

# NEWS



# BREAK

## MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

Volume 14, Number 6

November 1999

### **MUG ONE NOVEMBER MEETING: MEET THE iBOOK, WITH SUSAN BROWER**

Join us on **November 9th** (note date change) at 7:30 pm in lecture hall 1 of Hodgdon IRC on the SUNY Oneonta campus as Susan Brower, our Apple Higher Ed regional representative, introduces us to the new iBook.

For more information, call Jay Manning at 607-433-1305 or Terry Helser at 436-3518.

### **MIZ SCIENCE NOV. 2; MUG ONE NOV. 9**

MUG ONE will meet on the *second* Tuesday in November so that we won't miss "Miz Wizard's Science Secrets" on Nov. 2 at 8 PM in the Hunt Union Ballroom. Terry Helser has arranged to bring Dr. Jane Curry's entertaining and educational program on women in science to Oneonta, on behalf of Sigma Xi. Judging from past family science shows, this should be a winner. So bring the family, and join MUG ONE on November 9th.

-ELSA TRAVISANO

### **OCTOBER OFFICER (RE-) ELECTION**

With MUG ONE's president, secretary and treasurer all game for another term and no other contenders forthcoming, October's election of officers took place in record time. The only change in this year's lineup is the addition of Elsa Travisano as Vice President (she remains editor of *Newsbreak*). Thanks to Don Gersch for conducting the vote.

The group also agreed with the officers' recommendation to make the Program Chair an appointed rather than elected position. If you are interested in serving as a Program Co-Chair or would like to find out more about this very rewarding job, please talk to Jay Manning.

### **ROADRUNNER MAY ARRIVE NEXT MONTH**

The eagerly awaited Roadrunner cable modem service is on track for a December launch and may include state-of-the-art DOCSIS modems, according to Bruce Tompkins, head of Time Warner Cable Television in Oneonta. Time Warner already offers Roadrunner service in the Binghamton area, and high speed fiber-optic cable is being laid to connect Oneonta with the Binghamton regional data center. I met with Tompkins and regional general manager David diCirce in July to learn out about Roadrunner and cable modem technology.

Why all the excitement over Roadrunner? The first answer is speed. Road Runner delivers online service over the cable television's hybrid fiber-coaxial network at speeds up to 100 times greater than that of a residential telephone line. A 30 second film clip (like the popular *Star Wars* movie trailers) that takes 33 minutes to download with a typical 28.8 baud telephone connection downloads in 16 *seconds* with Roadrunner. Streaming content becomes smooth and

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*Roadrunner cable modem service is on track for a December launch in the Oneonta area. Beep-beep!*

### **MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 1999-2000**

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## OCTOBER 5, 1999 MEETING

About 26 old and new friends gathered in IRC-1 on the Oneonta State College campus at 7:30 pm. While Joanne took your money, Elsa gave news about Peachpit Press book orders and displayed several of their most recent titles, while Jay announced that the club now has a flash card reader with USB cable to transfer digital camera picture files to your computer in literally a “flash”. The current slate of officers was re-elected. Jay Manning remains as president, Terry Helser as secretary and OSC liaison, and Joanne Johnston as treasurer. Elsa Travisano was elected vice president (she remains newsletter editor). Meanwhile, I was trying to install *Acrobat* and get the technician to turn on the correct projector so the audience could see what was on the monitor.

### ADOBE ACROBAT 4.0

That done, I demonstrated Adobe *Acrobat 4.0*, “the essential tool for universal document exchange.” Adobe says you need a Power Mac with  $\geq$  OS 7.5.3, 6 MB (12 better) of RAM for *Acrobat*, 16 MB (32 better) for *Distiller/Paper Capture*, and 60 MB (+ 50 more for Asian fonts) of hard disk space. When I tried to install it on a Power Computing 100 with 68 MB free, however, it said it needed 80 MB! I did install it on an iMac and 242 files took about 2 min. This is not a program for neophytes. The Read Me file of “issues” is 15 pages in PDF!

