

NEWS



BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

Volume 16, Number 4

May 2001

MAY 1ST MEETING:

OS X INSIDE AND OUT – A GUIDED TOUR OF THE FIRST “MODERN” OPERATING SYSTEM

– JAY MANNING

****REMEMBER OUR NEW LOCATION****

Join us on **Tuesday, May 1st** at 7:30 PM in **Physical Sciences building room 121** on the SUNY Oneonta campus for our monthly MUG ONE meeting.

President Jay Manning will introduce us to *OS X (ten)*, Apple’s revolutionary new Macintosh operating system. Come catch a glimpse of the future of the Macintosh platform. Learn about the pleasures and pitfalls of installing and using *OS X*.

For more information, contact Terry Helser at 432-8123 or email us at mugone@stny.rr.com.



Seeing spots - the Blue Dalmatian iMac

MAY MEETING - XCITING DOOR PRIZES!

Diane Cohn, our User Group guru at Apple, has sent a huge box of OS X-themed swag for our May 1st meeting. Come for your chance to win really nice tee shirts, stickers, posters and “temporary” tattoos (they can last at least a week - ask my daughter Emily!)

– ELSA TRAVISANO

LIBRARY ADDS BOOKS AND SOFTWARE

MUG ONE’s librarian, Johanna Koenig, has added the following books and software to the MUG ONE library:

- B 449 *Animation on the Web*
- B 450 *iMac Fast & Easy*
- B 451 *iMovie 2, The Missing Manual*
- B 452 *Adobe’s Electronic Publishing Guide*
- M 197 *Kid Pix* drawing software for kids

The books were all donated to MUG ONE by their publishers or author. We’d like to extend our thanks to Peachpit Press for *Animation on the Web*, Adobe Corp. for *Adobe’s Electronic Publishing Guide*, author Ilene Hoffman for *iMac Fast & Easy*, and Pogue Press/O’Reilly Press for *iMovie 2, the Missing Manual*.

Books and software from the MUG ONE library circulate for a month at no charge to MUG ONE members. Call Jo Koenig at 432-4975 or Jay Manning at 433-1305 to confirm library hours and to arrange for borrowing or returning materials.

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APRIL 3, 2001 MEETING

About thirty members and interested Mac enthusiasts gathered in Room 121 of the Physical Sciences Building, our new electronic classroom on the SUNY Oneonta campus. After signing in, paying membership fees, looking over the raffle prizes and generally greeting new members and guests, we were delighted to see Jay wheel his wife Christine in to join the group. How wonderful to see her well enough to come again!

Announcements

Elsa and Jay welcomed us back after a snow storm canceled last month's meeting. They asked us to look for the display at the Oneonta Post Office of postage paid mailers for recycling your empty inkjet printer cartridges. Don Gersch asked us for donations of old software for kids. Through his work he has about 50 developmentally disabled kids that can use older software, even (or especially) if it doesn't run on your newer machine. Email dgersch@aol.com if you can help, bring it to a MUG ONE meeting or give it to Elsa. If you have an LC II or later machine, you might be able to donate that as well and take a tax write off.

Questions & Answers

During a short Q&A session, I noted that Intuit had finally replaced the defective *Turbotax for Home & Business* CD. Directions from Jo Koenig for deleting email messages without opening them are in the March issue of *NewsBreak*. Another question concerned corrupted files. If you can't open a particular file without getting the dreaded bomb or the mouse freezes, particularly if your Mac works fine except when opening this file, it is probably "corrupted." One tip is to save an empty copy of your database file when you start one. If the file later becomes corrupted, you can often use this empty copy to load data into without losing the whole thing. This is called "using a shell." Finally, a member ordered an iMac DVD from MacConnection and when they didn't or couldn't deliver, his complaints to the representative (he got her name!) got him a \$100 rebate coupon and a newer model as well. It often pays to complain and always pays to tell them you are a member of MUG ONE so you get free shipping!

Elsa showed off her new Titanium Powerbook G4, TiBook for short, and offered to demo it after the program. The TiBook is the 1" thick, 2.5 Kg titanium laptop with the 15.2" diagonal screen and front slot DVD drive. Cool. Elsa warns that it scratches easily and the case does get warm on your lap.

