

SMUG NEWS



March 6 Presenter

Prosoft will be raffling off a 40 GB LaCie hard drive at this meeting.

Jennifer Dyer ProSoft Engineering will present their products to the Stanford /PA Macintosh Users Group. ProSoft makes the following products for the Macintosh:

Data Rescue II - the best data recovery utility on the market for recovering files from a problem hard drive.

RecoverSoft Media Tools Professional - Data Recovery and Computer Forensic Software Self-booting CD. Plus, 5 recovery modules: Cycle-Clone / Reverse-Clone, Cycle-Image™, File Recovery Tree™, Boot Partition Repair™, Media Editor™, Secure Wipe™.

Drive Genius - Maintain, manage, repair, and optimize your hard drive. It can also resize and move volumes without reformatting.

Data Backup: Award-winning, easy to use backup utility for the Mac.



April 3 Presenter



Whether you work in Microsoft Word, Excel or PowerPoint, with ThinkFree Office 3 you'll feel right at home because it looks, feels and behaves just like they do regardless of whether you use it on Windows, Linux, or Macintosh.

ThinkFree - Java software that works "with" and "like" Microsoft Office and runs on Windows, Mac & Linux
Jonathon Crow and Suzette Towler-Petito will present ThinkFree Office 3 and ThinkFree Office Online.

Their website (www.thinkfree.com) just received "TOP PICKS" from PC World's 50 Best New Sites of Web 2.0.

Important Notices

SMUG DUES REDUCED TO \$30 PER YEAR

As of 01/01/2006, dues have been reduced to \$30.00. The monthly cost of renting the meeting location has dropped to zero from \$130.00 a month. This fee change has occurred due to switching from the old hall (Panofsky Hall) to the current location (Redwood Room).

This fee change has been approved by the SMUG board of directors.

Thomas Mathieu, Treasurer

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SMUG visitors do not need to notify someone in advance of the meeting. This is actually no longer the case; all they need do is show a photo ID at the gate and say they're attending the SMUG meeting.

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smug March 6

Meeting Schedule Monday 6:30 - 9:00

6:30 - 7:00	Q & A
7:00 - 7:45	Shareware - Dave Aston
7:45 - 8:00	Break
8:00 - 9:00	ProSoft Engineering Jennifer Dyer presenting
9:00 - 9:15	Big Raffle

February Meeting Report



Toast 7 is an excellent DVD and CD burning program for the Mac.

Adam Fingerman just picked a tab on the top: Data, Audio, Video, or Copy, to decide what type of DVD or CD burning you want to do. And pick a format: PC, Mac, PC and Mac. (I believe that one feature of the format feature was that you can easily burn discs with photos from iPhoto, but without using the iPhoto directory structure: this lets PC users find your photos easily.)

DATA

Toast does data-spanning, which is useful for those of us who have files or projects that take more space than one DVD or CD (like a lot of iMovie projects). With data-spanning, you can burn the file or project onto more than one disc. Toast tells you how many discs it takes, and it even has a gas gauge for this. If you double-click on Roxio restore, it shows the contents, and you can then copy it back onto your hard drive. Everything you need to restore the data is on the disks themselves.

AUDIO

Just drag in your sound files. And you can create audio CDs easily. You can create a DVD audio disk, where you can navigate to playlists, play that list, shows a song list, etc. You can get about 50 hours onto it (7 hours if you use lossless encoding). You can also put on music videos.

VIDEO

Create CDs or DVDs with photos or videos to play in a DVD / Video / Super Video CD player. Just drag in your iMovie project. You can do Divx video: 5 times the compression, but the quality is as good as a DVD. (You would need a DVD player that can play Divx files to play those disks.)

Toast also works with EyeTV. Do you have saved shows? Burn them to a DVD with Toast. You can even do a DVD-Video from VIDEO_TS (copy a DVD including the VIDEO_TS information on the DVD disc, as long as the disc is not protected).

COPY

You can duplicate audio CDs and DVDs, as long as the discs are not protected. Thus, Toast does more than Disk Utility (supplied with OS X), which cannot copy audio CDs.

