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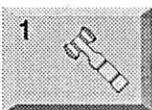
Volume 28, Issue 8



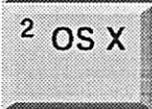
# mini'app'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

AUGUST 2005						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 <i>Board</i> 7:00	2 OS X 7:00	3	4	5	6
7	8	9  7:00	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 	19	20
21	22 Q&A 7:00	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



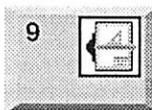
**1**  
Board of Directors  
mini'app'les members welcome  
New Brighton Family Center  
400 10th St. N.W. New Brighton  
Tom Gates 612-789-1713



**2 OS X**  
OS X SIG  
The Foundation  
1621 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
Craig Arko



AppleWorks SIG  
Summer Vacation



**9**  
VectorWorks SIG  
Comp-USA Store  
4220 West 78th Street,  
Bloomington, MN 55435  
Charles Radloff 952 941 1667



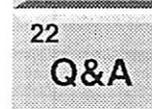
Microsoft Word SIG  
Summer Vacation



**18**  
Macintosh Consultants SIG  
Embers 7:00 AM  
7525 Wayzata Blvd  
St. Louis Park  
Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124



FileMaker Pro SIG  
Summer Vacation



**22**  
Q&A  
Macintosh Q & A SIG  
Questions & Answers  
Merriam Park Library  
1831 Marshall Avenue St. Paul  
Les Anderson 651-735-3953



# mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343

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**Advertisers** – For information, see Newsletter Ad Rates box within this issue.

**Newsletter Contributions** – Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343, or [tostertag@usfamily.net](mailto:tostertag@usfamily.net)

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 1st of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Manager, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

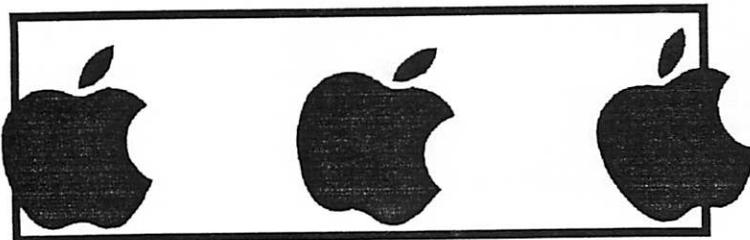
**Editor/Publisher:** Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

**Newsletter Layout:** John Pruski 952-938-2818,  
Bert Persson 612-861-9578

mini'app'les BBS – Internet only access

mini'app'les WWW site: <http://www.miniapples.org>

mini'app'les e-mail: [miniapples@mac.com](mailto:miniapples@mac.com)



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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time and a few cents to drop us a card, you save the club some money and you get your newsletter delivered promptly to your new address. If you don't inform us, the Post Office puts your newsletter in the trash (they don't forward third class mail) and charges the club for informing us of your new address. Change of Address should be sent to the club's mailing address: mini'app'les, Attn: Membership Director, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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## September 2005 Preview

Here is the tentative calendar of our Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings for September 2005. Please pencil these events on your calendar. As always, when doubtful of a SIG date, time, or location, confirm with one of the following:

- At [www.miniapples.org](http://www.miniapples.org)
- The cognizant SIG Leader

?	September	?	Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday	September	6	OS X SIG
Wednesday	September	7	AppleWorks SIG
Tuesday	September	9	VectorWorks SIG
Wednesday	September	14	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	September	15	Macintosh Consultants
Thursday	September	22	FileMaker Pro SIG
Monday	September	26	Mac Q & A SIG