Program: Quicken 2001, with Terry Helsler

In trying to start the demonstration of *Quicken 2001 Deluxe*, "The easiest way to manage your personal finances," we all learned a number of tricks on how to restart a reluctant iMac. I KNOW it was working fine just before we started the program, but it must have gone to "sleep" and had a stroke trying to awaken! First we tried a restart from the "Special" menu. When you hold down the mouse button on restart, it is



supposed to eject the CD in the drive, but all that did to me was freeze the machine. Jay then found and pushed the restart button on the side next to all the USB, Firewire and Internet ports. That got the Chemistry CD out and allowed me to install the program from the CD onto the hard drive, since it still would not run from the Superdisk.

I asked who in the audience currently use *Quicken* and about a third indicated they did. Fewer than I thought might.

System Requirements: Intuit says it requires a Power Mac with OS 8.6, 9.0 or 9.0.4, 32 MB RAM with Virtual Memory ON, 60 MB on hard disk (I found it uses only 32 MB on the Superdisk), 800x600 min. screen, and >14.4 modem. I installed it on my iMac and 308 files took 2 minutes to load, while on a SuperDisk it took about 4 minutes.

After completing the registration, if you want start from scratch, open "**File**" and "**New File**". If you already have a file (I use a new one for each tax year), open "New Account" to set up a Bank, Cash, Asset, Credit Card, Liability (loan, mortgage), Portfolio or a Mutual Fund register. I clicked "Cash" to open a dialog box and put in a name, type of account, etc. to keep track of petty cash. Then, each week or so, you enter bills, checks written, etc. to keep a running balance. You can select the **Calendar** tab to see your activity for any month. In a register, click the calendar button to select a date or use +/- to adjust the current date there. Under the **Number** cell, select +/- to put in the next number or type D(eposit), W(ithdraw), A(TM) for automatic entries. In the "**Payee/...**" cell I typed "O" and "OSC Paycheck" filled in automatically since I already had entered it before. If this is a recurrent payment, use **Edit** and **Memorize** menus or Command+M to memorize the check and it looks for these payees first. You can see these under "Lists" "Quickfill transactions" or Command+T.

"**Category**" is a list set up at the start for reporting or tax transfer; "**Memo**" is for notes. Open "**split**" if there is more

than one category in a transaction, say a bank deposit that includes a 1099 check from Sally Jones as well as a check or cash from a customer. To customize these, go to “**Lists**” “**Categories and Transfers**” and delete any categories that don’t apply, like the Canadian stuff. To add a category, click “New”, and in the dialog box, select “Set up Category” and put in “Sewing Income” and “1099 for S. Jones” in the boxes. Then click “Tax Related”, then find the tax link for form “1099-Misc, other income.” On completion, the new category should appear in the list. Linked entries *should* transfer to *TurboTax* if you want to do so. Note I made no claim that they would do so correctly.

Use the “**Reconcile**” button when you get a bank statement. A box called “My Acc: Reconcile Startup” appears to guide you in filling in the amounts from your statement, the date by the calendar, and allowing you to check off returned checks and deposits. If correct, the program clears the entries for you and congratulates you on doing successfully what any ten year old can. [Not all of us are as good as Terry at balancing our checkbooks! Ed.]

Go to “Lists” and “Scheduled Transactions” or click “**Bills**” and select the “**Scheduled Transactions**” tab to enter a recurring credit or debit. This shows up in the calendar, too.

The tabs at the top like “**Investing**” and “**Planning**” open button strips that have useful options for some. A lightning bolt on the button means an Internet source is accessed. Under “**Reporting**,” I use the Tax Summary to organize my expenses at this time of year. “**Assets and Debt**” has a useful “**Home inventory**” to make lists for insurance, etc.

Finally, if you open the *Quicken* folder, you will find the **Quicken Essentials** folder which has backup copies of your file so you can recover from disaster. You may want to trash the extras regularly, since these multiple copies can add up quickly.

