

MACBITS

Volume XVII, Issue 3

March 19, 2003

What's Happening In MacMad

Jim Staal, President

What do you want MacMad to be? What do you want MacMad to do? Here is your chance!

Last month I discussed what MacMad is worth to each type of member. Now you have a chance not only to make it worth more, but literally to shape it into what you would like it to be.

At our March general member (third Tuesday) meeting we will have a discussion on the direction that we would like your Group to take over the next year and beyond. This will include types and subjects of programs, classes or special interest groups, other outside activities and membership recruiting.

Several times in the past year we have talked about conducting actual classes on the Mac. These could range from basic use for newcomers, switch techniques for those moving from a Wintel pc, and Appleworks or other Mac pro-

grams. There seems to be a lot of interest in conducting these classes and sufficient people to attend them.

The thing that has held us back is lack of an adequate location to hold the classes. The libraries are very generous with their space, and we could arrange to conduct classes during our Wednesday meeting or on another night or day. The issue is that they cannot provide a storage location for us to secure the Macs that we need to conduct the class.

This means that we would be limited to holding classes when the attendees or others can bring portables. We really need a minimum of one Mac for every two attendees.

We have checked on several other locations, but so far to no avail. If any of you have an idea of somewhere that we can hold classes and store the equipment, please make it known at the meeting, or bet-

ter yet e-mail me so that I can check it out before the meeting.

Another potential direction for the group is assisting other organizations that use Macs. Users Groups in some areas assist schools that have Macs. We still have several in this county. Some of the other volunteer organizations in this area use Macs.

There is an organization named SeniorNet that provides training for senior citizens in the use of computers. We might be able to help start one of these centers in our area (the nearest are Cocoa Beach and Vero).

We also currently provide some level of support both to members and in some cases non members in the use of their Macs and their programs. This could be an area for growth. It could be expanded by enlarging and updating our "Members Helping Members" list, and

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Members

Helping Members

Please be considerate and call at a reasonable hour. Remember, these volunteer also have a private life.

WordPerfect,...Canvas ...

Brenda Foster...724-1948
needleworx@earthlink.net

Photoshop, CorelDraw, Illustrator, Freehand, AOL, Color-It, ClarisWorks, Quark X-press
Cher Daley ...724-8981...
cdaleyart@aol.com

Photoshop ...Gayle Baker ...
7257632...sterlingphoto@mind-spring.com

Photoshop, Quark, Illustrator...Randy Perry...
(561) 589-6449Radknee@aol.com

If you are experienced with a piece of software or hard - ware, and wouldn't mind a few calls for help, volunteer by giving your phone number to Cher Daley.

by making this list available outside the MacBits. Possibly it could be posted at the local Mac vendors. We may prefer to either publish a list of only those available to help outside the group, or we may want to establish a position of coordinator for these requests.

These are a few of the ideas that I have heard discussed over the past year. I know that there are a lot of others out there. I also know that there is a great deal of talent and energy within the Mac community in this area. Our task is to tap into that talent and energy and channel it into a direction that will give our group purpose and growth.

Visit **MacBits** on the Web!

We are now posting **MacBITS** on the **www.macmad.org** website!

Click on files, sign in using your name and password, click on newsletters and select the issue of choice. Use Adobe Acrobat Reader Plug-in with your favorite web browser to read. This is a free download from **www.adobe.com**

One final note. The Florida Today Fact Book for this year, which was recently published, has MacMad properly listed. We were omitted last year. I have already had one phone call about the group as a result of this listing. This is a good example of the results that a bit of publicity can have. If we can get a few members to take the responsibility for contacting the various publications in the area, we can get the word out to the Mac users who are not now members.

I hope to see you all at the meetings, especially the third Tuesday meeting this month. Let's plan a banner year.



MACMAD

Macintosh Meeting And Drinking Society est. 1984

<http://www.macmad.org>

<http://bbs.macmad.org>

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**User Group
Network**



Since there Mark Fosgate was unable to attend last meeting; Jim Staal & Jay Fleming took minutes.

