

GAMUG meeting AI summary - October 13, 2026

Quick recap

The meeting of the Apple user group focused on recent Apple announcements and updates, particularly iOS 27 features and new home products. Glen presented an overview of iOS 27, highlighting new AI capabilities in Siri, photo editing tools, shared albums, wallet passes, and the updated Image Playground. The group also discussed Apple's new HomeView, HomePod Mini 2, and Apple TV 4K, with Glen sharing details and a video review. Members shared experiences with AI tools, device upgrades, and challenges in attracting new members to the group. The conversation included personal anecdotes about technology use, health issues, and plans for a possible in-person December gathering, with a survey to be sent out for member input.

Next steps

Glen

- Share the PDFs of the iOS 27 and Apple home product presentations with Ronald so they can be distributed to the group.
- Prepare the second half of the iOS 27 features presentation for the November meeting.

Ronald

- Create and send out a survey to members in the next week or so to decide whether the December meeting should be a trivia event or an in-person gathering at a restaurant.

Summary

Upcoming Meeting Planning Discussion

Glen and Ronald discussed plans for an upcoming meeting, with Glen having prepared materials about iPhones and "goodies" that he wanted to present. They agreed to start with December planning discussions, followed by Glen's presentation on the iPhone materials and a 14-minute video. The conversation then shifted to weather conditions affecting Glen's health due to mold, and they discussed concerns about low attendance at meetings. Francis joined later and mentioned trying to invite a friend named Jim Robertson to the meeting.

Apple User Group Growth Challenges

Glen discussed the challenges of attracting members to their Apple technology group, noting that they struggle to get more than a dozen people to meetings despite having a potential audience of millions in the St. Louis area. He shared that he contacted other Apple user groups across the country and found most were facing similar decline, with only one thriving group in Southwest Florida that has over 100 members. The group has collaborated with an Austin group for several meetings, achieving larger attendance of 30-40 people, though collaboration has decreased under new leadership. Glen suggested that rebranding from "Mac user group" to "Apple technology group" might help attract more diverse members, and noted that Apple's resistance to partnering with them has been a significant barrier to growth.

AI Tools Usage Challenges

Glen discussed his experiences with AI tools, explaining that while he uses AI for about two-thirds of his computer work, it requires significant iteration and understanding to be effective. He detailed the limitations of ChatGPT's usage blocks, noting that complex tasks can quickly

deplete the 5-hour usage allowance, sometimes within minutes for very complex work like analyzing large Excel workbooks. The discussion also touched on daylight savings time, with Glen expressing preference for standard time over permanent daylight savings time.

Track Field Spreadsheet Implementation Discussion

Glen discussed his experience creating a shared spreadsheet for track and field coaches in the St. Louis region, explaining how he encountered issues with usage limits while implementing a new script to improve data entry. He also shared his observations about Mac OS 27, noting some minor bugs with Apple system apps, particularly regarding dock icons appearing grayed out even when hidden. The group discussed their approaches to software updates, with Glen and John expressing that they now update immediately due to improved stability and security compared to earlier versions.

Data Backup and iOS Features

The group discussed data backup practices and the importance of protecting work, with Charlie sharing experiences about helping colleagues recover lost manuscripts. Glen mentioned his continued paranoia about data loss despite improvements in technology. The conversation then shifted to Glen's positive experience with his new iPhone 18 Pro Max, particularly its camera quality, which he demonstrated during the meeting. Glen announced he would present iOS 17 features in two halves due to the extensive number of new features, starting with the first half of the presentation.

Apple Devices in Education Update

Glen shared updates about new Apple devices and the AppleCare One Family Plan, which offers coverage for up to six people at \$49.99 per month. He also discussed Apple's renewed push in education, highlighting Beaumont School District's decision to replace Chromebooks with 14,585 Apple devices, including MacBook Neos and iPads. Charlie shared his positive experience with Macs in his grade school over 26 years, and the group discussed the potential impact of Apple's new CEO on classroom technology.

New Devices and iOS Features

Glen demonstrated two new devices: the UPerfect Omega 1.3 OLED touchscreen monitor and the Insta360 Flow 2 iPhone stabilizer tripod. He then presented an overview of iOS 27 features, focusing on Siri AI improvements including personal context capabilities, follow-up conversations, and on-screen awareness. Glen noted that Siri AI requires an iPhone 15 Pro or later model and must be enabled through settings, though it remains in beta status.

iOS 27 AI Features Demo

Glen demonstrated new features in iOS 27, including visual intelligence enhancements that allow users to take photos and ask Siri about them directly from the camera app. He showed how the SAI button (located on phones from the 16 series onwards) activates this functionality, which can identify objects, provide information, and perform actions like adding events to calendars. Glen also explained that while most processing happens locally on the phone, deeper searches require

permission to connect to ChatGPT online, and he demonstrated new AI photo editing tools including extend, reframe, and enhanced cleanup features.

iOS 27 Photo Editing Features

Glen demonstrated new photo editing features in iOS 27, including Cleanup, Extend, and Reframe tools, with Jacob providing detailed walkthroughs of each function. Glen then explained Apple's reference images feature, available only on iPhone 14 Pro and Pro Max models, which creates unalterable reference images to verify photo authenticity.

iOS 27 Features Demonstration

Glen demonstrated new iOS 27 features including Apple's reference image system that creates unaltered photo versions for verification purposes, though it uses additional storage space. He showed how to save video frames as photos and create slideshows from selected photos or albums. Glen also explained the improved shared albums feature, which now maintains full resolution for photos and videos when shared with non-Apple users, allowing web-based collaboration and emoji reactions.

New iOS 27 Features Demo

Glen demonstrated new iOS 27 features including Create Your Own Wallet Passes, which allows users to digitize physical cards with barcodes or QR codes by taking photos or screenshots, and Split the Bill with Apple Cash functionality that uses receipt scanning to calculate and divide bill shares automatically. Francis asked about the difference between Apple Cash and Apple Card, but Glen deferred explaining this to a later time to stay focused on the presentation. Glen also introduced a new feature allowing users to create shortcuts in plain English rather than requiring technical scripting knowledge.

iOS 27 Features Demonstration

Glen demonstrated two new iOS 27 features: creating custom Safari extensions using Apple Intelligence and the enhanced Image Playground app. For Safari extensions, users can describe desired functionality and Safari will create the extension, with the ability to edit and refine it later. The Image Playground demonstration showed how to create AI images from scratch, edit existing photos, and use different styles including photorealistic, sketch, and animation, with the ability to save and share the resulting images.

AI Photo Features and Health Apps

Glen demonstrated new features of Image Playground and ChatGPT on iPhone, showing how to create AI-generated photos with detailed descriptions and save them. He also previewed upcoming health app redesigns that will include daily insights, long-term health trends, and at-home health assessments using iPhone camera and Apple Watch data. The group discussed plans for a December gathering, with Ronald proposing either a trivia event or meeting in person at a restaurant, and they agreed to send out a survey to all members to determine preferences.

Apple Product Announcement Discussion

Glen presented a summary of Apple's recent product announcements, including the Apple Home View (\$299), HomePod Mini 2 (\$149), and Apple TV 4K fourth generation (\$300). The Home View comes in both tabletop and wall-mountable versions, with the tabletop version including a better speaker system and additional accessories. The group discussed potential interest in the new products, with Francis expressing interest in outdoor video cameras and Charlie mentioning upcoming home renovation projects that would require plumbing work. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about potentially meeting at Three Kings Pub for their next gathering, with Ronald planning to include this option in an upcoming survey.