

# NEWS BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

Volume 18, Number 3

April 2003

## APRIL 1, 2003 MEETING

### *Elementary Photoshop Elements*

– Barbara Dauria

Join us on **Tuesday, April 1st** from 7:30 to 9:00 PM in Lecture Hall 4 of Hogdon IRC on the SUNY College at Oneonta campus (see map, back page).

Barbara Dauria, owner of Main Street Print Shop in Oneonta, will teach us about handling photographs in *Photoshop Elements*. If you have specific questions, send them to her at [msprintshop@stny.rr.com](mailto:msprintshop@stny.rr.com).

Barbara has asked to start her presentation following announcements, with the question and answer session moved to the end of the program. Be sure to arrive promptly, and let us know if you prefer this meeting arrangement.

Refreshments and door prizes will follow the meeting.



*Macworld Expo NY 2003 cancelled, reincarnated as CREATE*

## MACWORLD NY 2003 CANCELLED, CREATE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

On March 26 IDG and Apple jointly announced that Macworld Conference & Expo, scheduled to be held July 14-18 at New York's Javits Center, has been cancelled. In its place IDG will offer CREATE, a conference aimed at professionals in the creative arts.

According to the press release, "CREATE is an event for filmmakers, directors, graphic designers, broadcast journalists, publishers, musicians, music executives, producers and others driven by a desire to learn the latest creative techniques and to exchange new ideas with their peers. CREATE's in-depth conference program is designed for beginners and experts, professionals and consumers - all those who want to immerse themselves in creative arts."

CREATE will feature one and two day conferences, two levels of conference sessions for beginner to intermediate users and experts, half day labs, and feature presentations with different focuses. Registration will begin in mid-April.

The announcement followed months of speculation about Apple's participation in east coast Macworld Expos, which began when conference producer IDG announced its intention to move Macworld summer conferences from New York to their original home of Boston, starting in 2004. Apple immediately said that the company would not participate in the show if the Expo was moved from New York.

Intensive negotiations between Apple and IDG apparently failed to preserve the Expo in its familiar form, prompting its rebirth as CREATE.

For more information, go to: <http://www.macworldexpo.com/>

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

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## MARCH 4, 2003 MUG ONE MEETING

The weather seemed to make us all less eager to come out, since only three including Elsa and I were here by 7:30. However, when President Elsa Travisano began at about 7:40 pm by introducing herself and welcoming us, we numbered about 16.

### Announcements

I announced my intention to attend the Educational Technology Day at Ithaca College on Thursday, March 20, from 9 AM until 4 PM. It is free and worth the trip. Contact me if you want to share a ride. Joanne announced our current balance of \$1,076.13. New library additions will appear in the next Newsbreak. O'Reilly catalogues were distributed, and you are urged to look at their Web site for extensive listings of many publishers' wares. The Peachpit Press order that just arrived is our last in the current format, since they are changing policies. Stay tuned.

Tom Fitzpatrick was unanimously elected our new Vice President. Welcome, Tom. Elsa then showed us Bubble Design's new iPod Habitat to hold your iPod and its cables. The user group member price is \$21.25 for the Habitat, \$34 for a Secure Habitat with a lock down attachment. See the March issue of Newsbreak for info on getting the user group pricing. Several members then announced items they wished to sell, including books, inkjet cartridges and a copy of *Photoshop Elements*.

### Questions and Answers

The Q&A session was devoted to network and Internet access problems. Road Runner seems to have been up and down recently with no clear explanation. Troubleshooting networks: if two or more computers on a network freeze, the router, modem and/or AirPort Base Station need to be unplugged from the power, and then reconnected in order from the outside source to the computer. If you have a router connected to an AirPort Base Station, you need to let the router finish restarting before starting the AirPort. For further explanation, ask Sven Anderson. For those who live beyond the reach of cable or DSL Internet service, two-way satellite access is great for receiving files but as slow as the phone wire for sending them. According to Gerry Stoner, the cost is about \$130/month with the basic TV package, a little more than cable and Road Runner. Gerry reports that, at this point, you need to use a PC as a server. DSL is beginning to become available in our area. You can see if you can get it by entering your phone number on Verizon's Web site, <http://www22.verizon.com/>. Finally, there was a testimonial for Country Computers in Unadilla, which will repair out-of-warranty Macs like Jay Manning did. For warranty service you need to go to an Apple authorized service center – to find the one closest to you, go to the Apple Resource Locator: <http://buy.apple.com/>.

