

QCMUG Meeting Notes: August 17, 2004

Bettendorf Public Library, Norm Kelinson Room

Attendance:

There were 14 in attendance, 11 members and 3 guests. The members in attendance were: Don Patridge, John Schenk, Jim Hall, Wilma Hauser, Robert Custer, Brian Dobbins, Jim Holifield, Dean Arney, Tom Boyd, Faye Waterman and Don Schaefer. The guests were: Mary Hoffman, Jay Kahn and Grant Johnson.

Business Meeting:

Old Business: The meeting was called to order by President Don Patridge @ 6:45 PM.

Followup from July Program: Don Patridge added information about "who to call", in case your important cards have been stolen. Copies of the handout are posted on the web site, available for reading or download.

Introduction of guests: Don Patridge introduced the three guests at this meeting; one from New Zealand.

Error correction: Jim Hall announced that the phone number for the Bettendorf Library, posted on the QCMUG web site, is missing one digit.

QCMUG web site availability problem: Don Patridge said that Don Schaefer had called a problem with qcmug web site access to his attention. All addresses containing qcmug were not accessible. Don Schaefer sent Don Patridge a screen snapshot of the error message that came up. Don Patridge showed this to Internet Revealed, and was told that the problem was because our web site domain name fee had not been paid. Don Patridge said this was due to a missed communication between himself and the Treasurer, Dean Arney - each thought the other had paid the domain name fee. The fee has been paid - the problem corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Dean Arney reported a balance of \$1,225 in the club treasury, but also indicated that most of the previous month's business had occurred here, tonight, so he could not give a more detailed account which included those transactions. The cost for renewal is approximately \$34 per year. There is to be a change in the method of payment, and the previous cost ~\$34/year, is anticipated now as approximately \$19 per year.

Newsletter: In the absence of a Newsletter Editor, Don Patridge has produced one, which he handed out. It included information about problems members have had, with answers (when possible), and other information Don thought might be of interest to members.

Survey Results: No oral report on the survey results was requested, since Don Schaefer handed out, at this meeting, copies of the final summary of those results. Previously, Don had sent copies of the complete results: first, to all officers, and second, to everyone who returned a completed survey, including nonmembers. A copy of the original survey as well as complete results are now posted on the QCMUG web site.

Secretary's Report: The Minutes (for the July meeting) are now posted on the web site and available for reading and download, but, the July Minutes were only posted a couple of days before this meeting; so, Don Schaefer, Interim Secretary, read a short summary of the Minutes. No corrections or alterations were made. From now on we expect to have the Minutes for each meeting posted on the web site, and they will be available there.

NEW BUSINESS: Ink Cartridge: Don Patridge offered to give anyone an HP tricolor ink cartridge. Anyone who found the cartridge would work with their printer should send him an e-mail and they could have the cartridge.

Publicity for QCMUG Meetings: The president called attention to the information about QCMUG meetings now being published in the newspapers. The announcements for the August meeting were in the QC Times (bulletin board area), the Bettendorf News (where the Editor agreed to publish the information twice in advance of the meetings), and will be in the Argus/Dispatch and Leader - but these require notice more than 2 weeks in advance, and will be published in what they call their "Club Calendar".

PROGRAM

(NO PROGRAM HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN LISTED FOR TONIGHT)

"MACARONI"

by Donald Patridge

Don demonstrated this inexpensive program, which is described at the source web site as: "Automated System Maintenance for the Mac". The web site for "Macaroni" is: <http://www.atomicbird.com/> Don showed how this program can do maintenance checks and repair of the OS X operating system. The application can be set up to carry out these operations, automatically, and on a scheduled basis - daily, weekly, monthly. Don mentioned

the "permissions" maintenance for OS X, explained that it can be downloaded free, tried for 35 days, and then it can be purchased for under \$9. The computer must be left on for it to work. It is possible to tell the program to do its thing either whenever the computer is idle, or on a scheduled basis. The program displays what it has done, what it found and what it changed. Brian Dobbins explained a little more about what the "permissions" do, in relation to permission to open folders etc., and the relation to Unix, upon which OS X is based. Don explained that it was best to let the program do its maintenance when the computer is not in use, and that a complete check may take as little as 15 minutes. The question was raised about the possibility of getting this program at a lower cost, if the club were to order multiple copies. The general consensus seemed to be that at this cost, the extra record keeping work would not be justified by the amount saved.