As you would expect, all Adobe products like *PageMill*, *Illustrator*, *Photoshop*, and *ATM* can make Portable Document Format (PDF) files. To convert documents made with other programs takes some time and persistence. It is not the simple drag and drop you might expect. Simple text files can be converted to PDF by a printer driver called PDFWriter. It shows up in the Chooser and you can select its icon as the “printer.” Then you print your document and it creates a PDF file from it (be sure to reselect your printer when you are done). For more complex files (graphics, image loaded), the Distiller program converts PostScript files, again created by doing the Print to File option, to PDF.

Distiller has three options with increasing file sizes:

- Screen Optimized = 72 dpi, RGB colors, etc. for web and email;
- Print Optimized = 300 dpi, retains colors, etc. for printing on laser or ink jet printers; or
- Press Optimized = preserves all high end information, CMYK and custom color, etc. for a commercial printer (they can send you a settings file to drag to the Distiller folder where it becomes a menu option). In addition it can generate thumbnails to preview the pages and add security. You can set it to look for PostScript files sent to an In folder. When it finds one, it converts it to PDF with your preferences and security, and puts in an Out folder.

When you open a PDF document in *Acrobat*, you see two button bars, one across the top and another on the left. The top

bar allows you to open a file, print, save, move to different pages with arrow buttons, find, search, and open a navigation panel down the left side of the PDF page. This has three tabs to view the Thumbnails, Annotations or Bookmarks panels. You can rearrange pages, combine files from different sources, and add links and bookmarks to the PDF file from these panels.

The left side button bar contains the Review and Markup tools. Any button with an arrow on it pulls out for more options. For example the note button contains the select Arrow, Stamp and Push pin tools. If you select the note tool and click on a page site, a “sticky note” is pasted to that site and you can now type in a note. A recipient with *Acrobat Reader* can see these notes, etc. but needs the full *Acrobat* to write their own.

Under the Tools menu, Annotations lets you import and export notes to combine reviews from several people. You can stamp a page (Top Secret, Done, etc.) and add sticky notes. With a microphone or camera, you can annotate in audio or video as well.

Photos, graphics and text editing is done with the Touchup tool. Selecting an object launches *Photoshop* or *Illustrator* to make changes. When you finish, the altered object or text is back in the PDF page. You get the idea.

*Acrobat* can publish a PDF document on the Web without converting it to HTML and anyone that has the free *Reader* can view, navigate, search, and print it while within their browser. *QuickTime* movie links, sound bites and animation can be embedded within a PDF file. Finally, PDF files are small, for faster web and email transfers. For example, if a *PageMaker* or *Illustrator* file is 50 MB, the PDF will be about 500 KB, about 1/100th the size.

One objection I have is that PDF documents look fuzzy on screen, especially next to the annotations panel, proving the monitor or my aging eyes are not to blame. I understand there is some technical, “anti-aliasing” reason for this, but I just find it annoying.

After the demonstrations, T-shirts, mouse pads, markers, foam apples and software were raffled off to members. Much more of this to come at the next meeting, too! We ended the meeting with good-for-you apple squares, cookies and soda. Thanks to everyone who helped me get through this meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 9 in IRC-1 at 7:30 pm instead of November 2 so you all can enjoy the free performance of “Miz Wizard’s Science Secrets.”

Membership dues are now being gladly accepted. Send a check for \$24 (\$18 for students) to Joanne Johnston, 9 Wisteria Ave., Oneonta, NY 13820 or bring it to the meeting to join in the fun that is MUG ONE.

- TERRY L. HELSER

## REVIEW: ADOBE *GoLive* 4.0 – SOFTWARE FOR SERIOUS WEB DESIGNERS

The World Wide Web has caused a stunning paradigm shift in the way information is exchanged. This has happened practically overnight, leaving desktop publishers, graphic designers and everyone else who wants to harness this phenomenon playing catch-up. Choosing and learning the best tools for creating and managing web sites can be daunting, especially since this industry is still maturing.

