



The

# ROSE BYTER

Apple Blossom Computer Club  
A registered Apple/Macintosh User Group

Oct' 11  
still only  
**\$2.00**

## I Never Travel Without My iPad

by Joy Garrelts <joy.garrelts@gmail.com>

I never travel without my iPad - not even as far as Eugene. I use it as a GPS without the annoying voice and I use the the map app to find where I should be. I was lost in a maze of dead end streets recently on Maui and I would still be fumbling around without my map app. Gas Buddy app helps me find the cheapest gas and my Yelp app tells me just about anything

### Steve

By the time you can read this, the world will have quieted down about the death of Steve Jobs, the media ever hungry for the next titillating story to beat to death. For a few days, emails came in from various sources eulogizing Steve. Here are some excerpts from a few of them.

--

Few words need be said about a legendary genius, brilliant businessman – who wasn't just about innovation, but always was about the user experience.

--

Steve Jobs, the visionary who led a mobile computer revolution with the creation of wildly popular devices such as the iPhone...

The world has lost a visionary and creative genius, and an amazing human being. Jobs

from where the best pizza in town is to the nearest Starbucks. Some airlines, including Alaska Airlines, have apps now that give you all your flight info and allow you to check in on line. Of course, there is always the availability to research information and history about sites that you are seeing. I did a lot of that in Maui. Additionally, I read several blogs about the best snor-

by Walt Pawley  
<walt@wump.org>

leaves behind a company that only he could have built, and his spirit will forever be the foundation of Apple.

--

The world will be a little less interesting with Steve Jobs gone. He was one of the people who had truly changed the world, how we perceive it, and how we live in it. He and Steve Wozniak literally created the personal computing industry in that famous garage in California.

My first computer was an Osborne, but my second was a 512k Macintosh. From that moment I was hooked, an Apple fanboy that went through a succession of Macs, from the SE to the LC to the Color Classic

keling spots for the day. And then, there is the chance to keep in touch with family and friends left back home - when I had the time!

Joy Garrelts



(which I still own although no longer use). I only went to the Windows "dark side" because of business infrastructure reasons...

--

I decided to write this because I knew the two Steves a little during Apple's early days. My impression of Steve Jobs from those days is not so 8 -->

### Next Meeting

**October 20, 7 PM**  
**American Legion Hall**  
**406 SE Oak Ave**

### Agenda

1. Meeting starts at 7 P.M.
2. Intro's of members and guests
3. Old business
4. New biz
5. Program: who knows
6. Questions & (maybe)Answers

# BRANSON

At the end of the decade of the 50's I was a miniscule part of the United States Pacific 7th Fleet, serving three years on board the US Naval ship Merrick. The ship was a proud member of the "amphibious forces," or what we called – at least at that time – the "Gator Navy." Our job was ship to shore, to deliver the Marines to the beach. Starting back in the days of wooden ships and iron men, the main battery of a man-o-war was its guns, however about the time of WWII that changed, and the main battery of a fighting ship was its means of taking battle to the enemy, ie: the main battery of a carrier was its planes, the submarine its torpedo's, the battleship its 16 inch guns. In the case of the Merrick, AKA 97, the main battery was the 32 landing craft she carried. AKA stands for Attack Cargo Ship, and along with John Paul Jones, these ships are now only part of the history of the United States Navy, amphibious warfare in this day and age consists of helicopters, and large hover craft that cross the surf and are able to travel over land, getting the troops and gear ashore, off the beach. If there are other means of landing the Marines, I'm not familiar with it.

