

NEWS BREAK

Volume 25, Number 2

March 2010

MARCH 3, 2010 MEETING

MARCH 3 MEETING – TAXACT, MOBILE BROADBAND AND BACKUPS 101

– Terry Helser and Elsa Travisano

Join us on **Wednesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.** in Golisano Hall, Room 103 on the Hartwick College campus for the March meeting of MUG ONE.

It's that time of year again (tax time, that is)...

Terry Helser will demonstrate [TaxACT](#), the online service for filing your federal tax return. The basic edition is free, and low-cost editions for state and deluxe federal returns are also available. Terry will also demo the solution that finally gave him internet access at his very rural home – Verizon's [USB modem for Mobile Broadband](#).

Elsa Travisano will then cover the basics of **Backing Up Your Mac**. Everyone needs to do it, but too many of us forget or simply don't know how. Elsa will talk about what you need (hardware and software) to make backing up easy, painless and, best of all, automatic. One lucky door prize winner will go home with a copy of [Take Control of Easy Mac Backups](#) by Joe Kissell, courtesy of Adam and Tonya Engst and Take Control Ebooks.

As always, the meeting will begin with a question and answer session and end with a door prize drawing for current members and refreshments for all. The MUG ONE lending library will be available for members.

Meetings are free of charge and everyone is welcome. For more information, go to <http://www.mugone.com> call Brian Foley at 607-988-7031 or email us at info@mugone.com

NEW & UPDATED TAKE CONTROL TITLES

Here are some of the latest titles from Take Control Ebooks. Remember that MUG ONE members are eligible for a 30% discount with coupon code.

[Take Control of Screen Sharing in Snow Leopard](#) by Glenn Fleishman. 136 pp. MUG ONE price \$7.

[Take Control of Back to My Mac](#) by Glenn Fleishman. 95 pp. MUG ONE price \$7.

[Take Control of Running Windows on a Mac, Fourth Edition](#) by Joe Kissell. 178 pp. MUG ONE price \$7.

[Take Control of Easy Mac Backups](#) by Joe Kissell. 108 pp. MUG ONE price \$7.

Visit MUG ONE's web site at <http://www.mugone.com>



Aperture 3– “pro performance, iPhoto simplicity”

APERTURE 3 ADDS 200 NEW FEATURES

On February 9 Apple released **Aperture 3**, an extensive update to the photo-editing and management software aimed at professional photographers as well as iPhoto users seeking more features and flexibility. Aperture 3 excels at organizing large photo libraries and supports the RAW formats from over 150 cameras. The new version adds more than 200 features including non-destructive, edge-aware brushes, advanced slideshows, adjustment presets, a full screen browser, enhanced versions of iPhoto 9's Faces and Places face and location detection, and custom print presets.

Aperture 3 requires a Mac with an Intel Core 2 Duo processor and OS 10.5.8 or later and costs \$199, \$99 upgrade. Learn more and download a 30 day free trial at www.apple.com/aperture/ Tips on moving from iPhoto to Aperture can be found at <http://www.apple.com/aperture/iphoto-to-aperture/>

MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010

Elsa Travisano, President mugone@stny.rr.com	607/433-2569
Brian Foley, Vice President, Program Co-Chair foleymb@dmcom.net	607/988-7031
Terry Helser, Secretary helsertl@oneonta.edu	607/638-9885
Mark Dye, Treasurer, Co-Librarian mdye@telenet.net	607/988-7175
Keith Robisch, Librarian, Program Co-Chair robisch52@yahoo.com	845/932-8436
Sven Anderson, Program Co-Chair anderss@oneonta.edu	607/436-3174
Thomas Travisano, Hartwick Liaison travisanot@hartwick.edu	607/431-4907

FEBRUARY 3, 2010 MUG ONE MEETING

Transferring LPs and Cassettes to your Mac – Brian Foley and Tom Slavinsky,

Intro to the iPad - Sven Anderson

Elsa Travisano welcomed the 31 members and guests who joined us at 7:30 p.m. in 103 Golisano Hall on the Hartwick College campus for our first meeting of the new year. A special welcome to **Joan Levit** and **Jean Mosher**, who joined tonight as new members, and to **Peter Exton** who renewed his membership.