Let me take this moment to express my personal thanks to Mark and every one who has contributed to MacBITS in the past year. I strongly encourage the membership to contribute.
Your Editor, Cher Daley

About Last Meeting, February 18, 2003 by Jim Staal and Jay Fleming, substituting for Mark Fosgate, Club Secretary

Jim Staal opened the meeting at 7:05pm with approximately 20 persons present. No guests or visitors were present. Since Mark could not attend the meeting, Jay agreed to take notes.

Jim reviewed the candidates who have agreed to stand for election at the March meeting. Our slate of candidates:
Jim Staal: President
Jay Fleming and Ray Legall: Vice President (joint)
Mark Fosgate: Secretary
Jim Robertson: Membership
Bill Moroney: Treasurer

Cammie Donaldson & Cher Daley: Newsletter Editors
Carl Carter: Sysop & Vendor Interface

Other candidates may be added before the vote in March. The new officers will assume their roles immediately following the vote at that meeting.

The small turnout generated a discussion on membership issues. We presently have about fifty paid members in MacMad. This is down significantly from past years. While most current members are renewing, we are not attracting new members.

Main topics discussed:

- we need to get information to the public about MacMad and its benefits;
- we need to get in touch with absent members find out why they are not coming to urge them to return;
- members desire to have a Mac introduction cd to give to new members;
- it could be beneficial to provide local Mac vendors with cards for a free initial MacMad membership (term to be determined) so that they

*An Apple a Day
Keeps the Doctor Away!*



will be encouraged to attend and try the group;

- we would like to go back to issuing membership cards and encouraging vendors to give member discounts;
- several members volunteered to participate by preparing signage and hand-out materials, to post these at libraries and **other** locations and to work on a project to prepare a handout cd.

Due to the lengthy discussion, Jim presented an abbreviated version of the overview of FileMaker Pro and FileMaker Mobile. The 93 How To Use FileMaker Pro 94 portion will be presented at a future meeting.

Dinner site voted on was Bennigan's.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Don't Forget Elections Are This Month!

systeme™

Xserve Web Hosting
plans starting at \$20/month
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Java2SE/SP/Servlets • secure server • ecommerce
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phn: 800 • 668 • 0450
eml: rqp@systeme.com
web: www.systeme.com



Think different.

Strata 3D™ *pro* Rich Media Edition

A review by Cher Daley:

Retail: \$695.00

Academic: \$449.00

Strata 3Dpro v3.8 - The latest in 3D Creative Power for Mac OS X. Photons, Toon Rendering, Stochastic Sampling - and OS X Power and reliability!

*You can send for a free demo or try - out at www.strata.com! Although *The Swift 3D extension is not available in the Demo version due to licensing restrictions*

Strata 3Dpro v3.8 now with the added strength of Mac OS X is even more essential for creating professional images and animations. This is more than just an OS X upgrade, v3.8 adds Enhanced Deformation features, Photon and Cartoon (Toon) Rendering, and Stochastic Sampling - altogether with the consistent reliability of Strata tools. Do more, Do it faster, and Do it safer (we're talking about 3D here!)

Although Strata 3Dpro says it's for the beginner thru extremely advanced, I found you had to have some knowledge about animation and 3-D to use this program.

They do provide a printed manual (about 2" thick) that walks you through everything you need to know about the menus and the shortcut tools as well as having several tables in the back showing ratios for skins, file formats you can save & export in, movie formats, etc. I was hoping for tutorials which were strongly lacking. I did however find some on the Internet that gave me a handle on what I was doing. The manual



Strata Cafe is linked through community and as you can see; it has a lot to offer.

are part of Web enabled software that you can interface elements in the application open your Web browser and launch directly to: www.strata.com

You then have links to resources, Information, tutorials and related products.

Swift 3-D is integrated into this rich media edition allowing users to make vector formats which are key to producing print or Web versions.

I have dabbled a little bit with 3-D animation in the past and found this program to be a bit more complicated for the novice. That being said, if you want all the bells and whistles, you probably can't do any better than this program.

Strata 3Dpro offers a wide range of modeling tools; including Splines, Lathing, Polygons, Skinning, Metaballs, Extruding, Booleans, Sweeping and more. Strata gives you real-world textures and lighting controls to create any effect you desire, then you can add ultimate realism to your models and animations with Strata's

ing window and as a rendering option.

