

The Window

MACNJ

MACNJ

Serving the Central New Jersey Macintosh Community since 1986

July 2013

Meeting Notes June 1, 2013

by Doris Kiziah

There were four members present for this meeting: David Davis, Bill Barr, Chod Lang, and Doris Kiziah. This prompted a discussion, both at the beginning of the meeting and again later, about declining membership and attendance. It's not clear what members are looking for from the club. David's e-mails asking for suggestions for topics for programs don't prompt any response. Bill reminded us of a comment Lee Roth made at a prior meeting. Lee suggested that we might need to use a broader focus and plan programs that are more generally tech oriented rather than playing up the Mac/Apple platform, then promote these meetings to the general public.

Bill asked if any of us use iTunes, which prompted the mention of some internet music services: Pandora, Rdio, and Spotify. (Apple will soon be entering this subscription market...stay tuned for that one.) Bill mentioned that he uses Shazam to identify music he hears playing in public places, which he then sometimes buys. He also told us about a suggestion he made to someone who asked for advice about creating a web site to display photos. Zenfolio is a subscription service that provides photo hosting for professionals and others and helps users create photo galleries and manage sales of their items.

Chod shared info about Autodesk 123D Catch, a service he used recently to replace a broken part on a vintage lamp for a customer. An app guided Chod through the process of taking a series of photos,

which he then sent to the company so they could reproduce the object. We talked about 3D printers and watched a couple of videos of them in operation and one other that showed a number of things that can be produced with these printers. One brand mentioned is CubeX. Click on this link for the YouTube video, "A Closer Look at 3D Printed Shapeways Objects":

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DActj_h3SI

Chod told us about a site, ValueMyStuff, that provides appraisal services for arts and antiques. You send them a photo, and your item is evaluated by one of their experts, who are people who have worked for major auction houses like Christie's or Sotheby's. Elevatr is a mobile app designed to help develop new business plans. EventBrite is a site where you can find info about upcoming events and purchase tickets (or promote your own event). Chod has also been photographing old family photos (rather than removing them from albums to scan them) to create a digital album and found an app that simulates turning pages on his iPad when moving between photos.

David mentioned that iStudio, the app he used for the May newsletter, has no live links. He has since found out that he can use Preview to add links. We ended the meeting with a quick look at the web site of the MacGroup in Detroit, which has 400 members (!), and watched a few minutes of a video of their April meeting program, "How to Upgrade Your Mac."

We hope that you are enjoying your summer...As has been our schedule of late, MACNJ will not meet again until September 14.

Software Review: Mailplane

by Dave Greenbaum



I'm a huge Mailplane fan and was using the beta for quite a while and fell in love. Mailplane simply put is a dedicated Gmail browser. Why do you need one? Many reasons.

The most obvious one is the fact it allows you to log into multiple Gmail accounts at once on different pages. Sure you can do this with two different browsers or use some of Gmail's built in capabilities, but this does it all for you automatically in a dedicated fashion. Open it up and you have distinct pages for each Gmail account as well as optionally ones for the calendars. The menu bar icon indicates how many emails are in each account and color codes the different accounts.

In daily usage, I absolutely rely on Gmail and using it in Safari has caused me problems. Safari slows down, plugins such as Flash crash, and I often have to restart Safari. Even when Safari is acting flaky Mailplane allows me to keep on working while Safari is being annoying. Yes, I could use an alternate browser and have less problems than Safari has, but I love that my dedicated email system has a dedicated program for it.

Mailplane just doesn't deliver up multiple Gmail accounts but allows you to customize the toolbar to dedicate key functions to it such as easily adding attachments, screenshots and clippings to evernote. Opening your Gmail in the browser misses this functionality and each

browser handles such situations differently. This is a unified experience independent how your Gmail or browser is setup. Operations such as marking items as trash, starred or spam work regardless of what Gmail view you are in because they are in the Mailplane toolbar.

To increase reliability of Gmail, Mailplane allows you to block ads as well as Gmail chat so that way your Gmail is quick and efficient while operating. Ultimately it uses the same engine as Safari, so it does tend to lock up about as much as Safari, but since it's focused exclusively on Gmail this happens much less frequently and the program loads your email quickly after restarting it.

