

NEWS



BREAK

MACINTOSH USERS GROUP, ONEONTA, NEW YORK

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June 2000

JUNE MEETING: MUG ONE PICNIC TUESDAY, JUNE 6TH 4-8 PM UPPER PAVILION, WILBER PARK

In lieu of our regular June meeting, you and your family or a guest are invited to the **annual MUG ONE picnic**.

When: Tuesday, June 6th, from 4 PM to 8 PM

Where: The upper pavilion in Wilber Park, Oneonta. The upper pavilion is located near the playground at the park's upper entrance, on the east end of Center Street.

We'll provide: meat (steak, hamburgers, hot dogs and possibly chicken - contact meatmeister Tom Travisano for details) and veggie burgers for grilling, salads (potato, coleslaw etc.), bread products and drinks, as well as cups, plates and utensils.

You can contribute: a side dish, salad or dessert to share if you wish.

Please let us know by Sunday, June 4th **how many people** are coming, what **dish** (if any) you're bringing, and what **special dietary needs** you or your family may have. **E-mail** us at mugone@stny.rr.com or **phone** Tom and Elsa at 433-2569 and give us the scoop.

See you there!

IMOVIE SOFTWARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD

Previously available only with iMac DV and DV Special Edition models, the *iMovie 1.0.2* software is now available as a free download from Apple: <http://www.apple.com/imovie/download/>

The download does not include the tutorial footage, which is over 160MB. *iMovie* can be installed on Apple's new PowerBook computers with built-in FireWire and on FireWire-equipped Power Mac G4 computers.

A CD-ROM which includes *iMovie* and the tutorial files is available for a \$19.95 shipping and handling fee. To order the CD, call 800-293-6617.

web site: www.mugone.com • email: mugone@stny.rr.com

Time-Warner's Bruce Tompkins and Mike Nutter field questions about Road Runner at the May 2nd MUG ONE meeting. Note boxes of door prizes at Mike's feet. Story, page 2.



FREE MACWORLD EXPO PASSES FOR USER GROUP MEMBERS

"The Apple User Group Advisory Board and IDG invite all user group members to attend this summer's Macworld Conference & Expo, July 18-21, at the Javits Convention Center in New York City.

As a valued member of the Apple user group community, you are eligible for a FREE Expo pass (\$25 Value). This pass includes access to more than 400 exhibiting companies' products, services and solutions, ten special interest areas, and the brand new MacBeginnings sessions.

Register online for the largest East Coast event ever:

<http://www.macworldexpo.com/>

PRIORITY CODE: U-AUG

The pre-registration deadline is June 19, and you must use the above priority code to receive your free expo pass."

MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 1999-2000

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MAY 2 MUG ONE MEETING MINUTES

Elsa started the meeting by welcoming the 28 present and plugging the benefits of membership.

Jay asked if there was interest in chartering a bus to attend Mac World Expo in NYC or just spend a day in the City on July 19, 20 or 21. Send an e-mail to mactech1@dmcom.net or call Jay at 433-1305 if you're interested.

A short Q&A session began with Jay announcing the opening of his new venture with Joe Ruffino called JJMACS. He is selling used Macs, hardware and software next door to his shop in Ruffino's Mall. Good luck, Jay! Other tips: for reviews of hybrid all-in-one printer/scanner/fax/copiers, look in *MacWorld* or at www.google.com. Epson makes three nice models. Problems e-mailing photos are usually caused by incompatible file types. JPG ("Jaypeg") files can be opened in word processors, if you don't have a graphics program.

iAVerKey and Sundial

Elsa then demonstrated the \$100 iAVerKey converter that will connect iMac DVs, G3s and G4s to TVs and VCRs. She put up the *Sundial* desktop picture software on the desktop to run during the meeting. This is the California or Hawaii CD-ROM (10 scenes available from each state) that changes the scene every 5 minutes to match the time of day.

