

You'd Better Read Me News

January 2007

Every January 2nd I try to be cheerful with the prospects of each New Year. Each January 2nd I am reminded of the name on my POW bracelet that I wore for many years. The bracelet is inscribed with the name: *Lt. Nicholas Brooks 1/2/70*. Nick was shot down over Viet Nam and eventually was killed by his captors. I call it assassinated. Each January 2nd I wonder what would or could have become of my childhood friend. In high school he was elected to the presidency of the whole high school general organization, not just class president. He talked me into running for that and what a fiasco that was. He went to the University of Wisconsin and was accepted by the Naval Academy after just one year. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1966. He was hoping to be a pilot, however the poor lighting in the rooms and the reading workload caused him to not qualify as a pilot, but a navigator. Fast forward to when he got shot down. It took many years to find out what really happened and his remains were eventually returned to his parents. They cremated his remains and they were scattered at sea. That was 37 years ago and I still wonder what would have become of the guy with the million dollar smile and a personality that lit up a room every time he walked into it. The friend who, when he would tell you he would take care of something for you, his word was golden, because you could count on Nick giving it his all and it probably would turn out the way he hoped it would. Nick, I miss you and I still miss that wonderful way you stated: *"let's get it done."* I'm glad I got to know him. That bracelet eventually wore enough that the edges became so sharp that they would shave the hairs on my wrist. At the request of Nick's parents I stopped wearing it. However, I keep it in my desk drawer to remind me of one of the finest men I ever had the honor of calling my friend.

We usually start this meeting like most others by talking about what we saw at Macworld. For the first time in over 15+ years, Lynette and I did not attend Macworld. Allen Der called us Wednesday and told, in ATX tones, that we were not at the annual Adobe Breakfast and Lynette won the Adobe Creative Suite, and just like at ATX when you are not there, it was awarded to someone else. During the first few minutes at ATX Lynette will not be present as she will be at LAX picking up our presenter. Until then I will talk a little bit about our main presenter, Micromat, the utility company and how much the Mac people in the audience are going to enjoy their product called Protégé. Lynette and I have been using this absolutely necessary utility for a while now and we love it. It's a FireWire Flash Drive that boots up using your firewire connection and has all the Tech-Tool items on it. It's fast. Forget about carrying CD's, spare drives or all the stuff you currently carry. It's the size of a flash drive. It took my 120 GB external drive and optimized it so fast, I was amazed. This is one of those *gotta have it* items and when Christian Pickman of Micromat gives you all the details AND their ATX price you are going to be an owner. Christian will explain more details and will then explain about Tech Tool's Protégé is the item you need.

The other product we will show you will fit on both Mac and PC desktops. Remember ScanSnap from Fujitsu? That's the desktop one button scanner that could take a scanned document and turn it into a multi-page Adobe Acrobat file in a snap. Well Fujitsu has taken that ScanSnap scanner to the next level. The Fujitsu ScanSnap, supporting Mac OS® X v10.4 Tiger™, has a compact, upright, one-button design and comes equipped with a 50-page ADF (*automatic document feeder*) that allows users to scan at speeds up to 18 pages per minute (PPM) for single-sided documents and 36 images per minute (IPM) for double-sided documents. It is one of the fastest, single-pass duplex ADF scanners available today that address the design community's document imaging needs. *Does it scan in color?* Yes. That is the product we have been waiting for. Your second question, *does it work with a PC?* Of course it does as there are several PC models, however the biggest news was the Mac compatibility and with both platform capability, it is even more useful to the design community. The big announcement from Fujitsu is the joint venture between Fujitsu and I.R.I.S. to offer their READ IRIS software to the two ScanSnap scanners they produce for the Mac and PC platforms. Why is this a big deal? For those of who own and use IRIS software to take scanned documents and convert the text with the OCR (*optical character recognition*) abilities will no longer have to go through the extra steps to convert the OCR text into a readable PDF or text document. That will be performed automatically with the Fujitsu ScanSnap scanner. It is so easy. We have found that the IRIS has a much greater reliability. Especially with longer page documents. If you have done this in the past, you will know what I am talking about.

After we show the scanner, Lynette will talk about Graphic Authority and their newest offerings of Blended Edges, Frames and Album Designs. We will show just how easy it is to create really cool designs with Graphic Authority products. These new products are about to be released and ATX members will get a discount. Instead of the normal \$49 price, just show your library card, which you received last month, and you pay only a flat fee of \$20.

This month's meeting is at the normal place of Toyota USA on Gramercy facing 190th Street in Torrance. The meeting starts at 9:02 AM sharp. We will have donuts and the coffee is still free. Yes, we will have an early arriver raffle. We will also have a few items that we did not put for sale on the various tables last month. One other note about the raffle for this month. I know we told you that we had emptied the closet of all the goodies. Well, we did not do that and we are going to raffle a few of those items that we did not offer last month. What are they? You will have to show up to find out. However, it will be worth the effort to start off the New Year to show up.

God Bless
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