Toon options are: Flat, Gradient, Average, Bi-Level, and Tri-Level. All of which affects the way the texturing shows in the renderings. There is an Expert setting that allows custom made shading effects.

New to the program is the ability to use it to convert movies to flash movies. Just open the movie from within Strata, then choose save as and choose the format you want in the drop down menu.

I was impressed with two tutorials I located by navigating through Strata's web site. Getting Started,



Strata's Home navigation bar is very useful. If you click on Community; It will lead you to many useful items. This is the first place one should go to get acquainted.

offers links to their web site which is fairly easy to navigate through.

3-D-base, 3-Dpro, and 3-Dplus,

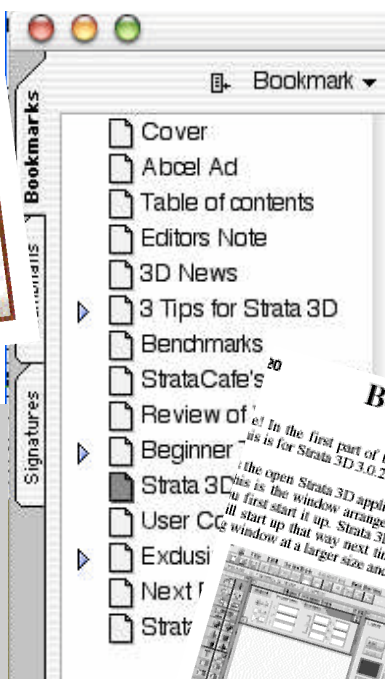
esteemed rendering engine.

Strata 3Dpro now offers Toon rendering as an option in the model-

which is a downloadable .pdf, provided by: westrim_training@yahoo.com.



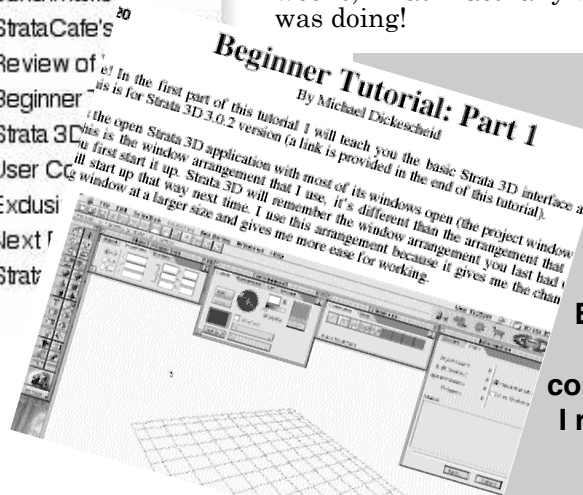
There are a lot of tools available on the internet to get you started. I recently discovered this magazine and found it to be extremely useful. It is full of tips and keeps beginners in mind as well.



is a step by step tutorial designed to help new Strata 3D users familiarize themselves with the software. It covers the construction, texturing, lighting and rendering of a scene.

The other is the free Strata World Magazine that is also a downloadable magazine in .pdf format with lots of goodies including Basic Tutorials, 3-d News, benchmarks, reviews, etc.

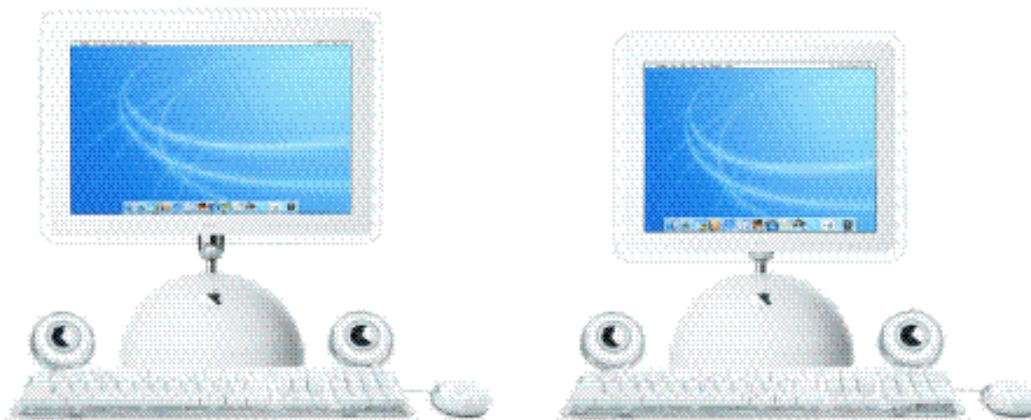
Although I found this program a bit difficult to use (being a bit rusty in 3-D rendering and animation), I soon found after playing with the program for a few weeks; That I actually began to understand what I was doing!