Road Runner, with Bruce Tompkins and Mike Nutter

Elsa then turned the program over to Bruce Tompkins, General Manager of Time Warner Cable (TWC) in Oneonta and he introduced Mike Nutter, the technician responsible for the Road Runner (RR) cable modem system. Bruce started with the history of our cable system from the tower on the hill in the East end in 1954, through fiber optics installation during the 1980s up to 1999 when 2 way amplifiers were installed. Running the fiber cable from Binghamton was delayed by local politics. There are 800+ subscribers now with 300 on the waiting list. If you have Time Warner Cable, you can get Road Runner. New Berlin and Oxford can't for now. It takes 20 homes/mile to install cable, but in some circumstances 15/mi will qualify. If sparsely populated areas want cable, then they can pay construction costs, currently \$16,000/mi. Originally, installation cost \$14.95 with no differential for Mac vs. Windows, the first month was free and the subsequent months were \$37.50. The current special is installation free and you are charged from the first month, but different specials will be available all year. Each subscriber gets a 5 MB Web site and can have up to five email addresses for different members of the house. These can be set at installation (which took me about an hour, since I tend to ask a LOT of questions) to be independent and secure, or commonly viewed.

The fee includes rental/use of a cable modem. There is currently no fee decrease if you own your own cable modem. If you have problems, call 1-877-623-7866 or go to www.stny.com for help. (Both are on the mouse pad you are

given.) If that doesn't work, Mike gets a trouble ticket from them to call and come fix your problem.

As usually happens with this group, the presentation rapidly morphed into Q and A. Among the tidbits gleaned were the fact that RR was launched in Elmira rather than northern Virginia so if it failed, no one would know where that was. Several comments related to cost. Theoretically you could get a T1 line (1.54 Mbps) for \$800/month from the phone company (they're not available in this area yet) or RR on cable (2 Mbps) for \$37.50 (+ tax and fees they don't mention until you get the bill). This is cheaper than a separate phone line and one of the cheaper cable modem rates in the nation, according to Elsa. A business will pay \$70/month because of the increased usage expected, or \$399/month for an assigned IP (you are a .com at this point.). RR may offer a higher speed service as well, if you want to pay for it.

Asked when there will be local content on the RR Web page, Mike responded, "It's coming." If you want movies over the net, check RAMPT.com. There already was a made-for-the-net movie aired May 5. Networking generated several points I found confusing. Ask Jay, Elsa or new member Ron Ranc of ISD, Inc. at 98 Chestnut Street about the options if you want to network your home computers. Old computers will need an ethernet card (\$30-40 and up at Buy.com), provided by RR for PCs but not Macs yet. And some machines with slower processors are not worth getting cable access because you gain little over a phone modem. Ask before you commit, or just get a new iMac!

Questions about security are valid, since Jay attests that his account recorded "pings" against his firewall from unauthorized computers. Look on our Web site for suggestions on software like *Doorstop* to protect individual machines or servers. At least turn the modem and/or your Mac off when not using it. Asked about the Big Brother clauses in the RR agreement, Bruce responded that they need to collect demographic information on usage so TWC can ensure they have enough nodes to handle the load. While there is the potential for decreased performance with increased usage, they will monitor this and shift loads as needed, or spend the money needed to put in more nodes. Finally, schools will get one free cable modem for each building but not during the summer when security is a problem. Also, current customers will get priority, so be patient. Bruce and Mike brought enough door prizes so that everyone who wanted one took home a beautiful glass Road Runner mug and an Oneonta Tigers baseball cap. And all helped eliminate the brownies, Oreos, diet ginger ale and Pepsi. Good job, guys.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 6 at 4 pm in the pavilion at Wilbur Park. Join us and bring the family and guests for the 2nd annual MUG ONE Picnic. See you there.

– TERRY L. HELSER, SECRETARY

BOOK REVIEWS: OS 9, QUICKSTART & COMPLETE, THE LITTLE IMAC BOOK 2ND ED.

Mac OS 9: Visual QuickStart Guide, by Maria Langer. 360 pp. Peachpit Press, 2000. \$17.99

Mac OS 9, the Complete Reference, by Gene Steinberg. 916 pp. Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 2000. \$39.99

Not too long ago, OS 9 looked to be a brief stepping stone between System 8.6 and OS X, the promised overhaul of the Mac's operating system software. These days, with the planned release date of OS X inching ever further into the cold months, there's less reason to wait for "the big one" and every reason to upgrade to OS 9, as long as your Mac can support it. (Minimum requirements for OS 9 are a PowerPC with 194 MB of free disk space and 32 MB of physical memory with virtual memory set to at least 40MB – at least 64 MB of physical memory is more realistic). OS 9 is the best operating system to date, now that the early bugs have been quashed. It's quite stable and has more features and capabilities than ever before. The flood of new iMacs and G4s shipping with OS 9 means that there are lots of Mac users ready to learn how to get the most out of the latest system software.

