



You'd Better Read Me News

May 2007

Well, it's summer already here in Southern California. At least that is what the thermometer is telling us. On Monday, May 7th, we were dealing with very hot Santa Ana winds. I was hoping things are getting back to normal. The Lakers finished their season, early, of course. Tiger Woods is back to winning again, except the Players. Both the Dodgers and Angels are thinking about the fall classic, the World Series, of course. The Presidential hopefuls from both parties are raising lots of cash. Whoa! It's nineteen months until the national election and these clowns are making noise like the elections should be next week. Even Al Gore knows enough to not to be involved at this point. Is the United States that hard-up to want to listen to these people yet? Now we have to listen to their opinions about the sound of water drying up. Excuse me, I think I'm going to enjoy the nice weather we are having for the next few months and pick some of the French strawberries in our front patio and figure how to keep the snails under control. I think Lynette and I are going to enjoy Nathalie's graduation from Stanford Business School. Then we'll take a few days driving down the coast and take some images of the California Coast. Those are the important things we need to concentrate on. These politicians have now raised almost 100 million dollars to make sure their names are on the front pages of the newspapers and on the news at 11:00. Let me know when each party has had their conventions and the names of each party's candidates are. Until then, I think I will be enjoying more important things such as *Tori Ritchie's web site*. Every Tuesday, Tori releases a new recipe really new and unique. You can sign up for free. I gained weight just browsing through her web site. If you are a fan of good food and great recipes, you have to sign up. We have.

With the temperature at our home in Huntington Beach at 95° on Monday, May 7th, it becomes a great segue for our first presenter company. Heat happens to be the biggest reasons for hard drive failures. Lynette and I recently bought two 400 GB hard drives to store a few of her photographs. She created a software RAID using the Apple Disk Utility. Lynette started putting some of her images on this RAID set-up. Four days later, they both went down at the same moment. I have two other large failed GB hard drives and Lynette had another. The coincidental item was the same thing. All these hard drives generated a fair amount of ambient heat. Furiously going back through my records to see what other companies were making and how they were dealing with the heat and failure rates, one company stood out from all the rest. G-Tech had great reviews and great customer comments. I called several friends and asked them about their experiences. Only a few had them and they were all positive. So we contacted G-Tech and they sent us a few to check out and review. I was surprised about several factors. 1. *G-Tech used an aluminum case for all their enclosures.* 2. *There was no appreciable heat from any of their enclosures.* 3. *People who had been using them all used the term reliable regarding them.* 4. *You can't hear the fan*

running. Sure, you can, if you can hear common mosquito flatulence. *Why are all of these items so different?* Being an inquisitive mind, we contacted G-Tech again and spoke with Pete Schlatter. He stated that G-Tech apparently uses the same basic materials, *except they add a solid aluminum heat sink to the bottom of each hard drive.* Instead of using *me too* thinking, they found that spending a few bucks more was worth it by gaining reliability. That's really innovative thinking. Plus, they use one manufacturer's hard drive drive, exclusively. G-Tech has a TWO year warranty. The two items that really solidified my thinking? Bus powered for a few of them and no discernible heat from their drives. The one item that hit it out of the park for me? The **G-Safe RAID 1** Storage system. Here is a 250 GB to a 1 TB Raid 1 storage system that warns you of a potential failure of one of the *hot-swappable drives*. Lynette had this at WPPI and you would not believe the crowd reaction to it. There were only two in the United States at that moment and the other one was showing video in the Apple booth. **Clark Yamashita** of G-Tech will be showing us the line of G-Tech devices. *He will have a coupon code for ATX users to buy online.* They will have the 1 TB G-Safe available by the end of the month. The big news is the **G-Drive-Q**. The industry's first quad interface storage solution with SATA, FW800, FW400 AND USB 2.0 ports. Worry not, they also have cables and accessories to not create a snake pit of mixed cables to join all these into your network. Go to their product page and be amazed. Lynette and I are. We are also anxiously awaiting the news that the 1 TB models are available.

Our next presenter is another friend of ATX. That's Wes Pack of Corel. Wes will show us **Painter X**, the newest version. Some you may think, *we've been upgrading for a number of versions, what is the real reason to up grade now?* In one phrase, the **New RealBristle™ Painting System** is really cool if you are looking for that look that only a bristle brush can give. Go to this link and you will see it in action. Okay, I'm not any sort of artist and am willing to admit that. However, I know a few people that know the difference between a palette and a pallet and they are very impressed with this new upgrade. It's also much easier to give your photographs that water color or oil paint look on artist paper or canvas and it seems almost seamless. There are downloadable training videos from Jeremy Sutton, another friend of ATX. By the way, the Painter Can is back. I have watched Wes in the past and I want to see if he still plays the game of how few strokes it will take to draw Jennifer Aniston. I believe it was seven the last I saw him do that. Will we have an ATX deal on the upgrade? Guess you will have to show up to find out on Saturday, the 19th at the Gramercy location.

God Bless

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