If you are just doing web animations, there are a lot of easier programs out there to use.

But if you desire a professional program for more complex 3-D and animation; I recommend this program!

iMac®, the ultimate desktop computer. Any questions?



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Melbourne, FL 32935



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Factory Refurbished iMacs!

iMac G4/700 256/40/CD-R DVD/Speakers: **\$1,299!**

iMac G4/800 with SuperDrive, 15-inch: **\$1,455**; 17-inch: **\$1,745!**

iMac G4/700 CD-RW: **\$1025**

<http://smalldog.com/tb/> 802/496-7171

DEALMAC: Palm m125 for **\$89** after rebate, m105 for **\$80**.

<http://dealmac.com/articles/44854.html?ref=tb> Sony DCR-TRV18 MiniDV camcorder for **\$529** after rebate.

<http://dealmac.com/articles/44593.html?ref=tb>

Bare Bones Software BBEdit 7.0 --

New version adds CVS support, multiple Web site support, powerful new Sort Lines and Process Duplicate plug-ins, and much more. Buy, upgrade, or try the demo at our Web site: <http://www.bare-bones.com/>

Power Mac G4 Firmware Update 4.4.8 for the Power G4 (Mirrored Drive Doors). It improves fan control behavior and reduces high-speed fan cycling under Mac OS 9. Most notable about this firmware update, though, is that you can install it under Mac OS X, something which hasn't previously been possible and which played a role in the shoddy engineering that resulted in some iMacs being rendered inoperable by the Jaguar installer. It's a 1.2 MB download.

<http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120171>

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=06973>

<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tlkthrd=1783>

Lastly, Security Update 2002-11-21 fixes some potential vulnerabilities in BIND, the domain name server that's included with, but not turned on in, Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server. If you're not using BIND (or don't know what it is), this 4.7 MB security update isn't particularly important, but there's no harm in installing it. <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120169>

Instructions for iMac Battery Replacement

(for some models) is located within AppleCare Document 50015, in Manual Part No. 033-1208. Here is how to access this document:

1. Go to <http://www.info.apple.com/manuals/manuals.taf>
2. At top on page, click on SUPPORT tab
3. Click on MANUALS tab
4. At bottom of page, in SEARCH FOR MANUALS box, enter 50015 & press GO
5. Click on i-Mac Manuals
6. Scroll down to Part No. 033-1208, described as "iMac-Important Information: Includes safety information, memory installation and battery replacement instructions, and regulatory agency information for your iMac."
7. Download the PDF. Within the PDF, pages 4, 5 & 14 are dedicated to BATTERY REPLACEMENT. Plus, the manual contains full pictorial info on how to remove the iMac case to access the battery.

Note: Many local Radio Shack retail stores now carry 3.6 volt lithium batteries for Macs; they are being widely used to power certain residential radio controlled burglar alarm sensors in newer houses.

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:

