

Apple Bytes

The Newsletter of the Lynchburg Apple Core

Volume 2005.12 ----- Lynchburg, VA -----December 9, 2005

December Meeting

General meeting is at Lynchburg College, Thursday, December 15, 7:00 PM.

The December meeting at **Lynchburg College, room 17 Hopwood Hall** will begin with a general discussion and Q&A session at 7:00 p.m. followed by the featured presentation by club members: Advanced Word Processing. In the brief meeting time, we will cover some of the more advanced things you can do in word processing. What would you like to do that you don't know how to do now? Think about it, come to the meeting with your questions and find out.

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Third Annual Dinner a Big Success

Everyone knows that Gordon is leaving Lynchburg in the near future and retiring to Roanoke. So, part of this meeting was a farewell to Gordon, who has been with the Lynchburg Apple Core from the very beginning. Gordon recounted a little of the history of the club from its founding on December 10, 1981 by 12 Apple II owners. Meetings were held in several different homes but they soon realized that they needed a central, larger place to meet. Gordon got permission for the club to meet at B&W in a conference room at the Old Forest Road building for a while.

Dr. Allen Majewski was nominated as President at that first Apple Core meeting in 1981. He said he would accept if Gordon would join him as co-president. Dr. Majewski and his wife, Karen, were in attendance at the 2005 dinner meeting. Two other past presidents of the Apple Core were also at the dinner: Frank Coffey with his wife Anne and Michael Corbin. Michael is to be credited with helping to keep an Apple presence in Lynchburg in the mid-eighties working with ComputerLand and Babcock & Wilcox Computer Services.

Dinner was an excellent buffet of prime roast beef and chicken marsala (as usual at Oakwood Country Club) and included wonderful cakes and pies for desert. Those deserts must have been good. Oakwood reported that the 74 of us ate a total of 189 deserts!

Following the dinner a brief business meeting was held. New officers for 2006 were elected. Michael Corbin is the 2006 President. Scott Glass continues as Treasurer. Martin Bettez is Board Member at Large. Bob Hall is Membership Chairman. Tom Johnson continues as V.P. and Program Chairman/Newsletter Editor, and Frank Land continues as Webmaster.

Gordon presented Michael with a gavel with an engraved plaque commemorating the founding of the Lynchburg Apple Core in December 1981, nearly twenty-four years ago. Gordon also presented framed certificates to past Club Officers in appreciation of their service to the club.

In return, Michael, representing the club, presented Gordon with a farewell gift for his years of dedication: a 60 gigabyte pocket hard drive. This is a beautiful La Cie Porsche designed Firewire drive with an engraved plaque that reads:

**Presented to
Gordon Maddox
In Appreciation of Your Many Years of
Dedicated Service, Devotion, and Commitment to
THE LYNCHBURG APPLE CORE
November 2005**

Gordon was completely surprised, and said “You can never have too many hard drives!”

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The feature program for the dinner meeting was the presentation by our guest speaker, David Martin. David is Special Agent, High Technology Crimes Unit of the Virginia State Police, and a Mac user and member of Apple Core. His presentation on Identity Theft provided an overview of the most common ways that thieves gain access to your personal information for their gain and your loss. This is a brief summary of some of David’s presentation

Protecting Yourself from Identity Theft

The most publicized methods of identity theft involve computers, hacking and Internet fraud. However, some of the most common methods are as mundane as stealing your trash to get vital personal information. Never throw away anything with personal information in it, such as Social Security numbers, bank or bank card numbers, canceled checks (watch for your unused deposit slips), and other information. You should shred such documents before you trash them. David confirmed that the “pre-approved” credit card offers that we all get in the mail can be used by a thief to get a card with your credit information sent to an alternate address and used against you. Shred all such applications before you put them in the trash. David also said to call 1-888-OPTOUT to stop the prescreened credit card offers from coming to you in the mail.

Another low-tech way thieves can steal your identity is to steal mail from your mailbox. If you become the victim of identity theft notify the following:

- Equifax - www.equifax.com 1-800-685-1111 to order reports, 1-800-525-6285 to report fraud.
- Experian - www.experian.com 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742) to order reports and report fraud.
- TransUnion - www.transunion.com 1-800-888-4213 to order credit reports, 1-800-680-7289 to report fraud.

Initial fraud alerts stay on your credit report for only 90 days. Wait about one more month after reporting credit fraud before checking for any new suspicious activity.

Contact other government agencies if your driver’s license or social security card were compromised so that your file can be flagged. Your document may be canceled and you may be

issued a new replacement number.

Visit the FTC website www.consumer.gov/idtheft

Thieves who get hold of one of your checks that has been filled out can use acetone to remove all the ink from the check. They protect your signature so it stays, then they make out the check to themselves or someone else (like cash), fill in the amount and cash it. David recommends using gel pens to write checks rather than ball-point pens. It is harder to remove the gel pen ink.

David's presentation was excellent, and very well received from the standing ovation he got. Thanks, David, for giving us such important and timely information.

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A large number of door prizes were given away at the end of the meeting, including TWO copies of PhotoShop Elements (donated by Adobe), three boxes of archival grade compact discs (guaranteed to last 100 years), books, accessories, and even a Sony 200 disk CD changer for your audio system! - as noted "Yesterday's answer to the iPod - with a capacity larger than an iPod nano, but less than a regular iPod!"

Note: Be sure and take a look at the photos from the Annual Dinner last month at <http://www.lynchburgapplecore.org/LAC%20PHOTOS/index.htm>. Frank Land has done a wonderful job with the Apple Core web site. If you haven't seen it recently, be sure to check it out.

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The Lynchburg Apple Core received the following email from the ADS company. This company makes high quality hard drive enclosures and is offering a 10 percent discount and free shipping to members of the Apple Core. Club members have bought these high quality enclosures to turn inexpensive internal hard drives into external hard drives. USB, Firewire, and combo versions are available. When my laptop hard drive died it was able to be reformatted. I did not trust it as my primary drive, so I replaced the internal drive and put the old drive in a small enclosure creating a 30 gigabyte Firewire pocket hard drive for a tiny fraction of what one would cost. Check out ADS at their web site. Here is what their email to the Apple Core said:

Subject: ADS Tech offers User Group members Discounts/Free Shipping

We have setup a coupon code for User Group members to purchase from our website. With this coupon code, customers will receive a 10% OFF their entire purchase, as well as FREE SHIPPING within the continental US. The promotion is valid on ALL ADS PRODUCTS that are available for purchase via our website, from 10/01/2005 thru 12/31/2005. The coupon code is... ADSUG
www.adstech.com

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January Meeting:

Lynchburg College, Hopwood Hall - Thursday January 19, - 7:00 PM

Using Desktop Publishing to Create a Family Address Book

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Visit the Lynchburg Apple Core Web Site for Updates, Information, and Important Links:

<http://www.lynchburgmug.org/>