Elsa gave a brief preview of the program and asked for officer announcements. Brian Foley asked if a program on synchronizing emails across computers would be of interest. It would be. Sven Anderson announced that Apple is currently selling 9 out of 10 of premium priced PCs retailing for over \$1,000. Mark Dye announced that we have a balance of \$1,296.93 in the bank.

Questions & Answers

Q&A started with a question about closing multiple windows at once. Hold down the Option key as you click the red dot in one window's top left corner, and all open windows will close. A problem sending photos on email could be caused by a compression setting selected in the email program, or more likely, by sending the thumbnail file from iPhoto instead of the full file. Since the experts were stumped, it was suggested the asker call the Albany Apple store for an appointment with the Genius Bar. There was nothing but praise for the Genius Bar support at Apple Stores, and for AppleCare insurance on new computers. For example, if, after a call to AppleCare your laptop is determined to need repair, Apple will send you a box and FedEx will pick it up and return it for free. Be aware that the repair folks will know if you spilled coffee on or otherwise immersed your Mac or iPod and will charge accordingly. We were reminded to book ahead for Genius Bar appointments, as walk-ins could have a long wait.

Elsa described how she resurrected the iPod that went through the wash by dehydrating it for three days in a Ziploc bag of uncooked rice, a cheap and handy dessicant. iPods do have replaceable batteries, which most did not seem to know. Elsa announced that she has a 1 TB Time Capsule for sale. She then gave a brief tour of the redesigned MUG ONE website, which includes links to public versions of Newsbreak back issues (these lack the vendor discount codes, which are for members only). She also suggested we visit appleusergroupresources.com, the redesigned Apple User Group Advisory Board site which was also worked on by Elsa, who is the current UGAB chair.

Intro to the iPad

Sven Anderson then gave a glowing report on the newly announced iPad tablet. The short version is it does nothing

new that the iPods and laptops don't, but it is all easily accessible, usable, and a convenient size (think all the books and files a student might need for a year). The calendar is big enough to actually see with aging eyes, and the e-reader is perfect for leisure reading anywhere and anytime. He did think the iPad needs a few things, such as Flash, to make web browsing useful, a camera, which is rumored to be coming in future versions, and Microsoft Office. However, special versions of iWork for the iPad will be able to read and write MS Office files, so that may not fly. The consensus was, "this is the Mom Device."

Transferring LPs with Audacity

Tom Slavinsky then showed us how to capture audio from an LP turntable into digital formats using a program called [Audacity](#). While your old turntable, hopefully of high quality with a good stylus, should work with the proper cables, a new USB turntable (around \$100) and a cable, or a USB turntable with built-in CD burner, make the process simple. You can modify a number of the recording settings in Audacity to suit your listening tastes, but the default settings work well, as Tom showed. Meeting attendees were in favor of authorizing MUG ONE to purchase a USB turntable that members could borrow for a limited period of time. Sven and Jack Schlupe, our resident audio professional, were deputized to come up with a recommendation. A question about sharing digitized audio files quickly raised copyright questions that might be a good topic for a future program. Tom planned on asking Janet Nepkie (Oneonta State's Music Industry professor) if she might lead such a discussion for us.

Transferring Cassettes with Amadeus

With that, Brian Foley took over to demonstrate digitizing audio from a (very) old cassette tape player. After he found his cable with RCA jacks on both ends, plugged it in to the earphone jack on the deck and the microphone-in jack on the laptop, he used the [Amadeus](#) application to capture the audio. While some settings were problematic, with a little searching all were set and he clicked *record* on the computer and *play* on the tape deck. Once the track was recorded in a file, Brian proceeded to put name tags on breaks between songs as would occur in an album, and showed how iTunes would break up the songs and make them accessible individually. Easy enough to do with a little time and perhaps some coaching from Brian on the MUG ONE listserv, but best for recording audio that is not already available on CDs or iTunes. Thanks Sven, Tom and Brian for a very enjoyable and helpful program.

We then held the raffle and gathered around to enjoy the walnut, chocolate chip and Oreo cookies and soda. This is the fellowship and fun that epitomizes MUG ONE.

