



**QCMUG Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2009  
Bettendorf Public Library**

**Attendance**

A total of fourteen members & no guest were present at the meeting. Members included Dean Arney, Bill Burns, Brian Dobbins, Phyllis James, David Neese, Brett Neese, Bill Rankin, Cynthia Weinberger, Kathy Schroeder, Don Patridge, Jim Hall, Keith Claussen, Lee Claussen, and Dave Ochs.

**Business Meeting**

- The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1506.15.
- A program called "Caffeine" was mentioned by Don Patridge. It's for when you want to watch a video on your Mac & keep the screen / computer from going to sleep.  
<http://lightheadsw.com/caffeine/>
- Skype 2.8 Beta for Mac was posted briefly & removed. It adds a new feature that shares your desktop with other users (Mac & PC). [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)
- Membership cost & renewal time has officially been changed. Starting January 2009, all membership periods for all members will run January 1 to December 31 (calendar year). The cost will be \$24.00 for the year. All CURRENT members in good standing, will pay \$2.00 monthly to conclude 2009. For example, if your membership historically ends in October, you would pay \$2.00 per month, \$4.00 total to conclude the year, ending on December 31. Members will then renew in January 2010 for \$24. If you are a current member in DELINQUENT status, you will pay \$24 in order to renew club membership. New members, regardless of year, will pay \$2.00 per month to conclude the membership year (December 31). Renewals occur in January for \$24.

**Program**

There wasn't a feature program this month, the "White Elephant" Christmas party was held instead due to the weather-related cancellation in December.

Keith Claussen presented notes from Macworld Expo 2009. The biggest announcement happened in late December when Apple stated Phil Schiller would deliver what will be the

final keynote by Apple at the Expo. An updated iLife, iWork, & 17" MacBook Pro were the new products touted during the speech.

The biggest changes came to iPhoto & iMovie. Face recognition, geo tagging, interactivity with Facebook & access to Flickr were added to iPhoto. A refreshed interface, precision editing of audio, video, and shake reduction round out the changes to iMovie.

Some tweaking & eye candy are the bulk of the updates to iWork software, but now has an online component: iWork.com. This site is an attempt to take the iWork applications into the "cloud" like Google Docs & Microsoft Office Live. For now, iWork.com is beta & free to try. Users can post documents, grant access via email, and put sticky notes on the documents.

The new 17" MacBook Pro features the new aluminum unibody structure of the MacBook siblings announced in October. Other features a longer lasting, non-replaceable battery and matte screen options. The battery can be replaced, by an Apple Service Agent, for \$179. The final & "one more thing" came in the form of DRM-free (digital rights management / copy protection) songs and music videos on the iTunes Music Store. Variable pricing was also introduced at levels of \$0.69, \$0.99, and \$1.29. Existing tracks & albums purchased in the past can be upgraded for \$0.30 per track. The upgrade is all or nothing, there isn't an option to choose specific tracks.

## Open Forum

Q. Phyllis James asked: Is there anything special I have to do in the motel room to access e-mail?

A. Your Mac will need to be able to receive wireless access or have a networking cable (to plug into a wall jack, if available).

For wireless, make sure it's turned on, either via the menu bar item: 

Or by going to the  menu > System Preferences > Network > Airport.

Q. Phyllis James asked: My daughter was home over Christmas break with her Mac laptop. She was unable to access my secure wireless network, even after giving her the password.

A. Depending on how her school setup her system, it may have special settings, but commonly, what happens is that Macs need a special utility to parse passwords for WEP networks. It was recommended to check the settings of the network & change to WPA protection instead, if the setting is available. If unable to do so, enter the password as \$password or as "password" (with the double quotes).

<http://support.apple.com/kb/TA20428>

Q. Phyllis James asked: Which would be the best program to make a photo journal - putting pictures on a page & writing text or additional info?

- A. "Pages" from iWork can do this, but cost \$79 (free 30 day trial available at [www.apple.com/iwork/download-trial](http://www.apple.com/iwork/download-trial)). Open Office is free ([www.openoffice.org](http://www.openoffice.org)), but lacks some of the layout features of Pages.
- Q. Dean Arney asked: In iTunes, is there a way to complete the CD info by manual input?
- A. It's best to do this on import, but can be done automatically after import by iTunes! Highlight the tracks in the iTunes Music Library & go to Advanced > Get CD Track Names. Editing the tracks on the CD, the changes will not be saved, you must import first.
- Q. Dean Arney asked: Any experience with wireless speakers? I want to play iTunes music on speakers in another room
- A. Apple AirPort Express. It's smaller than an AirPort Extreme, but can be installed to extend a wireless network, connect a printer, hard drive, and speakers (via a mini headphone jack). The device retails for \$99. In iTunes, go to iTunes > Preferences > Devices & check mark the "Look for remote speakers connected with AirTunes" features after you setup the Airport Express & speakers on the network.
- Q. Is there a way to take videos from cnn.com & burn them to DVD, to watch on your TV?
- A. Maybe. If you can find a program (RealPlayer now has a feature built in that can download streaming Flash videos) that can pull the FLV file from the site, you may be able to use a program like Toast Titanium to convert the file and burn to DVD.

### **Next Month's Meeting:**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17. The program will be on doing your income taxes on your Mac.

*Respectfully submitted by Keith Claussen, QCMUG Secretary*

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