### Beginners Spotlight

Sven Anderson took over for "Beginner's Spotlight," by opening up a G4 tower and showing how easy it is to take out and install new memory, AirPort cards, hard drives and new Zip, Super

or other drives. Components come with grooves or shapes that only fit one way in the slot. The hardest part is plugging in an antenna or other cable, and they, too, only fit one way. Sven recommends keeping a small Phillips screwdriver on hand for some installations, avoiding pushing down in one spot too hard when installing memory or cards (you might crack the board), and opening up your PowerMac to blow dust off the innards at least once or twice a year to prevent overheating failures. He also had nothing but praise for AppleCare and their handling of problems and willingness to replace faulty hardware. Thanks, Sven.

### Program: Taxes on a Mac

Finally, yours truly showed how I do taxes with *Quicken* and *TurboTax*. I quickly showed how to use "categories" that are "tax linked" to enter expenses and income for the year. You can then link each category to the tax form and line where you think it applies. Then, to prepare to use a tax program, you can have Quicken make a "Tax Summary" report that lists all of these and totals each for you. I export this report into my word processor to edit and condense it for printing.

With all the records at hand, you are then ready open <http://www.intuit.com> and click on the *Quicken* and *TurboTax* link. This page shows your options for differently priced programs suitable for your tax situation. Since my wife has a business at home, I selected the "Home and Business" Web based version, which of course is the most expensive at \$60. The prices increase by \$10-20 after April 1, so you might as well buy the CD-ROM version if you can't get to it by then.

I showed how to start building your return by entering a fake ID name, "mugonemember" and password, "mugtax." You can try the program for free by selecting "Continue my prior return" at the entry screen and using these for input, or start your own return. You only pay when you print or file the completed return. We went through some data entry screens to show that it is simple to do, but quite time-consuming the first time if you have not previously input information. That is one of the main reasons I bought the CD-ROM (about \$90 for the "Home and Business" version this year). This program can import all the basic information from last year's forms. I discovered belatedly that the Web version can import only from the Windows *Quicken*, not the Mac. When this is possible, I might forgo the CD-ROM, but not before.

Similar problems or advantages occur when you try to import your W-2 information (you must have the employer's EIN number) rather than typing the numbers in yourself, attempt to import profits/losses from your broker (you must have signed up for their online account access first), or import deductions like form 1098 Mortgage Interest expense (it only uses Country Wide, Inc. data, so don't bother). Most of these are more trouble than just keying in the data yourself. Finally, Intuit will try to sell you *ItsDeductible*, their program that assigns "fair market

## REVIEW: HABITAT FOR IPOD



photo by Elsa Travisano

### *Habitat for iPod, Secure Habitat for iPod*

Bubble Design <http://www.bubbledesign.com>  
1-650-988-9090

*Habitat for iPod*, \$24.99 (user group price \$21.25)  
*Secure Habitat for iPod*, \$39.99 (user group price \$34)  
User group discounts good through May 31, 2003

The *Habitat for iPod* is an attractive, sturdy and ingeniously designed cradle and organizer for your iPod. The *Habitat* holds your iPod securely so you can operate it with one hand and keeps it contained to help prevent accidental tumbles off your desk. It's especially convenient for recharging your iPod or syncing it with your Mac.

The *Habitat* cradle holds the iPod at an angle of about 45°, allowing easy access to the control wheel and top ports. Flanking the angled cradle are holders for your iPod's earbuds and FireWire cable. No more rooting around under your desk to track down that elusive cable!

