

Website: <http://www.miniapples.org>

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## Meeting Calendar

This information was compiled as this newsletter was being assembled and is subject to change. As always, confirm the meeting date, time, and location with the meeting leader or the Mini'app'les website: [www.miniapples.org](http://www.miniapples.org).

Meeting Calendar – February 2014			
Wednesday	Feb 12	7:00 pm	TC Photoshop User Group
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Mini'app'les Annual Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Mini'app'les Meeting</b>
Thursday	Feb 20	7:00 am	Mac Consultants SIG
Thursday	Feb 27	7:00 pm	FileMaker Pro SIG

Meeting Locations and Leaders		
Meeting	Location	Leader
TC Photoshop User Group*	Concordia University, Library Tech Center, Room 214, 1282 Concordia Ave, St. Paul ( <a href="#">map</a> )	Jeanne Rubbo
<b>Mini'app'les Annual Meeting</b>	Washburn Library Meeting Room, 5244 Lyndale Ave. S., Minneapolis ( <a href="#">map</a> )	Jeff Berg, 781-350-0598
<b>Mini'app'les Meeting</b>	Hack Factory, 3119 E. 26th St, Mpls ( <a href="#">map</a> )	Tim Drenk, 952-479-0891
Mac Consultants SIG	Good Day Cafe, 5410 Wayzata Blvd., Golden Valley ( <a href="#">map</a> )	Bob Demeules, 763-559-1124
FileMaker Pro SIG	9201 Penn Ave S. Bloomington	Steve Wilmes, 651-458-1513

\* This SIG is NOT sponsored by Mini'app'les; the listing is provided as a service to members.

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## Upcoming Mini'app'les Annual Meeting

By [Tim Drenk](#)

The annual Mini'app'les meeting will be held at the Washburn Library's meeting room ([map](#)) on Saturday, February 15th at 1:00 pm.

In honor of the 30th anniversary of the introduction of the Mac, we will be looking back over some of the history of the Mac.

We will be giving away an AppleTV. To win, all you have to do is be a Mini'app'les member and be at the meeting.

We will also have a contest to see who can bring in the oldest Mac related item in three categories. The first is for oldest Macintosh computer. The second is for the oldest Macintosh software on factory media. The third is for the oldest Macintosh periphery or accessory. If there is a tie for the oldest item, the item in better condition will win. The winner of each category will receive a \$25 Apple Store gift card. Of course, any and all items you bring to the meeting, you are responsible to take home with you.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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## January Mini'app'les Meeting

By [Tim Drenk](#)

At the January Mini'app'les we looked at some essential apps for the Mac and iOS devices. Some of the Mac apps we talked about were some of the basic office apps like iWork and Office and some alternatives like Byword. There were a variety of to do apps like Things, OmniFocus, and Clear, each has its strengths depending on what you want. The built-in Reminders was also demonstrated. It was pointed out that since Reminders is part of the system, it ties in very well across the entire OS

from using Siri to create a to-do item to having items show up in the built-in calendar.

1Password or LastPass was given as an essential for online security and password management. Day One was shown as a good journaling app and ReadKit, a RSS reader, is used by a number of members as a news source. For multimedia apps, VLC is a good addition for video files because it will play more formats than QuickTime. Handbrake was the popular choice for converting DVDs to movie files. And Dropbox was mentioned as a essential file storing and sharing service.

One app that was mentioned for number of purposes was Evernote. Evernote, with a free or paid subscription, can be a place to save notes, webpages, and to-dos. It can save PDFs and JPGs with a free subscription and a broad range of other files with a premium subscription. And best of all, is Evernote can be synced across multiple devices and computers allowing you easy access all things you want to remember.

For utilities, TinkerTool is an app that allows for more customization and preference settings of OS X without going into the Terminal. Carbon Copy Cloner and SuperDuper were given as essential backup tools.

A laptop essential app is Sidekick for those who move from location to location and need different system settings for each location. Sidekick will detect the available wireless networks, connect to the predefined network, and automatically change settings based the location. Settings such as network settings, volume level, default printers, Bluetooth, and screen brightness, to name a few, can be changed.

