

# GET # INFO

November, 2000

1

## OS X MEN:

The continuing account of an OS X Beta user.

Page 2

## MINUTES:

In case you weren't there, or were there and forgot it all.

Page 3

## PREZ SEZ:

More area homes are going up wireless-capable.

Page 4

## EDITORIAL:

OS X hints to serious travails in the months ahead.

Page 6

## MAP:

If you get lost, we will show you the way to go home.

Page 8



# ADOBE ACROBAT

Can it change the way we communicate for good? Columnist Ken Fermoye looks into the matter.

## EXTRA!

"Get Info" appears in full-color this month when you view the PDF version at [www.tmug.org](http://www.tmug.org)

■ By Ken Fermoye  
CONTRIBUTOR

**A**dobe Acrobat is more than just another software program. It didn't arrive with the instant impact of its ancestor, Adobe's PostScript, but it bids fair to make equally important changes in publishing as we know it.

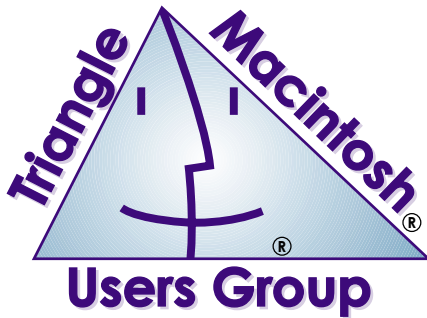
For user groups and other non-profit or educational organization, Adobe Acrobat is a tool that has special implications, not to mention benefits.

How can Acrobat be more important than PostScript, you might ask?

Didn't PostScript help create a revolution in publishing back in the mid-1980s? Certainly! PostScript, combined with PageMaker from Aldus and the Apple LaserWriter printer created what John Warner of Aldus named "desktop publishing." Then Ventura Publisher came along and extended the new technology to PCs.

We're in a new era, however, with the Internet and World Wide Web, plus hardware and software more capable than anything we dreamt of

See **ACROBAT**, page 7



## TMUG OFFICERS

### President

- Bob Chandler 782-4455  
-mvantage@aol.com
- Smythe Richbourg 782-4455  
-tsmyther@yahoo.com

### Vice President

- Shea Tisdale 530-1122  
-shea@networkarts.com
- Chips Chapman 336-226-7425  
-velomac@mindspring.com

### Treasurer

- Jeff Cole 683-8543  
-jcole@nc.rr.com

### Secretary

- Duane Reaugh 833-8426  
-duane@dtsoftware.com

### BBS System operator

- Paul Lemieux 460-0736  
-plemieux@tmug.org

### Training CD librarian

- Bob Seila 541-2214  
-robert\_seila@tmug.org

### Newsletter

- William K. Scurry Jr. 309-0892  
-americancaesar@earthlink.net

### Ambassador to Apple

- Jeff Gordon 541-4362  
-jeff@extensibility.com

### TMUG hotline

919-833-8501

### TMUG Web site

www.tmug.org

Thanks to NetworkArts Inc. for webhosting.

# Beta blues, vol. two

■ By David Reaugh

NBC-17

[Ed. note – This is the conclusion of Mr. Reaugh’s article from last month.]  
I have been running the OS X Beta for over a month, and have discovered the following points:

- Definitely install on a separate partition.
- Make that partitions HFS+ if you want to use OS 9 in “Classic” mode.
- Make sure your firmware is up to date.
- Make OS X your second partition.
- Realize that this is a beta.
- Firewire drives will mount, but you can’t install OS X on one.
- Harmon Kardon USB (Universal Serial Bus) Speakers will not work at all.
- Printing is really tuned to LPR printing (IP address). It works great that way, but AppleTalk printing isn’t so great.
- The clarity of the text and interface is absolutely wonderful
- Sherlock 2, the e-mail program and screen-grab programs are neat but not fully baked yet.
- The media playlist tool is awesome.
- A command line interface is a good thing, sometimes.

Applications that work in classic (actually, the only ones I’ve used): Adobe GoLive 4.01; Adobe PhotoShop 5.5; Macromedia Flash 5; Outlook Express 5.2; Outlook Client for Exchange 8.2; LiveStage Pro 2; QuickTime 4.1 (you can actually run the OS X version at the same time as the Classic version); and MS Office ’98.

