

California Computer Care

News,
Views,
Tips and
Cool Techniques
for CCC Members

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We
speak
Geek,
so you
don't
have to.

Places to Buy Mac Stuff

Mac shopping is undergoing a renaissance in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Just look:

The Apple Store. We're getting our own Apple Store! If you haven't seen an Apple Store, imagine what would happen if the *GAP* sold Macs. Stylish, well-lit, everything perfectly displayed and available to play with. The Genius Bar at the back is staffed by affable geeks, ready to answer your technical questions. Sales staff is friendly, low key and mostly knowledgeable. If you want the Apple Corporate party line and a showcase for Apple and selected third party products; this is the place to go. If all goes well, the new Apple Store should be open November 1, 2003.

The Apple Store
The Villages, Corte Madera

The Marin Mac Shop. No need to wait until November for a great Mac experience. The Marin Mac Shop has just opened in the old *ComputerWare* location in San Rafael. Fortunately, the *ComputerWare* association goes far beyond location. If you remember the old *ComputerWare* (when it was the premiere source and resource for Mac products, Mac help and Mac knowledge) you will be happy to know that the Marin Mac Shop is the creation of two of the people that crafted *ComputerWare's* great Macintosh shopping experience. Here you will find the best products (chosen for value, not corporate policies), knowledgeable people and a fine service department for Apple warranty repairs. The Marin Mac Shop has already achieved the lofty position of Apple Specialist (the highest classification that Apple Awards). These are people I know and trust. *Heck, I used to work for them.*

The Marin Mac Shop
1031 C Street, San Rafael
415-459-9380

CompUSA is ubiquitous. They carry all of the usual Mac Stuff in their special *Apple store-within-a-store*. You'll have to hunt for some things like ink cartridges and cables, but they're there. They even often have an Apple employee in the *store-within-a-store*. This person will help you with questions and does not sell products. CompUSA employees, however, are the store's biggest weakness. Don't look to them for advice or technical knowledge, just think of CompUSA as a grocery store and you'll do fine.

CompUSA San Rafael
655 Irwin Street, San Rafael
(415) 482-9199 Fax: (415) 482-4098

CompUSA Santa Rosa
2835 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa
(707) 541-0995 Fax: (707) 570-3198

Best Buy carries a limited number of Macintosh products like iMacs, eMacs, Powerbooks, iBooks and iPods. Because they have an extensive Windows PC department, you'll find a very good selection of accessories. USB cables, most printers, ink cartridges, mouse pads, scanners, blank CDROMs and surge suppressors don't at all care what brand of computer they are connected to. Best Buy's staff is even less reliable than *CompUSA's* when it comes to technical knowledge (especially Mac knowledge), so just grab your stuff and head for the checkout counter.

Best Buy Marin City
180 Donahue Street, Marin City
(415) 332-6529

Best Buy Santa Rosa
950 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa
(707) 545-1078

ComputerWare by Executron Computers
Old hand, Executron, has purchased the *ComputerWare* name from defunct *Elite*

Computers and has rebranded itself. With their new identity, they are being quite aggressive and ready to deal. While Executron sells both Macs and PCs, their hearts are with Apple. Software selection and technical knowledge is spotty but usually reliable for the really important stuff.

ComputerWare by Executron Computers

1831 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa
(707) 525-3715

Mac Networks is not a retail store though they do sell Macs and accessories. Mac Networks is more of an authorized warranty service center. They do very good work and know their stuff. For Sonoma County, this is the place for warranty repairs.

Mac Networks

456 Tenth Street, Santa Rosa
(707) 522-1400 Fax: (707) 522-1404



California Computer Care

P.O. Box 9445
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

(800) 540-8989

help@calcompcare.com

Like an
auto club
for your
computer.

Other Options

Many of the products that we Mac users use aren't specific to Macs. Monitors and cables don't care what kind of computer they are connected to. USB mice, keyboards and trackballs will work on USB Macs. Printers by Epson, Hewlett Packard, Lexmark and Canon usually come with software for Macs and PCs in the box, and of course, accessories like disk storage, mouse pads, printer paper and wrist rests are completely generic.

You can find these products at major office supply stores:

Staples

655 Irwin Street, San Rafael
(415) 485-0507

55 Rowland Way, Novato
(415) 897-0544

1700 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
(415) 771-7030

Office Depot

869 Francisco Blvd. W., San Rafael
(415) 721-0507

2720 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa
(707) 523-7700

OfficeMax

2720 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa
(707) 523-7700

September Tip—

After buying all of your new Macs and printers and such, you may be left with old equipment that you'd like to get rid of. Here are some places that can help:

Donate. If the old stuff is still in good working condition and less than 5 years old, many school districts will be grateful to receive it. If your gear is too old for schools, many charities will either put it to good use or sell it in their thrift shops. Usually, you can take a tax write-off that will exceed what you could get by selling the old equipment (not to mention saving you the inconvenience and expense of finding buyers and making the sale).

Recycle. Here in Santa Rosa is a computer recycler. They make sure that any donated equipment either is reused or recycled and saved from the landfill.

Computer Recycling Center

3249 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
(707) 570-1600

Drop Off Hours: Tuesday–Friday,
10am–2PM Saturday, 10am–12N.