

THE APPLE BARREL

the **JOURNAL** of the **HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP**

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April 2018

Dwight Silverman

Antisocial Media: Staying Private on the Public Internet

Saturday, April 21

CenterPoint Energy Community Center

7001 Fifth Street; Bellaire, TX 77401

9 am - 1 pm



Reviewed: Matias Tactile Pro

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**Meeting Recap: Home Automation
with Apple HomeKit (Josh Centers)**

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The Apple Barrel
is a monthly publication of
The Houston Area Apple Users Group (HAAUG)
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Houston Area Apple Users Group is Houston's oldest and largest Apple User Group. If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG hotline at (832) 422-8437 or sign up via our web site at www.haaug.org.

Annual membership is \$35 for regular members, and \$10 for

student members (limited to students enrolled at a high school, community college, or university.) The Hotline is also the Mentor line if you need help. Guests are welcome to attend one or two meetings to get acquainted with HAAUG, but participation in certain activities may be limited to members only. For a full list of membership benefits as well as a form to join HAAUG by mail, see the Membership Benefits page later in this issue.

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by Phil Booth, 2018 HAAUG President

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The home automation talk by Josh Centers was great. He has encouraged me to try some of the products in my house. He highlighted several dos and don'ts so you won't make your roommates mad. It was real nice to have two heavy hitters in a row speak at HAAUG. This Month Dwight Silverman of the Houston Chronicle will speak on "Antisocial Media: Staying Private on the Public Internet."

Apple had an Education focused presentation in Chicago where they announced new iPads and software frameworks for education. Apple has lost ground to Google's Chromebook in the K-12 area. Apple is trying to get back in to the education market with these products.

Apple also announced the dates for the World Wide Developers Conference. The conference is scheduled for June 4-8th in San Jose CA. The random drawing is already closed. WWDC is not really designed for users but if you are an app developer for Apple OS's then you really need to attend.

Apple released updates to iOS (11.3) watchOS, and tvOS. The iOS update should address the performance throttling on older iPhones due to battery aging. There is an update to the macOS (10.13.4) When will Apple move to OS 11.0? I think that they have rung out OS X as far as it can go. The macOS update will support external GPUs and has increased security and business chat.

By the time you read this, International Backup Day will have passed (March 31, 2018). The Atlanta city administration learned the hard way to have good security and good backups. The City of Atlanta was inconvenienced by ransomware that took many of the city's systems down. From news reports I heard the city was warned several times to harden their systems. You don't know how much you depend on computer systems until they are hobbled. I pay most of my bills using my bank's website and I depend on their efforts to keep the system immune to attack. I could go back to writing checks but I have gotten used to the ease of online bill pay.

We also learned that data from Facebook was used to target individuals during the 2016 election. If you didn't know that Facebook was designed to gather as much information about you and sell it to their clients, you know now. Cambridge Analytica, was either given or bought tons of data about Facebook subscribers. Depending on whom you listen to the services of Cambridge Analytica was either a real help in various campaigns or did not amount to much. I use Facebook to check in on friends, but I know that my activities are being used to target ads in my direction. Remember: when the service is free, you are the product.

Club and Meeting News

Dwight Silverman

Antisocial Media: Staying Private on the Public Internet

Saturday, April 21

CenterPoint Energy Community Center

7001 Fifth Street; Bellaire, TX 77401

9 am - 1 pm



CenterPoint Energy Community Center	
9:00 am	Mac 101 and Fundamentals, iOS Jonathan Magnus and Rick Roberts
9:30 am	
10:00 am	
10:30 am	
11:00 am	Antisocial Media: Staying Private on the Public Internet Dwight Silverman
11:30 am	
12:00 pm	
12:30 pm	
1:00 pm	
1:30 pm	
2:00 pm	

Special Interest Groups

Mac 101 and Fundamentals with Jonathan Magnus: The SIG for basic to advanced Mac topics.

iOS with Rick Roberts: Discuss all things iPhone, iPad, iPod, iTunes, and iCloud.