Applications that didn’t work: Virtual PC 3.0; Flash 4.0a; Adobe Premiere 4.1; Adobe Premiere 5.1c (A/V capture); Internet Explorer for OS X (The Beta doesn’t handle the QuickTime plug-in very well at all).

All in all, it is a good system. I have found a rhythm that works well. I use the OS 9 partition at home for my Airport and I use OS X at work. I have had no problems using the same files in both environments and switching back and forth between them. OS X boots up pretty quick and wakes up even faster.

I like the OS – even though it has far to go, it works well. I have yet to pull the power supply and battery to reboot it. I haven’t even had to hit the “power-command-control” combination to restart either. Anytime an app has locked up, the new force quit command at best only killed the app, and at the worst (if it was an OS 9 “Classic” app) it took down the entire Classic environment. It seems to be quite stable, and overall, pretty easy to get used to.

[Let us know about your OS X experience – we’d love to hear about it.] ▼

**Captains Courageous:** Jeff Cole, Bob Chandler and Smythe Richbourg prepare the the talk on networking last month.



A G4 Cube setup that visited TMUG last month.

# October meeting minutes

Just like *Nightline's* written transcript of that evening's show, except way better

■ By Chips Chapman

TMUG

Co-President Smythe Richbourg opened the October meeting with an introduction of our new ruby iMac. Smythe announced TMUG's latest raffle: a new Palm IIIc we received from Ted Ladd of Palm Inc. Tickets are on sale for \$10 each. The proceeds will be divided by TMUG and TAPIT (*Triangle Adherents of Palm Information Technology*). The drawing will be at the November 13 TMUG meeting.

▲▲▲

Treasurer Jeff Cole reported that the treasury contains about \$2,400 after the purchase of the new iMac and Zip drive.

▲▲▲

SysOp Paul Lemieux ([plemieux@tmug.org](mailto:plemieux@tmug.org)) gave an overview of our updated Web site. Since we don't have access to a live internet connection, he used a PDF file with screen pictures of several of the pages, including the home page, how to apply for e-mail and Web space, and how to connect to the web mail



TMUG's Chapman

option to read your [www.tmug.org](http://www.tmug.org) e-mail when you are away from your Mac.

▲▲▲

Program Vice President Chips Chapman previewed the upcoming meeting programs. Eric McFall will present sounds on the Mac for the November program. The December program will be our annual "Stocking

Stuffer," with presentations by members of neat games, utilities, or hardware under \$75. January will bring a show by Microsoft of new Office for Mac 2001. We are working on more exciting programs for 2001.

▲▲▲

Training CD Librarian Bob Seila ([robert\\_seila](mailto:robert_seila))

See **MINUTES**, page 5

# Wireless networking in vogue

## Will the freedom to roam while computing change the way we live?

I'm sitting in an empty house, showing the occasional visitor the finer points of the design and decorations of this model. What a boring way to spend a Saturday afternoon. But it's earning funds for my daughter Emily's high school choral group, so what's a dad to do, right? The annual Parade of Homes is not the usual place for me to write or even think about computers. But now that my other daughter has finished watching her DVD movie and has gone next door where her mother is similarly engaged with another house, I realize, yet again, the freedom of a PowerBook. I can sit here and write my article with all the resources that my office has, since my entire office is this computer. And very few of the visitors note anything about it. One even remarked to her husband, while Emily was enjoying *Mouse Hunt*, "We should take your laptop on trips with a movie for the kids." Turns out they already have a power adapter. There was almost an attitude of, "D'oh! Why didn't I think of that before?" among them.

The other thing that has struck me is just how much computers are becoming part of the home experience. In this model home, there is a built-in computer desk on the second floor landing, complete with adequate power plugs and a phone jack! Someone's listening to us. And in the family room, behind the TV space, there are two cable jacks and an RJ-45. This place is wired for a cable modem! That's not the case in many, if not most, of the houses that have been built in the last few years. I daresay that most of them didn't even have adequate phone jacks for modems, much less cable wiring. If this is becoming the norm with builders, then the home networking market is truly reaching a high level of penetration, maybe not equal with microwaves and telephones, but at least up there with homes that have more than one computer.

