



NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

LIMac was established in 1984, when the Mac was introduced. Annual dues for membership is \$36. First meeting is free. For information, contact any of the following:

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Produced using:

TextSpesso, Tex-Edit Plus, textSOAP, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, and Acrobat.

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February's Meeting



Our February presentation was given by Brian Jepson. He spoke at length about Cellular Internet. You can, in fact, do anything through your cell

phone that you can using dial-up or broadband. The only thing is that it will be slower. There are several protocols to choose from. CDPD, GPRS, and CDMA. GPRS is the same as GSM, the terminology you are more familiar with. It is the slowest of the group. CDMA is quite a bit faster and a new technology called EDGE is the fastest. EDGE, however is not available in all areas. The plans for cellular Internet vary in pricing, speed and coverage. The least expensive, and as you might suspect is also the slowest, that would be T-Mobile. For unlimited use it is \$19.95/month if you have a voice plan with them and \$29.95/month if you do not. It is 20-40 kbps. If you do the math, this is slower than most dial-up connections. Verizon has a plan call 1xRTT. The pricing ranges from \$39.99/month for 20MB to \$79.99/month for unlimited use. This is quite a bit faster – 50-122 kbps. This is, however, slower than cable or DSL connections. If you are in the right area, you get EDGE (260-470 kbps) with these plans at the same cost.

If you are interested, there are other plans. Check out the following Web sites: CDMA: www.cdg.org, GSM: www.gsmworld.com, EDGE: www.gsmworld.com/technology/edge.

Getting started with cellular Internet costs between \$240 and \$340. If you really need to have access to the internet wherever you are, this is the way to do it. Additional information on this subject can be found on our Web site: www.limac.org.

Our thanks go out to Brian Jepson for an excellent presentation. —Scott Randell



March's Meeting

This month you can see four “how-to-do-it” demonstrations of applications that come with your Macs: *Mail & Address Book*; *iPhoto*; *AppleWorks*; and *iMovie*. They are expansions of our Mac skills in answer to members who have said, “Show me more on how to use the Computer!” Tips are included for beginners as well as for experienced users. The four demonstrations run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., all at the same time. Members have a free choice of which one(s) they want to see.

Our latest questionnaire is enclosed with the FORUM. It gathers information on what subjects our members want to see at the general meetings, and also asks members who have a specific Mac expertise, to do a short “show-and-tell” about it.

Some members only attend when specific topics come up, so put down your interests and bring the sheet to the meeting, or mail it to our LIMac P.O. Box (*see page 4*).

—Donald Hennessy

Friday, March 11th, 7 p.m. in Building 300 (Anna Rubin Hall), The New York Institute of Technology, Old Westbury.

General meeting time schedule:

Starting promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Bradley Q&A 7-7:30 p.m.

Beginner's Q&A 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Featured presentation 7:30-8:20 p.m. followed by announcements and raffle drawing

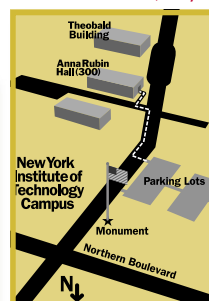
SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings 8:30-10 p.m.

The Internet SIG: Bethpage Public Library, (516) 931-3907, on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Multimedia SIG: Meetings will resume as soon as we find a new location. Please let us know if you have any suggestions by e-mailing Bernie Flicker for announcements and directions.

Beginner's SIG: Fonts and font management: font types, font sizes and font styles; fonts on your Mac – where they are stored; where to get fonts and how to install them on your Mac.

Member's Showcase, DTP/Photoshop SIG, Photography SIG: (TBD).



◀ LIMac meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in Building 300 (Anna Rubin Hall) at the New York Institute of Technology on Northern Boulevard in Old Westbury, L.I.

▶ In bad weather, call (516) 686-7789.

▶ The next LIMac board meeting will be at the Plainedge Library, (516) 735-4133, on Wednesday, March 16th, at 8 p.m.



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How to Buy a Digital Camera

by Charles Maurer
TidBITS

I (Continued from
February FORUM)

I decided to examine the camera in person.