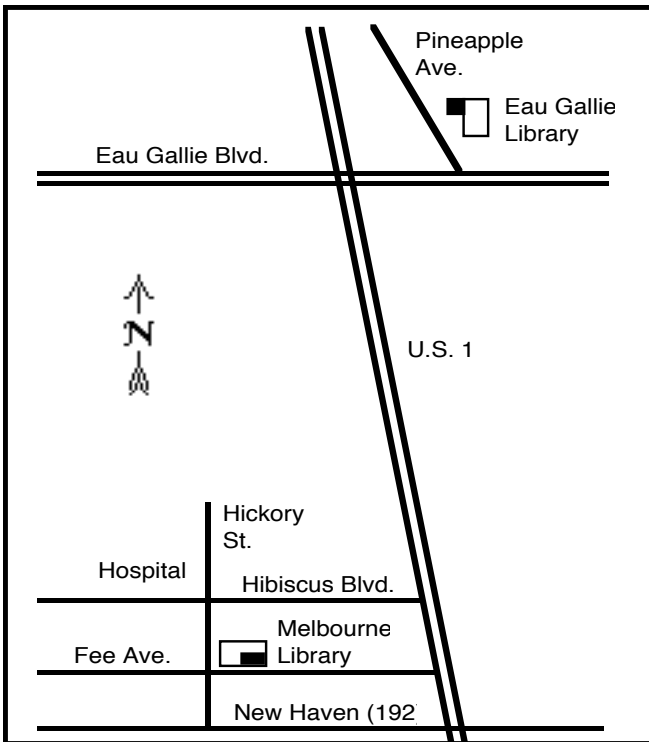
Apple Multiple Scan 15AV Display for sale - \$20 (15 inch monitor with integral speakers.) Needs a standard Mac power cord.
Larry Fay 751.3567

Umax Flatbed SCSI Single pass Color Scanner w/software and drivers that work w/OS 7-9.X\$60
19.9Bps Modem w/software \$10
Franklin Day Planner software \$10
ColorIt! software(draw, paint,image editing software) w/manual \$15
Apple Imagewriter (Dot matrix) printer \$50
Quadra Work Group Server 98 (can be used as computer or server..server side needs minor-work)\$70

Reformatted Zip Disks \$10 ea.

Call or e-mail Cher Daley 729-1433

cdaleyart@mac.com



Classified Ads Are FREE to MacMAD Members!

So far the contest is running neck in neck with three people. Randy Perry, Cammie Donaldson, and Tom Willing. I would like to see someone win! All it would take is for 1 person mentioned here to sell another ad!!

Cool Contest!

Here's a way to win a year of **FREE MacMAD membership!**...

ATTENTION: MacMAD is holding a contest!! The member bringing in the largest total of money from sales of ads for the MacBit Newsletter will receive a 1 year free membership to MacMAD. This contest is good till September 30, 2000. Our winning member will be announced on October 4, 2000. Get your running shoes out and GOOD LUCK!!!!

Rates For One Year:

\$400 Full Page
\$225 Half Page
\$130 Quarter Page
\$75 Eighth Page

Members receive a 20% Discount from these prices.

MadMad User Group

Special -

Canvas 8

from Deneba Software.

MacMad members can buy **Canvas 8 Professional** (full retail box version, Street price \$399.95) for **\$249.95** and download only version (normally \$349.95) for **\$199.95**.

In addition, members will receive a free Advanced Canvas Techniques training CD-ROM and free ground shipping.

URL for this offer is

<http://www.deneba.com/group/offer>

This offer is not available through other sales channels.

About MACMAD



MacMAD is a user group devoted to helping each other explore the possibilities opened by the Apple Macintosh. We publish this newsletter, operate a web site (www.macmad.org), and hold meetings on the first Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. **Our TeleFinder BBS is now available at bbs.macmad.org.**

After each meeting all are welcome at a local restaurant where we indulge in a festive open discussion over pitchers of cokes, beers, and food stuffs galore. Here the true spirit of the world of Mac is exposed, many acquaintances are made and expertise shared openly. Thus our name, MacMAD, which stands for "Macintosh Meeting And Drinking Society."



Meetings

**Meeting
Hours!
7-8:30 PM**

Tuesday, March 18th

Elections. Group discussion on what direction we want the club to go in future.

7:00 to 8:30 at the Melbourne Library, Fee Ave. in downtown Melbourne. Check our bbs for info!

Wednesday, April 2nd

Help session. Bring your questions, Macs or ideas for help or helping members. EauGallie Library **7:00 to 8:30 pm**

Tuesday, 21st

To Be Announced **7:00 to 8:30** at the Melbourne Library, Fee Ave. in downtown Melbourne. Check web for info!



Stay posted to MacMAD web page for updates and news on meetings! www.macmad.org

Moved? Address Correction Requested.



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