Serious Gmail users need to get this program and those of us that use multiple Gmail accounts absolutely need to get this quality program. I simply can't imagine using Gmail without and when I'm forced to use something else Gmail simply loses something for me.

Pros: Perfect program for Gmail users

Cons: Can be as unreliable as Safari

Five out of Five dogcows.

Originally published and written for the Lawrence Apple Users' Group 2.0 [http:// www.laugks.org/news](http://www.laugks.org/news) and published by Dave Greenbaum at <http://www.clickheretech.com>

Hardware Review: Tank Case for iPhone 4s/4

by Dave Greenbaum

When I think of a tank, I think of something that is extremely impractical for everyday use and in that sense the Casemate Tank indeed fits the bill: big, bulky and impractical. While it appears to protect your iPhone well, it's simply isn't competitive with other similar products.

This case is unique - typically extreme cases have a hard plastic interior and a softer silicone exterior to absorb impact and protect the headphone jack, dock, and volume switches. The Tank has a hard shell with integrated internal softer silicone protectors for the headphone jack and dock which are where moisture sensors are located. Because it's integrated, you can't change the color when you want to try something different. The volume switches are protected but the speakers, microphone, rotation lock and camera remain naked and exposed to the world. This was a poor compromise in my opinion. Why only protect some parts if you are already adding bulk in the exterior?

Another feature of extreme cases is an integrated screen protector. No worrying about applying plastic to the screen with bubbles and lint trapped underneath. The drawback of the plastic overlays is they do impact the vibrancy of the screen as well as the general sensitivity. The case uses an accordion plastic overlay that can easily be pulled back to provide extra protection when not in use and full access when retracted.



On first glance this seemed like a great feature. This accordion plastic was thick and easily withstood direct impacts. A plastic overlay simply can't protect like that.

Unfortunately this for me was its greatest downfall. That thick plastic wasn't fully transparent so anytime I had to read anything, I'd have to go through the process of retracting the plastic - even to answer the phone and see who was calling. I found myself too often

keeping the plastic retracted and thus leaving my screen fully exposed.

One great feature of the Tank is an extremely well engineered belt clip. The iPhone fit tightly into a full cradle style clip. There was no risk of this slipping out like I find too often with other cases that are only gripped on the sides or the ends. The actual clip portion of the belt clip was several inches long and attached securely to my side. As a big guy, this was the first and only belt clip I was confident wouldn't slip off when I got down or sat up. Since the screen faces outward in most belt clips, that screen protector is a great feature while it hangs on your side.

My problem with the Tank is that I'm the type of person constantly using the phone to play games, answer emails, check social media and even making phone calls. I can't imagine going five or ten minutes and not using my phone for something and thus got extremely frustrated having to constantly move the screen protector out of the way. If you are that type

(continues)

Tank Case Review

of user, you'll find the Tank about as practical as going grocery shopping in an M1.

However, if you keep your iPhone in your purse or book bag, that thick plastic will keep it well protected as it bounces around and bangs against keys, books and miscellaneous change. The belt clip was outstanding if you keep your phone more to your side than in your hand. You—with the self discipline not to be checking your phone all the time—I envy you.

If you check your phone constantly, the Tank is an exercise in frustration. However if screen protection is your ultimate goal and you don't check your phone that often, the Tank may be your secret weapon to

avoiding screen replacement. The best offense is a good defense as they say.

Pros: Great belt clip, outstanding screen protection
Cons: Not all ports protected, regular users will fine the screen

protection too cumbersome

2 out of 5 Dogcows

Originally published and written for the Lawrence Apple Users Group 2.0 [http:// www.laugks.org/news](http://www.laugks.org/news) and published by Dave Greenbaum at <http://www.clickheretech.com>

USE THE MACNJ FORUM!

