

# KeyMac Journal

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Beaupre, Co-President

Hats off to Joan Englehart. She has risen to the occasion of replacing Anita Stutzman as Co-Editor of *KeyMac Journal* after Anita had seemed irreplaceable for years.

In recent weeks, Bill Gates has spoken to the Consumer Electronics Show; Steve Jobs has spoken to the Apple Conference about "Tiger" operating system; but for most KeyMac Computer Club members, the continuing publication of the *Journal* has spoken more significantly. Yeah to Joan and Gladys Calhoun.

After our last meeting, the idea of a trip to the Apple store at Lenox Square in Atlanta was mentioned as a future meeting. This was followed by the suggestion that we should wait until the "Tiger" version of OS X is available. "Tiger" will be available sometime in 2005, but the precise date is not yet known.

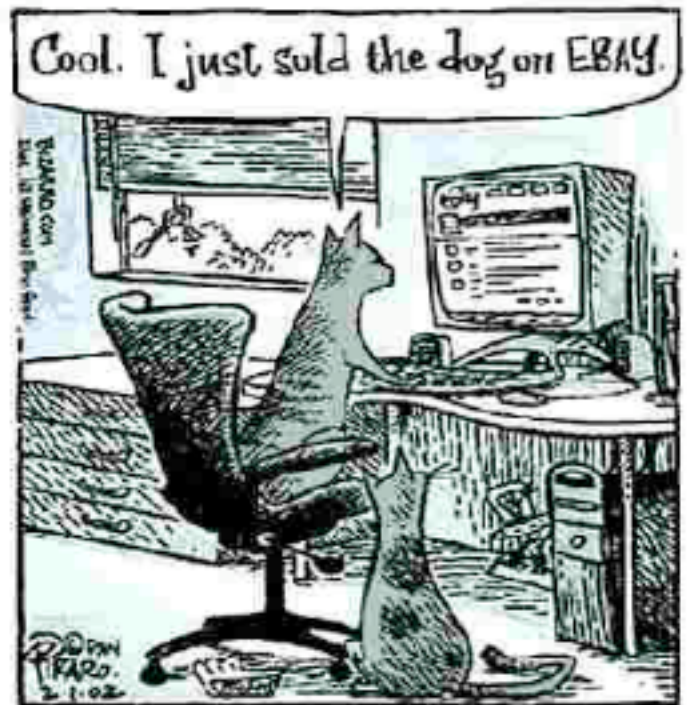
Driving through Atlanta last week, I stopped by the store and described our group as part OS X and part earlier versions. The sales person was quite blunt: "we don't have much for those not in OS X"!

The Assistant Store Manager suggested that a group might be interested in a store presentation. I spoke to Scott Moskos, Theater Manager. He said that the best way to see what is available is to go to the Apple Store Directory, [www.apple.com/retail](http://www.apple.com/retail) and click on their store location for the calendar of events.

The store presentations are about 30 minutes; the workshops are an hour each. There are four or five showings daily from noon until 8 p.m. On weekdays, the store is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Practically every Apple product and accessory are on display for demonstration and trial.

There is a "Genius Bar" where about six experts are located for technical support. A laptop could be presented for help, mostly regarding hardware.



At the next meeting I will bring a 12-page (11-by 17-inch pages) store catalog. Also, I will bring the calendar of presentations.

While at [www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com) I heard the beginning of Steve Jobs's presentation to the Apple Conference in San Francisco. He claimed one million visitors per week to the now 100 Apple stores worldwide.

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

**JANUARY 18** - Jack and Mike will review the sharing aspects of iPhoto, including the key things to know about e-mailing photos and burning photo CD's and DVD's. The focus will be on the basics. Time permitting they will also touch on the editing functions of iPhoto e.g. cropping, enhancing, etc.

**FEBRUARY 15** - To be determined.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

A clean house is a sign of a broken computer!

MASTHEAD

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I imagine this information is available for many other airports around the nation as well.”



From Behind the Lens
Gladys Calhoun

IMPORTANT REMINDER Dues are payable now. \$15 per family or individual. Please indicate on your check if dues are for individual or family so we can have an accurate count of our membership. You may pay at the meeting or mail to Alice Lifka, 610 N. Flagship Dr. Salem, SC 29676. Dues must be paid by February 28 (or sooner if you prefer) in order to remain on the roster and continue to receive the KeyMac Journal.

PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 3
An Upgrade from Photoshop Elements 2

(Excerpts from a review appearing in Macworld, February 2005 issue)

A photo-editing program aimed at nonprofessionals needs to serve two audiences: experienced photographers who want advanced digital darkroom features and casual snap shooters who just want better shots.

Treasurer’s Report

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Rows include Balance December 31, 2004 (\$965.85), Dues received from 9 members (135.00), Dec. party expense (-263.85), and Balance as of January 07, 2005 (\$837.00).

Adobe Photoshop Elements 3 accomplishes this aim with numerous editing features that were formerly available only in the \$699 Photoshop CS software.

A New Face

Elements 3’s biggest interface change is the new Quick Fix editing mode. In this mode, Elements displays sliders for improving color balance and bringing out details hidden in dark shadows and washed-out highlights. It’s an effective approach that provides quick results and invites experimentation.

GSP FLIGHT INFORMATION John Tokar brought this most useful site to our attention. I wasn’t able to locate similar sites for other aerodromes.

“Just drove my wife to the GSP Airport. While there I got interested in viewing the real-time flight and weather monitors as well as the constantly updated flight information monitors. You too can view them at home by clicking on http://www.gspairport.com/arrivals.shtml. You first get detailed flight information and then by clicking on the FlightView icon at the top right of the page you can see in-flight positional information with the weather superimposed. The view basically is that seen on the several monitors at GSP as far as I can tell.

More experienced pixel pushers will want to work in Elements’ default mode, now called Standard Edit. Adobe tweaked the interface here too: the tool palette is now docked on the left edge of the screen, while Elements’ other palettes live in a new Palette Bin on the right edge. The author of the review feels that the Palette Bin takes up too much screen space, but it can be reclaimed by undocking the palettes used most and hiding the Palette Bin. The undocked palettes float above the image, as they do in Elements 2.

Another new window, the Photo Bin, simplifies

switching between open documents by showing a thumbnail version of each open photo. Click on a thumbnail, and the photo's window becomes active.

## More Power to the Pixels

New users will love the Quick Fix mode, but it is the treasure chest of new editing features that makes Elements 3 so valuable. The new Healing Brush and Spot Healing Brush tools make short work of removing flaws such as scratches, wrinkles, and skin imperfections. The Healing Brush works like its Photoshop CS counterpart: you option-click on an area adjacent to the flaw and then paint over the flaw.

Unique to Elements 3, the Spot Healing Brush tool enables you to fix flaws without having to option-click to specify a source point. Simply click and drag across a flaw, and away it goes.

Another feature Elements has borrowed from Photoshop CS is the new Shadows/Highlights command. It replaces Elements 2's Fill Flash command, and it does an astonishing job of rescuing detail in shadows and bright areas.

## Raw Images

Elements 3 adds the ability to open and process raw photos—the unmodified “digital negatives” captured by a digital camera's light sensors. The raw format gives you more control over exposure, color balance, and other attributes.

Like Photoshop CS, Elements can open a raw image in 16-bit mode. A 16-bit image provides more editing room. You can make dramatic adjustments in exposure and color balance with less risk of introducing visible artifacts. In this mode, each red, green, and blue image channel can be represented by more than 32,000 levels. The standard 8-bit mode is limited to 256 levels per channel.

## Added Functionality

The File Browser has new keyword and searching features. Batch processing is greatly enhanced: you can apply several Quick Fix features to an entire folder of images while you do something else. (It's ideal for preparing a set of raw files.) A new Divide Scanned Photos command lets you scan multiple photos at once; it then automatically separates them into individual documents.

The new Filter Gallery, another feature taken from Photoshop CS, lets you experiment with image filters and apply multiple filters at once. A Cookie Cutter tool lets you superimpose hearts, paws (wonderful for

Clemson fans), and other shapes on an image. A new Reduce Noise filter cleans up grainy images, though you will not find details about it in Elements' online help.

## Some Problems

Speaking of online help, it does not work if you have multiple user accounts on your Mac and you run Elements 3 from an account that does not have administrator privileges. Another flaw concerns registration: every time you launch the program, a dialog box appears asking whether you would like to register. There is no way to avoid this irritation; you must acquiesce.

## Macworld's Buying Advice

While Photoshop Elements 3's flaws are unfortunate, they do not significantly detract from this outstanding upgrade for digital photographers. Whether you spend your time in Quick Fix mode or want to shoot raw images and fix every flaw yourself, you will marvel at how much this inexpensive program can improve your photographs.

