

KeyMac Journal

Volume 10, Number 7

October, 2006

President's Message

We hope you haven't been offended by the email from Wayne Walker, one of our newer members, that urged you to sign on to the Message Board, the beginnings of the new KeyMac web site <<http://www.keymug.com/>>. For those of us at the last meeting at the Activity Center, excitement was rampant as Wayne laid out his plans for the last link in our process of becoming a certified Apple Mac User Group. Plus, it will become a great tool for questions and answers and general camaraderie. We will provide updates here as the site progresses. Thanks Wayne, for all your hard work.

Drake Hawkins, our Vice President, has been busy talking with current and prospective officers, ensuring there are active volunteers to keep our group going forward. He expects to introduce a slate of nominations at this month's meeting, and we will have an election in November. If you want to step up and become more involved, please let Drake (944-8877), or me, know.

Who would have guessed that 15 of our 60 members have addresses outside Salem, SC?

We expect to see you and your guest at the Christmas gathering sponsored by the organization—mark the date Tuesday, December 12 at 5 p.m. at the Keowee Key Club. The dress is Holiday Dress-Up. More from Jack later.

Last but most important—if you have not responded to my request to email me the address/url to three internet sites that you find most interesting, please do so soon <genemadill@mac.com>. We won't be able to feature them all at the meeting, but we will be passing out a list of those recommended. It would be helpful if you had a sentence or two why you like the site. Thanks!

And, thanks, to the new members for joining us.

Gene

LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

- *Memory was something that you lost with age.
- *An application was for employment.
 - *A program was a TV show.
 - *A cursor used profanity.
 - *A keyboard was a piano.
- *A web was a spider's home.
 - *A virus was the flu.
 - *A CD was a bank account.
- *A hard drive was a long trip on the road.
- *A Mouse Pad was where a mouse lived.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

October 17: The program will be about Internet favorites. We all have sites that we frequently visit for shopping, information, references, hobbies and even fantasies. We will be collecting the most interesting resource from our growing membership and present an entertaining and informative program.

November 21: TBD

December 12: Christmas Party

OS X DISCUSSION GROUP

An informal gathering of members where questions are answered and problems solved—members helping members. All are welcome. Bring your laptops and explore the solutions along with others.

Tuesday, November 1, 10 a.m. at the Activity Center

December: Busy month! No discussion group scheduled.

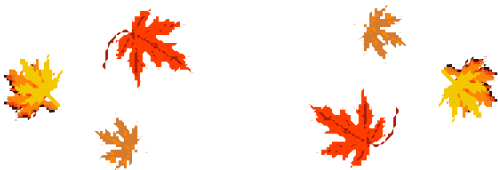
MASTHEAD

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Treasurer's Report

Balance August 7, 2006	\$1259.18
Deposits:	
Apple refund	21.00
Interest:	.54
Balance September 7, 2006	\$1280.72
Deposits:	
Dues	60.00
Interest:	.52
Balance October 11, 2006	\$1341.24



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf
is a flower. Albert Camus

USING THE INTERNET OVERSEAS

by Gladys Calhoun

It has been only 15 years or so since the time I used to travel and not communicate with family or friends for a couple of weeks at a time, leaving only an address and phone number with dates of a hotel where I could be contacted in case of an emergency. Now I am beginning to act as though I have to communicate with them every few days in order to console myself that everything is ok on the homeland front. This near obsession has resulted in causing huge distractions while traveling—all because of the availability of the Internet and my human frailty.

The aim of this article is to present some of the pitfalls the overseas traveler may encounter while attempting to use the Internet.

It is a little easier when you are traveling on your own—but probably not by much. Having to adhere to a tour schedule makes using the Internet somewhat of a nuisance, mainly because of lack of time. It is necessary to at least double the estimated time you think you will need to check and send emails due to a variety of factors.

