

CAMP News

JUNE 2010

Capital Apple Mac
Performa User Group



Windsor, Maine
www.campug.org

Our last meeting of the school year...

...will take place on Wednesday, June 9. Same bat time, same bat channel (i.e., 7:00 p.m. in the music room of Windsor Elementary School). Jeff Frankel will show off some Stupid Finder Tricks to help you zip around the operating system. Directors will need to discuss membership renewal status and meeting plans for the 2010-11 school year.

Nag, nag, nag... If you haven't renewed your membership for 2010, please get in touch with membership director [Mike Knight](#) and/or treasurer [Lee Cabana](#) right away. \$20 annual dues were payable on April 30. For those who haven't re-upped yet, this is your third and final reminder.

Monitor Review - Acer P205H 20" widescreen

This is a very good all-around, general purpose monitor that I purchased from Staples last month for \$120 on sale. We use it in our kitchen for web browsing, email, recipes, viewing photos and PDFs, etc. When hooked up out of the box, the screen is blindingly bright. (The manual even says that by default, the unit is tuned to "show the monitor's capabilities,"

or something like that.) However, it's not too difficult to adjust the display to your taste and your environment. In my case, tweaking the "Text" preset gave me the results I wanted. The on-screen controls are a little arcane, but you soon get the hang of it. The screen tilts, but is not height-adjustable.

The monitor has VGA and DVI inputs. Thankfully, Acer includes both cables in the box, and the DVI cable connected just fine to the CAMP Macbook's mini-DVI to DVI adaptor. When used with a Macbook, you'll likely want to use the monitor in extended desktop mode as opposed to mirror mode. This allows you to get the best resolution that the laptop screen and the Acer screen are capable of.

The widescreen format is fine for general use. We usually have a Safari window open on the left half of the screen and Mail on the right. It's also very feasible to have two document pages sitting side by side on screen. Depending on the zoom level, toolbar and dock options in effect, you can get tolerably close to a full-page, 2-up view.

Downsides? -The underpowered built-in speakers are terrible. Annoyingly, the CD that comes with the monitor is designed for loading on a PC. Mac users will have to hunt through the menus to find the PDF manual on the disk, but it is there. [Note: Another monitor at Staples worth considering is the comparably-priced Hanspree 20" model.] ☀