The Merrick was commissioned toward the end of WWII, in 1945, and as far as I know she didn't earn any combat ribbons in the Pacific at that time, although that is where she went. After the war she was sent on an expedition of exploration to the AntArctic, after which she was decommissioned, only to be recalled to duty for the Korean War. I was in boot camp when that war ended, so I joined her crew in April of 1955, and that summer we were deployed to the Arctic, along with a convoy of something like 64 other ships. The cold war was raging at that time, and the Russians had shot down a United States aircraft in the Bearing sea, and seeing as how the

by Dale Nelson  
<dnelson@cmspan.net>

convoy was going into semi hostile waters, we placed ammunition in all the ready lockers on the gun mounts, which were our secondary batteries, consisting of six 20MM antiaircraft machine guns, four twin 40MM guns, and one 5 inch cannon on the fantail. None of the ships in that convoy had to use their guns, although we were in sight of Russia when we passed the Diomed Islands, and we did manage to get within 400 miles of the north pole. I expect the Russians didn't like us there, but in those days, both sides pushed and pulled all the time, in games of one upmanship and such. Those ships that continued east, and steamed into the Coronation Gulf on the top of Canada, arriving at our furthest point, a location directly north of Great Slave Lake, were the largest ships to ever penetrate that far into those shallow waters. Our amphibious abilities were used to off load and haul cargo to the beach, that would eventually become the "DEW Line," or "Distant Early Warning" radar sites that would be used as an early warning against a missile attack launched by Russia across the Arctic. As far as I know, they are still there.

Returning from the Arctic, the ship was then deployed to the Far East, or as the Navy says, "WesPac," meaning "Western Pacific." Returning to the United after nearly a year, the ship was sent to resupply the Eskimos on the Pribilof Islands, which is a treaty obligation of the United States. Once that was completed, the ship returned to WesPac, and in May of '58 I was separated from the ship in Manila, P.I., and returned to the States for discharge.

The ship remained in commission through the Viet Nam war, only at this time her guns were all removed, and she was designated an LKA, or "Landing Ship Cargo." Her boats were used in an invasion, just off hand I don't remember the name, and

for the purpose of this article it isn't important. Her boats were also used early in the sixties as the first of the riverine forces in the Mekong River, at which time she suffered her only combat casualties. They were taking Marines up the river and putting them ashore, and one member of a boat crew was killed and two were wounded. As a side note, one evening in the early 60's I was watching Walter Cronkite on the news, and there was a **3 -->**

2

The **Apple Blossom Computer Club** (ABCC) is an Apple Computer Inc.. registered Macintosh and Apple ][ family user group. The ABCC publishes *The RoseByter* newsletter monthly which is posted to each paid up member and reciprocating user groups. ABCC participates in user group newsletter content exchange. The ABCC also maintains a WWW site at:

<http://www.abccmug.org>

## Membership

Just \$20/year! Send with your name, snail- & e-mail address & phone to:

ABCC  
13748 Lookingglass Rd.  
Winston, OR 97496

## Current ABCC Leadership

### Treasurer

Jim McClellan  
<mcclellan@charter.net>

### Apple Ambassador

Jim McClellan

### Web Master

Jim McClellan

### AppleScript Guru

Jack Webster <jackw@rio.com>

### Newsletter Editor

Walt Pawley <walt@wump.org>  
Send your stories and newsletter ideas to the Editor, Walt Pawley, at <walt@wump.org>. Plain text files are preferred, sent within the body of an email message or as an attachment. Mail physical media to:

**676 River Bend Road  
Roseburg, OR 97470**

Please understand that materials submitted may not be used and those that are will likely be edited.  
Copyright© 2011, All Rights Reserved

# BRANSON

LCM, (Landing Craft Mechanized, or “Mike” boat, 56 feet long, weighing 55 tons, with twin Grey Marine Diesel engines, twin screws and rudders, with a bow ramp that drops to let 110 troops storm the beach) with an MK painted on the bow ramp. I hollered at my then wife, “That’s a boat off my old ship.” Then in front of the camera, the boat turns to shore and drops the ramp, and Marines begin unloading. But that’s not the most exciting part to me, on the side was painted, KA 97 – 4, and I was jumping up and down, hollering, “That’s my boat, that’s my boat, if I was still in the Navy I’d be driving that boat.” That’s not really true though, because although I was an “Assault Boat Coxswain,” pronounced “cox’n,” and my assigned boat was in fact Mike 4, had I shipped over, I would have no doubt been assigned to a different duty station.