Three Requirements for Any Camera

I have three absolute requirements for any level

of camera. The first is that all menus be labeled in English. Chinese ideograms are not memorable. When I am taking a picture, I do not want to have to look up in an instruction book what some hieroglyphics on a camera's display are supposed to mean. If a menu isn't in English, it might as well not be there. If all the menus are not in English, I do not want the camera, no matter how good it is, no matter how cheap

it is, no matter what. The SD-10 has menus in English, so I looked further.

Second, if I am to use a camera, I must be able to see through its viewfinder. I must be able to see clearly and sharply the entire frame while wearing my glasses. Many cameras do not permit this even with simple eyeglasses, and I wear graduated lenses that are the equivalent of trifocals. The eyepiece of the SD-10 can be

adjusted to let me see sharply through the portion of my glasses that I need to look through. It also lets me see the entire frame, because the viewfinder shows a lot more than the frame. This extra space is convenient for composition and is one reason I liked my big rangefinder camera. It compensates for one awkwardness: glasses make it difficult to see a digital readout that is at the very bottom of the viewfinder,

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Bradley Dichter
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Bradley's Tech Session

Please note the new Bulletin Board menu item under Members on the LIMac Web site: www.limac.org. Sign up and post messages to other members. Ask questions, help others, post comments, whatever, it's your resource. It's far more dynamic and timely than the web site at large and this monthly newsletter. Just behave yourself and watch your language!

► **I have a old iMac upstairs directly connected with a cable modem and I want to connect a new iMac downstairs. I have Airport Extreme base station upstairs but find it's unreliable, so I want to connect the new iMac to the Internet in a wired way.**

The white dome Extreme base station has two Ethernet ports, one for the cable modem and one for a Ethernet network. I would get a pair of PowerLine-to-Ethernet bridges and connect one to the base station upstairs and the other to the Ethernet port on the new iMac G5. Your house's AC power cables will be your Ethernet connection. It's far more reliable than any wireless connection and can go farther. It is multi-point capable, so you can add more powerline bridges elsewhere in the house if you have more computers to connect to the Internet. The house wiring acts like a hub. They work at 14 MBps, so that's surely fast enough for the cable modem sharing. I've used Netgear XE102 and Phonex Neverwire 14 models as they don't need any PC for configuring. You should also find Linksys brand at retail stores. They are pretty simple units, you plug them into a common 110V wall outlet (doesn't even have to be a grounded type) or power strip and connect the included Ethernet cable to the Mac or router. They got a indicator light to show it sees a good connection with another powerline bridge and a Ethernet link light. I've even used

February MacSkills presentation.

Jon Levy demonstrated *Super Get Info*, a file and folder info utility for *Mac OS X*. *Super Get Info* lets you change a file's type and creator, folder ownership and permissions, preview file contents, and edit creation and modification dates easily. It can be run with as simply as a drag-and-drop, or from the *Finder's* contextual menu. Bare Bones Software www.barebones.com \$20. ↗

President's Message

Being a member of LIMac isn't about paying your dues and sitting down to enjoy the newsletter or our monthly meetings. It is the opportunity to share and discuss issues that come up and to help another member with something about which you know. For me, the best part is learning something that will help me do something better or faster at each and every meeting. The bonus of being a member of LIMac is the interaction that we have at every meeting and the many friends that I have made since I've joined. You can't tell me that you can get that on the Internet.

At next month's general meeting we will change our schedule slightly. Bradley will start the Q&A promptly at 7 p.m. and that will run to 7:30 p.m. at which time our feature presentation will start at 7:30 p.m. and run to 8:20 p.m., when we will have a few announcements and the raffle. This will give us the opportunity to start our Special Interest Groups (SIGS). They will run every month from 8:30 to 10:00 p.m. In this way our members will have the opportunity to participate in one of our many SIGS on the same night as our general meeting. If you are not a member of one of these SIGS, please stop by to see what they are doing. You may have some interest. ↗

Volunteer wanted to do our LIMac public relations! Contact Donald Hennessy at aboutlimac@aol.com. ↗

them to connect up a TIVO series 2 to a cable modem router. You should find them for about \$45 to \$60 each.