Mac OS 9: Visual QuickStart Guide by Maria Langer and *Mac OS 9, the Complete Reference* by Gene Steinberg are two different but equally useful approaches to mastering OS 9. Both books cover the latest system features including Sherlock 2, multiple users, voiceprint passwords, keychains and automatic software updating as well as general OS issues.

At 360 pages, *Mac OS 9: Visual QuickStart Guide* is heftier than Langer's previous Mac OS guides. It follows the user-friendly QuickStart Guide format, covering topics like "working with aliases" with step-by-step instructions on one or two clearly illustrated, thumb-indexed pages. You can use the index or flip through the pages from the side to find the topic you need. Instructional steps for each topic are numbered or set off with diamonds or bullets so that you won't lose your place. Plentiful black and white illustrations of menus, dialog boxes and screen shots are keyed to the appropriate step in the instructions. Langer covers each of the components of OS 9 from Stickies to the infuriating QuickTime Player, and delves into the mysteries of networks, internet configuration and file sharing. Tips at the end of each topic cover issues like how to locate an ISP with a local access number (call a local computer consultant). A brief appendix covers iBook-specific issues. The book is a perfect look-it-up guide, and is guaranteed to increase your productivity. Do you know how to browse folders with "click and a half"? Neither did I – see page 73.

While Langer hews close to her subject, Steinberg offers a wide-ranging guide to the Mac that uses OS 9 as a focus. *Mac OS 9, the Complete Reference* is a 916 page compendium that covers everything from CD-writers, digital cameras and speakers to virus protection, financial management software and even configuring the perfect gaming machine. *Mac OS 9, the Complete Reference* is like having all those useful Mac

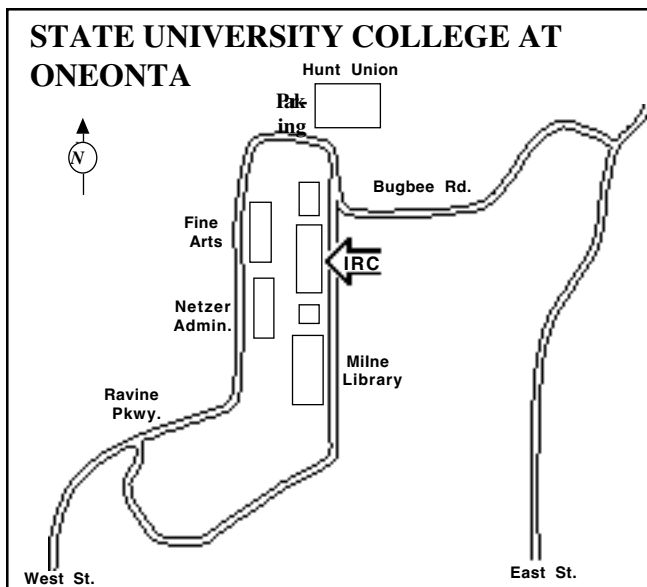
magazine articles that you wish you'd saved and web pages you wish you'd bookmarked together in one place.

Steinberg offers detailed explanations and troubleshooting tips for when things go wrong. For example, in a chapter on installing OS 9 he covers clean install techniques, merging system folders, resolving installation problems and using *Conflict Catcher* to ease the process. Reading this chapter can prevent hours of upgrade headaches. "Using Your Mac on the Road" covers accessing your internet service provider while traveling, as well as tips for keeping your PowerBook or iBook working and safe. The book features black and white illustrations, informative sidebars and an extensive glossary and index. Printed inside the book's covers are handy lists of new OS 9 features and special features of the book, keyed to their respective chapters, and a guide to OS 9 system folder contents. One minor irritation: the thumb index is printed on right-hand pages with the text facing out, which requires you to turn the book upside down in order to riffle through the headings. Author of the recent *Upgrading and Troubleshooting Your Mac* and a writer for MacHome Magazine, Steinberg writes in a style that is upbeat and informative but not intimidating; perfect for beginners to intermediate Mac users.