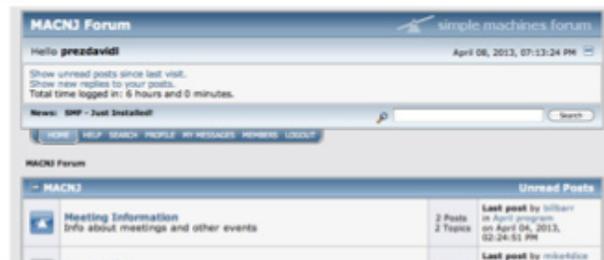
Our forum, using new software to keep out spambots, is only as good as we make it. All members are encouraged to use the forum. It can be of great help in answering questions, providing news, etc., between meetings.

To Register:

There are two links to the forum on the MACNJ home page; or go to macnj.org/forum/ and you are there.

Click on "register" (top right). You'll have to agree to conditions.

Enter a user name which can be used to identify you as member of MACNJ—not strange encrypted names such as xyz123— or you won't be approved. Check the member list to see what names have been accepted.



Enter a valid email address.

Enter and confirm your password. Then remember it! **You can also stay logged-in**, if desired. Look under Profile Information and **enter your location** (City, State). This is mandatory. Enter any other profile information which you choose to use. Click "submit" button, bottom of page. You will be notified by email that you are registered as a MACNJ Forum member. Most questions about the forum are answered in the FAQ Section.

Can you replace Photoshop with Pixelmator?

by Michael E. Cohen



On 8 May 2013, the stunning announcement was made at the Adobe MAX conference that future versions of the sun-dried brick company's Creative Suite products, including Photoshop, would be available only on a subscription basis. Many Photoshop users — particularly hobbyists and those who don't live and die by the program — were outraged at the announcement and its implications. In particular, many worried about the prospect of being locked out of all of their accumulated Photoshop documents if their previously purchased version of Photoshop should stop working (because, say, of an update to the operating system) unless they gave in and subscribed.

As someone whose own purchased copy of Photoshop, an ancient CS1 release, had already met such a fate at the hands of Mac OS X 10.7 Lion, I understand their fear. In my own case, though, Photoshop CS1's inability to run on my current Mac did not mean that I had to abandon my old Photoshop files. Thanks to Pixelmator [<http://www.pixelmator.com/>], from the Pixelmator Team, I can open and edit all of my old Photoshop files just fine (or, at least, those that I've tried — some old sins are not worth remembering).

I'm not the only one who has turned away from Photoshop to embrace Pixelmator. It seems that the most recent update, version 2.2, achieved 500,000 downloads in its first week of availability in the Mac App Store.

Which raises the question posed by this article's title: Can you replace Photoshop with Pixelmator? Or, to give it the correct emphasis, can you replace Photoshop with Pixelmator?

The answer to that, I'm afraid, may disappoint those who want cut-and-dried answers to complex questions: it depends on how you use Photoshop, and what you use it for. In my case, and in the cases of other members of the TidBITS staff whom I asked, the answer seems to be "Yes."

As writers, of course, we scribblers at TidBITS tend not to have intense or complicated image editing needs: the most common needs recounted to me by my colleagues were for cropping and sizing images, composing screenshots, putting borders and text on images, and making minor adjustments to the colors and levels of images. Add to that my own peculiar need to manipulate the truly terrible cartoons I occasionally draw, and you end up with a list of use cases that make the feature set of Pixelmator, let alone Photoshop, seem like overkill on the level of a thermonuclear fly-swatter.

Pixelmator has a set of image editing and manipulation tools far in excess of our needs, with some of them similar in both operation and presentation to their Photoshop counterparts. For example, it has a Tools palette similar in many ways to the Tools panel found in Photoshop, with tools arranged in a similar order and sporting icons that won't look unfamiliar to a Photoshop user.

