



Grand Mac SIG Newsletter

April, 2011 Volume VI, No. 4

April 18th Mac SIG Meeting
To Feature Bento, Mac's New Data Base, and a demo of AR Drone,
a Dual Camera, Wi-Fi Equipped, iPhone-Controlled Quadricopter

Mac SIG Meeting Monday, April 18
4:30 PM Apache Room

There are 2 parts to our April meeting:
1) Bento Database - and Why Would I Need
to Learn About a
Database?



Bento 4, the newest version of the most popular person database for Mac, is now available. Organize contacts, track projects, plan events and manage things. New Bento 4 includes label printing, and can be put on your iPhone and iPad.

2) Demo of AR Drone, a flying video game, done by Jack Gossett and Clay Fabrizzius, from Quicks R/C.



Trina from Quicks R/C

AR Drone is the first quadricopter that can be controlled by an iPhone/iPod Touch/iPad, thanks

to its on-board Wi-Fi system. It was initially designed for the Apple platforms and will be also available on other platforms in the next few months.

This will be a fun meeting! Thanks to Jack Gossett for working with Clay Fabrizzius, Quicks R/C, 15170 W Bell Rd #102. Surprise, AZ 85374 (623) 217-2604.

CAM now requires that we show our CAM card upon going to a SCG event, so bring it along with you!

Mac SIG Updates

Mac Class Updates



Fall registration is tentatively set for October 15. This past winter-spring session the Mac SIG offered 45 classes and we anticipate offering that many again in the fall. Having the classes in the classroom during daytime hours was great for our twelve Mac instructors - we can now offer classes at 8AM, 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, and still at 4PM (in the Open Space Room), times that fit everyone's schedule better. Thanks to our instructors for making these classes happen and for great teaching: Peggy Boike, Goeffrey Buxton, Nancy Eckart, Jack Gossett, Sharon Hoobler, Joyce Kloncz, Art McCall, Gale McCall, Doug Ralston, Ann Sawyer, Marty Schwerin, Gloria Volland, and assistants Shannon McLaren, Geoff Buxton, Nona Kempton, Marty Schwerin, Rita Skarbek, and Sam Valenti.



Green Apples Meets Twice a Month

Don't forget our Green Apples sessions, which meet the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday at 3:00 PM. Bring your questions and problems and hopefully your Mac volunteers will solve them for you one-on-one. Laptops are welcome! The remaining Green Apples sessions for this spring will be April 5 and April 27.

Welcome New Mac Users

The Grand Mac SIG welcomes new members in March: Vicki Breslow, Astrid Bjorio, Alex Clark, Lyn Daniel, Alfred Eger, and Tom Hannigan. We hope you can join us at our monthly Mac events! (It really won't be like the graphic to the left!)



We are now back up to 188 members in our Mac SIG! Last April at this time we had 169 members in our SIG! There are 1046 members in the GCC.

Please encourage your fellow Mac users to renew their Grand Computer Club membership, which is \$10 until September 30 and renewable now at the Grand Computer Club (or online at grandcomputers.org).

Photos of our Mac volunteers at the GCC Volunteer Dinner on March 18. The Mac SIG was in charge of decorations (Thanks again, Sharon Hoobler!) with a St. Patrick's Day theme. We prepared a 225-slide show featuring our volunteers which was viewed throughout the evening. Photos by Joe Scanlon.



More iPad accessories: Protection, Utility and Convenience, a review by Tom Piper, appleJAC Mac users group, Jefferson City, MO.

As I written before, this Macworld 2011 could more appropriately been called “iPadworld” with all of the emphasis on portable Apple devices. The incredible variety of accessories for iPads was stunning, overwhelming and intriguing.

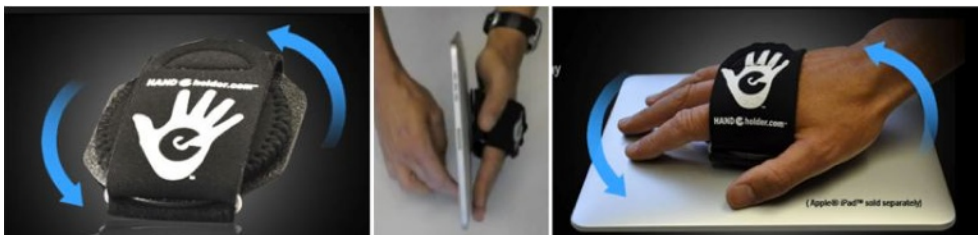
The **HandStand** from Hub International is an excellent example of the new generation of versatile and useful cases. This iPad case is designed to be an extension of my arm with the flexibility of 360° rotation around my palm. For only \$49.99 (<http://thehandstand.com>), this case feels good, protects well, and is very functional . . . a good buy.



I've been testing this case for awhile, and have made the following observations:

- Simple and straight-forward in its design and functionality;
- Rugged construction with durable matte finish and pliable mounting frames;
- Comfortable holding position with a firm elastic cross-band and border ridges;
- Sufficient thickness and weight to protect back and corners from abuse;
- Nice safety-grip for secure handhold and good table rest angle for typing and viewing;
- 360°rotation with tactile stops is a versatile and delightful feature, with many practical applications;
- The case openings for most ports and switches are good, except the 30-pin bottom connector that should be bigger for external batteries and cables;
- The color selections should be expanded beyond black, white and pink (colors to match the new Apple covers would be nice), and the addition of a velvet carrying bag for transport would be a real plus;
- Although designed for handheld use, it begs for the ability to stand upright (I suggest a 3" wide angled plexiglass insert under the elastic strap which stops against the grip in vertical position, and slides over the grip in horizontal position); and
- The Handstand 2 pre-order price of \$39.99 will get a lot of attention.

Another rotational approach is the **Hand-e-holder** from Burns Computer Services. Technically, its not a case, but rather an attachable rotating handle with a number of optional enhancements. With a price of \$39.99 (www.handeholder.com), this device will fit the original iPad, the iPad2 (to which I've attached it), or any other tablet.



As my friends have pointed out, it is initially a little unsettling to attach an adhesive ring around the apple logo on the back of the iPad, but it is very secure (it can also be attached to a variety of hard shell iPad cases). The basic unit includes the velcro adjustable padded hand-strap, patented 3M Dual Lock adhesive ring, and an acrylic Mini-Stand for vertical or horizontal viewing. Although the hand-strap is rather

difficult to attach and remove (admittedly a feature since you don't want the iPad to fall off), the rotation works well, and the stand works pretty well.

What makes this product particularly unique is the range of accessories available. Although the extra accessories seem a bit pricey, they certainly do expand the number of environments where the iPad can be safely secured for additional functionality. Interestingly, none of these accessories included mounts in automobiles such as on headrests. In summary, this concept puts a new “spin” on where iPads could be used effectively.