



Smile and say — Cheese

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In his own inimitable style, Bear gave us a detailed and information filled tour of digital cameras, specifically, what to look for before you make the purchase.

He pointed out that there are three types of digital cameras, sub-compact, compact and standard. As the name suggests, the standard is the larger of the three.

Prices are from <= \$100 to => \$\$\$

The more professional single-lens-reflex (SLR) digitals are priced in the thousands. Especially the ones with changeable lenses.

Bear emphasized the need for a view finder. The LCD panel can be difficult to see in bright light. The viewfinder allows for a better view of what you are attempting to memorialize.

Zoom—there are optical and digital specs provided. You want the one with the best *optical* zoom. It will be displayed as 20X, or some other number. This means you can optically “enlarge” an image to shoot. Bear said he uses his 30X zoom to scan the beach for hot chicks, er.. scratch that. He uses it as binoculars when looking for family members as they surf at Ala Moana.

If you are not the type to take the time to read the manual, Bear suggested you at least learn where the Menu button is on the camera body. Depress it and you’ll see all the features available on that model. Depending on the model you can set the brightness, turn the flash on/off; view pictures already taken; delete the ones you don’t want; check battery life;

check memory card capacity remaining, and much more.

The more you know about your camera, the more enjoyment and better picture taking experience will be realized. And, with that knowledge you can impress your friends and family.

His primer was the useful website WWW.MYPRODUCTADVISOR.COM

Here you select one, or more, brands and then you can “customize” the camera with features you want and compare the various brands. You select a price range and then the individual features like size; megapixels; battery type; whether it can do video; viewfinder, zoom ratio and more.

After going through the process you are presented with recommended models. In Bear’s demo he selected four brands at random and after selecting features he directed the website to return ten recommended models rated #1 through #10. The price was not necessarily a determining factor in ratings. The #1 camera listed was \$280, the #5 was \$840.

Plus, scrolling down the page we saw complete specifications on the camera. Everything you need to know about the particular model was on one screen. Great information to have before purchase. No salesperson spiel to have to listen to. Print out the specs and go shopping.

Another site he mentioned was WWW.DPREVIEW.COM This site has reviews for just about any type of digital camera. If you have a model in mind, check out this site to see how the reviewer rates it.

On the previous site, Bear said he had never seen a review that was “bad” about any camera. The following site, however, lists the pros

AND cons of each model reviewed.

[HTTP://WWW.STEVES-DIGICAMS.COM/CAMERA-REVIEWS/](http://WWW.STEVES-DIGICAMS.COM/CAMERA-REVIEWS/)

The models are listed in graph format, scroll up or down to find the one you’re looking for and click on the model name. You’ll then get a detailed review of the camera along with retailers where it can be purchased, the price for each is also listed.

Another sites we didn’t explore, but Bear wanted you to be aware of, is IMAGING-RESOURCE.COM.

Used in conjunction with Dpreview.com you get a slightly more condensed, one-page review with a PRO/CON list at the bottom of each review at Imaging-Resource.com. There is a good amount of information along with a nice comparison chart.

By using more than one, or all of these sites, you should be able to get past any biases or personal opinions a reviewer might have and get the low down on whether or not the camera is good.

Now, go take some shots that are worthy of National Geographic.

Aloha,

Jim

The official computer newsletter of the Hawaii Chapter of MOAA



MOAA Computer User Group

CES leftovers

Finally! The much anticipated and always welcome last list from the 2011 CES running of the nerds. A half-dozen goodies that caught my eye, made me stop and look and decide to add to my growing list...no, I did not save the best for last...too trite to mention...just six I had not used in my previous 2 lists...and, to satisfy a critic... my only one it seems, something for you iPad devotees...really, you will love it!

GENESIS

The new Genesis, just announced by Lexmark, is about the coolest-looking business device since the MacBook Air. Even better, it's powerful and efficient. It's also exceptionally simple to use, and satisfyingly accessible when it comes to more complicated scanning and printing requirements, like multiple images on one page. In case you can't tell from the photo, what's new about the Genesis is that it stands vertically, as opposed to horizontally as other printers do. So when you want to



copy or scan a document, you lift the front of the case forward and drop the paper in.

Inside the machine is a 10-megapixel camera sensor which enables the machine to scan much faster than most scanners and printers. Lexmark's claim, borne out in tests, is that it transfers "from document to digital" in about three seconds – it's not unusual to wait a minute or more for this to occur with most printers. There's no automatic page feeder, please note, which is about the worst you can say about the Genesis.