The *Habitat* is made from clear, injection-molded polycarbonate, a material which allows it to blend in with your desktop environment. The *Secure Habitat* adds a stainless steel security bracket that connects to any standard computer lock. Rubber feet on the 12 cm diameter base hold the cradle steady, even on sloping surfaces like angled keyboard and mouse trays. The earbud cord storage receptacle is a bit of a snug fit, but that's my only quibble with an otherwise excellent product.

User group members can get a discount of 15% through May 31, 2003. To find out how to receive the discount, contact your user group leader. – ELSA TRAVISANO

## REVIEW: SAFARI BOOKSHELF

*Safari Bookshelf* (not to be confused with Apple's *Safari* web browser) is an online service that gives access to more than 1,300 technology books. Publishers that participate in *Safari Bookshelf* include O'Reilly, New Riders, Peachpit Press, Adobe Press, Macromedia Press, SAMS, QUE, Prentice Hall PTR, Java, Alpha, Sun Microsystems, Cisco and Microsoft Press.

Not all books from all publishers are available, but new books are being added weekly. Titles of interest to Mac users include the Adobe *Classroom in a Book* series, O'Reilly's *Mac OS X in a Nutshell* and many of the O'Reilly *Pocket References*, and several (though not all) of the Peachpit *Visual QuickStart Guides*. Notably missing at present are the Pogue/O'Reilly *Missing Manual* titles, although there are plans to add them in the future. To find out what books are currently available, go to <http://safari.oreilly.com/>

A monthly fee of \$14.95 allows you to search across the entire library, and gives you full text access to up to ten books at a time. You manage the titles you select by adding them to your virtual bookshelf. The basic subscription fee gives you a bookshelf of ten "slots" (one book generally equals one slot). More slots can be added for additional fees. A book must stay on your shelf for at least 30 days before it can be exchanged for another book.

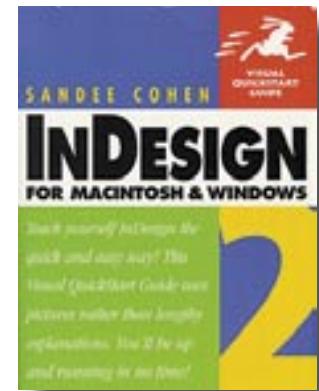
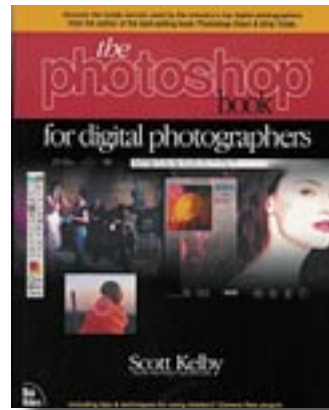
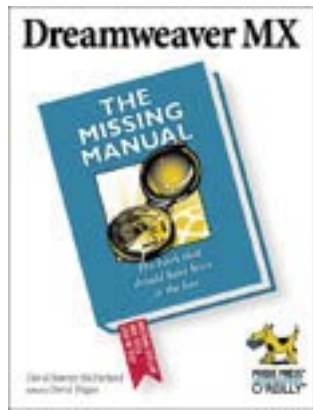
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Browsing the collection is one of the real treats of using *Safari Bookshelf*. For most of us, the nearest bookstore with a fully stocked technology section is at least an hour's drive away. *Safari Bookshelf* gives text samples for each book, and includes interesting offerings from some less widely distributed publishers. One title that recently caught my eye: *The 60 Second Commute: A Guide to Your 24/7 Home Office Life*.

The *Safari Bookshelf* website allows you to maintain your own personal collection of notes, previous searches and bookmarks, making it refreshingly easy to stay organized. More times than I'd like to admit I find myself pulling book after book from my physical bookshelf in search of the answer to a problem I researched six months ago. Saving searches online sure beats festooning your books with Post-It notes, and allows you to put virtual Post-Its throughout the entire collection.

Want to find out if a *Safari Bookshelf* subscription makes sense for you? Register for a 14 day free trial by clicking the *Safari Bookshelf* link on the MUG ONE home page, <http://www.mugone.com>.