Raffle and Refreshments

We then used a beaker for the raffle ticket dispenser. Raffle winners took home a fleece scarf, black suede Apple cap, Apple iPens, markers and more. We still have lots of other prizes for future raffles. The Sprite, Diet Pepsi and Oreo and Superman Peanut butter chocolate chip cookies eased us out into the night. Good job, guys.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 pm in the Physical Sciences building, room 121. From West St. take Ravine Pk. to the second right by the big OSC sign. Follow this around and up the hill past Hulbert and Alumni halls to the flag pole round-about. Go 3/4 around it and right into the main parking lot behind Human Ecology. Go straight on and park anywhere in the small lots at the far end. Take the main sidewalk between H.Ec. and P.Sci. and enter the low, glass main entrance to your left. We are in the front room on your right. Join us for more of the fun that is MUG ONE.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

IS YOUR COMPUTER READY FOR OS X?

Apple’s revolutionary new operating system is huge in more ways than one. The system requirements are at least as mighty as the innovations.

Not sure whether your Mac has what it takes to run Apple’s new operating system? To find out, go to:

<http://www.apple.com/macosex/requirements/>

The requirements, in brief are:

- * 128MB of physical RAM (as always, more is better)
- * Power Mac G3, Power Mac G4, or Power Mac G4 Cube; iMac; PowerBook G3, PowerBook G4; iBook (Note: Original PowerBook G3 and processor upgrade cards are not supported; CD-RW, DVD-R, and DVD-ROM drives are not fully supported.)
- * 1.5 GB (yes, that’s gigabytes) free hard drive space.

Before installing OS X, you must first upgrade your system software to OS 9.1 so that your current applications can run in the Mac OS X Classic environment. A CD-ROM containing OS 9.1 is provided in the OS X box, so you really get two operating systems for the price of one. There’s even a CD-ROM of OS X developer tools for the truly ambitious.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

CLASSIFIEDS – FOR SALE

Refurbished (and since then not used) Epson Stylus Color 600 inkjet printer

1440 x 720 dpi, photo quality color, laser quality text.
Serial connection - works with pre-USB computers.

CD and manual included. CD contains extra fonts, t-shirt designs, graphics, design ideas and projects and over 200 photos. You will need to download the latest software/driver update from the Epson website. Cable not included.

Asking \$60.

Were it not for that update, I could still use this printer with my dinosaur Performa. My original 600 gave me almost four years of beautiful service. I can deliver this to you at the next MUG ONE meeting, or to your door by arrangement:

Joyce Hickling (MUG ONE Newbie) 965-8119 or email: jhick@ascent.net

Classified ads are free for all MUG ONE members. If you have a Mac-related item you’d like to buy, sell or donate, send your classified ad to mugone@stny.rr.com.

SOFTWARE REVIEW: MAJESTY, THE FANTASY KINGDOM SIM

What happens when *Sim City* meets *Dungeons and Dragons*, with maybe a pinch of T. E. White's *The Sword and the Stone* thrown in? Why, *Majesty, the Fantasy Kingdom Sim*, of course. Aimed at adults and kids from about 10 up (officially, it's rated E for Everyone), this visually entrancing simulation game places you in the role of King or Queen, defending your kingdom against encroaching monsters, dragons, giant sewer rats and black phantoms, while fulfilling epic quests. There is some "animated violence," but it's very mild, and the overall impression is of a richly imaginative visual tapestry.

To fulfill your quest, as reigning monarch you have to spend your virtual gold wisely. You must strike a balance between developing an economy through investing in such money-making propositions as an expanded marketplace and a team of morally ambiguous extortionist Rogues, and, on the other hand, developing fighting potential through the construction of Guilds and Temples supporting such heroes as Rangers, Warriors, Rogues, Dwarfs, Elves, Wizards, magical Monks, and Healers. Each Guild and Temple has its own strengths and weaknesses and each hero has his or her own personality and motivation. While your heroes are out exploring hidden corners of your land and fighting foes both near and far, you also have a busy domestic program going on, with Tax Collectors and Rogues scurrying about to rake in the capital, a regular market day as a local cash cow, and peasants, dwarfs and gnomes energetically constructing and upgrading your buildings which enhance the heroes' powers. The specific quest you are on, and the specific enemies you face, plus your cash in hand and future financial prospects, shape the choices you make about particular construction projects and heroes.