Special Interest Group and Ad Hoc Meetings: Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics. Scheduled SIGs take precedence. If you have an idea for a SIG, email the HAAUG SIG Coordinator at SIG_Coordinator@haaug.org!

Upcoming Events

May 19, 2018: Lee Hutchinson (ArsTechnica) – *Net Neutrality*

June 16, 2018: Ryan Esworth (Redline Networking) – *You Might Already Know This...*

July 21, 2018: **No Swap Meet** – Topic TBD

August 18, 2018: Phil Booth (HAAUG President) – *Final Cut Pro*

November 17, 2018: Mike King, Marcy Spears, Ryan Esworth (HAAUG Panel) – *Three Case Studies in Home Automation*

Discounts for User Group Members

As a member of the Houston Area Apple Users Group, you're eligible for a wide range of discounts for User Group members! To see the current deals and offers, visit the [Apple User Group Resources](#) site, and enter the special access code in the emailed newsletter.

Meetup Group

The Houston Area Apple Users Group is now on Meetup.com! Click here to visit our group's Meetup page and join. We will of course continue to publish all meeting news on our website at haaug.org, to our Facebook group, and all other outlets as usual; this is simply an additional way to market our organization to the local community. If you are already a HAAUG member and join the Meetup group we will mark your dues as paid on the Meetup website, so you won't have to pay HAAUG dues twice!

HAAUG Website Updates

If you haven't visited the [HAAUG website](#) recently, stop by and check it out. Learn more about the organization, get up-to-the-minute news and updates, and browse the Apple Barrel archives, dating back to 1996!

Submit Your Content to Apple Barrel!

Have you tried a new Mac or iOS application? Found a neat accessory for your iPhone? Want to share a cool tip you've come across? Write about it, and send your column to editor@haaug.org. You can help make the Apple Barrel a better publication while providing valuable insight and opinion to your fellow HAAUG members.

Review: Matias Tactile Pro by Phil Booth

You don't want to be in the same room with me when I work. I traded my relatively quiet keyboard for the Tactile Pro keyboard by Matias. My Macally keyboard has served me since I owned my Power Mac G3 in Bondi Blue, but the years of use have dimmed the white printing on black keys, making it hard to use. I know that I should not be looking at the keys when I type, however there are times I need to find the home row to correct my hand position.

I read descriptions of the Matias mechanical keyboard in various websites; it was designed like the old Apple Extended Keyboard II, which many said, was the best keyboard ever. I had one of those when I had my first Mac. Matias uses the Alps mechanical key switch. It has a long throw and a definite loud click. You would not use this keyboard if a significant other is sleeping in the room.

Keyboards are an individual preference. Some folks like the new Apple keyboards some don't. In the short time that I have used this unit I have enjoyed using the keyboard. The noise is reassuring. I feel that I am hitting the right keys, and my speed feels faster. I like the key travel on this keyboard. The white key with black printing is easy to read under most lighting conditions. The keys are also marked with the option characters, which makes it easier to use accented characters. The keyboard has a full function row above the numbers that has the computer control mapped to them. It also has a full numeric keypad for ease of entering numbers.

The keyboard also has three normal USB ports, and one

micro USB port that you use to connect the keyboard to the computer. Included in the box are two micro USB to USB (one short and one long.) What is not included in the box is detailed instructions. The only documentation include is a card that says, "Plug the keyboard into the computer. You're now ready to start typing." You have to figure out that you plug the cable in the micro USB port. The card does tell you how to access some of the special characters. It also tells you about the warranty and how to get service. The build quality seems to be very good. Everything feels well put together. The micro USB port might be the weak point but as long as you don't stress the cable it should hold together.

On most keyboards the "F" and "J" keycaps have a bump that guides your hands to the home row. I wish that the bumps on this keyboard were larger. I feel the bumps, but if they were bigger it would make orienting hands and fingers easier.