Web sites are created with a programming language called Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). Whether you write it or your software writes it for you, each web page is made up of HTML code. If you're a hard-core programmer you can use any word processor to generate the lines of code that make up a web page. There are phone-book-sized (and I'm talking Manhattan, not Oneonta) manuals on the intricacies of HTML and if hand-coding gives you pleasure, go for it.

Then there are web authoring programs like Adobe *PageMill* that can do most or all of the coding for you. Entry level programs are great for producing relatively straightforward web sites quickly. What these programs and HTML-generating word processors like Microsoft *Word* and *AppleWorks* fall short on is the amount of control they allow the page designer to exercise. They also lack high end features like Dynamic HTML and cascading style sheets. If you're ready to create more complex and full featured web sites and to delve more deeply into the possibilities of web design, Adobe *GoLive* is an excellent choice.

*GoLive* was developed for the Macintosh as *GoLive Cyberstudio*. Adobe acquired and rechristened the program early this year as a high end web development application to complement *PageMill*'s entry level position. Adobe tightened *GoLive*'s integration with *Photoshop*, *PDF* and *Illustrator*, added cross-platform support and improved support for Extensible Markup Language (XML) and Microsoft's Active server Pages (ASP).

*GoLive* has an intuitive, Mac-like interface, unlike competitor Macromind's *Dreamweaver*, which feels like a Windows port. The page layout mode lets you lay out pages visually just as you would in page layout software, using a grid and rulers. *GoLive* lets you precisely position and resize images, text boxes and tables with pixel level control; this is impossible in entry level programs. The eight palettes let you drag-and-drop text, images, frames, forms, tables, buttons, backgrounds, URLs, CyberObjects, JavaScript actions and even your own custom elements onto your pages.

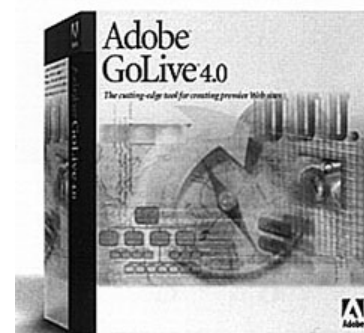
The inspector window lets you view, edit and modify almost any web site element without opening a dialog box. It incorporates a cool Point-and-Shoot tool that lets you add links, reference illustrations, and set up rollover buttons. Dynamic Components lets you store navigation bars and logos and use the Point-and-Shoot tool to insert them throughout your site. The Color Picker also features drag-and-drop and comes with

eight different integrated color palettes.

Coders will appreciate the robust source code editor which supports XML code tags rather than messing them up. An HTML syntax checker lets you see what browsers and platforms support advanced features like DHTML animations and cascading style sheets, and an HTML outline view with triangle buttons lets you inspect portions of your code, and drag and drop items from the palettes. The Site Window is an asset for managing very large sites. It lets you drag master and stationery pages onto your site diagram, navigate, change and create links within a particular page. Site Map Printing lets you print your entire site structure in a variety of formats - a real advantage over Post-Its and poster paper. The built-in FTP client lets you drag-and-drop downloads and uploads. The program also includes a movie editor for *QuickTime*, a timeline editor for creating DHTML animations, and support for cascading style sheets, templates, dynamic components and external JavaScript libraries.

The *GoLive 4.0* Quick Tour is a hands-on tutorial that introduces *GoLive*'s key features as the user creates a web site with formatted text, GIF images, rollovers, JavaScript and animation. The *GoLive* manual is well designed, and the QuickReference card shows palette icons, key commands and menus. For more help, the Adobe web site has tips, techniques, tutorials, user forums and a customer showcase of web sites developed with *GoLive*. Sites like [www.GoLiveHQ.com](http://www.GoLiveHQ.com) and [www.GoLiveHeaven.com](http://www.GoLiveHeaven.com) also offer articles, tutorials, plug-ins and active user forums. Books like *Adobe GoLive 4.0 Classroom in a Book* and the *Adobe GoLive 4.0 Visual Quickstart Guide* are useful adjuncts to learning the program. The Windows version includes online help, but the Mac version inexplicably lacks this feature. Online help would be a welcome addition to this otherwise excellent program.

