



KMUG Newsletter
Volume 17

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Number 3

KMUG's "Open House" Event a Great Success

The January 24th "open house" in the community room of the Central Branch of the Kitsap Regional Library was a tremendous success. The initial goal of the event was to conduct a "beginners" training session to help those who could use some hands-on instruction, with someone looking over their shoulders. Between those who were drawn by the information in the "Community Section" of The Sun and those who saw our sign in the foyer of the library, we had a constant flow of people all day. Advertised



as "So you got a Mac for Christmas, now what do you do?" It was an opportunity for the community to meet KMUG members showing off their favorite programs and hardware, ask questions and generally

see what the Mac is about. There were people who were Mac enthusiasts as well as novices with a limited understanding of the ways of the computer. Presentations ranged from the basics of the OS X interface to specific interests such as scanning photographic slides.

*Con't on page 2,
Open House*



**United We
Stand**

KMUG MONTHLY MEETING

Luncheon

Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M.
Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,
Myhre Road, Silverdale
(one block East of Silverdale Way)

Evening

First Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.
Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,
Myhre Road, Silverdale
(one block East of Silverdale Way)

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

Con't from page 1, Open House

Those donating their time and equipment were: Don Diehl (basic OS X and commonly used programs such as word processing); Ross & Dee Tocher (slide scanning, photo enhancement and iPhoto); Bill Gremmert (graphics, photo enhancement and iPhoto); Bruce Patrick (music, technical issues, digital & video photography); Roy & Gwen Kauffroath (they brought KMUG's new iBook and Projector and demonstrated its use on the big screen



Internet connection, lots of tables for equipment and chairs for demonstrators and guests, two screens for the projectors (large wall screen and a portable screen for our older projector was showing iMovies).

Special thanks to Greg Scott for the excellent poster he created to advertise the event and to Gwen Kauffrath for the delicious cookies. ●



of the community room); Lewis Coleman (PowerBook demo) and Joe Williams (internet and PageMaker demos).

The meeting room provided by the Kitsap Regional Library met our needs with wireless LAN for





from the Wall Street Journal

Attack of the iPod Clones

By **WALTER S. MOSSBERG**

Apple Computer's iPod portable music player is one of the best digital products of any kind ever invented. Its design is simply brilliant, and, since its debut two years ago next month, it has become an icon. Nearly 1.5 million iPods have been sold, and the slender white gadget has become the best-selling portable music player on the market, even though it is also the most expensive.

There have been other high-capacity digital music players, both before and since the iPod appeared. Most have been cheaper, but all have been inferior to the iPod, mainly because they were too big, and too clumsy to use. Meanwhile, Apple has kept improving the iPod, making it smaller and more capable.

Now, however, a new generation of would-be iPod killers is hitting the market. And, after two years of studying Apple's work, the makers of these new players are finally giving the iPod a run for its money. These products are nearly as small as the iPod, and have aped its widely admired user interface. Some have more features, and are less expensive. But are they as good as, or better, than the iPod?

To find out, my assistant Katie Boehret and I have been testing the two most prominent of the new iPod challengers: the Dell DJ, from Dell Inc., and the Samsung Napster YP-910GS, built by Samsung.

Like the iPod, which integrates tightly with Apple's excellent iTunes online music download store on Windows and Mac, these two new players were designed to work closely with the other two major

new download services.

The Samsung player works with Napster 2.0, a service that is due to launch Wednesday, and it even carries the Napster logo and name. The Dell DJ pairs up with the Musicmatch download store, a version of which Dell will be rebranding and distributing. You will also be able to use the two new players with some other Windows music programs, eventually.

After testing the players for weeks against the latest iPod with new features Apple added this month, I still give the edge to Apple, but the margin is very slim and the other players, especially the Dell, are credible alternatives. The iPod wins because it is lighter and thinner, comes in higher capacities, has better built-in software, and integrates much better with Apple's download service than the Dell and Samsung do with their companion services.

But I am very impressed with the Dell DJ, which is less expensive than the iPod, yet has roughly double the battery life and a very clean user interface that borrows a lot from the iPod itself. The Samsung/

Con't on page 4, iPod

Mac Lab Meetings

Mac Lab is a Special Interest Group (SIG) associated with the Kitsap Computing Seniors. The Lab offers an opportunity for persons interested in the Macintosh computer to gain some hands-on experience and get answers to questions in an informal setting. The Lab is conducted by members of KMUG.