So now it starts making much more sense that our meeting last month, which covered home networking, was such a hit. Cable modems, routers, DSL connec-



**Prez Sez...**

**T. SMYTHE  
RICHBOURG**

---

**“...Wireless is getting cheaper to implement than wired, given all the headaches of a wired situation.”**

---

tions – all the topics that have sparked heated interest in the last few months have all been a part of this trend. Wired networking was the only option we used to have, since wireless was so expensive, but with the introduction of the Airport product line, Apple has once again brought advanced technology into the price range of “the rest of us.” In fact, wireless is getting cheaper to implement than wired, given all the installation headaches of a wired situation. Granted, if your computers are sitting close to each other and a printer is there as well, wired may be easier and cheaper. But I have seen folks who, once they were set up with a computer that they no longer had to “sit behind,” suddenly realize the confinement they had been under. And, who knows? Even the simple act of accessing the Internet from a different location may open you to new possibilities down the road. ▼

■ Contact TMUG President T. Smythe Richbourg at [tsmyther@yahoo.com](mailto:tsmyther@yahoo.com).

---

---

From **MINUTES**, page 3

---

@[tmug.org](mailto:tmug.org)) announced that he has training CDs for several application programs for the Macintosh, including AppleWorks, FileMaker, and Mac OS.

▲▲▲

Apple Ambassador Jeff Gordon ([jeff@extensibility.com](mailto:jeff@extensibility.com)) reminded the membership that there are a number of good deals at the MUG Store ([www.apple-mugstore.com](http://www.apple-mugstore.com)). Apple is presenting Demo Days through a partnership with MarketSource at resellers nationwide. Jeff had information on how to apply to be a Demo Days representative. O'Reilly Direct is offering discounts for many of their books.

▲▲▲

Co-President Bob Chandler ([macvantage@aol.com](mailto:macvantage@aol.com)) hosted a wide variety of questions, including:

One member using Internet Explorer 4.5 is getting "expired certificate" messages. The suggestion was to upgrade to version 5.x.

Another member's Power Mac 6500 running OS 9.0.4 is unstable; AppleWorks 5, Internet Explorer, and Outlook Express are apps that frequently crash. A clean install and an update of apps, extensions, and control panels was suggested.

Another TMUGer is having trouble doing a live update of Netscape 4.7x – after it starts, it returns to the login screen. He was told to try enabling JAVA, javascript, and allow cookies.

Someone asked what "zapping the PRAM" means. Zapping the PRAM (Parameter Random Access Memory, pronounced either "pea-ram" or phonetically) clears some of the Mac's basic settings to their defaults. When the PRAM is reset, preferences for serial ports, video, and sound are lost. This will affect the settings of several control panels, including Memory, Monitors & Sound, Keyboard, Mouse, AppleTalk, Power Manager, and Map. This may also clear other garbage settings that may be corrupted. The way to zap it is to hold down the Command, Option, P and R keys simultaneously as the Mac restarts. Apple's documentation says to release the keys after the start-up chime sounds a second time, but some Mac

experts recommend holding the keys down until the chime sounds three or four times.

Another simple Mac maintenance item is to rebuild the desktop. This should be done if you see generic file icons or if the files lose their application links. It may be necessary to do this after installing new software. Some people recommend doing it once a month. The reason is that there are two invisible files on the Mac for each volume – the Desktop DB and the Desktop DF, software pieces that keep up where all the other files are on the Mac and how they associate with each other. As the Mac is used, these files get bloated and sometimes corrupt. To rebuild the desktop, hold down the Command and Option keys simultaneously while the computer starts. A dialog box asks if you are sure you want to rebuild the desktop, to which you should answer OK. You can also rebuild the desktop of ejectable disks by holding down the Command and Option keys when they are inserted.

There are utilities that do a thorough job of rebuilding the desktop and zapping the PRAM, such as the free program TechTool ([www.techtool.com](http://www.techtool.com)) or the commercially available TechTool Pro.

▲▲▲

The program for the October meeting was Home Networking.