In countries that do not use the Roman alphabet, it can be very difficult to decipher the keyboard. Even when switching to the English language on the screen (sometimes not possible), it takes at least a half-hour to learn how to access and reach a webmail account. Invariably the @ is in another location on the keyboard and requires pressing a third key, whereabouts not apparent, while pressing the shift and the numerical keys. Also, various other keys (often vowels) are not in their customary places. Microsoft Internet Explorer seems to be the browser of choice overseas.

In addition, it is important to check out the mouse. Most of the overseas computers have double-click mice. As a one-click mouse user, I ran into a number of difficulties because I did not at first recognize why I was getting pop-ups with choices written in a foreign language.

Internet Cafes: Recently traveling in southern Germany and France, I found them to be difficult to locate; in Turkey and Greece they were plentiful. One advantage of Internet cafes over hotels is that they usually have several computers and staff is on site readily available to help although many do not speak English. Almost universally, they are located in smoked-filled rooms in a variety of settings. (One that I used was in the rear of a quasi-bakery, another in a video games parlor; they can be found in basements or up

flights of stairs over a store.) Computer access varies: some computers are coin operated with meters; some require the use of a key-type instrument where the screen will go black after a brief period of sound alerts indicating that the allotted time is about to expire, requiring additional use of the key; some have the times/amounts posted and staff sets a timer, payment to be made at the conclusion of the session, usually in the currency of country.

Access speed is uniformly slow, although Mike Wall reports that in Italy and the British Virgin Islands the computers in Internet cafes were easy to use with fast access and high performance.

Hotels: The maximum number of computers available in hotel "business centers" that I frequented was two, and the business centers (or rooms set aside for this function) in large hotels are not usually located near reception. The rooms are also smoke-filled and hot. Staff members at reception are not readily available for help. With only two computers and many guests, it is difficult to find one not in use especially in hotels that have set hours for the business center. Small hotels are better about this than the large ones as the guests use the same computers that staff members use, often in an office directly in back of reception.

Onboard River Boat Cruises: Usually the Internet is available for passengers for sending emails. You have to use the ship's account. Management controls it and sends the emails in batches at times of their choosing. Incoming emails for passengers are printed out and delivered to their cabins. There is a cost for this service.

Costs: Hotels vary—the most expensive charge was in a Marriott hotel in Athens where it was 7 euros for a half-hour. On the other hand, both Sheraton hotels in Antalya and Ankara, Turkey were free—and available 24 hours a day. One hotel had an honor system suggesting 1 American dollar for a half-hour. (The man at the desk was surprised when I appeared at reception with my dollar.)

Internet cafes: Usually they are less expensive—about 2 to 3 euros for a half-hour. Mike found it to be somewhat more expensive in Italy and the British Virgin Islands. (He used one on the beach.)

Laptop Computers: One man on a recent trip brought a laptop, the first time I have traveled with someone who did. He spent significant time locating wireless access spots in and around hotels but usually found them. Of course, at night he was busy charging batteries, either

for the laptop or his new top-of-the-line camera. The upside was that he could download his pictures onto the laptop as he traveled. Keep in mind, though, that another obstacle in carrying around laptops is the security routine in airports as they have to be removed from their cases before going through the screening process.

Conclusion: It can be a very frustrating experience when first starting to use the Internet overseas. Successfully ending the first computer session feels almost like conquering Mt. Everest. In Strasbourg, France, I entered an Internet cafe and saw a fellow passenger on a river boat cruise in a rage because he couldn't get online. He was hunched over the computer, red in the face, and yelling at his wife (she wanted to shop). That night he was taken to the hospital for a medical problem and remained there for two or three days recovering. I am convinced that his ailment was brought on by stress at the Internet cafe. So, the next time I travel overseas, I will have an adjusted attitude and forego the "pleasures" of trying to stay in touch with family and friends. □

Dictionary & Spell Check in OS 10.4

By Ed@Smalldog.com
from Tech Tails #333

There are several ways to use this feature. First, you can browse to your Application Folder and click on Dictionary. This is based on the excellent Oxford American Dictionary. You can also launch the same Dictionary and Thesaurus as a dashboard widget.