Mac Lab meets every Tuesday afternoon that school is in session.

The meeting is at Poulsbo Jr High in Room A2 from 2:45pm until 4:30pm. If you have any questions contact Gwen Kauffroath (360)377-1715; gwenk17@comcast.net

Con't from page 3, iPod

Napster unit boasts an array of capabilities the others lack, including an FM radio, but is somewhat clumsier to use and costs the same as a comparable iPod. All three have very good sound and are pocket-sized.

Here's a rundown of the new choices.

Dell DJ: Dell's new music player is a handsome silver and black unit with simple, easily understood buttons and a barrel-shaped scrolling device for navigating long song lists -- Dell's answer to the iPod's famous scroll wheel.

The Dell comes in two models, which vary only by the capacity of their hard disks. A 15-gigabyte model, which can hold over 3,700 songs, costs \$249, or \$50 less than Apple's 10-gigabyte iPod. A 20-gigabyte model, which can hold about 5,000 songs, costs \$329 versus \$399 for Apple's 20-gigabyte iPod, and Dell is offering a \$30 rebate this week that cuts the cost to \$299.

The screen is sharp and has a blue backlight, and the buttons also light up in blue. Sturdy rubber feet and a rubberized material on the edges give the Dell DJ a solid, high-quality feel. The Dell is much bigger than the iPod. It's wider and thicker, and over 50% larger in cubic inches. It weighs a whopping 7.6 ounces, which is about 35% more than the iPod.

Some of that extra bulk is used to house a larger battery than Apple's. The Dell claims up to 16 hours of play time on a charge, which is double the iPod's eight hours. It also can record voice memos, something the iPod requires an add-on to do.

Dell's user interface is very clean and nice, and much of it seems copied from the iPod. Song titles, artist and album names are clear and easy to read, even though a slightly smaller font than the iPod's allows the Dell to display longer titles without scrolling. A Home button, Back button and dedicated power on and off button are all nice touches the iPod lacks.

You can create play lists on the Dell, as on the iPod,

and, also like the iPod, the Dell has equalizer settings and a variety of play modes, such as repeat and shuffle.

To navigate through long lists, the Dell lets you skip to entries by choosing the letter of the alphabet with which they begin. This is a good idea, though the alphabet window that opens up to accomplish this has to be dismissed manually, which is irritating.

But perhaps the Dell's biggest drawback is its inexplicable inability to let you easily play all your tracks in random order. This is one of the real pleasures of the iPod, an approach that turns it into a personal radio station. But, on the Dell, the only way to do this is to tediously copy all your thousands of songs to a special "selected music" list. It's the one truly clumsy aspect to this otherwise very nice player.

Samsung Napster YP-910GS: This silvery player has a cheaper feel than either the Dell or the Apple, and its screen is narrower and dimmer. Physically, it's a bit smaller than the Dell, but still larger in every dimension, and heavier, than the iPod.

The Samsung comes in one model, with a 20-gigabyte capacity, for \$399, the same price as the 20-gigabyte iPod. It offers up to 10 hours of battery life, about 25% more than the iPod's, but much less than the Dell's.

This player's claim to fame is all of the functions it boasts that the others lack. In addition to a voice recorder, it includes an FM radio, and an FM transmitter, which allows you to play songs wirelessly through a car radio. And, the Samsung can record MP3 files from a song being played on its internal radio, or from an outside sound source, like a CD player, that you plug into it.

These extra features look better on paper than in reality, however. The FM transmitter for car radios produced lousy, static-filled sound in my tests -- a common problem with such transmitters in cities. The FM radio was OK, but recordings made from songs played on the radio were a little fuzzy-sounding, and the record function starts slowly, so you miss the start of the song.

Con't on page 5, iPod

Con't from Page 4, iPod

Instead of adding marginal features, Samsung should have concentrated on usability. It put key functions, like play and pause and skip back and forth, onto a hard-to-reach, hard-to-use, combo switch on the side of the player, instead of building in large front buttons for these tasks.

