

THE APPLE BARREL

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by Phil Booth, 2021 HAAUG President

2020 was filled with momentous events. The death of George Floyd and the continuing calls for racial justice was one story. The pandemic lead newscasts since March. Then there was the election. HAAUG canceled three meetings before we found Zoom, which allowed us to have meetings virtually. Participation is just a little lower than when we met live. It looks like we will be virtual for the foreseeable future. One advantage of using a product like Zoom is we can get more out of town presenters to meetings. One of the drawbacks of being online is the lack of social interaction. I enjoyed sharing a doughnut with members. Going to lunch after the meeting was an activity I always enjoyed.

This year Apple introduced several updates to iPhones and new watches, but the biggest news was the introduction of several Mac computers with Apple-designed silicon chips. This signals a move away from Intel. This also means a move away from the Intel code base to the new code for the new Apple Silicon. There will be a transition period, but eventually software vendors will need to change their code for the new chip. Early reviews of computers with the new chip are good. Dwight Silverman and Bob LeVitus both wrote glowing reviews about the new machines.

I have been an Apple Computer user from the days of the Apple II. I remember the rest of the world thinking that we were a cult. Microsoft Windows dominated, and still does, but Apple is no longer considered a cult. If you look at commercials and several TV shows, there is an Apple computer visible in the scene. There may be a sticker covering the Apple logo, but it is an Apple computer. A number of companies are using iPads to manage customer interaction. I have had plumbers use an iPad to bill me for services. It is convenient to pay by credit card and get the receipt in your email.

Apple has gone from a company on its last legs in the 1990s to a multi-billion-dollar behemoth. Apple has its fingers in more pies than hardware, including software sales through the App Store, the Apple Music service, and Apple TV+. I'm not sure that Steve Jobs would recognize Apple if he were still alive.

So where are we now? HAAUG will continue to meet via Zoom for at least the first half of 2021. The group's finances are in good shape since we have not had to pay for facility rent. I hope that we can use some of those funds to attract speakers to the group. We will continue to be a source of help and advice as you use your computer, iPhone, iPad, and Apple Watch. The changes in macOS and iOS might cause some people heartburn but remember: HAAUG is here to help.

A Note from the Editor

It has been a while since most of you have heard from me or received an issue of the newsletter in your email, and I apologize for that. As was probably the case for many of you, during the early part of last year a lot changed for me in a short period of time, and it has been one thing after another ever since. Things are settling back down finally, and I hope to have the newsletter back on its normal monthly publication schedule.

As I ramp the production of The Apple Barrel back up, I want to remind everyone that we always welcome your articles. If you downloaded a new application on your iPhone, iPad, or Mac, tell us about it. If you want to share your experiences with one of Apple's fancy new M1-based computers, let us know. With your contributions the newsletter can be a more vibrant resource for the group.

Lastly, I hope everyone in our group is safe and well, and I look forward to the day when we can meet in person again and have the "Lunch SIG" afterwards. Until then, our Zoom meetings are the next best thing. If you haven't attended one of our virtual meetings yet, please give it a try! The Zoom application is available on iPhone and iPad in addition to the Mac. We have some great meetings coming up, so don't miss out! See you on the 'net.

Ryan Eisworth

Upcoming Events

January 16, 2021 – Jonathan Magnus (Virtual Meeting over Zoom)

Our own Jonathan Magnus will be delivering the main presentation at our next meeting, helping you with all your Mac and iOS problems and keeping you up-to-date with the tech world.

February 20, 2021 – Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus (Virtual Meeting over Zoom)

A yearly tradition, Dr. Mac will be addressing the group at our February meeting over Zoom. Don't miss this one! Unlike most of our meetings with Dr. Mac, there's no need to worry about finding a parking space since you can join us from your living room!