OTHER FEATURES

With CD Spin Doctor, you can bring audio into the computer. (If your Mac does not have an audio-in port, you do need the hardware to get it, such as iMic.) You need 10 MB for every minute of recording.

SMUG WINTER 2006 CD-ROM

AUDIO & MUSIC

Album Cover Finder 3.4.1
iMote 2.2
PatioTunes 1.7
SoundSource 1.0.5
Ultragroovalicious 1.2.1

COMM

AlmostVPN 0.9.8
Taboo 0.3
WakeOnLan 0.68

DESIGN AND GRAPHICS

ArtRage 1.1
Inkscape 0.43.2

FUN AND GAMES

Atlantis 1.6
Christmas Super Frog 1.6.7
Crack The Code 1.0
LinkLines 1.2.2 (Cbn)
Reckless Drivin' 1.52
Sudoku Susser 2.1.3
SuperTux 0.1

INTERFACE

Desktility 2.2.2
Docktop 1.1.1
Electric Sheep 2.6.5
Firefoxy 1.5.1
LargeType 1.0
LotsaGlass 1.0
LotsaSnow 1.0
LotsaWater 1.2
Macintosh Explorer X 4.3.5
Macnifier 1.2
Mouse Locator 1.0
Spark 2.1.1
Visage 2.3
WidgDock 1.6.2

KITCHEN SINK

1-Click Answers 1.0.19
Faith Converter 2.2
Google Earth 3.1.0527.0
MacLampsX 1.1.1
Pic-a-POD 1.0.4

MULTIMEDIA

Flip4Mac WMV Player 1.0.2
HyperEngine-AV 1.5
Image Tricks 1.1
iSquint 1.0
MilkyWay 1.1.6
MozoDojo 1.4
Podner 1.2.1
QT Full Screen 1.1
Video2Pod 1.2.3

PRODUCTIVITY

DigiTools 2.0
Formation 1.1.4
icExcel 2.2
icExcel 2.2 (Cls)
icWord 4.0
icWord 4.0 (Cls)
iKnow & Manage 1.0
Jon's Phone Tool 3.0.3
LiveDictionary 1.2.2
Mellel 2.0.2
Moneydance 2006r2
Mori 1.1.3
My Money Minder 1.7.2
My Money Minder 1.7.2 (Cls)
MyMind 1.3.2

UTILITIES

Aqua For Command-Line Tools 1.0
DarwinPorts 1.2
Defaults Manager 1.0b8
Emailchemy 1.6.1
FileFinder 1.2.5
Fink 0.7.2 (for 10.3.x)
Fink 0.8.0 (for 10.4.x)
Fink Commander 0.5.4
Hide Folders 1.4
HistoryHound 1.9.1
iBackup 4.1.3
iPodDisk 1.0
Linotype FontExplorer X 1.0fc4
LiquidCD 1.0b6
OnyX 1.6.6
Port Authority 0.9
PrintMagic X 4.0
Quicksilver 1.0b46
Remember 0.3.1b
Safari Icon Manager 1.1
SMARTReporter 2.1
Super Shut Down 2.1
Yahoo! Widget Engine 3.0.1

Widgets

Amazon Album Art 1.7
Cross Eyes Mini 1.2.1
iPhoto Mini 1.1
Sketcher 1.0
wSpeak 1.0

STOCK CONTENTS

Graphics

GIFBuilder for OSX 1.0
GifBuilder 1.0 (Cls)
Goldberg X 2.5
Goldberg 2.5 (Cls)
GraphicConverter X 5.7.4 *
GraphicConverter 5.7.4 (Cls) *
JPEGDeux 1.8

