

CAMP NEWS

Capital Apple Mac Performa User Group • Augusta, Maine

Summer Potluck Dinner on August 13

In lieu of a regular August meeting, our summer potluck dinner will once again be held at the home of Brenda and Gary Bennett in Oakland. Full directions to Gary and Brenda's house will be emailed to members.

Plan to arrive at 6:00 p.m. with something yummy to share. As in the past, CAMP will foot the bill for shrimp. As always, spouses, significant others and friends are welcome.

Sept. 10 Meeting: Your Participation Required

It's not too early to start thinking about our September 10 meeting, at which we tasked ourselves to all give a mini-presentation of some application that strikes our fancy. So far, we can count on Sue Westlake for Numbers; Holly Dominie is moving toward MotionX-GPS; and Jeff Frankel will artfully put together a photo collage in Photoshop Elements.



Review: Seagate Backup Plus Slim Portable Hard Drive

by Jeffrey Frankel

Good things do indeed come in small packages. I'm mighty pleased with this 2 TB portable drive, which sits pancake-flat on my desk and has a footprint not much larger than a coaster. The drive has a brushed metal top plate melded to a black plastic sides and bottom. You can buy the drive with a black top plate locally at Best Buy, or in your choice of black, blue, red or silver top plates from Amazon. As of this writing, the cost was \$100 from either vendor. I opted for silver, which turned out to be an attractive but by no means close match with Apple aluminum.

When initially connected to a Mac, the user is automatically presented with the option of configuring the drive in NTSC format for dual use with Macintosh and Windows computers, or in HFS+ format for use with Time Machine on the Mac. I chose HFS+ for an additional reason: my

desire to encrypt the drive. I accomplished this by choosing Time Machine's encrypted backups option, which actually encrypts the entire drive.

I bought this drive in preparation for a road trip that my wife and I are planning. Right now, the drive is configured to accept Time Machine backups of the MacBook Air we'll be taking with us on the trip, and also contains Carbon Copy Cloner backups of our home folders from our respective desktop Macs. I figured that it would be much easier to simply take copies of our home folders with us rather than tunnel in to our desktop Macs from the road, or buy enough cloud storage space to hold everything we might need. If I lose the drive en route I'm out \$100, but our data will be safe.

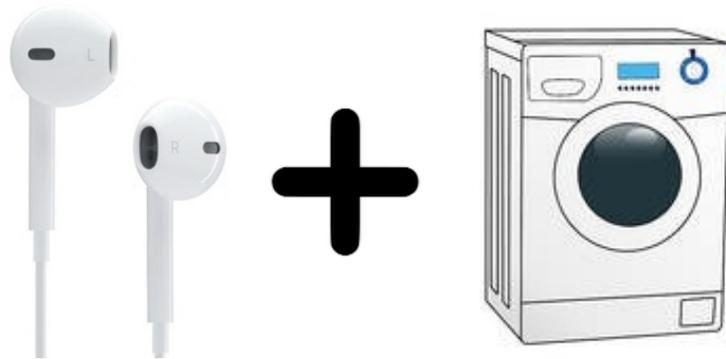
The drive is available with a USB 3.0 interface only, which is backwards-compatible with USB 2.0. None of the Macs in my household has a USB 3.0 bus, but the drive's performance under USB 2.0 is satisfactory for my purposes. An 18-inch USB cable is included, which is more than adequate for connecting the drive to an iMac, Mini or laptop. The drive draws power from the USB cable. No AC cord is necessary—or even available. The drive owes its slim profile to the a lack of a power port or an on/off switch.

The Seagate Backup Plus Slim portable hard drive is compact, versatile and stowable—it will fit in my laptop case with nary a bulge. If you're in the market for an inexpensive travelin' drive with room enough to hold loads of data, this one definitely merits a close look. ☀

*Near Thunder Hole,
Acadia National Park*



Don't Try This at Home



Well actually, I did. Horror of horrors, when emptying the washing machine what did I find but my pair of Apple EarPods. *Sacre bleu!* I figured that I'd just flushed \$40 down the drain, but I resisted the impulse to throw the buds in the dryer (just kidding), and let them air out for a few days. It turned out that luck was on my side, as the EarPods survived their swim with nary a gurgle. *Vive la Apple!* ☀

Cost Saving Option for Verizon Customers

When I entered into my iPhone contract with Verizon in October 2012, the only real option for me was the “Share Everything” plan under which I was billed a monthly charge of \$50 for my one device and \$40 for the data allowance I chose (originally 1 GB, later increased by Verizon to 2 GB), for a total of \$90 plus taxes and fees. The main selling point of the plan was that additional devices could share the same monthly data pool for an extra \$50 each.

Verizon now also offers an “Unlimited Talk and Text” plan for one device with 2 GB of data for the price of \$75 per month. Even better, Verizon allows current contract holders to switch to this new plan without penalty. So I switched. For owners of only one device with moderate data needs, the new plan produces real savings of \$15 per month, plus somewhat lower taxes and fees. ☀