

KeyMac Journal

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bob Beaupre

During recent visits to the Apple store in Atlanta, I didn't see many Apple computer magazines, maybe only one, *Macworld*. I recently learned that Mike Wall and Jack Leitch both subscribed to *macHOME* (www.machome.com) \$30 per year, 12 issues.

Lucky for me, the table at the entrance to the Seneca branch of the Oconee County Public Library had a copy of *MacAddict* and a copy of *Macworld*. The editors of the *Journal* often publish "Tips" from both *macHOME*, and *Macworld* (www.macworld.com) \$35 per year, 12 issues.

Editorially, a large part of all of these magazines are consumers' digest type of articles on new products for Apple merchandise. There are many "How To" articles, most of which are quickly over my head.

Considering the above, I think that *macHOME* is the best visually. The pictures are the biggest and best. *macHOME* is the *LIFE MAGAZINE* of the computer magazines.

Similar to *macHOME* and *Macworld* is *MacAddict* (www.futurenetwork.usa.com) \$40 per year, 12 issues and 12 CD's.

This year, Roger Campbell subscribed to *AppleWorks Journal* from the AppleWorks Users Group. This impresses me as a magazine intended for educators. There doesn't appear to be paid advertising, yet they sell CD's, software and at least *MacAddict* at a discount. The staff and location suggest to me that it is written by a retired Eastern Michigan University (formerly Michigan Normal) person (www.awug.org) \$40 per year, 10 issues.

Many of these magazines offer CD's in newsstand issues, but not in the mail editions. Booksmith may have one or two Mac magazines; the Clemson Newsstand has more. I will bring the six I have to the next meeting.

Considering the above, probably I am best served by *KeyMac Journal*. □



MONTHLY PROGRAMS

MAY 17: Interesting and Useful Websites and how to more effectively use the Keowee Key site.

JUNE 21: Bobby Morrison, the Apple representative at CompUSA, will discuss the program iSight, iChat and Internet telephony. iSight offers one the opportunity to video conference.

JULY: VACATION TIME—NO MEETING

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Computer /nm./: a device designed to speed and automate errors.

Hardware /nm./: the part of the computer that you can kick.

Supercomputer: what it sounded like before you bought it.

MASTHEAD

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Allow two to three hours time to install Tiger. The actual installation does not take that long but it is probably a good idea to back up your files before starting. Once the installation is completed you will want to take time to check on some of your more important documents to see whether they are intact. You may need to make some preference changes in some of the applications; for example, your editor needed to do that for the Address Book application. After that you will want to try out some of the new features, such as Spotlight, which is fabulous. The RSS feature in Safari is interesting and useful—almost like having a personal clipping service. You will have fun playing with the new toy. □

TREASURER’S REPORT

Balance April 29, 2005	\$1227.03
Interest Feb. & March	<u> .49</u>
Balance as of April 7, 2005	\$1227.52

A Tiger Installation Review

Last week one of your editors successfully installed Tiger to update from Jaguar, thanks to Alan Houtzer's tip as follows:

"Advice for installing Tiger:

When you are going through the screens of the installation program, be on the lookout for a screen with an 'Options' button. Click that button and you will have three options: Upgrade, Archive & Install, and a third option which will erase your hard disk and install everything anew. You should use 'Archive & Install.' It is the best of the three methods. DO NOT use the option that erases your hard disk!!!"



From Behind the Lens

Gladys Calhoun

Summer is fast approaching, and many of us will be taking pictures to mark graduations, weddings, and family vacations. So let's not get too technical in the next few months but just enjoy these occasions, perhaps putting to use "Tips for Taking Better Pictures" in order to improve our camera skills.

TIPS FOR TAKING BETTER PICTURES

Do you wish you were a better photographer? All it takes is a little know-how and experience. Keep reading for some important picture-taking tips. Then get your camera and start shooting your way to great pictures.

Tip 1: Look Your Subject in the Eye

Direct eye contact can be as engaging in a picture as it is in real life. When taking a picture of someone, hold the camera at the person's eye level to capture those magnetic gazes and mesmerizing smiles. For children, that means stooping to their level. Your subject need not always stare at the camera. All by itself that eye level angle will create a personal and inviting feeling that pulls you into the picture. Ignore the impulse to force your subjects to always pose staring at the camera. Variety is important. Take candid pictures to show them working, playing or relaxing.

Tip 2: Use a Plain Background

A plain background shows off the subject you are photographing. When you look through the camera viewfinder, force yourself to study the area surrounding your subject. Make sure no poles grow from the head of your granddaughter and that no cars seem to dangle from her ears.

Select an uncomplicated background that does not compete with your subject. Bright colors and text (for example, store signs) create the biggest problems. Be especially aware of what is behind your subject in a portrait so that branches don't accidentally become antlers.

Move your subject or change your camera angle to find a simple, uncluttered background. Taking this extra step before you press the shutter button makes a big difference in the end result.

Tip 3: Use a Flash

An automatic flash is included on just about every camera sold today. Many include a fill-flash setting for those less-than-perfect lighting situations that need a little boost. That doesn't mean the camera is fail-proof. You still need to know how and when to use these features.

Fill flash: Fill flash is just enough flash to fill in areas of a picture that would otherwise be too dark.

Use fill flash for sunny day portraits to fill in those dark shadows under the eyes, nose, or under the rim of a baseball hat. It can even help in a difficult lighting situation, such as a dark complexion on a beach, or a child playing in the snow.

