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The LIMac

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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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December Meeting *Scott Randell*



At December's meeting we held our usual holiday party. Although we did not have a formal presentation, we did have one that was appropriate. Several of the board members presented holiday gift ideas, with technology in mind. Our President Bill Medlow talked about Audible Books with over 60,000 titles available. These books are all popular, many of which are on the best seller list.

Next Geoff Broadhurst talked about the *orbit* MP3 (model IM 237) Altec Lansing speaker. This is an extremely portable mono speaker with pretty good sound. It is ideal for your *iPod/iPhone*, notebook computer, or any portable music player. It even comes with a carrying strap. This speaker actually comes in 3 different models. The other two are the orbit M and the orbit USB. You can compare the differences by pointing your



December Meeting continued from Page 3

January Meeting *Rick Matteson*



Shareware is a type of software that has been around longer than the Mac. It usually is software which can be downloaded free for a trial period from a developer's website. In some cases it is limited in its functionality until the user registers and pays a usually small fee. In most cases, the cost of shareware is considerably less than the "commercial" software application of the same type and in some cases, there is no fee at all (which makes the software "freeware").

This month five of LIMac's members will demonstrate some of their favorite shareware applications, including *TubeSock*, *Font Explorer X*, *GraphicConverter*, *RipIt* and *Free Ruler*. We also welcome our members' contribution of the names of their favorite shareware, so that we may plan demonstrations of some of those applications for future meetings. Let us know what you use and why you like it.

Of course there will be our ever-popular Q&A sessions (with Bradley in the main room and across the hall for our MacBasics SIG), announcements and a raffle, followed by our SIG sessions to round out the evening.

Come on down and learn about some money saving software which you will see demonstrated by users who know it.

NOTICE
NYIT will be replacing the heating system in the 300 building. This Friday ONLY, we will use the 400 building, across the courtyard. See Map on P. 2. Parking arrangements should not change.



General meeting time schedule:

Meetings are held at The New York Institute of Technology, Building 400 (Theobald Hal), Old Westbury, Long Island.

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.

Playing With Fire! How to create fire in Photoshop and set anything on fire on the computer. Well I'm going to teach how make a fire by rubbing the mouse and the keyboard together like a boyscout.

- ▶ In bad weather, call (516) 686-7789.
- ▶ The next LIMac board meeting will be at the Plainedge Library, (516) 735-4133, on Wednesday, January 13th, at 7:45 P.M.



For more detailed information about our location go to limac.org

Bradley's Tech Session



Bradley Dichter
Technical Advisor
bdichter@optonline.net

▶ **I don't care for the in-the-ear style buds that come with the iPod. What lightweight headphones can you recommend that go on the ear, not in it?**

■ These are called supra-aural or on-ear or open air headphones. They rest on the outside of the ear and allow outside sounds to be heard. These are typically lightweight and were made famous by Sennheiser foam faced units. These are popular as portable audio use. Not to be confused with the usual professional "cans" or circumaural headphones or stereophones that surround the outer ears and seal out ambient sounds. AKG and Koss brands are famous for these types. These are thus bulkier and heavier, but the sealed style offers deeper bass. The seal goes both ways, so if you want to crank it up, the sound won't leak out and bother a person next to you. The \$165 AKG K 272 HD Studio headphones are a good example. At 8.5 oz. they are still fairly light. I own a 20 year old K240 semi-open set. Another worthy set is the Denon AHD1001K over-the-ear headphones. \$115 and 6.3 oz. A name perhaps not well known, is Grado Labs. They make the \$49 iGrado 3 oz. units targeted at iPod users but they also make the \$99 SR80i in the Prestige Series. These are truly awesome audiophile headphones with better bass response but weigh 13 oz. The price belies it's quality, far better than models costing much more. If you look at the \$62 Sennheiser PX 100-II models (in black or white) they have padded on-ear cups, they collapse into a small pouch and weigh just 5.9 ounces and also get great reviews. The Apple Store sells the pricey and somewhat bulky Bose On-Ear Headphones for \$162 but at 5.2 oz, they are light and sound good. Some iPod/iPhones have a recessed headphone jack, so you may need an adapter to plug these in, like the Belkin or Shure MPA or Griffin or RadTech models. More important for iPhone and some iPods, these are just headphones, lacking a microphone. You can add a Helium Digital HD-010 inline microphone to these headphones. There is

