

QCMUG Meeting Notes: July 20, 2004
Bettendorf Public Library, Norm Kelinson Room
Respectfully Submitted: Don Schaefer QCMUG Secretary

Attendance:

There were 13 in attendance at the meeting, 12 members and one guest. Members attending were as follows: Jim Holifield, Jim Hall, Jackie Christopher, Don Schaefer, Brian Dobbins, Wilma Hauser, Ruth Reynolds, Sue Berger, Kathy Schroeder, Katherine Bernier, Dean Arney and Donald Patridge. The guest was Bill Rose.

Business Meeting:

Meeting called to order by President *Don Patridge* @ 6:45 PM, a kind of compromise between the old starting time (7:00 PM) and the new time (6:30 PM), a number of members arrived a bit late, forgetting the new starting time.

Old Business: The need for a new Secretary, a new Newsletter Editor and a new Webmaster for QCMUG was explained by *President Patridge*. *Linda Kreiling*, Secretary for 2004 has resigned. *Don Patridge* said *Linda* had been unable to attend meetings. *Jim Hall* asked about the present status of Apple's Voice Recognition software (which *Jim* suggested might not only make the job of Secretary easier, but might also make a good program for a future meeting). *Brian Dobbins* said that this software is not ready for use, and sometimes takes longer to correct than transcribing from a standard tape recording. He said that Apple is working on software for that purpose (especially for disabled people), but at present "you have to say things three times in order to actually do it". *Jackie Christopher* mentioned an application called "Via Voice", made for both PC and Mac, but is not reliable enough at present. President Patridge also asked about how many had found the QCMUG List.serve account and password information either useful or difficult to work with (having a number of "bugs" that have been worked on. There was no clear response to his question, and it appeared that there was no consensus of feeling (positive or negative) about this service. The question was not actually asked about how many are attempting to make any use of this service at all - it may be that the service is little used, so many are not really aware of its utility or problems.

QCMUG Meeting place: *Don Patridge* said that *Mike Hughes* had invited the group to hold meetings at his school location, in Sylvis, but that he had not been able to get hold of *Mike Hughes* in order to make specific arrangements. Approval of our present location was expressed by members, describing the excellent view of the screen that is possible from anywhere in the large room, and the quality of the image provided by the projector (owned by member *Bob Custer*, who permits QCMUG use for meetings, without cost), as well as ease of access and consistently favorable environment (heated rooms in the winter, air conditioned in summer). It was also mentioned that our Bettendorf Library location cost us \$10 per month, but requires no insurance coverage, nor special janitorial arrangements for our meetings - nor does it have the problems of heat turned down and air conditioning turned off after school hours (which is common practice at most schools where we have met). It was decided that *Don* would continue to try to contact *Mike Hughes* in order to arrange a special meeting at *Mike's* facility where he would have a program, of his choice, to demonstrate the unique capabilities of his facility. We also have an internet connection available at the Library, but do not have any computers to use (other than the laptop owned by QCMUG). Our connection is apparently the wireless "cafe/cafeteria" connection of the library (as described by *Brian Dobbins*). *Brian* also mentioned that many of the special capabilities of a location, like *Mike's*, are of less interest to regular users (servers, iTunes safety features).

Other Needs: We no longer have a person who contacts the newspapers and sees that announcements of meetings get in - no announcements in the Times, Argus/Dispatch or Bettendorf News - we need a person to make these contacts and get information published about our meetings in order to encourage more attendance. It was emphasized that we no longer have any real printed information about the club. *Don Schaefer* said: "I will agree to serve again as Secretary, and record and print the Minutes, but only on the condition that the Minutes are published every month on the website. It makes no sense to take Minutes and then neither have them read at meetings nor published on the website. The Minutes would have made it possible for anyone to see what the club was doing and learn about programs by visiting the QCMUG website, but for the past year these have not been available." *Don Patridge* has been serving as President, developing and giving a number of the programs and serving as webmaster, and he said he has not always received any copies of the Minutes. *Don Schaefer* also agreed to be the person who would now contact the papers and would ask the QC Times, the Bettendorf News and the Argus/Dispatch to publish the announcement of each meeting and each program from now on.