For the iOS, many of the Mac apps have iOS counterparts, such as Evernote, Day One, iWork, Things, OmniFocus, and 1Password. Notability is essential app for freehand note taking, annotating documents and images and

sketching. Notability is a universal app and notes can be synced across devices. Documents by Readdle is a good jack of all trades document reader being able to handle PDFs, Office docs, images, and media files. And best of all, it's free.

We also reminded everyone of the details of the upcoming annual meeting.

At the February Mini'app'les meeting on the 18th, starting at 7:00 p.m., we will have a full meeting of Q&A. Bring your questions and problems about your Mac or iOS device and whatever hardware you want to bring, and we will have an answer for you or point you in the right direction.

If there is a topic that you are interested in learning more about, please contact me ([timdrenk@miniapples.org](mailto:timdrenk@miniapples.org)) or Jeff ([jeff@purpleshark.com](mailto:jeff@purpleshark.com)).

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## Special Offers from the Apple User Group Advisory Board

The Apple User Group Advisory Board provides user group members with discounts on a variety of software, books, magazines, and other items related to the Mac. Go to their website below and use the password ugcoolbuys (valid through January 15 but is currently still working) to see the current offers. As requested by the Apple User Group Advisory Board, please do not make links or password publicly available.

<http://appleusergroupresources.com/special-offers-with-codes/>

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## A Few Interesting Articles

by [Tim Drenk](#)

Here are some interesting articles I came across in the last few weeks:

- 7 classic versions of Windows and Mac OS you can run in a browser by Jon Brodtkin

Microsoft's Windows and Apple's Mac operating systems have inspired truly prodigious amounts of adulation and horror on the part of computer users for about three decades now.

Those of us who love technology aren't likely to forget our first desktop operating systems. But the OSes of yore don't have to live only in your memories. While it might be difficult to fire up the first PCs you ever owned today, some computer enthusiasts have made it easy for us to relive what it was like to use them again with almost no effort at all.

[\(Continue reading at arstechnica.com\)](#)

- Tech Time Warp of the Week: The World's First Hard Drive, 1956 by Daniela Hernandez

IBM unleashed the world's first computer hard disk drive in 1956. It was bigger than a refrigerator. It weighed more than a ton. And it looked kinda like one of those massive cylindrical air conditioning units that used to sit outside your grade school cafeteria.

This seminal hard drive was part of a larger machine known as the IBM 305 RAMAC, short for "Random Access Method of Accounting and Control," and in the classic promotional video below, you can see the thing in action during its glory days. Better yet, if you ever happen to be in Mountain View, California, you can see one in the flesh. In 2002, two engineers named Dave

Bennet and Joe Feng helped restore an old RAMAC at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, where it's now on display. And yes, the thing still works.

[\(Continue reading at wired.com\)](#)

- How Netflix Reverse Engineered Hollywood by Alexis C. Madrigal

If you use Netflix, you've probably wondered about the specific genres that it suggests to you. Some of them just seem so specific that it's absurd. Emotional Fight-the-System Documentaries? Period Pieces About Royalty Based on Real Life? Foreign Satanic Stories from the 1980s?

If Netflix can show such tiny slices of cinema to any given user, and they have 40 million users, how vast did their set of "personalized genres" need to be to describe the entire Hollywood universe?

This idle wonder turned to rabid fascination when I realized that I could capture each and every microgenre that Netflix's algorithm has ever created.

[\(Continue reading at theatlantic.com\)](#)

- The Most Mind-Blowing Space Photos of 2013 by Adam Mann

Another year has gone by and left us with a stack of incredible, mind-blowing pictures of space. We've gathered the best of 2013's images of stars, galaxies, planets, and nebulas into our second WIRED Space Photo of the Day collection.

We're celebrating with a gallery of our favorites from among the 365 we hand-picked every day this year. Highlights include young stars being born in the Large Magellanic Cloud, new views of both the Andromeda Galaxy and Horsehead Nebula, and the achingly beautiful picture of Saturn above. Here's to another amazing year of

space photos and the never-ending wonder of the universe.

