

QCMUG Meeting Notes: September 20, 2005

Norm Kelinson Room - Bettendorf Public Library

Business Meeting:

Attendance: An attendance form was filled out at the September QCMUG meeting, but somehow got misplaced between Don Patridge's clipboard and the Secretary's briefcase. We will try to make this transfer process more certain in the future. For the September meeting, I tried to remember all those who were present and have checked with Don Patridge for any additions or corrections. In reading this report, if you were present there were 14 in attendance at the August 16th meeting. Patridge, Hall, Schaefer, Arney, Custer, Dobbins, Roe, Roth, Schenk, Schroeder, Berger, and Karen Meyer and 2 male guests - whom I remember.

Business Meeting: Don Patridge called the meeting to order at about 6:40 PM, introduced the QCMUG officers and suggested that members check the attendance sheet to see their due date for membership renewal. He repeated information about Appleworks information available, and offered a free World Book CD for Jaguar, as well as an introduction to Photoshop Elements 3. He mentioned various sources for PE 3, including a source his wife had been using, e-Bay.

New Business: Replacement Lamp/Bulb for Bob Custer's Projector. Discussion: Don mentioned his own efforts to find a source for a replacement bulb/lamp for Bob Custer's projector, and reported that there was little availability for that lamp (including local sources). He explained that the club wished to have a replacement bulb available for the time that Bob's present bulb would burn out, and asked for comments from QCMUG members. Jim Hall suggested that after the projector is turned off tonight, we should examine the bulb and record any necessary information. Don Schaefer called the president's attention to e-mails he had been sending the officers since August 23, in which he had located sources for the appropriate lamp, obtaining prices and furnishing officers with that information. He suggested that eCost might be a best source with a most competitive price of \$163 with shipping costs of about \$2.00, and with 95 lamps available (last week when the last messages were sent to officers). Don recommended that the club purchase the lamp for Bob, and said that our treasury can handle that. The president asked for a motion to authorize our Treasurer to make the suggested purchase. Don Patridge announced that the officers could approve of purchases up to \$20, but any greater expenditures requires club approval. It was moved and seconded, and unanimously approved that Dean Arney be authorized to purchase a replacement lamp for Bob's projector.

Topics for Programs: Jim Hall suggested that a program might be presented on finding Freeware or open source games, especially if those games are free. Don Patridge said that finding topic is not the problem - finding people to present programs on those topics is a

problem. There was discussion of various sources of free games, including:

<http://www.shockwave.com/>

<http://www.macgamesandmore.com/>

<http://games.yahoo.com/>

<http://www.gamedb.com/ssps/0/1/01027>

<http://www.downloadfreemacgames.com/index>.

<http://www.insidemacgames.com/>

<http://www.lazerworks.com/>

There was no additional new business so Don Patridge introduced Brian Dobbins, who would be the program presenter for this meeting.

PROGRAM

“Backing Up Your Computer”

Presenter: Brian Dobbins
from Computer Problems Resolved

Brian started his presentation by asking how many at the meeting backed up their computer. He was asked to clarify what he meant by backing up the computer, and Brian said he meant backing up any files, and even backing up entire systems. While a number responded to backing up files and drive contents, almost no one said they back up entire systems. Brian explained the reasons he felt this was necessary, and spoke of customers of CPR who had not done so and brought their computers in after hard drives or computers failed. He mentioned many different methods for backing up files based on their sizes and based on equipment and media available. Historically, he mentioned floppy disks (400/800 K), Zip Discs (100/250 MB), CDs (650 MB), DVDs (4.7 GB) and external hard drives (as large as 500 GB or more).

Brian explained that the backup process and program depends on what you want to back up, how often you want to back up, whether you want to do this manually or automatically, how often you want to back up, and the size of the back up task. He spoke of backing up his computer so that no matter where he goes, or what happens to his computer, he will have access to all of its contents. He strongly recommended that members have their important files copied and located somewhere else, in addition to their computer) - floppy discs, zip discs, CD-ROMs, DVDs or external hard drives - in fact, with the lower cost of hard drives now, this becomes a really good alternative backup location. He explained the differences between the “+/-R” and “+/-RW” CDs, as well as the differences in DVDs, which includes DVD RAM. There was also a short discussion of the DVDs that are or will soon be available which will hold more than 4.7 GB, possibly as much as 45 GB per disc when blue laser discs become available.

He said that if you want to back up an entire drive, the best program is "Carbon Copy Cloner" <http://www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html>. At this website, version 2.3 is claimed to work well with Tiger 4.2. Apparently, this program can produce a backup, bootable drive.

Brian also questioned the longevity claims of both CDs and DVDs, and said that the life expectancy of a hard drive will exceed both. He suggested that the RW CDs began showing defects after 7 years, and the R CDs after 11 years - not the claimed 100 years. With DVD-Rs now costing about 40 cents each, and CDs even less, they can be readily duplicated at little cost. Brian also mentioned the storage capability of a .Mac account. He also described one of his customers that uses his iPod for backing up files since he only keeps about 1000 songs on the iPod.

Brian accepted questions throughout his presentation, and the end of the presentation blended into an Open Forum Discussion.

Open Forum Questions: The discussion following the program included questions and answers relating to DVD recorder/players which are presently available. Duke Roth said he has a DVD recorder/player that works well, and he has used his unit a hundred times or more, and it uses DVD RAM discs which apparently cost about \$5.00 each. It was also mentioned that there are now units available, for under \$200, with both VCR and DVD record/play capability, which also permit dubbing from one to the other medium. Don Schaefer pointed out that backing up some things is not so simple, since iMovies, and iDVDs don't really contain all the files needed to play them. Imported slides are not really there - only a "marker" which "goes and gets" the file needed. If you save the movie or DVD to a disc, and try to play it from there, it won't work - the files are not there. You can archive it (which duplicates/reproduces all the files), and which makes a really huge file, or you can make an Image of it and save that. Don asked about newer format DVDs, capabilities they would have and when available. Brian described something he had seen years ago, using multiple color lasers which would burn at slightly different colors. This has not been produced. Dual layer discs are a present capability, and they will hold about 9.4 GB. This led to a discussion of possibilities for the future where a single disc might hold several terabytes. But for now.....

The President adjourned the meeting at about 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Don Schaefer, QCMUG Secretary 2004-2005