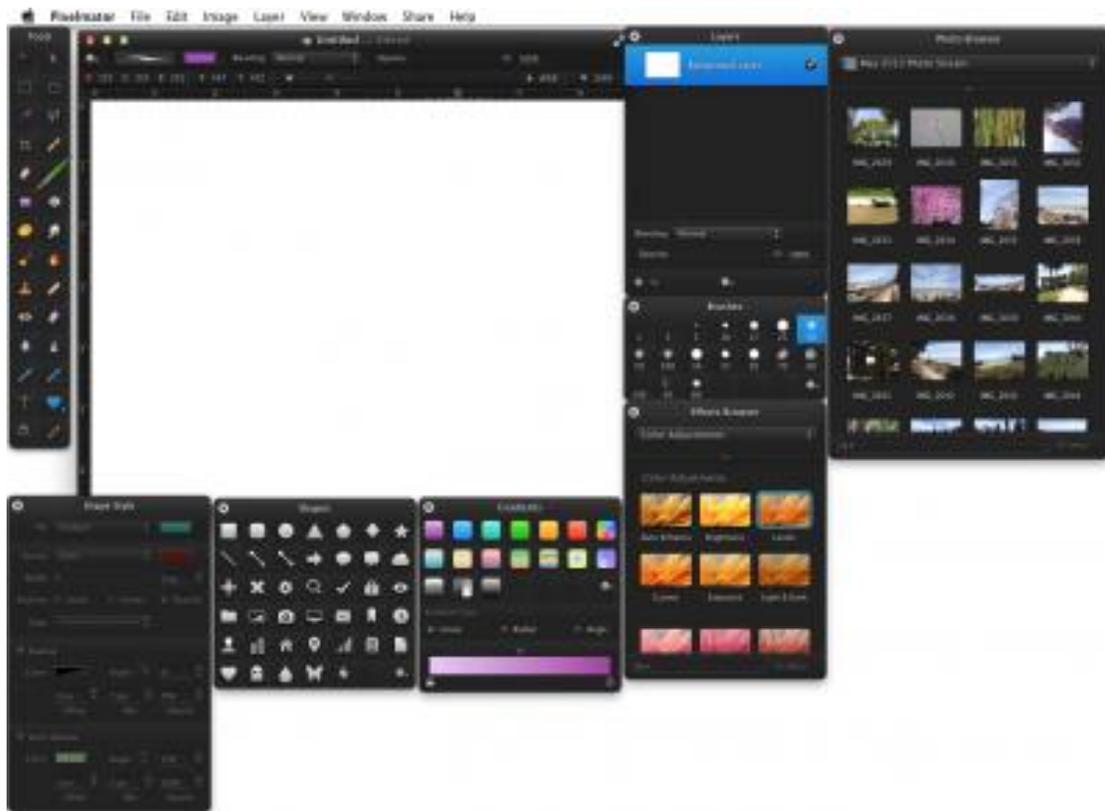
(continues)



Pixelmator also has a rich array of vector shapes you can use and stylize for those times when bitmap graphics don't fill the bill. It has a bunch of gradient fills and controls to customize and adjust them. It provides all sorts of effects — color adjustments, blurs, distortion, sharpening, tiling, styling, and more — presented in a browser that enables you to preview them. It has lots of brushes, from simple to complex, and offers the capability to modify and add to them. It has layers, of course, and commands to link them,

group them, merge them, adjust their blending with other layers, hide them, and use them as masks. It offers a Photo Browser so you can quickly peruse and choose from images in iPhoto, Aperture, Photo Booth (yes, Photo Booth!), plus any other images in your Pictures folder hierarchy. Put all of Pixelmator's various palettes onscreen and you'd be hard-pressed to find the image you're working on amid their vast richness of offerings.

(continues)



Even Pixelmator's menus bear a passing resemblance to Photoshop's, with commands like Transform, Stroke, and Fill on the Edit menu, and a Layers menu with some familiar layer manipulation commands. You'll also find an Image menu with the basic image and canvas size commands and color adjustment commands. These are not one-to-one copies of Photoshop's offerings, of course — that application has many more commands and options — but if you have come to Pixelmator from Photoshop you will, at least, have a reasonable chance of finding the command you want if Pixelmator offers it.

