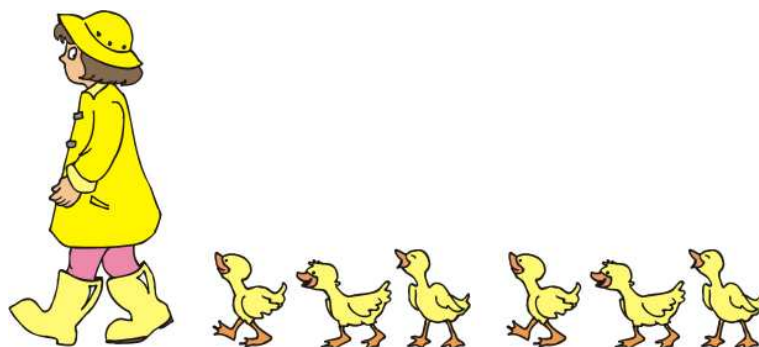
If you must place a disc on a flat surface, it's generally better to place it data-side up (or label side down). Even relatively subtle scratches in the plastic layer can cause the drive's laser to refract, leading to read errors. Placing the disc data-side up is not without risk, though. A deep scratch to the label side of the disc can ear through the label, lacquer and metal layers, destroying your data. Really, it's important to shield both sides of the disc. Place the disc in a jewel case whenever possible. The center lock raises the disc slightly above the surface of the case, preventing the underside from getting scratched. This is the best way to protect the disc – and its data – from disaster.



April Scheule of Classes



DAY	DATE	TIME	CLASS	BOOK	TEACHER
Sat	April 4		Open Lab 10:00 am to Noon		
Mon	April 6	1:00	Begin Mac: Terms/Visual Clues	1	Shirley Allan
Wed.	April 8	1:00	Beginning Mac: Desktop	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	April 9	1:00	Introduction to Firefox (PC)	7	Al Sabsevitz
		3 - 5	Word 2007: Lessons 1 & 2 (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	April 10	8-10	Comic Life	1	Lyn Morse
Sat	April 11		Open Lab 10:00 am to Noon		
Mon	April 13	1:00	Begin Mac: System Preferences	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	April 14	7 – 8:30	PC SIG		Lab
Wed	April 15	9:00	Files & Folders (PC)	12	Charlie Voelker
		1:00	Beginning Mac: Maintenance	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	April 16	9:00	Board Meeting		Idyllwild Room
		1:00	Before the Basic : Getting Started w/ Quicken (PC)	8	Shelia Harbet
Fri	April 17	9:00	Mac SIG		
Sat	April 18		Open Lab 10:00 am to Noon		
Mon	April 20	1:00	Safari (Mac)	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	April 21	8-10	Tips and Tricks	1	Lyn Morse
Wed	April 22	8-10	Burning discs – iPhoto, iTunes, etc	1	Lyn Morse
		1 – 2:50	TextEdit (Mac)	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	April 23	1:00	Creating Fliers in PrintShop (PC)	4	Arlene Faber
		3 – 4:30	Word 2007: Lesson 3 (PC)	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	April 24	8-10	Before iPhoto	1	Lyn Morse
Sat	April 25		Open Lab 10:00 am to Noon		
Mon	April 27	1 – 2:50	iWork-Pages-Word Processing (Mac)	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	April 28	9:00	PrintShop2: Bookmarks & Stickers (1/2) (Mac)	1	Helene Barker
		2:00	General Meeting - Nomination of Officers		Speaker's Hall
Wed	April 29	9:00	PrintShop2: Bookmarks & Stickers (2/2) (Mac)	1	Helene Barker
		1 – 2:50	iWork-Pages-Layout (Mac)	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	April 30	3 – 4:30	Word 2007: Lesson 4 (PC)	2	Jan Grenert



