

Apple Bytes

The Newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core

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General meeting is at Lynchburg College, Thursday, May 19, 7:00 PM

Meet in **Room 17 in Hopwood Hall** with a general discussion and Q&A session at 7:00 p.m. followed by the featured presentation. on iPhoto 5 at 7:30 PM.

Branch Meeting is at Westminster-Canterbury, Tuesday, May 17, 2005, 7:15 PM

We will have a door prize drawing for a copy of iLife '05.

You must be present at either meeting and your **dues must be up to date** to win.

Annual membership dues are \$25.

Jim Minnix was the winner of last month's drawing, a copy **iWork (Pages & Keynote)**

Managing your Photos with iPhoto 5

In response to the requests received in the Program Survey at the Annual Banquet, this month's main presentation will look at **iPhoto 5** with its noteworthy changes and improvements. This application has come a long way from its original incarnation and has become more powerful and easier to use in the process. With the growing popularity of digital photography, it helps us really enjoy all our pictures.

What's New in iPhoto 5?

There's something new for every photographer in iPhoto 5. Better organization tools — such as hierarchical folders. Instant searching via an iTunes-fast search field and a new Calendar View that lets you find photos by the day or week. Support for more formats: both MPEG-4 video clips and the RAW format preferred by more advanced photographers. Much more powerful photo editing. More advanced slideshows: they're cinematic and completely customizable. There's also a completely new generation of iPhoto Books with new designs, new sizes, and more affordable pricing options.

Find Photos in an Instant

Thanks to a new iTunes-like search field, you can search for your photos more easily and find them much more quickly — especially since you can now tag photos as you import them for instant retrieval. You'll also like iPhoto's new Calendar View. A click lets you see all the photos you took on a day, week, month or in a range of dates.

iPhoto Supports "RAW" Formats

Pros do it and an increasing number of you do, too. Capture photos in the RAW photo format, that is. Shooting RAW lets you take advantage of every pixel of detail and the full dynamic range your digital cameras can capture. iPhoto 5 not only lets you import and organize uncompressed RAW images, but it supports RAW photos throughout the application, letting you edit them until they're picture perfect, add them to your slideshows, order prints of them, and include them in iPhoto Books.

Video Clips from Your Camera

In addition to supporting RAW photos, iPhoto 5 also lets you import and organize MPEG-4 video clips, as well. You import them right alongside your photos. In fact, you can keep the clips in the same “roll” as the photos and use them in slideshows. You don’t even have to leave iPhoto to see them, either. Just double-click to watch them. And if you want to use them in iMovie HD or iDVD, you can just drag them into those other applications or import them via the iLife media browser.

Edit Like a Pro

What about editing your photos? Thanks to an entire suite of sophisticated tools, editing in iPhoto 5 has been significantly improved. In fact, you may never have to leave iPhoto to make your photos absolutely perfect. Using the new advanced editing dashboard, you can easily optimize saturation, exposure, sharpness and more. You’ll even find a tool for straightening horizons that includes its own grid to make the job as easy as possible.

Advanced Slideshows

A wide range of new transitions and effects lets you easily create dazzling cinematic slideshows. Taking advantage of the new slideshow editor, you can rearrange photos with drag-and-drop ease; assign attributes — such as duration, transitions and effects — on a slide-by-slide basis. Save your slideshows separately from albums. iPhoto 5 can also automatically modify the length of your shows to fit the music you’ve chosen. You can customize slideshows as much as you like — and save them alongside the albums you use to create them.

Exciting News about iPhoto Books

iPhoto 5 delivers a completely new way to make books that’s dramatically better than it was before. That took some doing. To get you started, you can have iPhoto automatically create a book for you. Just choose the photos and let iPhoto lay it out for you. Then use the new layout editor to turn it into a personal work of digital art — rearrange photos, change page designs, even edit photos until they’re perfect.

There’s more. You can now choose from an entire family of stunningly beautiful yet highly affordable iPhoto books. This includes new soft cover books available in three sizes — small, medium and grand. Prices start at just \$3.99. All books now offer duplex printing, including the highly popular hardcover Keepsake books, which now start at just \$29.99. And wait till you see the great new designs you have to choose from.

While there are still more features that many users would like to have, iLife ‘05 is a big step forward with a lot of new capabilities we all will like.

The Epson PictureMate Photo Printer

- Tom Johnson

When I upgraded my Mac computer 3-1/2 years ago, I bought a nice HP multifunction printer. It is photo quality and will also serve as a high quality color or B&W copier and scanner. I was amazed at how well it printed photos, especially on premium glossy photo paper. When my brother bought a dedicated photo printer last December, I began rethinking how I was printing photos. I usually printed on 8-1/2 by 11 paper, which meant resizing the photos and arranging them on a page. Printing out the page and cutting the photos out of the page took time. Sometimes I only wanted one or two photos. I bought some 4x6 photo paper, but alignment of my photo on the paper was not

always great and I found I rarely used it for that reason. I took a look at dedicated photo printers, did some on-line research, and selected the Epson PictureMate.

