



# Oak Creek Apples

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

## Macintosh Users Group Newsletter

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September, 2007

[www.oakcreekapples.com](http://www.oakcreekapples.com)

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### Meetings Calendar

Wednesday, September 19, 2007:

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

At our next meeting we will hear a brief overview of the much-in-the-news iPhone by Morgan Stine, and a baring of secrets as Ken Hughes tells us of Tips and Tricks in using the Mac. Be there!

Oak Creek Apple 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 how to point and click. There is always something to learn for all Mac users who don't make their living using special applications. This is a great place to get questions answered. This **Mac Basics & Beyond SIG** meets from 5 – 6:30 pm every 3rd Wednesday, before the Main Meeting.

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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.

## REPEAT

### IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the last Steering Committee meeting members discussed the issue of meeting attendance and kicked around several thoughts of what members sought at meetings, and what it would take to increase participation in club events. We brought this up at the last meeting and received several valuable comments from those present. ***But we really need to hear from people who are members but yet do not attend meetings regularly.*** I'd really like to hear from you, and to know your thoughts and reasons on this matter. Please feel free to contact me at [eisnyde@npgcable.com](mailto:eisnyde@npgcable.com) at your convenience - but the sooner the better. Your remarks will be considered anonymously (unless you indicate otherwise); what is most important is to receive your remarks. Many thanks.

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### Notes From Last Meeting

I was unable to attend. No one sent me notes. Hope it was good!

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## Apple Reincarnates iLife

Faster Forward

By Rob Pegoraro | August 23, 2007; 12:32 PM ET [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

Today's column and podcast (listen/subscribe/iTunes) cover a familiar subject: Apple's iLife multimedia suite.

Like other multiple-program bundles (for instance, Microsoft Office), iLife is always a pain to review, because my notes hold far more details than I cram into the paper. So here are some details that didn't make the column:

\* In iPhoto, the first change is the shift from "rolls" (a set of photos grouped by when they were transferred to the computer) to "events" (photos grouped by when they were taken). The net effect is that Apple has gotten rid of one organizational layer, which should reduce the odds of people getting lost in their own picture collections. Editing is also a little easier; one of my favorite tools, the "straighten" command that levels out a photo with the horizon, is more prominent, and you can now adjust exposure separately in bright and dark areas. The .Mac Web galleries look terrific; check out the "Carousel" browsing option in this sample from Apple (scroll all the way to the bottom of a set of pictures to see it).

\* As for iMovie, maybe Apple should have given this program a new name,

just to make it clear how little it owes to the old version. Not only does it sacrifice entire categories of features (your ability to fine-tune a soundtrack is almost gone now), iMovie '08 can't even open projects created in iMovie HD! This program also imposes much steeper system requirements, ruling out Macs with G4 and most G5 processors (though on an iMac with an Intel Core 2 Duo chip, it didn't show the slightest hesitation.) That said, I suspect many iLife '06 users never got into iMovie HD, because it was so geared towards professional-grade productions. A program that doesn't require you to create a movie project and import clips before doing anything else isn't as beginner-friendly as one that shows all of your Mac's video clips in one window and lets you fiddle around with them. (Those beginners should beware: Editing video isn't a quick process, thanks to the time spent deciding which clips to keep, dump or trim. I am a bit of a perfectionist, but I spent an hour and a half on a five-minute movie.)

\* GarageBand: Not being a musician, I didn't spend much time with this, aside from Magic GarageBand -- but that's worth a chuckle or two even if you usually don't touch this application. Users with small children may not want to tell them about it, however, or the kids will be playing with it all day.

\* The new DVD-menu templates in iDVD look sharp, and Apple says this incorporates some performance improvements, but since I was using a much

faster Mac to test this than the one I had when reviewing iLife '06, I can't really say how much they help.

\* Finally, iWeb's Web-widget feature is neat, but doesn't go very far. iWeb only provides prefab HTML links to Google Maps, Google AdSense ads and any public .Mac Web galleries you've set up, although you can also type in your own HTML. (Outside of that Web-gallery widget, online photo albums set up in iPhoto '08 are pretty much invisible in iWeb. You have to switch back to iPhoto to edit or delete them--the opposite of how things functioned in the prior version of iLife.)