► **I've got Verizon DSL service now. It connects from the DSL modem to Airport Extreme base station to a wireless iMac. If I switch to their new Fios system would I have to change anything?**

For those who don't know Verizon Fios is their name for Fiber-To-The-Premises high-speed broadband Internet service. It's cheaper and faster than Cablevision's Optimum Online. The cheapest version is \$39.95 for 5 MBps/sec download speed versus \$29.95 for Verizon DSL. The DSL line speed depends on your distance from the telephone switching sub-station but could be as high as 1.5 MBps but is more often considerably lower, there is no guarantee except



Bill Medlow
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TIP!

Give Your Mac Some Breathing Room:

The electronic innards of your Mac produce heat as a natural byproduct of operation. While most Macs contain ventilation fans, you can defeat their function if you crowd your Mac's desk space.

An over-heated computer can cause system errors and reduce the life of your computer.

To avoid fried silicon, avoid putting items directly against your computer.

-TMUG Insider,
Pleasanton, CA
(Mac Hints & Tips)



TIP!

Adding more pages in InDesign:

Need to add more pages to your document? *Command-Shift-P* adds one new page after the currently-targeted one. Also, don't forget that *Option-Clicking* on the *New Page* button in the *Pages* palette opens the *Insert Pages* dialog box, which lets you specify the number of pages to insert, where to insert them and what master pages should be used.

-David Blatner

below the extra space.

The third requirement is that I be able to focus the camera reliably. A camera's focussing system affects sharpness more than almost anything else and focussing can be more problematic than it seems. Focussing looks easy in a good rangefinder camera, because lines suddenly line up, but this is merely a precise display. The display can mask any amount of error in the shape of the cam that actually

adjusts the lens. A single-lens reflex camera (SLR) has no hidden mechanism - what you see ought to be what you get - but eyes are not built to focus cameras. Nobody can see the point of sharpest focus, all we can do is move the lens back and forth through that point, notice when the focus begins to get worse on either side, and try to find the midpoint. Few cameras are still made with big, bright, optical focussing systems, because electronic focussing systems

are cheaper to make and easier to sell, yet most electronic devices have coarser discrimination than the eye, and they have other weaknesses as well, like motors that cannot stop instantaneously. On top of that, no automatic focussing system can know what it is that you want to focus on, all it can do is focus on the middle of the frame.

When I tried to focus the SD-10 with the cheap lens that came with it, I almost decided

not to buy the camera. The small, dim image in the viewfinder did not facilitate manual focussing, and the automatic focussing did not always put the lens at the same place when I started with the lens set too close and when I started with the lens set too far away. ↗
(Continued in the April Forum)



TIP!

Tips for Archiving on CD-Rs:

MacInTouch.com has an ongoing discussion of how to ensure the long term reliability of your recorded CDs (CD-Rs). Many readers agree that name brand makes a difference. The best archival brands we know of are Verbatim, Maxell, TDK, Mitsui, and Taiyo Yuden. Verbatim's DataLifePlus CD-R media is particularly worthy of trust: it has a 100-year life expectancy, which has been confirmed by accelerated aging tests.

One source of good advice is "The 7 Fatal Mistakes People Make When Burning Data, Music or Photos to CDs," a free, 91-page white paper in PDF format, available at www.cdsleeves.com/7fatalmistakes.html.

Some highlights:

- ▶ Sunlight can ruin a CD-R in as little as 2 hours
- ▶ UV light damages the dye.
- ▶ Sharpie markers may ruin a CD over time. Use TDK's CD Mark marker instead

More Of Bradley's Technical Session

a 144K bps minimum. DSL upload speed is 384 Kbps max versus 2 MBps upload speed with Fios. Optimum Online claims speeds of 10 MBps but 3 MBps is common. Upload speeds at Optimum Online are less than 1 MBps rated too. I don't have exact particulars on the Fios equipment and configuration, and I don't know anyone with the service yet, but they set you up with what they call an Optical Network Terminal with a backup power supply. They also supply a special 4-port wired router with remote diagnostic functions. They probably will want to hard wire it to your iMac. As the Airport base station is also a router with a DHCP server, and you have to connect it to their router, you just need to change it's settings to kill the DHCP server. You can't have two of them. This would make the Airport base station a plain wireless access point. Just use the *Airport Admin Utility* to change it's setup and it should work. This is done in the Network tab, turn off the checkbox for *Distribute IP addresses* and click the *Update* button. As you are already a Verizon customer, your e-mail address can stay the same, so you don't have to change your mail client's settings. The Fios service also gives you 10 MB of Web space, a function Optimum Online does

