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NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND MACINTOSH USER GROUP

A not-for-profit, volunteer, member-supported organization

The LIMac FORUM

April 2010

www.limac.org

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LIMac was established in 1984, when the Mac was introduced. Annual dues for membership are $36. (*The first meeting is free.*)

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March Meeting

Scott Randell

Our March presentation featured Jason Panucci from SoundTree Technology. SoundTree is the Educational Division of Korg USA. His presentation was "Making the Most of GarageBand." He covered these basic topics:

- Using Korg USB controllers with GarageBand
- Using Handheld Recorders
- USB Microphones
- Korg nanoKEY, nanoPAD, and nanoKontrol
- Audio Interfaces
- Publishing Podcasts
- Getting your music on iTunes

He started by demonstrating what you can do with a keyboard controller and GarageBand. Well I tell you, I worked as a professional musician for many years (and I am involved in recording now), and I was impressed with the sounds you can produce with this simple and inexpensive setup. The piano, 0rgan, and string bass sounds were authentic. The nanoPAD makes it easy to create real time drum tracks. The nanoKONTROL offers faders and, effects as well as the ability to add more of these. If you want to record your voice for a podcast or for singing, Jason explained your two choices. One is a USB microphone and the other is to buy a USB or FireWire interface. He showed a FastTrack interface

Photo by Harold Silvers

March Meeting continued on Page 3

April Meeting

Rick Matteson

HDR imaging . . . it's all the rage these days. What's HDR you say? It stands for "High Dynamic Range," which is actually a technique that overcomes a limitation of digital cameras; that is, the ability to capture the full range of light and dark areas in a scene. HDR does this by combining multiple images of the same subject, each with a different exposure. The series of images, usually three or five exposures, is captured using the camera's auto bracketing feature. These are then "assembled" to form one image with a much wider range of lights and darks than a single image. This month, long-time LIMac member Leonard Provenzano will demonstrate, using Photoshop, how to combine separate exposures to achieve an HDR image. Leonard's presentation should help us understand the cachet of this "improved way of seeing" through the lens of our digital cameras; an image representation more like human vision. Come on down and see what it's all about.

HDR image (created from the 3 left photos) + Tone Mapping

http://www.hdrsoft.com/

Bradley's Tech Session

Bradley Dichter
Technical Advisor
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▶ I have a Intel based Mac Pro that I want to upgrade to *Leopard* or to *Snow Leopard*. Is the best process to do an Archive and Install? I have *Photoshop CS3* and it runs OK under *Snow Leopard* on my laptop.

■ It is the safest way, but most people just update the existing system software. You can skip *Leopard* and install *Snow Leopard*. The Archive and Install would set aside your old system into a Previous System folder. It would most likely require you to reinstall most programs afterwards as they install application support files in the now set aside Library folder. See *http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1545* The usual upgrade install option would preserve all that and assuming the programs work with *Snow Leopard*, should continue to work as before, maybe with a few exceptions. While Adobe has not certified *Photoshop CS3* for use with *Snow Leopard*, people have reported it works with minor bugs and gets slower and slower the longer you work in it. Also avoid the new Menlo TrueType font. FYI, Adobe charges $199 to upgrade from *Photoshop CS3* to *CS4*. Of course it's more like $599 if you want to upgrade the popular *Creative Suite 4 Design Premium* suite. Of course the problems could just be starting if your scanner or printer is not compatible with *Snow Leopard*. The situation gets better and better as time goes on and more drivers get updates. Still some drivers never match the old version's functionality and I've seen folks have to get new printers which could be rather expensive replacements for otherwise working peripherals, just to support *Snow Leopard*. An upgrade to just *Leopard* may be wiser for your first generation Mac Pro.

▶ I have a OWC external FireWire that I switch off between two computers, one running Mac OS 10.4 and the other 10.5. When I plug it into my Mac I want the root directory to show in column view, but it doesn't stick. It changes to icon view on the other machine. I tried deleting the .DS_Store file and it still won't work. What am I missing?

