



MacTracks is a publication of the  
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## November Meeting

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Denny's 205 Nugget Ave (Sparks)  
6 PM (dinner on your own)  
Party starts at 7 PM

**Holiday Party**  
**December 14, 2011**



THANKS TO  
pyramid.net  
for hosting our web site  
[www.snag.org](http://www.snag.org)

Frankly, it was a bit of a surprise to have such a great turnout of members for the November meeting! Even better, to see some faces around the table that have been missing for months. Rick and Bill, to name two! We also had guests for the evening which has become more rare of late. We hope they will join SNAG and become regulars.

The agenda was short due to the movie: Pixar Story which ran 1 hour and 26 minutes. Of course, per usual we did have room for Questions & Answers, before hand, which proved to be engaging.

Our ClearWire set up was eagerly awaited also (your club pack mule was late in arriving.) It seems that Denny's wife was down for the night, so those who came early were anxious to have access from our own box. Thanks to those who helped set up the gear that evening which sped things considerably.

Pixar Story was very well received by one and all. It comes on the bonus disk for Wall-E (DVD only combo) and is somewhat hard to locate. Yours truly had to buy Wall-E three times before getting it right. Dumb, huh? *Good thing the other sets make suitable gifts this time of year.* At any rate, this movie provided a glimpse of the another side of the late Steve Jobs and his commitment both to excellence and innovations. His financial investment was in the millions but was ultimately rewarded by the huge success of Pixar Studios and the signing of a deal with Disney. We can consider this just another legacy that this visionary left in his wake and perhaps find cause for celebration. While Pixar was initially funded by Lucas, it was Jobs who saved the Studio and kept it going until Toy Store hit the theaters, then the rest becomes history.

Susan won the Steve Jobs biography multi-disk set!

-LLE-

kindle fire

Web movies apps  
games reading and more



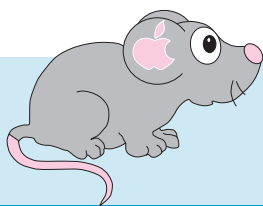
# CounterPoint

Quite a lot has been written about Amazon's latest Kindle, the Fire, which debuted on November 15 of this year. The reviewers have had a tendency to pan the tablet as inferior to Apple's iPad of nearly three times the price and extoll the virtues of all the features on the iPad as being more worthy of consideration. There is little doubt that the iPad(2) is a high quality item and beautifully designed, fully featured et al but; for some of us, having a smaller device, rendering in color, sans camera, and so on is much more viable. Not to mention the attractive price point of \$200 and a free month of Amazon Prime as a further incentive.

The Kindle Fire is actually a finely crafted device in its own right. The matt black backing plate resists scratches, and settles into the hand agreeably without slippage. *Size and weight were considerations for this reviewer.* With arthritic hands, a smaller, lighter device has greater appeal. Less chance for dropping! Yet, the 7" screen does not seem overly confining for reading and general viewing, also important. The 19 oz. weight, though slightly hefty, is not objectionable. Easy to carry in purse or packet.

The LED screen display is very good and easy to read in either landscape or portrait. Not quite as intuitive as the iPad, in some respects icon-wise, nonetheless; the touch screen is responsive and the use of a capacitive stylus is even more beneficial for selectivity. Ditto for the electronic keyboard which functions nicely when called upon.

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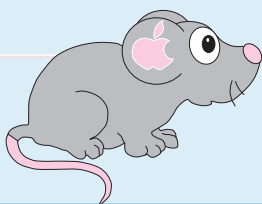




This Kindle gets on line quickly and utilizes Amazon's own specially designed browser called appropriately enough: Silk. The only downside discovered to date is: our Washoe County Library System which doesn't recognize the device on its public net. Once this is resolved, then the user can "borrow" books and read them on the Kindle. Saves time and gas! Pretty cool. As with most government entities, WCLS is pretty much centric to Microsoft! *We tried it at the Sierra Branch and came up with an "error."*

One can also "borrow" books from amazon.com. There are movies to stream, and apps from the Android side of things, to purchase. A free download from amazon put a Kindle folder onto the Mac that assists in meeting the needs, of the user, for the Kindle.

As with all these tablets and devices in general, little is included with the original purchase. One needs a micro USB2 cable to get to the Mac, as an example. (Not included) By the time one adds a case, and a few other items to the bill, it can be expensive but accessories are "everything" these days, it seems. Of course the charger cable to AC is part of the package and usually the device is fully charged within a couple of hours. For the base price of \$200, The Fire is a excellent deal and should not disappoint. At least in my case, this is true. Reviews aside, the Kindle Fire is quite a lovely thing in its own right. -LLE-



**\$29.95**

at [www.wacom.com](http://www.wacom.com)  
or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

- Elegant, high end design
- Milled brushed aluminum
- Unique smooth pen to paper feel
- 25% smaller tip vs. competitor models
- Ergonomic design with optimal in-hand weight and balance
- Durable non-scratch rubber tip
- From the leaders in digital pen technology
- Replaceable rubber tips