(**User Group News** continued from Page 4) duplicate volumes or drives swiftly. *Drive Genius* contains tools for resizing and moving volumes without reformatting. User Group members receive 25% off. www.prosofteng.com. **MacWireless** - offer expires June 30, 2005. MacWireless offers a full line of innovative wireless networking devices including wireless cards, wireless routers and signal amplifiers. MacWireless specializes in state-of-the-art accessories for the *Apple AirPort Base Station*, and in helping older Macs join the wireless revolution. User group members receive free shipping on all products. www.macwireless.com/. **Roxio** - offer expires April 30, 2005. Save 20 to 30% on Roxio downloadable software. Download *Toast 6 Titanium*, *Toast with Jam 6*, *Jam 6 upgrade* and *Popcorn*. www.roxio.com/macusergroup.

The MUG Store - The MUG store has free freight, RAM rebates, aggressive pricing on new and pre-owned Macs and great closeout deals. www.applemugstore.com. ↗

not offer. For the rest of us, check out www.verizon.net/fios Fios is being rolled out in the Syosset area so far. I hear that Optimum Online will be offering faster connections at a premium price to compete. Lot's of people would rather not give more money to Cablevision and look forward to competition. Verizon is offering the first month free and a money back guarantee for that month, so if Fios becomes available at your home, give it a try.

▶ **I have a Power Mac G4 with a 60GB hard drive and I'm running out of hard disk space. I have about 8GB left. I want to add an internal drive.**

Sounds like a 733MHz Digital Audio (Graphite) version or an 867MHz QuickSilver model. They both came with 7200 RPM drives in that size. They had connections for a second hard drive and space for a 4th or 3rd drive which would require a PCI card for connection. The motherboard Ultra ATA/66 controller supported drives of up to 120 GB. They would probably be rated ATA/100, but not to worry, they will work with the slower interface. The sustained transfer rate is within the 66MB/sec of the ATA/66 motherboard. If you desire internal storage larger than 120GB, consider buying something like the Sonnet Tempo ATA/133 PCI card. See www.sonnettech.com/product/tempo_ata133.html. This \$100 card supports two hard drives of up to 400GB each. ↗

(**Sore Eyes** continued from Page 4.)

drive would be sent to us in NYC. Needless to say, it didn't come and while waiting we went off on vacation. Upon our return, I found an e-mail from Susan. She said I was the only one she knew who used a Cube, and was the drive that had been mailed to her by any chance designated for us? Since Susan is in the midst of mid-terms, the fastest way to get the drive to NY was to drive down and pick it up. We offered her lunch, but she had no time for that, so we left her with the where-with-all for a substantial sit-down lunch and drove back to NYC with our drive, and installed the drive.

By the way, it works perfectly. But how did they connect us with Susan at U of P - never having purchased anything there ever except for souvenirs? Tune in again to find out whether *Sherlock* was able to solve this mystery. ↗

(\$5 for four).

▶ Paper labels are not proven to last, the adhesives may eat into the CD over time, may partially come off, and may jam slot-loading CD drives.

▶ The top of a CD is more vulnerable to scratches than the bottom.

▶ Hard cardboard mailers provide the best protection for a CD, but cost more to mail.

More tips are available at:

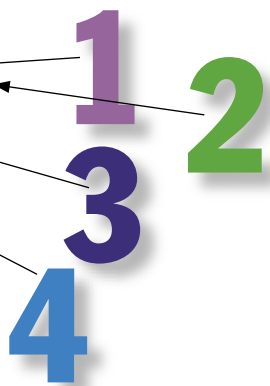
www.itl.nist.gov/

More info: many brands are simply CDs bought from a variety of manufacturers, then branded with the name of the company you buy them from. The least expensive discs are most certainly this way. If you want to check your CDs to see if they are beginning to fail, try using the free CD-R Scanner utility, available at www.SacraSoft.com.

