Apple II • Macintosh iMac • PowerBook Members helping members since 1978

New G4 reads and writes CDs, DVDs

Change intended to promote Jobs' vision of 'the digital lifestyle'

BY JEFF CARLSON IEFFC@TIDBITS.COM

Although the PowerBook G4 Titanium stole the show at this year's January Macworld Expo, Apple also tantalized the crowds with improvements to the professional Power Mac G4 line, adding faster processors and the capability to create custom CDs and DVDs.

The new machines feature PowerPC G4 chips running at speeds of 466, 533, 667, and 733 MHz, but include only single processor configurations by default. A dual-processor build-to-order option is available for the 533 MHz system for those who use one of the few pre-Mac OS X applications that can take advantage of multiple CPUs. Dual-processor options aren't currently available for the faster processors due to their limited availability.

The new machines also feature a 133 MHz system bus, a faster PCI architecture, and, in a nod to the audio and video professionals desiring more expansion options, four open PCI slots. A fifth slot, a 4x AGP (Advanced Graphics Port) graphics slot, is occupied by either an ATI RAGE 128 graphics card with 16 MB of memory 466 (the MHz configuration) or an NVIDIA GeForce2 MX graphics card with 32 MB of memory. An optional ATI RADEON card with 32 MB of Double Data Rate memory is also available as a build-to-order option.

All include gigabit Ethernet, USB and FireWire ports, optional AirPort wireless networking, and a 10 watt digital amplifier which can be hooked up to Apple's \$60 Pro Speakers.

As the current workhorse of the Macintosh line, the Power Mac G4 is the likeliest candidate to act as the hub of Steve Jobs's "digital lifestyle" Macs currently connect to devices like Palm handhelds and portable MP3 players, but Apple is now improving its position in the digital music revolution by including CD-RW (rewritable compact disc) drives in every configuration except the highend 733 MHz model. Jobs acknowledged that Apple "missed the boat" on CD-RW, which has been standard-

issue technology in the Windows world for some time. (To be fair, Apple bet on video and that DVD standards would coalesce sooner than they did, which gave CD-RW an opening it wouldn't otherwise have had.) Using the included iTunes, users can easily burn their own MP3 tracks to audio CDs. Since the Power Macs run Mac OS 9.1 with Disc Burner built in, users can also burn any data file to a single-session CD simply by dragging and dropping it on the CD in the Finder, and then choosing Burn CD from the Special menu.

It's rare to hear Jobs admit that Apple isn't at the forefront of inno-

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Apple Barrel is a monthly publication of the Houston Area Apple Users' Group, P.O. Box 570957, Houston, Texas 77257-0957.

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If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (713) 522-2179, or sign up via HAAUG Heaven, HAAUG's BBS, at (713) 993-3312, or at our web site, www.haaug.org. Annual membership is \$45 for new members, \$40 for students, \$40 for renewing members, and \$60 in US funds for foreign membership. 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 presentations and activities may be limited.

HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc.: The following are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc.: Apple, Apple II, Apple IIGS, Macintosh, Imagewriter and the Apple Logo. All other brand names mentioned are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective holders, and are hereby acknowledged.

HAAUG wishes to thank HAL-PC for providing HAAUG with Internet service.

HAAUG OFFICERS

President: JEFF DAVIS First VP — Programs: JONATHAN MAGNUS Second VP — Facilities: REX COVINGTON Secretary: LYDA MCGHEE Treasurer: ELIZABETH ENGLISH Senior Advisor: HOWARD FITTER Directors: JOE FOURNET, MIKE EPSTEIN, RANDY HERZSTEIN, MICHAEL LAWSHAE, PATTY WINKLER. Past President: REX COVINGTON HAAUG Heaven Sysop: RANDY HERZSTEIN HH Administrator: NEAL SCOTT Membership: MICHAEL LAWSHAE Apple Barrel Editor: GEORGE SROKA Librarian: MORTON BUTLER SIG Coordinator: DAVID SCHEUER Boutique: AMY DENTON Ad Manager: PETER GINGISS (acting)

Volunteer Coordinator: PETER GINGISS APPLE BARREL PUBLISHING

Publicity Chairman: JOE FOURNET

Vendor Coordinator: REX COVINGTON

The Apple Barrel was produced by a committee including Elizabeth English, Manley Mandel and Janet Marks, led by George Sroka on various Macs running PageMaker, among other things. April Enos designed the logo in the masthead.