One disadvantage is the price. At close to \$150.00 it is not cheap. There are equivalent units for around \$100.00. I also tried out some of the "gaming" keyboards on display. They had the key travel but not the heavy click. Their prices were close to the Tactile Pro, and they are "Windows" centric.

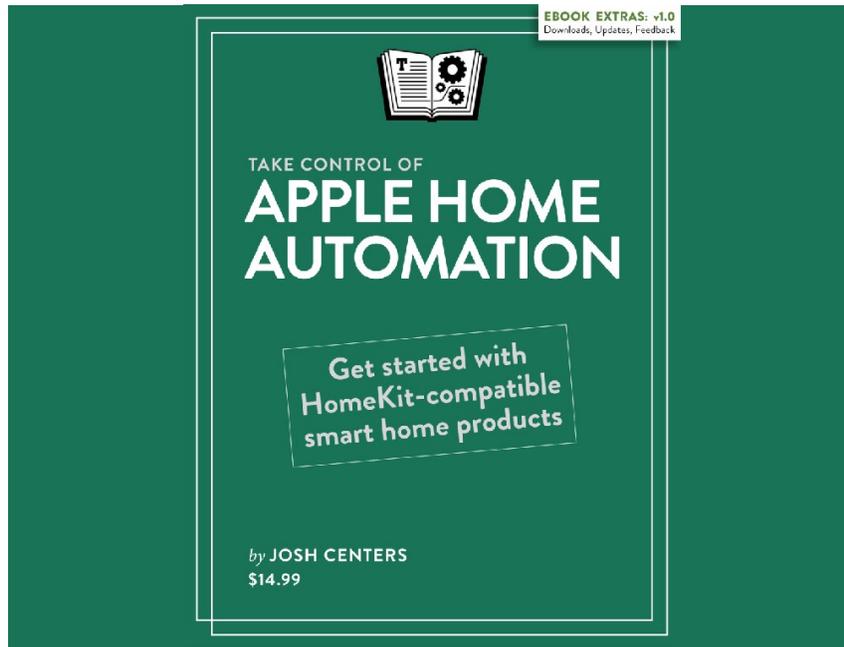
I might be biased because I bought the keyboard but I would rate it at four stars out of five.

[*Matias Tactile Pro; \\$150*](#)



Meeting Recap – Josh Centers March 2018

On March 17, Josh Centers, author of [Take Control of Apple Home Automation](#) and a writer for [TidBITS](#), presented on the topic of home automation using Apple HomeKit. Click below to access the slide deck from Josh's presentation. Our thanks to Josh for his great presentation to the group!



[Click here to access the slide deck from Josh's presentation.](#)

Board Meeting Minutes December 2017

Houston Area Apple Users Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

December 16, 2017

Location: CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7001 5th Street, Bellaire, TX.

Attendees: Phil Booth, David Jaschke, Mike King, Steve Bridgman, and Clair Jaschke, and Marcy Spears. Absent: Ryan Esworth, Mike Epstein

Call to Order: By President Phil Booth at 11:55 a.m. following the conclusion of the presentation.

Monthly Reports

General Announcements: Phil Booth took time off to make the arrangements at the Hilton Southwest for the Swap Meet to be held on January 20, 2018.

Secretary: Clair Jaschke presented the minutes of the November 2017 BOD meeting for the secretary, Marcy Spears. Acceptance of the minutes for the November 2017 BOD meeting was proposed by Phil, and were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Clair Jaschke reported our checking account balance as of the end of November 2017 was \$2,106.20. Our savings account balance was \$10,004.87, for total cash on hand of \$12,111.07. All bills were paid and all funds deposited for November.

Current presenter expenses were taken care of, e.g. two presenters' airfare and one presenter's hotel expenses.

Phil Booth made a motion to approve \$179.10 for an upgrade to the AccountEdge 2018 software. The motion was seconded by Dave Jaschke and Mike King.

