

GAMUG meeting January 13, 2026

Quick recap

The meeting focused on various Apple-related updates and discussions. Glen shared several features and updates, including the transition of the Apple Card to Chase, the 20th anniversary of the MacBook Pro, and new privacy concerns with AI browsers. He demonstrated the new Edge Light feature in macOS and discussed the integration of Harry Potter spells into iOS as a fun feature. The group also discussed issues with Shazam on Apple Watches and the potential dangers of using lesser-known brands for power banks. John raised concerns about a persistent problem with the Podcasts app, and Glen agreed to investigate further. Ronald presented a video from CES 2026 showcasing new Apple accessories. Throughout the meeting, members shared personal experiences with Apple products and discussed various tips and tricks for using them effectively.

Next steps

- [Glen: Test the Apple Podcast app on his computer to see if he can reproduce John's issue with video not displaying after pausing, and report back findings](#)
- [Glen: Investigate the Shazam app situation \(duplicates on Apple Watch, how to view song list after removing the app, etc.\) and report back to the group](#)
- [John: Convert his iPad accessories document to PDF and send to Ron for posting on the website](#)
- [Glen: Test deleting the Shazam app and verify if Shazam functionality remains accessible via system controls](#)
- [Glen: Report back next month on findings regarding the Shazam app functionality and podcast app testing](#)

Summary

Technical and Personal Updates Meeting

The group discussed technical issues with video calls, including camera quality differences between phones and computers. Glen shared his busy schedule and ongoing health challenges, including chronic back pain and an upcoming medical procedure. John mentioned working on a document about iPad accessories that he would share with the group later. The conversation concluded with Glen describing his experience at the Apple store regarding his son's iPad charging issues.

iPad Replacement Decision

Glen discussed replacing his son's failing iPad with a newer model, considering a \$429 purchase price after a \$130 trade-in. John advised Glen to proceed with the purchase while the trade-in value is still available, suggesting that waiting could result in higher costs and a lost trade-in. Glen expressed hesitation due to his wife's opposition to spending, but John argued that the immediate purchase would be more economical than waiting. They also discussed the educational discount available for the iPad, which could further reduce the cost.

iPad and OS Update Challenges

The meeting began with a discussion about iPad charging issues, where Glen shared his experiences with inconsistent charging problems that were eventually resolved. The group then discussed software updates, with John reporting a persistent issue in the Apple Podcasts app

where pausing and resuming playback loses video display, leading to Glen offering to test the problem on his own computer. The conversation ended with a discussion about operating system updates, where members shared their experiences with printer compatibility and recommended waiting for the first update (0.1) before installing major OS changes, particularly for those relying on older hardware peripherals.

Chase Takes Over Apple Card

Glen discussed printer issues and shared that Chase will take over as the new issuer of the Apple card from Goldman Sachs, with a transition expected to take about two years. Steve commented on his positive experience with Chase's customer service compared to Goldman Sachs. Glen also noted the 20th anniversary of Steve Jobs' announcement of the MacBook Pro on January 10th, 2006, and provided details about its original specifications and configurations.

Apple Tech and Privacy Discussion

The group discussed various Apple-related topics, including the history of MacBook models, browser privacy concerns, and new iPhone features. Glen shared an article ranking browsers by privacy, noting that Chrome, despite not being the worst, poses a higher risk due to its 72% market share. They also discussed the new Apple Digital ID, with Glen expressing concerns about privacy and government tracking. The conversation then shifted to a new iPhone feature designed to help with motion sickness by displaying moving dots that align with vehicle motion. Finally, they marked the fifth anniversary of Apple's transition to their own silicon chips, comparing the performance of the M1 and M5 chips, with Glen noting that his M1 Max MacBook Pro from 2020 still meets his needs.

iOS and macOS Feature Updates

The group discussed several iOS and macOS features, including Safari's updated tab design and how to revert to the previous layout by changing settings. Glen demonstrated a new macOS feature called EdgeLight, which provides on-screen lighting for video calls in low-light environments. The discussion also covered the Shazam app and its integration into iOS, with Tammy and Allen noting duplicate Shazam icons on their Apple Watches. Glen agreed to investigate further and report back on how to access the Shazam song list after removing the standalone app.

Tech Updates and Project Reviews

Glen presented information about a Cuck Tech power bank that offers both wireless and wired charging, noting its affordable price and mixed customer reviews. He demonstrated Harry Potter-themed voice commands for the S Lady app, which can control various iPhone functions, and shared a link to a website with additional commands. Glen also discussed the LEGO iMac G3 project, which received the required 10,000 votes but is still under review by LEGO and Apple for potential production. He committed to following up on the Shazam app and podcast functionality, as well as the S Lady app, and will report back on these topics next month.

CES 2026 Apple Accessory Highlights

Ronald shared a 10-minute video from the CES Consumer Electronics Show 2026, highlighting several Apple-related accessories. He discussed the Klix Power Keyboard, Magic Screen, Hibata E3 Pro ergonomic chair, Watchitude Tagged 2, LG 32-inch ultra-fine EVO 6K monitor, EmCon controller, Aukey MagFusion Arc and DeskHive 5X Pro chargers, Siteshi CubeDog dock, 12South valet tray, and Belkin charging accessories. The video was sponsored by Hibata, and

Ronald encouraged viewers to subscribe to the channel for more CES and Apple product coverage.

Tech Tools and Accessories Demo

John demonstrated two iPad accessories: an aluminum stand with USB-C port for charging and device connectivity, and a keyboard case that allows portrait and landscape modes while providing iPad protection. Tammy shared information about TechSnipper, an app that converts screen captures to text, and recommended WebP Converter for converting WebP image files to JPEG format. Dave explained his experience with installing Lutron Casetta smart switches, which replaced a 3-way switch setup, and Francis showcased a solid-state thumb drive with both USB-C and A connections, useful for transferring large photography files.

Tech Product Innovations and Tracking

The group discussed various tech products, including a high-capacity solid-state drive with transfer speeds of 1GB per second, a CF Express card reader for photographers, and a fingerprint scanner feature on laptops. Allen shared his experience with a \$15 Chinese-made wallet tracker that works with Apple's Find My network, which led to a discussion about Apple's decision to allow third-party use of their tracking technology. The conversation concluded with John suggesting how such a tracker could be useful in St. Louis' variable weather conditions.

Personal Experiences and Product Reviews

The group discussed various personal experiences and products, including a device for locating lost items and a review of an Anker power bank. Dave shared a story about a midnight fire alarm scare due to an overloaded air conditioning system. Steve presented a wooden phone stand project he works on with a youth ministry. The conversation ended with Steve mentioning his sister's recent passing and the family's travel plans for the funeral.