# Members Helping Members

Need Help? Have a question the manual doesn't answer? Members Helping Members is a group of volunteers who have generously agreed to help. They are just a phone (or an e-mail) away. Please call only during the appropriate times, if you are a member, and own the software in question.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 5, 7	1. Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks-Draw	6, 7, 8	2. Mike Carlson	218-387-2257	D
Classic Macs		3. Eric Jacobson	651-645-6264	D
Cross-Platform File Transfer	5	4. Nick Ludwig	612-593-7410	DEW
FileMaker Pro		5. Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
FirstClass		6. Owen Strand	763-427-2868	D
iMacs	12,	7. Bruce Thompson	763-546-1088	EW
iPhoto / iTunes / iMovie		8. Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
Mac OS Classic	7, 12	9. Tom Lufkin	651-698-6523	EW
Mac OS X		10. Gary Eckhardt	952-944-5446	EW
MacWrite Pro	11	11. R. J. Erhardt	651-730-9004	DEW
Microsoft Excel	2, 5, 13,	12. Richard Becker	612-870-0659	EW
Microsoft Word	5,	13. Ardie Predweshny	612 978-9774	DEW
MYOB	13	14. Charles Radloff	952-941-1667	D
Networks		D: Days, generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.		
New Users	1, 9, 12	E: Evenings, generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.		
PhotoShop	3, 10	W: Weekends, generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.		
PowerBooks / iBooks	12,			
Power Macs				
Quicken	2, 13			
QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	13			
WordPerfect	4			
VectorWorks	14			

Please call at reasonable hours, and ask if it is a convenient time for them. By the way, many of these volunteers can also be contacted on our BBS. We appreciate your cooperation.

If you would like to be a Members Helping Member volunteer, please send an e-mail message to John Pruski on our BBS, or call him at 952-938-2818, with your name, telephone number, contact hours, and the software or hardware areas you are willing to help others.

## Newsletter Ad Rates

1/12 page . . . . .	2.25" Width x 2.5" Height . . . . .	\$5
1/6 page . . . . .	2.5" Width x 5" Height . . . . .	\$10
1/3 page . . . . .	2.5" Width x 10" Height Vert or 5.5 H. . . . .	\$20
1/2 page . . . . .	7.5" Width x 5" Height (save 5%) . . . . .	\$30
2/3 page . . . . .	5" Width x 10" Height (save 7%) . . . . .	\$40
Full page . . . . .	7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%) . . . . .	\$60
Outside back cover . . . . .	7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height . . . . .	\$50
Inside back cover . . . . .	7-1/2" Width x 10" Height . . . . .	\$60

All ads must be prepaid and submitted on electronic media. Ads of \$20 and under must run for a minimum of three months.

mini'app'les will accept all ads for publication that do not affect our nonprofit status, or the postal regulations dealing with our nonprofit mailing rates. Examples of ads that will be rejected are; but not limited to, ads that:

1. endorse a political candidate or cause
2. attack a person or cause
3. are in "bad taste" ( x rated or similar)
4. expound or demean a religion or practice.

Ads should be for a product or service. Because of our nonprofit mailing rates we must limit ads that are not related to computers.

Mail inquiries to: PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343  
Phone inquiries to: John Pruski, 952-938-2818

# Miniapples Directors Meeting May 2, 2005

Submitted by Jim Nye

Present: Les Anderson, Craig Arko, Greg Buchner, Tom Gates, Jim Nye, Bert Persson, John Pruski, Don Walz

Approval of Agenda- Agenda approved as amended

Approval of Minutes: April 4, 2005 Minutes approved as amended

## Treasurers Report

1. All bills submitted for payment were paid.
2. No financial statement submitted for this month.
3. \$ 1530.29 received from the Naugsaw convention fund. The money will be held to see if addition procedures are necessary to close the convention fund out. A letter will be sent to Brian Bantz and Dave Lundeen asking if anything is needed from the club to close out the account and acknowledge receipt of the money. In addition, a final report may have to be filled with the IRS.

## Officers and Coordinators Reports

President Gates-Members Workshop is ready to go-May 21, 2005-9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

## Disk Drive Confusion

Submitted by Les Anderson

If you are like me, confused by the various names and types of disk drives on computers perhaps this will help end the confusion. I found the information on a web site while looking for a new computer. As part of the specification for the computer it listed the drives; CD-R, DVD, SuperDrive, etc. Then I spotted a link that took me to the following Glossary. I found it very helpful so I thought I'd share it with the club. It helped me, and I hope it helps you.