The main song-playing screen is cluttered with useless labels and graphics that leave too little room for essential song data, and for some reason the most important information, the name of the song, is at the bottom rather than the top of the screen. You can't make play lists on the device, like you can on the Apple and Dell. And, unlike the competitors, the Samsung player doesn't automatically synchronize with its companion software, Napster. I also couldn't figure out a way to turn on shuffle and repeat at the same time.

Apple iPod: In addition to being slimmer and lighter, the iPod's software and user interface are more

versatile than the Dell's or Samsung's. You can customize the main menu to your taste, and rate your songs. There are many more canned equalizer settings. And the iPod can play audio books and remember the place where you stopped listening.

Plus, you can view your address book and calendar on your iPod, even play several games. My favorite of these is a new name-that-tune game that plays a brief clip of a song from your collection, and then asks you to pick the right title from a list while a timer counts down.

And, I still prefer the scroll wheel, which automatically accelerates as lists grow longer, to the other scrolling controls.

But, for the first time, Apple has real competition in this market. I expect the Dell, and possibly even the Samsung, to steal sales from the iPod in a way that no previous competitor has been able to do. ●

--With reporting by Katherine Boehret

Technology - MacCentral

Editorial: Happy 20th Anniversary Mac

By David Leishman MacCentral

"Though my wife still respects me, I really misuse her; I am having an affair with a random computer."
-- "2000 Man," by The Rolling Stones

Well, it's not really random, and after twenty years, I think it's safe to say it's true love.

I managed to miss the first wave of personal computing in the 70s and early 80s, but the Macintosh 128 changed all that. And the Plus really galvanized the revolution -- with more than a little help from Microsoft -- by adding enough power and applications to make it a "professional" computer, meaning that I could do work-for-pay on it. And say goodbye to the IBM Selectric and dumb terminal that cluttered my desktop.

Those early Macs made one "think different," whether you looked at the outside, the inside or the

screen. They were portable, although you needed a strong backpack to travel hands-free. The Sony-built floppy drive was cutting edge (and a remnant of that relationship survives in another ground-breaking I/O technology, FireWire). The Motorola 68000 chips introduced personal computing to 32-bit internal registers, 24-bit memory addressing, and a 16-bit data bus, and beat the pants off anything Intel was shipping. Apple and Steve Jobs displayed the marketing sense that has driven the computer industry ever since by building, naming and bundling MacPaint, MacDraw and MacWrite -- in hindsight, iApps 1.0. All with the first consistently "lickable" interface.

Faster and more expandable machines followed, each more "insanely great" and "wicked fast" than its

Con't on page 6, Anniversary

Con't from page 5, Anniversary

predecessor. For a long while, it seemed that the Mac FX was all the computer anyone would ever need. Until those Quadras, many of which still grace school desks across the country. As does HyperCard, which, outside of music production software, is probably my favorite application of all-time -- the first true Swiss Army knife of software development, which introduced programming to "the rest of us," and is the basis for what we now think of as a Web browser.

There were definitely some dark corporate days for Apple (think: Sculley, Spindler, and Amelio), with millions of dollars spent on "the next wrong thing." And we'll never know whether Apple should have licensed the OS, and if it had, how Mac history might look now. But, on the bright

side, Mr. Spindler's Apple successfully managed the Mac's to the PowerPC chip, which enabled it to survive until it could be wed to Steve Jobs' rekindled visions and Dr. Tevanian's brilliant OS.

Which is only fitting, because brilliant people, technologies and events are a central part of Mac life and history. Jef Raskin, Alan Kay and Xerox PARC, the 1984 commercial, the first Mac says "Hello," Bill Atkinson, QuickDraw, QuickTime, Clarus the Dogcow, Bruce Horn, Susan Kare ... there are far too many to remember, let alone list. Fortunately, Owen Linzmayer's new Apple Confidential 2.0 will replace my worn copy of the Mac Bathroom Reader and let me stroll through Apple's back pages. And "Making the Macintosh" is an invaluable Web resource for archived and ancillary materials.

Happy 20th anniversary, Mac. ●

KMUG Minutes ***Evening Meeting*** ***February 05, 2004***

Don Diehl called the meeting to order. We had 19 members present.

Jeff Harmon gave an interesting presentation on color management strategies. Each device that you use to create and print digital images sees color a little bit differently. Since every device defines and renders color in it's own way, colors often vary between camera, computer, printer, scanner etc. Color Sync attempts to serve as a translator between these devices. This means that each of these devices have to be calibrated with a unique Color Sync profile. This profile tells your computer how to make the color corrections.