If you're familiar with scanning documents you'll know the most time-consuming and deeply frustrating part of the process is finding you've positioned the original in just -not-quite the right place, and you only discover this when the scanning is finished.

Here, the camera sensor puts an image of what you'll get onto the color display on the front of the printer. So you know instantly if you're in the right place and can adjust accordingly.

Logitech Revue- This is for all of you who want access to everything, everywhere! It's TV that's all yours. With Logitech Revue, what you're into is what's on. Enter your favorite actor and get what they're doing on TV, the Web, Twitter and more. Watch the game and your fantasy draft at the same time. Adding the controller that fits your style of TV with lots of possibilities means TV that you make your own.

Google TV in a box

Logitech Revue comes with an easy-to-set-up companion box and an intuitive companion keyboard controller. Simply connect your TV and cable or satellite set-top box via HDMI and your high speed Internet connection via Ethernet or Wi-Fi to the Logitech Revue, and you've got Google TV.

Future ready

Your TV can be the TV of the future, and it will only get better. Logitech Revue is a companion to your TV and not a TV itself, so it can be easily updated. Plus Google TV is an open platform, with developers creating more apps and functionality for release this year, so your TV will do more as Google TV does more.

Built-in expandability

A growing selection of accessories means a growing Logitech Revue experience. From video cameras that let you share your TV watching experience to a smart phone app that gives you full control over your entire entertainment experience from your phone, your Logitech Revue has room to do more.

Apps for your TV

With Logitech Revue, you get apps created just for your TV, including Netflix®, NBA.TV and Pandora®. And with apps for your TV available in the Android™ Market later this year, there's no telling what your TV will be able to do.

Not your average keyboard

The keyboard controller that's included lets you find your shows, surf the Web, or turn up the volume. By combining a compact keyboard, a touchpad, and a remote in a sleek, living room-worthy design, Logitech Revue gives you full wireless control over all your entertainment without leaving the couch.

Wired and wireless

To make sure your content is streaming as fast as possible, Logitech Revue comes with your choice of Ethernet or fast 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi, so you can get high-quality audio and video with whichever one works best for your setup.

Pocket eDGe is the world's smallest dualbook-this is really neat. 7" tablet on one side, for Android apps like web browsing, audio recording, and games.



Prez Lou

Read this, and all of Lou's columns, @ Oceanic Around Town. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew>



- A 6" reader on the other side, for glare-free reading and stylus handwriting.

- Beautifully connected. Seamlessly integrated. And more than twice as functional as a reader or tablet alone.
- Dimensions: 5.5" x 7.5" x 1.0" closed, 11.0" x 7.5" x 0.5" open

- Weight: 1.35 lb
- Tablet screen: 7.0" WXGA (800x480)
- Tablet input: Resistive touch (use finger or stylus on screen), optical finger pad
- Reader screen: 6.0" e-Ink® (800x600), 16 shades of gray
- Reader input: Stylus (Wacom Penabled®)

- Operating system: Linux® with Google® Android™
- Internal memory: 3GB
- Connectivity: Wi-Fi™ 802.11 b/g, Bluetooth® capability, Ethernet-to-USB adapter available

- Screen Rotation: 90 and 180 degrees (tablet), 180 degrees (reader)
- Reader file formats: ePub, PDF

- Tablet video formats: 3GP, MP4, Adobe Flash Lite® (H.264), AVI (DivX or Xvid encoded), MOV, WMV
- Tablet audio formats: MP3, WAV, 3GPP, MP4, AAC, OGG, M4A

- Keyboard: Virtual keyboard on tablet screen or connect your own by USB
- MicroSD card slot
- Standard USB port
- Mini-USB port with mini-USB-to-USB cable included

- Battery life: up to 6 hours, or up to 11 hours using only the reader
- Camera: 2 megapixel with video capability
- Built-in mic, built-in stereo speakers

- 3.5mm headphone/headset jack

Aisle 411 is an easier way to

shop...shoppers, man your carts... this one is for you!

Search: Just the way you want it in-store. Quick, simple and intuitive results with one search. Each search lets you map it, add to list, share, or even edit the location.

Offers: Stay informed of deals you can find in-store; we call them Informational Offers. Some stores offer Digital coupons that you can "clip" to your shopper loyalty card. Then scan your shopper loyalty, and get savings off your bill.

Shopping Lists: Save a generic list, or manage lists by specific store.

With aisle411, items are organized by aisle and section. You can also map your List (with stores that provide them) and use aisle411's unique interactive map to guide you through the store while you shop.

Or, share your list via SMS or email.