President's Message



Bill Medlow
President
archbill@optonline.net

It is the start of another year and possibly the last for Macworld Expo. Last year, Apple said 2009 would be the last time they would exhibit there. Then Macworld organizers moved it from January to February in 2010. Now we hear that this could be the last year for this expo too.

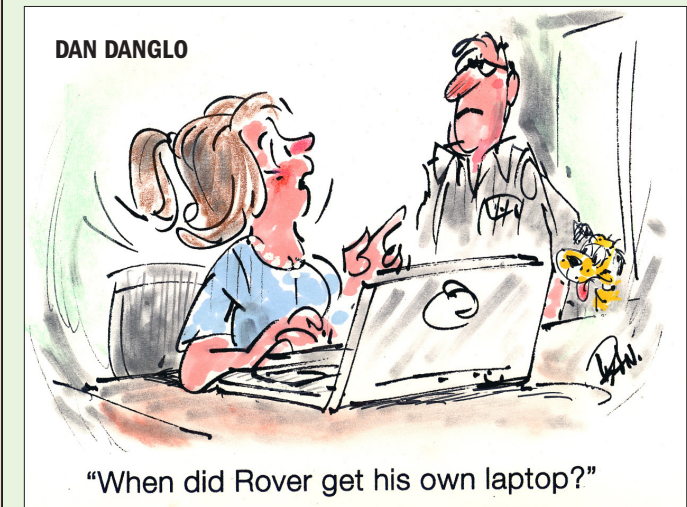
I've felt disconnected since MacWorld left NYC, as that was my last opportunity to stay connected to other Mac User Groups. Now I wonder where these other User Groups will exchange info. You can say, over the Internet but it is not the same as personal interaction, and certainly not as much fun.

As far as Apple is concerned, they have all these very successful Apple stores to show and sell their products. Clearly they have made their own Macworld Expo. ▶

Happy New Year.

So come down and let us know what you think.

Bill



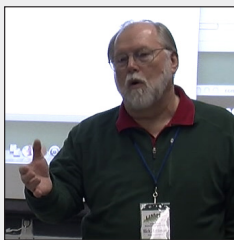
Bradley's Tech Session

the Bose Mobile On-Ear headset for \$180 that includes a inline unidirectional microphone and 5.05 oz. light and has a button to answer calls, pause the music or skip songs. These headphones have only one wire leading from one side, so they won't bother you like Apple's Y cable leading to both ear buds. To be totally honest, the iPod and iPhone models don't have enough power to do justice to audiophile or studio rated headphones. I've read comments recommending a \$300 micro amp from HeadRoom, but the pricing and required AC power probably kills it for most folks. For that matter, audiophiles have issues with the typical overly compressed audio loaded on the typical computer system.

► **I gave my nephew my first gen eMac 800 MHz a while ago and now I was considering giving him a 5th gen iPod nano. If I install Mac OS 10.4.11, even though the eMac has USB 1.1 ports and the specs for the iPod says it needs a USB 2.0 port, would it work, just slowly? What about a shuffle if no go?**

■ I imagine parts of it would work, but larger files would time-out in copying to the iPod, so the video probably wouldn't work out. Apple no longer sells Mac OS 10.4, so you wouldn't be able to even try. The 7.5 year old Mac just can't keep up. The 4th generation model at 1.25 GHz from 2004 would have worked. I see a refurbished 1.6GHz 17" iMac G5 with Tiger sold on eBay for \$200. I see a 1.8 GHz version with Leopard and a SuperDrive went for \$227.50. Considering the prices for these versus just a copy of Mac OS 10.4 Tiger, I think it's best to move up a notch or two. The next logical and price step would be a Intel Core 2 Duo 17" iMac. I see a used one sold for \$295 and free shipping. It had dual 2 GHz processor, 1 GB RAM and 160 GB HD and a SuperDrive, mouse and keyboard and ran Mac OS 10.5. It just doesn't pay to hang on to really old Macs that don't play well with modern peripherals. Just watch out for failing LCD displays. If they choose to keep the eMac and try the shuffle, it stands a better chance of working as it's capabilities are more limited, and thus less likely to time-out. Still the old eMac had power supply problems and may not last much longer. ↗

December Meeting



browser to: <http://www.alteclansing.com/>, and type orbit into the search field.