So the ship was in commission about 20 years, and she carried a crew of 350 men. So the odds of going to a ships reunion, and meeting someone I served with and knew well is relatively slim. However I was pleasantly surprised to find out that there is a second class gunner’s mate, Don Russell, whom I served with, and whom I went on a lot of shore liberties with, that attends the reunions. So in the last few years my wife and I have attended several ships reunions and made some new friends, and were reacquainted with some old friends like Don and his wife. There are others that were on the ship at the same time, but people in different divisions, standing different watches were for the most part not readily remembered, although we had shared memories of the same places and events.

This year the reunion was in Branson, Missouri. I wanted to go, but I didn’t want to fly. It’s not that I’m afraid of flying, I’ve done that quite a bit, it’s just that I don’t like the treatment at the airport. My

wife didn’t want to drive, she was willing to fly. Anyhow, I won out this time, and we drove. The first leg of the trip was to Sacramento to visit with her sister for a couple of days. Then we were off across Nevada on hiway 80, making it to Elko the first night. Elko is still experiencing a gold mining boom, and it was about the most expensive place on the trip. We stayed at a very high dollar Best Western motel that offered Wi-Fi. I’d brought along my laptop, (it’s an inexpensive PC, so I won’t say any more about it) so I was able to stay in touch with all the computer literate people in our family. The next motel was in Wyoming, a Motel 8 with Wi-Fi, and this one required a pass word, which was something like “motel8” and which they tell you about up front at the desk when checking in. In every motel, coming and going, expensive and less costly, each one offered Wi-Fi, and each one was high speed, which spoiled me no end, because I don’t have that at home, but I’m about to decide I can’t live without it. Some required a password for the first use, but from that point the machine was automatically connected. All the motel rooms had different sorts of chairs, and none had a desk where it was comfortable for me to type, because usually the table was too high, and/or the chair was too low. I highly recommend anyone that is going to stay in motels to take along a lap desk for the computer. I didn’t take mine, and really missed it. One of the guys at the reunion had his machine hacked into at the motel, and they were sending everyone on his email list nasty photos, which caused me to worry about that a little bit, so to narrow the chances of a hacker finding and hacking my machine, I left it turned off most of the time.

The drive was long and tiring, actually longer and more tiring because my wife was tired and grumpy most of the time. But we had fun in Branson. We did the reunion get togethers, and the memorial for lost shipmates. That sort

of stuff, and we were able to see three different shows, all of them excellent. Branson is quite a place, the entire town is for God and Country, and they honor veterans to the point I was getting embarrassed. In the three shows we saw, there were no off color jokes, or bad words, and they were great. The shows we saw were the Showboat, which was a standup comedian that could play the fiddle, the second show was Shoji, a Japanese violin player, and the third was the Dixie Stampede, where you eat your food with your fingers, and watch a show that was centered round horses and history, and again was outstanding.

Part of the reunion memorial program was to lay a wreath on Table Rock Lake. In order to do this, we were to use WWII vintage amphibious DUWK’s, or as they are called, “Ducks.” The Ducks are boarded in town, then driven on a little tour of places and things, across Table Rock Dam, and up onto a large hill above the lake, finally descending back to the lake shore. Now I don’t know how many people didn’t know that Ducks go into the water, but for a fact my wife didn’t. She thought we were on a bus tour of Branson and surrounding areas, then we’d board boats to go into the lake. Well, the driver starts down the ramp into the lake, and Vivian hollers, in a quivering voice, “We aren’t going in the water in this thing?” The driver stops, and teases her about it, and everyone gets a laugh at Vivian’s expense. Then away we go, and he hit that water at least twice as hard as the other Duck that was following us. I’ll have to admit, it was funny, and Vivian is laughing about it now.

When the reunion was over and all the goodbyes said, we left with plans to meet my daughter and granddaughter, who live in Sidney, Montana, someplace along the road for a one day visit. We couldn’t go too far north before turning west, because the Missouri River was out of its banks, and roads and bridges were a

# Wump Notes

Any trace of coherency in the following paragraphs is entirely accidental.