-Design Tools Monthly

This month you can see four "how-to-do-it" demonstrations of applications that come with your Macs: Mail & Address Book; iPhoto; AppleWorks; and iMovie. They are expansions of our Mac skills in answer to members who have said, "Show me more on how to use the Computer!" Tips are included for beginners as well as for experienced users. The four demonstrations run from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., all at the same time. Members have a free choice of which one(s) they want to see.

Friday, March 11th, 7 p.m.
 Building 300 (Anna Rubin Hall)
 The New York Institute of Technology
 Old Westbury.



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Helen and Sheldon Gross
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Note: Sore Eyes site referrals are for your information only. Neither the Grosses nor LIMac endorse any of the sites or their products.

Sore Eyes

Here's our latest saga: We've been with Apple computers for a long time and are not really afraid to do hardware installations. As you may know, my computer of choice is my Mac Cube. It's a G4 450MG, but it's just perfect for my purposes. I bought it through Rochester University when my oldest grandson was a freshman there. The only fly-in-the-ointment has been the inability to create CDs for photo storage.

Well, last summer, Other World Computing took pity on us and created a CD drive that allows us to burn both CDs and DVDs.

Naturally we purchased the drive, removed the old CD/DVD player and installed the new one. Oh rapture! It really worked. In the middle of November the drive stopped working. A disk was jammed inside and could not be removed. We finally took the Cube apart and sent the damaged drive back to OWC.

The Help Desk at OWC assured us that the drive was warranted for a year and they would send us a replacement immediately. Of course that was the time that the snows started and Illinois was inundated. When we finally got to connect to the service desk, we were given a tracking number.

According to the data from the tracking number, our drive was delivered to the University of Pennsylvania and we (the recipient) had moved from the address to which the computer had been shipped. The drive was addressed to S. Gross and my granddaughter Susan had moved to a different room off campus. Why they sent it to her is the first mystery. I'm sure that there are at least 25 other people on the U-Penn campus with the name... Gross. I previously had spent over an hour reviewing my mailing address, e-mail, and all other pertinent details. I was assured that the (**Sore Eyes continues on Page 3**)

User Group News

"These special offers are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current user group member to qualify for these savings." All of the offers below require codes, passwords, etc. For savings, e-mail Max Rechtman at maxlimac@optonline.net for any codes that you might need.

► **Sybex: Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements**— offer expires May 30, 2005. Lynette Kent's *Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements* is the first scrapbooking guide for Adobe's popular image editing tools. *Scrapbooking* includes tips for enhancing photos, pages, and recipe cards. Regularly \$29.99, UG members can get *Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements* for \$17.99 including free shipping. www.sybex.com/sybex-books.nsf/booklist/4377.

► **LQ Graphics: Photo to Movie 3.1**— offer expires May 30, 2005. With *Photo to Movie 3.1*, users can add multiple motions, music tracks, voiceovers and transitions to make photos come alive through utilizing a powerful version of the "Ken Burns Effect." When finished, movies can be written to DVD, posted on the Web or e-mailed. Regularly \$49.95, the special UG price is \$39.95. <http://lqgraphics.com/software/offer19928.php>.

► **Prosoft Drive Genius**— offer expires June 30, 2005. *Drive Genius* is a Mac OS X utility designed to provide unsurpassed storage management. *Drive Genius* contains a drive optimizer and a comprehensive repair facility for analyzing, repairing and rebuilding volumes. The software can scan surface media, perform benchmarking and data integrity checking. This software can be used to initialize drives, create and delete partitions, and erase them securely. Also, the software partitions and (**User Group News continues on Page 3**)



Max Rechtman
 maxlimac@optonline.net



TIP!

Add Space between objects in InDesign:

Let's say you've got five frames and you want exactly two picas between each of them. The *Align* palette doesn't appear to let you specify an amount of space between objects. Or does it? Choose *Show Options* from the palette's menu and suddenly you can. Turn on the *Use Spacing* checkbox to type in the amount of space you want between the selected items.

—David Blatner