

THE APPLE BARREL

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by Phil Booth, 2020 HAAUG President

"I rode through the desert on a horse with no name." Yes, I am still running Mojave. I guess that I am a little nervous about how the newest version of macOS will break my system. I also have not seen a compelling reason to upgrade, very similar to my holding on to my iPhone 6 Plus for so long. I have moved to an iPhone 11 Pro and after a few weeks I am loving it. Since Bob LeVitus will be our speaker at the February meeting, he might say whether we should upgrade our systems. The big bug-a-boo is the compatibility of 32-bit apps. We were told by the publisher of the software that HAAUG uses to keep the club's books that it will not be rewritten for 64-bit. The alternative will be to move to their "cloud" web application.

Welcome to 2020. At the December meeting the assembled membership agreed to the budget and the slate of officers. The slate is the same as last year and I thank the membership for their continuing confidence in the board. On a sad note Marcy Spears informed the board that she would have to

resign because of personal issues. So, the club is looking for a new Secretary. If you have any interest in joining the board, please see me.

As I said above Bob LeVitus will be making his annual visit to HAAUG February 15. Plan to attend early as his visits bring a lot of people out. Members of the board met to discuss programing and we have developed a list of possible speakers and topics, but we can still use any suggestions you might have. We conducted a survey at the November and December meetings asking you what software you use so we can try to program to your needs.

If you know anyone that received a new Apple device, Mac, iPhone, or Apple TV, encourage them to attend a meeting and become a member of HAAUG. The group can use an infusion of new members and current members are the best recruiters we have.

Remember, the February meeting will be on the 15th starting at 9:00. We will be at the CenterPoint Community Center at 7008 Fifth Street in Bellaire.

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Upcoming Events

February 15, 2020 – Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus

Don't miss our February meeting! Bob LeVitus will be giving his annual "State of the Apple" and "Cool Stuff Dr. Mac Likes" presentations.

April 18, 2020 – Dwight Silverman

Houston Chronicle tech columnist Dwight Silverman returns to the group in April. The topic of his presentation will be announced at a later date.

Thanks to Mark Norgan of the University of Houston for a great presentation on the Apple operating system changes. He was great. It is information like that that makes HAAUG relevant. The collective knowledge of the community helps to solve problems.

I have written about my new car before. I am really liking my keyless entry and ignition. Then I approach my house and have to pull out a brass key for a lock. A lock whose mechanism is over one hundred fifty years old. I am exploring the installation of smart dead bolts. I would like to walk up to my house and have the doors unlock because I have some kind of fob or my iPhone with me. I am also intrigued about "video doorbells" but I will need to study those because of the connection to cloud services. Still, it would be nice to see when someone approaches the door when I am in the other part of the house.

I read Bob LeVitus's column in Sunday's Chronicle and he is still warning folks to not jump to Catalina. Bob writes the macOS for Dummies books and if he is having problems you know that there are problems. Bob reported issues with Finder, causing him to need to restart several times in the same day. This is the first time in recent memory that an Apple operating system change has caused this much heartburn. I will not upgrade until after the holidays as I have some software that I need to use, and I am worried that changing to Catalina will render one or two of those programs unusable. In the pre-OS X days, every time that Apple changed the OS people's systems would crash. This was usually because the system was so customized that it caused problems.

Apple's recent computers are not as customizable now as they used to be, something that many folks complain about. But the hardware is uniform and should work with whatever operating system Apple releases. Even so, we are still having issues. If you have upgraded your machine to Catalina, write an article telling us how it went.

It is November and let me be one of the first to wish you a happy holiday season. Halloween has past and all the ghouls and goblins are suffering from their sugar rush. American Thanksgiving is next on the calendar. It also means that HAAUG will seek nominations for the board of directors. If you want to influence how your club is governed, please consider running for office. Contact David Jaschke if you are interested.

Join the HAAUG Board of Directors!

We will soon be asking for members to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors. Please consider putting your name up for a leadership position. For more information, talk to any board member at a meeting or send an email to president@haaug.org.

Meetup Group

The Houston Area Apple Users Group is now on Meetup.com! [Click here](#) to visit our group's Meetup page and join. Already a member? We'll 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!

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting (November 2019)

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

Attendees:

Phil Booth	Clair Jaschke	Mike King (absent)
Steve Bridgham	David Jaschke	Mike Epstein
Marcy Spears	Ryan Eisworth (absent)	

Call to Order: Phil Booth at 12:20 p.m.

Monthly Reports

General Announcements, Phil Booth: The program for November went well and covered possible techie gifts that members might want to consider for the holidays.

Secretary, Marcy Spears: Marcy did not have the minutes prepared for the previous month.

Treasurer's Report, Clair Jaschke: Clair reported our checking account balance as of the end of October 2019 was \$4,220.37. Our savings account balance was \$8,006.42, for total cash on hand of \$12,226.79. All bills were paid, and Clair will be making a deposit today. Clair provided a copy of the Board approved HAAUG Budget for the year 2020.

Membership, David Jaschke: David reported HAAUG ended October with 101 members, the same as September. We had 110 members at the end of October, 2018.

We had four renewal transactions in October, two of which were by Credit Card at the meeting. Much better activity than last month.

Programming Report, Steve Bridgham (presented by Phil Booth):

Proposed Presentations for future meetings:

- December 14, 2019 (confirmed) Lunch will be coming from Escalante's—for a December Party, after Johnathan Magnus completes his Mac 101 series.
- The December meeting will be held on Saturday, December 14th instead of the normal third Saturday of the month (December 21).
- Phil will make arrangements with the City of Bellaire related to the date-change of our meeting, December 14th.
- January 18, 2020 (confirmed) The HAAUG Swap Meet will be held at the usual meeting location—CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7001 5th Street, Bellaire, TX.
- January Programming Summit (TBD) A programming summit will be scheduled in January to plan other meetings for 2020. All HAAUG members are invited to participate.
- February 15, 2020 (TBD) Phil and/or Steve will look into requesting Bob Levitus in February.
- March 21, 2020 (tentative): We have not gotten a confirmation from Dave Hamilton.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems:No report was presented, as Ryan was absent for this meeting.

New Business, Phil Booth:

- The 2020 budget was approved unanimously by the board members.
- David set up a survey for the members to supply a list of MacOS applications used on a regular basis to help the board plan meeting topics. This information will be used to create a survey form for members to complete at the next meeting. Members who complete the form will have two chances to win prizes next month.
- A budget for \$300 (Tex-Mex) was allocated for the December Christmas Party. Phil will make the arrangements. David Jaschke moved that the allocation for the party be accepted. It was seconded by Steve Bridgham.
- The board plans to recognize Johnathan Mingus at the December party for his work as the Mac 101 presenter for over 20 years. Johnathan has helped many members of the group on an individual basis, contributing to members understanding of their systems. He will receive a proclamation suitable for framing as well as a \$100 gift certificate. David Jaschke motioned that this recognition be approved. Marcy Spears seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.
- The HAAUG members present at the December meeting will vote for the board members for the year of 2020

Adjournment: Phil Booth moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:03 p.m. All said "aye!"