

GAMUG's Zoom Meeting 11-11-2025

Quick recap

The meeting began with a discussion about viewing the Northern Lights and personal experiences with decluttering and moving, including conversations about changing values of heirloom items and declining interest in formal dining settings. The group then explored various Apple-related topics, including new iOS features, troubleshooting iPhone issues, and updates on Apple Wallet and AppleCare plans. The conversation ended with discussions about iCloud functionality, Wi-Fi networking solutions, and the challenges of social media, with plans to reconvene in December.

Next steps

- [Ronald: Send Glen's presentation materials to be posted on the website](#)
- [John: Send the AppleCare One link and information to Ron for posting on the website](#)
- [Glen: Provide presentation materials to Ron for the website](#)

Summary

Chasing the Northern Lights

Ronald and Glen discussed the possibility of seeing the Northern Lights over St. Louis, with Glen sharing a photo he took last May from a high point in the city. They discussed the challenges of viewing the lights due to ambient light and elevation, with Glen suggesting using a phone camera to capture faint displays. Ronald expressed interest in trying to see the lights himself, and Glen offered tips on how to maximize visibility.

Decluttering and Moving Experiences

The group discussed personal experiences with decluttering and moving, with Lyman mentioning plans to move from their house to an apartment and dealing with accumulated possessions. John shared his experience of clearing out the attic, including the discovery of damaged books infested with earwigs, and his plans to insulate the attic. The conversation also touched on the changing value of heirloom items over generations, with Lyman noting that fine china and crystal once considered valuable treasures are now being sold or repurposed for everyday use.

Generational Shifts in Dining Traditions

The group discussed the lack of interest in formal dining settings and table settings among younger generations, with Lyman noting that even family members were unfamiliar with the purpose of certain dining utensils. Ronald mentioned that such formal settings are mainly observed during holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas. The conversation then shifted to personal anecdotes, including Glen's experience capturing the Northern Lights with a phone camera and John's humorous account of a botched haircuts experience. Steve April expressed gratitude to Steve Maynard and Alan Thorpe for helping him recover lost computer files.

iPhone 17 Pro Max Troubleshooting

Lyman sought help regarding the difficulties he and his wife were experiencing with their new iPhone 17 Pro Max, as they found the device challenging to use due to its features. Steve suggested checking the Apple Store at West County Mall for classes on the new phones, while Glen recommended using YouTube for instructional videos. John mentioned the Take Control series of e-books, which could be useful for learning about iOS 26, and Ronald suggested looking into MacMost for additional guidance. John also shared his experience with a macOS issue in Podcasts, where the video would not resume after being paused for an extended period, and Glen suggested trying Podcasts on an iPhone to determine if the issue was specific to the Mac. Glen also raised a question about the iPhone's "standby" mode not activating consistently, which some members of the group had experienced.

MagSafe Charger and iOS Updates

Glen discussed issues with his MagSafe charger, including occasional failure to enter standby mode, and John suggested adjusting the charger angle to resolve the problem. Glen expressed concern about his iPhone 15 Pro Max's battery health, which had decreased to 83%, and mentioned that his AppleCare coverage had recently expired. Glen then

presented updates on visual intelligence features, including new tools for screenshot markup, reverse Google image search, and text summarization. He also explained how to adjust the intensity of the "liquid glass" effect on iOS devices and mentioned refinements to this feature in iOS 26.1.

New Camera App Features Demo

Glen demonstrated the new camera app features, including simplified controls with only photo and video modes visible, while other modes are accessible through swiping. He showed how settings like flash and timer are now in pop-out menus, and highlighted the lens cleaning hints feature that alerts users when their lens is dirty. Glen also explained how compatible AirPods can be used as a camera remote, requiring iOS 26 or iPadOS 26, AirPods 4 or later, and enabling the Camera Remote feature in settings.

Apple Features and Privacy Tips

The group discussed various Apple features and tips, including using AirPods as a camera remote and the redesigned Photos app in iOS 18. They also covered Apple Maps' new "Visited Places" feature, which requires specific settings to be enabled for privacy. Finally, they touched on the natural language search capabilities of Maps in iOS 16, noting that while the results were mixed, it showed promise for future improvements.

iOS 26 New Features Overview

Glen discussed several new features in iOS 26, including the introduction of the Preview app to the iPhone, which allows users to view, edit, and annotate PDFs and images. He explained the functionality of Adaptive Power Mode, a new battery-saving feature available on certain iPhone models, and demonstrated how to customize icon colors to match the iPhone's background. Glen also highlighted the ability to selectively copy message text and the use of ChatGPT to query on-screen content by taking a screenshot and asking a question.

Apple Wallet and Device Plans

Glen demonstrated a new feature in Apple Wallet that allows users to track orders directly from their Apple Wallet app, provided they have a recent model iPhone and enable the feature in Settings. John presented information about AppleCare One, a new plan that allows users to bundle multiple device coverages into one plan for \$19.99 per month, with additional devices costing \$5.99 each per month. John explained the plan's benefits, including up to three replacements for lost or stolen devices and the ability to add older devices to the plan, and provided an example of potential cost savings by bundling multiple devices. The conversation ended with Ronald mentioning iOS 26.1, noting that he had upgraded all his devices and had not encountered any issues.

iOS 26.1 Features and Concerns

Ronald discussed the release of iOS 26.1, highlighting new features like the liquid glass design toggle, improved customization options, and enhanced functionality in Apple Music and the Fitness app. Glen raised concerns about battery drain after updating to iOS 26.1, and Allen mentioned similar issues with his Mac. The group also briefly discussed the Image Playground app's capabilities for creating personalized images and avatars.

Satellite Tech and iCloud Overview

Ronald demonstrated how to create and modify avatars using Image Playground, showing various examples and discussing the export options. Steve presented information on Apple's expanding satellite connectivity capabilities, including emergency SOS calls, potential indoor coverage, and the development of 5G non-terrestrial networks. The group discussed the implications of satellite technology for rural internet access and the challenges of current cellular infrastructure. The conversation ended with a brief overview of iCloud's functionality and its differences from traditional backup services.

iCloud Features and Best Practices

Ronald shared a detailed explanation of iCloud features, including syncing, backup, and storage management. He covered how to set up iCloud across devices, manage photos, and enable iCloud Backup.

Ronald also discussed common mistakes users make with iCloud, such as not backing up certain apps or not managing storage efficiently. He highlighted powerful features like Hide My Email, MailDrop, iCloud Private Relay, and accessing iCloud from anywhere. The discussion concluded with an overview of whether iCloud is worth using, considering factors like multiple devices and data sync needs.

Wi-Fi and iOS Updates Discussion

The group discussed various topics including iCloud usage, fiber internet availability, and mesh networks for improving Wi-Fi coverage. Glen shared his experience with a Wi-Fi 7 router and mesh network setup, while Charles described his use of a Netgear Nighthawk system to overcome signal issues in his home. Ronald presented a tutorial on customizing the Control Center in iOS 16.6, and the group briefly discussed the limitations of Siri's voice options. The conversation ended with a discussion about the challenges of social media and misinformation, before agreeing to reconvene in December.