

Grand Mac SIG Newsletter

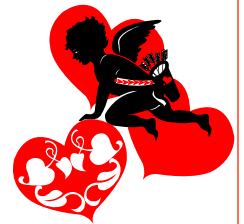


February, 2012 Volume VII, No. 2

Grand Mac SIG

February 20 Meeting 4:30 PM Apache Room

This meeting will feature "How Snow Leopard Lost Its Spots and Became a Lion."



From Snow Leopard to Lion

The February monthly meeting will be a presentation by Art McCall entitled "How Snow Leopard Lost Its Spots and Became a Lion."

Art will briefly discuss some of the pros and cons of moving to Lion, can you move to Lion, and 4 paths to get a Macintosh computer running Lion. There are some pitfalls in upgrades and Art will try to alert you to some of them.

We invite you to bring your Mac friends and neighbors to join us at this event. Please join us on Monday, February 20, 4:30 PM in the Apache Room at the Chaparral Center.



Welcome New Mac SIG Members



Welcome to these new Mac users since our December newsletter: Norah Amschler, Arlene Bak, Dean Carlson, Pat DeAngelis, Ed & Ann Ellenson, Jan Evans, Shirley Ewer, Diane Freilich, Peggy Gaaazard, Frances Kammersell, Arlene & Rick Klawiter, Nancy Larson, Huntley & Kay Lewis, David Lucas, Barbara Marcus, Diane & James Mullauer, Mary O'Donnell, Terry & Peter O'Malley, Cathy Olson, Rosemary Palmer, Skip Pavitt, Pete Penick, Diane Rehder, Debbie Rinehart, Skip Pavitt, & Marian Teague.

There are 221 Mac users on our list to date, up 45 new Mac users since December. We send informational emails to 204 Mac users, many of whom are couple emails. There are 1070 members in the Grand Computer Club. The 211 Mac members are 21% of the club.

Our membership has been increasing steadily. Please continue this by renewing your membership at grandcomputers.org or at the club room.



Tell Me Something I May Not Know: A Feature for Our Mac SIG Newsletters

1. Starting Apps using

Spotlight: To open an app that's not in your dock, hit **Command + Space** to open the Spotlight search box. Begin typing its name. After just a few characters Spotlight recognizes the app. Hit **Return** to start that app. No mouse required!

2. Remove an Application from the Dock: If you'd like to reduce the number of applications from the Dock, you can do so at any time. Simply grab the icon of the document, folder, or application you'd like to remove, and drag it out of

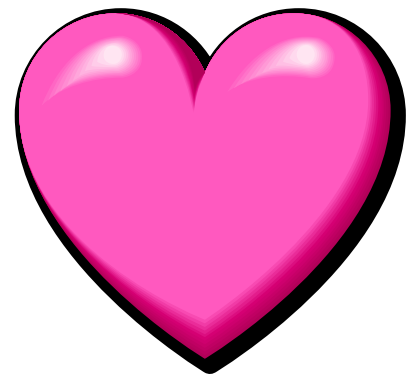
Dock. Release the mouse button, and the item will vanish in a puff of virtual smoke.

3. A New Mac Tip Every Day widget gives you the feed from the "A New Mac Tip Every Day" website right in your Dashboard. Go to: <http://www.macupdate.com/app/mac/23748/a-new-mac-tip-every-day>