Membership: David Jaschke presented the HAAUG Membership Count Report ended, November 30, 2017, with 125 members, the same count as October. End of November 2016, we had 135 members. For the month of November, we had at total of 10 transactions of which 3 were by web. We had 3 two-year renewals and 3 lapsed renewals. All in all it was not bad month for membership renewals for November.

We sent out 29 renewal letters dated from October 29, 2017 to March 4, 2018; today and we can hope for a good number of renewals in the months of December and January.

Board member election for 2018: Nominations for the 2018 board of directors were done in November. At the December business meeting, the nominated board members were elected by acclamation for the 2018 year.

President	Phil Booth
Vice-president	Steve Bridgman
Secretary	Marcy Spears
Treasurer	Clair Jaschke
Membership	David Jaschke

Media Admin. Ryan Esworth

Directors-at-large (2) Mike King

Mike Epstein

Programming Report: A programming-planning meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Midtown Cafe Express.

Steve said that Josh Centers of TidBits presentation on home automation is still a possible presentation for later. Josh is the author of the "A Prairie HomeKit Companion," which focuses on the what, when, why, and how of home automation.

Bob Levitus is confirmed to speak in February 2018

Steve Bridgman proposed/discussed programming for 2018 that includes:

January 2018 SWAP meet

Using e-mail and related problems may be a good topic for a future meeting.

Other suggestions included a presentation on Sparkle, having Dave Hamilton discuss mesh networks, and a presentation on the Internet of Things.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems: Ryan Esworth reported that the November Apple Barrel and announcements were distributed this month. Both the HAAUG Facebook and Meetup sites were up-to-date.

New Business:

Claire and Phil explained that Chase Bank reclassified the HAAUG bank accounts. They notified us that they want to charge \$30 a month for the accounts. Phil plans to talk to the bank to see if that can be fixed.

Clair reported that she had to order new checks with a new P. O. Box for HAAUG. She had to buy office supplies and stamps.

Phil noted that HAAUG is about \$2,000 in the hole because we pay for the swap meet. It is built into the budget.

Phil made a motion to approve the 2018 budget, which was seconded by Dave Jaschke and Mike King. The general membership will approve the budget in January 2018.

Phil proposed that he will reserve our current meeting location for the next twelve months.

Adjournment: Phil Booth adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m. and it was seconded by David Jaschke and Mike King

Board Meeting Minutes

January 2018

Houston Area Apple Users Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 20, 2018

Location: CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7001 5th Street, Bellaire, TX.

Attendees: Phil Booth, Dave Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Mike Epstein, Steve Bridgham, and Ryan Eisworth; absent Marcy Spears and Mike King.

Call to Order: By President Phil Booth at 12:25 p.m. following the conclusion of the presentation.

Monthly Reports

General Announcements: A majority of the HAAUG members present at the January meeting approved the 2018 budget. The motion to accept was made by David Crook and seconded by David Rosenberg.

Question: Please explain the amount estimated for rent.

Answer: It is \$75 per month for ten months plus \$2000 for the swap meets averaging \$229.17 per month for 2018.

HAAUG Meeting Rental Space: Bellaire has accepted all of the 2018 meeting dates as provided to the board by email by Phil Booth. Phil will supply the contracts to Clair Jaschke.

Chase Bank Issue: After the December meeting Phil went to the Chase Bank branch to discuss service fees on the checking account. Chase has put us in a non-interest bearing account which does not have service fees but the checking account will no longer draw interest. Phil will supply the related paperwork to Clair Jaschke.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December meeting were not available, Marcy Spears was out because of a family illness. Ryan took notes for the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Clair Jaschke reported our checking account balance as of the end of December 2017 was \$2,591.44. Our savings account balance was \$10,004.95, for total cash on hand of \$12,596.39. All bills were paid and all funds deposited for December. Sales taxes for 2017 have been paid (due on 20th). The P. O. Box address was updated for State of Texas Comptroller.

