

KeyMac Journal

Volume 9 Number 2

February 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mike Wall

Your Club officers decided recently that, in view of Owen Mahan's many contributions to our Club and the fact that he was one of its founding members, it would be fitting to make a contribution to a charity of his choice by way of a memorial. Owen had indicated that he would like any such memorials to be for the benefit of the OMH Building Fund for the new patient tower. Consequently, we have sent the hospital a check from KeyMac Club funds of \$50, stating that it is in memory of Owen from the membership of the KeyMac Club. I feel sure all members will support this action.

In case anyone did not realize it, the excellent January issue of our Club *Journal* was the first one produced by our new editorial team of Joan Englehart and Gladys Calhoun, and a fine job it was. We all owe these ladies a big thank you for stepping up and rescuing the *Journal* from possible demise. And, again, a huge thank you to Anita Stutzman for her three-year stint on the job and the high standard she set.

Joan and Gladys are always on the lookout for material for the *Journal*, so if you ever come across an article, tip or whatever—or have an idea of your own—that you feel might be suitable for the *Journal* **don't be shy**, send it to them. It's incumbent on all of us to try to help the editors in this way if we want to keep the *Journal* interesting and useful. And don't feel that only items related to OS X are of interest; quite a few of our members still use OS 9 and no doubt would appreciate items geared to that.

I may be the only one who missed it originally, perhaps through being away, but I recently discovered that Alan Houtzer has very kindly put up a website for our Club's benefit that contains some really useful information. To access, use this web address: <http://homepage.mac.com/ahoutzer/keymac> Since there is not enough space here to go through the contents, perhaps we'll do that in a future issue or at a meeting, but it's easy to explore on your own. On behalf of everyone, a big thanks to Alan for his public spiritedness. □



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 15: Bobby Morrison, the Mac “Genius” at CompUSA, will present the program.

MARCH 15: Jacob Miller will show us useful features, tips and tricks, etc. He may also tell us what to look for when buying new printers and scanners.

APRIL 19: Alan Houtzer, our own “Mac Genius,” will be the presenter.

✓ it Out

One of our members suggested that you check out the site: www.skype.com if you make frequent international calls. This site allows you to download a program that permits you to call international residents free of charge if the other person also has the program on their computer.

The editors would like to know if this site has been helpful and if you would like us to continue with interesting websites. If you have any web addresses that may be of value to other members, we will be happy to publish them in future *Journals*. □

MASTHEAD

Published by the KeyMac Computer Club

Co-President.....Bob Beaupre
spyglass25@mindspring.com
 Co-President.....Mike Wall
dillysdad@pop.mindspring.com
 V.President.....Drake Hawkins
drakhawk@earthlink.net
 Co-Secretary.....Joan Englehart
joaneng@bellsouth.net
 Co-Secretary.....Al Kishbaugh
kish12@earthlink.net
 Treasurer.....Alice Lifka
grgralice@aol.com
 Co-Editor.....Gladys Calhoun
gladyscalhoun@earthlink.net
 Co-Editor.....Joan Englehart
joaneng@bellsouth.net

WILDCARD SEARCH: Strolling down memory lane, your editor forgot some of the words to a one-time favorite song, “Chances Are” by Johnny Mathis. By keying in some words she did remember and by using * * to indicate what she forgot into the search box and hitting return, a list popped up where she was able to find the complete lyrics. Here’s how to key in: “chances are ‘cause I wear a silly grin * * you come into view” which results in “chances are ‘cause I wear a silly grin the moment you come into view.” Several websites pop up relating to the topic. (In this case there was one offering love advice from Dr. Ruth.) If your search involves songs, you do need to be wise lest you waste time by going to iTunes to listen to every rendition of a long-ago favorite song. Try the following for another type of search: “as for me give me * * or give me death” and “whose woods are these * * in the village”

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*.

Treasurer’s Report

Balance January 7, 2005	\$837.00
Dues were received from 20 members:	<u>300.00</u>
Balance as of January 28, 2005	\$1137.00

MacHOME POWER TIPS

GOOGLE TIPS

If you use the Internet, it is likely that you use Google a few times a day. Here are some features that may be useful to you.

