

SSMUG NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

May 2017

Walter Palmer, Editor

Meetings: Second
Tuesday of the month
at the Flossmoor
Station Brewery at
7:30 PM.

Coming this summer! The
3rd Annual Macstock
Conference!

Recently, (our own) Bill Geraci made Todd Smith aware that he will be presenting at a Mac-centered conference that is held in Woodstock, Illinois. This summer marks the third annual Macstock conference. In their own words, the organizers describe the conference as:

“Macstock is an independent 2-day conference for Apple enthusiasts of all experience levels. When you attend Macstock, you’ll hear techniques from community-leading experts

for getting the most from your Apple devices and apps and you'll be given a unique opportunity to engage other members of the Apple community from around the globe who'll also be visiting Macstock!"

It will be held July 15, 16, 17, 2017. The location is:

McHenry County College
(MCC)
8900 U.S. Hwy 14
Crystal Lake, IL
60012-2761

You must register in advance and it is not free. The cost ranges from \$90 for one day to \$200 for three days. They do, however, offer significant discounts for members of Mac user groups. Todd will help us obtain the discounts if there are any in our group who would like to attend. While many

will find this very expensive, it seems to be the most complete conference since MacWorld Expo shutdown. Please check their website for full explanation and schedule of presenters and events: <<https://macstockconferenceandexpo.com>>

Comment: It is not free, certainly, but "world class" experts, including Bill Geraci, don't come around every day. When Todd told me about this, he said that the MUG discount may be as much as 50%. Also the 'first day' is mostly a "meet and greet" with motel check-in. That reduces the cost noticeably.

iPhone 2017

Speculation is running hot and heavy about the next iPhone. To be specific:

Will it be called the iPhone 7S? or the iPhone 8? or will there be both? This is the 10th anniversary of the iPhone so there may be an anniversary 'edition'. Will the screen have a border (bezel) and if so, how large will it be?

Will the fingerprint ID be located where it is now? Will it be 'virtual' (on the screen)? Will it be on the back of the iPhone under the trademark?

Watch this space. The World Wide Developers Conference is in June.

New iPads

The following chart covers the ground.

Apple changed the iPad Lineup with little publicity or warning.

The image shows four iPad models: 12.9-inch iPad Pro, 9.7-inch iPad Pro, iPad, and iPad mini 4. Below the images are color options (Silver, Space Gray, Gold) and a 'Capacity and Price' table.

Capacity and Price ¹							
Wi-Fi		Wi-Fi		Wi-Fi		Wi-Fi	
32GB	\$799	32GB	\$599	32GB	\$329	128GB	\$399
128GB	\$899	128GB	\$699	128GB	\$429		
256GB	\$999	256GB	\$799				
Wi-Fi + Cellular		Wi-Fi + Cellular		Wi-Fi + Cellular		Wi-Fi + Cellular	
128GB	\$1029	32GB	\$729	32GB	\$459	128GB	\$529
256GB	\$1129	128GB	\$829	128GB	\$559		
		256GB	\$929				

REAL Heavy Iron

The on again, off again (self driving) Apple car seems to be on again. They have applied for testing permits in California. Of course, if it only the software, this needs to be tested as well. The field of potential self driving cars seems to be growing on a least a monthly basis.

(Self) Regulatory News

Both Facebook and Twitter are beginning efforts to better police their services. This goes beyond false news (aka “Alternative Facts”) and on line bullying. Germany wants Facebook to regulate “hate speech”. This is understandable since they have experienced first hand where ‘Hate Speech’ takes you. Nowhere good.

15 Things you can do with iMessage.

If you want more detail, ask me to send you the original article.

Education at Mac Stores

Apple has just announced a host of new educational sessions arriving at Apple Stores starting in May.

[Collectively titled “Today at Apple,”](#) the sessions will range from new basic classes

all the way to professional-level education.

Apple and the Environment

Apple has been generating more electricity than it uses, including Apple Stores for several months now. No, they do not supply energy to malls across the country. They put more into the grid than they take out.

- 1 Hide new messages from prying eyes
- 2 Reply to messages directly from notifications
- 3 Mute notifications for certain conversations
- 4 Repeat alerts, or not
- 5 Customize text tone for specific contacts
- 6 Customize text vibration alert for specific contacts
- 7 Send texts with Siri
- 8 Ask Siri about texts
- 9 Quickly write new messages and access recent conversations
- 10 Peek into messages without marking them as read
- 11 Send quick replies
- 12 Contact people in more ways
- 13 Block annoying people
- 14 Filter unknown senders
- 15 Report iMessage junk to Apple

Also, we know that computers generate heat.

Apple is building a new data center in Denmark, and it has some interesting ideas on how to power the data center with renewable energy, while also giving back to the community.

Excess heat generated by the data center will be captured and returned to the local district's heating system, which will warm up homes in the community.

(I guess that this part of Denmark sends heat directly to end users, rather than each having its own furnace. This used to be done in stores in Downtown Chicago.)

The data center in the Jutland region will be partly powered by recycling waste products from farms. Apple is working with Aarhus University on a system that passes agricultural waste through a digester to generate methane, which is then used to power the data center.

The digester reaction turns some of the waste into nutrient-rich fertilizer, which Apple returns to local farmers to use on their fields. It's a "mutually beneficial relationship," Apple said in its environment report for 2016, released this week. The data center in Denmark will be fully powered by renewable energy and won't put stress on the local grid, Apple said.

Americans and who should be ISPs.

‘Most Americans want to let local governments build out internet service if the internet providers in their area aren’t any good, according to the Pew Research Center.

In a phone survey of over 4,000 people last month, Pew found that 70 percent of respondents agreed that local governments should have the power to start their own high-speed networks if current

offerings are “too expensive or not good enough.”

The results show an overwhelming support for municipal broadband — networks that are at least somewhat run by local governments — at a time when encouraging broadband buildout is a top federal priority.

“Cities want municipal broadband; States don’t”

This is from a fascinating survey regarding several aspects supplying internet service.

The URL is as follows:

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/10/americans-have-mixed-views-on-policies-encouraging-broadband-adoption/>

The source of this information is **The Verge**.

Methods of ensuring Internet privacy, mostly.

Macworld has an interesting article on Virtual Private Networks. They sound fascinating but are certainly not cheap.

[http://
www.macworld.co
m/article/3186967/
os-x/protect-
against-potential-
isp-snooping-by-
using-https-and-a-
vpn.amp.html](http://www.macworld.com/article/3186967/os-x/protect-against-potential-isp-snooping-by-using-https-and-a-vpn.amp.html)