– ELSA TRAVISANO



### *Adobe GoLive 4.0*

Adobe Systems, Incorporated, [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)  
System Requirements: Power Macintosh or 100% compatible computer, System 8.0 or later, 24 MB of RAM (32 MB recommended), 30 MB of available hard disk space (45 MB recommended), CD-ROM drive.

## BOOK REVIEWS: A ROUNDUP OF RESOURCES FOR WEB SITE DESIGNERS

You'll need a good guide, or several, to find your way through the world of web design. Here are some titles to get you going.

***The Non-Designer's Web Book: an easy guide to creating, designing, and posting your own web site***, by Robin Williams and John Tollett. 288 pp. Peachpit Press, 1998. \$24.99

There is no better place to start your web design journey than with *The Non-Designer's Web Book*. This sensible, information-packed volume takes you from web fundamentals through the steps of organizing and constructing a web site, offering skills and tips that work with any web development software.

The introductory chapters, *What's the World Wide Web?* and *How to Search the Internet* should be required reading for all web users. *Things to Know Before You Begin a Web Site* covers essentials like organizing and naming files (getting this right at the start can save a lot of headaches later), domain names and web addresses, and finding a host for your site.

The section on good design is what makes this book truly indispensable. Starting with a discussion of print vs. web and how it affects design, the authors show how to create an intuitive interface that makes a web site a joy to navigate, not a chore. The following section on color, images and typography covers technical and design issues as well as advanced tips and tricks. The final section pulls everything together: testing, uploading, registering and promoting your site.

Like other books in the *Non-Designers* series, chapters and topics are short and to the point, and are highlighted with clear and copious color illustrations. Key words in bold make it a snap to home in on the information you need, and Robin's Obsessive Index (it's really called that) lives up to its name. The back page has a handy chart of the 216 web safe colors. If you're new to web design, buy this book. You'll thank me.

***PageMill for Macintosh and Windows: Visual Quickstart Guide***, by Maria Langer. 254 pp. Peachpit Press, 1999. \$17.99

Adobe *PageMill* is the top choice among entry-level web authoring software for the Macintosh. Because it has been bundled with every iMac sold as well as with many scanners and CD-Rewritable drives, even if you didn't buy it separately you may well own a copy. However, chances are slim that your bundled copy came with a manual.

You could wrestle with the PDF document that came on the CD-ROM, but you'd be much better served by making the modest expenditure for this book. The concise explanations, useful tips, clear black and white illustrations and handy thumb tabs that make *Visual QuickStart Guides* such a pleasure to use make *PageMill for Macintosh and Windows* perfect for learning to create web pages with *PageMill's* word processor-like interface. And after you've learned the basics, you'll want to keep it handy for reference.

Maria Langer assumes that you're new to web authoring software and perhaps even to the internet, so she begins with a quick overview of the web and how to install, launch and quit (!) *PageMill*. The Getting Started chapter explains the difference between Edit mode and Preview mode, the two working modes which are toggled by clicking an icon in the top right of each page, and Source mode, which displays a page's HTML code. The survey of *PageMill* elements includes menus, toolbar, pasteboard and the less familiar color panel, inspectors and invisibles.

Following this thorough grounding in the *PageMill* interface, the guide moves to entering, editing and formatting text, and adding images and multimedia objects, including considerations of multimedia file formats and browser plug-ins. The more complex topics of creating and editing tables, working with links, using frames and creating forms follow, with final discussions of testing and enhancing pages, using site management tools and setting *PageMill's* preferences to customize the program. Appendices have illustrated references for menus and shortcut keys, the toolbar, the inspector, and some basic HTML.

The index is especially easy to use. If you're trying to figure out how to insert a table there's an entry under "Insert Table button" as well as under "Tables, creating." There's also an "Inserting a Table" thumb tab if you prefer to riffle through the pages. This is a useful, approachable guide that is perfectly suited to a beginning or intermediate *PageMill* user.