### GLOSSARY OF DRIVE TYPES

#### Hard drive

The fundamental drive. It is magnetic and non-removable.

#### Zip, Jaz, Superdisk

Magnetic drives made by Iomega. Each type stores different amount of

Publication Director Pruski-1st Tech has equipment that they will donate for the auction.

Director at large Anderson- two new members were signed up at the last Novice SIG meeting. Richard Becker is retiring. It is not known if Merriam Library has been reserved for the coming meetings. Les Anderson will check out.

### OLD BUSINESS

Q&A SIG- Former Novice SIG is now renamed Q&A SIG- The reason for the name change is the old symbol ? mark in the newsletter caused some confusion if the SIG meeting was being held or not.

Main Mac SIG - SIG Director Craig Arko had a two hour meeting discussing the SIG with Celeste Stokes and Dave Shaw. Celeste agreed to be the SIG leader and Dave Shaw will assist her. It is likely the SIG will be held at the Washburn or Southdale Libraries.

Photoshop-Multimedia SIG-A Photoshop meeting is being held at the Dunwoody College. This started out as a Miniapples activity and now

it is uncertain whether this is going to be a Miniapples event or an event run by commercial interests. This should be clarified after the forth coming meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

The ballots were officially counted, tabulated, certified and the following members were elected to the Board of Directors; :President -Tom Gates, Vice President - Bert Persson, Secretary - Jim Nye, Marketing Director-Greg Buchner - Publication Director John Pruski -Sig Director-Craig Arko and Treasurer- Don Walz. The by laws to change the terms of the office until after the election ballots were counted was. passed.

Tiger- The members discussed the recently released Tiger software.

Meeting Adjourned-Next meeting- June 6, 2005, 7:00 pm, New Brighton Family Community Center, 400 19 St. New Brighton, Mn.

data on a different type of media. Any could be appropriate for a variety of uses.

#### CD-ROM

An optical drive that can read CD and CD-R media. It cannot write to anything, nor can it typically read CD-RW, DVD, or DVD-R

#### CD-R

An optical drive that can burn CD-R media. It cannot read or write CD-RW or DVD/DVD-R. CD-R can be recorded in one or many sessions.

#### CD-RW

An optical drive that can burn CD-R media in single or multiple sessions using Roxio's Toast software or iTunes software from Apple. In addition, this drive can re-write to CD-RW media using Roxio's Toast software or Apple's Disk Burner software. In the new OS 10.1, you can burn right from

the finder! This drive will also read regular CD's for software installation, music, games, etc. This drive will not play DVD movies or burn DVD movies onto DVD disks.

#### DVD-ROM

An optical drive that can read DVD disks and play DVD movies through Quicktime or iMovie. Can not write to any type of disk, but can read CD or CD-R.

#### DVD-R

An optical drive that can read DVD disks and play DVD movies as well as CD and CD-R. It can also record to a DVD-R disk.

#### Superdrive

An optical drive that can read DVD and CD disks, as well as burning CD-R, CD-RW, and DVD-R media.

# Virginia Tech From Analysis to Optimization

The power of the Xserve cluster can streamline the amount of time computational scientists need for research, says Dr. Herdman. "Some problems may take a month of computer time. We want to cut that down to two or three hours. Instead of doing something in six months, we're talking about a matter of days. The speed with which we can design and solve problems is very important to us."

"We've put a state-of-the-art, ahead-of-the-curve machine here for our research faculty to use and they're very excited about having the Macs here," says Dr. Terry Herdman, director of research computing at Virginia Tech.

## The Technology of Accuracy

Dr. Varadarajan points to an aspect of the Xserve G5 that's of particular importance: ECC memory — a memory system that uses error-correcting code logic to protect against corrupt data and read/write errors.

