

QCMUG Meeting Notes: May 16, 2006

The Norm Kelinson Room, Bettendorf Public Library

Business Meeting

Attendance:

There were 10 members and 3 guests present. Members present were: Dean Arney, Jim Boland, Jose' Bucksbaum*, Robert Custer, Jim Hall, Wilma Hauser, Phyllis James, Donald Patridge, Duke Roth, Donald Schaefer. Guests present were: Brandon Newendorp, Bill Roe**, Cindy Weinberger. (**Member, 2005)

Business:

Call to order - Welcome: President Don Patridge called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM, welcomed members and guests to the May QCMUG meeting and introduced the officers. He called attention to the attendance form where those in attendance were asked to sign in and indicate whether or not they were members or guests. He also asked that members check their e-mail information on the attendance forms, and correct any information in error. Don mentioned that the August QCMUG meeting would be at the Davenport Fairmount (new library) location, and indicated that directions to the Fairmount Library will be given on the website.

Old & New Business:

Epson Projector cost: Previously, Don Patridge had reported a price of approximately \$500, at Sam's Club, for an Epson projector. It was not possible to verify this on the internet, and the price for a new (S3 Epson) projector was about 50% more. Don Patridge explained that this was a price given for an outdated model of the projector, and it is no longer available - so the price for an Epson projector must now be considered to be more like \$750.

Additional QCMUG Activities: President Patridge had suggested that it might be possible to schedule some special activities at the new Davenport Library (such as special workshops or learning activities), and that this might even be done during the day and on days other than Tuesday. However, the schedule for available rooms at the library was unknown, and we have had no expression of interest or willingness to participate in such an activity on the part of QCMUG members. Don again suggested the possibility for consideration.

Camp Courageous: Don mentioned information from Camp Courageous, which indicated that they could use many things in their work, including computers, supplies and possibly animals (such as a horse) and suggested that members might contribute items of use to them. Contact Don Patridge for more specific information about whom to contact, or more specifics on the particular items they have listed among their needs.

How to upgrade to OS 10.4.6: The person who asked originally for this demonstration was not present, and had apparently decided not to bring their own computer for the demonstration. Also, the person who was to do the demonstration was also absent, so it was not possible to include this live demonstration on how to change the operating system from some previous version to the latest (Tiger) version of 10.4.6.

May QCMUG Program

Program Introduction: Don Patridge indicated that he would present the program originally planned for the March meeting, when there was no projector available. He said he would try to demonstrate how members could determine what was actually in their computers.

“What’s in Your Mac”

by Donald Patridge

Don first illustrated a special page he had set up which has an area to track his packages, see his TV listings, maps, locations... He said that Google now has a “Google Page” which can

accomplish the same thing. He then referred to a new service which permits calling someone, using your computer. Don said that while it is possible to use the microphone and speaker in your computer, that the sound quality will be much better if a better mike and sound system is attached. (Contact Don Patridge for more specific information.)

Don next illustrated how to look inside your own computer to see what hardware and software is present, along with detailed information about each. He had prepared his presentation using Keynote. He illustrated how to use the "About this Mac" information under the apple menu. You will have displayed Hardware, Network, Software with numerous specific items under each. You can then click on any of these items to get specific information about each, such as ATA, Audio, FireWire, Memory etc., all under Hardware. Under Software you can check Applications, Extensions, Fonts, etc. etc. It would be recommended that you try this with your own computer, since the information will vary with each computer, but the process will be the same. He then illustrated how to make use of the Software Update, which shows up as the other active button under "About this Mac". You can also access this information using System Preferences, and you can then control how you want to handle updates, including the frequency for automatic checks and installation processes you prefer. You can also choose to download the updates, but not install them until you choose, later. All these choices can be made by selecting or not selecting preferences for the updates. It was suggested that one should check what each update actually does before deciding. One way is to take a screen snapshot of each window when each update is selected, since the selection (but not double clicking) will display at the bottom of each window just what the update is for. This concluded his presentation.

Books Available: Don showed a number of books were available, free, if the member accepting the book agrees to do a written report or review of the book. He had sent out information on "Photoshop Elements 4: The Missing Manual", to the List, and Don Schaefer had sent a response requesting that book and agreeing to do the evaluation. Other books were offered to the membership, with the same requirement. Don has now completed that report and it has been submitted to President Don Patridge, to be used as needed. President Patridge then asked Don Schaefer to explain the use of the equipment he had brought to the meeting.

Analog to Digital Video Conversion: Don Schaefer explained and demonstrated how to use an analog to digital converter to convert video (such as VHS , 8 mm or Hi-8mm video) to digital. The device he brought was the one made now by Miglia, and called the Director's Cut, Take 2. He brought all the connecting cables necessary and illustrated how and where to make the connections (the yellow, white and red RCA connectors from the output of a VCR or camcorder, to the input of the Director's Cut), and a FireWire 6 pin to 6 pin cable from the output of the converter to the FireWire input of the computer. He then explained that the iMovie application should be started up and camera input selected. When the video is played on the source (VCR or camcorder), the picture and sound show up on the screen in iMovie. When the input/record button is selected, the movie will be recorded as one continuous clip. This could then be transferred to the timeline and edited as any other digital movie. This analog to digital converter requires no external power; the FireWire connection furnishes all the power needed.

Open Forum Time: a member of the audience reported that her computer will not recognize an HP printer. She said she did not know how to access printer drivers for her printer, and was shown how to do that. However, she indicated that she had been able to have the printer recognized, but got the message that the printing was stopped. She was told that by accessing the printer utility, there should be the option to "continue printing" or "start printing". Another possible solution was to disconnect her printer from the USB hub and connect it directly to the computer USB port, in case the hub does not have sufficient power to run the printer. The URL to the proper site for her printer driver was recorded and mailed to her home e-mail address, so she could access this site when she returned home. It was also suggested that she needed to download and install the printer driver for her OS, which apparently is 10.2.8 and above. Discussion of this problem took about 15 minutes, but there were no other questions for Open Forum, so President Patridge adjourned the official meeting and informal individual discussions followed.

Respectfully Submitted: Don Schaefer, QCMUG Secretary