



September 2009 meeting

ClubMac held its first meeting of the 2009-2010 season on Wednesday, September 8th.

Training

The first training session for ClubMac members looking to improve their Mac skills was held in the MCC clubhouse during the time between the opening of the doors at 7.30 p.m. and the start of the meeting proper and was provided by Aoibheann O'Sullivan. This first session covered the basic elements of the Mac desktop and was attended by four Club members. The next session will take a closer look at iLife.

Main presentation: onOne Software

Bob and Doug Campbell, of **onOne Software**, provided a virtuoso display of the capabilities of their product, a series of six plug-ins for Photoshop CS2, CS3 and CS4, Lightroom and Aperture that catered for the dedicated digital photographer interested in maximising the quality of his or her output while reducing the computer time and complexity of getting there. The 6 plug-ins operated within the relevant image-editing program and provided a fast, simple and intuitive means of achieving the required results. Of the individual plug-ins: FocalPoint provided focus adjustment; Photo Tools, a range of options for photo enhancement; PhotoTune, professional colour correction; Genuine Fractals, image enlargement; Mask Pro, masking tools; and Photoframe, border and edge effects. The plug-ins were available separately or as a boxed suite (Plug-In Suite 4.5). A second set of plug-ins, Essentials 2.1, providing similar features but less extensive, was available for Photoshop Elements and iPhoto.

For more see: [onOne Software](#)

Discounts were available for a limited period on their online store and at Conns Cameras: [Conns Cameras](#)

Technical Q&A

The topics covered included:

- A Time Machine that had locked and refused to unlock might be brought back to life by a permission repair. Onyx was a recommended freeware repair facility;
- A wide-ranging discussion then ensued on SuperDuper, an alternative back-up programme, the merits of a range of external hard disks and the option of backing-up to MobileMe.

Demo

Tom MacMahon, Committee member, showed how old unprofessional family photographs could be greatly improved by being scanned into a hard drive at 600 pixels/inch (the extra detail was needed for flexibility in editing) and then cropped to remove unnecessary background, sharpened, any imperfections removed, missing parts filled in, and tone and light levels adjusted.

News update

Brian Greene, Committee member, reviewed Apple happenings during the summer and to date:

- New MacBook Pros 13", 15" and 17" — aluminium unibody, long-lasting battery, advanced graphics, brilliant display, highly recyclable and greater energy efficiency;
- New iPhone 3G S — many new features including 3,1 software, which iPod touch now has too;
- Safari 4 — many new features;
- Snow Leopard (OS X 10.6 — out last week, demo at October meeting);
- New iPod nano includes video screen, anodised aluminium finish, larger screen, FM radio with Live Pause;
- iTunes 9 — latest version, out September 9.
- Look out for interviews of Net pioneers by John Naughton on iTunesU in celebration of the Net's 40th anniversary.

Next meeting

Tom Martin, Chairman, announced that the next meeting would take place at the MCC Clubhouse on Wednesday 7 October. Members were reminded of the special offers open to them detailed in the "Join the Club" box on the portal page of the Club's website.