Computational science applications vary widely in their run time — some run for just minutes or hours, but others churn on for months or even years. During this time, bit errors can occur — through electrical interference, for example — in the 64-bit binary number.

"Think of it as potential loss of long-term memory in humans," Dr. Varadarajan explains. "Silicon memory has nothing to do with aging, but it can flip and you might get an incorrect result. The Xserve's memory subsystem prevents these errors."

Error correction is vitally important for the kinds of "grand-challenge" computational science problems handled by System X. With these problems, says Dr. Varadarajan, "nobody knows what the data is supposed to look like. Without a way to correct for errors, scientists have to repeat a run five or six times. And, even then, all of their results may only point roughly in the same direction. Their machines are telling them nothing useful."

But with System X, he says, "because the Xserve uses error-correcting memory, if one bit flips out of 64, the memory subsystem will detect and correct it."

## Asking New Questions

The new Xserve cluster means better science. "People are already doing bigger things," Dr. Ribbens says. "A bigger computation means a more accurate computation and a better simulation."

Perhaps more important, he says, the

Xserve cluster means a big increase in power for the typical user — easily by a factor of 100 or more, he says.

"That allows scientists to ask different questions."

For example, Ribbens explains, scientists involved in simulations might previously have been able to simulate the physical properties of one material or alloy.

"Now, they can not only get a better answer, but they can think about simulating many different alloys or alloys with slightly different properties," he says.

"Instead of answering the question 'What's going on in this engine, or weather system, or molecule,' scientists can ask, 'What should be going on? What's the best way to design this molecule? I'm going to try 50 different examples and see which one works best.'

"You move from just analysis to optimization," Ribbens concludes.

"Before, you might have been happy to do just a few runs in a month. Now, if you can do several runs a day, that really changes the way you think about the science."

# Virginia Tech System X Takes on the Grand Challenge

By Barbara Gibson

Meeting the Grand Challenge. Dr. Srinidhi Varadarajan, director of Virginia Tech's Terascale Computing Facility, stands in front of System X, a cluster of 1,100 Xserve G5s.

Virginia Tech gained international honors for building the fastest supercomputer at any academic institution in the world. And they did it using Power Mac G5s. From that milestone, Virginia Tech has moved ahead again with System X, a new cluster using 1,100 Xserve G5s.

Ranking seventh in the Top 500 list of the world's most powerful computer systems, System X was built at a fifth

of the cost of the second-least expensive system in the top 10.

"When we built the first supercomputer from Power Mac G5s, we proved that a radically-different communications technology could be used to create a large-scale computing platform," says Dr. Srinidhi Varadarajan, director of the university's Terascale Computing Facility and the system's lead designer.

"We're recognized for knowing how to build these terascale computing machines — and with very good price performance.

"But the measure of the facility is the kind of science it produces." Meeting the Grand Challenge

The Xserve-based supercomputer is part of Virginia Tech's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, where scientists tackle multi-disciplinary, "grand challenge" problems in science and engineering — large-scale problems such as computational fluid dynamics, molecular modeling, nanoelectronics, quantum chemistry, computational biology and large-scale network emulation.

From left to right: Dr. Kevin Shinpaugh, director of research and cluster computing; Jason Lockhart, associate director of the Terascale Computing Facility; Patricia Arvin, associate vice president for information technology; Dr. Glenda Scales, assistant dean of engineering for

research computing; Dr. Srinidhi Varadarajan, director of the Terascale Computing Facility.

"Simulating the physics inside a molecule or the interactions among atoms in a material science application requires huge amounts of computation and data," says Dr. Cal Ribbens, associate professor of computer science. "And the results of the simulation demand that the computations be very tightly coupled, because the answer in one part of the simulation depends on the answer in another part. So not only do you need very powerful computers, you need them connected by a very fast network.