Jeff Cole ([jcole@nc.rr.com](mailto:jcole@nc.rr.com)) gave an overview of some of the types of networks that can be set up in your home. Since all recent Macs have Ethernet capabilities built in, no hardware is needed to install in the Mac. The simplest network is to connect two Macs, but to do that a special Ethernet cable is needed, commonly called a "crossover cable." It functions similar to a hub, but can connect only two computers. This is a simple way to transfer files, and its cost is around \$5-\$10. For added stability and for future expansion, use a hub with standard "cat-5" Ethernet cables. A 4-port hub costs around \$40. Cable cost depends on the length. You can purchase standard lengths or have it made to your requirements. You can connect as many computers and Ethernet capable printers as you

See **MINUTES**, page 6

---

From **MINUTES**, page 5

have ports on the hub. To allow access to the Internet by multiple computers concurrently, a hub-router-server combination is needed. Jeff described the network he has installed in his home, and showed a photo of the hub and router in his closet. It's possible to wire your home for anywhere from \$250-\$400. Jeff also recommended *The Little Network Book* by Lon Poole and John Rizzo as a great reference.

Smythe Richbourg ([smythe@macvantage-inc.com](mailto:smythe@macvantage-inc.com)) elaborated on including a router in your home network. He recommended the Etherfast Netrouter from Linksys (around \$90). This will take the place of a dedicated computer to route the traffic between the network and the internet. Otherwise, the dedicated computer would act as the server and firewall. The small Linksys box is easily configurable with a browser, and can be reset in a less than a minute. It can take also input from a cable modem and doesn't require additional software.

Paul Hudspeth, our resident Apple Education Specialist, took networking to the next level – wireless. Paul described the capabilities of the AirPort base station (\$299), which includes a 56K modem, Ethernet, and 2.56 GHz wireless radio transmission standard (DSSS), also known as IEEE 802.11. The AirPort base station is the wired access point that will transmit and receive to other AirPort card (\$99) configured Macs within 150 ft. Paul demonstrated the simple installation of an AirPort card into TMUG's new iMac: Open the cover on the iMac, install the card into its holder, connect a small cable from the iMac to the card, slide it into the slot in the iMac, close the cover, and turn on the iMac. OS 9 will recognize the AirPort card and will step the user through the configuration. Settings in the AppleTalk and TCP/IP control panels need to be configured. ▼

■ Contact TMUG Vice President Chips Chapman at [velomac@mindspring.com](mailto:velomac@mindspring.com).

# Over before it even begins?

**Hold the phone! Mac OS X is nice and all, what hope does it have of survival in its present form?**

Like many Mac enthusiasts, I got my greasy mitts on that Beta of Mac OS X just as soon as they let me out of prison last month. I tore open the box and read the rather understated (which is an understatement in itself) manual before giving it a go on a G3 Sawtooth

**EDITORIAL** minitower bearing a 350 MHz processor and 128MB of RAM. The installation was a trial-and-error process that took me the better part of two days, on and off. With a bit of help from my TMUG buddies, I got it going and was dazzled by the Aqua features and it's overall hardiness. What I was disappointed by was how difficult it was to get to that point and how hard it was to use legacy (Carbonized) applications.

I'm not exactly speaking on *my* behalf here – the computer I installed this on was at my place of business. I invited some co-workers (many of them casual Mac users) to mess around on it. They were, for the most part, put off by the Classic environment, and I don't blame them one bit. I worked extensively in the Carbonized environment and found that while I could indeed use most of the DTP tools I rely on for so much of my work, it wasn't as productive as working in the OS 9.0x native environment.

I'm sure Apple will resolve many of the Carbon issues by the time they roll out the finished product three years from now, but my point is that I can't see many casual Mac users getting the hang of operating like this.

Quark and Adobe will have to put in many late nights to keep pace with all the problems that are going to arise this Spring. Pass the aspirin. ▼

–William K. Scurry Jr.  
([americancaesar@earthlink.net](mailto:americancaesar@earthlink.net))

From **ACROBAT**, page 1

15 years ago. And Adobe Acrobat, especially the current 4.0x versions, fits right into this new era. It's a unique publishing tool, more versatile than anything we've known in the past. Consider these points:

- You can use Acrobat to publish a document from virtually any application in a Portable Document Format (PDF) file.

- Acrobat is a true cross-platform application. Its PDF files can be created and read on both PC and Mac computers.

- Conversion of document files to PDF can be a simple drag-and-drop operation, but there are several other ways Acrobat can create PDF files.

- It is especially easy to create PDF from within Office apps such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and Adobe apps such as Photoshop and PageMaker. (Quark is a different story, however.)