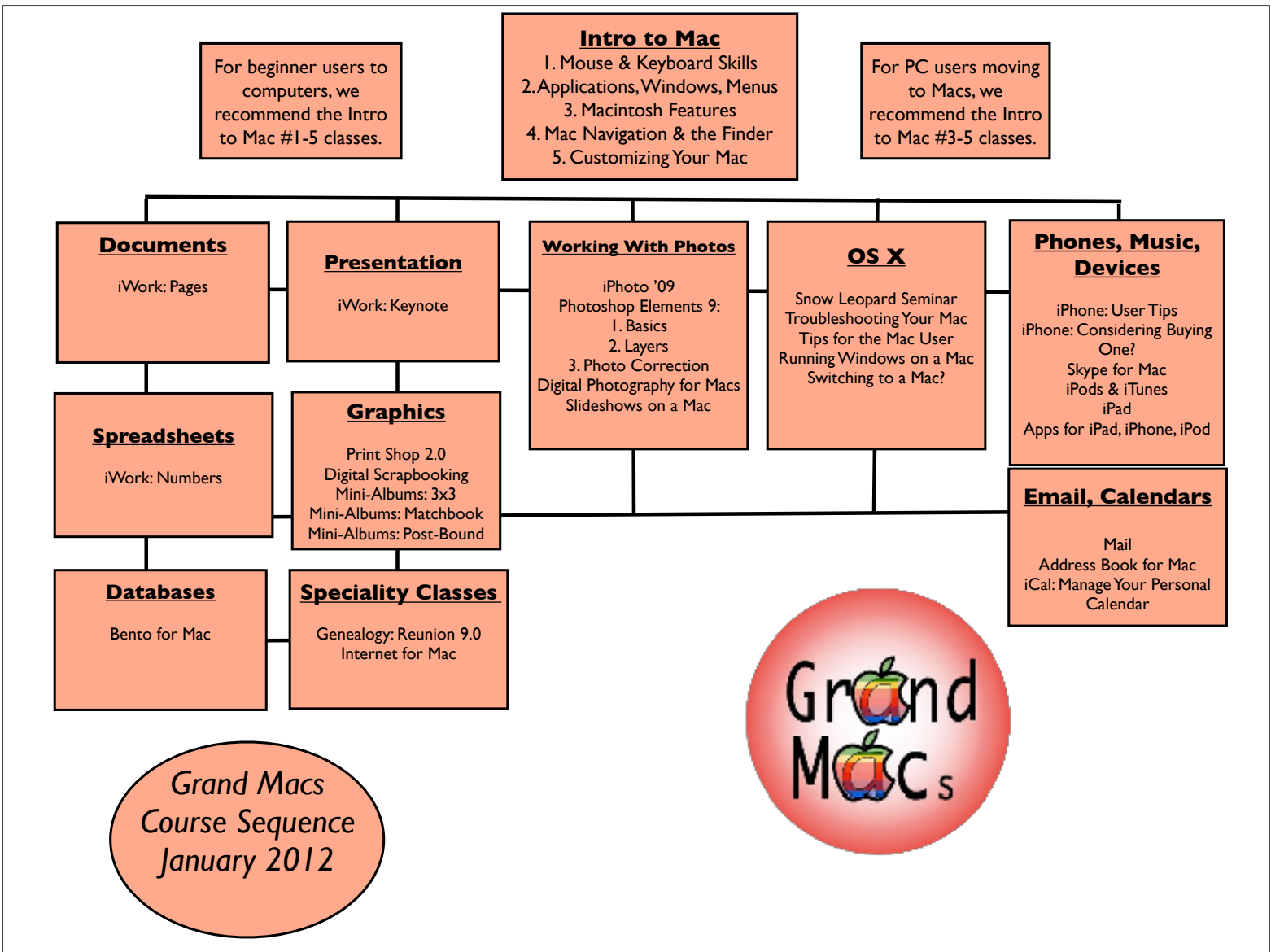
4. How to Make Documents Open in iWork, Not AppleWorks: Click or right-click or control-click on any document in the Finder that has been opening in AppleWorks rather than iWork. Select "Get Info." Click the expansion arrow next to "Open with." Click the drop-down menu under "Open with." Select "Pages" from the menu. Click the "Change All"

button to change the file association for all documents with that file extension. Click the red button at the top of the "Get Info" window to close it.

