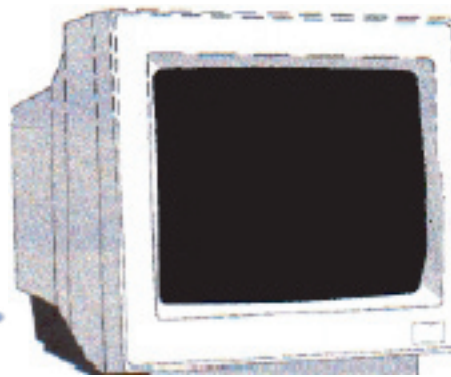


CVAUG Monitor



Cumberland Valley Apple User Group Newsletter WWW.CVAUG.ORG

July 2007

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A Word From the President

What could there possibly be to write about this month? Has there been any big news from Apple Inc.? I can't seem to think of anyth.... wait a minute. Hey, Apple did release a new piece of groundbreaking gadgetry since our last meeting. I could only be talking about the revolutionary new 15"

MacBook Pro with LED (Light Emitting Diode) backlighting. The new form of LCD screen illumination is a much more eco-friendly than the industry standard CCFL (cold cathode fluorescent lamp) which contain mercury which can present a problem when the display reaches the end of its useful lifetime. Apple says it plans to release new versions of each of its LCD monitors using the new LED backlight technology over the next few months. An added bonus that comes along with the new displays is the fact that they use much less power which means that laptops with the new displays will get an extension of battery life. Oh yes, there was some new Cellphone made by Apple released this past month.

This Month:
Create Panoramic Photographs

June Meeting Minutes

by Dieter Protsch

Old Business

Future Meeting Site: ZION UCC has been selected as our new meeting site effective June 2007.

Nomination of officers: CVAUG will accept nominations for officers for year 2007/08 at June meeting.

Next Annual Picnic: Our customary annual Picnic was suggested to be held on 4 Aug. 07 w/FAC at Walkersville, MD Additional information will be forthcoming and discussed at the June 07 meeting

New Business

Nomination of Officers: After a brief discussion among members regarding the quorum of members and establishing the proper quorum present, a motion was made to re-nominate all the present serving officers of CVAUG.

Election of Officers: Following the acceptance of the

nominations by the officers, a vote was taken by the members, unanimously reelecting the following CVAUG officers for the 2007-2008 term:
President - Gregg McFarland
Vice Pres.- Wayne Younkins
Sec.Treas. - Dieter H. Protsch
Librarian - Bill Isham
Membership: Members are being asked to submit their dues for the FY 1 July 2007 - 30 June 2008 to be members in good standing.

Introduction: Gregg asked members to introduce themselves to the guests to make them feel welcome to CVAUG.

During the introduction period one member also brought up the fact that Zion UCC has a web site, which could possibly be used by the church to advertise the purpose of CVAUG helping those people who may have problems using Apple products, but no practical way to get help to solve their problems, the purpose of CVAUG's existence.

Apple Unleashes iPhone on the United States

by Gregg McFarland

On June 29th Apple ended months of anticipation by finally releasing their Cellular Telephone to the United States. Hundreds of people waited in line all around the country at Apple and AT&T retail stores, some for as many as five days. Their patience was rewarded by being the first people in the public to even hold the device, let alone purchase one for themselves. Now, for those of you without access to a television or radio or Internet (how exactly are you reading this again) I'll go over some of the key features of the iPhone. The iPhone is a Quad-band GSM cellular telephone, iPod, and internet access device all in one sleek package. It has a 3.5 inch touch sensitive screen and a 2 megapixel camera all in a package measuring 4.5"x2.4"x.46". There is only one button on the face of the iPhone, a return to home button. All other main functions including a full keyboard for text entry, are accomplished using on screen buttons.

According to the iPhone web site, the iPhone runs a version of Apple's OS X and uses a version of Safari as the web browser on the phone.

There are some interesting new forms of technology that set the iPhone apart from just about every other cellular phone out today. One is a sensor that

can tell which way the phone is being held so the display can rotate between landscape and portrait modes depending on how the user is holding the phone. It has a proximity sensor that can tell when you hold the phone up to your ear so it knows it can dim the display (since you can't see it) to save battery life. The phone can access the internet via any available Wi-Fi access point, or, if none are available it can use AT&T's EDGE data network (available wherever a cellular signal is accessible).

The phone is available in two versions. A version with 4GB of space for iPod songs and iPhoto pictures is for sale for \$499 and an 8GB version is \$599.

It might seem that such a phone is perfect and is just right for everyone. However once the phone was released to the public users started finding faults with it. To many, the worst feature is the AT&T EDGE data network which, when compared to Third Generation (3G) cellular phone data networks is much slower. Some other gripes include the fact that the ringtones on the phone cannot be changed or added to. This seems to be a very standard feature for cellular phones these days. The phone also has Bluetooth technology built in, but it can only be used to pair a hands free headset at this time. Now this is the main use for Bluetooth these days, but

other data capable phones with Bluetooth can be used to connect a laptop to a cellular data network for internet access when no phone lines are available.

So, if you think you want an iPhone, but you didn't go to the store on opening weekend, you'll need to get in line anyway because the iPhones are sold out at both Apple and AT&T retail stores.