Reviews: Once you find what you're after, you can scan barcodes (iPhone app only) and get product reviews served up from Amazon.com. Even tap and speak the UPC number and we'll pull review results if available.

Just Mobile...here you go...if you have an iPad, you must have this! Wanna experience the stylish stylus for iPad? Just Mobile AluPen™ is a chunky pencil-shaped stylus with a soft rubber nib that sits perfectly in the hand to make drawing and writing a uniquely smooth experience

Anti-Sleep Pilot - Break at the right time...depending on your driving routine, this may be an absolute must to have.

Tiredness causes one in every five road traffic accidents

We all experience tiredness occasionally when driving. The longer we drive the greater the risk of

feeling sleepy as we drive. Tiredness and driving are a lethal combination, responsible for around 20% of all road traffic accidents

The Anti Sleep Pilot adapts itself to you and your driving. It can be used by anyone because it is customized for each individual driver and driving situation. A single device will work for a variety of drivers and installs in all cars, irrespective of make or model. It has been carefully designed so as to provide a subtle interaction with the driver, avoiding unnecessary distraction.

Now, if you had a pilot I would know you would still be awake so I can tell you that's it, have fun, be careful and we will see you next time.

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew> after 1 April for the full version and www.the-tug.org for meeting info

Aloha,

Lou

The April Agenda

The tentative agenda for the April 2nd meeting is discussions on, and demonstrations of the following, if we have ample time to cover them all.

These are topics suggested by members. See, we do listen.

iPad1 and iPad2 Comparing them to the Android types.



paint.net

This powerful application is one of those we run across and find so useful that we wonder, why is it free? Altruism is not the first word that crosses our minds.

I first ran across this about a year ago and touched on it at one of the WINSIG meetings. I'll let the authors tell you a little bit about it, from their website

WWW.GETPAINT.NET

"Paint.NET is free image and photo editing software for computers that run Windows. It features an intuitive and innovative user interface with support for layers, unlimited undo, special effects, and a wide variety of useful and powerful tools. An active and growing online community provides friendly help, tutorials, and plug-ins.

It started development as an undergraduate college senior design project mentored by Microsoft, and is currently being maintained by some of the alumni that originally worked on it. Originally intended as a free replacement for the Microsoft Paint software that comes with Windows, it has grown into a powerful yet simple image and photo editor tool. It has been compared to other digital photo editing software packages such as Adobe® Photoshop®, Corel® Paint Shop Pro®, Microsoft Photo Editor, and The GIMP."

As you can see from the description it is FREE and open-source software. They do ask for a donation if you find the software to your liking. As of this writing the latest version is Paint.net v3.5.8. At the site there are other downloads so be sure you get this one. You can also download the others if you prefer, but I suggest you start with this one. It's a 3.5 MB download that comes in numerous languages. With paint.net

you can do ALL the things that the expensive imaging software does, without plunking down hundreds of dollars.

Retouch; recolor; repair old photos; crop; erase, you name it, you can do it.

With plug-ins, which are also free, you can display your artistic abilities for all to see. The plug-ins enhance certain features of paint.net or add new ones to complement the over all capabilities of the software.

There is a plug-in to give the image a reflection as you would see on a wet floor or on water. Draw random curves that are pre-calculated and automatically resize to fit in the image, so start and end points are at random positions;

You know the mouse "tail", well there's a plug-in to echo an object, on an otherwise transparent layer, so that it appears to leave a "trail".

Write speech bubbles direct on your canvas. Generate glowing spheres, diamonds and flares. Generate shadows, similar to Google Map, with angle and transparency options.

I looked at the 12-page PDF file of free plug-ins available and was amazed at the number of them. Some are way too technical for me, a professional graphic artist would understand them, but not I. Some of you may and may well be able to put them to good use. I strongly recommend this application to any and all, regardless of your experience levels.

Tutorials galore can be found by clicking on the Tutorial link at the site. Folks who are very akamai in graphic work have composed simple and easy to follow tutorials to perform specific tasks.

Such as, making an animated .gif with paint.net; create stencils to use in your image; create text with polished ceramics/colored glass ef-

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www.the-tug.org

fect, like this—

There are hundreds of tutorials

to learn from. You should be able to find instructions for just about any task you want to perform within paint.net.

Have fun and share some of your magnificent creations with the rest of the group.

Aloha,

Jim



April showers bring the Daisy and Sweet Pea.



April dates

to remember:

1st—April Fool's

2nd—TUG meeting

15th—Tax Day

17th—Palm Sunday

19th—Passover

20th—Spring starts

24th—Easter