MAC AND APPLE SIGS WANTED

Volunteers who have ideas for SIGs to run, please contact David Scheuer at (713) 464-1228 or send e-mail to david_scheuer@haaug.org.

ARTICLES NEEDED - ALL FLAVORS

Send any articles to the Apple Barrel Drop on HAAUG Heaven or e-mail them to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Houston Area Apple Users Group Board of Directors Meeting January 2, 2001

Members in attendance: Rex Covington, Mike Lawshae, Elizabeth English, Lyda McGhee, Mike Epstein, Howard Fitter, Jeff Davis, George Sroka, Joe Fournet, Mort Butler, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Patty Winkler, David Scheuer, Amy Denton.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Davis at 6:35 p.m.

Announcements

Clair Jaschke thanked everyone for her and David's lifetime memberships. Also, she has a birthday this week - Happy Birthday!

Election results were validated and the HAAUG web page has been updated with links for the January swap meet.

Reports

Secretary - Lyda McGhee. Due to an electronic malfunction (mine), the December minutes were unavailable but will be posted in the Club Business folder in the next week or so along with the January minutes.

First Vice President: Programs - Jonathan Magnus: was not present. The January meeting is the swap meet and Pangea (Bugdom, Nanosaur, CroMag Rally) will be here in February.

Second Vice President: Facilities-Rex Covington: The January swap meet will be held in the Shamrock Room at the UH Hilton. We got a special rate of \$900 instead of the customary rate of \$1,100. We have had a good response from the web forms regarding tables at the swap meet

Treasurer - Elizabeth English: Current loss year-to-date for the year 2000 is \$155.11.

Membership - David Jaschke. Current membership is 360 for the club and 10 for the ISP. Randy is still working on the membership database.

Apple Barrel - George Sroka: George has made the web forms for the swap meet. He will think about doing a special SIG on designing web forms. He has also redesigned the Apple Barrel - "a new look for a new millennium."

Apple Barrel Ad Manager-Peter Gingiss: was not present and no report was given.

SIG Coordinator-David Scheuer. David was not present and no report was given.

Apple Librarian - Mort Butler. Mort has still been unable to meet with Mike Brouillette to get the library materials. Mort has been trying out several downloading programs and Update Agent 5.0 works well - cost is \$50 for a single computer or \$250 for a CD to use on any computer.

Mentor Program - Jim Oliver: was not present and no report was given.

Volunteer Coordinator - Peter Gingiss: was not present. Volunteers are needed to help Rex at the swap meet - Mort Butler and Patty Winkler volunteered to be there early to help Rex set up everything.

Publicity Chairman-Joe Fournet and Mike Lawshae. Information has been sent out regarding the January and February meeting. Mike wants to change the name of the swap meet to Computer Trade Show & Exhibition. Since many feel that this name is somewhat misleading, alternative names are being solicited.

Boutique Manager-Amy Denton: Amy is asking for suggestions for new merchandise. Keychains and sweatshirts and shirt with the new logo were discussed. The Boutique made \$40 in December.

Committee Reports

Internet - Everything seems to be working well. We are working on being able to fix things without having to go through Stephen Cravey.

HAAUG Heaven - Robert Lacy will take care of HH while everybody else is at MacWorld.

Old Business

Associate Membership set up on Kagi is working very well - we got two new members the first day.

The Publicity Committee will meet at HAL-PC on January 17th.

No date has been set for the Action Planning Committee meeting.

Randy has not yet bought the iBook for the Membership Chairman. He will wait until after MacWorld to see if prices drop.

Patty has checked with DeBakey High School and scheduling conflicts make it unsuitable as a meeting place for the club.