4

This morning, my gateway server fell under attack. This is not a surprising event as it happens all the time. In this particular case, I was able to track the IP address from which the attack was being carried out to an ISP in China. They have a straight forward entry in the APNIC **whois** database that includes a specific email address for reporting abuse. So, I packaged up the log entries detailing the attack and shipped it off to them. **I didn't really expect any response or action.** What I got was even worse: they bounced the message. One has to wonder if this is not state sponsored as it mimics the sort of double-speak one often gets from Chinese government officials. I suspect that were I able to interview the ISP's owner(s) about this, they'd claim they clearly have a policy of dealing with abuse, citing the given email address. Of course, they'd have some excuse for the fact that using that address is completely useless and be indignant about any suggestion to that effect.

AquaBounty, a company in Massachusetts, has **genetically engineered salmon to grow about twice as fast as wild salmon.** Of course, the fear mongers in our government are all over this, working hard to see that we're not going to be eating any "frankenfish" any time soon. In reading an article about these activities, one thing was very clear: no objections were raised that made any sense as far as human consumption is concerned. How can I say that? Well, it's not too difficult. The genome of the genetically engineered salmon was altered so its normal growth hormone would stay active all the time. Apparently, the wild salmon growth hormone expression is something that goes on and off. I suspect that's in response to seasonal variations in food availability. Which

brings me to a concern I do have about such genetically engineered organisms. It's almost a certainty that they will become "wild" even if strong efforts are made to keep them from mixing with the environment at large. While raising such genetically engineered salmon in closed, carefully managed environments might well be a good thing for the food supply, releasing such salmon into the world at large might not be. If my surmise about why wild salmon moderate their growth is valid, having salmon without such moderation could well collapse all salmon's food sources in the wild. Indeed, the slower growing wild salmon might well become a food source for the genetically engineered salmon.

At one time or another most of us have seen long single strands of spider web hanging on, say, the edge of a roof high above the ground and extending straight down to said ground. This morning, glinting in the light, I noticed the effort of what must have been **a very ambitious spider** – two strands about a quarter of an inch apart running the 12 feet from our deck roof to the ground below. Of course, I could be wrong as I didn't witness the construction. It might have simply been two spiders, each of which belayed its way off the roof.

In my email this morning there's a blurb about scientists using extinct woolly mammoth blood to study how they adapted to the cold. However, **these scientists did not have any woolly mammoth blood,** so they had to make some. This was done by piecing together DNA fragments from three woolly mammoths that died from 25,000 to 43,000 years ago. The resulting hemoglobin turned out to be able to function at lower temperatures than that of current Asian elephants.

I've recently become involved in repairing some old industrial electronics. I look at the part numbers on many of the components and recognize them from days gone by. Sadly, that is **a severe problem.** Many of the companies which made these parts over at least a 20 year period, have either vanished or are no longer even in the business of making electronic components. Industrial electronics is not like consumer electronics in that once decisions have been made about using something, it may stay in use for decades. Keeping equipment functioning can be very tricky. With consumer products, one simply throws the failed stuff away and buys new stuff. I spent eight hours on the web trying to find parts that would work to repair this board. Almost everything had to be substituted with a newer item. So what? Well, these "newer" items are all, every single one, being discontinued. Even discontinued items can be obtained brand new ... if you have enough money and wait long enough. But if you're trying to keep a plant running, waiting for months to get the parts is not a good option, even if you're rich enough.

Soon, a virus may turn out to be your best friend. Sounds pretty improbable given all the trouble the human race has with viruses, but researchers at University of Copenhagen have found that **vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) both kills some types of cancer cells and inhibits cancer cells' expression of "liquid immunostimulatory molecules."** The latter sounds like something that should make the cancer cells commit suicide by immune system response. But it turns out that cancer cells generally emit so much of the stuff that the immune system can't find the cancer cells. By shutting

## <--Wump Notes

the production down, the immune system has a better chance of finding the cancer cells and shutting them down. This is being touted as a “clear breakthrough” and a “giant step” in the treatment of cancer. Apparently human clinical trials are already underway in the U.S. In addition, it’s thought that by genetically manipulating VSV, it could be modified to work against cancers other than those which its known to attack.