If you buy a new Mac, the decision is made for you -- iLife '08 comes free on the hard drive. If you have an older Mac that can't run iMovie -- and you're already happy sharing your photos at another site besides .Mac -- spending \$79 on iLife '08 could be hard to justify. This new release makes the most sense for people who have bought Intel-based Macs over the last year and a half, and especially for those who a) still haven't found a favorite photo-sharing site, b) already subscribe to .Mac or c) have never spent any serious time editing video before.

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*Jannah Riemer*  
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## Beware of Five-Star Vaporware

By Brian Krebs | August 20, 2007; 10:08 AM ET

Washington Post

U.K. computer programmer Andy Brice was proud of the awards and accolades his software had won from his peers online. That is, until he noticed that pretty much everyone else's software received the same "5-star" rating and high praise from various software directories and download sites.

Curious about just how thorough the sites are at reviewing software, Brice submitted a fake program that did absolutely nothing. The place he sent the program to was a clearinghouse that distributes shareware and trialware to hundreds of other sites.

Brice even included a descriptor file stating that he was submitting a useless program, which he tauntingly named "awardmestars." To his amazement, the do-nothing program came away with top honors -- complete with official-looking seals of approval -- from at least 16 download sites.

"I should be delighted at this recognition of the quality of my software, except that the 'software' doesn't even run," Brice wrote of the experiment on his blog. "This is hardly surprising when you consider that it is just a text file with the words 'this program does nothing at all' repeated a few times and then renamed as an .exe."

Of the nearly 1,000 download sites that received a copy of "awardmestars," 218 now offer the file for download. Brice said the junk file is awaiting review at nearly 400

## [And I know you'll be as excited about this as the Blog folks:](#)

Official Google Mac Blog  
Google Desktop for the Mac in 9 more languages  
Friday, August 31, 2007 at 09:35:00 AM

Hey, we're excited to launch Google Desktop and Updater for the Mac in 9 more languages today: Chinese Simplified and Traditional, Dutch, UK English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish. For those of you who haven't tried Google Desktop yet, you can get the latest build at <http://desktop.google.com/mac>. All our current users will be updated to the latest and greatest automatically.



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other sites. The good news is that some 421 download sites did see the program for what it was worth and rejected it outright.

"The truth is that many download sites are just electronic dung heaps, using fake awards, dubious [search engine optimization] and content misappropriated ... in a pathetic attempt to make a few dollars from Google Adwords," Brice said. "Hopefully these bottom-feeders will be put out of business by the continually improving search engines, leaving only the better sites."

This story got picked up late last week by news-for-nerds megasite Slashdot.org, and the discussion has some interesting perspectives from other programmers and their experiences with software awards.

While there may indeed be hundreds of legitimate download sites that don't try to pull one over on visitors, I've never strayed far beyond a handful of sites that I have come to know fairly well, such as CNet's Download.com, SourceForge.net, and Tucows.com.

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## Two neat tips sent by Gene Snyder:

### Image capture PLUS

Okay, you probably already know of the Command-Shift-3 shortcut for taking a screen capture of your entire screen, and you may even know about Command-Shift-4, which gives you a crosshair cursor so you can choose which area of the screen you want to capture. But perhaps the coolest, most secret hidden capture shortcut is Control-Command-Shift-3 (or 4), which instead of creating a file on your desktop, copies the capture into your Clipboard memory, so you can paste it where you want. (I use this to paste screen captures right into Photoshop.)

### Converting to TIFF, JPEG, or Photoshop

Want to change most any graphic into a Photoshop file? Just open the file in Preview, go under the File menu, and choose Save As..., where you can export your graphic in Photoshop format. But you're not limited to Photoshop format - Preview will also export your file as JPEG, PICT, BMP (for sharing files with PC users), PICT, Targa (for video), and more. If the format you're saving in has options (such as quality and compression settings for JPEG and TIFF images), they will appear near the bottom of the dialog.

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## 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 member-

ship (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.**

### **The Board of Directors**

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