MacBits

New iBook800 a Sweet Deal

by Mark Fosgate

Apple's iBook 800 is truly a joy to use. I get the chance quite often to put one through its paces and if I had the need for a laptop over a desktop Mac, it would certainly be my choice for its compactness, light weight, power, and price point.

Recently, as I was surfing the web I came across an article from "Vision Engineer" on the abilities of the iBook 800, comparing it to a PC clone P4 running at 1.6Ghz on a Red Hat Linux distribution. The iBook proved to be faster than the PC when running a grid generator written in FORTRAN.

As Apple advances in terms of what its OS can do, giving developers the tools they need to create powerful software, and upgrading hardware capabilities, it has no place to go but up as people finally get the drift of the Mac. Apple is constantly developing its own software base (iPhoto2, iTunes3, iMovie3, and iDVD3 plus much more) for the consumer and the professional markets (Final Cut Pro, DVD Studio Pro).

Apple is winning over more converts in the life sciences. As user groups outside education and the arts start to come more over to the Mac family, we can expect to see more amazing advances from Apple (case in point: the new 12" and 17" PowerBooks). Apple innovates and everyone else rushes to copy.

CALENDAR

FIRST WEDNESDAYS AT EGPL, 7PM
The first Wednesday evening of every month, **MacMAD** hosts an informal help session at the Eau Gallie Public Library (EGPL), Pineapple Avenue (next to Conchy Joe's restaurant on the Indian River Lagoon), 7:00-whenever.

3RD TUESDAYS AT MPL, 7PM
On the third Tuesday evening of every month, at the Melbourne Public Library (MPL) on Fee Avenue (downtown Melbourne, near civic center), **MacMAD** hosts educational programs featuring speakers on a variety of Mac-related topics. Followed by dinner somewhere.
Tues., Feb 18, MPL
Wed., Mar 5, EGL
Tues., Mar 18, MPL

Check out details of all our meetings on www.macmad.org.

This month's 3rd Tuesday

Tues. Feb. 18 Program 7-9 pm at Melbourne Public Library
Don't forget dinner after meeting!

FilemakerPro

with Jim Staal

Jim Staal will give us some expert tricks and tips for getting the most out of user-friendly FilemakerPro and Filemaker Mobile.

What's Happening In MacMAD: Membership Benefits

by Jim Staal, President

What is MacMAD worth? I've seen articles recently discussing what dot-Mac is worth, what Jaguar is worth and so forth. So I decided that it is time to start a discussion about what MacMAD is worth. MacMAD really has several different levels of increasing benefits, depending upon what the member puts into the membership.

General Member Level
General Members are our core group. They pay their dues ($25) and read MacBits. They attend an occasional meeting or activity.

Benefits include the information and opinion available in MacBits. General Members can come to the first Wednesday meeting and receive help with hardware or software problems. They can call our various member-to-member helpers for assistance as needed. One of the most important benefits is the User Group discounts. This benefit, which I wrote about last month, can pay for the dues many times over.

Attending Member Level
Attending Members go to many of the meetings and activities and sometimes stay for the post-meeting dinners. They ask questions and take part in the discussions. Dues are still only $25, and the member spends an enjoyable few hours monthly at group functions.

In addition to all the benefits listed above, Attending Members gain knowledge from the presentations and discussions at the meetings and post-meeting get-togethers. They may receive software or other goodies from door prizes, contributed items, and freebies. They also enjoy the company of friendly people with similar interests.

Contributing Member Level
In addition to attending meetings, Contributing Members give a little additional time to the group—maybe by writing an article for MacBits, perhaps on a piece of software that they use. They may give a program at one of the meetings, or help arrange for someone from outside the group to give the program. Another way of contributing is to contact print or online publications that will announce MacMAD meetings and describe our group.

Contributing Members contact fellow Mac users and urge them to join MacMad. Some talk to local computer dealers or drop off copies of MacBits so that nonmembers are exposed to the work of the group. Some Contributing Members are familiar with a particular piece of software or

MacMAD

Macintosh Meeting & Drinking Society Established 1984.
MacMAD does not condone or support software piracy.

