

Minutes for QCMUG Meeting: September 21, 2004 at Bettendorf Public Library, Norm Kelinson Room

Attendance:

The meeting was called to order at about 6:45 PM with 12 members and 8 guests in attendance: Members present were: James Wieland, John Schenk, Tom Boyd, Sue Berger, Jim Hall, Don Patridge, Robert Custer, Don Schaefer, Sue Berger, Robert Rinehart, Dean Arney and Brian Dobbins. Guests were: Ranier Pavlicek, D. Roth, Aleta Batz, Bill Roe, Dick Duncan, Renne Duncan.

Business Meeting:

Introduction of Officers & Guests: President Don Patridge introduced the QCMUG officers: President, Don Patridge; Vice President, Jim Hall; Secretary, Don Schaefer and Treasurer, Dean Arney. President Patridge also asked each guest to introduce himself/herself.

Minutes for the August meeting: Minutes were not read because they are posted on the website and have been for the past 3 weeks, so anyone can read them, download and print them, and were encouraged to report any errors or correction to Secretary Don Schaefer.

Treasurer's Report: Dean Arney reported that his information was almost a month late because of late transactions, but that our official balance is now \$1215. Officers have been discussing honorary memberships for 3 people who have rendered (or are rendering) special services for Mac Users. Those three people are:

- (1) **Bill Reveal:** has provided free space on Internet. Revealed for both our List.Serve and Officers.
- (2) **Ben Reagan:** a former officer in QCMUG, who set up our website and continues to provide assistance to webmaster Don Patridge in maintaining and uploading information to the QCMUG web site, as well as providing help by way of the List.Serve. Ben is now employed in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and is unable to attend meetings.
- (3) **Robert Custer:** a long time QCMUG member who has permitted the QCMUG club to use his new projector to display our programs on the large screen at the Bettendorf Library. Without his generosity we would not be able to have effective program presentations at our meetings.

Don Patridge asked that club members approve this recommendation by the officers, and he received a voice vote approval, so these three will have full membership at no cost for the next year (their year of membership to start on the month their membership renewal comes due). (Some officers have also discussed the probability that Bob's projector may need a replacement lamp, when the present one wears out, and at that time the intention is to recommend that the club pay for the replacement of the lamp.

Upgrade needed for club iBook: President Patridge explained that the club iBook is out of space and needs an upgrade for us to be able to continue to load materials onto the computer and present programs. Officers have been discussing and obtaining information relating to costs of (1) memory (RAM for the iBook), (2) a new internal hard drive and (3) a new external (FireWire) hard drive. The present hard drive size is 10 GB, and present RAM is 384 MB. Maximum would be 512 + the basic 128, for a total of 730 MB. At present, there is so much already installed on the hard drive that it is necessary to delete both programs and files in order to load items for the next program. Discussion followed relating to each of these alternatives, the cost and effectiveness of each, as well as the amount the club could spend on this project.

After discussion, Jim Hall moved that the club purchase a 120 GB external (Firewire/USB 2.0) hard drive and case and upgrade the club computer to maximum RAM. Don Schaefer seconded the motion and added an amendment that the size of the hard drive should be "at least" 120 GB, with the actual size being

determined by the amount the club decides to spend. Sample prices were given by Brian Dobbins as approximately \$250 for a case and a hard drive of this approximate size, and approximately \$200 for an upgrade of the RAM. Treasurer Dean Arney suggested that we ought to act now, since there will be no significant change in our treasury whether we wait till next year or act now, and suggested we take action now. Don Schaefer suggested that the club authorize a \$500 expenditure to (1) purchase the largest possible external Firewire/USB 2.0 hard drive plus upgrading the club iBook computer to its maximum RAM, with the size of the hard drive to be determined by the "best possible deal" that can be made. Since Jim made the original motion, Don suggested that Jim restate the final motion. Jim Hall proposed that we authorize expenditure of \$500 for purchase of the largest possible hard drive and case, plus upgrading the iBook RAM to its maximum, and that anything (such as RAM removed from the iBook) could be auctioned off to help defray costs. Don Schaefer called the "Question", which he explained meant a call for the vote, with no further discussion. President Patridge asked for a show of hands to approve the motion, and the majority raised their hands in approval. The difference between members and nonmembers was not clarified before the vote, so those not voting may well have been nonmembers. At any rate, the majority of those present voted in favor of the motion. The president did not call for number voting against, presumably because the number approving exceeded half the number present.