New Business

Payment up to \$800 for the July, 2001 general meeting was approved subject to a final location.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Houston Area Apple Users Group Board of Directors Meeting December 5, 2000

Members in attendance: Rex Covington, Mike Lawshae, Elizabeth English, Randy Herzstein, Lyda McGhee, Mike Epstein, Howard Fitter, Jeff Davis, George Sroka, C.J. Settles, Joe Fournet, Mort Butler, David Jaschke.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Davis at 6:35 p.m.

Announcements

A special thanks is given to Mike Lawshae and Joe Fournet for the outstanding job they have done with publicity for the club. Rex saw the web announcements and said they were great!

Reports

Secretary - Lyda McGhee. The minutes were approved as written.

First Vice President: Programs -Jonathan Magnus: was not present and no report was given.

Second Vice President: Facilities-Rex Covington: UH is causing some major problems with scheduling meeting dates. We have just been informed by UH that there is no room available for the January swap meet and that nothing is booked for all of the year 2001 even though we had understood that these rooms had been reserved for months. The swap meet will be held at the Hilton Hotel at UH. The board meeting for Janu-

ary is confirmed for the 2nd at HAL-PC.

Treasurer - Elizabeth English: Current net income is \$360.67 through November.

Membership - David Jaschke. Current membership is 350 for the club and 10 for the ISP. There was an extended discussion regarding reporting procedures for membership statistics. Randy Herzstein and Mike Lawshae are still working on the membership database. It was also decided that the iBook we plan to buy for the membership chairman will have a video-out port.

Apple Barrel - George Sroka: We have a new advertiser, Data Tracker

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TAG...we're it

HAAUG's Board of Directors is looking for a tag line that accurately and enticingly describes our group. A "tag line" is like a slogan used to promote a business or organization. General Electric's "We bring good things to life" is one of many examples of tag lines.

An attractive tag line could be used to promote HAAUG through the media, in promotional materials and during membership drives. It should be something that captures the heart and history of our group.

The first few suggestions for HAAUG's tag line include: "The first computer user group in Texas," "Houston's Mac Authority" and "The largest Mac User Group in Houston." We're wide open to all ideas and suggestions. This is your group; help us come up with the perfect phrase to define and promote it.

You can submit your suggestions on HAAUG Heaven to Michael Lawshae, our new Membership Chairman, or e-mail them to him at Michael_Lawshae@haaug.org. Your creative input will be greatly appreciated.

Four-part HTML SIG starts with March HAAUG meeting

Bob Lacey has volunteered to do a beginners series special interest group on HTML, the code underlying the creation of web pages. This SIG starts in March and runs four (4) consecutive months for two hours each session from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Bob has stipulated that *only* people who make the first SIG will be admitted to later SIGs; he doesn't plan to play catch-up. Also, we expect at least 10 people. However, if the number of attendees is much less (say 3 or 4), we'll consider it a flop and

cancel the rest of the series.

This is a great opportunity to learn the basics of hypertext markup language and an basic understanding of web page creation. It is also an opportunity to invite your Mac-using friends who are interested in HTML to join HAAUG. This SIG is a perfect example of one of the many benefits of HAAUG membership.

Also, the \$25 new member special is still in effect. So not only is it a good deal, it's a *great* deal to join HAAUG now.



THANKS, MIKE

Mike Brouillette served as the HAAUG Librarian for the past few years until recent health problems prevented him from continuing in the position.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his efforts, and to wish him a speedy recovery. We appreciate what you did for HAAUG, Mike.

Also, we'd like to welcome Mort Butler as the new HAAUG Librarian.