On the WEB www.macmad.org
http://bbs.macmad.org

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Members Helping Members

Call at a reasonable hour or yer name is...

WordPerfect, Canvas: Brenda Foster, 724-1948, needleworx@earthlink.net
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Photoshop, Quark, Illustrator: Randy Perry, (561) 589-6449, Radknee@aol.com

If you are experienced with software or hardware, and wouldn't mind a few calls for help, VOLUNTEER: call Cher at 724-8981.

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THE MINUTES
About Last Meeting, Jan. 21, 2003
by Mark Fosgate, Club Secretary

Jay Fleming opened the meeting at 7:05 pm with approximately 30 persons in attendance. Jay discussed the previous meeting about AppleWorks and the little homework assignment he had given to the attendees of that meeting concerning databases and mail-merges.

Jay turned the meeting over to Tom Willing. Tom discussed the news from Macworld Expo San Francisco concerning Apple's new web browser, Safari (still in beta but freely available), X11 (also a public beta), iSync 1.0, iCal 1.0.2, iLife ($49.00) (iPhoto 2, iMovie3, iTunes 3 and iDVD 3). IPhoto 2, iTunes 3 and iMovie 3 are still going to be freely available for download although if you have a SuperDrive equipped Mac, to get iDVD you will still have to pay the $49.00. Still a good deal as far as I'm concerned. Tom additionally discussed the update to QuickTime 6.1 and Airport extreme and the new pricing for it: Airport Base Station w/antenna connector and built in modem $249.00. Without the built in modem and external antenna connector only $199.00. Airport Extreme cards are $79.00 for the older style cards and $99.00 for the new Extreme cards (Extreme will only work in the new 12" and 17" PowerBooks and recently announced new Pro tower systems). Other new announcements were the 12" and 17" PowerBooks priced at $1799.00 and $3299.00 with the 15" PowerBooks new pricing hitting $2299.00 and $2799.00.

I was then given the floor and discussed the new Final Cut Express software ($299.00), which is for the individual wanting the power of Final Cut Pro ($999.00), without the much higher cost. Additionally, I discussed the new KeyNote presentation software ($99.00) that gives one doing presentations more control on how their presentation will look, and is already being compared against PowerPoint from Microsoft ($379.00 when purchased by itself).

A small poll of those in attendance only showed 6 out of the 30 present still using Mac OS 9 and below.

I turned the floor over to Jim Staal. Jim brought up the nomination process and asked if there were any nominations. He also asked if those currently serving would be willing to continue for another term. Only Tom Willing was unwilling to continue.

Our slate of candidates:
Jim Staal: President
Jay Fleming and Ray Legall: Vice President (joint)
Mark Fosgate: Secretary
Jim Robertson: Membership
Bill Moroney: Treasurer
Cammie Donaldson & Cher Daley: Newsletter Editors
Carl Carter: Sysop & Vendor Interface

More names can be added to this list during the month of February! The election is in March with new officers assuming their roles immediately at that meeting.

Dinner site voted on was Bennigan's. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

In MacMAD... *continued from front*

hardware and make themselves available to answer questions from other members. Some Contributing Members donate hardware, software, books or whatever they are not using so that it may be sold or given away by MacMAD.

Benefits include sharing one's knowledge and affinity for the Mac. Contributing Members know that they are helping others in the community to keep up with the pace of technology. They also enjoy the respect of their fellow MacMAD members for helping to keep the group active.

Board Level Board Members attend most meetings, usually both first Wednesday and third Tuesday, and put in additional time during the month. The actual amount of time varies widely. Some of us write for MacBits, some work on the website, some contact vendors, some keep accounts or records. Dues for Board Members are waived during the term of membership.

Board Member benefits are great. We get to meet lots of interesting and friendly people, hear about the latest Mac developments and offerings, and talk with vendors and developers about what they are doing. We answer questions within whatever areas of Mac knowledge we possess and our writings are published. Finally, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are keeping MacMAD running.

What is MacMAD worth?

On a dollar basis, the discounts and freebies are worth many times the cost of dues. On a time basis, the knowledge, friendship, and satisfaction are worth many times the hours spent and several times what each of us puts into it.