-TERRY HELSER, SECRETARY



MAC 911 – HELP DESK Solutions to your most vexing Mac problems

By Christopher Breen

CURES FOR A CRUSTY KEYBOARD

Q: Reader Marcie Phipps seeks to clean up her act. She writes:

I have an old keyboard that I love, but its keys are sticking due to built up dust and gunk. Is there a way to clean it?

A: This is a common question and with it come solutions both tried-and-true and controversial. Starting with the tried-and-true:

The first step in cleaning a keyboard is to unplug it, grab a can of compressed air (found at any electronic supply store), and blast air around the base of the keys in the hope of dislodging whatever's gumming up the works. Do this holding the can of compressed air upright. Flip the can upside down and there's some danger that you'll squirt propellant into the keyboard.

Turn the keyboard over and give it a good shake in the hope of removing the gunk you've loosened. While in this position, blast it a few more times with the compressed air. If a key remains unresponsive after this treatment, gently pry it up with a small flathead screwdriver and clean its post with a slightly damp cloth.

Now, the controversial:

If the keyboard is so filthy that it appears to be a lost cause--as it might after a major coffee, soda, or Mai Tai spill--put it in the dishwasher. Place it in the top rack, dial the dishwasher to a rinse only setting, don't put soap in the thing, and run it through. Remove the keyboard and let it drain, with keys down, until it's completely dry-- this could take a couple of days.

This is controversial because some keyboard manufacturers suggest that you not do this as they won't guarantee that the keyboard will survive the ordeal--particularly if you hit the keyboard with really hot water, detergent, and flying cutlery.

Speaking from personal experience, I've done this with a beloved Matias TactilePro keyboard that I'd given up for dead (this is the perfect condition under which to conduct this experiment). I'm happy to report that not only did it survive, it works perfectly (and is a whole lot nicer to look at than it once was).

E-mail and the advantages of deception

Q: Reader Gary Campbell expresses a concern about his privacy along these lines:

When I visit some Web sites I'm asked to provide an e-mail address. I'm concerned that this will lead to more spam. Any suggestions?

A: A couple, yes.

Despite what you learned in Sunday school, your first best option is to lie. When asked for an e-mail address for no apparent good reason, feel free to enter joeblow@example.net and smack the Return key. With luck, the Web site will take this as the goods and let you get on with your business.

Regrettably, this technique doesn't work as well as it once did. Increasingly, you're asked to submit an e-mail address and then the asking body sends you a link to whatever you've requested via e-mail. If the address you submit is no good, you don't receive the message, and you can't get the thing you were after.

That doesn't mean, however, that you must offer your primary e-mail address. I've created a couple of free Google and Yahoo addresses for exactly this purpose. When asked for an e-mail address that I know will result in an activation message, I plunk in one of these addresses. I then check that account for the activation e-mail and then ignore the account until I next need it. (Meaning I don't include it in a schedule that automatically checks my e-mail.)

If you want to get very fine with this, you can create a new account for each place you visit. For example, if you must submit your e-mail address to Company X, create a new Google account for joeblowcompanyx125@gmail.com. Should you receive spam at this address, you have a reasonable idea of who's responsible. At that point you can complain or swear off that company in the future.

If you have a MobileMe account you can create up to five alias addresses. Messages sent to these aliases are forwarded to your primary MobileMe address. So, for example, when dealing with the famed Company X, create an alias for joeblowcompanyx125@me.com. After you've received Company X's activation e-mail, delete the alias. Any future messages sent to this account won't go through as it's now a dead address.

Macworld Senior Editor Christopher Breen is the author of Secrets of the iPod and iTunes (6th edition), and The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide (4th edition) both from Peachpit Press and Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard Essential Training (video) from lynda.com.

Find Chris' books and videos at www.amazon.com, www.peachpit.com and lynda.com

Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFFERS FROM THE APPLE USER GROUP ADVISORY BOARD

These discounts are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current Apple user group member to qualify for these savings.

New Mach 3 Composites Macbook Protection Case: 33% Discount

iMach 3 Composites is introducing their new Carbon Fiber case for your MacBook. It features a new hard shell, light-weight, low profile, checkpoint friendly case. These cases are hand-made and designed to help protect your Apple laptop. All case exteriors have a high gloss finish with 100% carbon fiber, interiors are padded, and covered with a high-quality soft liner.