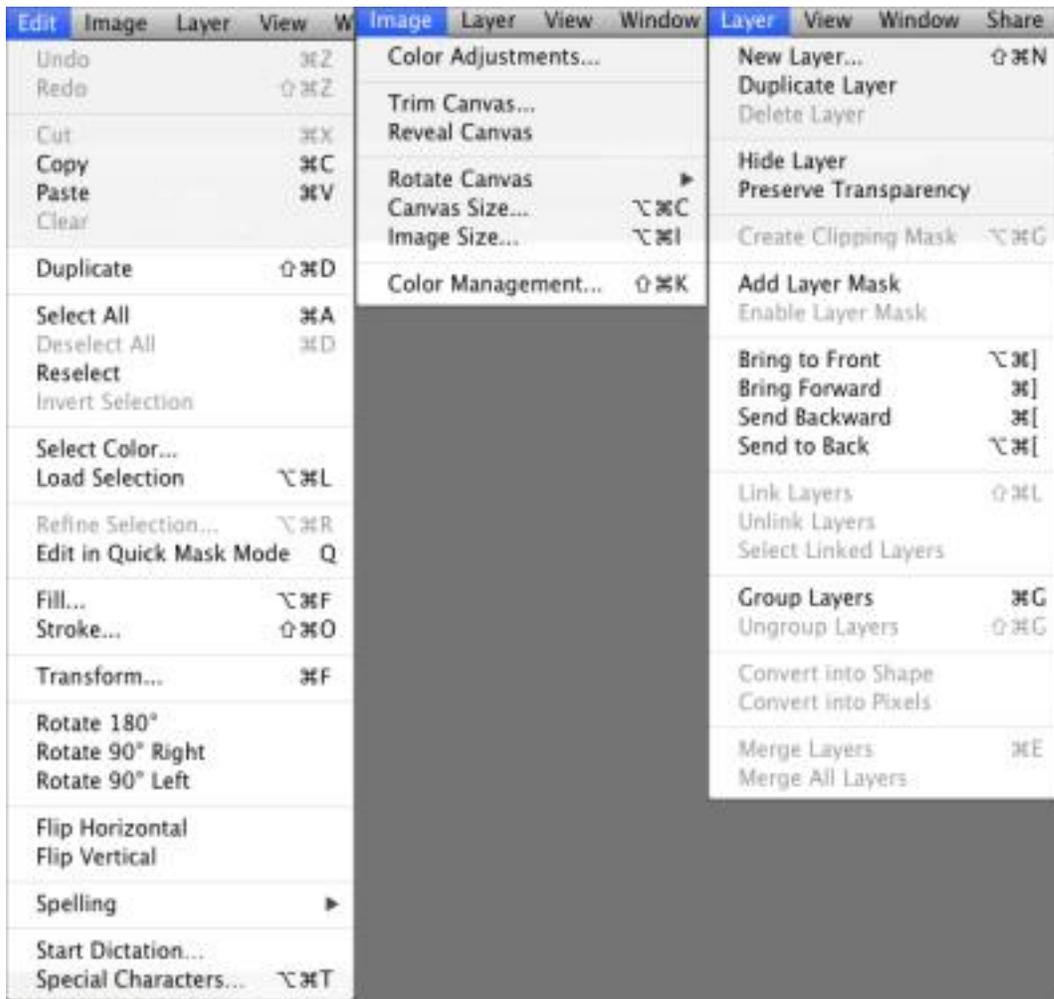
But among some of the things that Photoshop offers that you won't find in Pixelmator are the following: layer styles, adjustment layers, saved masks, editing in the CMYK color space, non-destructive editing, and channel chops. There are many other lacunae in

Pixelmator's capabilities as compared to Photoshop's, as well, and if you regularly need any of those capabilities, Pixelmator is obviously not the right Photoshop replacement for you.

Here's the possibly inconvenient truth: if you are a graphics or pre-press professional, Photoshop remains the best tool for your job, and whether you like the new Creative Cloud subscription-only model or not, you will eventually need to subscribe.

But if you're not sure, investigating Pixelmator is hardly a wallet-buster. As I write, Pixelmator is available in the [Mac App Store](#) at a special half-price "introductory" cost of \$14.99. Putting it in perspective, that's half the \$29.99 cost of a single month's subscription to just Photoshop in Creative Cloud.

(continues)



When you compare the two programs, it's clear that Pixelmator is not the best choice for fully employed illustrators and graphic designers who must interact with others in the Photoshop-driven community of creative professionals. Instead, it is well positioned to meet the needs of users who Adobe's new strategy has largely abandoned: hobbyists, people doing occasional photo touch-ups, and students and starving artists who can't afford the overall cost of the Creative Cloud and who don't need all of Photoshop's professional (and sometimes arcane) features. If you're trying to get your head out of the

cloud, the combination of Pixelmator's low cost and rich feature set may be just what you need to brighten your day.