– ELSA TRAVISANO



## BOOKS: DREAMWEAVER MX, PHOTOSHOP FOR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, INDESIGN 2 VQS

*Dreamweaver MX, The Missing Manual* by David Sawyer McFarland. 750 pp. Pogue Press/O'Reilly, 2002 \$34.95

*Dreamweaver MX, The Missing Manual* is about as complete a primer on the latest version of Macromedia's web design software as one could want.

The wealth of information is laid out in a logical and easy-to-read fashion that leads one through all the necessary steps for building an effectively working web page. As a matter of fact, it is so thorough in doing this that moving one's site to the Internet isn't discussed until page 477. The text alternates between tutorials which are very detailed with clear step-by-step instructions and a more general discussion of the software which gives tips, clever insights, and points out some of *Dreamweaver's* limitations while referring to earlier chapters or upcoming information. This structure is easy to navigate so that one can keep in view all one is trying learn.

I have a certain amount of experience with *Dreamweaver* and for the foreseeable future, this book contains all that I will need, especially the last third of the book which covers aspects of web design that are completely new to me. My only quibbles are that the index could be a bit fatter while the outer margins could be a bit thinner. But all in all, the book is a valuable resource.

— JOHN MAAS

*The Photoshop Book for Digital Photographers*, by Scott Kelby. 358 pp. New Riders, 2003 \$39.99

When does Scott Kelby sleep? This prolific author, editor and seminar instructor is famous for his cut-to-the-chase writing style and for his string of best-sellers that have demystified *Photoshop* and *OS X* for millions of readers.

Now Kelby has turned his talents to a *Photoshop* book that's aimed at professional digital photographers, but but is indispensable for any digital photographer at the intermediate level or beyond. *The Photoshop Book for Digital Photographers* offers step-by-step tips, instructions and tricks of the trade,

with each step incisively explained and beautifully illustrated by color screen shots.

Topics Kelby covers include retouching portraits, sharpening techniques, how and why pros edit in 16-bit color, dealing with common digital camera image problems, the most-requested photographic special effects, and "color-correcting any photo without breaking a sweat." My biggest surprise in reading this book was to discover a photograph (actually, three) of my fellow Apple User Group Advisory Board member Lesa Snider in the discussion of Cropping to a Specific size on pp. 47-48!

This book is a treasure trove for anyone who wants to get the most out of *Photoshop* and digital photography. Most highly recommended.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

*InDesign 2 Visual QuickStart Guide*, by Sandee Cohen. 412 pp. Peachpit Press, 2002 \$21.99

The more I use Adobe's *InDesign 2* for page design, the more I grow to love it. The interface is comfortingly similar to *Photoshop*, *Illustrator* and other Adobe products, and the tools are much more intuitive than *InDesign's* predecessor *PageMaker*. It's a pleasure to use. Most of the time.

Sandee Cohen's *InDesign 2 Visual QuickStart Guide* is the ideal companion for times when the going gets a little rough. It's also a quick and easy guide for those who resist suggestions to RTFM (which stands, of course, for Read the Friendly Manual), as well as for folks looking for easily accessible, step-by-step instructions for accomplishing a specific task.

The book's topics run the gamut from setting up documents and working with text, objects and color, to text effects, tabs and tables, making pages and books, and outputting and exporting your final products. Each set of instructions is numbered, with steps keyed to greyscale illustrations and screen shots. Sidebars keep things lively with anecdotes or a little history on a particular tool or task. Recommended for all *InDesign* users.1

— ELSA TRAVISANO

## DISCOUNTS FOR MUG ONE MEMBERS

### The MUG Store

This month the MUG Store offers great deals on factory refurbished iMacs and iBooks, starting at just \$866 for the iBooks and \$999 for the iMacs. In addition, every new or refurbished Mac from the MUG Store comes with a free Epson C42 printer (after rebate).

Remember, every dollar spent at the MUG Store creates points for your group to use for anything the MUG Store sells.