Some choices rule out others: certain heroes and temples are not permitted in any given quest and if you chose, for example, a Temple to Dauros, which will provide you with monks with great willpower and good karate skills (plus allow an upgrade to Paladins—fierce women warriors of Darous—for your Warriors Guild) you can't build a Temple to Fervus or Krypta and must renounce their particular powers.

But here's the big question: Is this game fun? Both eleven-year-old Emily and her father, Tom, give a definite "Yes!" When the game first arrived, Emily started up the computer after a brief scan of the manual. Her reaction: "I was plunged into a world of fantasy and wonder. At first, I wouldn't have gone to meals if my Mom hadn't made me. Now I can manage to get my chores and homework done first, but playing *Majesty* in the evening gives me wonderful dreams of adventure. I especially like the fact that not all of the warriors and fighters are boys. It has a realistic aspect that gives girls a part too. It has the perfect mix of all the fantasy stories I love to read, plus amazing new monsters and heroes that the makers threw in that are totally new to me, such as the many eyed Evil Oculi, which can cast a Paralytic Gaze or the fiery Solari warriors, female heroes who are almost indestructible and



fight for virtue under the Sun Goddess, Helia. I also like the fact that if you click on the hero, monster or building, you get its vital statistics and intentions, plus, by further clicking in the dialogue box, you can learn cool 'historical' tidbits about that type of creature, building or hero."

Tom was introduced to the game after Emily had already mastered it. "I was a bit bewildered at first by the complex environment—and I never got very far with the manual—but Emily soon showed me the basics and after we played a few quests together (quests last somewhere between 30 minutes and two hours, depending on difficulty) she let me go solo, and I managed to survive. The game is definitely fun even for adults—I like the way it combines a model of a surprisingly complex social order with a lot of fantasy and goofy humor. I don't feel quite as immersed in the game as Emily, but it has definitely held my attention through several rounds of play, and I've enjoyed the feeling of gradually mastering the rules of a complex and self-consistent world."

We both strongly recommend *Majesty* for kids or adults who enjoy strategy, fantasy, and beautiful visual effects. One word of warning—you'll need a fast computer with a lot of RAM. *Majesty* never bombs on Emily's early Strawberry iMac, but it frequently freezes temporarily for a minute or so when it's trying to accomplish too many tasks at once. Pre-G3 Mac users might encounter more serious problems. And watch out, kids: dad or mom just might try to poach the game while you are at school. It's that good.

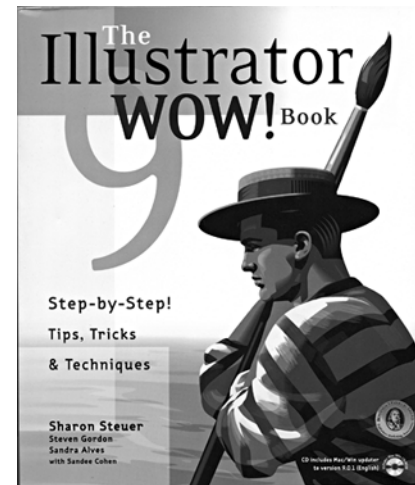
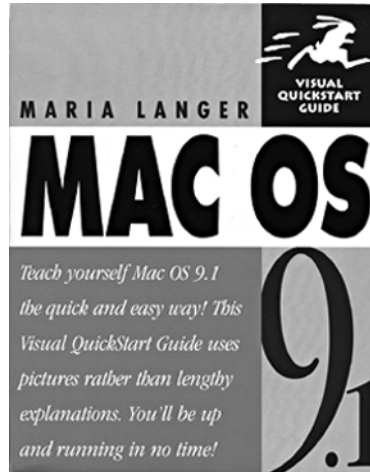
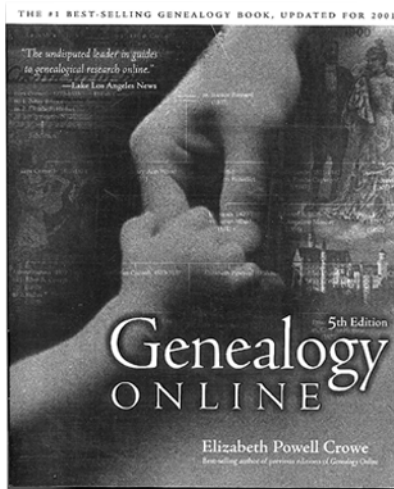
— TOM AND EMILY TRAVISANO