The Little iMac Book, second edition, by Robin Williams. 311 pp. Peachpit Press, 2000. \$17.99

The Little iMac Book ought to ship in the box along with every new iMac. This is the best as well as the best-selling iMac book, taking the reader from switching on the iMac for the first time to creating a web site. The brand-new second edition adds seven chapters and 120 pages, is updated for OS 9 and covers the features of the latest generation of iMacs including the DV models. Written in Robin Williams' inimitably reassuring and humorous style, *The Little iMac Book, second edition* is the ideal companion for anyone new to computers or to the iMac.

The "Let's Start at the Very Beginning" section sets out with a basic orientation to the desktop, mouse, menus, icons and folders. "Things to Do with Your iMac" includes descriptions of the software bundled with different versions of the iMac, followed by how-to chapters on word processing, making a database, a spreadsheet, a drawing and a painting, faxing a note, playing a DVD movie, making an iMovie and organizing yourself with *Palm Desktop* software. "The Internet and the World Wide Web" covers getting connected, exploring the web and making a web site using the bundled *PageMill* software. "Other Things You Should Know" covers Sherlock 2, AirPort wireless networking, hubs, peripherals, ports and extras. Finally, "Do You Have A Problem?" includes useful advice about managing AOL, troubleshooting and backing up your data. Make sure to buy the second edition of the book if you have a fruit-flavored or graphite iMac; the first edition works fine for the Bondi blue models.



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HARDWARE REVIEW: *IAVERKEY DV* IMAC DV TO TV CONVERTER

AverMedia www.aver.com 1/800-863-2332 list price \$99

Hard to pronounce yet amazingly simple to set up and use, the *iAverKey DV* is an affordable video converter that provides high quality video out at multiple resolutions from a Macintosh G3, G4 or iMac DV model to a television or a VCR. The *iAverKey DV* also works with IBM PCs. With the *iAverKey* converter, DVD movies, CD-ROMs, Internet surfing, presentations, computer training and even video games can be projected onto almost any television, or recorded onto videotape.



The *iAverKey* consists of a translucent blueberry-colored rectangular converter box measuring only 6" x 4" x 1.5". The unobtrusive unit includes side ports for VGA in and out, SCART, S-Video and AV cable connectors. Buttons on the top allow for adjusting sharpness and overscan, and for zooming and panning around the image. The *iAverKey* ships with everything you need – VGA cable, S-VHS cable, standard AV cable, two optional monitor adapters and a power supply.

Setting up the *iAverKey* was quick and easy. The converter works without any drivers or software, so it is literally plug and play. The manual's instructions were clear and easy to follow. Connecting the VGA cable from the iMac to the *iAverKey*, plugging in the power adapter, then connecting the S-video cable from *iAverKey* to television took only a minute or two. In fact, the most time-consuming part of connecting the *iAverKey* to my son's iMac DV was removing the plastic grille that covers the iMac's VGA output port (found only on DV models) and replacing it with the grille that offers access

to the port. I used a screwdriver to pop the grille off; I later read in the iMac manual that a quarter will do the job nicely.

Once the cables were connected, all I had to do was turn my television to the channel that shows AV (channel 2 in this case) and start up the Mac. When the "Welcome to Macintosh" screen appeared on the iMac, it also appeared on my television screen. The image was crisp and needed no adjustment. When I changed screen resolution on the iMac the television followed suit without a pause. Jay Manning, our resident expert, informs us that this is an impressive technical feat.

An especially impressive feature of the *iAverKey* is that it supports all iMac resolutions up to 1,024 x 768 and 16.7 million colors. Keep in mind that this is video out, but not audio out – your presentations will rely on the sound coming from your Mac. However, with the great speakers on the new iMacs, this is not a problem.

Attendees of the May MUG ONE meeting were dazzled by the quality of the images projected via *iAverKey* from my son's iMac DV onto a large screen television. We took the converter through its paces by showing a sampling of high-resolution desktop photographs from the *Sundial* desktop photograph program followed by an excerpt from the DVD movie *A Bug's Life*. The demonstration was sufficiently compelling that by meeting's end three attendees had announced their intention to buy an *iAverKey*!

For the modest expenditure of about \$100, the *iAverKey* is a compelling purchase for schools, businesses, trainers, and for people like me who love the idea of watching DVD movies on a home television without having to buy a DVD player. If you have an *iAverKey*-compatible Macintosh and you don't mind locating your computer in proximity to your television, the *iAverKey* converter is hard to resist.

– ELSA TRAVISANO