**Comcast is purportedly offering broadband Internet service called Internet Essentials for \$9.95 per month** on most of their cables. The speed is not blindingly quick: 1.5 Mhz downstream and 384 Khz upstream. But it’s enough to use the Web without overt delays even with the glut of sites that are stuffed with useless eye candy. The service is targeted at first time users, so Comcast is also offering vouchers for netbooks (small laptops) from Acer or Dell bringing the price to \$150.

This morning my gateway computer (the one I use to access the Internet from all my other computers) was attacked by a very fast connection. **It was generating POP3 connections faster than the machine could handle them.** This is not a real problem as overloading the TCP/IP system simply causes the overloading packets to fall into the bit bucket. But a large number of connections is none the less established and each generates an error message in the system log. Since my homemade system log watching program only operates periodically, over 95,000 bytes of log text got generated before the attacker was cut off. It’s hard to imagine how much crap the log would have accumulated if it was allowed to simply run amuck.

How’d you like to play **ping-pong on a table that’s only about 10 micrometers long?** Just don’t hit the table with a paddle ... if you can

see it at all (very unlikely). But this is just what scientists at Cambridge are amusing themselves with these days. They create quantum dots on the surface of a Gallium Arsenide crystal and stick a single electron in one of them. They can make it stay there for quite a while by setting up the electricity applied to the quantum dots. Then, to play a round, they “hit the table” by applying a piezoelectric pulse a few billionths of a second long to the crystal. The mechanical vibration induced in the crystal carries the electron over the electric potential “net” into a neighboring quantum dot. The good players have managed to run volleys 60 long. This might seem a rather pointless waste of time and money (no doubt the machinery involved is just the opposite of the size of quantum dots and very expensive to boot), but it’s just the sort of thing that’s needed to enable realistic quantum computers. One can conceive integrating such structures in silicon chips including gates to combine quantum dot outputs into further quantum dot inputs on an organized basis – the very essence of what makes a computer work.

After some three years of work, scientists at CERN have released their data that indicate that **at least some neutrinos travel faster than the speed of light.** This is a very troubling finding ... if it bears out. It would mean the bed rock of current physics is wrong and that whole new theories that explain not only what is already observed and seemingly well explained but accounted for this velocity anomaly as well. That’s likely to be a very tall order. But it’s troubling in other ways too. Neutrinos are almost impossible to detect. The Sun blasts gigantic numbers of neutrinos through the Earth each second, but only a few get stopped along the way. The neutrinos in question are created by high energy experiments at CERN, so they are on a very different path than those generated by the Sun. Still, their numbers must be nearly zero by compari-

son to the number coming from the Sun. Another thing that is difficult to be certain of is the experimental error. The neutrinos are supposedly 60 nanoseconds faster than the speed of light. This is over a distance of several hundred miles. That’s a discrepancy of about 55 feet. Experimenters elsewhere have seen such anomalous data but their error tolerance was larger than the discrepancy. It should be interesting to see how this turns out and what practical ramifications emerge.

The stuff of science fiction is fast becoming fact. UC Berkeley scientists have “...succeeded in decoding and reconstructing people’s dynamic visual experiences...” by using brain imaging and computer simulation. Basically, **this means they’re able to decode images in “the mind’s eye.”** This technology should be of great benefit in dealing with coma patients, for example. It could also be used as a lie detector that would display the construction of the lie as it unfolds. While not part of the current work, stimulating the brain in a reverse fashion could implant fake experiences. Perhaps the movie Total Recall will come to pass.