Note: For the following tips, you do not need to key in the quotation marks; these are given here only to delineate what you do need to key in.

FIND A DEFINITION: Last week your editor was reading the most recent biography of Alexander Hamilton and came across a word she had never heard of: *schadenfreude*. She immediately thought it was a German word that the author had used to keep English-speaking only readers awake. So she tried this feature. Here is how to do it: open Google, key in “schadenfreude” in the search box and hit return. Ignore all the website listings and look on the right side of the blue bar that separates the Google heading from the listings and click on “definition.” The meaning of the word *schadenfreude* is given along with other interesting facts. In addition, at the end of line 3 there is a speaker icon on which you can click to hear the correct pronunciation. (*Schadenfreude* appears in the *Webster’s College Dictionary* and is considered to be a part of the English lexicon, but in some circles it is controversial for other reasons.)

For more straightforward examples of this Google feature, try the word “incursion” or “demagogue” or “duplicitous.” (These words are selected to show the depth of information that can be acquired by using this powerful tool.) □

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Computers make it easier to do a lot of things, but most of the things they make it easier to do don't need to be done."

Andy Rooney



From Behind the Lens

Gladys Calhoun

PHOTO PRINTERS: THE ESSENTIAL BUYING GUIDE

(excerpted from an article by M. David Stone
appearing in a recent issue of *PC Magazine*)

Nearly all photo printers today can claim true photo quality for most, if not all, output. This means that you cannot distinguish their output from photos that were printed from film in the conventional process. You can often get the same quality from a \$50 printer as you can from a \$500 printer. Within any given manufacturer's line, the difference from one model to the next is almost always in speed or features, not in quality. Even many standard ink jet printers today—and, more surprisingly, even inexpensive color laser printers—can offer close to true photo quality.

This isn't to say that there is no difference in quality from one printer to another or that you can ignore quality issues altogether. Photo printers, like film developing labs, will give you results that range from minimally acceptable to outstanding. A low-end printer is sufficient for casual snapshots, but if you take your photos seriously, you will want a high-quality printer.

Photo printers fall neatly into three categories. The first is **ink jet photo printers**. These offer at least one photo feature but can also function as all-purpose printers. They print from business applications reasonably well, though often at a very slow pace. This is the category to consider if you want a single, all-purpose printer. You should also consider it if you want a second printer just for photos.

The second category is **dedicated photo printers**. These are typically limited to printing on special-purpose—usually glossy—paper. They may also print only on relatively small paper sizes, often 4 by 6 inches. To date, you can find these in both ink jet and thermal-dye varieties.

The third category is **professional photo printers**; serious amateurs may be interested in the less expensive

choices in this group. These printers may also be dedicated photo printers, but their key characteristic is that they offer at least tabloid-size output (11 by 17 inches). Some can print photos at much larger sizes.

The majority of today's photo printers, no matter which type of photo printer you think you want to buy, are capable of outstanding quality, and new models with ever increasing speed are being offered every day.

Ink Jet Photo Printers

The discussion for the remainder of this article is an in-depth look at **ink jet photo printers**. No single feature defines an ink jet photo printer. Current models cost anywhere from \$50 to \$500. The justification for calling one a "photo printer" could be photo-quality output, a design that optimizes photo print speed, a feature that makes printing photos easier, or some combination of these.

Output quality remains the most important issue for photo printers. If you want to print snapshots to give to friends and relatives, you will be happy with almost any photo printer. But if you want to print the best possible photos to blow up, frame, and hang on a wall, you will need to choose more carefully.

Do not assume you can predict output quality from features or price. Photo resolution for almost all photo and standard ink jets today is the same, with a maximum of 1,200 by 4,800 dpi. Within any given manufacturer's line, you will not find much, if any, difference in quality among printers of varying prices. Spending more will typically buy better speed or more features, not better output quality.