■ The different operating systems handle things differently in the first place. Sometimes this is because of a corrupted preference file. Open your home folder/Library/Preferences/ and delete com.apple.finder.plist and restart and see if that makes a difference. Under 10.5, start with all windows closed, then go to Finder Preferences and check the option for Always open folders in a new window. Then you can open the disk's window, set to column view, select Show View Options from the View menu and check the check box for Always open in column view. Close the window. You can then un-check the Finder Preferences option if you prefer. This sets up a better starting point for setting the preference to not just be temporary. The old Finder Preferences - General tab had an option for Open new windows in Column view. This view information is stored in the invisible .DS_Store located in every folder. Mac OS 10.4 handled these

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President's Message

Bill Medlow
President
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We all know that the economy on Long Island has not recovered and it depends how each individual has been affected before we see the life we were used to. LIMac is like a family and if there is a way we can be of assistance to you or another member, please let us know. I am not sure how we can help, but if we can we will make every effort to be of assistance. The last thing we want is to miss your smiling face at our upcoming meetings. Please remember that LIMac has some special presenters coming up, including Dave Marra, in June. We have been trying to get some special raffle prizes each month. If you have any ideas, please let me know. So come down and let us know what you think.

Bill

Bradley's Tech Session *continued from Page 2*

Desktop Services files differently and even kept the Spotlight comments in these files. Ever notice Spotlight re-indexing your hard drive right after an upgrade from 10.4 to 10.5?

▶ I have several thousand photos in albums and I want to know of a service that will scan them for me?

■ I would suggest using ScanCafe. They charge 29 cents each, but they often run discount offers in their emails. Each photo is hand scanned in a Epson Perfection 4490 flat bed scanner, not mangled in a auto feeder and at 600 dpi, you will get a 24.7 Megabyte file. Each image is color corrected and scratches and red eye removed by the technician. You don't have to pay for scans you don't like, but you can't reject more than half a batch. You send them your photos in an insured UPS box to protect your collection and there are plenty of security measures in place that you will get your originals back in good condition. You should read all about on their web site: *http://www.scancafe.com/* I don't know what they charge, but Hi-tech Photo in Great Neck and Plainview offer scanning service as well. See *http://www.hi-techphoto.com/home/index.html*

March Meeting *continued from Page 1*

from M-Audio and recommended a few others including the Line 6 POD Studio UX1 Audio Interface. The interface is the more versatile way to go, since it will allow you to record real instruments, such as guitars, trumpets etc.

Next Jason focused on Quality Microphones. Showed the "Mikey" from Blue Microphones *http://www.bluemic.com/store/index.php?crn=205* which works with any *iPod 4G, 5G; iPod Nano 2G, 3G; iPod Classic; iPhone or iPod touch.* While your there checkout some of their other mics. He also mentioned several standalone Handheld Recorders.

To close, Jason talked about getting your podcasts online and getting your music onto iTunes.

Jason showed that making your podcast available to the public is really quite simple. Just go to www.podomatic.com, and follow the instructions. A podomatic account is free.

If you are a musician and composer Jason showed us how to get your music on iTunes, and all the other digital distributors. These include iTunes, amazonmp3, Rhapsody, emusic, and napster. Just point your browser to; *http://www.tunecore.com/* and you can do all of the following:

- Distribute Your Demos, Singles, EPs & Albums
- Keep 100% of your royalties
- Own the rights to your songs

We all enjoyed Jason's presentation. It is obvious that Jason really enjoys what he does, and he has the knowledge and experience to communicate well with his audience. We hope to have Jason return in the near future.

