

# SSMUG NEWSLETTER

**August 2011**

## **Meeting Notice**

All meetings, June through November, will be at the Grande Prairie Library at 3479 W 183<sup>rd</sup> St., Hazel Crest. The December meeting will be held at the Homewood Public Library.

**Walter Palmer, Editor**

## **A New Era For this Newsletter**

Unless there is a general outcry, this newsletter will be published online. If you are reading this you know that. It was costing SSMUG \$100 per issue, or \$400 per year to publish this and that is beyond us. We have no source of income other than dues.

Going digital give several publishing advantages – mostly, I don't have to be worried about length, at least, not very worried. Links will be imbedded in the articles themselves, so if you want to know more you can just go there.

Speaking of which – the websites I get my information from, are, by definition high class sites. Macworld, iLounge, New York Times, Apple, etc. I have to get material from somewhere and not having an independent source of news, I am, by necessity, a third hand source of information. If someone could get Steve Jobs to talk to me, please don't be shy, get me an introduction! In short, I prowl the internet looking for things that might interest the group,

summarize them (OK, what I put out is more of a précis or redaction, than a summary, but still.)

So, if you have a computer, (and what are you doing in the club if you don't?) and you have the internet, you are all set.

The URL is [www.ssmug.org](http://www.ssmug.org), which you know or you would not be reading this.

Sources:

My major sources are:

[www.apple.com](http://www.apple.com)

[www.macworld.com](http://www.macworld.com)

[www.macfixit.com](http://www.macfixit.com)

[www.appadvice.com](http://www.appadvice.com)

[www.ilounge.com](http://www.ilounge.com)

[www.worldofapple.com](http://www.worldofapple.com)

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) (look for the tech columns, including Pogue's Posts)

[www.wired.com](http://www.wired.com)

**ONWARD!**

## **Financials**

Apple had a gross of 28.57 billion with 7.3 billion profit. All products sold more units that they did the quarter before.

## **June 6 Product Previews**

The big news, so far, is the report of the World Wide Developer's Conference back in June. OS X 7/Lion was supposed to be available about July 15, but was not made available until July 21.

Also at WWDC were announcements of iOS 5 and iCloud. All of these are meant to work together and as much alike as possible, so it is hard to discuss one without the other.

iCloud is what ties it all together. Internet access will be required (!). You store up to 5 Gigabytes on Apple's computer free of charge. This syncs your iCal, Address Book, email, and whatever else you choose. Of course, this eats into the 5GB free allotment, but Apple will be happy to rent you more space. Please note that the programs that work best with Apple's iCloud are Apple's programs. It should be mentioned that iOS to Mac backups will continue to be through syncing, but will also be through iCloud.

You get a free email account with all that. That's going to be just great for we long time MobileMe subscribers who have been collecting email addresses. For example, I now have [walr@mac.com](mailto:walr@mac.com) and [walr@me.com](mailto:walr@me.com). I suppose [waler@icloud.com](mailto:waler@icloud.com) will be next. So far, none of these have gone away.

Lion is going to look more like iOS than previous versions of Mac OS. LaunchPad will give a **very** iOS look to the Mac. It supports (more) gestures, so those you with trackpads or similar devices will be able to use them. For the rest of us, we get to buy more hardware.

Lion will automatically back up documents (to the cloud) that are being worked on. Think of this as an advanced Time Machine. This means that programs can be smaller, because the OS will handle timed backups.

Spaces will be improved and extended with LaunchPad.

I still say that it looks like Apple will eventually wind up with touch screen Macs. Put them down like graphics workstations and it will be easy on the bifocals.

iCal and Mail will get new interfaces. Mail gets more search and sorting capability. The Medium IS the Message and so is the interface.

In order that Comcast and AT&T don't ban Macs, program updating, done through the App Store, will be what they call "Delta" updates only. This means that upgrades will be changes only. You download the program and from then on, all that you download are the changes.

I prefer the "Combo" upgrades. These install all changes made after the initial introduction of the software. They are better because they correct the inevitable nicks and cuts that get introduced to software when it is used. Without taking most of the group through a course in operating systems and even theology (What Does This Mean? Humans and what they make are not perfect and never will be.) there is not enough space here to fully explain.

