

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

Apple II • Macintosh • Newton

Members Helping Members since 1978

www.haaug.org

April 1999

HAAUG Heaven provides what Internet cannot:
expert advice from people you know and trust



By Peter Gingiss

I have heard several people say that now that the Internet is so prevalent, there is no real need for HAAUG Heaven. And as we are getting into the Internet provider business, some may think that one of our Internet accounts might well substitute for our bulletin board. As for me, I would not think about doing without both an Internet account and HAAUG Heaven.

I am not unknowledgeable about the Internet. I have been on it for at least eight years, and I have constructed my department Web page. I use the Web constantly, to check investment accounts, to make plane reservations, to find out what doctors a given hospital has in some specialty; in short, to get information of every kind. I can ftp, telnet, and e-mail.

Nevertheless, I would not want to give up HAAUG Heaven. To begin with, there is a lot of expertise on HH that would be hard to locate elsewhere. There are guys who program for commercial software companies, a guy who has tried half the Internet Service Providers in Houston, another who knows

where to get the best bargains on Mac peripherals, another who knows all about databases, yet another who knows all about clock chipping, and many more.

I have gotten lots of help on HH from these people and many more members of HAAUG. Oh sure, there are knowledgeable people elsewhere. But I have often found the answers on HH better and more reliable. If you want to find out where to buy something or get something fixed in Houston, HH is the place to find out (although trying the folks who advertise in the Barrel is foolproof; I use them all myself).

Our freeware and shareware selection is not as great as the total Internet or even Info-Mac. But it is well organized, and I have found software here that—while you could get it from the developers if you could find them—is not on the usual Internet sources.

Not only that, but software on HH is pre-selected. Anybody can upload his own software to Info-Mac. The software on HH is software that somebody thought enough of to upload. Few members upload software they don't personally like. So HH serves as kind of a filter,

even a kind of review. Often the upload will provide a comment that tells you why you need the software.

If I know what I am looking for and where it is likely to be, the Internet does quite well. But when I want to see what veteran users think is useful, I look for it on HH. I would have never gone looking for Apple Wizards. I didn't know it existed. But somebody else liked it and it appeared in New Files. Can the Internet do that?

For me, HH is also a way to stay in touch. I cannot make every meeting, but I can see what people are discussing by logging on. There is no sense of community on the Internet. On HH, I am part of an on-going discussion, members talking to members. If there is a controversy, I want to put in my two cents worth. If something went well, I want to know.

I love the Internet; it has changed my life for the better (and in some ways for the worse). I am a true junkie. When HAAUG Heaven is down, I feel the loss. If members have not tried HAAUG Heaven, they are missing, in my opinion, one of the best parts of being a HAAUG member.

Board Minutes 3/29/99

These are excerpts and unapproved.

In attendance were Jeff Davis, David Jaschke, David Scheuer, Howard Fitter, Harold Crouch, Joe Fournet, Elizabeth English, Stephen Cravey, Mike Epstein, Bob McGuinness, Mike Brouillette, Lyda McGhee, Michael Lawshae, Clair Jaschke, and Randy Herzstein.

Vice President Jeff Davis announced that he was "fixed" for the time being, but that there is still some problem that will have to get fixed permanently later.

David Jaschke announced that Dr. Jane Preston-Dobbs donated \$25 in memory of Clifton Taylor.

Jeff Davis announced that Tom Turcich, former president, passed away March 25th from a massive heart attack.

Secretary Lyda McGhee's minutes were approved as read.

Programs Vice President Stephen Cravey reported that he got a response from Adobe and they will be doing the Main Presentation in April with Acrobat and June with InDesign, a new program that is said to be a combination

of PageMaker, Illustrator, and Photoshop. For May he has Washington Mutual lined up.

Facilities Vice President Alán Alán Apurim was absent and no report was given.

Treasurer Elizabeth English reported a net income of \$169.62 as of 3/26/99. She received about \$1,000 in checks at the meeting.

Membership Chairman David Jaschke reported on membership statistics.

Apple Barrel Editor Bob McGuinness reported that everything was on track. George Sroka has volunteered to take on the position. Bob has volunteered to take on our vacant Director position.

Apple Barrel Ad Manager Peter Gingiss was absent and no report was given.

SIG Coordinator David Scheuer reported that - other than everything going wrong because people forgot equipment or were a bit late - everything was fine.

Volunteer Manager Peter Gingiss was absent and no report was given.

Apple/Mac Librarian Mike Brouillette reported that the library sold 1 Zip disk and copied 2. There was some discussion of whether we should quit buying Zips to sell. We'll watch it for a couple more months and see how it goes.

Publicity Chairman Kimberly Reeves was absent and no report was given.

Boutique Chairman Amy Denton was absent and no report was given.

Old Business

HAAUG Heaven: Randy Herzstein explained about our backup system that doesn't work yet. He has been unable to get the tape backup to work. A motion was made and carried that we buy an 8 gig tape drive for up to \$800, if we can't get the old one to work.

The motion made to buy a new internal drive for the computer was amended to provide funds of \$728.15.

The Audit Committee: We still need someone to head the committee. The 1996 Audit Committee Report was never given and they still have the books.

ISP Committee Status Report: We have 3 paying users. Jonathan Magnus has shown some interest in helping administer the system.

New Business

Funds for the August 1999 meeting site were approved.

In Memorium:

We would like to thank Dr Jane Preston-Dobbs who donated \$25 in memory of Clifton Taylor.

In Memorium:

Past President Tom Turcich died March 25th of a massive heart attack.