Welcome new and renewing members

Dwight Allbritten

Urvine E Atkinson

J Douglas Austin

Thais Crittenden

C D Dodger

Mark Dube

Don C Edelman

Randy Elms

Earl Fogler

Charles L Franck

Gene A Guinn

Paul Hera

Jerry B Holtman

Alan D Jackson

Vern Mills

Rease Nash

Greg L Roberts

Virginia Roeder

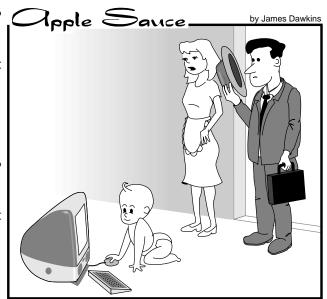
Nancy Schrull

Mary Schuster

Cheryl Stanley

Benjamin Wahli

AppleSauce created by Mr. James Dawkins appears courtesy of the Charlotte Apple Computer Club. For more info: cartoons@charlotteappleclub.org or www.charlotteappleclub.org



She said her first word today — upgrade.

MINUTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Associates, who has placed ads with us previously. A new policy states that we must have payment in advance. George will also place an ad for my PowerBook in the coming issue. We discussed mugcenter.com which allows participating Apple user groups to share articles for publication.

Apple Barrel Ād Manager - Peter Gingiss: was not present and no report was given.

SIG Coordinator - David Scheuer: David was not present but he sent his report via email. There is some confusion over equipment charges so it would help if David could see detailed billings from UH to make sure that we are using everything we are being charged for using. Rex Covington OS 9 special SIG was quite well attended, but Rick Roberts' second utility SIG did not meet.

Apple Librarian - Mort Butler. Mort is still trying to schedule a time with Mike Brouillette to pick up all the library materials. Hopefully, next week.

Mentor Program - Jim Oliver: was not present and no report was given.

Volunteer Coordinator - Peter Gingiss: was not present and no report was given.

Publicity Chairman - Joe Fournet and Mike Lawshae. Press releases have been put out concerning the January swap meet and the December meeting with Bob LeVitus. Rex has called in to 90.1 FM to the radio show, Technology Bytes, which airs Wednesdays from 8 to 10 p.m. He plans to do so again right before the December meeting to promote the appearance of Bob LeVitus.

Boutique Manager-Amy Denton: was not present and no report was given.

Committee Reports

HAAUG Heaven - Everything is up and running well. We even have a backup tape!

Internet - Everything seems to be working well. Jeff finally was able to get a new user connected.

Old Business

HAAUG hardware and software for sale - Rex took some of the club's older hardware items to Software, Etc. for consignment.

Suggestions regarding Training Days would be appreciated.

New Business

Payment up to \$800 for the June, 2001 general meeting was approved subject to a final location.

The board voted unanimously to give lifetime memberships to Clair and David Jaschke in appreciation of their 18 years of volunteer work for HAAUG. Thanks, and don't stop now! We would like to put an article about this in the Apple Barrel.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mac OS 9.1 upgrade goodies and gotchas

When you upgrade to Mac OS 9.1 from Mac OS 9.x, your Views, Trash, and default Desktop Printer preferences are lost. To bring things back to the way you like them you must reset these preferences. Also, if you're using Web Sharing and File Sharing over TCP/IP, you must also flip these back on when you upgrade.

To download all 70 MB of the OS 9.1 upgrade, go to http://www.info.apple.com/support/macos9/howtoget9.1.html

However, the downloadable upgrade to OS 9.1 will not work on NuBus Macs (including the Mac 6100, 7100, 8100 series, the 8115, and Workgroup Servers 6150, 8150, and 9150). If you wish to run Mac OS 9.1 on these Macs, you must install it from a Mac OS 9.1 CD-ROM.

In another example that Apple is listening to its customers, Mac OS 9.1 contains a keyboard command for emptying the Trash: Shift-Command-Delete. Regrettably, there doesn't appear to be a keyboard command that — like holding down the Option key and selecting Empty Trash from the Special menu — skirts the Empty Trash Warning dialog box.

FileMaker snuffed out Home Page Feb. 1

FileMaker discontinued distribution of the Home Page web-authoring software on February 1, 2001. Distribution of Home Page has been small and declining for some time, as inexpensive and even free web-page creation alternatives have multiplied. Unfortunately, the demand for Home Page does not warrant the large investment needed to revise it.