Acclivity has been acquired by Priority Software (this is the developer of the AccountEdge software that we use).

Books are ready for the audit committee for 2016 and 2017 (the 2016 audit never took place).

Membership: David Jaschke presented the HAAUG Membership Count Report ended, December 30, 2017, HAAUG ended the year with 124 member, down by one from November. This time last year we had 135 members, a loss of 11 memberships for the year. We had 10 renewals in December, of which 6 were regular, 1 two-year, and 2 late renewals. Of those we had one each by web and by credit card. Not bad for December renewals.

Programming Report: We had a programming summit on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Uptown Park Cafe Express, attended by Phil, David, and Steve. Phil proposed that we

try again to have another meeting on Feb 6 at the same location. At the last programming meeting we discussed ideas including iTunes, Home Automation, Cloud and Syncing, Managing Photos, Office365, and others. Steve has reached out to Dave Hamilton, Dwight Silverman, and Lee Hutchinson all of whom expressed interest in speaking to the group.

Bob Levitus is confirmed to speak in February 2018. Steve will email Doug confirming that all arrangements for Bob are in place.

Current plans have Josh Centers scheduled to talk about Home Automation at the March meeting. He is not sure that he can physically attend, so the meeting may be done using FaceTime or Skype. Josh is the author of the "A Prairie HomeKit Companion," which focuses on the what, when, why, and how of home automation.

Proposed future meetings:

Lee Hutchinson has suggested the idea of talking about Net Neutrality and has also suggested the May and August meeting dates. We will hold off on confirming Hutchinson until we get date suggestions for the other two speakers.

Neither Dwight Silverman nor Dave Hamilton have confirmed topics or committed to a date. We'll try for Hamilton in October.

Steve received an email from Brent Carter, inviting Steve, Raf with the FileMaker group, and an iOS developer to discuss how Apple can get more into the community. There is some potential for speakers from Apple to visit HAAUG in the future.

More planning will take place at the scheduled February 6 programming summit.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems: Ryan Eisworth reported that the December Apple Barrel and announcements were distributed this month. Both the HAAUG Facebook and Meetup sites were up-to-date. Ryan working on a better format for the Apple Barrel. Clair will send approved budget to publish in the next issue.

New Business:

The summer swap meet usually scheduled for July has been cancelled.

Instead of a summer swap meet, Ryan proposed an idea to pull other groups in the Houston area together to do a meet and greet type thing. Ryan will try to generate a list of contacts for the groups. Sometime in March he will try to get this going. He will also send some feelers out to see if there's any interest. In addition he will explore the possibility of connecting with the Southwest Technology Fair and the Houston Tech Faire.

The Audit Committee will meet some weekday evening before the next meeting. The audit committee is Phil Booth, Mike Epstein, and Mike King.

Adjournment: Phil Booth adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes

February 2018

Houston Area Apple Users Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 20, 2018

Location: CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7001 5th Street, Bellaire, TX.

Attendees: Phil Booth, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Mike Epstein, Steve Bridgham, Marcy Spears, and Ryan Eisworth; absent Mike King.

Call to Order: By President Phil Booth at 12:50 p.m. following the conclusion of the presentation.

Monthly Reports

General Announcements: The January Swap Meet did not go well due to a low turn from both the vendors, HAAUG members, and the public.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the January meeting were not available, Marcy Spears was out in January because of a family illness. Thank you Ryan for taking notes for the January meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Clair Jaschke reported our checking account balance as of the end of January 2018 was \$2,168.80. Our savings account balance was \$10,005.04, for total cash on hand of \$12,173.84. All bills were paid and all funds deposited for January.

Membership: David Jaschke presented the HAAUG Membership Count Report ended January 31, 2018 with 123 members, down by one from December. In January 2017 we had 132 members. For the month of January, we had 5 transactions of which two were lapsed renewals. We had two two-year renewals and three renewals by web.