Cases come in four sizes to best fit your needs. Retail prices range from \$151.99 to \$199.99, depending on your laptop size, but Apple user group discounted prices range from \$99.99 to \$146.99. Give your MacBook piece of mind.

www.mach3composites.com

Discount code: *****

This worldwide offer is valid through May 30, 2010.

Mailplane: 25% Discount

Mailplane is the most productive way to use Gmail on your Mac:

- Save time using photo drag-and-drop to send attachments
- Personalize your messages with formatted signatures
- Easily switch between different Gmail accounts
- Never miss an important message with notifications
- Link Gmail conversations with Mac documents

Regular price is \$24.95; the Apple user group special price is \$18.71. Download the 30-day free trial version to get started.

Special coded website link (for MUG ONE members only):

<https://mailplaneapp.com/>

The worldwide offer is valid through May 31, 2010.

RouteBuddy Software and Maps: 25% Discount

RouteBuddy for Mac OS X allows you to plan, manage and manipulate geodata (waypoints, routes and tracks) using RouteBuddy's high-quality vector road maps, and seamless raster topographic maps for countries worldwide.

RouteBuddy supports a wide range of GPS devices, allowing transfer of data and real-time tracking (depending on device capability). You can also display and add geodata to RouteBuddy's topographic maps with RouteBuddy Atlas on the iPhone/iPod touch. Apple user group members get 25% off the \$99.50 retail price of RouteBuddy for Mac OS X, and 25% off all RouteBuddy Map products which start at \$5.99. RouteBuddy Atlas is free from the iTunes Store.

For more information and free demo:

<http://www.routebuddy.com>

Discount code at checkout: *****

This worldwide offer is valid through June 30, 2010.

Pixelmator: 20% Discount

Pixelmator is a beautifully designed, easy to use, image editor built only for Mac OS 10.5.7 + machines that has everything needed to create, edit and enhance images. Outstanding features include:

- Image processing powered by Core Image and Open GL
- Over 20 tools that select, crop, slice, paint, retouch, measure and navigate
- Over 15 color correction tools
- Over 130 Core Image-powered filters
- Compatible with 100 file formats
- Layers-based image editing
- Quick access to iPhoto
- Automator actions, with drag-and-drop support
- Apple Fonts and Apple Color Picker palettes
- Send To Mail and iPhoto
- Web images easily
- Languages: English, German, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian.

The exclusive Apple user group member pricing for Pixelmator is \$47.20, which is 20% off the usual price of \$59.

For more information and free demo:

www.pixelmator.com

Discount code at checkout: *****

This worldwide offer is valid through May 15, 2010.

Apple User Group Offers Web Page

Looking for information on a past offer? The Apple User Group Advisory Board publishes a single page with all current offers, expiration dates and codes. Watch for intermittent special offers.

Password (until April 15): *****

http://appleusergroupresources.com/?page_id=653

Apple User Group Market Report podcast

Be sure to subscribe to the Apple User Group Market Report podcast. The AUG Market Report is a great source of information about Apple user groups, vendor discounts, special events, interesting reviews and more.

Apple User Group Market Report podcast:

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/resources.html>

For public information about vendor offers and more visit:

<http://appleusergroupresources.com/>

THE X LEX – Monthly Excerpts for MUGs from **Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon**

SIZE MATTERS

A slightly different organisational approach this month: instead of alphabetical entries, a logical ordering of size-related terms. But first, the sidebar:

When is a thousand not?

You're probably so used to seeing the figures like 16 K and 128 K that you may have forgotten that K stands for kilobyte, and that a kilobyte is approximately a thousand bytes. Approximately?

Here's the problem: out in the real world, the international system of units uses standard prefixes to denote changes to a base unit in jumps of a thousand units. A kilowatt is a thousand watts; a megawatt is a thousand kilowatts, or a million watts; after that comes gigawatts (1.21 of which are needed to power the flux capacitor in Doc Brown's DeLorean).

Anyway... in the computer's binary world, the nearest thing to a round 1000 is 1024, but instead of making up a new prefix, we just use kilo: a 'binary thousand' bytes, 1024 bytes, is a kilobyte.

