



September 2008

<http://www.oakcreekapples.com>

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## Meetings Calendar

### Wednesday, September 17, 2008:

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

## This Month's Meeting

Welcome back to OCAMUG after your busy, fun-crammed summer! The presenter for our first meeting of the new season will be Tom Wiselogel, an Apple representative, who will be updating us on this spring's 3G version of the iPhone. This was upgraded substantially to support the new high speed data standard, which gives you broadband-like Internet access over the cellular network. Although all the major providers offer 3G, iPhone is still tied to AT & T's branding of this service technology.

Tom got his start as a cartographer for the University of Colorado at Boulder, and has been with Apple since 2005. first in Tucson as a seasonal Mac specialist. He later transferred to Milwaukee, where he worked from both the Mayfair and Bayshore locations as a Specialist. In November of 2007, he accepted the position of Apple Solutions Consultant at the Flagstaff location. Off the job, Tom has been a technical rock climber for the last 27 years.

On Tuesday of this week, Apple announced a 2.1 update of the iPhone software. BY meeting time, we will know exactly what was in this release and should have a better idea how it performs.

## OCAMUG Steering Committee

The next meeting has been scheduled for Sept. 22, Monday, 6pm in the Sedona Library small meeting room.

Please come to learn more, to share your ideas, and help us decide things. We may twist your arm a bit (just kidding) to get you to pitch in, but really we're just happy for your ideas and your presence.

We hope to see you there!

## Notes From Last Meeting

No general meeting was held last month.

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 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 the Main Meeting.

### iWork Special Interest Group

The iWork SIG, coordinated by Alan Painter, is held the second Monday of every month. Our September meeting was Monday, 9/8, so mark your calendar for the next iWork meeting on 10/13. All iWork meetings are from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the small meeting room at the Sedona Library.

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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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## “Let’s Rock”!

**By Alan Gore**

Apple fans eagerly wait for those big San Francisco media events, mostly scheduled for Tuesdays, with bated Safari windows. Will it be a new laptop upgrade? Improvements to the software apps we use every day. Perhaps, an entirely new product? Although the title of the September 9 event, “Let’s Rock” led us suspect that this one would be music-oriented, we were hoping for Something Really Good.

Alas, this event was just about entirely devoted to the iPod line. There are a number of improvements, as well as some price cuts. Well, there’s always next Tuesday.

A new iTunes 8 has been released. The one big change is a recommendation engine called Genius. A recommendation engine is what you’re using if you subscribe to Netflix: every time you send a movie back that you have rented, you get an opportunity to rate it on a scale of 1 to 5. After a few such quickie reviews from you, Netflix gains an idea of what you like and can offer you a list of movies it thinks you would appreciate. Apple’s name for this is the Genius playlist. iTunes builds one for you based on your musical selections, and your personalized playlist then follows you through the newly enhanced iPod line. Genius selections would, of course, extend to all the media types you can get on iTunes.

HD-format programming is now available in iTunes for an extra dollar. More importantly for many people, NBC programming is back.

You also have the option of allowing your Genius playlist to be known to the “cloud”, which is current corp-speak for the Internet.. Right now this means that the information is sent to Apple itself, so that iTunes can fine-tune its offerings to shifting customer preference. But the implication is clearly that Apple intends to get into the social networking field. Upcoming software will allow you to build an Internet identity known to designated groups of people, such as your hiking club. You could have your iPhone make your location continuously known to your

group, then maintain a group playlist of relevant TV travel shows and Discovery episodes.

The iPod line is seeing a number of incremental improvements. The larger iPods get more disk space, now up to 120G, but the real changes are in the Nano products. They get a larger display, and in glass to counter the scratching problem. There is a mike input for the first time, which will open up a new range of voice recording applications. The accelerometer from the iPod Touch has now moved into the Nano. This makes the Nano display rotatable, automatically displaying in landscape format when laid on its side. The Nano now acts as a motion sensor for Wii-style games, and you can now use a shake gesture to shuffle your playlist. For \$79, you will now be able to get an in-ear headset.

The iPod Touch form factor is now thinner and has gone to contoured aluminum. The Touch has a speaker now, rather than just a headphone jack, with a speaker volume control. A new co-branding affiliation with Nike gives the Touch a new set of exercise-oriented applications that use the accelerometer to gauge your movements. The newly popular game Spore is now available on the Touch.

The day's announcements did include one lonely, but much-anticipated, software update. A 2.1 download for the iPhone will address a number of bugs in the first version of the 3G software. It is also intended to improve battery life and eliminate the app crashes that plagued the initial version. iPhone users rate this as the biggest announcement of the day.

## 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.**