

QCMUG Meeting Notes: March 21, 2006

The Program Room: Bettendorf Public Library

Prologue: Once again (for the third time) the Norm Kelinson Room had been occupied by some other group, and the QCMUG meeting had been assigned to The Program Room, which is located at the back of the library, on the first floor. We have been told that our group will be assigned to a different room when another group requires the special equipment and connections in the Norm Kelinson room. It was fortunate that a couple of officers arrived early because there were no chairs or tables set up, and this was done before other members began to arrive. Also, the member who permits the use of his projector did not arrive, so the planned program had to be canceled. This room did have a large screen, so it would have worked OK for a program.

Business Meeting

Attendance: There were 12 members and 3 guests present. Members present were: Dean Arney, Sue Berger, Jim Hall, Jim Holifield, Phyllis James, Donald Patridge, Mel Poston, Robert Rhinehart, Duke Roth, Donald Schaefer, John Schenk and Kathy Schroeder. Guests present were: Bill Burns, Gary Arnould, and Bill Roe.

Business:

Welcomes and Introductions: Don Patridge called the meeting to order at ~ 6:45 pm, introduced the officers acknowledged and welcomed any guests present, pointed out that membership renewal dates are listed on the check-in sheet and encouraged membership.

A possible alternate meeting site: Don explained that he has been checking on the new Davenport Library (on Fairmount) as a possible alternative meeting place. Go to this site <http://pics.davenportlibrary.com/fairmount/1.14.06.htm> for pictures of the Grand Opening of this facility. Don explained that every room there has its own projector and screen, so we would not have to have Bob Custer bring his own projector for each program. He also pointed out that we will need a special video cable to connect from our computer to the wall outlet. Jim Hall said that we may already have a usable cable. The plan is that we meet there, on a trial basis, in August. There would be no cost, where the Bettendorf Library cost is \$10 for each 2 hour meeting. All this is assuming that we can reserve a room for our meeting night, for a full year. We are presently paid up for the year 2006 at the Bettendorf Library, but the room can be preempted, and there is no furnished projector.

Domain name registration: Don said that we now have our domain registered for QCMUG, which required special attention because of the person's name used for previous registration.

Old Business:

Open Forum Question Form - First: Don Schaefer explained that the Open Forum Question form has been developed in response to the requests that we make it easier for people to ask questions. He asked that members check out the form and make any recommendations for improvement, even if they were not using the form tonight, for their own question.

Membership Survey, July, 2004 - Second: he said that Don Patridge had mentioned the member survey that was done about 2 years ago, regarding member preferences for programs, as well as volunteers for programs. Also, he had gotten a request that a new survey be done of present members. Don showed a copy of the original survey form, the tabulated results of member responses, and the results that included some responses from the List, and gave members directions so each could download and read the same information for themselves. The survey was done at the July, 2004 meeting and results reported at the August, 2004 meeting. Go to <http://www.qcmug.org/> and select Resources, which gives you: <http://www.qcmug.org/resources/index.html> and select meeting notes, which will take you to <http://www.qcmug.org/resources/notes.html> where you can download the July, 2004 meeting Minutes and the survey, along with the tabulated results. This will help plan a current survey.

Membership help needed: Don asked that members help officers with any new survey - what questions, what programs and what programs will you prepare and present?

Containers for CDs or DVDs: - Third: Jim Hall had brought a number of items to the February, 2006 meeting, such as velcro straps and a cardboard storage container for CDs and DVDs. The

cost was ~\$15. Don showed two plastic containers for CDs or DVDs available at WalMart for \$1.87 each and \$2.87 each, which would hold respectively ~2 dozen and ~6 dozen CDs or DVDs in jewel cases, but they have no spacers.

Homemade spacers Don Patridge suggested that pieces of foam rubber or styrofoam could be cut to be used as spacers in one of these containers.

Buster's new Forum: Don Schaefer asked if anyone had made use of the new forum, provided by Buster Blocker, and no one has. Don pointed out that to use the service you need to register, wait for a response to your registration, and then wait for an authorization to use the forum. Jim Hall pointed out that this is standard procedure for any forum, and he has had to wait sometimes for months to receive authorization. Don suggested that members access the forum and see if they are able to post information, so we can all begin to benefit from this service.

March Program:

“What’s in my Mac?”

by Don Patridge

(The projector was not available, so the program could not be presented)

President Patridge suggested that in the absence of the projector, and the program, that we go directly to the Open Forum time, and address the questions that had been turned in, using the new Question forms. He also checked on the number of laptops that members had brought to the meeting and found that operating systems available ranged from 8.1 through 10.4.5, so any questions relating to those OSs could be addressed in that portion of the meeting.

Open Forum Time: There were 3 questions that had been written out on the Open Forum forms and submitted to officers, and all were addressed during this period. Two additional questions were submitted on a form, during the meeting, along with one question presented orally.

The questions involved: 1. an inability to use the .mac backup program, to copy the contents of a hard drive to DVDs, though the same computer and drive were able to burn data DVDs and CDs, 2. an inability to use Entourage to send e-mail to as many as 100 people by using a single reference address, 3. an inability to get an iMac to disconnect from a mail service, difficulty in keeping the connection for the time necessary to download all of something that required much time, and 4. a question about how to locate (on your computer) all of your e-mail received and sent, so backup copies could be made and then used (read or printed) later. The questions were discussed, and then various members agreed to take the question and communicate with the questioner by means of e-mail, after the meeting. This was the second aspect of the new effort to make it easier to ask questions and receive help - the e-mail follow-up with a member who agreed to try to give additional and more thorough assistance.

Laptop Time: A number of members had brought their laptops, and at this time, members with questions grouped around individuals with laptops to have questions answered and things demonstrated. The meeting was not formally adjourned, but members left as they needed, and the informal session with the laptop demonstrators continued. Since this room had only one table, this was truly a “laptop” session. If this part continues, it is hoped that the tables in the Norm Kelinson room will be available.

Respectfully Submitted: Don Schaefer, QCMUG Secretary