



July 2008

<http://www.oakcreekapples.com>

Meetings Calendar

No general meeting is planned for this month.

This Month's Meeting

No general meeting is planned for this month.

Notes From Last Meeting

By Cozy McFee

Toast 9 is a program for backing up audio, video and data files. It has a number of programs within it.

First off is CD Spin Doctor. It is for music track editing, recording from a record or cassette player (for which you also need an external device like a Powerwave if you want better sound quality than you can get through the small earphone jack), and the ability to record anything you can hear on your computer. An option that they advertise in the ad on their website but has no mention of in the manual! When I called up the toll free number the man asked me what kind of streaming software I had, which is no relation to the question I asked. I finally found it on my own in the drop down menu. It says "Install Audio Capture Support." On playback the audio will have glitches but they don't show up on the final saved file. One of

the other features they claim is that it will give you the track titles for an individual track. I assumed it would work like the new cell phones that can capture a 10 second clip and then identify the track. It simply doesn't work. I put in something like Tom Petty and it comes up with Beethoven. I've tried multiple times and not one has been correct.

Disc Cover 2 is for making covers and labels for the mixes you make. Straight forward like other programs of it's kind.

Disc Catalog shows a list of previous collections you've put together.

Streamer is for a video that you can stream online for others to view at a specific time. The thing that shocked me is that there is no manual for it. You go to help and it says "Help is not available for Streamer." I need to call them to make any sense of it. I have yet to make it work. You need to convert your video files in the fifth tab, titled **Convert**, in order for Streamer to work.

Tivo Transfer is for just that. Also works with other Digital Video Recorders as well. After they are in the hard drive you can easily edit out commercials and such, much like in QuickTime Pro.

TOAST VIDEO PLAYER is for playing individual scenes from a DVD for use in the "DVD-Video" section of the Video tab. This is so you can delete the rest of the files from the disc so you can free up hard drive space. The problem is that the DVD-Video section doesn't burn the full files. It works perfectly in Toast 6. It just burns the first 90 seconds or so of each file. It appears to have successfully burned, but no error messages come up. It's the same if I burn it as a disc image. It only plays that 90 seconds of the original file in the Toast Player as well, yet if I use my VLC player it plays the whole file.

What used to be Roxio Jam is now included in the Audio CD section in the Audio tab. It does all the crossfades, volume adjustments and editing capabilities that Jam does. The "digital copy prohibited" (which was a box you checked marked CP for copy protect) is no longer in the main window. You have to click the track and a new window come up. My one complaint is that now you hear a noticeable click where the crossfade changes. It doesn't end up on the recorded disc but it's just annoying.

Special Interest Group Meetings

Mac Basics & Beyond SIG:

The new **iWork Special Interest Group** will meet for the first time on Wednesday, July 14, at 6:30 at the Sedona Library.

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.



How I Shot My Summer Vacation

By Alan Gore

For most of us, the first day coming back from vacation is the day we downloaded the pictures we took from our cameras. The pictures all fit in the camera because we cranked down the resolution on it to make it so. The few of us who really thirsted for adventure took enough pictures to have bought an extra memory card or two at Disney World. Now we face editing a motley mash of tiny picture files in the **Vacation 2008** folder. If you're lucky, you will find the time to do that before it's the season to right-click, New Folder, **Christmas 2008**.

But we're Apple users. We like to bring our laptops everywhere we go. So why not bring them along on vacation? For better holiday photographs, there are solid reasons for doing so.

The first action you take should be to set up that **Vacation 2008** folder before you go, and to install photo editing software. Though the high-end way to do this is to install Photoshop CS3, there are many lower-cost, lower-complexity photo editing programs with Mac versions. This includes Apple's own iPhoto, though I'm not a fan of committing my precious pictures to iPhoto's proprietary blob of an archive format. If you want a good subset of Photoshop's editing functions in an editor you can get for a reasonable price, get Photoshop Elements 6, which you can currently buy directly from Adobe for \$90. Whichever photo editor you install, make sure it lets you access and modify 'metadata', which is the exposure information your camera stores with each picture. This is another reason to avoid using iPhoto.

Before you head for the airport, don't forget to bring, besides the laptop itself, your camera's download cable. And I'll give you extra credit if you also bring a supply of blank CDs. Allow roughly one for each day you're out there, with a self-addressed mailing envelope for each one.

When you're underway, having your photo-editing laptop with you allows you to download photos from your camera at the end of every day. Now you can feel free to set the camera to save pictures at its maximum resolution. You will no longer have to worry about running out of space in your camera.

