

QCMUG Meeting Notes: February 21, 2006

Norm Kelinson Room: Bettendorf Public Library

Business Meeting

Attendance: There were 17 members and 4 guests present. Members present were: Dean Arney, Sue Berger, Buster Blocker, Anne Colville, Robert Custer, Brian Dobbins, Jim Hall, Jim Holifield, Phyllis James, David Ochs, Donald Patridge, Duke Roth, Donald Schaefer, John Schenk, Kathy Schroeder, Craig Wiegel, and James Wieland. Guests present were: Jim Kelley, Dale Watts, Paul Bailey and Nathaniel Hawker.

Business:

Don Patridge called the meeting to order at ~ 6:30 pm, acknowledged and welcomed any guests present and called attention to a number of display items on the back table. He mentioned the new song: "I Love My Mac", and its availability now on iTunes. If enough people buy this, the author will donate money to a scholarship fund. Here are URLs to locate this song, written and now sold by Daphne Kalfon, through iTunes & the Apple Store

<http://www.ilovemymacthesong.com/> and <http://www.ilovemymacthesong.com/page3/page3.html>

Don also mentioned a number of excellent books available to be given members, if the person accepting the free book would write a review of the book received.

Old Business: No old business was suggested.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Dean Arney, reported a balance of \$1,392.79 in our QCMUG account. The rent for the room (at the Bettendorf Library) has been paid for the year, with a question about August (when there is an apparent conflict for the use of the room)., \$25 has been sent to Camp Courageous, and \$7.86 for postage. Membership is now ~41. About a half dozen are family or double memberships, so total number of people would be more like 45.

New Business: It was pointed out that Brian Dobbins is now a newly married man. The wedding took place in Australia! The members congratulated Brian and his new bride with a round of applause. It was suggested that next month, Brian might share some honeymoon pictures/movies with the group. (Brian did not indicate he agreed to this program suggestion.)

Program Introduction:

President Don Patridge explained that while the planned program for February was Open Forum, with questions and problems being addressed, he had received an e-mail from a person with a new business in the Quad Cities, who offered to bring and demonstrate a new Intel chip dual processor iMac. Since offers of programs are rare and valuable, Don accepted on behalf of the QCMUG, and introduced by Mr. Paul Bailey, of E.C.S. Incorporated, 5665 Tremont Avenue, Davenport.

February Program, Addendum #1:

“The New Dual Processor, Intel, iMac, 20 inch Screen”

by

Paul Bailey, E. C. S. Incorporated
(Presentation time ~ 30 minutes)

Mr. Bailey first described the characteristics of the new iMac and then ran various parts of a demonstration program that introduced the new iMac and showed some of its key features, including the speed of operation and the brightness of the new screen. He listed the software that comes with the new iMacs, starting with OS 10.4.4, iLife '06 and other latest software. He explained which software runs natively on the new computer and Tiger, and explained how some of the other software (such as Adobe Photoshop) presently operates, using intermediate software called Rosetta. He indicated that the new Intel computers will no longer be able to make use of Classic - OS 9 is gone. He demonstrated how well the built-in eyesight camera works by placing the image of the QCMUG meeting group on the screen. The image was not only bright, but clear and sharp. He said that new G5 laptops will be out soon, and that new towers are not anticipated until the end of the year. Interest level was high, and numerous questions were asked and answered during the presentation, including questions about applications (such as PowerPoint, where there seemed to be some question about just how to bring PowerPoint presentations into Keynote).

Discussion Time: President Patridge asked for Open Forum questions and problems, but the discussion was diverted to a consideration of a possible rearrangement of the order of Open Forum and the Program presentation. Long-term members Dean Arney and Don Schaefer indicated that this same discussion had occurred years ago, when Open Forum preceded the Program, and it was decided then that having the Program first was the better arrangement. Duke Roth and Phyllis James suggested that Open should be first in order to encourage (especially beginners) to ask questions and have them answered, being more certain that adequate time would be available. No formal motion was made, but discussion continued for some time before attempting to move to actual Open Forum questions for this meeting. As a result, no change in the schedule has been agreed to - it is assumed that the program schedule will continue to list the prepared program first, and then the Open Forum.