The Epson PictureMate will only print 4x6 photos. It is the size of a small lunch box and even has a carrying handle. You can take it with you easily, and Epson even makes a carrying case for it. An interesting feature is that 100 sheets of paper and a 6-color ink cartridges come in a sealed pack. Prints are not cheap, the pack is \$29 (I found it one place for \$25, but by the time you add shipping you may as well buy it locally). This is 29 cents per print, not cheap. It is about the price you pay going to WalMart with your camera card and getting prints. But, there is convenience and versatility to consider.

The PictureMate will print from virtually any memory card, USB drive, disc drive, or hard drive. It will print JPEG and TIFF files from 120x120 to 4600 x 4600 pixels. It will print from a PictBridge or USB DP enabled camera. Of course, it will print from your computer's USB port. The printer has an LCD display screen allowing you to select many photo, print, and maintenance options (check ink levels, align or clean print heads, etc.). You can print out thumbnails, all or several photos, crop photos (using predefined cropping routines), print B&W, sepia, color, selected photos, all photos, border, borderless, time & date stamp, and auto correct bad color balance. You can even transfer your photo files from one storage device (like your camera card) to another (like a thumb drive or computer). The printer has an optional Bluetooth adapter that lets you print wirelessly from your PDA, cell phone, or computer.

There are other dedicated photo printers on the market by many name brand companies. What is unique about this printer is its use of pigment based ink jet ink. Epson says the fade resistance of PictureMate prints is over four times that of the best commercial photo processes. Some retailers are displaying a PictureMate photo print in a jar of water to show its permanence.

The photos are heavy weight paper, and look just great. Colors are brilliant and vibrant. This may not be a professional grade dye sublimation printer, but it retails for \$229 and it has been available from Epson.com for \$169 as a full-warrantied factory refurbished model. The Epson web site has a lot of information and you can get a lot more information by doing a Google search.

The information you find (both at Epson.com and other places) will lead you to believe it will only print on Epson's special paper packaged with the cartridge. Reading the manual will disclose that you may run out of paper before you run out of ink in your cartridge. In that case, the manual says you can still print using Epson Premium Glossy Photo Paper, Borderless 4x6 inches (part # S041727).

My refurbished printer came with 20 sheets of paper and the "starter" cartridge installed. (Others come with a sealed 20-sheet/cartridge pack). After going through 20 sheets the maintenance display said the ink was still 75% full. I did not have Epson paper (without opening a new cartridge/sheet pack). Once you open the sealed cartridge/paper pack you have a limited time to use the cartridge. However, I did have Kodak 4x6 premium photo paper and it worked perfectly. I don't know if the permanence, particularly water resistance, is as good with the Kodak paper as the paper Epson intended for it. A soak in a glass of water washed the ink off a print on Kodak paper. However, for most purposes, I found the Kodak paper to be fine until I can stock up on Epson's recommended paper.

Actually, Epson has a guarantee on the print packs. They will pay you 29 cents per unused sheet if you run out of ink before you run out of paper. This leads me to believe that you will rarely run out of ink first, so keep some of the recommended paper on hand to supplement your print packs.

Epson warns that printing on plain paper may damage the PictureMate. I haven't tested this, but using some photo papers thinner than Epson's paper resulted in two sheets feeding simultaneously. Fortunately, the PictureMate has a cancel button that ejected the papers quickly.

One limitation is that you cannot see your photo on the LCD screen. For me, this is no problem. I use a laptop and mostly print from PhotoShop where I do my own cropping and sizing of the print. The printer software is for both Windows and Mac computers, and the print driver works great on my iBook. PictureMate does not come with a USB cable, so if you think you may print from your computer, make sure you have a USB cable ready.

When you print from your camera card, you need to know which prints you want. The PictureMate allows you to print "photo 12" for instance. Or a range: "photo 23 to 28". Review your photos on your camera's display and select which photos you want to print before you put the card in the PictureMate.

One word of warning: with a new cartridge installed, once you turn the PictureMate on it will make horrible sounds as it charges the ink in the new cartridge. Sounds like it is destroying itself! This takes a few minutes but does not occur again until you replace the cartridge. You can replace the cartridge in the middle of a print job without turning the printer off. Epson recommends you use the photo cartridge within 6 months of installing it. The cartridge is easy to install.

For my needs, the capability of printing out one, several or many photos at a time without running to a store for prints is worth a lot. If I want a print larger than 4x6 I always have my HP printer. I can also print out wallet size photos either from the camera card or from the computer. My 3-1/2 year old HP printer's photos fade badly in the fluorescent light at work, so my PictureMate photos will replace those I have there.

The PictureMate seems to be a well designed and fabricated machine. The photo quality is quite good and I find it suits my needs quite well, especially when I only need several photos printed.

Apple Bytes, the monthly newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core is delivered via e-mail and is available as a downloadable PDF at <http://www.lynchburgapplecore.org>. Please send your comments and questions to Program Chairman & Newsletter Editor Tom Johnson at graystranger@earthlink.net, or President Gordon Mattox at gcmattox@mac.com.