Dedicate a few minutes near the end of each day to download your pictures, then use your photo editing software's 'light table' function to lay the pictures out on your screen. In this mode, you can cull out non-keepers and rotate vertical shots. If you have time, you can also perform some initial editing. Remember that mystery metadata? The most important editing function of all at this stage is the ability to write your own notes into two metadata fields in particular, **Description** and **Location**. In Location, just indicate where the picture was taken. Many editors allow you to do this collectively to all pictures in a selected set. In **Description**, type in any caption that you would like to give this picture. Now save the day's pictures in a subfolder inside **Vacation 2008**. Call it, say, **Disney World Day 1**. If you chose to bring CDs, you might want to burn a copy of the

day's pictures to a disc that you then mail home. No matter what happens to you out there, your next of kin can admire your pictures.

When you return home, you can finish editing in your now nicely organized photo directories. This is the point where you want to download a free Mac-only program called **JAlbum** (<http://jalbum.net/>). This allows you to magically organize whole folders of pictures at once. All you do is adjust some preference settings, then drag-and-drop a picture folder onto jAlbum. It stitches your pictures into a slideshow using HTML and Javascript, so they can be viewed on any Mac or PC. Your photo files are linked into this structure, not modified in any way. Those **Description** entries you typed in to be embedded in each picture become captions for your slides.

For a sample of what JAlbum can do for your pictures, look in at:

<http://homepage.mac.com/alangore/hikes.html>

This represents several sets of pictures I have taken on hikes and then organized using JAlbum for Sedona Westerners. If you want to get out on the trails surrounding our beautiful town, what better "vacation" than right here with the Westerners?

Lost Item

George Walker misplaced a black leather rectangle at our last meeting in June. It's about 9" X 12". I put it between the keyboard and the screen on my G4.

If you have seen this item, please contact **George Walker**:

928-284-3242 Home (in the Village)

602-570-1932 Cell & text

geo32@mac.com

Steering Committee Meeting: June 2, 2008

The June meeting started at 6:10 pm and adjourned at 7:45 pm

Attendees at the meeting: Jannah Riemer, Durwood Cline, Jim Evans, Gene Snyder, Dick Searle, Marge Herkenham

Action items and notes from the meeting:

1. It should be mentioned in our newsletter and email notice that the Elks Club has Dollar Taco night starting at 6:00 pm on the nights of our computer club meeting and that everyone attending our meeting is welcome to come and buy tacos or other refreshments available in the serving area. **Alan Gore** has the action.
2. Treasurer Jim Evans presented our financial status. Our checking account balance has been slowly drifting down over the past three years. The situation is not critical but it was clear we will have to take actions which will reverse the long term trend. Our balances for the last two years at this month have been:
\$1533 Two years ago
\$1203 Last year
\$1044 Current balance
3. Jannah Reimer and Dick Searle will be added as persons authorized to sign checks from the Club checking account. **Jim Evans** will send necessary paperwork and a couple of blank checks to Jannah and Dick so either one will have the means to pay bills if (God forbid) Jim is not available.
4. **Marge Herkenham** will make up a welcome kit consisting of name tags, marker pens, sign-in sheets and a welcome sign which Jannah can set-up at the welcome table at the time of the Basics and Beyond section meeting before Marge arrives for the regular meeting.
5. **Jim Evans** will check to see if the Elks Club could provide coffee and hot water for tea or coco at our meetings and what the cost would be. This arrangement would start with the September meeting. It would be planned that a designated

club member(s) would bring cookies (store bought OK) to each meeting to go with the coffee.

6. **Marge Herkenham** will contact Alan Gore and offer information which may be helpful in getting publicity in the newspaper.

7. **Cozy McFee** will do the June program. He will be demonstrating some of the features of the new Toast 9 and there will also be a program called PopCorn also produced by Roxio which may be available as a raffle item. **Dick Searle** is to bring blank cards which will be distributed to audience members before the Toast demonstration so their comments about Toast can be collected and incorporated in a review we are supposed to send back to Roxio and include in our newsletter.

8. **Dick Searle** is to contact Tom Wiselogel, the Apple Representative currently assisting Best Buy to establish their Apple Sales in Flagstaff, and ask him if he would give a presentation at our Sept meeting. Durwood Cline has mentioned the idea to Tom and the reaction seemed to be positive.

9. Our Fall program schedule starting with September is planned to be -

September 17 - Presentation by Apple

October 15 - Mail Factory (A label program) Presented by Durwood Cline

November 19 - Publishing and Selling Your Own Book by Al Moss. Dick Searle will ask Moss to do. For more information on Al Moss look at

www.racermoss.com <<http://www.racermoss.com>> .

10A. The possibility of an iWorks SIG group was brought up by Jannah Riemer.

It was suggested that Alan Painter who presented an iWorks program at the general meeting might be interested in facilitating such a group. **Jannah Riemer** will contact Alan and discuss the idea with him. It was also suggested that the library meeting room that the Steering Committee uses should also be the venue for SIG meetings.

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.