"That's what the Apple Xserve cluster provides."  
Teraflops to Spare

Virginia Tech moved to the Xserve G5 cluster for several reasons, but primarily because of its server-optimized

architecture, groundbreaking performance and innovative management tools.

"The Xserve cluster was a perfect alternative for us because of its computational capability, reliability and responsiveness," says Dr. Varadarajan.

With dual 64-bit, 2.3GHz G5 processors in each of its 1,100 Xserve G5 units, the new cluster operates at 12.25 teraflops.

Dr. Varadarajan considers the Xserve's PowerPC processor ideal: "Its floating-point performance matches or exceeds that of Intel's Itanium2 solution."  
The On-Campus Supercomputer

"We've put a state-of-the-art, ahead-of-the-curve machine here for our research faculty to use and they're very excited about having the Macs here." says Dr. Terry Herdman, direc-

tor of research computing.

"Only a handful of universities have a world-class supercomputing resource," confirms Dr. Kevin Shinpaugh, Virginia Tech's director of research and cluster computing. "Before, our faculty members would have to go to a National Science Foundation [NSF] center, for instance, and write a proposal to get time on these machines."

Since the demand for NSF machines is very high, says Dr. Shinpaugh, "a scientist could sit in line for six months just to get access. Then they may not get as many compute hours as they really needed. Having a resource at Virginia Tech gives them quick access to a large system for world-class science."

## The 12-in. PowerBook: Thin and (feature) rich

Product Review by Ken Mingis  
Product Review by Ken Mingis

JULY 12, 2005 (COMPUTERWORLD) - The old adage that you can never be too thin or too rich seems like a tailor-made description of what road warriors want in their laptops: thin, lightweight machines that are feature-rich and, of course, inexpensive.

With its latest generation of PowerBooks, unveiled back in January (see "Apple updates PowerBooks, touts new technologies"), Apple Computer Inc. may have had that adage in mind: It incrementally updated its aluminum-clad laptop line with faster processors, faster SuperDrives and hard drives; doubled the memory – and cut prices. The message was simple: You get more for less.

For the past few weeks, I've been using one of the new 12-in. PowerBooks, loaned out by Apple for review purposes, and I've found it to be almost everything I'd want in a portable computer. This iteration comes with a 1.5-GHz G4 processor, the now-standard 512MB of RAM, a 5,400-rpm 80GB hard drive, an 8X SuperDrive (which burns and plays CDs and DVDs), Bluetooth 2.0, an 802.11g wireless card, Apple's new two-finger scrolling trackpad and its Sudden Motion Sensor technology.

Price out the door: \$1,699 plus tax. (The model with a Combo drive that only burns CDs is \$200 less.)

About the only thing I haven't tried out is the Sudden Motion Sensor. It's designed to park the heads on the hard drive in case you drop your PowerBook, thereby preserving data – even if the laptop gets broken. Tossing a PowerBook onto the floor – even if it's not mine – is something I'm loath to do. I'll take Apple's word for it on this particular bit of technology.

In all other respects save one, I've found Apple's smallest laptop to be a champ when it comes to portable computing. I've always had a fondness for the 12-in. model, which weighs in at just 4.6 pounds – light enough to carry most anywhere, yet hefty enough to convey a feeling of solid construction. I believe it was Walt Mossberg at The Wall Street Journal who best summed up the 12-in. PowerBook. It's like one of those all-metal Leica cameras that just reeks of quality.

I have to admit having taken a roller-coaster ride of sorts in the past couple of years since Apple introduced its aluminum PowerBooks. I fell first for the 17-in. model (such widescreen real estate),

then swooned for the first-generation 12-in. model (a hot little number in more ways than one, especially when you sat it in your lap), then decided that for most users the midrange 15-in. model is the perfect blend of portability and power.

Along the way, I've bought, borrowed or used just about every combo of PowerBook features that Apple has built, and while I seem to have finally settled on the 17-in. model for my own use (I have one of the newer 1.67-GHz G4 PowerBooks at home), the entry-size model is no slouch.