In 'round' numbers, a thousand kilobytes (which is a million bytes, more or less — well, more, actually) is a megabyte. But, just as a kilobyte isn't 1000 bytes, neither is a megabyte 1,000,000 bytes. It's the nearest binary equivalent: 1,048,576 bytes.

Whenever you see a reference to thousands or millions — or any of those nice, round decimal numbers — of some binary-based unit like bytes or K, or megs or gigs — you can reasonably assume the writer means the binary version of those numbers. And when you see a word like kilobyte or megabyte, you can be sure that the prefixes mean the binary 'round' number, and not the decimal one. Except — and it pains us to have to point this out — when someone is trying to sell you a storage device and hopes to confuse you as to the capacity and says it holds a thousand megabytes. They may well mean 1000 megabytes, and not 1024 megabytes, because, well, that's advertising for you.

bit

binary + digit The smallest piece of information possible, describing one of only two possible states: zero or one, off or on, yes or no. Also see byte. See <http://technologyfront.com/journalism/2000/08/07-posts.html> !

byte

A binary number (or, more strictly speaking, a unit of information) that contains eight bits of information, allowing for 256 different values. The highest value you can represent in eight bits is a string of 8 ones, like this: 11111111, which has a decimal value of 255. With zero, that makes 256 different numbers. Half a byte — four bits of information — is a nybble (get it?).

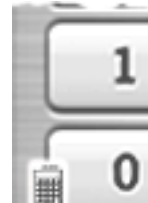
kilobyte, kilobit

A kilobyte is approximately 1000 bytes, but specifically, 1024 bytes; abbreviated K. A kilobit is approximately 1000 bits, but specifically, 1024 bits.

400K

The capacity of the Mac's first disk, which held the System (with about a dozen fonts and a handful of desk accessories) and Finder, an application (MacWrite or MacPaint), and a few documents.

To put that in perspective, Mac OS X's Widgets Calculator is just under 400 K by itself, and its Calculator application is 7,270 K; the original Calculator desk accessory was 8 K.



If the size of a program's window were indicative of its size on the disk, this is how the original Calculator would measure up against the current one.

megabyte, meg

Approximately one million bytes; exactly 1,048,576 bytes, abbreviated MB.

MB, Mb

An important distinction: MB is megabyte, a common measure of disk capacity, while Mb is megabit, a common unit in measuring network speed (Mb/sec or Mbps, megabits per second).

gigabyte, gig

Approximately one billion bytes; exactly 1,073,741,824 bytes; abbreviated GB.

terabyte

Approximately one trillion bytes; exactly 1,099,511,627 bytes; abbreviated TB.

petabyte

Approximately one quadrillion bytes; exactly 1,125,899,906,842,624 bytes.

exabyte

Approximately one quintillion bytes; exactly 1,152,921,504,606,846,976 bytes.