Lion was introduced on July 21. Initial reviews are mixed. It's a big change from OS X 10.6 and it's going to take getting used to before one knows it one likes it or not. Macworld feels that it is a transition to an even more iOS-like OS, others say it feels like some of the new features are not quite finished and will have to wait for 10.7.1 to really tell what they are like. MacWorld has a nice hour-long podcast on the subject (iTunes/Podcast/Macworld – look for the podcast of July 21, 2011.) Try [www.macworld.com/lion](http://www.macworld.com/lion) for more.

Your editor is going to wait for a while and see if there are bug fixes and maybe until 10.7.1.

### **Adventures with Lion**

I have taken a spare partition of 34 GB and installed Lion on it as a fresh install. My discoveries and problems follow:

Safari: The first time I opened the home page was my router's configure page. After I got my nerve up, I just surfed away from that and all was good.

Disappearing hard drives: My connected hard drives do not show up in the finder. However, if I open a window (any window), they are there in the sidebar and can be accessed normally from there. Is this a bug or a feature? Dunno.

However, a lack of drivers for attached hard drives is a problem that many have encountered before. This is my first time. There is a fix but it involves some heavy lifting and messing with files I don't want to mess with.

PS I should mention that I installed Lion on July 24, just after a huge thunderstorm. Our power was off for five hours – I was not calm when I started experimenting with Lion. Still, these are non-obvious issues. As always, your mileage may vary.

According to MacFixIt (now part of cnet), Lion has a few fairly serious bugs mostly, it seems, display issues. I joked about this at a board meeting, but in some circumstances, the screen **does** go black.

### **iPhone 5 and iOS 5**

The iPhone 5 will be introduced about the same time as iOS 5, so there. This has been overshadowed by iCloud. The goal of iOS 5 is to

make it computer independent. iCloud will track iTunes purchases and backups will be done that way. Some of this has already started. When I download an application to iTunes on my Mac, it's on my iPad the next time I use it. This does not seem to work with the iPod Touch.

Thunderbolt (Thunderbolt HO! – sorry, I just **had** to say it.) may be another FireWire. FireWire was an Apple-only technology that never quite caught on. Commentators are worried that Thunderbolt will be more of the same. In this case, it takes a cable that costs \$80.00. The reason for this is that there is a small computer in the cable plug that makes it special. Hewlett Packard has announced they will **not** be supporting Thunderbolt.

IF your editor buys one it will be to connect a big honkin' hard drive. Of course, third parties should drive the cost down, so we'll see.

Comment: Apple's going to have to come up with some peripheral that makes Thunderbolt overwhelmingly attractive before it gets adopted. They seem to be requiring the use of Thunderbolt with new peripherals that they manufacture.

There is increasing speculation about the iPhone 5. The computer media would like to see a new "form factor", but Apple is not talking. This is a circular situation - if there is something spectacularly new from Apple the media gets to gush or grip about it. If it gets attention, then more are sold. Thinner, lighter, with a better camera seem to sum it up. Cameras seem to be like clocks were fifteen years ago – **everything** had a clock on it. Sometimes it actually made sense. Back to the camera – it is something of a shock to an old guy like me to think that my telephone will shoot movies. I do not have an iPhone and don't even have a smart

phone – what Mrs Editor and I have are “feature phones”. It’s telephone, feature phone, and smart phone.

Possible iPhone 5 photos:

These are highly unofficial, but they show pretty much the same thing: rounded corners and a larger screen.



### Blackberry

It looks like the device that started the texting craze will soon be no more – Blackberry looks to be heading for digital heaven – RIM

(Research in Motion) is looking shaky. It is looking like the smart phone battle will be between the iPhone and Android.

There was one report that HTC was not looking so good.

iPhone sales are looking a bit better, or may they are just being spun better.

Conflict resolved: Apple is the leading cell phone manufacturer, while Android is the leading OS. That’s because Android is on more than on manufacturer’ cell phones.

New iPhone rumor: “iPhone 4S” will be the rumored less expensive iPhone. They achieve this by using clear plastic place of glass. Bet it’s lighter, too. I’m surprised they aren’t having “iPhone” and “iPhone Pro”. I use “Defender” style cases anyway, so it’s no problem here.

### New Hardware

New MacBook Air with Thunderbolt, and a new Mac Mini without a “CD” drive (Steve never has been big on storage, and it pushes people to iTunes and the Mac App Store.) at least it has Thunderbolt.