Internet

AOL Instant Messenger 4.7 (Cbn)
Camino 1.0b2 *
Eudora X 6.2.3
Eudora 6.1.1 (Cls)
Fetch 5.0.5 *
Firefox 1.5 *
iCab X 3.0b382 *
iCab 3.0b382 (Cls) *
Interarchy 7.3.3
Interarchy 6.3 (Cls)
Internet Explorer X 5.2.3
Internet Explorer 5.1.7 (Cls)
Java Embedding Plugin 0.9.5 *
Mozilla X 1.7.12 *
Mozilla 1.2.1 (Cls)
MT-NewsWatcher X 3.4
MT-NewsWatcher 3.1 (Cls)
Netscape X 7.2
Netscape Communicator? 7.0.2 (Cls)
Netscape MRJ Plugin X 1.0.1
Netscape MRJ Plugin 1.0b5 (Cls)
Nvu 1.0
OmniWeb 5.1.3b2 *
Opera 8.51 *
RealPlayer X 10.0.0.331
RealPlayer 8 6.0 (Cls)
SeaMonkey 1.0b *
Thunderbird 1.5rc2 *
Windows Media Player X 9
Windows Media Player 7.1.3 (Cls)

Others

BBEdit Lite 6.1.2 (Cls & Cbn)
BBTidy 1.0b10
MacTracker X 4.0.2 *
MacTracker 3.0.1 (Cls)
MP3 Rage 5.8.4 (Cbn)
Tex-Edit Plus X 4.9.7b3 *
Tex-Edit Plus 4.1.3 (Cls)
textSOAP 4.5.1 *
TextWrangler 2.1.1

UTILITIES

Acrobat Reader 5.1 (Cbn)
Adobe Reader 7.0
Adobe Reader Update 7.0.2 *
Aladdin DropStuff 6.0.1
Aladdin Expander? 6.0.1
AntiWordService 2.0.1
Application Enhancer 1.5.1 *
Default Folder X 2.0.1 *
Default Folder 3.1.5 (Cls)
PopChar Lite 2.7.2 (Cls)
PopChar X 2.2.1
TinkerTool 3.4 *

* New or updated since the previous CDOQ



Shareware March Demo Items

Demo by Dave Aston



LinkLines 1.2.2 (Cbn)

LinkLines is a remake of the classic Lines arcade puzzle game. The object of the game is to Link five balls of the same color to form a line in any direction. Create lines to stop the board from filling up! The game is presented in an updated format. Rather than playing the game at a static difficulty level, you are given the chance to progress through various challenging levels. This is a bright and highly polished version of a classic game. LinkLines doesn't attempt to baffle you with features and bonuses, this is simply a raw addictive puzzle game! This is a fun and entertaining game for all ages. Quick reactions are not required for this game, there are no time limits or speed bonuses. You are free to ponder over each move. This game may appear simple but the subtle strategy required to reach the highest levels is most enjoyable.

Requires OS 8.6+ or OS X 10.0+. \$20.



1-Click Answers 1.0.19

1-Click Answers allows you to look up things on Answers.com by selecting text and pressing the chosen hot key.

Requires OS X 10.2.8+. Free.



MacLampsX 1.1.1

MacLampsX brings light strings to your desktop. Inspired by Tiger Technologies's Holiday Lights, MacLampsX allows you to decorate for Christmas, or any other holiday with user-creatable bulbs, as well as a small set of defaults. Happy Holidays!

Requires OS X 10.2+. Free.



icExcel 2.2 icExcel 2.2 (CIs)

Admit it. There are times when you need to be Microsoft Excel compatible. It gets frustrating trying to open those ".xls" files. Now you can - with icExcel!

icExcel is for any Mac user who wants to:

- Gain access to Microsoft Excel files (PC or Mac created)
- Download Excel files from the Internet
- Open email attachments from PC-centric friends and colleagues

- View on screen and print Excel spreadsheets with their original formatting preserved without buying and installing Microsoft Excel!

Requires OS 8.6+ or OS X 10.0+. \$20.



iPhoto Mini 1.1

iPhoto Mini is a widget that lets you browse your iPhoto library. You can select an album and look at the photos in that album. Additionally, in the album popup menu you get to see how many photos each album contains.

The photos are automatically rescaled so they always fit in the viewing area.

Requires OS X 10.4+. Free.