New Business: *Don Schaefer* handed out a survey requesting that everyone present state their preference for or interest in some sample program topics. The survey listed many different specific programs and members were asked to check all of those they would like to see, and then rank their selections (1st choice, 2nd choice, through 5th choice). Those in attendance were asked to return the completed surveys before the end of the meeting. Members were also asked to list any program preferences that were not listed, as well as indicate any programs they would be willing to present.

Question and Answer Period: Some discussion followed, regarding interests in programs on basic topics, such as word processing (whether MS Word or AWKs), new hardware and software interests. Some members expressed feelings of their own limitations which would make them less willing to present a program. Other difficulties are presented by the different operating systems and computers being used. A quick show-of-hands survey showed that more than 2/3 of those in attendance are already using OS 10, but some continue with OS 9 because they are using software and hardware they rely on. Desk Top Publishing software is expensive; one member mentioned Quark Express, which they would not want to give up, or prefer not to purchase new because of the cost and need then to have to relearn. Other problems are presented by the different versions of the same software being used; for example, ClarisWorks and AppleWorks versions from 4 through 6 - what kind of programs will be of most value to most members? A point was made that the latest versions should be of value to all, since they can be of direct help to those using the latest version and can make others aware of the advantages available when the latest versions are selected. Also, it is pretty clear that OS 10 will be the new base standard OS, and the other operating systems will not be supported in the future, nor will new software be written for other than OS 10.

Jim Hall asked about the least expensive source of OS 10 (to be installed on an iMac), and *Brian Dobbins* said that OWC (Other World Computing) had OS 10 available for less. (<http://eshop.macsales.com/OSXCenter/>) This site shows OS 10.1.x for from \$5.99, OS 10.2.x for from \$23.99 and OS 10.3.x for from \$65.99. *Dean Arney* spoke of difficulties in upgrading to the preferred version of QuickTime when upgrading to OS 10, and he pointed out the differences between the pro version (which costs \$30) and the standard free version. To simply upgrade to the standard version. leave the spaces blank when asked for a number etc. The pro version gives additional capabilities to QuickTime and requires entry of a registration number to activate that previously unavailable extra capabilities in QuickTime. *Brian Dobbins* explained how to go about downloading and updating QuickTime. *Jackie Christopher* and *Don Patridge* explained that the club already has OS 10.3 and the entire iLife series so that they could be loaded on the club iBook. *Brian Dobbins* agreed to do so, in order that we will then be able to demonstrate any of the newest applications. Due to *Jackie's* efforts in obtaining software for the QCMUG, it is thus possible to do so in a completely legal and ethical fashion.

The Program

"Personal Security": Using Apple's "Keynote" presentation program, which he demonstrated at the June QCMUG meeting, Don went through a detailed list of specific ways to make your own property (including all your electronic gear) more secure. Don spoke from a personal experience in which his house was broken into and much of their personal property was stolen. Don covered everything from the contents of your billfold to the contents of your house, and listed those things that can be done to make theft more difficult, as well as all those things you should anticipate needing after a theft - which may well be included in the theft. Specific numbers of great importance which should be protected (Social Security numbers, Credit Card numbers, telephone numbers that will be needed as fast as possible, etc.) Don shared the fact that Davenport does not have anything like the C.S.I. people on TV who are able to take fingerprints and examine evidence, and the probability is that you will not have your items returned, nor will the thief be identified. (We can confirm everything Don said as a result of one of our son's experience with 3 house break-ins in less than a year - he lives on North Harrison in Davenport. Those people from the police department seemed unable to obtain fingerprints from any surface that was mentioned - too rough, too plastic, fingerprints would be "smudged", wrong color, footprints would be of no use etc. etc. In spite of the fact that windows were smashed in and a front door was broken into, they saw no possibility of any fingerprints!! Don's points were well taken and very helpful. If Don can place a copy of his summary on the website, it could be of real value to others. His presentation covered numerous points that we would seldom think of, until the situation actually occurs.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of QCMUG is scheduled for the third Tuesday in August, (August 17th), in the Norm Kelinson Room (second floor) of the Bettendorf Library , on 2950 Learning Campus Drive (just off 18th Street), Bettendorf, to begin at 6:30 PM. The program for the meeting has not yet been determined. A report on the results of the survey will be made to the officers of the QCMUG as soon as Don Schaefer can compile those results.