



Oak Creek Apples

A 501.c.3 Organization for Education on Apple Computers

Macintosh Users Group Newsletter

April 2009

<http://www.oakcreekapples.com>

Meetings Calendar

Wednesday, April 15, 2009:

- 🍏 Mac Basics & Beyond ... 5:00 PM
- 🍏 Main Meeting 6:30 PM

This Month's Meeting

For our April meeting, Riuch Boyer will be back to continue his popular discussion of GPS. This time, he will home in on Mac applications for GPS mapping, as well as applications for portable Apples that make use being able to know where they are in latitude, logitude, and altitude. Such programs are known as location-aware apps.

Although I've already covered the benefits of location-aware applications in a recent issue, this continues to be a category of intense interest because of increasing use of such apps on the iPhone. Existing iPhones have both a GPS and an accelerometer, by which an iPhone senses how it is being moved around. Conventional standalone GPS receivers work only under the open sky, because they have to sense signals coming from a series of satellites in high orbit. Because an iPhone would not make much of a navigator if it operated only in the open outdoors, iPhone supplements direct GPS information with position information from the cellular network. The accelerometer further adds to this information by allowing dead reckoning to deduce the position of an iPhone that

has moved out of range of direct GPS and the cellular supplement. It is rumored that the next revision of iPhone, due this summer, will add a magnetometer to this array of location sensors. This sensor gives a precise indication of direction the device is pointing, like a compass. This would make possible an iPhone app that, when the phone is pointing to a building, gives information about the businesses in it.

So come hear Rich tell us the latest news on GPS for your Mac. You may never have to be lost again.

About our speaker:

"I was born a "New Englandah", but military assignments took me to the 4 corners of the USA. My navigation (nav) experience began in 1967 with an aviation career in the USAF, Corporate (Standard Oil) then American Airlines.

I worked with several navigation systems in aviation. Interestingly, my GPS introduction first came in my boating experience around the Florida Keys.

Given the difficulty in using earlier navigation systems, I'm excited about doing this presentation, as I believe it will help folks utilize the GPS so much more effectively than simply listening to TomTom telling them to 'turn here'.

In my opinion, using an automobile GPS by itself, is like owning a TV with remote: you have to endure the commercials, and you often miss shows you wanted to watch. Using a GPS (hand held or built in to your car) WITH a Mac, is like having TiVo! It's a little more of a learning curve, but you can do so much more!

I've worked with personal computers since 1980. I began on a Tandy with (128K of RAM, and have been using Apples since '84, starting with an Apple IIe.

Notes From Last Meeting

In February, we heard Carol Gandolfo describe the early days of her love affair with Apples. Beginning with the early command-line models, she ran a psychology consultancy in a time when it was ubniversally believed that only PCs were suited for use by business. When the iconic 1984 Macintosh came out, she incorporated this into her operation too.

Oak Creek Apples meetings are held at the Elks Lodge in West Sedona, just off Airport Road, on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, except July and August.

Special Interest Group Meetings

Mac Basics & Beyond SIG:

Jannah Riemer does more than show us how to point and click. There is always something to learn for all Mac users who don't make their living with special applications. This is a great place to get questions answered. The **Mac Basics & Beyond** SIG meets from 5 - 6:30 pm every 3rd Wednesday, before each Main Meeting. This month, Jannah will cover the new iLife '09 applications suite.

<p><i>Jannah Riemer</i> Mac Consulting <i>since 1987</i></p> <p>Problemsolving • Repair Installation • Internet Patient & friendly training iPods, digital cameras too! Apple Computer Sales</p>	
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The Apple Mug Store

(<http://Applemugstore.com>) is a wonderful place to shop for real bargains, and is available to all Macintosh User Group members.

You can find the current **User ID & Password** in the email notifying you of the meetings of the month.



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the
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Apple Dealer Sedona

We now stock Apple Computers

The Phone Company Doesn't Want You to Read This

By Alan Gore

Everything in the world around us is steadily being ground to bits. Our pictures, still and otherwise, are binary now and so are our voices when we speak over cellphones. For some years, phone companies have been quietly digitizing our landline conversations to make use of the efficiency of data transfer over the Internet. Digitization allows them to squeeze more talk into the same set of telephone lines with better sound quality. So why, you may ask, are they still billing us for the 1955 way of doing business? The answer is, because they are hoping we don't notice that there is now an alternative.