Majesty: The Fantasy Kingdom Sim

MacPlay, United Developers \$29.95

www.uniteddevelopers.com www.majestyquest.com

Minimum System Requirements: OS 8.6 or later, PowerPC 180 MHz, 64 MB of RAM, 2MB of Video RAM, 300 MB hard drive space, 4X CD-ROM. For internet play: 28.8 kbps or faster modem, internet access.



BOOKS: GENEALOGY ONLINE, MAC OS 9.1 VQS, ILLUSTRATOR 9 WOW! BOOK

Genealogy on Line, 5th ed. by Elizabeth Powell Crowe. 401 pp. Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2001. \$24.99

Genealogy on Line, 5th edition contains a wealth of information, but if there's more than you wanted to know on some subjects, the book is well organized so that you can skip right to the sections with the most appeal.

"5th Edition" attests to the fact that this is rapidly changing subject matter; that the author has tried to keep relatively current; and that people keep buying the book—a testimonial in itself! Even at that, the book alludes to a charge of \$40 for *Netscape*, whereas the reality is that the price has been \$0 for several years and Internet Explorer is rapidly becoming the default browser.

The subject matter of the book is essentially platform independent, although all screen shots are Windows flavored. In Part I, the author takes the reader through the basics of choosing hardware, software, an Internet Provider (ISP) and starting your own genealogy project.

Part II covers the various services available on the Internet such as Usenet, genealogy mailing lists, the World Wide Web, chat rooms, search engines, and search sites for genealogy. Part III is what the author considers the "Must See" online resources. These span the spectrum from the Library of Congress to the Church of Latter-day Saints.

Throughout the book the author shares the knowledge she has gained during her many years of on-line navigation; and she does it in a way that should appeal to a wide range of genealogy scholars from beginner to advanced. My only regrets are (1) that a CD-ROM with the websites wasn't included to save keyboard entry and (2) that Elizabeth didn't have the opportunity to discover the joy of doing her research for this book using a Mac.

— DAVID GRISWOLD

Mac OS 9.1 Virtual QuickStart Guide by Maria Langer. 368 pp. Peachpit Press, 2001. \$17.99

When OS 9.1 debuted in January 2001, it received little fanfare from Apple, arriving as it did in the midst of anticipatory hoopla for OS X. Nevertheless, OS 9.1 is a pivotal operating system for Mac users adopting OS X, as well as for those not planning to make the transition.

Why is OS 9.1 so important? The first reason is that OS X relies on OS 9.1 for running "Classic" applications. The retail version of OS X includes a CD-ROM of OS 9.1, which must be installed before installing OS X.

The second reason is that, at the time of this writing, Apple plans for OS 9.1 to be the final operating system version below OS X. For the many users of older or less powerful Macs, this means that OS 9.1 will be their final port of call. Even new Macs will continue to ship with OS 9.1, at least until July.

These are good reasons to learn, really learn, the ins and outs of OS 9.1. And there's no better guide than Maria Langer's *Mac OS 9.1 Virtual QuickStart Guide*. This book is equally useful for beginners and more advanced user.

This last of the pre-X operating systems is considered a minor revision, but it does include some new features as well as updates to others. In the introduction Langer covers the changes including the installer, which now places applications, internet software and utilities in a folder called Applications (Mac OS 9, the new USB printer sharing control panel which enables sharing of USB printers across a network, and the Energy Saver, General Controls and Startup Disk control panels, all of which have been redesigned. The remainder of the book offers step-by-step instructions, succinctly written and abundantly illustrated, for using every imaginable aspect of the operating system.