User Group Offers

George Canellis
User Group Ambassador & Vice President

Your PDF files can now easily be converted to editable *iWork* formats with the new *PDF2Office for iWork*. It converts PDF documents into editable *Keynote* and *Pages '08/'09* files allowing for an efficient and transparent process in recovering and reusing PDF content with in iWork. *PDF2Office for iWork* has been designed specifically for the *iWork* user providing a simple and straightforward interface to convert PDF files to the iWork format while offering options to fine-tune the conversion results. This special converter eliminates the need to acquire and install additional PDF editing software and tools resulting in huge cost savings in both time and expense.

the usual retail price of $59.00.

his offer is valid through April 30, 2010.

Mailplane is the most productive way to use Gmail on your Mac. Save time using photo drag-and-drop to send attachments, personalize your messages with formatted signatures, easily switch between different Gmail accounts, never miss an important message with notifications, link Gmail conversations with Mac documents. The regular price is $24.95; however, the exclusive user group special price is $18.71. Download the 30-day free trial version to get started.

The offer is valid through May 31, 2010.

Pixelmator is a beautifully designed, easy to use, image editor for Mac OS Leopard + machines. Create, edit and enhance your images! Some features include image processing by Core Image and OpenGL; 20 tools to crop, slice, paint, retouch, measure and navigate; 15 color correction tools; 130 filters; 100 file formats; layers-based image editing; send to *Mail* and *iPhoto*; web images easily; MANY languages. With this exclusive 20% discount for user group members, the usual MSRP of $59.00 drops to $47.20. Enhance your pictures now: *www.pixelmator.com* This offer is valid through May 15, 2010.

Mach 3 Composites is introducing their new Carbon Fiber case for your MacBook. It features a new hard shell, light-weight, low profile, checkpoint friendly case. These cases are hand-made and designed to help protect your Apple laptop. All case exteriors have a high gloss finish with 100% carbon fiber, interiors are padded, and covered with a high-quality soft liner. They come in four sizes to best fit your needs. Retail prices range from $151.99 to $199.99, depending on your laptop size, but user group discounted prices range from $99.99 to $146.99. Give your MacBook piece of mind: www.mach3composites.com This offer is valid through May 30, 2010.

User Group Offers *continued on Page 4*

User Group Offers continued from Page 3

iTravel Alarm Clock is a customizable screen saver with alarm and fade-in effect, and a sleep assistant feature playing five high-quality stereo nature sounds (Lake Shore, Ocean Waves, Rain Forest, Mountain Stream, and Tropical Forest) and White Noise. It is fully configurable displaying a moving clock. *iTravel* provides a large, low-light clock for your notebook screen that can be seen from across the room. It is great for travelers. User group members can buy *iTravel* for only $4.99, half of the regular price. More information is available at *http://www.desktop-control.com/mac/itravel/*, where you can download a free trial version.

This offer is valid through June 15, 2010.

RouteBuddy for Mac OS X allows you to plan, manage and manipulate geodata (waypoints, routes and tracks) using *RouteBuddy's* high-quality vector road maps, and seamless raster topographic maps for countries worldwide. *RouteBuddy* supports a wide range of GPS devices, allowing transfer of data and real-time tracking (depending on device capability). You can also display and add geodata to *RouteBuddy's* topographic maps with *RouteBuddy* Atlas on the iPhone/iPod touch. User group members get 25% off the MSRP $99.50 of *RouteBuddy* for Mac OS X, and 25% off all *RouteBuddy* Map products which start at MSRP $5.99. *RouteBuddy* Atlas is free from the iTunes Store. For more information and free demo: *www.routebuddy.com*

This offer is valid through June 30, 2010.