<http://www.applemugstore.com> 1-800-689-8191

The password schedule to enter the site is as follows:

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\* For MUG members only. \*

### Toon Boom Studio

Toon Boom Studio is a must-have for anyone involved in animation, graphic design, Flash production or multimedia. Features include:

- Clever drawing tools to give you creative control.
- Automated lip-synch tools for merging sound and image.
- A multiplane camera for planning out your layouts in a 3D environment.
- Optimized output in SWF format, QuickTime and iMovie.
- Toon Boom Studio Importer for Flash MX.
- Electric Rain's Swift 3D plug-ins for importing from 3ds max and LightWave.

Creative artists receive 20% discount on SRP (code \*\*\*). Students/Faculty members receive an additional 10% off full version, educational pricing (code \*\*\*). Schools receive an Animation Curriculum at no charge with a purchase of a lab pack of min. 10 licenses, a savings of \$1,000.

For information, contact us at \*\*\*. To take advantage of this offer, go to:

*Offer expires June 30, 2003. \* For MUG members only. \**

### iDrops Motion Menus for iDVD

iDrops are 'alternative' motion menus for iDVD. There are iDrops that are outrageous, funny, and even anaglyphic 3D (6 pair of red/green glasses are included with that set), so there's bound to be something to please almost everyone. One of the lesser used features of iDVD is the ability to create a 'folder' which can then be assigned a different motion menu. Several iDrops have been designed in sets so that it's easy to make use of this feature. Make DVDs you enjoy watching over and over again.

MUG members can get a 20% discount on your order.

Prices on this page reflect the 20% MUG discount.

*Offer expires June 30, 2003. \* For MUG members only. \**

### Mac Design Conference

Macintosh-based designers and photographers now have a conference to call their own. The producers of Mac Design Magazine are taking over Chicago's Donald E. Stephens Convention Center May 28-30 to launch their first annual "Mac Design Conference," three amazing days with more than 40 sessions of real-world training in Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Illustrator, Flash, InDesign, After Effects, QuarkXPress, Mac OS X, and Final Cut Pro.

MUG members save \$25 off the registration price. This offer may not be combined with other discounts.

For more info and to register, visit

### Santa Cruz Digital Styles

Introducing TiStick and SnowSeal, hip, unique laptop bags for your Apple portables. TiStick and SnowSeal are constructed of durable, weatherproof Antron-Cordura "Police Cloth", cushioned with full-surround padding, sealed with a hidden, water-repellant zipper. Features a clear outer pocket for individual effect, plus six more inside. Includes matching clip-on pouch and contoured, padded shoulder strap.

20% Off for MUG Members

Regular Prices: \$79.95 - \$99.95

Special MUG Prices: \$63.96 - \$79.96

You MUST use links on this page to get the special offer.

*Offer expires June 30, 2003. \* For MUG members only. \**

### MacPhoneHome

MacPhoneHome is the pre-eminent computer tracking and theft recovery software for Macintosh computers. If your Mac is stolen, MacPhoneHome sends a stealth e-mail message containing its exact location to an e-mail address set by you, and Brigadoon Software works with law enforcement to get it back.

Worldwide tracking and recovery. Highly tamper-proof. Both Classic and OS X included at no additional cost.

Normally \$29.95 per download/license. MUG members order through a hidden web page and pay only \$19.95, a 33% savings. Go to

Enter this code: \*\*\*\*\* and the price is changed to \$19.99.

