



JANUARY 2007

MacNews

SEATTLE'S MAC USER GROUP

JANUARY 2007 CALENDAR

- 1**
6:30 PM Beginning Mac User's SIG
Canceled -- see you next month
- 2**
7:00 PM Board Meeting at RC
- 4**
7:00 PM Genealogy SIG at RC
- 6**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC until Noon
10:00 AM ExChange Group gathering at RC
to discuss issues of dBug ExChange
- 8**
6:30 PM Intermediate Mac User's SIG at RC
- Q&A and Troubleshooting
- 9**
7:00 PM WebObjects SIG at RC
- 13**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC until Noon
- 15**
7:00 PM FileMaker Pro SIG at RC
- 17**
6:30 PM **Main Meeting at RC: Macworld
Highlights**
- 18**
7:00 PM Office Applications SIG at RC
- 20**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC until Noon
- 23**
6:30 PM Intermediate Mac User's SIG at RC
- Topic Suggestions Requested
- 24**
6:30 PM Digital Imaging SIG at RC
- 27**
9:05 AM dBug Cafe at the RC until Noon

dBug January Main Meeting

What: Macworld Highlights

When: Wed. Jan 17, 2007

Doors open at 6:30 pm, Speakers at 7:00 pm.

Where: dBug Resource Center

9620 Stone Ave. N., Suite 202, Seattle, WA 98103

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<www.dBug.org>

The biggest and most action-packed Macintosh event in the world will be held in San Francisco January 8 to 12. Apple traditionally introduces hot new products at this event, and if the rumor mill is right, this year will be just the same. Can't make it down to the Bay Area this year? That's OK. dBug members will be there and will fill us in on the latest developments and hottest products from the Expo at the dBug Resource Center on January 17th. There will be plenty of cool swag in our big raffle too. Don't miss it.

The Elections Committee is pleased to announce the dBug Board of Directors for 2007:

Tom Auciello, John Livingston, Cathy Doser,
Dona McAdam, Mike Grueter

iWeb Class

Presented by Mike Grueter

When: 1:30pm - 4:30pm on Sat., Jan. 27, 2007

Where: dBug Resource Center

Maybe you've got a pile of holiday digital photos you want to share with friends and family, or maybe you've been thinking about creating a web site but just don't know how to get started. Apple's iWeb web page creation tool may just be the program for you, and dBug's iWeb class is the perfect way for you to get started. Mike Grueter is the Internet Development SIG Leader and he's been creating web pages for about as long as the Web has been around. Mike will guide you through iWeb's features like creating sites and pages, adding text, graphics, podcasts, movies, and editing and formatting your pages. We'll also show how to publish web sites to .Mac as well as a few of the most popular Internet service providers.

Register Now! Seating is limited. Please check the dBug web site for registration options <<http://www.dbug.org/>>. The entire \$30 tuition will be donated to dBug to support its current and future operation.





APC's Got Your Back (UPS)

By Mike Grueter

Have you ever lost unsaved work on your computer because you lost power, or had equipment damaged due to a power surge or spike from an electrical storm? With all the winds and storms we've been having lately, it is a good idea to protect your computer equipment and your data by connecting your computer to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uninterruptible_power_supply> and your peripherals to at least a good surge protector.

A surge protector is a box that goes between your electrical devices (like computers and printers) and a standard wall power outlet. The surge protector tries to regulate the power that it supplies to your devices, so that power surges and voltage spikes do not harm your equipment.

An uninterruptible power supply is essentially a battery that plugs into a standard wall power outlet, and it has one or more power outlets into which you can plug other electrical devices. While you have power, the battery stays charged and the UPS just passes power through to the devices that are plugged into it. If the power goes off, the devices plugged into the UPS stay on until the battery runs out. Most UPS systems also provide surge protection.

Mac OS X as of about version 10.3 (Panther) includes built-in support for many UPS systems, such that connecting your computer to the UPS box with a USB cable lets your Mac know the state of the UPS system. This allows your Mac to alert you to the fact that it running is on battery power and how much time is left before the battery will run out. Your Mac can even shut itself down safely before the battery runs out if you are not in front of your computer. Not all UPS manufacturers follow the standard that Mac OS X uses to communicate, so some companies write custom software to talk to the Mac, and some aren't compatible with Macs, though they would still function as a simple UPS. Software from the manufacturer is also good if you are running an older version of Mac OS or another operating system.