“And Then There Was Lightroom < a Prosumer's Experience”

By Maria Arguello

Once you see the name Adobe, it doesn't take long to realize that you are going to have a powerful and elegant experience using their products. Adobe Photoshop Lightroom does not disappoint. It is Adobe's newest program for the professional photographer, but consumers who want a higher level of managing and editing photos can also enjoy its power. It is the toolbox to manage, adjust, and present large volumes of digital photographs efficiently and expeditiously so that you can spend less time behind the computer and more time behind the lens where you belong.

Adobe Photoshop Lightroom handles digital RAW files seamlessly, plus just

about any other image format, thus making it popular with the digital photographer.

There are inherent easy-to-use tools for correcting images globally but one can also access Adobe Photoshop for more advanced editing power. I corrected several photos in Photoshop CS2 and it was very impressively easy and fast to do.

Lightroom is built around five modules: Library, Develop, Slideshow, Print, and Web.

In the Library module, you can view photos in groups or individually. You can select a group and place them in a quick collection or assemble them into lasting collections, and recall them at any time. Lightroom is great at keeping track of the imported shoots (sets of shots) and allowing changes of keywords and metadata at any time.

The Develop module is your virtual dark room with powerful tools to enhance your photos. You can quickly apply changes to a group of photos by the click of the Synchronize button. You can save the settings as a preset to apply them again with just one click. The History panel allows you to view all the changes you've made. You can see current changes and previous changes and

can jump back and forth between the changes at will.

The best part is that any changes made to any formatted photo are non destructive. You can always go back to the original quality of your photo.

Besides the tools for correcting color, exposure, etc., Lightroom has

powerful cropping and straightening tools as well as dust busters that can fix artifacts created when camera sensors gather dust.

The sliders provide ease of use without any significant learning curve. The Slideshow module lets you create stunning slideshows for your clients and friends. You can quickly resize, zoom, rotate, and crop photos to fit your layout and save them to show off in a Slideshow to wow your viewers.

You can also add music, backdrop controls, margins, and shadows. If you're a Mac user, use Apple TV to show off your slideshow on your High Definition TV with surround sound. You can also export it to disc or email it as a PDF to clients and friends.

The Print module offers superior printing capabilities. You can quickly create contact sheets, proofs, or gallery prints. There are a variety of templates to choose from for contact sheets and single photo

printing. You can also adjust and customize them and save them as Presets. The Web module lets you make Web presentations in Flash or HTML. You can view your Flash or HTML Web Gallery inside Lightroom before uploading it to your Web server for all to see. The Identity Plate allows you to brand your own copy of Lightroom. This feature can serve to dazzle clients when using Lightroom to review images. Adobe Photoshop Lightroom's competition is Apple Aperture. I have worked extensively with Aperture since the flawed first version. I am super

impressed with Lightroom for its speed and ease of use. Lightroom also has an enormous advantage over Aperture in its System Requirements; almost any Mac made in the last 23 years will work well with the program. By contrast, Apple Aperture will not even install on anything less than a Mac with 1.5-GHz G4 PPC and most reviewers report that to achieve maximum performance you need an Intel-based Mac or a G5 with high-end graphics cards. Lightroom is also cross-platform (Win/Mac). Aperture is only for the Mac platform. Lightroom is blazingly faster

than Apple Aperture. I was impressed with the ease of use and elegant interface. It was FAST on both test systems! I don't like the Full screen mode; it's not really full screen. I also don't like not having keystrokes to switch between Library and Develop modes. However, these are minor deterrents compared to the wonderful positive experience photographers will enjoy with this amazing application from Adobe. It rates a very enthusiastic 5 out of 5 apples for getting it right in the first edition.

Online Internet Radio Goes Dark in a Day of Protest

by Chuck Joiner

It is quiet on the Internet today. Not as in "peace and quiet," with images of relaxation and content. The quiet is the deafening kind that comes crashing in when you've lost something important and might not get it back. And that's exactly what may happen. Today is the Day of Silence, a protest staged by the a long list of prominent internet radio stations and online music services to give us

all a sample of what life could be like come July 15. That's the day when a set of retroactive royalty rates kicks in and will effectively take much of the online music you enjoy offline...permanently. If that happens, the music you're not hearing today from Pandora, HardRadio, Smooth Jazz and More, Live635.com, MTV Radio, and a whole host of others will become the norm, since they won't be able to afford the initial hit from the royalties that, under the legislation, have stacked up since January 1, nor the royalties going forward. If this matters to you, and it

should, then you need to go to SaveNetRadio.org to learn more, and find out how to contact your Congressional representatives before this can't be stopped. You don't have to sign up for anything or give an email address; just visit the site to learn how to support the countering pieces of legislation, The Internet Radio Equality Act, S. 1353 in the Senate and H.R. 2060 in the House. Your phone call, email, fax or letter can drastically help. Tim Westergren, the founder of Pandora, was the guest on MacVoices #774, talking about the situation, how

it is unfairly penalizes online
broadcasters of music, and how
to most effectively communicate
your
feelings to your legislators.
Listen, learn and act.

Where a calculator on the
ENIAC is equipped with
18,000 vacuum tubes
and weighs 30 tons,
computers in the future
may have only 1,000
vacuum tubes and
perhaps weigh 1.5 tons.

unknown, Popular
Mechanics, March 1949