APRIL MONITOR AND OPEN LAB SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	
		10-12	12-1
Wed	Apr. 1	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Thu	Apr. 2	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Fri	Apr. 3	J. Manion	L. Weiser
Sat	Apr. 4	L. Rowe	
Mon	Apr. 6	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Tue	Apr. 7	L. Espinosa	P. Baigent
Wed	Apr. 8	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Thu	Apr. 9	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Fri	Apr. 10	J. Manion	L. Weiser
Sat	Apr. 11	L. Rowe	
Mon	Apr. 13	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Tue	Apr. 14	L. Espinosa	P. Baigent
Wed	Apr. 15	C. Voelker	K. Gibbons
Thu	Apr. 16	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Fri	Apr. 17	J. Manion	L. Weiser
Sat	Apr. 18	P. Palladino	
Mon	Apr. 20	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Tue	Apr. 21	J. Manion	
Wed	Apr. 22	C. Voelker	K. Gibbons
Thu	Apr. 23	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Fri	Apr. 24	J. Manion	P. Corwin
Sat	Apr. 25	L. Rowe	
Mon	Apr. 27	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Tue	Apr. 28	J. Manion	
Wed	Apr. 29	C. Voelker	K. Gibbons
Thu	Apr. 30	B. Osborn	N. Alpert

APRIL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

Date	Class	Time
	Before iPhoto - Mac	4-24 8:00+
	Before Basics - starting Quicken	4-16 1:00
	<u>BEGINNING Mac SERIES</u>	
	Desktop	4-8 1:00
	System Preferences	4-13 1:00
	Maintenance	4-15 1:00
	<u>BOARD MEETING</u>	4-16 9:00+
	Burning Discs - Mac	4-22 8:00+
	Creating fliers in Printshop - PC	4-23 1:00
	Comic Life - Mac	4-10 8:00+
	Files & Folders - PC	4-15 9:00
	GENERAL MEETING	4-28 2:00
	Introduction to Firefox	4-9 1:00
	<u>iWORKS - Pages series</u>	
	Word Processing	4-27 1:00+
	Layout	4-29 1:00+
	MAC SIG	4-17 9:00
	PC SIG	4-14 7:00pm
	<u>PRINTSHOP 2 - MAC</u>	
	Bookmarks and Stickers, pt. 1	4-28 9:00
	Bookmarks and Stickers, pt. 2	4-29 9:00
	Quicken: Getting Started/Basics	4-16 1:00
	Safari - Mac	4-20 1:00
	Text Edit - Mac	4-22 1:00
	Tips and Tricks - Mac	4-21 8:00+
	<u>WORD 2007 series - PC</u>	
	Lessons 1 and 2	4-9 3:00+
	Lesson 3	4-23 3:00+
	Lesson 4	4-30 3:00+

April General Club Information

Meeting Schedule



PC SIG	April 14	7:00 PM
BOARD MEETING	April 16	9:00 AM
MAC SIG	April 17	9:00 AM
GENERAL MEETING	April 28	2:00 PM



"Let's Compute" Officers

Lyn Morse, President.....	345-4466.....	lynmorse@aol.com
Shelia Harbet, VP Education	360-7146.....	shelia@csun.edu
Jan Grenert, Secretary, Newsletter Editor	360-9085.....	jgrenert@dc.rr.com
Kent McDonald, Director - Communications	345-2931.....	rkmcdonald@earthlink.net
Jack Drill, Treasurer	345-8709.....	jdrill@dc.rr.com
Barbara Kaye, Director - Maintenance	772-6520.....	barbarak1775@aol.com
Jerry Katler, Director of Programs	772-6405.....	jerryk@dc.rr.com

Committee Chairs

Betsy Lewis.....	Finance Review Committee
June Cross	Computer Sale
Pat Palladino.....	Nominating Committee

Volunteer Coordinators

Call to volunteer:

35 MM Scanner Coordinator	George Hans	345-3875
General Meeting Volunteers	June Cross.....	345-7876
Supplies & News & Views	Sharon Kiel.....	772-0745
News & Views	Jill Johnson	772-4809
Monitor Coordinator	Moe Sullivan.....	772-4416

April Teachers

Shirley Allan.....	345-5087
Helene Barker.....	360-5713
Arlene Faber	200-3933
Jan Grenert	360-9085
Shelia Harbet	360-7146
Lyn Morse	345-4466
Al Sabsevitiz.....	772-3025
Charlie Voelker.....	345-0123

April Lab Monitors

Norm Alpert	Linda Espinosa	Pat Palladino
Peter Baigent	David Feign	Leonette Rowe
Cecilia Chu	Kevin Gibbons	Charley Voleker
Phil Corwin	John Manion	Len Weiser
Bill Crowley	Bob Osborn	

35 MM Scanner Monitors

George Hans	Walter Goldsmith	Leonette Rowe
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