**Wacom Bamboo Stylus**

**Note: This is the correct date:  
Sorry for the error last month!**



*Gather 'round the table for dinner (on your own), some good conversation, and a most convivial atmosphere.*

***December 14, 2011***

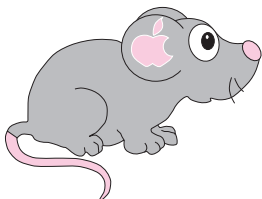


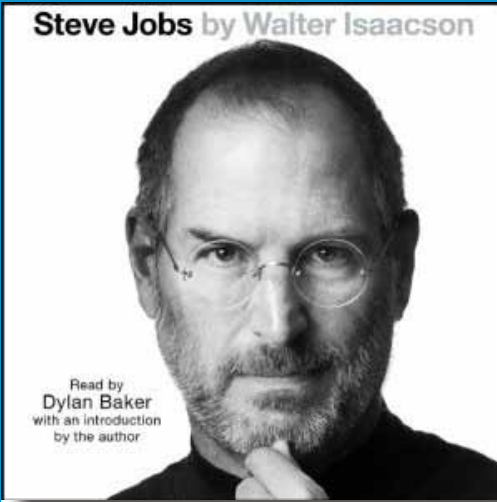
*Consider bringing no Devices to the party, please. Last year everyone seemed locked into their own world! This is a non-computer night.*

*Pies for dessert:  
Choice of Pumpkin,  
Apple, or Pecan.*

# *a* **holiday happening**

- *Wear your party bib & tucker.*
- *Dinner starts at 6 PM*
- *Denny's (where else?)*
- *Save room for dessert: on Snag!*
- *Bring a gift- get a gift!*





# Book Review

by Laura Lea Evans

25 hours, 10 minutes

**Funny. Engrossing. Surprising. Shocking. Unexpected.**

These are just some of the adjectives that can be used to describe the Steve Jobs Biography recently released coinciding with the subject's death, ironically. Hitting the Best Seller List almost immediately, surging to number 1, now slipping to number 5 as of this review/writing. The latter of which is neither here nor there, but; a mere side light to this book on the life and times of Apple's guiding force, Steve Jobs.

My choosing an audio book version turned out to be a wise way to go especially since it was offered by Audible.com as part of a free trial, so why not? Otherwise, the cost would have been \$29.95 for the unabridged version. Once loaded on the iPod Touch, and play begun, the narrative was engaging and riveting. I have yet to complete the book however, but that said; am utterly delighted and intrigued each time I plug in and hit play!

This may not be new material for many who have been into the Apple community for decades, but; for this reviewer, the story is fresh, and thus far has filled in many gaps left open through the years. Mainly, my knowledge has been casual and superficial with regards to "the man" himself. Now, the picture is becoming more complete as each chapter unfolds. Jobs gave the author cart blanche as to how this biography would be written. Imagine! He did not micro-manage a single page. Totally unlike him yet revealing as to perhaps his attitude towards his own mortality. The reader will discover a person, in many cases quite "prickly" as the author suggests and others have clearly stated in interviews.

Personal hygiene was not a Steve Jobs mantra either, as one discovers in the earlier chapters. His vegetarianism gave him a belief that no body odors could possibly

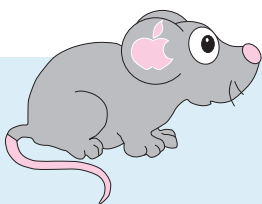
arise from his diet, so he eschewed all rituals of bathing, for weeks! This coupled with his fierce attitude towards anyone of deemed lesser intelligence made a poor combination in the work place. Jobs was relegated to the graveyard shift so as to offend the fewest employees at Altair, as an example. Brilliant of mind but totally undisciplined was he.

There really are no bad guys or good guys in the book, if you consider human frailties. How Steve Jobs interacted with those around him, who rose and fell in the encounter, all play as a major mini-series that almost seems surreal. No one was left untouched by him. Maybe that is the most interesting legacy of all: he left an indelible mark by his very presence. Never mind the visionary part that ended up creating the products we revere.

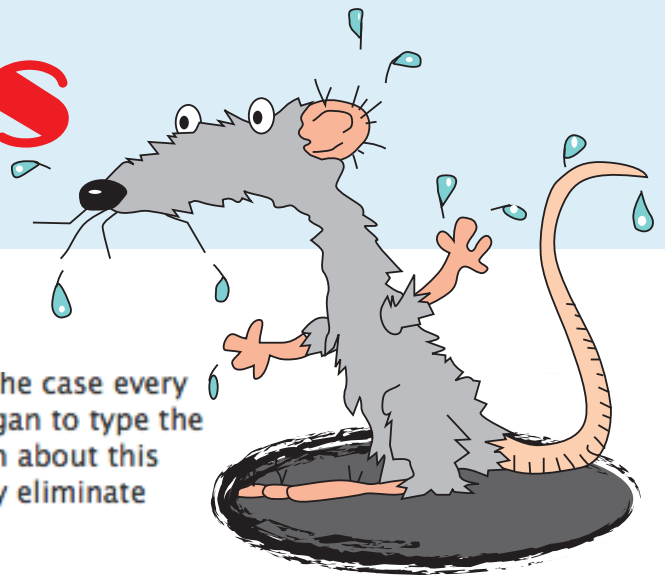
New word for my lexicon: Ass-aholic. I find that one fascinating. Several people who were interviewed said Jobs could be such an ass, and one stated he too had been but was a recovering one. Funny.