Open Forum: President Patridge asked for questions to be asked, but when none were brought forward, he gave information about a number of items he thought would be of value, including Firefox vs Internet Explorer and AOL; he listed numerous O'Reilly books and other reference books (available at local Libraries) which he felt would be of help to people with questions. He also suggested numerous uses for the Google.Map site, both personal and business related, and explained how this excellent map site can even be used in connection with property value information in. At this point, Jim Hall asked Phyllis James if she could be more specific about the problem she would like solved. She responded that she had questions about almost everything. Don Patridge and Don Schaefer suggested a number of locations where excellent tutorials are available, especially the Atomic Learning site and MacAcademy/Windows Academy tutorials. Don Schaefer agreed to help her, by e-mail, following the meeting and in the next few days.

Dean Arney explained a problem he was having in getting rid of unwanted automatic responses to internet requests for his username and password. He received some suggestions about where he could locate the controls for making this change, but it was unclear whether he got an answer that would solve the problem.

No more questions were asked, and Vice-President Jim Hall volunteered to share information on numerous useful items he had located and purchased, including a number of ingenious velcro items for organizing and holding together cables and connecting wires. He also showed a container, with dividers, that could be used for storing CDs and DVDs. The cost of this cardboard storage unit was a bit high, but its size was very appropriate for the purpose of organized storage.

February Program, Addendum #2:

Demonstration: Jim Hall demonstrated an interesting game that he and Brian Dobbins play against the computer and enjoy. Jim demonstrated how he plays the game in order to win more often than Brian, and both Jim and Brian seemed to agree with Jim's assertion that: "I cheat!". Somehow it seemed that Jim may win because he deploys just slightly fewer warriors than the Chinese army. Upon my request, Jim supplied the following information. " If you go to the site, <http://wesnoth.org/> the first article "The Battle for Wesnoth", begins the description of the game. Click on "more" at the end of the paragraph. Also, at the top of the page, click on "Play". It goes to a series of more detailed information about various aspects of the game. Like most such projects, there is a good deal of support and help available. "

Since the agreement with the Library is that QCMUG will try to leave the room by 8:30 pm, and it was close to that time, President Don Patridge adjourned the meeting at about 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Don Schaefer, QCMUG Secretary

Supplementary Minutes Information Do not include on line

Long-time members discussed the fact that this same question had been raised years ago, and the problem resulted where we got bogged down in questions and never had time to have the main program presented, so reversed the order and the priorities, so the person preparing a program would be assured of time - in one case in the past, the program couldn't be presented at all and the presenter had to take planning and equipment back home and come back a month later. Dean Arney and Don Schaefer pointed out the difficulties already experienced by having Open Forum first. Duke Roth presented arguments in favor of reversing the order to insure time to solve problems and answer questions of concern, especially to beginning Mac users. Don Patridge expressed the opinion that the GarageBand presentation could not have been shortened, and was good enough to warrant all the time taken. Our presenter came all the way from Maquoketa, so it would have been quite an imposition to ask him to return for a later program presentation.

Another member suggested that time limits be placed on consideration of a question, and then it be cut off, to make time for more questions.

Don Patridge then offered a discussion of Firefox vs Internet Explorer and AOL, and recommended the O'Reilly books, themes, extensions, and the physical makeup of the O'Reilly books making it difficult to use without it closing. He then discussed availability of books from various libraries, and then discussed Google Maps, their strengths and limitations, applications to sales people as well as others, whether it would run on OS X, or Safari etc. He then discussed Google.Maps and its use with Realty considerations and house values in Iowa and surrounding states. The question was then raised about whether Netscape or AOL was needed in order to use Google.Maps. At this point, Dean Arney asked an Open Forum question about how to get rid of unwanted information and automatic responses (such as username or e-mail address) - how to dump this information. Don tried to answer these questions and mentioned some things his wife has encountered when trying to use tabs. (This information and interchange took 10 minutes, and illustrates how long it takes to discuss even one question.)

Jim asked the person who said she was having problems, to say what she was having problems with on her computer, and she said "everything". Tutorials were mentioned as a help source for individuals, and Don Patridge editorialized about the value of Atomic Learning tutorials.

Jim Hall offered suggestions about a number of useful items he had located and wished to recommend to members, including velcro ties, storage containers for individual and numbers of DVDs and CDs, cable control and tie-up items. He also demonstrated a game he and Brian Dobbins like to play.

When we check the actual use of time for Open Forum, we ended up with only 3 or 4 questions asked from the members, so concern about limiting of time for discussion of specific questions was demonstrated - as was the concern about actually getting people to ask questions they have.