"IMPROPER E-MAIL PROCEDURES"

by Jim Hall

Jim Hall made use of e-mail communication between himself and Don Schaefer, to illustrate what he called "improper" use of e-mail/internet. He displayed e-mail communication he had sent to Don (personally), in which he asked for Don's opinion about two used cameras. Don had included his response to Jim's request for information in an e-mail sent to the officers of QCMUG. This sent the included response to two additional people (besides Jim and Don Schaefer): the president and treasurer of QCMUG. Don was communicating with all officers with regard to numerous items, including information needed for publicity for the club, title for the August program etc., and had included his response to this question in an "officer" e-mail.

Jim explained that it was improper to send any personal e-mail response to anyone other than that person, and he gave the example of intending to send critical remarks about the president of an organization to everyone except the president, and instead sending that e-mail to everyone in the company. Jim explained that he had asked Don for permission to use the e-mail in some kind of presentation, but Don said Jim had not said how he planned to use it. Jim described this presentation as a continuation of his efforts to improve internet and e-mail processes, including the best location for a reply to a message - preceding all previous exchanges, or following all exchanges.

OPEN FORUM: Camera Suggestions: Some members (Bob Custer, Jim Holifield and Don Schaefer) gave some suggestions to Jim about low-cost cameras, and 3 megapixel cameras were encouraged. Jim indicated that he was still trying to gather information and price was the main factor.

Proper location for "Reply" to e-mail: Don Schaefer asked Jim Hall to tell the members what his authoritative source or reference was for the preferred location of a reply - preceding all previous exchanges, or following. Jim said this (locating the reply last) was etiquette established at the very beginning of e-mail, what the Unix world considered to be the norm, that he did not have a source, but felt he could find one if necessary. Jim also suggested that placing the reply at the bottom was an historical approach, much like a history book - in this way, all information is in order of its occurrence. Don suggested that this order was less efficient than placing the most recent response first. He said it was his observation that the majority (everyday individuals, writing professionals as well as businesses) consistently place the reply first, preceding all previous interchanges. Don presented a record of all the replies he had received during the previous month, and all but 3 (Jim and 2 other QCMUG members) had placed their reply at the top. This included a number of other qcmug members, all the newspaper people contacted, David Pogue from the New York Times (who writes many computer instruction books, primarily the Missing Manual books) and all businesses responding. Don had also contacted his son (Jeff Schaefer) who is Information Manager for a large construction company in Dallas ,

<http://www.bobmooreconstruction.com/releases.asp?release=6>, and got this response:

To the best of my knowledge there is no governing body that would specify the order of how message replies are presented within an e-mail. There are only the default settings for e-mail clients and web-based e-mail sites, and as far as I know they ALL sort replies newest to oldest by default."

Jim explained that your browser can choose where you want your reply to go. In general, it was agreed that this is a matter of personal preference, and further research or discussion was probably not necessary. Let members choose for themselves where they want their replies to be located.

CD Burners/FireWire better? Faye Waterman asked about CD burners that would work with OS 9.2, and which might be faster than her old burner which is not FireWire. Jim Holifield, Don Patridge and Don Schaefer all spoke in favor of FireWire burners, because of their speed. Caution regarding the driver software & compatibility with Jaguar and/or Panther was recommended. Brian Dobbins suggested using VueScan, instead of ScanWizard, even with OS 10.3, in relation to scanner drivers. Microtek scanners seemed to present a primary concern.

Zone problem with DVDs: Jim Holifield asked if anyone had knowledge of "zones" in relation to DVD's. Our visitor from New Zealand has had problems with zone changes in relation to DVD's from Australia which will not play on

DVD players here. The problem does not appear to be related to the PAL vs NTSC synchronization problem that plaques efforts to play video from Europe on a VCR or camcorder from the U. S. A suggestion was made about "zone free" firmware. The suggestion was to put "zone free firmware" into a search engine to find help on the web. (Your secretary did this, using Sherlock/Internet; the results included:)

(1) http://dvd.articleinsider.com/21812_code_free_dvd_resource.htm and

(2) <http://forum.rpc1.com/viewtopic.php?t=18753>

The second URL is a "Firmware Page". It is not known whether these sites contain the needed information or not, but there is a "Macintosh Specific" section/link at the bottom - maybe information there could be of help.

Next QCMUG Meeting: September 20, 2004

The next meeting of QCMUG is scheduled for the third Tuesday in September (September 20, 2004), in the Norm Kelinson Room (second floor) of the Bettendorf Library , at 2950 Learning Campus Drive (just off 18th Street), Bettendorf. The meeting is to begin at 6:30 PM. The program will involve the installation of "Open Office.org, Office Suite" for OS X, which is a kind of Microsoft Office replacement at lower cost. Jim Hall said everything produced by this application is file compatible with Microsoft Office.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Don Schaefer (Interim) QCMUG Secretary