Did you know that the famous 1984 Commercial was directed by Ridley Scott? (Of Alien fame and other high end movies.) Or how about the first Mac which ran so hot, because Jobs hated fans in computers, it was dubbed "the beige toaster."

Jobs left all his birthday gifts (30th) in the hotel room and never looked back, is another snippet out of his life and style. A callus human being, at times, but utterly focussed. But, let's not overlook the real story, that of Apple which runs through the entire 55 chapters. Your reviewer is only up to number 19, so has a way to go but; I promise you... this is one heck of a story about a man and a company that bears his vision. The narrator adds so much to the telling of the story and does justice to both subject and writer. A must read, or in this case listen for any Mac fan. *Note: SNAG will be giving away another copy of the biography either in January or February. Maybe you will be the lucky winner. -LLE-*



# tips



I went to send an email the other day in Mail, and as is the case every so often, an outdated email address came up when I began to type the recipient's name. I thought I recalled that we had written about this before, so I wracked my brain about how to permanently eliminate these pesky addresses.

I figured it was a good time to revisit this tip, since many of you may have wondered the same thing (especially if you've been burned by selecting the wrong one). Now let's purge some bad addresses!

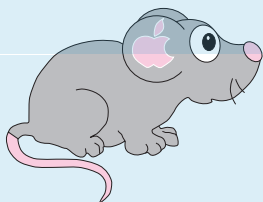
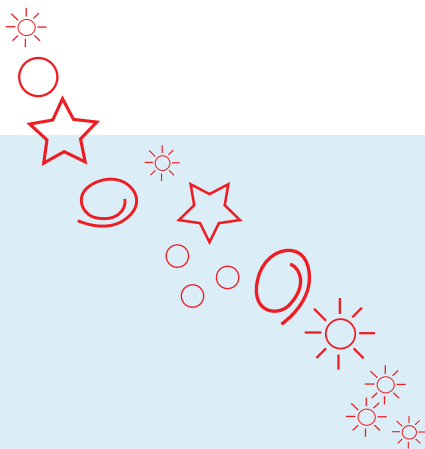
Here's how:

- Type the recipient's name or email address in a new message.
- Select the outdated email address that autofills.
- Once it's in the To: field, click the arrow at the end of the name/address.
- Select "Remove from Previous Recipients List."

To remove the address without opening a new Mail message:

- Select **Window > Previous Recipients**.
- Find the address you'd like to remove.
- Select "Remove From List."

Note that you will be able to sort by Name, Email or "Last Used," so it may help to search by any of these (particularly the latter, as you'll be able to view the oldest emails at the top if you choose).



'tis the end of 2011 which means, you can pay your dues to SNAG anytime from now until March of 2012 and continue as a member in good standing. Remaining a modest \$35 for 12 months of benefits and bonuses, we hope you will choose to rejoin soon.

On behalf of the Board and Officers: wishing you and yours the best the season has to offer.

Dare one say it? Basic Christmas trifle!  
Ya' gotta love it just for the laugh factor.



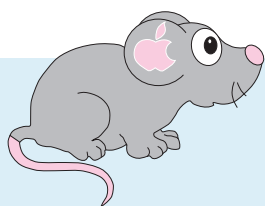
*www.cafepress.com*  
\$15

Basically useless stuff but fun to see and imagine giving to some "lucky" soul.

You must go to *www.stupid.com* to see some real gems in dumb items. I couldn't get the images from the site but it's worth a look, on your part.

## USB Mouse Warmer

*www.inventorspot.com*  
\$16.75





## This just in from Liquid Treat

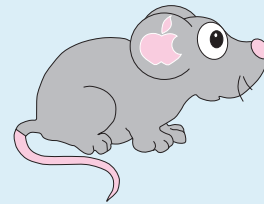
Remember when creating handwriting fonts required time, software, and skill -- or at least money? Not anymore, thanks to Fontcapture.com. Launched earlier this fall, the web application allows anyone to create a font from his or her own handwriting. There's nothing to download or install; simply print and fill in the font template, scan and upload it to the web site, and then download your completed font. The fonts created by the online tool can be used on both Windows and Mac machines. The best part is the price: free. *(Well, free to preview but \$9.95 if you buy! Ed: note)*



<http://www.yourfonts.com/>



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**Upcoming**

**January 11, 2012 TBA**

**February 8 MacWorld Review**