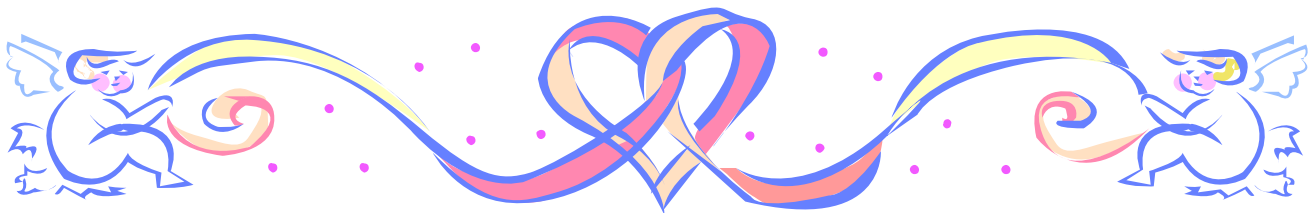
Read more: [How to Make Documents Open in iWork, Not AppleWorks | eHow.com http://www.ehow.com/how_8219604_make-open-iwork-not-appleworks.html#ixzz1jO25Bfit](http://www.ehow.com/how_8219604_make-open-iwork-not-appleworks.html#ixzz1jO25Bfit)



Mac SIG class flow chart



Monday, December 12, 2011



Grand Mac SIG Course Offerings Winter 2012 - New Classes *

For Beginners who have no or little Mac experience, the recommended sequence of beginner courses is as follows:

Intro to Mac

1. Mouse & Keyboard Skills
2. Applications, Windows, Menus
3. Macintosh Features
4. Mac Navigation & the Finder
5. Customizing Your Mac

For PC users moving to Macs, we recommend the Intro to Mac #3-5 classes

OS X Snow Leopard

For Beginners with some familiarity using a Mac and who wish to learn about the Mac operating system:

Snow Leopard Seminar
Trouble Shooting Your Mac
Running Windows on a Mac
Tips for the Mac User
Switching to a Mac?

Documents

For Mac users with some familiarity using a Mac:

Word Processing + Page Layout:

iWork: Pages

Presentation:

iWork: Keynote

Spreadsheet:

iWork: Numbers

Database:

Bento

Email, Calendars:

For Mac users with some familiarity using a Mac:

Mail for Mac
Address Book for Mac
iCal: Manage Your Personal Calendar

Phones, Music, Devices

- * iPhone: User Tips
- * iPhone: Considering Buying One?
- Skype for Mac
- iPods & iTunes
- iPad
- * Apps for iPad, iPhone, iPod

Working with Photos on a Mac

For Mac users with some familiarity using a Mac:

- iPhoto '09
- Digital Photography for Macs & PCs
- Photoshop Elements 9:
 1. Basics
 2. Layers
 3. Photo Correction
- Slideshows Done Quickly on a Mac

Graphics

For Mac users with some familiarity using a Mac:

- Print Shop 2.0
- Digital Scrapbooking
- Mini-Albums: 3x3
- Mini-Albums: Matchbook
- Mini-Albums: Post-Bound

Specialty Classes

For Mac users with some familiarity using a Mac:

- Internet for Mac
- Genealogy: Reunion 9

Microvision PicoP: Impressive Laser Micro-Projector

A review by Tom Piper, Jefferson City, MO appleJAC users groups



Have you ever wanted to show pictures, or slideshows, or movies to three or four people at once, but your iPhone or iPod screen was just too small? Even the iPad screen can be too small for a group of people. You could hook up to a big digital video projector, but its heavy and bulky, needs to plug into a wall socket, and is time-consuming to setup. On the other hand, with the marvels of today's technology and miniaturization, wouldn't it be great if you could just pull a projector out of your pocket, plug and play?