*Offer expires December 31, 2003. \* For MUG members only. \**

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

Editor: Elsa Travisano

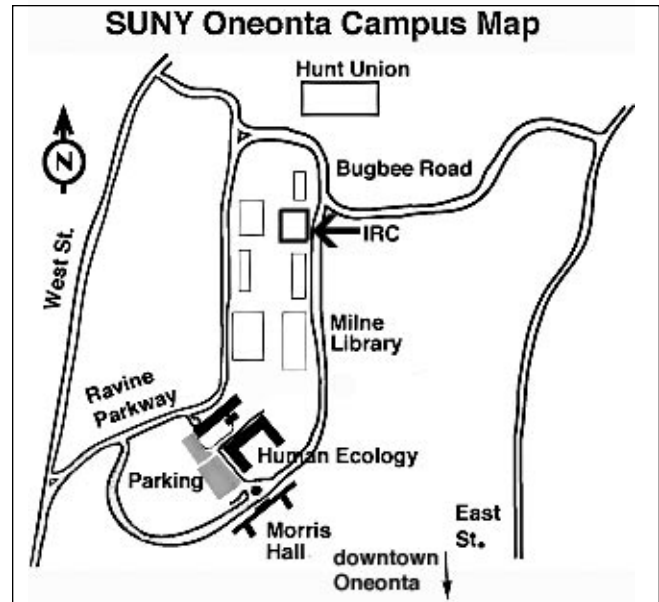
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## WATSON RULES

Karelia Software's *Watson* is one of my favorite applications for OS X. For the uninitiated, *Watson* is a collection of web services that gives you instant access to movie, TV, and phone listings, weather, Zip codes, currency exchange, stock and package tracking, and even PriceGrabber price comparisons. *Watson's* elegant, easy-to-use interface makes web browsers seem clunky in comparison.

Recently *Sherlock 3* appropriated *Watson's* look and feel, and several of its functions. So why buy *Watson* for \$29 (\$39 for a household license) when *Sherlock 3* comes bundled with Mac OS X v. 10.2? Because it's that much better. *Watson* offers twice as many tools; nineteen to *Sherlock 3's* ten, not counting contributed tools like Epicurious recipes, Newsblaster (news headlines), and baseball and football scores.

Where tool functions are duplicated, as in movie listings or translation, *Watson's* version is superior. Take movie listings, for example. *Sherlock 3* can't be customized, and displays ten theaters from Hancock to Calicoon, theaters I'll never go to and am not interested in. *Watson's* movie listings let you limit the distance and number of theaters listed. I've set mine to display just the Oneonta Theater 1&2 and Southside Oneonta Mall.

But wait, there's more. *Watson's* movie listings include a button that lets you add the movie showing of your choice to your *iCal* calendar. What better way to cut through the confusion of multi-plex movie schedules? *Watson's* TV listings also have the *iCal* button; shift-clicking adds the show to *iCal* as a weekly event. Once in *iCal*, set your reminder alarms to help stay on top of watching—or taping—your favorite shows.

*Watson's* reference tool is equally robust, putting sources from Roget's Thesaurus and Bartlett's Quotations to Bulfinch's Mythology and Oxford Shakespeare at your fingertips. Oh yes, you get a dictionary and several encyclopedias too.

Along with Apple's *iLife* applications (*iTunes*, *iPhoto*, *iMovie* and *iDVD*) and the *Safari* web browser, *Watson* is one of the best reasons I can think of for making the move to OS X.

*Watson* can be downloaded for a free two week trial at:

<http://karelia.com/watson/>

– ELSA TRAVISANO

## QUICK TIPS

### *Opening a browser window behind the current window – Safari and Internet Explorer*

How often do you go to a website like <http://www.cnn.com> or <http://www.macsurfer.com> and spot multiple links that you want to read? In *Safari* and newer versions of *Internet Explorer*, you can open each of those links in its own window *behind* the current window, tucking it neatly out of the way until you're ready to read it. How? Simply hold down the Command (Apple) and Shift keys when you click on a link.

– Meeting, continued from page 2

value" to all of your non-monetary charitable contributions. Caveat emptor...

Sven drew the first winning ticket for the raffle, his own number, as I had jokingly predicted when I gave it to him. Without my hat as the ticket receptacle, your deserving secretary again got to take home NOTHING. Then every member in attendance got to pick from very nice, black fabric CD wallets donated by MacAddict, Mac OS X Buyers Guide magazines, software, books, Apple turtlenecks and T-shirts, pens, luggage tags and other booty. The diet Coke and regular 7-Up, tollhouse cookies and Oreos disappeared as we all communed. Thanks to everyone who made it a memorable program.

– TERRY HELSER, SECRETARY