Programming Report:

The programming summit meeting scheduled for February was rescheduled for March 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Uptown Park Cafe Express (1101 Uptown Park Blvd, Ste 12, Houston, TX 77056, (713) 963-9222).

Steve reported that Dwight Silverman, Dave Hamilton and Jeff Davis all said yes to making presentations at the HAAUG meeting this year.

Proposed future meetings:

(March, confirmed): Steve confirmed that Josh Centers of TidBits will come to Houston to discuss home automation at the March meeting. Josh is the author of the "A Prairie

HomeKit Companion," which focuses on the what, when, why, and how of home automation.

(April, tentative): Dwight Silverman Topic to be determined.

(May or August, tentative): Lee Hutchinson (from Clear Lake, TX) has suggested the idea of talking about Net Neutrality.

June (TBD)

July (TBD). The swap meet has been cancelled.

August (TBD). It may be Lee Hutchinson if he does not speak in May.

(September, tentative): Reagan Atkinson from the Houston Camera Exchange will discuss Photoshop

(October tentative): Dave Hamilton. He will be coming from out of town, so airfare and hotel reimbursements will be required. Topic to be determined.

November (TBD)

December (TBD)

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems: Ryan Eisworth reported that he was running behind and proposed that the next Apple Barrel issue should be a combined February and March issue. The announcements were distributed this month. Both the HAAUG Facebook and Meetup sites were up-to-date.

New Business: No new business.

Adjournment: Phil Booth motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m. and it was seconded by Clair Jaschke and Steve Bridgham.

Membership Benefits

Monthly Meetings

This is where the excitement begins. On the third Saturday of each month, members of HAAUG meet for a day filled with activities, including presentations by major software and hardware vendors, special interest group (SIG) meetings, raffles, and much, much more. Swap Meets are held twice each year, in January and July.

Social Media & Internet Presence

The HAAUG web site at <http://www.haaug.org> is the place to go for up-to-date information on what we are doing. In addition, there is a [HAAUG group on Facebook](#), where people can go to interact with fellow HAAUG members on topics of interest related to Apple and its products.

Club Magazine

Club and industry news, meeting information and special member offers are published in our monthly newsletter – The Apple Barrel, which is available to members on the HAAUG website in Adobe PDF format.

Mentor Program

The HAAUG Mentor Program puts people with hardware, software, system or network problems in contact with volunteers who can provide solutions. Contact with the mentors can be made through the HAAUG Hotline, e-mail, or at the monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

People with common interests, including Macintosh and OS X basics, iOS, Internet, games, educational computing, databases, publishing, graphics, desktop video, programming and more gather for in-depth discussion, product demonstrations, tutorials and general knowledge sharing.

HAAUG Hotline

Call the HAAUG Hotline at 832-305-5999 for the latest meeting information and to leave voice mail for officers.

Lots of Fun & Friendships

HAAUG is a not-for-profit volunteer group founded in 1978, three years before there was an IBM PC. Approximately 200 members enjoy the benefits of HAAUG. We range from beginners to experts, but we all know the secret to making our computers more valuable: a HAAUG membership!

Learn more about the benefits of HAAUG membership at www.haaug.org.

Join by Mail

Please print out and complete the following form. Send a check or money order payable to HAAUG and mail it to the address shown below. Dues for regular members are \$35 per year. Student memberships are available for full-time students at a high school, community college or university for the rate of \$10 per year.

Your membership card will be mailed to you. You may pick up your starter kit at the next HAAUG meeting.

First: _____ Last: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type of Computer: _____

Membership:
 New Membership (\$35.00) Renewal (\$35.00)
 Two-Year Renewal (\$70.00) Student (\$10.00)
Requires Student ID

Check # _____ Member # (if renewing): _____

How did you hear about HAAUG?

Do you know someone who would be willing to join HAAUG? Y | N

Would you be willing to volunteer in HAAUG?