- PDF files preserve the fonts, formatting, colors and graphics of the original source document, regardless of the application and platform used to create it.

- You don't have to be a publishing genius or understand how the program works to use it effectively for such chores as converting a PageMaker newsletter or Word document to PDF for distribution via e-mail. You do have to spend more time to learn the more sophisticated features that Acrobat also offers.

- Acrobat captures Web pages or entire sites and converts them to PDF files for convenient offline viewing and printing.

And that's just for starters. For more detailed information including FAQs, User Forums and tutorials, go to [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/main.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/main.html).

Adobe Acrobat can play an important role in the distribution of information by user groups and other educational or not-for-profit organizations that publish newsletters and journals.

Distributing hardcopy newsletters via the U.S. Postal Service may not be the best choice for user groups. It's

expensive, vying with meeting place rental as the major item in most groups' budgets. It's a slow, especially if newsletters go out as third class mail. It also places major restrictions on editors.

"I want to get the news printed on paper so I can sit and enjoy it with a cup of coffee. I don't want to read it on a computer monitor!" Those are the comments we hear all too frequently.

But think about it for a minute. The newsletter you get via snail mail is printed in plain black and white, right? And it usually contains eight or 12 pages; more must be added in multiples of at least two pages, usually four.

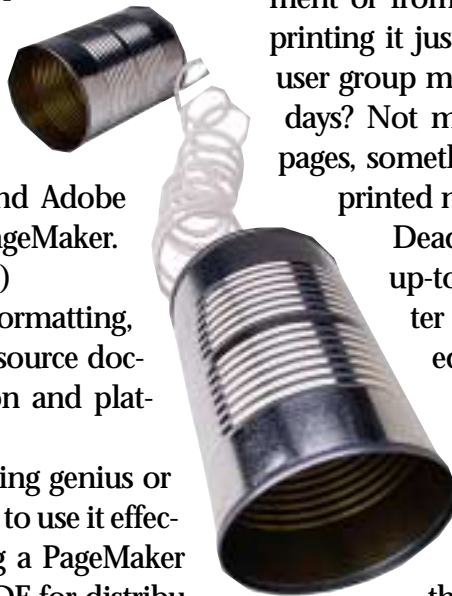
Downloading a typical PDF newsletter as an attachment or from a Web site takes only a few minutes, printing it just a few minutes more. And how many user group members don't have a color printer these days? Not many, so editors can add color to their pages, something too expensive even to consider for printed newsletters.

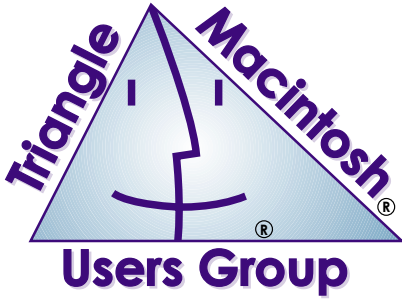
Deadlines become more elastic and more up-to-date news included. Once the newsletter has been thoroughly proofread, corrected and converted to a PDF file, it's ready to post on a Web site or go out via e-mail without delay.

This isn't your typical software application review – and it isn't meant to be. It's meant to be a thought, started for groups (and individuals) who are willing to consider a new, effective and efficient means of publishing documents in the new millennium.

At \$249 for the full version of 4.0 (\$99 for update version), Adobe Acrobat may be pricey for the casual, occasional user but it makes sense for anyone who produces a lot of documents and needs to distribute them widely via e-mail or on CDs. It also makes a great dollars and cents value for any group. ▼

- *Copyright 2000 by Ken Fermoye, Fermoye Publications. Fermoye has written over 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes and PC Laptop. For comments or more information, you can contact the author at [kfermoyle@earthlink.net](mailto:kfermoyle@earthlink.net).*





P.O. Box 28623  
Raleigh, NC 27611

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

**First Class  
Mail**

The Triangle Macintosh Users Group meets on the second Monday of every month at the Environmental Protection Agency campus auditorium in Research Triangle Park on T.W. Alexander Drive.

**TRIANGLE MACINTOSH USERS GROUP**  
Membership application

Membership & directory     Membership only     Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are \$35/year. Make check payable to TMUG and send to

**TMUG P.O. Box 28623 Raleigh, NC 27611**