Rick Matteson pointed us to several websites that will help you choose a gift. Among them were: <http://terrywhite.com/techblog> and type archive 3811 into the search field. There he describes several gift ideas.

His next suggestion was to go to: <http://www.maclife.com/> and type Holiday Buying Guide into the search field. They have lots of suggestions in all price ranges.

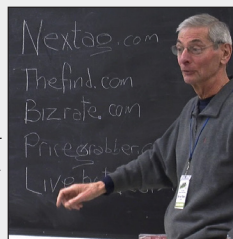
You can also go to: <http://www.macworld.com/> and type Gear Guide into the search field. Their you will see all the gear that is available for you favorite techie.

Bernie Flicker LIMacs recording secretary, and Bradley Dichter our resident tech advisor, and expert on everything Mac, showed us where we can look to get the best possible deal on the gifts we are buying. Bernie showed how to comparison shop for any specific item. For the best deal in local retail stores Bernie demonstrated how to use the following sites:

- <http://nextag.com/>
- <http://thefind.com>
- <http://pricegrabber.com>
- <http://bizrate.com>
- <http://livehotdeals.com>



Bradley showed how to get the best deal specifically on computer and technology products, and this included on line shopping as well as local stores. He suggested pointing your browser to <http://www.pcpriees.net/>. There you will be able to compare prices on new and used computers of every type and



TIP! from **TidBITS**
Mac news for the rest of us

<http://db.tidbits.com/>

Apple apologizes for iMac delays by Jim Dalrymple

Apple on Sunday apologized to customers amid reports of shipping delays of its recently introduced iMac computer.



"The new iMac has been a huge hit and we are working hard to fulfill orders as quickly as possible," an Apple spokesperson told CNET. "We apologize for any inconvenience or delay this may cause our customers."

Apple declined to comment on what's causing the delay, or if it's the display problems that have been widely reported in the last week. A support thread on Apple's Web site has 81 pages of comments and complaints from users with various iMac display issues.

Computerworld is reporting on a new Web site that has been setup by Web designer Scott Pronych to track the problems of the 27-inch iMac. The Web site tracks problems from flickering displays to hard drive failures and even has a category for those with no issues.

Pronych also has a Flash testing application on the site, allowing users to independently test their displays to see if there is a problem.

Currently, Apple's online store lists shipping times of two weeks for both 27-inch iMac models. The two 21-inch models ship within 24 hours. Online retailer MacMall appears to be out of 27-inch models, with a message to call for shipping dates. The 21-inch model at MacMall ships with next day shipping.

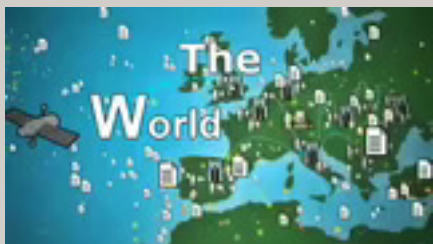
Apple did not say when iMac shipments would return to normal.

continued on Page 4

Hilarious Mashup Video from Internet Documentary

by Adam C. Engst

By now, you've certainly seen at least one earnest documentary talking about the profound effects the Internet is having on society. That's why Cassetteboy's "The Web for Beginners" mashup video of uncut footage from a forthcoming four-part BBC documentary about the Internet is so funny - it takes all the usual talking heads and cuts their interviews into wonderfully absurdist statements like, "It turns out that the Internet is just fax machines that think the thoughts of somebody who lived 8,000 years ago."



