

**iLife '04 - Apple's New Suite of "Sweet" Programs  
Part 2 - iTunes - Enjoy Music with your Mac**

**Tuesday, April 13, 2004, 7:30 PM - Westminster-Canterbury**

Meeting in the Wellness Center Classroom, Ground Floor

**Wednesday, April 14, 2004 - 7:30 PM - Amherst**

Meeting at Country & Mountain Realty, 123 North Main Street

**Thursday, April 15, 2004 - 7:00 PM - Room 4201, CVCC**

Next Month's Meetings:

Amherst - \*Monday May 10, - 7:15 PM\*

Westminster-Canterbury - \*Tuesday May 11, - 7:15 PM\*

CVCC - Thursday May 20, - 7:00 PM

**\*PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES ABOVE\***

**Electronic Communication for the Apple Core**

A topic of discussion during the March meetings was that more of the communications of the Apple Core could be handled electronically, since, after all, we do all own computers and use the internet. It was suggested that the meeting notice, not necessarily the *Apple Bytes*, be sent by e-mail to save postage and printing costs. *Apple Bytes* would be on line and downloadable. The consensus was that we should try this on a parallel basis with the printed newsletter to see how it goes. We will start the trial with this April meeting notice.

However, for the current club membership of 95 persons in 75 family units, we have only 55 e-mail addresses on record, and not all of these have been tested for accuracy. We will send out an e-mail notice to these 55 individuals. If you do not receive an e-mail notice and wish to, please send an e-mail request to [gcmattox@mac.com](mailto:gcmattox@mac.com). If we don't have your current e-mail address, you will only receive the printed newsletter.

In addition to the current notice, Frank Land is working on a new Apple Core website which will include the downloadable copies of the current and recent Apple Bytes newsletters. Other electronic communication such as a Listserv is also being investigated.

**New Meeting Location Study**

Another topic of discussion at the March meeting at the CVCC Mac Lab was that the attendance was growing and we were having to bring in chairs from other rooms to accommodate the larger number of attendees. Average attendance at CVCC in 2003 was about 18, and in 2004 so far has been about 21. Gordon, Tony, Tom, and Frank have met and are investigating other possible meeting places. Criteria for any new meeting place include: 1) High speed internet access for presentations, 2) Easy geographically central access for majority of membership, 3) Adequate, easy, secure, lighted parking, 4) Appropriate meeting room accommodations, and 5) Continuing schedule for the location. So far we have investigated eight potential locations. When the location committee is ready to make a recommendation, we will discuss it and vote on the proposal.

**Program Ideas Wanted**

Ideas and requests for program topics and presentations are welcome. This club is to serve the membership and it is a pity to have anyone not attend because the meeting was not interesting or useful. Please pass your thoughts and ideas to Tom Johnson at [graystranger@earthlink.net](mailto:graystranger@earthlink.net)

## iTunes - Music to Your Ears

Apple's iTunes is an important part of the new iLife '04 application suite introduced this past January at Macworld San Francisco. But even if you don't buy iLife '04 (it's only \$49.00 for the complete package of five applications) you already have iTunes in your Applications folder when you are running OS X. Version 4.2 comes free with all new Macs, and it's in the box with Mac OS X, both Jaguar and Panther versions.

For you folks not running OS X, there is iTunes Version 2.0.4 which runs in Mac OS 9, but it doesn't quite have all the latest features of the newer version.

iTunes is probably the world's best digital music jukebox. The basic idea of iTunes is that you can gather your favorite music from your own CDs, import them into iTunes, and store them on your hard drive for use on your computer and elsewhere. You can catalog and store the equivalent of hundreds of CDs on your hard drive and have all that music instantly available. You can enjoy music while you do more important things on your Mac.

You can easily search your entire library in seconds and choose the song or songs you want to hear. You can compile different playlists to suit your mood. Or you can set the controls to play your songs randomly and depending on how many songs are in your library, listen for hours without a repeat. You can sort and select by artist, genre, album,

composer, or any of the many criteria available. If you have an iPod, you can transfer your music to it so you can listen to your music wherever you go.

Beyond importing and storing music from your own CDs, you can connect to the iTunes Music Store which has hundreds of thousands of songs that you can conveniently browse, search, preview, buy and download. It has virtually every category of music to choose from. It's designed with Apple's legendary ease of use, offering a hassle-free way to preview, buy and download online music quickly and easily. And whatever your tastes in music — Rock, Jazz, Blues, Pop, Latin, New Age, Folk, Inspirational, R&B, Reggae, Electronic, Classical or something in between — chances are you'll find the tunes you're looking for. With a vast catalog of music from all five U.S. major labels and agreements with 200 independent labels, the iTunes Music Store catalog of songs is growing every week.

In addition to the MP3 music file format which has been in common use over the past several years, iTunes can use the new AAC format from the Music Store. The AAC format (for Advanced Audio Coding, a big part of the MPEG-4 specification) is the cutting-edge audio codec that's perfect for the Internet. AAC encoding compresses much more efficiently than older formats like MP3 while delivering quality rivaling that of uncompressed CD audio. In fact, some expert listeners have judged AAC audio files

compressed at 128 Kbps (stereo) to be virtually indistinguishable from the original uncompressed audio source. iTunes 4 and QuickTime 6.2 or higher are all you need to get started.

You can connect your iPod or iPod mini to your Mac and download an entire music CD in just 10 seconds. What's more, iTunes lets you stay in sync with Play Count, Last Played, Song Ratings and where your spoken word content left off.

Want to make a CD of your favorite tunes? With iTunes it's easy to create regular audio CDs with a mix of songs of your own choosing that play back in your car, your home stereo, or your Mac. Just select a playlist in your library and the Browse button automatically turns into the Burn button. Click "Burn CD," insert a blank disc and iTunes burns away. It's that simple. All that's left to do is to label it and store it carefully.

iTunes 4 has a Music Sharing feature that uses Rendezvous to give you remote streaming access to your personal music library from any room in your house. Let's say, for instance, that you have thousands of AAC and MP3 music files stored on your Mac computer in your home office. The iTunes software works so smoothly that you can share music with any Mac on your network. And you don't have to do anything, except to check the "Share My Music" box in iTunes preferences.

You can generate dynamic Smart Playlists that reflect your preferences and listening habits. Instead of having to create playlists manually by clicking and dragging individual songs, you simply indicate what kind of music you like to hear. iTunes 4 lets you set the parameters — indicating attributes such as My Rating, Genre, Composer, Artist, Play Count, Last Played and so on — and then creates a personalized playlist that's in tune with your preferences.

If you're in the mood to enjoy something completely different on your computer and iPod or iPod mini, you'll be pleased to hear that iTunes 4 can play selections from a well-stocked library of best-selling audiobooks — 5,000 titles, and counting — on the iTunes Music Store. You'll love the public radio shows available from the iTunes Music Store. The shows available as à la carte downloads include recent episodes of "Fresh Air with Terry Gross," "Car Talk," "To The Best of Our Knowledge," "Studio 360," "Science Friday" and "Says You." When you listen to an audiobook on your iPod or your computer, the software creates a virtual bookmark. So the next time you sync your iPod or iPod mini with your computer, iTunes 4 will remember exactly where you left off.

So sit back, relax, and enjoy iTunes on your Mac. Let it make your computing time more enjoyable.