PowerMax.com, the engine behind The Apple MUG Store, is pleased to announce a new process for Apple user group members. Instead of going to www.applemugstore.com to view a limited selection of items, members can now go directly to *www.powermax.com* to peruse and purchase (rewrap) almost 50,000 products. By identifying the user group you belong to (either on an online order or over the phone), PowerMax will continue to accumulate points for your user group to use. As a special bonus, for one month only, starting February 20, 2009, those points will double to 2% of the total purchase. So if a user group member buys a $2,000 computer, $40 will be added to your user group's account, good toward anything PowerMax sells. In addition to great deals, free UPS shipping is offered on any order over $50! Be sure to take advantage of this win/win deal: *http://PowerMax.com*

Freeway gives you all the legendary ease-of-use and features that launched the desktop publishing revolution. You can quickly and effortlessly lay out your website, embed images and content, then publish your work as standards-compliant HTML. Upload to your server, .Mac or to a folder. You supply the creativity, Freeway handles the code. LIMac members can buy *Freeway Pro*, regularly $249 for $186.75, and *Freeway Express* for $59.25, a 25% discount. Build your website now. *http://www.softpress.com/store*

RadTech manufactures and distributes an array of best-in-class accessory solutions for Apple computers, iPhone, iPod and Cinema Displays, all designed to keep you connected and protected in style. Experience the RadTech difference through their unique product line and legendary customer support. LIMac members get 20% off all products. Start saving now: *http://www.radtech.us*

Eltima Software is a global software development company, specializing in Flash software development for Mac users. All flashers will see the true value of *Flash Decompiler Trillix for Mac*, *Flash Optimizer for Mac* and *SWF & FLV Player for Mac*. With these products, managing Flash files is easy: decompile, compress or just play them back! Regular prices for Eltima's Flash software range from $19.95-$99.95. Using the coupon code gives LIMac members 20% off. *http://mac.eltima.com/*

Join the *Peachpit* Club. You can save 25% on all Peachpit books by becoming a Peachpit Club Member. Membership is free and easy. All you have to do is answer a few questions in Peachpit's online survey, which you can access from any book page. After you fill out the survey, you'll save 25% on top of the user group savings you receive by entering the coupon code at checkout. (You cannot use this discount in conjunction with any other coupon codes.) *http://www.peachpit.com*

Prosoft is dedicated to creating professional quality software designed to be easily used by both novice and expert users. Prosoft adopts the role of being data advocates, fighting to preserve data and prevent data loss. Prosoft offers a 25% discount to all MUGs using the special MUG discount code. Their products include: *Drive Genius* - Maintain, Manage and Optimize Your Hard Drive; *Picture Rescue* - Digital Picture Recovery; Data Backup - Backup Made Easy; *Data Rescue* - Emergency File Recovery; and *TuneTech for iPod®* - Maintain, Manage and Optimize your iPod. *http://www.prosofteng.com*

O'Reilly Publishing is offering new and better discounts. LIMac members can get a discount of 35% off all books and PDFs from O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint or Syngress books that are purchased directly from O'Reilly by phone or online. Add in free shipping for orders over $29.95 and the offer gets even better. Order from the O'Reilly Store online *http://www.oreilly.com/store/* or by phone at 1-800-998-9938.

Adam and Tonya Engst of TidBITS are continuing their sixteen years of supporting user groups with a special 10% discount for all orders in their new Take Control electronic book series. Take Control ebooks provide highly practical, tightly focused, inexpensive help from leading Macintosh authors. Titles are delivered in PDF layout with active links, and are optimized for viewing and printing. *http://www.takecontrolbooks.com*

Do you own or work in a Mac-based small business that has grown out of it's computerized checkbook? Have you grown tired of creating invoices using *InDesign* or *Word*? If you think you are ready to

User Group Offers continued on Page 5

User Group Offers continued from Page 4

move beyond your shoebox, MYOB has the right tool for you at a great MUG discount. MYOB , Inc., the leader in Mac small business management, has just released *MYOB FirstEdge*, a new Mac only product that will help you run your business quickly and easily. MUG members get $25 off the regular price of $99 on FirstEdge or $100 off AccountEdge. *http://www.myob.com/us/*

Actoris Software's *Xpress Schedule* is THE Macintosh tool for preparing employee work schedules. Create better schedules in less time, print schedules and even send them to your staff by email or text message. Food Cost Manager is a complete back office solution for food service businesses. Manage your inventory, calculate recipe and menu costs, and prepare nutritional information for your customers. Xpress Schedule, regularly $99,