Unless otherwise noted, this article is copyright © 2013 TidBITS Publishing, Inc.. TidBITS is copyright © 2008 TidBITS Publishing Inc. Reuse governed by this Creative Commons License: <http://tidbits.com/terms/>.

Canvas Returning to the Mac in 2014

by Josh Centers



On its mailing list, ACD Systems [<http://www.acdsee.com/>] has announced that it is reviving Canvas, its technical drawing, pagination, and illustration app, for the Mac. ACD stopped making Canvas for the Mac in 2007. A beta of the resurrected program will be available in “spring 2014.”

“We have a lot to be excited about here. We know there are a lot of loyal Canvas Mac users out there, and we’re looking forward to being part of their workflow again,” said Dallas Vandekerkhove, Director of International Business Development at ACD Systems.

Canvas originated on the Macintosh in 1987, as part of the desktop publishing boom. It wasn’t until version 3.5 in 1992 that it was ported to Windows, and the final version for the Mac was Canvas X in 2005.

Canvas is the latest professional application to return to the Mac after a long absence. Autodesk, Inc. brought AutoCAD back to the Mac in 2011 after a seventeen-year absence.

This news should be welcome for graphics professionals unhappy with Adobe’s move to a subscription-only licensing model.

TidBITS is copyright © 2008 TidBITS Publishing Inc. Reuse governed by this Creative Commons License: <http://tidbits.com/terms/>.

The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



© 2013 Geek Culture

joyoftech.com

Reprinted with permission from JoyofTech.com

MACNJ Meeting Information

Check the latest meeting information on the MACNJ website at www.macnj.org



MACNJ's general monthly meetings are usually held on the second Saturday of each month at Voorhees High School, in High Bridge, New Jersey, from 9 AM to noon. Visitors are welcome.

From the Morristown area

Go west on State Route 24 to County Route 513. Go southwest on 513 for 4.9 miles through Califon. Continue on 513.

Voorhees High School will be on the left at 256 Route 513, across from Voorhees State Park.

From the Somerville area

Go north on US Route 202 until it intersects with interstate 287. Take I-287 northwest for 4.2 miles to I-78 west. Follow I-78 west for 13 miles to Route 31 north (this is the Clinton/Washington exit.) Follow Route 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light where there will be a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513. Follow 513 north for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further north at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

From points west

Go east on I-78 to exit 15 (Clinton/Washington exit for Route 31 north) Follow 31 north 2.1 miles to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 North. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

From the Flemington area

Take Route 31 north past Clinton to a traffic light with a sign for High Bridge. Turn right onto County Route 513 north. Follow 513 for two miles into the town of High Bridge. Voorhees High School is two miles further at 256 Route 513, on the right, across from Voorhees State Park.

Parking and Entrances

Parking is plentiful and free. Park in the main parking lot of the school, enter the main entrance by the flag pole, and follow the signs for the MACNJ meeting room in the choir room on the first floor.



Photo by Bill Barr



The MACNJ newsletter, The Window, is an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by Apple. The opinions, statements, positions, and views stated herein are those of the author(s) or publisher and are not intended to represent opinions, statements, or views of Apple. Non-commercial reproduction of material from this newsletter by another user group is permitted, provided credit is given to MACNJ and the author, and a copy of material reproduced sent to MACNJ editor.