Home Page does not fit with FileMaker's focus on creating market-leading workgroup database tools. And the role Home Page once played in creating websites which serve dynamic data from FileMaker databases has been surpassed by more powerful solutions.

In keeping with our reputation as the leading provider of powerful, easy-to-use database application development tools for the workgroup, FileMaker is committed to providing straightforward ways of publishing FileMaker Pro content to the Web. FileMaker plans to make it easy for customers to export FileMaker content in a format so it can be edited by leading web-authoring tools. So it will be even easier to serve dynamic FileMaker data on web pages and websites built with leading web-authoring tools.

FileMaker will offer its standard technical support for Home Page customers through July 31, 2001.

For the complete statement plus FAQ

http://www.filemaker.com/products/ hp_end_of_life_statement.html

New G4 reads/writes DVDs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

vation, so it's no surprise that the company is adding a wrinkle to burning discs beyond even integrating it into the Finder. The top-of-the-line 733 MHz Power Mac G4 includes a SuperDrive: no, not the 1.4 MB floppy drive of the same name which originally appeared on the Mac IIx back in 1988, but rather a Pioneer device that reads *and* writes CDs and DVDs.

More importantly, the SuperDrive can write data in the DVD-Video format, which means anyone can use Apple's bundled iDVD software to burn digital movies and still images onto the disc and play them in most consumer DVD players. With the SuperDrive, for example, graphics or video professionals could easily create DVD-based demo reels and self-promotion materials.

In the case of still images, iDVD automatically creates a slide show, so friends and relatives can use their DVD remote control to scan through your photos. Apple will also begin

HAAUG meeting at Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Medical Center

Because of scheduling difficulties with the University of Houston, the HAAUG General Meeting in February will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Houston Medical Center at 6701 Main.

Be sure to check http:// www.haaug.org for up-to-date information as the meeting location was not confirmed when the Apple Barrel went to press.

Also, allow some extra time to accommodate the new location and to pickup a room schedule for SIGs.

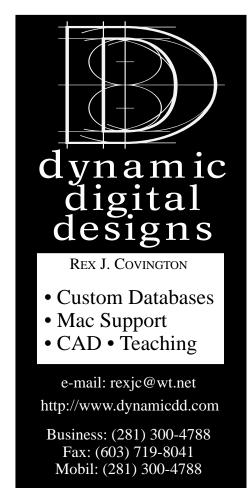
selling "Apple authorized" blank DVD discs for approximately \$10 each, well below the standard \$30 to \$40 price for such discs.

As with any new hardware announcement from Apple, the big question becomes: when can I get one? The 466 and 533 MHz models are available now for \$1,700 and \$2,200; the 667 and 733 MHz models, which use a newer version of the PowerPC G4 chip, are expected to arrive in limited quantities starting in February priced at \$2,800 and \$3,500. Availability is limited in part by the CPUs, but the SuperDrives reportedly aren't available in significant quantities yet either.

Compaq also has a machine that includes the Pioneer mechanism; between Apple and Compaq, supply is likely to be tight for the next six months. Similar mechanisms from other manufacturers will likely appear soon as well, so those with ear-

lier Power Mac G4s (other Macs would work for most tasks, of course, but for DVD-Video, the MPEG encoding is done in software and probably relies heavily on the PowerPC G4's Velocity Engine) should be able to hop on the bandwagon then.

The SuperDrive repositions Apple at the head of the computing pack, but it's going to be something of a tough sell at first when machines are in short supply. Bundling the SuperDrive into Apple's \$3,500 machine is remarkable considering that similar stand-alone DVD-writing drives by themselves cost several thousand dollars. But the high end of the Power Mac line excludes most consumer buyers, the audience Apple seems to be targeting with the SuperDrive. When Apple manages to shoehorn SuperDrives into the iMac line and its consumer price tag, DVD burning will truly have a chance at becoming part of the digital lifestyle.