Image Tricks 1.1

Image Tricks is a free image editing application that allows you using Mac OS X Tiger Core Image filters. With the program you can easily edit and apply various effects and filters to your photos and images. The installer contains both a separate application and a plugin for other BeLight programs. Have fun modifying your pictures and save the masterpiece.

Features:

- Easy to use and friendly Interface.
- Around 40 Core Image Effects and Filters.
- Import over 20 image formats (TIFF, JPEG, GIF, PDF, EPS among them).
- Export to TIFF, JPEG, PNG and GIF formats.
- Resize images.
- iPhoto integration.

Requires OS X 10.4+. Free.



HistoryHound 1.9.1

Have you ever tried to find something in your browser history or bookmarks, but couldn't quite remember when or where you saw it? Or perhaps you've got your bookmarks meticulously organized, but it takes forever to mouse through the menus to get to something you want? HistoryHound will chase down the page for you - fast!

HistoryHound lets you quickly search for keywords in the entire content of all web pages and RSS feeds you've visited recently, plus all those that you've bookmarked. It's a "personal web search." Instead of hunting through endless lists of obscure URLs and page titles, just type in a few words that appear anywhere on the page. HistoryHound will give you a list of matches, ranked by relevance.

HistoryHound currently supports Safari, Internet Explorer, Firefox, Camino, Mozilla / Netscape, OmniWeb, Opera, Shiira, NetNewsWire 2, PulpFiction and URL Manager Pro. *Requires OS X 10.3+. \$20.*



Macnifier 1.2

SubRosaSoft Macnifier shows a magnified section of your screen to help viewing up close. It allows variable zooming, and variable speed refresh, and runs under MacOS native, MacOSX Carbon, and Windows operating systems. This ability is helpful for the visually impaired and is almost essential for precision work in graphics design programs.

Requires OS X 10.3+. Free.

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February Meeting report - continued from page 1

With Motion Pictures, you can do slideshows. You get lots of choices, such as showing up to 6 photos at once (up to 6), each with their own unique effects.

With Boom Box (not included with Toast; purchase separately), you can capture an audio stream onto the Mac. Music Magic Mixer is like a smart fast DJ in your Mac: you can create an instant playlist. And you can take text files and turn it into audio files. (You can use Cepstral to get better voices; the default uses the voices on the Mac.)

To order, go to www.roxio.com/go/mug2006 and look at the shopping cart. I think this gives us mug members a discount.

.....
YOU ARE THERE

by Dave Strom

Q&A

Someone was trying to connect a printer to her network. We asked if she could check the IP address (this is done in the Windows world, but not on the Mac). She can see the new printer, but she can't print since she installed a new driver. She will try reinstalling the original driver. (Note: I have a similar problem, I am trying to reestablish my Airlink printer server connection to my HP Photosmart printer over my wireless network.)

Apple stores give no discounts to user groups. However, you can get a small discount from the Apple MUG store (website). The username and password: USER, GROUP.

Are there alternatives to Word? There is Thinkfree (www.thinkfree.com/). Nisus (www.nisus.com) is best for foreign languages. Appleworks is there, but support for it has been cut. Apple's Pages is only \$79, but it is not a robust word processor. Mariner: www.marinersoftware.com. MIT-TAL: I could not find a website for this one.

We have some discussion on Intel Macs, especially on

running Windows on them. VirtualPC has no set date, and it would take some time to do it. I know there is a contest for running Win XP on the Intel Mac: windowsxp.onmac.net

Someone was mentioning the restore feature for backup; he was worried a little about fragmentation on the hard drive. He always gets a message about not having enough space on the hard drive when he booted from the Disk Warrior CD. After he created an optimized version of a directory, and try to put it on, the message said there was not enough room to have a failsafe directory replacement. Lots of people get this error; it's not unusual.

SHAREWARE

SMARTReporter (homepage.mac.com/julianmayer): This is a little green drive on the menu bar. It can give you an early warning if it thinks your hard drive is about to fail.

