

GAMUG Meeting, Tuesday May 12, 2026

Quick recap

The GAMUG meeting focused on various technology topics and user questions. Dr. Helen asked about transitioning from Outlook to Apple Mail, with members sharing their experiences using IMAP versus POP and discussing methods for importing email data. Glen demonstrated several macOS features including background folder customization, clipboard management, and the Digital Color Meter tool. Steve presented on investment tracking apps and websites including Stocks, Yahoo Finance, and MarketBeat. The meeting also included discussions about Apple's Vision Pro in medical applications, the resurgence of iPods among Gen Z, and Glen's presentation on a potential telescope purchase. Ronald shared information about MacMost's video on unusual macOS features, and the conversation ended with Glen beginning to discuss his NetSpot app for analyzing Wi-Fi coverage.

Next steps

- Dr.Helen Pose an email client questions to the group listserv and/or ask additional questions to the larger group at the next meeting for broader input.
- Glen: Research and potentially contact NetSpot developers to clarify the meaning of 2G/5G icons and their placement on the Wi-Fi heat map.
- Glen: Consider purchasing the Dwarf Mini Smart Telescope and, if purchased, share photographs/results with the group.
- Glen: Share PDF of "goodies" presentation and related resources on the group website.
- Ron: Upload meeting video, presentation files, and transcript to the group website/YouTube.
- All members: Review WWDC announcements prior to next month's meeting (if interested) for group discussion.
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Summary

Emergency Leave and Email Transition

Glen informed the group about a potential emergency leave due to a family crisis and discussed preparing his presentation materials, including videos on Mac OS features and audio file conversion. Dr. Helen rejoined the meeting to ask about transitioning from Microsoft Outlook to Apple Mail due to changes in Outlook's functionality on the new iMac. Glen recommended using IMAP over POP for email access across devices and shared his experience using Apple Mail with nested folders for organization, while Dr. Helen mentioned using a workaround to access IMAP settings on Earthlink.

Mail App Email Management Discussion

The group discussed email management using the Mail app on Mac. Glen and Ron shared their experiences using Mail, with Ron preferring rules for automatic organization while Glen prefers manual organization. Dr. sought advice on importing emails from Outlook to Mail, noting challenges with incomplete imports and emails appearing as unread. Glen suggested the MacRumors forum as a helpful resource for finding solutions to email-related issues.

Email and AI Tools Discussion

The group discussed email clients, with most members using Apple Mail and IMAP. Dr. Helen shared her experience switching from Outlook to Apple Mail and sought advice on email management and conversion tools. Glen recommended the Mac Rumors forum for further assistance. Terry asked about AI tools for analyzing local documents, and Glen suggested starting with ChatGPT, noting its capabilities and subscription options. The conversation ended with Ronald announcing plans for upcoming events, including a discussion on WWDC and a membership rewards drawing in June.

Technology Updates and Insights

Glen shared various technology updates and insights during the meeting. He discussed an experiment with ChatGPT to create a photo of himself among flowers, highlighted the return of Ted Lasso with a new season premiering in August, and mentioned an ophthalmologist using Apple Vision Pro for cataract surgery. Glen also shared that iPods are making a comeback, particularly among Gen Z users who appreciate their internet-free design, and noted the significant value of original iMac computers. The discussion concluded with information about iPhone support timelines, revealing that major iOS updates can be received for 5-7 years after release, with some older devices like the iPhone 5 receiving updates as late as 2026.

Apple Features and Updates Discussion

Glen discussed several Apple features and updates, including Homebridge 2.0, which allows users to integrate unsupported smart devices with Apple Home using a Mac application. He also explained how to connect an Apple Watch to gym equipment for more accurate health data tracking. Glen further highlighted the new iOS 18.1 feature that enables phone call recording and transcription, available on AI-capable devices like the iPhone 15 Pro and later. Finally, he mentioned a hidden notes feature in Apple Maps that allows users to add notes to saved locations.

iOS Features and Apple Updates

Glen demonstrated how to save locations and add notes in Maps, and explained various iMessage formatting and effects features available on iOS 18. He also shared news about a collaboration between Porsche and Apple to celebrate their respective anniversaries, with Porsche racing cars featuring Apple-themed liveries. The conversation ended with Glen showing participants an Easter egg in the new MacBook Pro's display and mentioning a potential purchase of a Dwarf Mini Smart Telescope.

Dwarf Mini Smart Telescope Review

Glen presented a detailed review of the Dwarf Mini smart telescope, which weighs 1.85 pounds and sells for \$399. He demonstrated how the telescope connects to an iPhone app and showed its features including sky finder mode, EQ mode, and various imaging capabilities. Glen concluded that despite its compact size, the telescope does not sacrifice quality for portability and would be a good option for both beginners and experienced astronomers looking to capture astrophotos.

Telescope and Investment Tools Discussion

John and Glen discussed whether a telescope needs an internet connection, concluding it likely doesn't require active internet access since it connects via Bluetooth and likely has pre-programmed data about deep sky objects. Steve presented on investment tracking tools, recommending three free resources: the Stocks widget, Yahoo Finance, and MarketBeat. He demonstrated how to use these tools to track stock performance, set price alerts, and monitor dividend information, noting that MarketBeat is particularly useful for tracking dividend payments.

Stock Investments and Mac Features

Glen and Steve discussed stock investments, with Steve sharing details about his and his wife's retirement accounts and specific stocks they hold, including Constellation Energy. The conversation then shifted to a presentation by Ron about unusual but useful Mac features, including customizing Finder window backgrounds, using the clipboard viewer, music visualizers, and opening apps in Preview to access graphics. Ron also mentioned Photo Booth's special effects and briefly touched on Mac's text-to-speech capabilities.

macOS Hidden Features Demonstration

Ron Mueller demonstrated several lesser-known macOS features including novelty voices in System Settings, text clippings, Digital Color Meter for measuring RGB values, and customizing Activity Monitor dock icons. Glen shared his experience using the Digital Color Meter for graphic design work and described his practice of customizing folder icons with images to easily identify them. The group discussed color management in design applications, with John noting that Digital Color Meter primarily works with RGB rather than CMYK values.

Wi-Fi Coverage Mapping Demonstration

Glen demonstrated the NetSpot app, which he uses to analyze and map his Wi-Fi coverage at home. He showed a heat map of his main floor and explained how the app identifies signal strengths using color coding (with yellow and red indicating stronger signals). Glen noted some uncertainty about the random placement of 2G and 5G icons on the map and planned to contact the developers for clarification. He also mentioned occasional freezing issues with the app during meetings, which he attributed to recent upgrades to his Orbi mesh system.

Audio File Conversion Methods on Mac

The meeting focused on audio file conversion methods on Mac. Gary demonstrated various ways to convert audio files, including using QuickTime Player, GarageBand, the Music app, and terminal commands. He explained different audio file formats, containers, and encoding formats. The group also briefly discussed the upcoming WWDC event and how it might impact future software updates. Terry asked about using Activity Monitor to display CPU activity, but Glen was unable to replicate the desired behavior. The conversation ended with a reminder that meeting videos and transcripts would be available on the website.