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SIG Schedule

Feb 17, 2001 revised 2/4/01

9:00

MAC 101

Ken Martinez

Prerequisite, owning a Mac or Mac clone: This one hour SIG is for everyone with Macintosh hardware questions, beginners on up. Join us with your questions and comments. This SIG is general although hardware oriented, Mac Fundamentals leans more toward system software.

SPREADSHEETS

Joe Muscara

A discussion group in which participants are invited to bring in problem spreadsheets - or upload them to Joe on HAAUG Heaven in advance so he can review the problem. Also, along with the problems, we hope participants bring solutions to problems that they have solved.

10:00

APPLEWORKS/CLARISWORKS

John Reeves and Wayne Bockelman For beginning and intermediate users. However, all Clarisworks and AppleWorks users welcome.

LIBRARY (Mac & Apple II)

Mort Butler
Mike Brouillette is seriously ill.
The library is being transferred
to a new librarian (Mort Butler)
and is currently unavailable.

MAC FUNDAMENTALS

Jonathan Magnus
A beginner's SIG that answers
beginner and intermediate questions
regarding the operating system, builtins and add-ons, tuning it and
keeping it happy. Mainly software
oriented.

10:20

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Jeff Davis (Club President)

Getting the most from your membership. How HAAUG works to serve you. Meet the Mentors.

11:15

MAIN PRESENTATION

Pangea Software will demonstrate Nanosaur, Bugdom and other nifty games. Tickets for drawings for giveaways if any will be given out at the beginning of the main presentation, one to a membership. The actual drawings will be held during the business meeting. You must be present to win.

12:15

BUSINESS MEETING

Jeff Davis (Club President)

The business meeting will be conducted on time even if it means interrupting an unfinished main presentation in order to let SIG leaders and other attendees make it to 12:30 SIGs on time. If the main presentation has more to offer it will resume after the business meeting. Drawings if any will be held at the end of the business meeting.

12:30

FILEMAKER PRO

Rex Covington Learn how to make your database work better.

JAVASCRIPT

Jonathan Magnus
Jonathan is back. For
the JavaScript SIG we
have finished lesson 12
of 36 and we're
proceeding onward.
The book chapters are
at http://
www.htmlgoodies.com/
primers/jsp/.

MAC ONE-ON-ONE

Volunteers as available We will try to have a few experienced Mac users in the Baltic room to meet with people who need assistance either with a Mac or with the club itself. Volunteers are more than welcome to join in.

QUICKEN

Clair Jaschke
Come see why this
easy-to-use program is
the most popular home
and small business
accounting system
going. Exploring
Quicken, always
something new to
learn.

1:45

DIGITAL WHATEVER

Patty Winkler and Lyda McGhee Back to normal. This month we'll take a beginner's look at Corel Draw 8.

INTERNET

Larry McLoughlin
Come make the most of
the Internet.

MOBILE COMPUTING

Joe Kudrna Powerbooks, notebooks, iBooks, Palm Pilots, and more. Link them, network them, all here.

STOCK MARKET

David Scheuer

Discussion on the pros, cons and ways of using market orders, limit orders, and limit stop orders. Comparisons (Courtesy Don Sawtelle) http://www.fool.com/dbc/tables/compare.htm shows what various brokers offer. Most have a substantial charge, over market orders, to use limit orders. We will continue to set up Mr. Hairy Chested Trader and his mother, Mrs. Hairy. Suggestions for their portfolios are welcome; just let us know in advance of the SIG so we can take a quick look ahead of time.

Upcoming Meeting

The February General meeting of will be held Saturday, Feb. 17. The main presentation will be Pangea Software, makers of Bugdom and Nanosaur

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Tuesday, March 6, at HAL-PC, 4543 Post Oak Place.

Thanks, Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press has agreed to donate books for raffle at the monthly HAAUG meetings. To thank them for their generosity, we encourage you to visit http://www.peachpit.com/. User group members automatically receive a 20% discount when ordering up to 10 titles at a time. Individual user group members should call Peachpit's customer service department at 800-283-9444 and mention the 20% OFF user group discount.



Panges Software to demo games Crowne Plaza Hotel Houston at the Medical Center For updated info: http://www.haaug.org

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