Once upon a time in a fantasy world of collected nerds, I informally presented a paper I’d written about a practical means of building massively parallel computers. **These other nerds had little to say about it, concluding I was even more daffy than they.** In the roughly 30 years since, almost any new computer has at least two processors just for dealing with mainstream computation, to say nothing of the more specialized processors used to handle mostly independent peripheral activities. And, of course, there are blockhouses full of interconnected server computers, each with many cores, that go by the name “supercomputer.” But my notion was to make, say, 1,000,000 processors feasible for a desk-

5

## <--Wump Notes

top computer system that one might use in their home. No one, so far, has actually done quite what I thought of, but they have gotten much closer. Today, you can buy single chips with integrated memory, communication links and processors which can readily be mated with others of their ilk to produce much larger arrays. And you can choose from a couple of different types. No one is declaring their interest in doing that, though it's highly probable that someone will. A big part of the problem is that we can build the hardware but don't really know how to turn the stuff loose: we don't really know how to write the software. From my perspective, this is not a real problem. The reason is simply that if you don't have the hardware to play with, you can't really tinker with software except as a mind game. Mind games are fine for a few but not very satisfying for the many. And pure mind games don't always come to useful results, especially when the game is very complex. The way forward is being researched on the smaller scale parallel processors and will increasingly segue to larger and larger scales as successes are obtained. My guess is that genetic coding will play a seminal role.

**Computers are proving to be extremely important in the effort to understand disease processes.** For instance, I just read about a project that studied how the mutations that generate certain cancers are generated. The researchers examined more than 180,000 chromosomal changes in the lives of 400,000,000 B-cells, from which leukemias, lymphomas and sarcomas arise. This database is being mined for clues but some have already come out. One that struck me is that the translocations in the DNA occurred more frequently at the beginning rather than in the middle or the end. One might infer that the DNA replication is less reliable at the

onset than it is once the cell division is further along in the process. Perhaps one day, life will evolve a better error checking mechanism. In another project, researchers are studying how proteins move. This is important because moving proteins is a primary process in life. Molecular motion in proteins comes in three distinct classes, localized diffusion, methyl group rotations and jumps. Interpreting neutron scattering data about crystals is a difficult process but high-performance computer simulation of the molecules has proven a good means seeing how the movements occur compared to dealing with neutron scattering spectra. Both techniques involve very large amounts of computation compared to the way we use personal computers.

“A document obtained by the ACLU shows for the first time how the four largest cellphone companies in the U.S. treat data about their subscribers' calls, text messages, Web surfing, and approximate locations.” A single page, the document shows how long each carrier retains data that can be used to track the whereabouts of its customers and more. There is no requirement for any of the this data to be retained at all though numerous attempts to create laws requiring it have been proposed. AT&T seems to retain such data the longest (they've retained everything since 2008 when they started), though it supposedly doesn't keep copies or either voice or data content. A number of carriers do keep copies of text messages for periods from a few days to indefinite. **So, just in case you don't think Big Brother is watching ...**

Are you depressed? If you are, the TV has some adjuvant therapies for you. I've been trying to avoid writing about this for many moons because it is something of a personal aggravation that advertisers do this sort of thing. First of all, the commercials about these drugs run on interminably. It must cost a fortune to buy the air time. I suppose it would be no surprise then,

should someone look into it, that the prices charged for these drugs are proportionally outrageous. But the worst part of the blasted things is that **if you weren't depressed when the ad began, you might well be depressed by the time it was over.**

Now that the FCC's rules on net neutrality have been OK'd, Verison is once again suing the FCC about them. Verison's reason is that they claim the FCC has no jurisdiction over their broadband network and how it's managed. Of course, the real issue is that Verison wants to charge larger fees to those who use bandwidth hungry content and block such content from people from those who don't pay the premium. This is just exactly what I would expect of a privately held Internet. **It probably seems to most people who pay any attention (and not many really do) the Internet is just fine.** That is far from the case, however. The Internet is supposed to be a failure resistant network. Instead, it's an easily damaged set of trees. That means that access for anyone on a given tree can be cut off simply by shutting down that tree's trunk. While I laud the notion of inhibiting Internet carriers from filtering content, the FCC's actions do not go far enough by any means. They are not likely to either, so long as we're too ignorant to demand having it done right.