[Mrs Editor and I have a concrete example of why I have doubts about Apple’s new strategy. We spent \$6,000 on a trip to Europe. Trusting iCloud with what amounts to \$6,000 worth of photos is more than I can do. I have no assurance that what Apple thinks is good for them in a corporate sense is going to preserve that investment. I like Apple but I won’t trust them with my serious data until they have a track record that compares with J. P. Morgan Chase Manhattan Bank, for example. We librarians are by nature cautious. The library profession won’t certify some storage media as permanent

because they won't last more than 1,000 years. Sometimes I think that Steve Jobs' timeframe is 1,000 minutes.

Clay tablets really are permanent! Sadly, they have other limitations.]

MacWorld reports that their tests show that the new Mac Mini is much faster than the old.

The (Plain 'ol) MacBook is gone. The MacBook Pro and the MacBook Air, which is a very different beast, are still around, but that's all.

There is a new display called Thunderbolt Display. It's basically the same display that has been around for a while, with a Thunderbolt port.

### **Fake Apple Stores** (from Todd Smith)



*This article originally appeared in the [China Real Time Report](#) blog.*

Apple may have opened only four stores in two cities in China so far, but unbeknownst to the company, they are already expanding elsewhere in country.

A [blogger in Kunming](#) posted photos on Wednesday of a local store which, from a distance, looked just like one of the consumer electronics giants' iconic full-service retail stores. It featured a glass exterior, pale wood display

tables, a winding staircase and giant posters displaying the iPad 2 and other Apple products, plus a neatly organized accessories wall.

"This was a total Apple store ripoff—a brilliant one," the blogger, BirdAbroad, wrote. She called it "the best ripoff store we had ever seen." Photos show employees in blue shirts and Apple-emblazoned name tags similar to those worn by Apple Store employees in Beijing and Shanghai.

It's unclear whether the store was opened by an authorized Apple reseller, of which the company has more than 10 in Kunming, or another retailer selling Apple products. But its address was not listed among official resellers on the company's website and Apple currently only has Apple Stores in prime locations in Beijing and Shanghai in China. It wouldn't be the first time the company has inspired fakes in China, however, where knock-off iPhones and iPads are on display throughout sprawling electronics markets.

Apple, which is in the midst of a plan to expand its presence in China including negotiations with the nation's largest mobile operator China Mobile, is set to open two more stores, one each in Shanghai and Hong Kong, in the coming months. It has not announced plans to make Southwestern Kunming its next stop. Growing demand for its products over the past two years have drawn a flood of customers to its existing stores, prompting executives to hunt for bigger spaces to build their next locations.

A spokeswoman for Apple in

China declined to comment on the store sightings.

*To read the full article, visit WSJ's China Real Time Report blog.*

**Editor's note:**

Since this article was published, the Chinese government has moved to close these people down. However, "these people" are dragging their feet.

**Google+**

FaceBook is getting a new competitor in Google+. Mrs Editor and I have started using FaceBook because it's a way we can keep up with family. When one or two start, the rest learn and start themselves. I have noticed a problem though – when you post you either post to the whole world or to friends.

Frequently, I have things to say that make sense to some of my friends but not all. This has come to the attention of Google and they are starting Google+, sometime. Google+ has several features, but the one that interests YOUR EDITOR is that you can have groups and circles. For example, my family does not care about Apple discussions, although SSMUG might very well. Google+ will provide a way for people to sort so that people are not burdened by comments for which they lack the context. Among other things.

Currently, Google+ is in the 'invitation' stage that they use for the final beta testing. When Google introduced Gmail they primed the pump and then others could subscribe only after having been invited by someone who was already a Gmail subscriber until they opened the floodgates completely.

**News from UC (University of Cincinnati)**

The backstage operation of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music will soon be provided with large screen iMacs to replace their current computers. Interestingly, they will run Windows only. The software is supposed to be cheaper. Further questions should be referred to the UC I(nformation) T(echnology) support.

**Comcast Bans Seattle Man**

He used more than his 250 GB for two months within a six month period. Comcast could add more infrastructure to handle the traffic, but that would reduce their profit. Comcast is not a monopoly – he can switch to AT&T, which by the way, has the same limit. There's dial-up, which is very slow, and satellite, which is not bi-directional – you have to have DSL for either up loading or downloading. If anybody knows of an area that has more than two broadband providers, please let your editor know.