But if you do notice, and have an interest in cutting your phone bill by up to 90%, try substituting Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) for your landline usage. With VoIP, you use computer hardware and software as a replacement for your telephone, especially as used for long distance. You can talk free or very cheap to anyone else who has VoIP, or by using a gateway service provider, cheaply to conventional phones located anywhere.

VoIP providers are slowly becoming known to the general public. The most visible is Vonage, a provider which sells phones with software preinstalled so you can just plug them in to your broadband link. There is nothing you need to configure, and service costs about half the conventional domestic rates. But to really save money, you need to become familiar with an all-software solution from Sweden called Skype.

Unlike Vonage, there is no Skype hardware. You, as a user, see it purely as a program, which you download and install for free on your PC or Mac. Once you have installed the Skype program, you buy prepaid time on the Skype network, or subscribe to services by the year. The application acts as your Internet telephone, listening to you through your computer's microphone input and speaking through its internal or external speakers. For privacy when making phone calls, just plug in any standard mike-equipped headset to bypass the external speakers. You can get fancier by substituting one of the newer USB-connected handsets that look and work like telephones, but the idea is the same.

When you subscribe to the Skype network, you can use it to talk to anyone in the world. Talking to another Skype user is free; landline or cell numbers anywhere in the US, with any amount of talk time, costs you \$30 per year. For \$80, you can get international long distance to landlines in major countries, again with unlimited talk time to those relatives in Germany. Foreign mobile or calls to such places as Myanmar will cost prepaid minutes, but you're still getting off far cheaper than with any of the international roaming plans. And when you're on prepaid time, you can see your account balance counting down as you talk: no hidden charges or monthly surprises. Text messages are another extra-cost item that comes out of your prepaid time.

The Skype program has its own address book that is a convenient place to keep your most frequently dialed contacts. On your Apple, you can also call any number from your Address Book with Skype. If your system has an iSight camera, you can have it broadcast a live video stream as you call, which will be displayed at the other end if you are talking to another Skype user. Many years from now, landline phones might have this feature, at exorbitant cost. While you wait, use it right now on Skype for free.

At this point, you may be resenting paying for AT & T's high roaming charges for calling out-of-network on your nice new iPhone, when you could be Skyping the same calls from your MacBook at any public WiFi connection. Not a problem! There is now a Skype app for that. Though AT & T formally won't let you make Skype calls over 3G or Edge cell connections, you can use Skype whenever you are on WiFi. Call Uncle Johann from Starbucks, and you'll never pay a roaming charge. And if this summer's iPhone rev supports video as is widely rumored, Skype will make it a Picturephone.

Since installing Skype on my iMac and MacBook Pro, I have ditched my long distance carrier. I still have a landline for local calls and 911, and so my home flood sensor can call me if triggered, but that's sort of a special situation. As VoIP proliferates, we will see more and more telephone customers signing up for "bare DSL." Can you dream of a phone bill with one line on it?

Membership

The Oak Creek Apples is exclusively an educational institution for the public on the use of Apple Computers, including maintenance, security, and software applications. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to belong. A dues-paying membership is a Regular membership (the member, spouse and their dependent children may participate, though only the member may vote). Guests and the public are welcome to attend our meetings on an occasional basis to become acquainted with the Group and its activities. Regular membership dues are \$25.00 per year to be renewed on the anniversary of joining the Group. In addition to participation in group activities, regular members receive a monthly emailed newsletter covering general and special-interest group activities, Apple news, and informative articles. A postal mailed version of our newsletter is still available for an additional \$8.00 annual fee.

To become a member when at our general meeting, ask one of our greeters at the greeting table at the back of our meeting room. One can also join the Oak Creek Apples by sending a check for \$25.00 payable to the **Oak Creek Apples** to:

Membership Registrar
Oak Creek Apples
150 Color Cove Road, Sedona, AZ 86336

Please include your email address and mailing address and phone number with the payment.

We do not share our mailing list.