***Dreamweaver 2 for Windows & Macintosh: Visual Quickstart Guide***, by J. Tarin Towers. 384 pp. Peachpit Press, 1999. \$19.99

Macromind's *Dreamweaver*, which rivals Adobe's *GoLive* at the high end of Macintosh web development software, is a complex and powerful tool. Unless you have programming experience, this is not where you want to start your web design career. However, if you're ready to move to a more capable design program, *Dreamweaver* is worth serious consideration. Macromind encourages web designers to try *Dreamweaver* by allowing a 30 day test drive of the full version of the program, which is available for download at their web site and on CD-ROMs from *MacAddict* and other Mac magazines. At the end of the 30 days the program is disabled unless the user pays and registers. This arrangement puts test drivers in a position analogous to users of bundled software - they have the full, legal version of the software (albeit for a limited time) but no printed manuals.

Enter *Dreamweaver for Windows & Macintosh*, which was produced in association with Macromedia Press. Towers assumes you've used some kind of page creation tool before, and aims the text at the following audiences: "the absolute

*continued on page 5*

– *Book reviews, cont.*

beginner who wants an editor that writes great HTML, a graphic designer who's used to using document editors like *Director*, *PageMaker* or *Photoshop* but who isn't as proficient at HTML, an HTML expert who likes to hand code but wants automation of simple tasks, frightened of DHTML, someone who needs to learn *Dreamweaver* quickly." She skips the web overview and goes right into *Dreamweaver* basics and the steps for creating a basic web page, familiarizing the reader with *Dreamweaver* parlance (objects, behaviors, attributes, timelines) along the way. Working with text, layout, images, links and URLs rounds out the Web Page Basics section.

The middle section covers tables, frames and forms; what Towers calls intermediate HTML. Towers gives definitions, step-by-step instructions, tips and alerts for these topics, and includes warnings of missteps that can crash the program.

Cascading style sheets, behaviors, layers and Timelines, *Dreamweaver's* DHTML animation tool are advanced features of *Dreamweaver* that are covered at some length. Here entries can stretch to two or three pages as the subject matter becomes more challenging. Screen shots and diagrams, intermingled with examples of HTML code, make the explanations easier to follow. The book concludes with methods of automating common tasks through libraries, templates and custom objects, inserting plug-ins and active content, and a chapter on managing your web sites. A companion web site at [www.peachpit.com/vqs/dreamweaver](http://www.peachpit.com/vqs/dreamweaver) features updates, developer's pages, shareware tools and example sites, some including DHTML.

This book is indispensable for anyone taking *Dreamweaver* for a test drive, and would be a valued companion for anyone climbing this program's steep learning curve.

**Adobe GoLive 4.0 Classroom in a Book**, 318 pp., plus CD-ROM. Adobe Press, 1999. \$40

The *Classroom in a Book* format is perfect for learning the concepts and features of *GoLive 4.0*, Adobe's high-end web

site development and management software. As the title suggests, this is not a reference guide but rather a series of hands-on lessons, each of which takes about an hour to complete. Adobe developed the *Classroom in a Book* series as official training workbooks for their various software applications. The lessons have been tested in Adobe classrooms and labs, and are well designed for self-paced learning.

*Adobe GoLive 4.0 Classroom in a Book* requires a CD-ROM drive, version 4.0 or higher of *Netscape* or *Internet Explorer*, and an installed copy of *GoLive 4.0*. The files needed for each lesson are on the accompanying CD-ROM; before beginning a lesson you need to copy the appropriate folder to your hard drive.