The real problem is that the ISP do not want to be considered utilities and regulated accordingly. It is my opinion that this is a losing battle.

**Loose That Power Cord**

(Infinite Loop)

Apple may bring wireless charging to the iPhone in a future iteration. The company will likely implement more exotic **near field magnetic resonance charging** being championed by wireless power startup WiTricity.

Induction charging works by inducing a current in a coil of wire from one device to another. A charger device (Palm's Touchstone charger, for instance, or a mobile device "charging mat") contains a large coil of wire inside. When a current passes through the coil, it

creates a small magnetic field around the coil. When a second coil—embedded in a mobile device like a smartphone—is brought into close proximity of the first coil's magnetic field, it induces a current to pass through the second coil.

### **Firing Intuit** **By Stewart Kurtz**

For me, personal finance software has long meant Intuit. I have Quicken data files that go back to 1990, and MacInTax (now TurboTax) files that go back to 1991.

Two weeks ago, I fired them. I fired them for incompetence, I fired them for arrogance, and I fired them insubordination. Long-time Mac users won't be surprised at this list of charges. We've seen QuickBooks for the Mac come and go, we've seen the capabilities of Quicken for the Mac fall behind Quicken for Windows, we've been forced to make unwanted upgrades because Intuit decided to turn off the on-line access capabilities of perfectly functional, but older versions. We saw Quicken 2007 come out as a PowerPC-only binary 18 months after Apple announced its transition to the Intel architecture, and a succession of unfulfilled promises to bring it up to date. It is now five years since Apple made the Intel transition, and we still do not have a reasonably feature complete version of Quicken that runs natively on our Intel processors.

The question wasn't whether or not I should fire Intuit, because that had an obvious answer. The question was whether or not I could.

And this note is really an intervention. I could, and did. And you can too. In fact, you must.

Apple will no longer be supporting Rosetta, the technology that makes it possible for Intel-architecture Macs to run PowerPC binaries, in MacOS X 10.7, a.k.a., Lion. Intuit's recommendations: go with Quicken Essentials (a limited program that doesn't properly handle investments), or run Quicken for Windows. These are not so much recommendations as insults, and I don't believe in paying for insults.

So, I also had to look for a replacement. There are a number of competing programs for Quicken out there, but they come from companies that I don't know. After reading a number of on-line reviews, the decision for me came down to iBank vs. MoneyWell, both available through the App Store. Both had the features I needed, both had decent reviews.

In the end, I made my decision on a fairly simple basis. MoneyWell seems to be tuned towards people who use the "envelope method" of budgeting. I don't, so I opted for iBank (which supports the envelope method, but isn't built around it).

Exporting the Quicken data and re-importing it into iBank worked reasonably well. I ended up spending a few hours "preening" the result of the import, but mostly this was because I used the opportunity to fix some long-standing defects in my financial records.

Two weeks in, and iBank is feeling robust and responsive. It definitely has a MacOS X look and feel, whereas Quicken had a MacOS Classic look and feel. I am not feeling as if I've lost a thing, except, perhaps, some of the baggage that comes from disappointed expectations, and the sense of being a second-class customer.

## **Casual Reporting**

A casual reporter is someone who has a cell phone that takes pictures (!) and has registered with a formal news organ. If they see news, they take a picture (remember, a video is a picture) and send it in. There is payment, presumably, if the news item is used.

It seems that CNN has 750,000 alone. If anybody wants to be a casual reporter for this newsletter, let 'er rip. Just send your news to [editor@newsletter.smug](mailto:editor@newsletter.smug). The only payment is a byline, which the pros sometimes take years to get. Of course, this is a substitute for money.

## **Apple Stores**

**After loosing their VP in charge of the Apple Stores to JC Penny, Apple is refurbishing their stores, including the famous one in New York City.**

## **Christmas Present?**

Griffin Technology is releasing a \$50.00 iOS infrared controlled micro helicopter. It does not seem as powerful as other iOS RC helicopters, but it is \$50.00. Well, a smidge more because you'll have to attach an IR device to the iOS device. Also, performance is limited, but still ...

The full article is at [AppAdvice](#).