That shouldn't be surprising, given that Apple has had plenty of time to tweak the 12-in. model since the original 867-MHz G4 version appeared in early 2003. Despite a significantly faster chip, this generation of BabyBooks runs relatively cool. In continuous light use (Web surfing, e-mail, text editing), the processor temperature held at about 114 degrees Fahrenheit. Given the paucity of space inside the compact case, which limits the amount of cooling air that can be moved through the PowerBook's components, that seems reasonable. More importantly, the outside of the case is warm, but not hot, to the touch. And if there's a fan running, it's hard to tell. This PowerBook is quiet.

*In terms of speed, the smallest PowerBook runs almost as quick as the biggest. Again, that shouldn't surprise anyone, as the .17-GHz difference in processor speeds is negligible. How close are the top and bottom of the PowerBook line? My 17-in. PowerBook cranked out an Xbench score of 135 when I tested it in February (see "The new 1.67-GHz PowerBook: A solid 17-in. value"). The 12-in. model, running Apple's latest operating system – Mac OS X 10.4 – clocked in on the same test at 132. Of course, the 17-in. model was running Mac OS X 10.3, and the updated operating system might have helped speed things up a bit on the BabyBook. This means that for all practical purposes, if you're buying the bigger PowerBooks for the speed boost but prefer the portability of the smallest model, you might want to rethink your purchase plans.*

*The 12-in. model also shines in terms of battery life. While Apple likes to say its PowerBooks will last "up to five hours" on battery power, that's a stretch. With*

*the screen brightness turned all the way up, hard drive sleep turned off and processor speed set to "automatic," I was able to squeeze out 3 hours and 22 minutes of use. Turning down the screen brightness (it's a big power draw) and setting the processor speed to "reduced" should push that battery life to 4 hours or so on one charge.*

*Speaking of the screen, I mentioned earlier that I had one reservation about the 12-in. PowerBook. This is it. The screen just doesn't compare to those offered in the 15-in. and 17-in. models. It's certainly sharp, and the color saturation is good. But it's dull compared with the almost-too-bright screens used in the bigger PowerBooks. In a brightly lit office, or a medium- to low-light room at home, it's perfectly adequate. But adequate isn't really good enough for Apple's professional lineup. (The same 1,024-by-768-pixel screen is also used in Apple's 12-in. iBook.)*

*At a time when Windows laptops are*

*sporting X-brite technology that offers exceptionally vivid, bright colors, the 12-in. PowerBook's screen mediocrity really stands out – and not in a good way.*

*Having said that, I wouldn't let the screen alone be a deal-breaker. Neither would I be unduly troubled by Apple's recent decision to switch to Intel processors. That transition won't even begin until next year, and any hardware bought now should be usable well into the changeover. The old rule still applies: If you don't need a laptop now, then wait and see what Apple comes up with next – and hope that whatever it is, it has a new and improved LCD screen.*

*But if you need portable power now, the wealth of features offered – including Apple's superb operating system – are reasons enough to snag this most portable of PowerBooks.*



# mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.  
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343-0796

## Membership Application, & Renewal Form

Name: _____
Company (if mailed to): _____
Address: _____
_____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone # (Home): _____
Phone # (Work): _____
Phone # (cel-phone): _____
Occupation (if Applicable): _____
Membership ID # (if Renewal): _____
e-mail: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if OK to contact you by e-mail.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if this is a change of address notice.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you are interested in volunteer opportunities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you want your name added to Members Helping Members List.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you want your name withheld from commercial and other non-club mailing lists.
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you were referred by a club member (if so give members name).
_____

### New Members & Renewing Members

Specify your level of support:

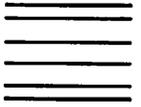
- \$25.00 One Year
- \$45.00 Two Year
- \$60.00 Three Year
- \$15.00 Student One Year\* (must be a full-time student at an accredited institution )
- \$100.00 Corporate One Year

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Last Fold - Seal with Tape



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