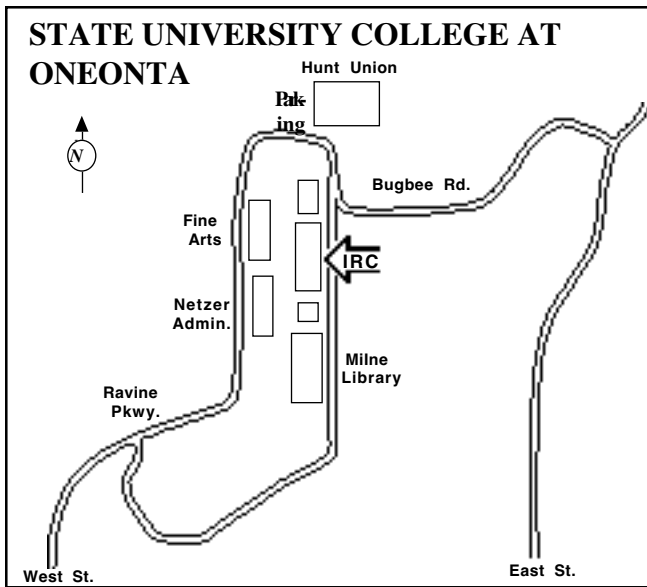
The book begins with the interactive *GoLive 4.0* Quick Tour, which gives a hand-on overview of *GoLive's* key features. The tour is followed by eight lessons, each of which involves creating a particular project. Each lesson concludes with a review section and suggestions for exploring on your own. Lesson topics include working with text, laying out web pages, creating links, working with frames, animation using Dynamic HTML, forms, using cascading style sheets, and site management.

The book is well designed, with ample black and white screen shots. When the text mentions a button, tab or menu, a picture of it follows in parentheses – very helpful. In the more advanced lessons, pictures of palette tabs and icons in the margins help you choose the right tool from the dozens of palette choices.

The *Classroom in a Book* series is a top-notch resource for learning Adobe products. To get the most out of the book, a first time *GoLive* user should start with the tour to get the hang of the interface, then build skills by going through the lessons more or less in order. A more experienced user could do the lessons on Cascading Style Sheets and on DHTML animation to master features new to the current version.

– ELSA TRAVISANO





**NEWS BREAK**  
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– *Roadrunner, continued from page 1*  
 continuous, not choppy and broken up. Uploading speed is slower but still considerably faster than conventional modems.

The second answer is content. Roadrunner offers national content from Time, Inc., Time Life, Warner Bros. and CNN, and will provide local content as well. As with America OnLine, Roadrunner provides you with an email address and space for a personal web page, as well as access to the Internet, chat and newsgroups.

The third answer is continuous access. A cable modem connection is always on, so there's no need to dial in, you won't get bumped off, and there are no hourly fees. Roadrunner uses a customized version of *Internet Explorer*. You can use your own internet software, but technical support will not be available for it. You can also use Roadrunner to access AOL, CompuServe and Prodigy.

According to Tompkins, Time Warner cable subscribers in Oneonta, Sidney/Unadilla, west to Afton, north to New Berlin and Richfield springs, east to E. Worcester and south to Walton, Delhi and Stamford will be able to add Roadrunner when it becomes available (see map). If you're not currently a subscriber you must have cable passing within 300' of your home in order to get Roadrunner.

**Roadrunner Requirements for Macintosh Computers**

Processor	Minimum PowerPC, 75mhz	Recommended PowerPC, 166mhz
Memory	24 Meg. physical RAM	32 Meg. required for OS 8.5 or higher
Available Hard Drive Space	30 Meg. Available	50 Meg. Available
Video	16 Bit Color	32 Bit Color
Operating System	OS 7.6 or Higher	OS 7.6 or Higher
Network	Open Transport v.1.1.1, Farallon Etherwave or Available AUI Port	Open Transport v.1.1.1, Available AUI Port

The cost for residential users is projected at \$34.95 a month, Additional computers costs an \$10 a month per computer. Businesses users will be able to get an account with a persistent IP address for a projected base price of \$69.95 a month. Technicians will install software, an Ethernet card and an external cable modem, and provide manuals and a brief training session for a projected \$99 installation cost. Specials should bring down installation prices substantially. If DOCSIS modems are adopted, the pricing structure may change.

Much more information on Roadrunner is available at the Southern Tier Roadrunner website at <http://www.stny.com/>

– ELSA TRAVISANO

*Roadrunner availability (Norwich already has service)*