[\(Continue reading at wired.com\)](#)

- Which Retailers Will Price-Match Online Pricing by Kyle

The following is the most amazing thing I read today. According to retail analysts, only 5% of consumers will bother getting the price of an item lowered by holding a retailer to their stated price-match policy.

Wow, only 5%! Is it because it takes too much time to bother? Or maybe consumers just aren't informed? Don't become another statistic, always get the best possible price. Over the course of a year you can save substantial money by doing so, especially on larger purchases. Here are 6 retailers that are early adopters in terms of price-matching online pricing. For the sake of consumers, and their ability to negotiate the best price, I hope to see other retailers start to do the same, and when they do, they'll be added to this article.

[\(Continue reading at rather-be-shopping.com\)](#)

- Facing the Biggest Problem with Windows in 2014 by Paul Thurrott

After a disastrous Windows 8 launch in late 2012, Microsoft reorganized its entire corporate structure, sent its CEO packing, adopted a rapid release cycle, and quickly shipped a mulligan in the form of Windows 8.1 in 2013. Problem solved, right? Nope. Windows has never faced adversity like what it will face in 2014. And this coming year will prove pivotal for Microsoft's flagship OS.

Can you guess what the biggest problem facing Windows is? Here's a clue: It's probably not what you think it is.

[\(Continue reading at windowsitpro.com\)](#)

- Download Now: iLounge's 2014 iPad/iPhone/iPod Buyers' Guide by Jeremy Horwitz

iLounge is excited to announce the release of our biggest and best Buyers' Guide ever: the 2014 iPad/iPhone/iPod Buyers' Guide. Just ahead of the holiday shopping season, we've included all of the latest Apple devices—new iPads, iPhones, and iPods—as well as their best accessories, apps, and games!

We've packed great information into this amazing 224-page edition, including rankings of the best Apple accessories across 26 different categories, the year's top 100 iOS apps and games—including kids' apps—and of course, our comprehensive looks at the best (and worst) current products in Apple's iPad, iPhone, and iPod lineups. We've also radically expanded our iGlossary to help first-time buyers understand all of Apple's latest technical and marketing jargon in plain English, and tracked all the prices for discontinued iPods, Apple TVs, iPhones, and iPads to help you learn their current resale value.

[Continue reading at ilounge.com](http://ilounge.com)

- Everything from 1991 Radio Shack ad I now do with my phone by Steve Cichon

I recently came across a big pile of Buffalo News front sections from 1991...The back page of the front section on Saturday, February 16, 1991 was 4/5ths covered with a Radio Shack ad.

There are 15 electronic gimzo type items on this page, being sold from America's Technology Store. 13 of the 15 you now always have in your pocket.

[Continue reading at trendingbuffalo.com](http://trendingbuffalo.com)

## 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 call or an email away. Please

call only during the appropriate times, and **only if you are a current Mini'app'les member** and own the software in question.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware.....	NV	Mac OS X.....	NV
AppleWorks / ClarisWorks.....	2, 3	Microsoft Excel.....	4
Classic Macs.....	NV	Microsoft Word.....	1, 4
Cross-Platform File Transfer.....	1, 2	Networks.....	NV
FileMaker Pro.....	NV	New Users.....	NV
iMacs.....	NV	PhotoShop.....	NV
Intel-Based Macs.....	NV	QuarkXPress.....	4
iPhoto.....	1, 2	Quicken.....	NV
iMovie.....	NV	QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro.....	NV
iWork.....	1, 3	VectorWorks.....	NV
Mac OS Classic.....	2		

- |                   |              |  |     |
|-------------------|--------------|--|-----|
| 1. Tom Ostertag   | 651-488-9979 | <a href="mailto:tostertag@q.com">tostertag@q.com</a>                   | DEW |
| 2. Bruce Thompson | 763-546-1088 | <a href="mailto:bthompson@macconnect.com">bthompson@macconnect.com</a> | EW  |
| 3. Pam Lienke     | 651-343-5475 | <a href="mailto:plienke@aol.com">plienke@aol.com</a>                   | DEW |
| 4. Ron Heck       | 651-774-9151 | <a href="mailto:ronheck@comcast.net">ronheck@comcast.net</a>           | DEW |

D = Days, generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

E = Evenings, generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

W = Weekends, generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

NV = No Volunteer

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

**Mini'app'les needs more volunteers for Members Helping Members** — If you are willing to be a Members Helping Members volunteer, please send an email message to Membership Director Randy Hilden with your name, telephone number, contact hours, and the software and hardware areas you are willing to support.