It's astounding the things we say ... and have other people understand what we mean. Indeed, we say them because we expect others to understand them. But, **taken literally, they often make little sense or are even self-contradictory.** For example, I'm watching an old TCM movie in which Robert Taylor has a line to the effect, “You shouldn't be seen with an Indian after dark.” We all know what that means. But, if you didn't, the word sequence would

6

8 -->

**X-IADB2: None**  
**X-Modus-ReverseDNS: OK**  
**X-Modus-BlackList: 89.147.201.70=OK;farana.abdullayeva@un-az.org=OK**  
**X-Modus-RBL: 89.147.201.70=OK**  
**X-Modus-Trusted: 89.147.201.70=NO**  
**X-Modus-Audit: TRUE;15;-1;129633132916190000**  
**From: Farana Abdullayeva <farana.abdullayeva@un-az.org>**  
**Date: Sun, 2 Oct 2011 20:19:14 +0500**  
**Subject: Deactivation of your Email Address**  
**Thread-Topic: Deactivation of your Email Address**  
**Thread-Index: AQHMgRakMQsOVouznUOhyoZ9qRvQ+g**  
**==**  
**Accept-Language: en-US**  
**acceptlanguage: en-US**



**If you get one of these emails, DO NOT click the “Click here”**

**THIS MESSAGE IS FROM OUR TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM** This message is sent automatically by the computer. If you are receiving this message it means that your email address has been queued for deactivation; this was as a result of a continuous error script (code:505)receiving from this email address. <<http://kjhyymm.tk/>>**Click** here and fill out the required field to resolve this problem Note: Failure to reset your email by ignoring this message or inputting wrong information will result to instant deactivation of this email address

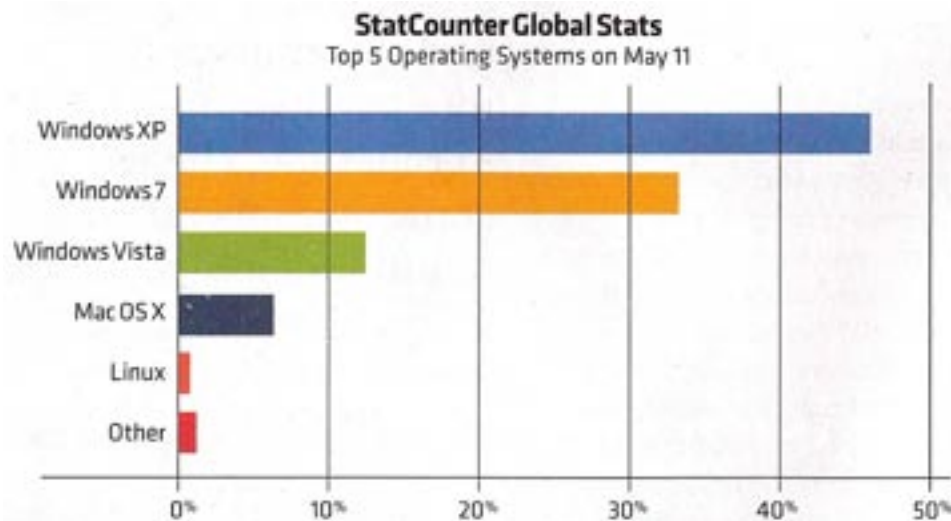
## Why?

Have you ever heard, “If Apple computers are so good, why aren’t they the choice of most people?” I certainly have. Repeatedly.

More importantly, I was sort of in the middle of things when this overload of Micro\$hapt Windows was created. Basically, it’s all IBM’s fault.

Once upon a time, as far as most people were concerned, there were no computers. Instead, there were IBM machines. Indeed, the IBM machine predates automatic computers by decades. Of course, it was only big business and government that could afford these machines. They were thus quite esoteric to the common man, who mostly was their victim.

As technology evolved, many companies attempted to compete with IBM. Often they made profits but they never managed to displace IBM in a large



way. IBM was supreme. As you might expect, IBM’s management was aged and steeped in their ways (ie. ego centric). So, when spreadsheet capability appeared on the Apple ][+ in the form of VisiCalc, IBM’s management didn’t pay it much mind. But because the spreadsheet enabled smaller businesses to do their computing on a personal computer, they decided IBM had to play in that game too. They assigned some junior managers to the task and,

leaving out lots of detail, the IBM PC was born.