The number of colors a printer uses can indicate output quality, but it isn't a definitive measure. Most printers use four colors: cyan, yellow, magenta, and black. Many photo printers add light cyan and light magenta. A few add red and green or red and blue.

You will also find photo printers with more than one variation of black ink or with gray inks. If you do much black-and-white photography, consider one of these models. Most ink jets print gray-scale photos using color ink to create what is called composite black. More often than not, this leaves the photos with a mild to severe tint of blue, brown, rose, or some other color. The second black-ink cartridge and the different shades of gray help maintain a neutral tone, and the gray ink specifically makes reproducing subtle shading easier, hereby improving the quality of black-and-white photos.

For color photos, additional colors extend the printer's color gamut. More important, they make printing subtle gradations in things like blue skies and skin tones easier. Additional ink colors do not guarantee better quality, however. Four-color printers can produce excellent photos, and six-color printers can fall short. So check out printers with more ink colors because they are more likely to print at high quality, but base your final decision on the output you see, not the printer's specifications.

Photo printers can offer an assortment of convenience features. If you want to print from your digital camera, look for PictBridge support, preferably with the connector on the printer's front panel. Even if your current camera doesn't support PictBridge, your next one probably will. Slots for memory cards will usually let you print directly from the cards. In some cases, however, they will only let you transfer the files to your computer. Support for EXIF (EXchangeable Image File format) and PIM (Print Image Matching) improves output quality by letting the printer take advantage of information in the photo file's header. (The EXIF and PIM information relates primarily to camera settings.)

Printers that let you print directly from memory cards will almost always let you print an index sheet and then pick which photos to print. Some also offer a color LCD and front-panel menu. These typically let you view the photos, crop them, and so on.

Older models of photo printers were known for printing outstanding photo output at excruciatingly slow speeds. Some recent ink jet models have added thousands of nozzles, which lets them put the same number of dots on the page much faster. The result is great-looking photos at much faster speeds than you can expect from standard ink jets.

They are also faster for other applications. If this trend continues, the distinction between standard and photo ink jets may soon disappear. For now, however, it means that if you select your printer carefully, you can get one all-purpose printer without having to make any compromises on speed or quality. □

Appearing in next month's issue of the Journal will be a review of an article in the February issue of Macworld critiquing two of the most recent ink jet photo printers on the market.

AN APPLEWORKS MAKEOVER: IWORK '05

At long last, Apple has announced a replacement of sorts for the aging AppleWorks. **iWork '05** is a collection of two applications that includes Pages and Keynote 2. Pages is an all-new word processor that includes a host of document templates, a free form graphic canvas and integration with iLife. You can easily add photos to your document by using the iLife Media Browser to pull the photos from iPhoto. Pages also plays well with others—it happily imports and exports AppleWorks and Microsoft Word documents. Keynote 2 is the next iteration of the popular presentation software. Like Pages, Keynote 2 uses an iLife Media Browser so that you can easily import photos, movies and music. The application also offers an expanded set of themes for photo portfolios, digital storyboards and education. Keynote 2 creates self-running interactive slideshows, too, which are ideal for special events, school projects and kiosks. You can even incorporate voiceovers, navigation arrows and hyperlinks. iWork '05 was expected to ship in late January at a price of \$79. (Apple; <http://www.apple.com/iwork/>) □

A NEW ILIFE FOR 2005

Apple has unveiled iLife '05, its updated set of media software that hit shelves in late January for \$79. The package includes new versions of iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD and GarageBand, and includes the currently available version of iTunes.

iPhoto 5

Here's a quick overview of the changes in iPhoto 5.

- Includes three new soft cover book options.
- New slideshow editor lets you create customizable cinematic slideshows.
- Advanced Editing Tools help you make perfect your picture.
- Import photos shot in RAW-format; import video clips, too.
- Store multiple albums, slideshows and books in new hierarchical folders.
- New Calendar View and search field let you find photos quickly. □

Next month we will include the overview of the changes in iMovie, iDVD 5, and Garageband 2.