— continued on page 6

– Book Reviews, continued from page 5

Langer's book belongs on the shelf of every OS 9.1 user, unless that shelf is already occupied with Langer's *Mac OS 9 Virtual QuickStart Guide*.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

The Illustrator 9 Wow! Book by Sharon Steuer, Steven Gordon, and Sandra Alves. 366 pp. plus CD-ROM. Peachpit Press, 2001. \$49.99

The Illustrator 9 Wow! Book is filled with the galleries of gorgeous professional artwork that one expects from the Peachpit *Wow!* series. But this edition is much more than a glossy cookbook for advanced designers. Just as Adobe's *Illustrator 9* features a redesigned interface and a slew of new features, *The Illustrator 9 Wow! Book* also sports an extensive redesign. The book now offers beginners as well as more advanced users instruction for mastering "the exciting (and sometimes perplexing) new features of *Illustrator 9*."

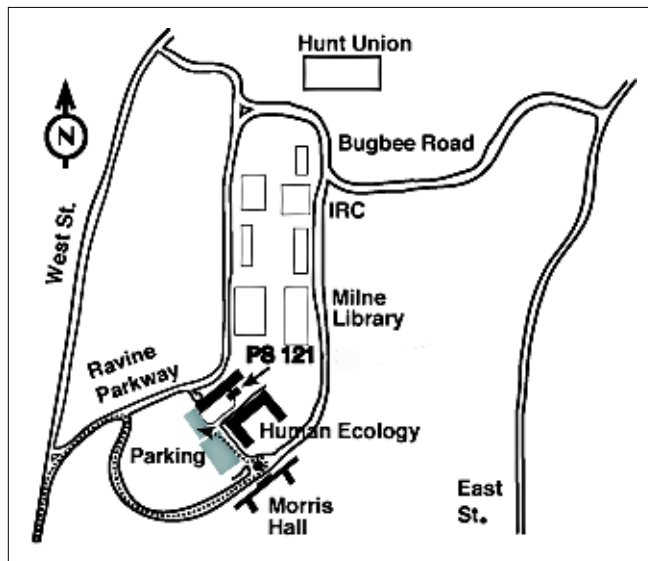
The book begins with two chapters of basics. The second of these chapters, called "The Zen of *Illustrator*," is simply the best set of *Illustrator* exercises I've ever seen. These exercises, provided on the accompanying CD-ROM, are designed to teach you to visualize the simplest and most elegant ways to construct an image using *Illustrator's* often counter-intuitive tools. The chapter includes Macintosh- and Windows-specific charts of "finger dances" – sequences of command keys and actions designed to increase your efficiency at creating, selecting and transforming objects. These "finger dances" are summarized on a tear-out card at the back of the book, along with a glossary of terms for each platform.

The remaining nine chapters cover topics from brushes, transparency, styles and effects, to advanced techniques, animation and multimedia. Chapters include tips for working more efficiently and step-by-step exercises as well as techniques culled from almost a hundred artists. Exercises are designed to be brief and focused, as opposed to the more lengthy exercises found in the Classroom in a Book series. Gallery pages show techniques applied to finished art works, along with the artist's description of how the image was created. Lessons and tips are on the CD-ROM, which also includes the updater to version 9.0.1, custom brushes, actions, clip art and 30 professional art files to deconstruct. This book is packed with excellent instruction and guidance for *Illustrator* users at all levels of expertise.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

APPLE SHIPS FIVE MILLIONTH IMAC

On April 19th, Apple Computer announced that it had shipped its five millionth iMac computer. Upgrades to the iMac line are rumored to be announced soon, perhaps as early as May 1st, when Apple has scheduled a special press event. The last such special event was in May 1998, when Apple announced the iMac.



MUG ONE's meeting place on the SUNY Oneonta Campus

MAP BY TERRY HELSER

Directions to Physical Sciences Building, room 121

- From Main Street in Oneonta, take Chestnut Street to West Street.
- Take West Street to Ravine Parkway, then take the second right by the big OSC sign.
- Follow this road around and up the hill to the flagpole roundabout next to Morris Hall.
- Go 3/4 around the roundabout and through the main parking lot behind the Human Ecology building to the small parking lots at the far end. Park anywhere in these lots.
- Take the main sidewalk between Human Ecology and the Physical Sciences building.
- Enter the low, glass main entrance to your left. The front room on your right is room 121.

NEWSBREAK is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE – the Macintosh Users Group of Oneonta, New York. Editor: Elsa Travisano. Contact us at:

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