## Mini'app'les Membership Application and Renewal Form

Membership cost is \$15.00 for one year. To pay electronically using PayPal, visit the Mini'app'les [website](#).

If you prefer to pay by check, use the form below. Please make your check payable to "Mini'app'les."

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company (if mailed to): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (home): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (cell): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership ID # (if renewal): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your email address will NOT be sold, shared, or distributed. It will be used only for official Mini'app'les business such as distribution of the newsletter and membership renewal reminders.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if this is a change of address notice

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you want to volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you want to be added to "Members Helping Members"

\_\_\_\_\_ Check if you were referred by a club member (if so, please give member's name)

Please mail this application and your payment to:

Mini'app'les  
PO Box 27712  
Minneapolis, MN 55427

Thank you for your support!

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### Benefits of Mini'app'les Membership

- Access to our Members Helping Members network of professional and advanced users of Apple technologies. These members volunteer their time to help other members with software, hardware, and other Apple related issues.
- A variety of Mac Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that meet each month.
- Multi-SIG meetings and workshops to help members with computer problems. You can bring your equipment to these events and receive support from knowledgeable Mac users to help diagnose your problem(s).
- Participation in drawings for computer hardware, software, and other computer related materials.
- Discounts from vendors and manufacturers. Refer to the on-line forums for current offers.

# Mini'app'les

the Minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

**Introduction** — This is the newsletter of Mini'app'les, the Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit club. The whole newsletter is copyrighted © by Mini'app'les. Articles may be reproduced in other non-profit User Groups' publications except where specifically copyrighted by the author (permission to reproduce these articles must be given by the author). Please include the source when reprinting.

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**Questions** — Members with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section or bring their questions to an appropriate SIG meeting. Please direct other questions to an appropriate board member.

**Dealers** — Mini'app'les does not endorse specific dealers. The club promotes distribution of information that may help members identify best buys and service. The club itself does not participate in bulk purchases of media, software, hardware, and publications. Members may organize such activities on behalf of other members.

**Submissions** — We welcome contributions from our members. Perhaps you're using new software that you just can't live without. Maybe you have a new piece of hardware that you find extremely useful and of high quality. On the other hand, you might be struggling with problematic software or hardware. Why not share your experience with other members by writing a product review? Doing so may steer others towards quality products or help them avoid the problems you may be having.

Submissions must be received by the 15th day of each month to be included in the next month's newsletter. Please send contributions directly to our post office box (Mini'app'les, PO Box 27712, Minneapolis, MN 55427), or email them to [info@miniapples.org](mailto:info@miniapples.org).

The deadline for material for the next newsletter is the fifteenth of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Publications Director, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

This newsletter was produced using Apple's Pages word processor.

## Board of Directors

President	Tim Drenk 952-479-0891 <a href="mailto:timdrenk@miniapples.org">timdrenk@miniapples.org</a>
Vice President	Jeff Berg 781-350-0598 <a href="mailto:jeff@purpleshark.com">jeff@purpleshark.com</a>
Secretary	Joel Gerdeen 763-607-0906 <a href="mailto:jgerdeen@mac.com">jgerdeen@mac.com</a>
Treasurer	Bob Demeules 763-559-1124 <a href="mailto:osx.sig@mac.com">osx.sig@mac.com</a>
Membership Director	Randy Hilden <a href="mailto:rhmpls@gmail.com">rhmpls@gmail.com</a>
Director at Large	Bruce Thompson 763-546-1088 <a href="mailto:bthompson@macconnect.com">bthompson@macconnect.com</a>