



November 17, 2005

Please consider dining at C&M. By increasing the number of diners, we ensure that meeting costs remain low.

until 6:45... **Help Desk** with Tom & Gus

## 6:45 **Magic Time!**

New Members/Introductions - Brian Fountain  
Dues - Ray Kallman  
Tarmac Website changes - Ray Kallman

7:00 **2005 Demonstrators Recognition** - Brian

7:15 **Games, Gadgets, and Gizmos for the Holidays**  
Quinton Quan - Apple Representative from our Norfolk CompUSA Apple Store.

7:40 **Open Forum : "Games, Gadgets, and Gizmos"**

8:10 **Wrap Up** - Brian Fountain

8:15 **Tip Jar!!**



Please remember the restaurant needs to clean the room after the meetings. They need us out of the room by 8:20. Thanks



## TarMac's website is *on the move!*

TarMac has opened a .Mac account and moved our web site from cox.net. Making the move give us a number of new features that we'll describe at upcoming meetings including having a file/software archive for our members.

Here are URL's to get you started:

web page: [homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug](http://homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug)

archive: [homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug/FileSharing3.html](http://homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug/FileSharing3.html)

### Apple Seen As Top Pick In PC Market

Maya Roney/Forbes/ 11.17.05, 11:19 AM ET

Credit Suisse First Boston research analyst Robert Semple maintained a "marketweight" rating on the PC hardware sector after October results from market researcher NPD revealed "elastic" consumer demand driven by aggressive pricing.

"Within the PC market, we continue to prefer the profitable share gainers with compelling product cycles, with Apple Computer as our top pick," said Semple.

Read the complete story at: [www.forbes.com/markets/2005/11/17/pcs-apple-hp-sales-1117markets05.html?partner=yahootix](http://www.forbes.com/markets/2005/11/17/pcs-apple-hp-sales-1117markets05.html?partner=yahootix)

Macintosh User Group Store  
[www.applemugstore.com](http://www.applemugstore.com)  
- 1.31.06  
User ID: ipod  
Password: nano

Thanks for your continuing support of **TarMac!**



If you show up you're a member • If you speak up you're an officer • If you stand up you're the president!  
[homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug/](http://homepage.mac.com/tidewatermug/) • [tidewatermac@cox.net](mailto:tidewatermac@cox.net)

Brian Fountain, President - Tom Davis, V-P - Ray Kallman, Treas. - Gus Blank, Ambassador - Jamie Lewis, Master-at-Arms - Jan Cook - Lynn McAlpine - Lyle Sanders - Frank Smith, Board Members

# A new twist to credit card fraud... in your face!

*Since we are talking about games and gifts tonight and we are approaching the giving season where our credit cards will be getting a workout. Here is some information that will help you buy your mac gifts safely and keep you from becoming a victim of in-your-face credit card fraud.*

*Thanks to Lee Wilkins for sharing some of his trade secrets.*



## Credit Card Fraud

**SCENE 1.** This is a new one. People sure stay busy trying to cheat us, don't they??

A friend went to the local gym and placed his belongings in the locker. After the workout and a shower, he came out, saw the locker open, and thought to himself, "Funny, I thought I locked the locker.

Hmmmmm." He dressed and just flipped the wallet to make sure all was in order. Everything looked okay - all cards were in place.

A few weeks later his credit card bill came - a whooping bill of \$14,000!

He called the credit card company and started yelling at them, saying that he did not make the transactions. Customer care personnel verified that there was no mistake in the system and asked if his card had been stolen.

"No," he said, but then took out his wallet, pulled out the credit card, and yep - you guessed it - a switch had been made. An expired similar credit card from the same bank was in the wallet. The thief broke into his locker at the gym and switched cards.

**Verdict:** The credit card issuer said since he did not report the card missing earlier, he would have to pay the amount owed to them. How much did he have to pay for items he did not buy? \$9,000! Why were there no calls made to verify the amount swiped? Small amounts rarely trigger a "warning bell" with some credit card companies. It just so happens that all the small amounts added up to big one!

**SCENE 2.** A man at a local restaurant paid for his meal with his credit card. The bill for the meal came, he signed it, and the waitress folded the receipt and passed the credit card along.

Usually, he would just take it and place it in his wallet or pocket. Funny enough, though, he actually took a look at the card and, lo and behold, it was the expired card of another person.

He called the waitress and she looked perplexed. She took it back, apologized, and hurried back to the counter under the watchful eye of the man. All the waitress did while walking to the counter was wave the wrong expired card to the counter cashier, and the counter cashier immediately looked down and took out the real card.

No exchange of words, nothing! She took it and came back to the man with an apology.

**Verdict:** Make sure the credit cards in your wallet are yours. Check the name on the card every time you sign for something and/or the card is taken away for even a short period of time. Many people just take back the credit card without even looking at it, "assuming" that it has to be theirs.

**FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, DEVELOP THE HABIT OF CHECKING YOUR CREDIT CARD EACH TIME IT IS RETURNED TO YOU AFTER A TRANSACTION!**

**SCENE 3.** Yesterday, I went into a pizza restaurant to pick up an order that I had called in. I paid by using my Visa Check Card which, of course, is linked directly to my checking account. The young man behind the counter took my card, swiped it, then laid it on the counter as he waited for the approval, which is pretty standard procedure.

While he waited, he picked up his cell phone and started dialing. I noticed the phone because it is the same model I have, but nothing seemed out of the ordinary. Then I heard a click that sounded like my phone sounds when I take a picture.

He then gave me back my card but kept the phone in his hand as if he was still pressing buttons.

Meanwhile, I'm thinking: I wonder what he is taking a picture of, oblivious to what was really going on. It then dawned on me: the only thing there was my credit card, so now I'm paying close attention to what he is doing. He set his phone on the counter, leaving it open.

About five seconds later, I heard the chime that tells you that the picture has been saved. Now I'm standing there struggling with the fact that this boy just took a picture of my credit card. Yes, he played it off well, because had we not had the same kind of phone, I probably would never have known what happened.

Needless to say, I immediately canceled that card as I was walking out of the pizza parlor. All I am saying is, be aware of your surroundings at all times. Whenever you are using your credit cards, take caution and don't be careless.

Notice who is standing near you and what they are doing when you use your card. Be aware of phones because many have a camera phone these days. When you are in a restaurant and the waiter/waitress brings your card and receipt for you to sign, make sure you scratch the number off.

Some restaurants are using only the last four digits, but a lot of them are still putting the whole thing on there. I have already been a victim of credit card fraud and, believe me, it is not fun. The truth is that they can get you even when you are careful, but don't make it easy for them.