

## Re: Apple Astronomy Software

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2004-07/1472.html>

---

**From:** Jon Isaacs ([jonisaacs\\_at\\_aol.com](mailto:jonisaacs_at_aol.com))

**Date:** 07/09/04

Date: 09 Jul 2004 13:43:21 GMT

> *What?? Oh, are you implying the original posting was a troll?*

>

No. But you got tangled up in the troll simply because you did not respond to what Rod had to say about the MAC software but rather "Knee Jerked" yourself into the MAC-PC thing.

You might note that it was me who pointed out that "Al Wilson" is most likely one of S.G. aliases.

>

> *Okay, I'll bite. What makes you \*think\* he's qualified?*

Because I think Rod has seen the MAC and PC software that he discussed.

This is what Rod had to say:

-----

"Hi Jon:

Probably. And there's no doubt that Shawn \_is\_ a Silly Billy.

HOWEVER...let me also add that there is far and away more PC astro-ware available, more GOOD astroware available, than there is for the Mac or likely ever will be. Yes, there's more than there used to be for the Apple, but let's face it--there isn't a Skytools or a Megastar or a Cartes du Ciel, or a Skymap Pro (I could go on and on, of course) for the Mac yet, and it doesn't look like there's gonna be.

On the Apple side, you've got, let's see, Starry Night and RedShift. Both are pretty, but hardly powerhouses when it comes to observational astronomy. Voyager? It was coming on strong for a while, but now appears to have gone bye-bye due to the developer's apparent inability to get a new version that's up to snuff on the streets. The Sky? Despite what Sh--errr..."Al Wilson" says, it is a powerful program. BUT...the top level is not available for Mac, and the Bisque Bros do not seem to be in a hurry to release The Sky 6 for Apple.

What should our Macintosh using amateur do? Smash the Apple to pieces with a

sledge hammer, box up the remains and ship them to a certain wacky waif in Tennessee? Not necessarily. Win Emulators for the Macintosh are surprisingly good now, including ones for OS X. That would be my approach.

---

Bottomline: if you want to avoid feeding the troll, then address the issues that Rod posted, he discusses the various programs available for the MAC and suggests that a PC emulator is the best way to go. Make the comparisons yourself between the various PC options and native MAC software. I often hear that one of the advantages of the MAC is that it will run PC software so there should be no reason not to consider that option.

As I said, personally I have not seen the MAC software, apparently Rod has, and as usual, it looks to me that he has given a reasonable evaluation of the options.

Jon