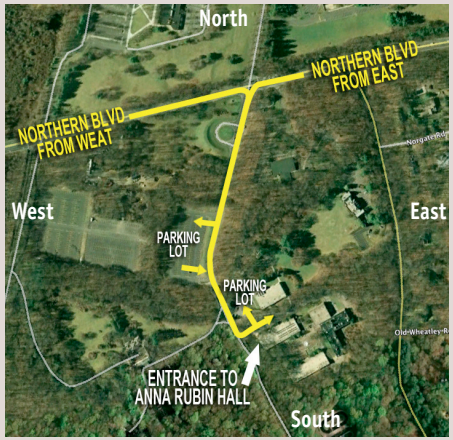
and Food Cost Manager, regularly $249

email your order to sales@actorissoftware.com

Mushkin Perfect Match products for Apple are specifically designed for Mac users. They have been creating enhanced memory for more than a decade, and believe in providing the highest quality products at the best value. Mushkin PerfectMatch upgrades are the smart choice. They carefully select components and program each module to match the manufacturer-installed memory and provide guaranteed compatibility. A user group web store is now available with the same pricing given to resellers (discounts of 20-40%) insuring the best possible price for all Mushkin Mac products.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to Brian Revere's impromptu triple bypass procedure, we are sorry to announce that there will be no Photoshop SIG after the April general meeting. In its stead George Canellis, LIMac's Vice President and Group Ambassador with the generous assistance of Rick Matteson, LIMac's Program Coordinator and MacBasics SIG Leader, will be holding an informal discussion on iPhone & iPod Touch applications. If the technology Gods are with us the video camera skills of Al Zygier will help project the display of the iPhone onto our big white screen for all to see. If you're an iPhone or iTouch user and you have some favorite apps you'd like to share with the rest of the class, by all means please feel free to do so. And if any of you lucky people happen to have possession of Apple's new touch sensation, the iPad, we'd love to have you show all of it's wonders to the rest of us. This will be a very casual group where we can show some of our favorite applications and hopefully help answer some of your burning questions about the wonderful, touchable world of Apple.



General meeting time schedule:
Meetings are held at
The **New York Institute of Technology**,
Building 300 (Anna Rubin Hall),
Old Westbury, Long Island.
For more detailed information about this location go to ***limac.org***

Meetings start promptly at ***7:00*** **P.M.**
Bradley's Q&A: 7:00 – 7:30 P.M.
MacBasics Q&A: 7:00 – 7:30 P.M.
Beginner Q&A meetings
Featured Presentation: 7:30 – 8:20 P.M.
followed by announcements and raffle drawings.

SIG Meetings: (*Special Interest Groups*)
DTP/Photoshop SIG: 8:30 – 10:00 P.M.

- In bad weather, call (516) 686-7789.
- The next LIMac board meeting will be at the Plainedge Library, (516) 735-4133, on Wednesday, April 14th, at 7:45 P.M. For more detailed information about this location go to ***limac.org***

Renewal

Membership renewal for 2010 takes place from October onwards. A bonus discount was passed by the Board of Directors a few years ago: Bring in a new dues-paying member and get a **$12** discount off your membership renewal. Bring in three new members and your renewal is free!

Bringing in a new member also includes getting a past member back into the group.

Make your **$36** check out to LIMac and bring it to the next meeting, or mail to LIMac, Post Office Box 2048, Seaford NY 11783-0180

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How to better visually enjoy the Forum: Your Editor prefers you to use *Adobe Reader 9* as long as your Mac meets the requirement of Mac OS 10.4.11 or newer. PostView 1.8 ($22) works from Mac OS 10.2 all the way up to 10.5 for PowerPC and Intel based Macs.

For a Year's membership
Send your $36 check to:

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