With the **Microvision SHOWWX+**, I have taken advantage of the world's first laser projector which is the brightest ever. The PicoP display engine provides a deep and rich color projection which show vivid laser images that are always in focus, even on curved and irregular surfaces. Microvision has titled this infinite focus which provides a large picture from a small quiet device. It comes with a replaceable battery (two hour capacity), micro-USB wall charger, iPhone/iPad/iPod cable, composite adapter, micro-USB cable (for charging from computer or external battery), wrist strap and user guide. There is minimal prep time (charging the battery), and the unit is ready to go.

The SHOWWX+ unit has a single cable connection that plugs directly into your iPod, iPhone and iPad (it also works with any other mobile phone, notebook or device with TV-out or VGA functionality). The unit includes a 3.5mm stereo jack (audio passthrough), the regular power button, plus a menu select button (there are also up and down buttons for menu selection). The menu allows control of Brightness (high, med, low), Color Mode (brilliant, standard, inverted, gamma-high/med/low), Aspect Ratio (widescreen 16:9, normal 4:3, zoom), and System (image alignment-variable slider, color alignment-red/green/blue), Green/Magenta Balance-auto/manualpattern/manualvideo), and Properties (system info, battery info, warning messages, default resets). All in all, there are a lot of customizable features to set things to your liking.

I've been testing this projector for a month at home, in restaurants, in offices, on airplanes, in vehicles, and many other places. Image projection has been displayed from as little as six inches away (six-inch diagonal picture) to nine feet away (about 100-inch diagonal). Closeup is brilliant in almost any light environment, whereas the large screen really requires a dark room. After a few minor adjustments in the menu (so easy to do), the clarity has always been razor sharp with rich color spectrum, both for photos, movies and YouTube.

I have successfully connected the SHOWWX+ to my iPhone 4 (its the same size), iPad, and iPod nano (both the older video and newest small model). I haven't plugged it into the computer because I don't have the VGA Dock. I only wish that MicroVision would also sell a small portable 24" x 36" roll-up self-standing screen since flat white surfaces aren't always easy to find (I've used place mats and thin plastic cutting sheets to great advantage since they are lightweight and rollable).



The reaction I've received from other viewers has been very positive. When shown at our Macintosh user group meeting, the crowd was surprised and pleased by the portability and clarity. Some were very interested in the size of the battery (very small) and length of use on one charge, while others were concerned about the price. There is still frustration that Apple won't allow projection of the "live" image on its portable devices (this unit will be terrific for education and training when such projection is possible). I am also aware that I could hook this mini-projector to my digital camera, portable DVD player, camcorder, and more, but really wanted to concentrate on Apple devices.

Not only is the Microvision SHOWWX+ a "Plug & Play" projector, it is also thin, light weight, movie and picture capable, wide field of view, excellent resolution, and very uniform display. Specifications include:

- Resolution: WVGA (848 x 480)
- Brightness: 15 Lumens
- Refresh Rate: 60 Hz (nominal)
- Color Gamut: > 200% NTSC
- Contrast Ratio: > 5,000:1
- Regulatory: Class 2 laser product.1
- Height: 0.55 in (14 mm)
- Width: 2.36 in (60 mm)
- Weight (with battery): 4.3 oz (122 g)
-

I believe this is the best of the micro-projectors (also called mini-projectors) now on the market. All of the others appear to be based on LCD or similar technology which are not as clear or bright as the PicoP. This second generation unit is now available for \$399.99 at <http://www.microvision.com/showwxplus>. A number of accessories are also available such as a SHOWWX VGA Dock, leather carrying case, USB car charger, Joby Gorillapod tripod stand, extra rechargeable battery, and extra connector cables.

I've been looking at the Microvision SHOWWX+ unit since the concept was first introduced. A year ago at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, we got our first close-up view of the first generation unit. Now, at Macworld in San Francisco, the latest version will be displayed. My experience over the last five weeks has been excellent, and I just love to show people how great it is. If you need a really small digital projector, I have no hesitation in recommending this unit for a variety of uses. And, yes, I do carry it around in my pocket for easy plug-and-play displays! This is a quality projector.



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