The BBC is actually encouraging this use as part of their Digital Revolution Short Film Competition, which provides the uncut footage to anyone to download and edit; the BBC commissioned Cassetteboy (a self-described "double act who edit footage they've nicked off the telly to make celebrities swear") to create this piece as an example of what can be done.

brand. You can also search for deals on hard drives, printers, etc. If you are not sure what you are looking for, go to: <http://dealmac.com/>. The sale items might give you an idea of what to buy.

Just want to mention the party. Everyone had a great time, eating, drinking (soft drinks and coffee only), and talking Mac. I would also like to say many thanks to our presenters. I'll see all of you, next year. 🐁



User Group Offers



George Canellis
User Group Ambassador &
Vice President

Macimagecover makes customized polycarbonate MacBook covers that are designed entirely by the customer. The design wizard enables the customer to create a one-of-a-kind cover from four basic templates -- a cover that will protect, transform and personalize their *MacBook*. *LIMac* members can purchase a cover for \$50, plus shipping and handling; the retail price is \$65 plus shipping and handling.

To order, go to: <http://www.macimagecover.com> (Additional discounts are available for orders of ten or more of the same cover; contact info@macimagecover.com) This offer is valid through February 28, 2010.

Whether you're looking to upgrade to and get started with *Snow Leopard* or you want to set up a rock-solid backup strategy, there's a *Take Control* ebook for you. There are also books offering expert advice on maintaining your *Mac*, troubleshooting, *AirPort* wireless networks, *iWeb*, *GarageBand* and more. *Take Control* ebooks are written by the most-trusted names in the *Mac* world and published by *Adam* and *Tonya Engst* of *TidBITS*. An exclusive 30% off their already low prices is offered to *LIMac* members on all *Take Control* ebooks. Purchase *Take Control* books: <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/> *TidBITS*: <http://www.tidbits.com>

This offer is valid through February 28, 2010.

TypeStyler is an extremely sophisticated, yet simple and intuitive, page layout and graphic design tool that allows users to create spectacular graphic designs by applying special effects and distortion to type and graphic images. The new version takes *TypeStyler's* unequaled control over text shaping, styling, flow and layout even further by exploiting *Apple's* latest technologies such as *Unicode*, *Core Image*, *OpenGL*, *QuickTime* and *Quartz* compositions. *LIMac*

User Group Offers continued on Page 5

User Group Offers *George Canellis*

members can buy *TypeStyler*, regularly \$179.95, for \$134.95, and *TypeStyler Upgrade* for \$74.95; both are 25% discounts. Download a 60-day tryout and purchase at: <http://www.typestyler.com> [REDACTED]
This offer is valid through February 28, 2010.

SmartMotion Technology produces one of the the best office chairs for computer users. The *SwingChair* is especially helpful to those who sit for long periods of time, providing continual support. Satisfaction is guaranteed with a 30-day money back guarantee. The *SwingChair* is regularly priced \$495, but *LIMac* members can purchase one for \$445, with shipping and handling of \$49, free in the continental United States. Ask about discounts on accessories. To order, ask questions or get a free DVD, call: 1-800-409-3350 Get more information: <http://www.swingchair.com/> [REDACTED] This offer is valid through March 15, 2010.

iStockphoto is the world's leading royalty-free stock destination with more than 5.6 million stock photos, vector illustrations, video footage, audio and *Flash* files. Add style to your next creative project with iStock. Buy stock or sell stock - or both. [REDACTED]
www.istockphoto.com/ [REDACTED]
This offer is valid through March 31, 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>

[REDACTED]
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> [REDACTED]



December 2009 iPod Shuffle winner:
Rod Morgenweck

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!

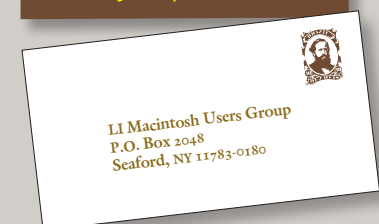
Bringing in a new member also includes getting a past member back into the group.

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



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 1.6.3* 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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