Taboo (www.ocdev.com): Safari lets you have multiple tabs open. Oops, I hit the close button instead of the back button, and all my open tabs are now GONE! Taboo adds a warning (as is done in most tabbed browsers): before you close Safari with multiple tabs.

Lotsawater

(www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/icons_screensavers/lotsawater.html): a very cool looking screensaver. It is like the screen is underwater. Without the short circuits (OK, I once dumped water on my iBook, but I got it fixed).

Yahoo! Widget Engine (widgets.yahoo.com): Ships with about 20 different widgets. They operate like Dashboard widgets, except these widgets are always on the desktop and they need Yahoo! Widget Engine to run. One example: WidgetDock lets you have a little moveable doc for your apps.

GoogleEarth (earth.google.com) is now on the Mac. Have fun. Hop around the earth, see its stuff close-up! Grab the earth and turn it! A 3-button mouse with a scroll-wheel adds more functionality to this, such as fast zoom. Google Earth can give you driving directions with a pictorial view.

Linotype FontExplorer X

(www.linotype.com/fontexplorerX): You can examine fonts, and show where they are coming from on your Mac. Click on a font name and see the font. See every glyph for the font. Examine each letter close-up.

Pic-a-POD (www.troz.net/Pic-a-POD/): Pick a picture of the day (astronomy, National Geographic, Earth Science). There is an option to make the picture your desktop.

Moneydance (www.moneydance.com): This is a reasonable replacement for Quicken. \$30. It can open qif (quicken) files.

Cross Eyes mini widget

(www.daylateanddollarshort.com/sw.php?crosseyesmini): not enough time to demo.

Addicted To Fries

-or-

Is There a 12-Step Program for Electronoholics?

By “Anonymous”

Confessions, Ruminations, Tips, and Trends

It's become something of a joke to my wife (and her friends) that I look forward each week to the Friday newspaper because it contains at least ten full pages of color advertisements for Fry's Electronics – she says that's the only reason we still get the paper! Of course, that's not true, although an outsider could reasonably draw that conclusion.

Not only does the Friday San Jose Mercury-News contain an eight page pull-out Fry's section, but there are usually two other full page Fry's ads on Friday as well. Further, most other days also contain two or three full pages of ads. Fry's touts computer, audio, video, and household electronics, music, movies, and supplies – many times with rebates and One-Day Sales.

Many of the bargains in the Fry's ad are for PC hardware or software, but lots of hardware is “platform agnostic” and works on a Mac just fine.

Uncharacteristically, Fry's also sells soft drinks, snack food, school supplies, and other miscellaneous stuff. However, selling such non-techie items makes more sense when you realize that Fry's Electronics is a chain that started out as a grocery store business many years ago. I'd guess that when the grocery business became too competitive, the Fry family owners (now the children of the founders) decided to get into something a little easier. But I digress . . .

On the other hand, MicroCenter is a nation-wide chain that has only one store in this area – it's huge and near Great America off 101. I'll visit them when I'm looking for something locally and compare their stock, prices, and rebates with Fry's. Sometimes MicroCenter will have better prices/rebates on an item and their salespeople seem more knowledgeable. (However, I haven't found a “big-box” store with salespeople who know as much as I'd like – you have to do your own research.)

Fry's often has free or low-cost rebated computer books – although there are fewer “free after rebate” books lately. Both Fry's and MicroCenter have a large “bargain” book section where older and/or superceded titles go for half-price or less; sometimes much less. The bargain sections would be worth checking out, especially if you run older software.

Both Fry's and MicroCenter have a generous return policy; I've used this many times and never had a problem.

I read product and store reviews online at C-net, Epinions, Amazon.com, and any other place that Google shows me. Some items I'll buy online, but others I prefer to buy locally where I can more easily examine the merchandise and return it if necessary.

Part of my research is to compare warranties between brands; plus I'll make my purchase with a credit card that

adds time to a manufacturer's warranty if it is one year or less. If other things are equal, I'll often buy the Belkin brand; I've had excellent service from Belkin products, good prices, and they have a lifetime warranty.