List.serve account status: President Patridge asked whether anyone other than Jim Hall had opted not to receive his/her own account and password information. No one else had done so, and no one reported any further difficulty with the account report. Brian Dobbins had apparently gotten so many e-mails (~80 to 90 e-mails per day) that he was bounced from the List.serve without any actual authorization - the number of e-mails presumably having been identified as SPAM. He has again been returned to the List.

QCMUG meeting announcements: Don Schaefer (acting as publicity/communications representative) stated that meeting announcements are now supposed to be appearing in newspapers: The Bettendorf News, The Quad City Times, The Argus (Rock Island), The Dispatch (Moline) and The Leader the week before each meeting. But, he reported that after 2 months, no announcement has actually appeared in the papers on the Illinois side of the river, because it has been difficult to find the correct person to receive the information who can then be depended upon to publish it. He asked that members from the Illinois side let him know if anyone sees an announcement for the October QCMUG meeting, since he does not take those papers.

The Program

“Solving Microsoft Office Incompatibility Problems” by Brian Dobbins and Jim Hall

Jim Hall introduced Renne Duncan and her husband Dick, whose PowerBook laptop was to be used in installing and demonstrating the program "Open Office". The home site for this free software is: <http://www.openoffice.org/>. Renne had been receiving documents, sent by PC users, which she had not been able to open. Jim explained that Linux is "big on open source software", and the OS X operating systems from Apple, are based on and closely related to Linux, so open source applications, like OpenOffice.Org can be used. Apple provides something called the X11 desktop, which can make this program work. Brian Dobbins has downloaded all the necessary programs to make this work, and they have been installed on an external hard drive. Brian then proceeded to connect the external drive to Renne's PowerBook to install these programs onto her PowerBook and demonstrate its capabilities. It was shown that this program can open files that were produced with Microsoft Office applications. It was pointed out that later versions of AppleWorks will permit opening of files made with MS Office applications (such as Word), but this open source program will do the same thing. It was pointed out that a PowerPoint presentation, made with Office, opened with OpenOffice.Org, but did not include the fonts that were originally used to make the presentation. Brian said that he would be making CD copies of all the downloaded programs necessary, and would make copies available to club members, the cost to be determined later.

Open Forum: Questions and Answers from members - There was a question about the new 2004 Windows for Mac, and the version of MS Office for Mac. There was an opinion offered that the same programs may run faster on the Mac than on the PC because things run cleaner on the Mac - possibly due to the way the programs must be written for the Mac - having to adhere to much more definite rules.

Another question was with regard to files that had been produced under OS 9.2 - how best to copy them under OS 10.3. The older OS 9 files were created by Claris Works. While it should be possible to easily open these files using a later version of Appleworks, and then save them as Appleworks files, another suggestion was that this person export the files as plain Text documents (from ClarisWorks) and copy them as Text documents to OS 10. Once having them as Text files, it should be able to open them and re-save them in whatever WP format is wanted, since Text is the most basic format (this is assuming that the files are essentially text files, and do not contain other than text material). Use Save As or Export, as Txt files.

The October Program: Don Patridge announced that the October program is to be presented by Mike Hughes, and will be a demonstration of Apple Peripherals, including iSight, Airport Express with Air tunes and Airport Extreme. The next meeting will be on October 19, 2004 in the Norm Kelinson room at the Bettendorf Library.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 PM, September 21, 2004.

Respectfully submitted by Interim Secretary Don Schaefer