GAMUG meeting AI Summary - Nov. 10, 2026 w/CapMac

Quick recap

The meeting began with a brief technical discussion about a recurring macOS pop-up regarding network device discovery, which Bill explained was a privacy feature and could be managed in system settings. Tom Weaver reported that checks had been sent to 13 charities, with eight cashed and one remailed due to an address change, and shared a thank-you call from Habitat for Humanity. Johnames shared a tip for backing up iPhone photos by connecting the phone directly to an external hard drive to avoid macOS Preview errors. Robert provided a health update on Cokie, who was in the hospital with sepsis and organ failure. The group then held a formal election by acclamation for board officers. Steve gave a presentation on using Automator to create a calendar alarm that automatically prints a test page to keep inkjet nozzles from clogging. Glen then presented a series of iOS 27 features, including new photo organization tools, natural language event entry in Calendar and Reminders, FaceTime dual capture, Safari's "Notify Me" feature, full-page widgets, and custom EQ for AirPods. Ronald shared Apple's October announcements, including Home View, Apple TV 4K, HomePod minis, the iPhone Duo, iPad Mini with OLED, and MacBook Pro with M6 chips and ProLED XDR. The group discussed the high cost of Apple hardware and storage, the impact of AI on memory prices, and the pros and cons of the new MacBook Pro's touchscreen. The conversation ended with a brief exchange about the possibility of future joint meetings with guest speakers.

Next steps

Glen

- Send the slide deck as a PDF to Ron to be posted on the website under the meetings section.

Jim

- Keep Glen's group in mind and notify them when CATMAC has guest speakers lined up for future meetings.

Ronald

- Send out an email announcement about the December meeting being a dinner and get-together instead of a traditional online meeting.

Steve

- Check if the Automator workflow for printing the test colors page can be exported and shared with Dwight.

Summary

Mac Messages and Permissions Discussion

John asked about two recurring messages on his Mac: one about finding other devices on his network and another about data syncing across devices. Jim and Bill explained that the network discovery message is part of macOS's privacy framework and suggested reviewing permissions in System Settings, though John noted it doesn't specify which app is requesting permission. Bill mentioned that AI can provide helpful information about such technical questions, and Jim offered to send John a helpful link about the syncing issue.

Charity Updates and Group Planning

Tom reported that checks were sent to 13 charities, with eight cashed and one returned due to an address change, and received a thank you call from Habitat for Humanity. The group discussed upcoming elections required by their bylaws and the status of a member named Cokie who is hospitalized with sepsis and requires dialysis. Glen shared that his group is planning their first in-person meeting since early 2020 and expressed interest in attending future meetings with interesting speakers, noting their group has shrunk to under 20 members.

Board Meeting and Charity Updates

The meeting began with the formal election of officers by acclamation, with all board members voting in favor. Tom Weaver announced that donations had been made to 13 charities, with eight checks already cashed and one returned due to an address change. The group discussed plans for a December dinner meeting instead of a traditional online meeting, which Ronald suggested would be better communicated via email. Steve then presented a detailed technical talk about using Automator to create a workflow that prints a test color page regularly to prevent inkjet printer nozzles from drying out and clogging.

Automator and iOS Updates Discussion

Steve presented on using Automator for printing tasks, finding it straightforward for his specific use case though noting the tool could become complex. Glen discussed the upcoming iOS 27 features, covering everyday upgrades in this session after previously presenting the first 13 new features last month. The group also discussed changes to Mac security regarding full disk access permissions due to AI concerns, and Glen shared information about new charging products including the Ugreen MagFlow Pro power bank with liquid cooling technology.

iOS 27 Features Demonstration

Glen and Bill discussed portable phone chargers, with Bill sharing his experience about heat issues when using them for high-power activities like GPS navigation. Glen then demonstrated new iOS 27 features including photo organization improvements with star ratings and keyword tagging, natural language event creation in Calendar and Reminders, and the dual camera capture feature for FaceTime that allows users to show others what they're seeing while maintaining video of themselves.

iOS 17 Feature Demonstrations

Glen demonstrated several new iOS 17 features including dual capture functionality in FaceTime, Safari's new "Notify Me" feature for monitoring web pages, full-page widgets for home screens, and improvements to the Messages app including better support for non-iPhone users and higher resolution photo sharing. He also covered the updated Find My app with custom location sharing options, allowing users to set specific time periods for sharing locations and temporarily hide their location.

iOS 27 Features Demonstration

Glen demonstrated several new iOS 27 features including call context information that automatically appears when calling businesses, Connectivity Assist which helps maintain reliable

Wi-Fi connections, and AirPods Custom EQ functionality. He explained that the custom EQ feature, available only on AirPods with H2 chips, allows users to adjust bass, mid, and treble settings using a simple three-band equalizer in the AirPods settings menu. Glen noted that while the custom EQ offers more control than previously available, it's not as extensive as competitors' options and carries over to iPad and Mac when AirPods are paired.

iOS 27 Feature Updates

Glen presented updates in iOS 27, highlighting features like a more customizable EQ with multiple profiles, separate alarm and timer volumes, enhanced wallpaper options, improved Maps with sharper imagery and local favorites, and Gym Kit integration for workout tracking without an Apple Watch. He demonstrated how to access and use these new features, encouraging attendees to explore them firsthand. Glen invited questions about the updates but did not receive any during the session.

AirPods Hearing Features Discussion

Don asked questions about AirPods hearing features and calendar functionality. Glen explained that the hearing aid feature in AirPods only works for external sounds like conversations in restaurants, not for music or podcasts, and he wasn't sure if it could be used with the equalizer feature. Glen also demonstrated how to import calendar events by taking photos of written schedules, though he hadn't tested cursive writing recognition. The group discussed that Glen would be getting a hearing test at his upcoming ENT appointment on Thursday to compare it with the hearing test done through AirPods.

Apple Product Updates Discussion

The group discussed several recent Apple product announcements from October. Ronald presented updates on Home View ($299), Apple TV 4K, HomePod Mini ($149), iPhone Duo, iPad Mini with OLED display ($699), and MacBook Pro models with M6 chip ($1,999-$2,099). Glen expressed interest in the Home View but noted concerns about the additional hardware cost to mount it on the wall, while John recommended purchasing AppleCare for the iPhone Duo and praised its engineering despite being a first-generation product. The discussion also included a reminder about the upcoming Micro Center opening at Fry's old location on Friday the 13th, where attendees were encouraged to wear CapMac gear.

Apple Product Development Discussion

The group discussed recent Apple product developments, particularly focusing on MacBook Pros and the new Pro LED XDR display with touchscreen capabilities. Peter expressed frustration with recent macOS design changes, particularly the new rounded interface that he found less elegant than the previous version, while Glen noted that Apple has maintained the same MacBook Pro design for several years despite other hardware changes. The discussion included technical details about Apple's M-series chips and their performance for AI workloads, with Glen sharing his positive experience using an M1 MacBook Pro for five years despite some limitations with AI-heavy tasks. The group also discussed memory and storage costs in Apple products, with Don suggesting Apple's cloud storage as an alternative to expensive upgrades, and Peter explaining how AI-related memory production affects consumer pricing.