Reviewing today's Fry's ad shows me that memory must be coming down in price again – they are selling a Lexar 256MB USB 2.0 Jump Drive (Thumb Drive) for \$8.99 after rebate! Further, three types of 1GB PC memory is selling for \$50-\$90 after rebate – online sellers of Mac-spec memory have probably dropped their prices, too. Fry's flash memory card prices seem down, also. I was also surprised to see a Seagate 100GB 2.5” notebook hard drive selling for \$139.99 – no rebate required.

From what I read online, DVD drives must be declining in price, too. I bought a Pioneer internal DVD-RW DVR-109 online last summer for almost \$100; now I see a later model Pioneer for \$50-\$60 – even locally.

My worst mistake was buying a 34” Sony CRT HD TV at a super-great Fry's price (just under eight hundred, as I recall), then returning it when it turned out to weigh as much as a small elephant and occupy as much floor space – it was too big to fit anywhere in our family room.

This mistake was offset somewhat by my accidental spotting last year (on a Tuesday) of a Yamaha Home Theater In A Box (HTIB) advertised in a Fry's One-Day Sale. Consumer Reports top-rated this 6.1 channel, 6x100 watt item that listed for \$500 and was on clearance for \$249 that day only! I called several Fry's locations and found “some” at Campbell. I went there to have them tell me that they only had “open box” units. I was willing to take one of those, but the salesman brought out a box that had never been opened. I had trouble getting the large carton into my small station wagon, but have been extremely satisfied with the purchase – I love the sound.

LogiTech Harmony Remote – I saw this at MacWorld in January and became intrigued with the concept and technology. It's an amazing device that I use to simultaneously control my TiVo, A/V Receiver, DVD/VCR Combo unit, and HD television. It is set up over the Internet using their codes for hundreds of devices that are downloaded into the remote. It has good ergonomics and provides easy control of all functions for all of my components for five activities: watch TiVo/digital cable, watch a DVD, watch a video tape, watch cable while recording another program on TiVo, and watch HD TV. The Harmony will turn on the needed devices, select inputs, outputs, and functions all at once with the push of one button; another button selects another activity or turns everything off. Their tech support is very helpful; they've worked with me to set up the Harmony buttons to mimic the functions of my other remotes. There's also a Help button on the Harmony that will ask you questions and let you get your devices back in sync with the remote if anything goes awry.

(Full disclosure: I don't have any financial interest in Fry's Electronics, MicroCenter, any brand names mentioned, or the San Jose Mercury-News.)

SMUG Member Registration

WEB Site <http://www.pa-smug.org>

Phone (650) 286 -7539

Membership No. _____

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

PHONE NUMBER : () _____

E-MAIL : _____

Yearly Dues is now \$30 which includes a family member.

Mail check with this form to

SMUG

P.O. Box 20132

Stanford CA.94309

If you would like to join Smug please fill out the above form and mail to the address indicated. Please check out our website for more information or call if you have any questions.

Calendar of Events

Monday, March 6

General Meeting:

Redwood Room bldg.. 48
Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC),
2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park

Shareware Team meeting at Owen Saxton's house,

1442 San Marcos Circle, Mt. View.

Meeting starts at 7:15 pm.

(See page 2 for Owen's phone number and E-mail address)

Thursday, March 16

Board of Directors meets at 7:00 pm at the
Printer's Inc. Coffee Shop on California St.

Friday, March 24

DEADLINE for Newsletter articles and Calendar
items to be submitted by email to bleiler@pa-smug.com

March 2006

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

April 2005

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

We thought the above calendars would be helpful for those people who don't have E-mail. This is the projection for the upcoming meeting dates.