**PROS:** Superb mix of editing features for beginners and experienced users alike; good raw format support; powerful new retouching tools.

**CONS:** Online help can be sketchy and does not work on non-administrator accounts; Palette Bin takes up too much screen space; annoying registration alerts.

**PRICE:** \$90; upgrade from previous Elements, \$70.

## EXCITING NEW PRODUCT



Just 2-inches tall. Just 6.5-inches square. Just \$499. Connect a display. Plug in a USB keyboard and mouse. And you're ready to go. The perfect entry to your digital life, **Mac mini** comes with a wide assortment of software, including all the applications you need to enjoy the Internet. And Mac mini comes with iLife '05. With Mac mini and iLife '05, you can easily manage your digital photo library (iPhoto); edit movies (iMovie HD); produce your own DVDs (iDVD); write and record your own music (GarageBand); and manage your growing music library (iTunes).

## MacHOME HOT TIPS

### OS X MAINTENANCE

OS X can automatically run background tasks periodically to do such things as delete temporary files and remove system files that are no longer needed and/or have old information. These system maintenance procedures can not only help prevent problems but also keep your computer running smoothly by keeping certain log files from becoming too large.

There are three parts to system maintenance: daily, weekly, monthly, all scheduled to run early in the morning. The daily runs at 3:15 a.m. every morning; the weekly at 4:30 a.m. every Saturday; and the monthly at 5:30 a.m. on the first day of each month. However, these programs cannot run if your computer is in sleep mode or shut down.

If you do not want to keep your computer on overnight, you can perform these procedures manually:

1. Open Applications>Utilities>Terminal.
2. Type: sudo/ sh/ etc/ daily. To run weekly or monthly, replace daily.
3. When prompted, type in Password and press Enter.
4. Quit Terminal when run is complete.

I (Jack L.) find that a much quicker and easier way to perform maintenance at your convenience is to install a free program called MacJanitor. Download from MacUpdate.com.

### PANTHER'S BUILT-IN COMPRESSION

OS X 10.3 has an integrated tool that makes compressed zip archives.

Option-click any file in the Finder, and then choose Create Archive of "The File" from the contextual menu. In a few moments, you'll have a compressed archive that you can e-mail or transfer online.

### EQUALIZING TRACK VOLUMES IN ITUNES

Sometimes a playlist has songs from different sources that will have a markedly different volume level. There are three ways to equalize the volumes of tracks played in iTunes.

The first is to use iTunes' Sound Check. Choose iTunes>Preferences and click Audio. Choose the option for Sound Check, which will "automatically adjust song

playback volume to the same level," and try your playlist. Sound Check isn't a perfect solution, though, and you may find that some of your tracks still don't play at the same volume.

The second option is to adjust the volume of each track. Click a track that has a low volume and then choose File>Get Info. Click Options. You'll see a slider for Volume Adjustment. Move it to the right, click OK, and test the song volume. Keep doing this for the rest of the songs in your playlist.

If you're still not happy with the results, you have one other choice. Octiv's Volume Logic (\$20; <http://www.octiv.com/>) is a plug-in for iTunes that dynamically adjusts the volumes of songs as they play so that they all play at the same level.

### PERFORMANCE UTILITY FOR OS X

Jack Leitch

While speaking with a tech rep at Apple recently regarding a problem I was having with my iMac G3, I was advised to run the built-in utility Repair Disk Permissions. You can run this utility regularly, but definitely do it if your computer seems to be running slowly, is freezing frequently, or after installing software updates. You should get in the habit of repairing permissions BEFORE and AFTER installing a new system update (such as 10.3.5).

1. Open the Applications folder.
2. Open the Utilities folder.
3. Double click Disk Utility.
4. Select your hard drive in the left column.
5. Click on the First Aid tab.
6. Click Repair Disk Permissions.

### Co-Editors' Thoughts

Thank you Anita for all you have and continue to do for the KeyMac Club. I especially want to thank you for all the help you so generously have given this neophyte as I format the *Journal*. It appears to be an overwhelming task at the moment. And to all members if you have suggestions or ideas of what you would like to see in the *Journal* please let one of the officers know. *Joan*  
Anita, working with you this past year on the *Journal* has been fun and instructive. I appreciate your abilities and plain hard work as well as your encouraging and affirming manner. Thank you for keeping all of us Club members so well informed these past three years.  
*Gladys*