Color Sync profiles for most Apple color printers, scanners, and monitors come built into Mac OSX. Sometimes when you buy new equipment you get additional profiles.

He recommended that we use these Color Sync

profiles instead of just washing color changes on the source, like some of us have been doing in Photo Shop and similar programs.

He also touched on the Artistic approach to get different effects.

Our recent Open House at the library was discussed. It seems that everyone considered it a success and would like to do it again. A slide show of this event was presented for the people that didn't attend.

We are still discussing the availability of getting on the net from the Silverdale Lanes meeting room. Greg Scott, Bob Benze, Jeff Harmon and Bruce Patrick are going to investigate further and see exactly what we need to do.

As we were running late, we didn't have the questions and answers portion of this meeting. No one seemed to have anything urgent.

The meeting was dismissed at 8:45PM.

Gwen Kauffroath ●

Frank and Ernest



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KMUG Minutes

January 15, 2004

A business meeting was held on January 15, 2004. Board members present were: Don Diehl, Joe Williams, Dick Nerf, John Dunlap, Gwen Kauffroath and Lewis Coleman.

It was voted to ammend the By Laws by changing :

4.8 to read : The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies and shall pay all bills and obligations against KMUG. All disbursements shall be by check, signed by the Treasurer or others as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep records of all KMUG receipts and disbursements, report on the financial status at each Board of Directors and general membership meeting and file all documents required by the State of Washington and the Internal Revenue Service. The Treasurer shall present for an annual audit all records, receipts and other documents as requested by the Board of Directors.

7.1 to read: Amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted , in writing, or by Email, to the Board of Directors and ratified by two-thirds of the members present at the next business meeting.

Ratified by two-thirds of the membership on this

15th day of January 2004.

In the general meeting we had three new members- John Hill, Joyce Carter, and Warren Carter.

Don showed the certificate that was made for Frank Hartung.

It was decided to keep the IN DESIGN program. Joe Williams needs a newer program that will work on OS 10.

Greg Scott and Joe Williams are working on the arrangements for meeting at the Silverdale All Star Lanes for both the day and evening meetings.

An older copy of Acrobat was given to a member. Also a monitor had been donated was given to another member.

Steve Cox - Northwest Cyber Pro was our guest speaker. He gave a very nice presentation of How To Keep Your Mac Healthy. He also advised everyone that they should have a battery back up to protect their equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM.
Gwen Kauffroath ●

***KMUG's home page is now at:
<http://www.homepage.mac.com/kmug1>***

----- **ABOUT MEMBERSHIP** -----

To join Kitsap Macintosh User's Group, send name, address (e-mail and snail mail) and dues (see renewal below for membership fee to:

KMUG

P.O. Box 1271, Silverdale, WA 98383

or come to one of our meetings and sign up!

----- **ABOUT KMUG** -----

Officers/Board of Directors

President	Don Diehl (diehldon@comcast.net)	Web Page Developer	Richard B. Nerf
VP - Apple Representative	Richard B. Nerf	Publicity Chairman	Phil Fleiger
VP - Programs	John Dunlop	Apple Store Representative	Bob Denby
Treasurer	Joan Benze	Discussion Chairman	Lewis Coleman
Secretary	Phyllis Robie & Gwen Kauffroath	Librarian	Gerry Erickson
Evening Meeting Chairperson	Greg Scott	Member-at-Large	Vacant
Newsletter Coordinator ...	Joe Williams (jwilly6173@yahoo.com)	Mac Lab Coordinator	Gwen Kauffroath (gwenk17@comcast.net)

----- **RENEWING MEMBERSHIP** -----

If you received a paper newsletter please check the membership expiration date on the address label.

To renew with the newsletter e-mailed to your computer, dues are \$20.

To renew with a paper newsletter, dues are \$30.

----- **ABOUT MEETINGS** -----

Luncheon

Third Thursday of each month at 10:30 A.M.
Solarium Room, All Star Lanes,
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(one block East of Silverdale Way)

Evening

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This month's newsletter editor was Joe Williams



**KITSAP MACINTOSH USER'S GROUP
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