SMUG

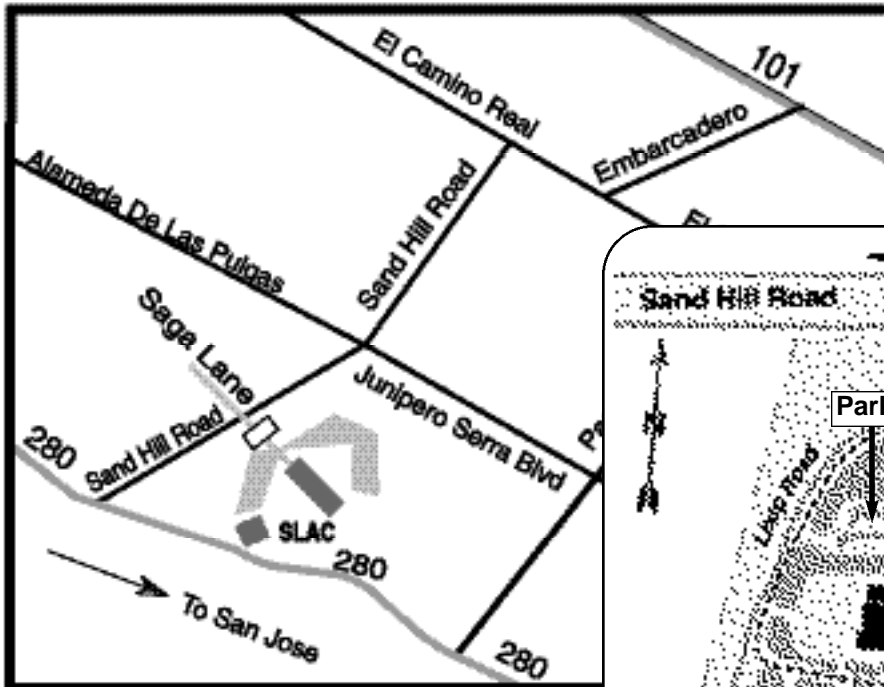
STANFORD/PALO ALTO MACINTOSH USER GROUP

P.O. Box 20132
Stanford, CA 94309-20132
(650) 286-7539
<http://www.pa-smug.org>

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Monday March 6, 2006

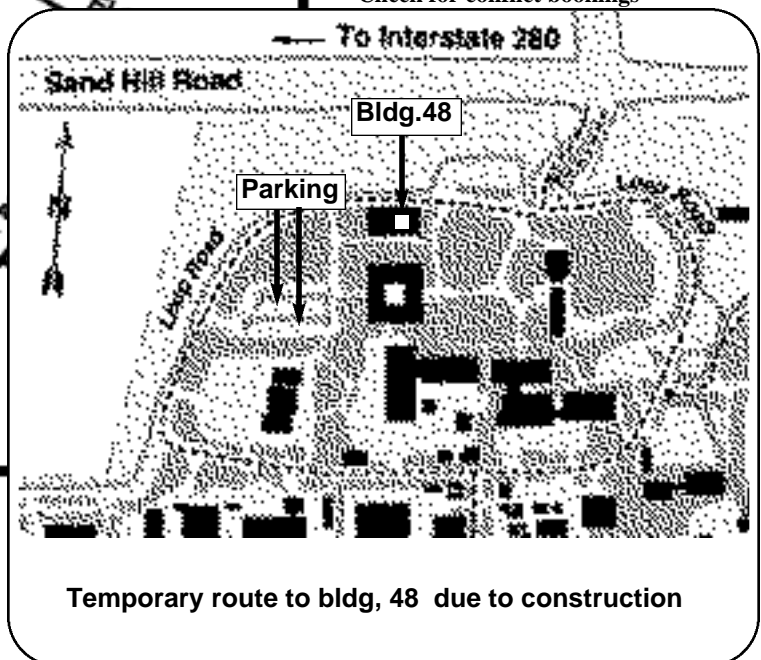
ProSoft Engineering Jennifer Dyer presenting

It will be at held at the **REDWOOD ROOM BLDG. 48**



The Meetings are generally held on the **First Monday** * of the Month
Redwood Room Bldg. 48
Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC)
2575 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park

* Some exceptions on holidays
** Check for conflict bookings



Due the construction we now have to go around the campus to bldg 48. Take a left at the guard shack following the dotted line around the campus to parking and bldg 48. Any questions ask the guard

Temporary route to bldg, 48 due to construction