MACNJ Member Directory



Officers and Committee Chairs

David L. Davis, President.....(908) 782-0788
Robert H. Peabody, Emeritus This & That... (908) 995-9110
Bill Barr, Program Chair.....(908) 730-8418
Michael W. Fordice, PhD, Webmaster.....(973) 361-3715
Bob Fasanello, Co-Newsletter Editor.....(908) 537-2803
David L. Davis, Acting Co-Newsletter Editor
David L. Davis, Acting Treasurer
Hugh Murphy, Jr., Secretary.....(609) 660-1052

General Membership

Xochitl (Sheila) Barnes.....xochitlb@comcast.net
Bill Barr.....thepegroup@earthlink.net
Bob Brickman.....robrick1965@earthlink.net
Ronni Buffington.....vbuff@verizon.net
Rosemary Carnali.....rmcarnali@yahoo.com
Chris Carter.....chriscarterart@gmail.com
Walter Chandoha.....chandoha@embarqmail.com
Jonathan Clymer.....macmobile@pottersville-nj.us
Kathy Counterman.....kcounter@ptd.net
Graham Curtis.....curtisgr@verizon.net
David Davis.....davidldavis@comcast.net
Lia DiStefano.....Liadida@verizon.net
Erika Eick.....erikaeick@me.com
John Eick.....erikaeick@me.com
Bob Fasanello.....hrhbob@mac.com
Mike Fordice.....mike4dice@gmail.com
Herbert Goodfriend.....bonami@mailforce.net

Stephanie Griffin.....s_griffin@verizon.net
Salima Griffin.....griffin_srg@verizon.net
Doris Kiziah.....dwkiziah@comcast.net
Chod Lang.....chodlang1@mac.com
Ed Lavan.....eddl@ptd.net
Kent Loudon.....nkloudon@verizon.net
Debbie Lynch.....catatudes@comcast.net
Bryan Marten.....bry_mart@yahoo.com
Dennis McAvoy.....dennismcavoy11@me.com
Don McBride.....don@mcbride.name
Jim McMekin.....jmcmekin@comcast.net
Sheila Meiman.....sjmeiman@meiman.com
Stan Menscher.....stan.menscher@gmail.com
Barbara Middleton.....mail4u@centurylink.net
Michael Middleton.....mail4u@centurylink.net
Margo Murphy.....margo2@comcast.net
Hugh Murphy Jr.....murphthesurf@mac.com
Bob Peabody.....pagprolog@aol.com
Barbara Peabody.....lockburner@aol.com
Frank Peluso.....fpeluso@comcast.net
Lee Roth.....lbr@lawroth.com
Dennis Spence.....info@portrayal.com
Bruce Thomson, Jr.....blackriver@me.com
Jim Trier.....jamesjtrier@gmail.com
Allan Warner.....awarner@allem.com
Geoff Withington.....with@embarqmail.com
Christine Wojtaszek.....chriswo@mac.com

About the Member List

Every effort is made to keep the member directory current. If your name has disappeared from the list, you may be delinquent in your dues. Send all address updates, changes and corrections to President David Davis.

Member Benefits

MACNJ User Group members in good standing are encouraged to take advantage of the following savings and benefits

Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press provides our group members with a **30%** discount off the list price of any of their books. At check-out, right before you put your credit card number in, you must enter the user group coupon code UE-23AA-PEUF (case-sensitive). This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes.

O'Reilly & Associates

Don't forget, you can receive **35%** off any O'Reilly, No Starch, Paraglyph, Pragmatic Bookshelf, SitePoint, or Syngress book you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering online or by phone 800-998-9938. ordering at <<http://www.oreilly.com>>.

Vendor Offers For MUGs

The MUG Center, the Resource Site Macintosh for User Groups, offers a number of software, shareware, and hardware specials for User Group members. Visit <<http://www.mugcenter.com/vendornews/vendornews.html>>.

MACNJ Membership

Annual dues are \$24, due each January. Members joining during the year pay \$2 per month for the months remaining in the current year. Families may join for \$35. Please make all checks payable to "MACNJ". Checks can be given to President David L. Davis at the monthl meetings, or mailed to:

MACNJ Membership
David L. Davis
242 Cherryville Road
Flemington, NJ 08822

Fill out this form and return it with your payment.

MACNJ Membership Form

Check one: Membership Renewal New Member

Month membership begins

amount enclosed (\$2 per month, \$24 for the entire year/\$35 per family)

Name (if a family membership, please list all member names)

Street address (if this is a renewal,please indicate if any of your address information has changed.

city

state

zip code

Home telephone number

mobile phone number

e-mail address

What I do with my Macintosh (favorite Apps, creative work, etc) Be as descriptive as possible!.