Fill flash is also useful for side-lit and back-lit pictures. For instance, a back-lit scene may have enough bright areas in the background to provide an "average" brightness for the entire picture, but the actual subject is left in the dark. Fill flash balances the scene so that the subject is properly exposed, and the background is left alone.

Depending on your camera, you may have a choice of fill-flash mode or full-flash mode. If the person is within five feet, use the fill-flash mode; beyond five feet, the full-power mode may be required. Use the picture display panel to review the results.

On cloudy days, use the camera's fill-flash mode if it has one. The flash will brighten up people's faces and make them stand out. Also take a picture without the

flash because the soft light of overcast days sometimes gives quite pleasing results by itself.

Please note that in some cameras there is not a fill-flash feature as such but that the same result can be effected by using the built-in flash adjustment settings. However, this is for the more advanced photographer.

General flash tips: The number one flash mistake is taking pictures beyond the flash's range. Why is this a mistake? Because pictures taken beyond the maximum flash range will be too dark. For many cameras, the maximum flash range is less than fifteen feet—about five steps away. Check your camera manual for the recommended range (usually 4 to 10 feet).

- A higher-speed ISO setting may extend your flash by a few feet, so it does pay to use the higher-speed setting, even indoors for flash pictures.
- Batteries that are approaching exhaustion will not give full flash power even if the camera is still working.
- Prevent red eye by asking your subjects to look slightly away from the camera, and turn on all the room lights to shrink their pupils.
- Avoid use of the "red eye reduction" flash setting—to many people it's distracting and confusing.

Flash off: There are occasions when your camera thinks the flash is needed, but in fact it isn't. You probably have a "Flash Off" (or similar wording) setting on your camera. Here are a few examples of when to use it:

- When you are too far away from your subject for the flash to be effective.
- When the flash would create annoying reflections from mirrors and other shiny surfaces.
- At sunset or in other low-light situations where you would like a foreground subject to be silhouetted.
- Where the quality of the existing light is beautiful, like a kitten sleeping in the sunbeam.
- Where flash is not allowed (steady yourself against a wall and anchor your elbows at your side).

Tip 4: Move in Close

If your subject is smaller than a car, take a step or two closer before taking the picture and zoom in on your subject. Your goal is to fill the picture area with the subject you are photographing. Up close you can reveal telling details, like a sprinkle of freckles or an arched eyebrow.

However, don't get too close or your pictures will be blurry. The closest focusing distance for most cameras is about three feet, or about one step away from your camera. If you get closer than the closest focusing distance of your camera (see your manual to be sure), your pictures will be blurry.

At the heart of composing good people pictures are a few basic decisions: what picture format to use, where to position the subject within the frame, what other picture elements to include, where to position those elements, and which camera angle is most effective.

Tip 5: Horizontal vs. Vertical Format

The majority of people pictures are horizontal in format, which works best for most group pictures. However, a vertical image can be very effective for pictures ranging from full-length portraits to tight facial close-ups. The unexpectedness of a vertical format can also give an image added impact. All sorts of things look better in a vertical picture: from a lighthouse near a cliff to the Eiffel Tower to your four-year-old grandchild jumping in a puddle. So next time out, make a conscious effort to turn your camera sideways and take some vertical pictures.

(to be continued in the June issue of the Journal)

HOT TIPS

SCREEN CAPTURE: You are probably aware of the old Shift-Command-3 shortcut for taking a screen capture of your entire screen, and you may even know about Shift-Command-4, which gives you a crosshair cursor so you can choose which area of the screen you want to capture. But perhaps the coolest, most-secret hidden capture shortcut is Shift-Control-Command-3 (or 4), which, instead of creating a file on your desktop, copies the capture into your Clipboard memory, so you can paste it where you want. (This shortcut may be used to paste screen captures right into Photoshop or other applications.)

FORCE QUITTING FROM THE DOCK: If you are running an application in Mac OS X and for some reason it locks up or crashes, you can easily Force Quit the application by Control-clicking on its icon in the Dock, and a pop-up menu will appear. Press the Option key, and you'll see the menu item called Quit change to Force Quit. Click that, and it will force quit the application. Also, if you're a longtime Mac user, you might be afraid to Force Quit an application, because back in Mac OS 9 (and prior) force quitting was an absolute last resort in hopes of saving an open

document. If you were lucky enough to get Force Quit to work without locking up the machine, then all you could really do was restart anyway, but at least you got to save your document. Mac OS X is designed to let you Force Quit then continue to work, so don't be hesitant to use this feature.

SELECTING NON-CONSECUTIVE ITEMS: In OS X, you can select multiple non-consecutive items by holding down the command key as you click. Among other things, this trick allows you to select nonadjacent files in the Finder, nonadjacent images in iPhoto, and even nonadjacent text elements in Microsoft Word. □

Top 30 OXYMORONS

30. Military Intelligence
 29. Software documentation
 28. New York culture
 27. New classic
 26. Sweet sorrow
 25. Child proof
 24. "Now, then ..."
 23. Synthetic natural gas
 22. Christian Scientists
 21. Passive aggression
 20. Taped live
 19. Clearly misunderstood
 18. Peace force
 17. Extinct Life
 16. Temporary tax increase
 15. Computer jock
 14. Plastic glasses
 13. Terribly pleased
 12. Computer security
 11. Political science
 10. Tight slacks
 9. Definite maybe
 8. Pretty ugly
 7. Twelve-ounce pound cake
 6. Diet ice cream
 5. Rap music
 4. Working vacation
 3. Exact estimate
 2. Religious tolerance
 - and the #1. top Oxymoron
- MICROSOFT WORKS