One of the biggest players in the UPS market is American Power Conversion Corporation (APC), and their UPS systems communicate with Macs without any added software. The **APC BP500CLR 500VA Clear Back-ups Pro** is a good option, and it can be had from Amazon.com for about \$130 plus tax <<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B000055XK9/dbug-20>>. It provides four power plugs that are battery backed-up and surge protected as well as three plugs that are only surge protected. It is good to have some plugs that are only surge protected so that you can protect devices without having them unnecessarily drain your battery. Things like printers and powered speakers fall into this category. The Back-ups Pro also includes surge protection for two fax/modem lines, so your computer is safe if it is plugged into a phone line too. Many UPS manufacturers offer some kind of equipment protection policy. APC offers offers a \$25,000 lifetime equipment-protection policy with the Back-ups Pro.

If you've got some different equipment you'd like to protect or would like to determine how long the battery backup would last for your equipment, APC has a UPS Selector web page <http://www.apc.com/tools/ups_selector/> that will let you find the best APC UPS for you.

Mac Users Intermediate SIG

Tim Hannon's Intermediate Mac User SIG <<http://www.dbug.org/sigs/macusers/>> is moving from the 2nd Monday to the 4th Tuesday. The first new night will be on Tuesday, January 24th, 2007. Don't miss the opportunity to learn interesting things about using your Mac.

Volunteer Opportunities

dBug needs for Volunteers for helping with Main Meetings and the MacNews.

Main Meetings

- (1) Call for volunteers to arrange the RC room and set up chairs.
- (2) Volunteers to put things away
- (3) Sell raffle tickets and memberships at the Main Meetings. (money to treasurer)

Mac News:

- A. Editor; organize material about next month's events, especially the Main Meetings and the Classes
- B. Reporters
 - (1) Main Meeting Reports
 - (2) Class reports
 - (3) New and newer software
 - (4) Classic Software
 - (5) Mac items of interest
 - (6) Board business
- C. Distribution
 - (1) Make copies of formatted pdf on dBug's RC printer
 - (2) Organize putting labels on the mailed newsletters
 - (3) Make copies available at the RC
 - (4) Organize distribution of copies to Mac vendors via delivery or mail

You should test your UPS system once or twice a year to make sure it is still functioning correctly. At some point, the battery in your UPS will need replacing. The battery for the Back-ups Pro mentioned above is called a Replacement Battery Cartridge (RBC), and Amazon.com carries them for about \$23 <<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B00006HYTO/dbug-20>>. They come with directions so that you can replace them yourself, and you can ship your old battery back to APC for free so that they can recycle it. If you have a different APC UPS than the Back-ups Pro, you may need a different RBC, so check APC's UPS Upgrade Selector web page <http://www.apc.com/tools/upgrade_selector/> for details. Have you been keeping track the acronyms? Yes that's right, we're talking about an APC UPS RBC.

Here's a great tip from dBug Member Roger Knights for those of you who would like to save a little cash and have the replacement battery installation and recycling taken care of for you. Budget Batteries has 10 Puget Sound locations including stores in Seattle, Burien, Milton, Federal Way, Bremmerton, Tacoma, Lynnwood, Puyallup, Lake City, and Parkland. They sell high quality replacement batteries for many devices (including UPS systems), will replace them for you, and even recycle the old batteries for no extra charge. I took my Back-ups Pro to the shop in Burien and the Manager Charlie Williams replaced my battery for \$21. Charlie told me they use high-quality, memory-free batteries and that they take the used batteries to a local company that recycles the battery lead as well as the plastic case. I could not find any replacement batteries anywhere online for that price, so it seems like a great deal.

APC recommends only using a genuine APC Replacement Battery Cartridges in your APC uninterruptible power supply <http://www.apc.com/tools/upgrade_selector/show_option_descriptions.cfm?desc=rbc&country=US&lang=en>. They will void your equipment protection policy if you don't, so take that into account if the protection policy is important to you.

Mike Grueter is a co-leader of the Mac OS X SIG and owner of Sudden Technology.



Watching NASA "TV" or...

Bug's Holiday Potluck

dBug's Holiday Party has come and gone, and what a great time it was! Members and their guests gathered at a really nice facility in Renton to eat, drink, and be merry. We had a huge spread to feast on and the libations and iTunes-supplied holiday music were plentiful. It was great to sit and talk with folks and meet some new members. The next Main Meeting party is officially our Summer BBQ, but why wait? dBug's Saturday morning Caf e has a party feel to it every weekend. We serve coffee and donuts with a heaping side of Mac support. Drop by this Saturday and join in the fun!

...enjoying a conversation, we all had a good time.