This IBM “dream team” made at least one critical mistake. They did not secure rights to the operating system they chose.

The operating system didn’t matter to customers, however. What mattered then was they it was from IBM, so it had to be the best.

Right ...

## Branson from page 3

problem. So I had our GPS take us through Salina, Kansas, then north into Nebraska, where we turned west on hiway 80. Having been in contact with my daughter via email for the entire trip, our plans were easily changeable from day to day. In the end, we decided to drive northwest out of Nebraska to Casper, Wyoming, and Kim would drive south from Sidney, and we'd be able to visit for the day, which is what we did. The trip across Wyoming was fun for me, because we were passing by history pretty much unchanged over a couple of hundred years. We stopped at Independence Rock, where it's recorded that my great great grandparents spent 4th of July in 1857. Crossing the Wyoming plains, the buffalo were gone, but there were herds of antelope along both sides of the road.

From Casper we headed west, spending that night in Ogden, Utah, then the next day we drove to Roseburg, arriving home by 8: PM. That last day was the longest of the entire trip, but we were ready to get home. The ships reunion next year is once again in Branson, and it remains to be seen if I'll be willing to fly. At this point I expect the answer to be "No!"



## Goodbye

**It appears that my time with you all is fast running out. The more medical tests I get, the worse the prognosis seems to be. Since I have a few other things I'd like to try to concentrate on and finish before I go, this is very likely my last TRB.**

**In the time I have left, I will miss my attempts to annoy you into a response by writing my drivel. Recent events have not treated ABCC well, largely through apathy on the membership's part.**

make little sense. First of all, "after dark" is ... light. Or, at least that's the usual way things work for most of us. After dark, it's light. After light, it's dark. Yin and Yang. Round and round. Even so, if one assumes that what one means by "after dark" is "in the dark", we don't see so well in the dark. No wonder English tends to be a vexing language for those who don't grow up speaking it and a lot of us who do.

For some reason, the Russians seem to have tools available to the public for physically locating the source of IP addresses. This sort of facility can be very useful. <http://ip2geolocation.com/> is a website in which you can enter an IP address or symbolic location like [www.abc-cmug.org](http://www.abc-cmug.org) and get data on where the computer having that address is located. When you first enter the site, it will tell you about yourself, which can be useful. But I find it most useful to trace spammers and crackers. Averaging perhaps once per day, my gateway comes under attack. The attacker IP addresses frequently point to locations in China and usually to a computer on a backbone connection (probably so it can flood your server – a good indication that it's probably state sponsored). The most recent one as I write this was from Argentina. Suppose you want to buy something over the 'Net from someone you've never done business with before. It's a really good idea to check out that they are who they say they are ... and a number of other things ... before taking a risk with your PayPal money (if you buy things over the Net, it might be a good idea to get a PayPal account and NOT use your credit card with vendors you have no reason to trust).



**Still, I hope someone will grasp the gauntlet and keep the newsletter and the website going.**

**Thank you all for putting up with me.**

## Steve from page 1

sterling as today's media is fond of pontificating. From my perspective, the genius behind the early Apple computers was clearly Steve Wozniak. That is, unless you take Mike Markula into account; the man who financed Apple's birth as a real business and whom one seldom hears about.

While Steve Jobs may not have had but a smattering of technical knowledge about computers, he is well and truly responsible for changing the way the public saw them. Take the mouse as an example. I had seen operational mice (and a large number of other devices to interface humans to computers) over a decade prior to Apple's beginning. The impetus to use them on Apple's products came from Steve Jobs and the Macintosh was born – basically an Apple ][ with a much more capable microprocessor.

While Job's technical acumen may not have been first rate, he held the vision, sometimes wrong but mostly right, about what Apple's products should be like. In my opinion, that's the most important job of a corporate CEO - maintaining the course of the corporation's activities.



## unClassifieds

**Need a manual?**

Discount for ABCC members!



**Apple Blossom  
Computer Club**

<http://www.abccmug.org>

Give it a look.

Put in your own...