zettabyte

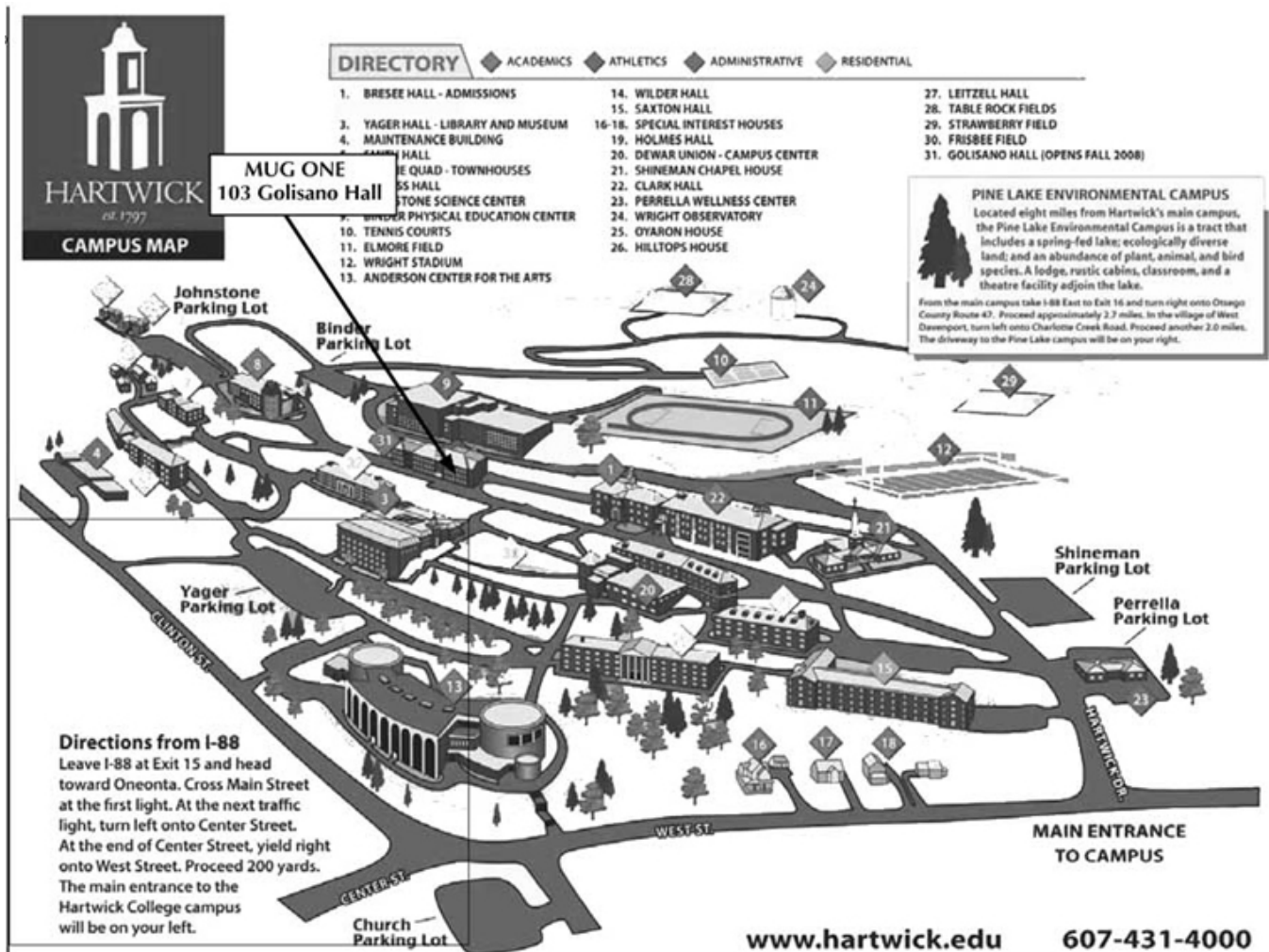
Approximately one sextillion bytes; exactly 1,180,591,620,717,411,303,424 bytes.

yottabyte

Approximately one septillion bytes; exactly 1,208,925,819,614,629,174,706,176 bytes.

©Sharon Zardetto and Andy Baird. Reprinted with permission. *Take Control: The Mac OS X Lexicon* is an ebook

continued on page 6



HARTWICK COLLEGE DIRECTIONS

The Hartwick College campus is on West Street in Oneonta, about a quarter mile from the SUNY Oneonta campus.

Enter the campus from the main West Street (upper) entrance and bear left at the fork. Golisano Hall is dead ahead after you have passed, on your right, Clark Hall, Bresee Hall and the empty space formerly occupied by Arnold Hall.

When entering Golisano from the side door, room 103 is on your left on the ground floor. Entering from the front door, room 103 is on your right.

At this hour you may park where you find available space. Unless another event is taking place on campus, you should be able to find parking close to Golisano Hall.

If you find no parking before you reach Golisano Hall, hook around to the right. There should be parking spaces available in the evening behind Bresee Hall and Clark Hall.

– The X Lex, continued from page 5

available at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/mac-lexicon.html>. User group member discount, 30% on all Take Control titles: coupon code CPN90219MUG.

Newsbreak is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE – the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Travisano

Contact *Newsbreak* at:

info@mugone.com

<http://www.mugone.com>

28 State Street
Oneonta, NY 13820
607/433-2569

Newsbreak is an independent publication not affiliated with Apple, Inc. *Newsbreak* received an award for excellence at the January 2001 User Group University.