Or, you can launch the Dictionary application by right or command clicking on any word and selecting "Look up in dictionary."

The Dictionary application and widget allow you to look up word definitions and to cross-check your spelling.

If you only want to check your spelling, there are several ways to do this in 10.4 applications (such as Mail, Safari, or Text Edit, Stickies, Pages, Keynote or many OS 10-native third-party programs such as OmniOutliner, etc.).

First, you can launch a spell checker by simultaneously holding down the Command-Shift-Semicolon keys, all at the same time. The Command key is placed to the left of the space bar, marked with a clover-shaped symbol and/or the Apple logo.

This key command will allow you to go word by word through your document. I use this feature in Mail and to spell check blog posts I make in Safari.

In Mail, you can also choose to check spelling as you type, when you click send, or never. When you choose "check spelling as you type," the words are not corrected, only underlined with a squiggly red line.

Also, take the time to browse through every applications settings in the menu bar on the top, left side of the screen. You can often adjust your spelling preferences there. □

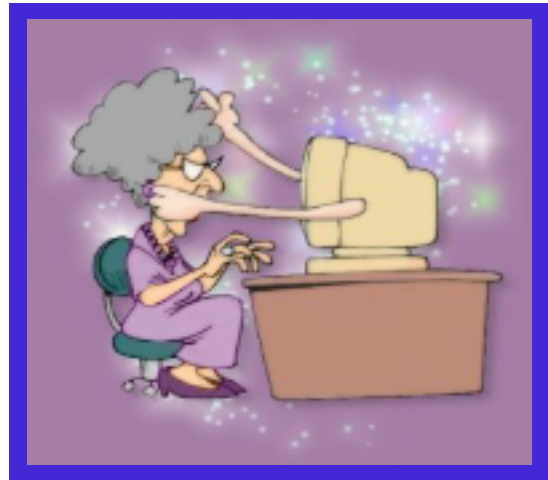
MAC Tip of the Week

Finding the Right Special Character

Okay, let's say you are in Mail, and you are writing the word "résumé," which used properly should have that little accent over the "é" as shown here. You know it needs an accent, but you have no idea which keyboard combinations will create an "e" with an accent above it. Here's a trick for finding any special character: When you are typing, and you need that special character, stop typing and click the Fonts button at the top of the Mail window. When the Font dialog appears, go to the Actions pop-up menu (its icon looks like a gear near the bottom-left corner of the dialog) and choose Characters to bring up the Character Palette.

At the bottom of the Character Palette dialog, you'll see a small search field. Type whatever you need, such as "acute accent" (without the quotes), and in just a moment a menu of different accents will appear. Double-click on the accent you want and the palette will jump to the mark you need. Close by you should see the character you need. Click on it and then click on the Insert button (or Insert with Font button if you are searching in Glyph View) just to the right of the search field. Now that letter "é" will appear in just the right place in your email message.

Editor's Note: This really does work and it is a wonderful tool, although you may have to play with it a little at first. Alternately, when you bring up the Character Palette, you do not need to use the search field to locate the desired character (often we do not know what to call the character we want). At the top of the Character Palette dialog in the View box, choose All Characters. In the top left-hand box, under European Scripts, choose Latin. In the box to the right, scroll through until you locate the "è" and select it by clicking once. Then double-click it. Or, after selecting it, click on the large character in the box on the lower-left. It will appear in the proper place in your email message. □



The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed grandma.
 Yes, honestly its true.
 She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
 And disappeared from view.
 It devoured her completely,
 The thought just makes me squirm.
 She must have caught a virus
 Or been eaten by a worm.
 I've searched through the recycle bin
 And files of every kind;
 I've even used the Internet,
 But nothing did I find.
 In desperation, I asked Jeeves
 My searches to refine.
 The reply from him was negative,
 Not a thing was found 'online.'
 So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
 My Grandma you should see
 Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
 And send her back to me!

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who have been fearless and learned to use the computer—they are the greatest!!!

We do not stop playing because we grow old;
 We grow old because we stop playing.
 Never Be The First To Get Old!