Bottom of the Barrel

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

Apple Barrel's editors have a policy to protect the creative rights of authors. The Editors acknowledge that authors' works are copyrighted and intend to honor those copyrights by: 1) this statement of policy, 2) providing, when considered significant, copies of edited text to the author for review prior to publication, 3) seeking permission to reprint previously published pieces from the author whenever possible, and 4) printing acknowledgment of reprints used at all times.

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 website, 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.

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Mac Librarian: Mike Brouillette (acting)
SIG Coordinator: David Scheuer

Ad Manager: Peter Gingiss (acting)
Publicity Chairman: Kimberly Reeves
Vendor Coordinator: Alán Alán Apurim
Volunteer Coordinator: Peter Gingiss

Apple Barrel Publishing

The Apple Barrel was produced by a committee including Manley Mandel, Elizabeth English, Jerry Jones and George Sroka, led by Bob McGuinness 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 Apple Barrel Drop or to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

PRO: New G3 is a giant leap in technology

By Philip Booth

pbooth@electrotex.com

The week prior to the February HAAUG meeting, I purchased a new Blue-and-White tower Macintosh G3. Here is my impression after about three weeks with the machine. For me, this is a giant leap in technology. The machine replaces a Quadra 840 sporting a 40 MHz 68040 processor, the last of the 68K Macs. My new computer's processor runs at 350 MHz.

I have always had positive out-of-box experience with Apples; the Blue-and-White G3 was no exception. The machine booted quickly and, after finding my Photoshop serial number, I loaded it on the machine. The difference in Photoshop performance was like night and day. Filters took seconds to render. The machine is just faster.

I have an Epson 740 printer that I attached to the Universal Serial Bus (USB). After loading the printer drivers,

it worked. It also prints a whole lot faster. My LaserWriter 360 did the same. I needed to purchase an Asante Ethernet-to-LocalTalk adapter to connect it, but the bottom line is the printer worked without any tinkering.

Apple has abandoned many of the features we are used to. Gone is the large 15-pin monitor plug, in favor of an industry standard VGA port. Gone also are the two serial ports. Those are replaced with two USB connectors. That was a small pain for me because I was not able to use my modem. I finally got a Keyspan USB-to-Serial adapter to connect the modem. With my old computer, I had a few problems using the modem. I am happy to report that everything worked the first time with the G3. Apple and Global Village sell internal modems that fit a connector on the computer's

motherboard. That would mean one less "wall wart" of a power supply.

Since the iMac and the Blue-and-White towers are not equipped with a 3.5-inch floppy drive, I bought a VST USB Floppy drive. Again plug and work, not plug and pull your hair out.

The last change is the abandoning of SCSI on all but the high-end Macs. I have not decided whether I will get a SCSI card to use a spare hard drive from my old computer. FireWire® is SCSI's successor. FireWire is a multipurpose high-speed bus that allows you to connect hard drives, video cameras and other devices that require high data throughput. If you were at the February HAAUG meeting, you saw video of how flexible the FireWire system is. Just like

"Yes, they are dragging us into new technologies, but that is their job."

not decided whether I will get a SCSI card to use a spare hard drive from

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CON: G3 signals end of Mac we know & love

Joe Kudrna

jkudrna@hotmail.com

The new G3 is out, and it signals the end of the Mac being a unique and familiar system. Jobs in his mindless zeal has killed the traditional Mac in one swoop and plunged millions of Mac faithful into turmoil. It is the end of an era.

In its place we have a Mac that is more like the inferior Intel PC than a user joy of a Mac. Gone is SCSI, the technology that sparked the birth of SyQuest, Iomega, APS, Fujitsu (MO drive division), and countless other SCSI makers. The baby of the whole computer industry. So too is the lowly Serial/LocalTalk port, a leap ahead of any computer in ease of use and low cost. From modems and printers to the trend-setting QuickCam (first on the Mac), it has spawned thousands of devices that made computing fun and networking computers easy and productive. ADB would also be gone were it not for the needs of some important hardware. These features and compat-

ibility of hardware and software go back a phenomenal 12 years (about the time of the Mac II and SE) and allowed the Mac to survive when others did not.

With the Blue G3, that is all gone. Older Mac users are now left in the cold with hardware that cannot be used without some expensive adapter and risk of conflicts (USB is far from perfect on the iMac), forcing less savvy, established Mac users to try and muddle through new terms and technology.

I cannot begin to think of all those printers, QuickCams, modems, PalmPilots, Newton's, port doublers, scanners, etc. that cannot be used with the blue Macs, unless you bleed \$60 for a USB-to-serial adapter and a moment of prayer that it will work reliably. Unfortunately, these serial ports do not have LocalTalk.

LocalTalk is still a key component of

Mac users who connect printers and other Macs in a harmonious network with only a minimal investment (\$18 for a 3 station connection vs. hundred\$ for Ethernet equipment). If you have \$99 lying around the house, you could buy an Ethernet-to-LocalTalk adapter, but at that price a new printer is more practical.

"Jobs in his mindless zeal has killed the traditional Mac in one swoop..."

ADB only survived because certain professional monitors use ADB for

color calibration. It is fortunate ADB did survive because USB cannot force a restart of the system in case of a crash. This is critical for Macs used as internet servers.

USB and FireWire are the most important hardware technologies in the Mac since the PowerPC and are years overdue. Yes, I WANT them!! Heck, I am cheering those on as loud as my voice

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Meeting Dates

1999 HAAUG Meeting Dates

General Meetings Board Meetings

Apr 17	Apr 26
May 15	May 27
Jun 19	Jun 28

More Tentative 1999 Dates

Jul 17	Jul 26
Aug 21	Aug 30
Sep 18	Sep 27
Oct 16	Oct 25
Nov 20	Nov 29
Dec 11 (2nd Sat)	Dec 27

All dates are subject to change due to late conflicts. Please make it a habit to call the HAAUG Hotline at (713) 522-2179, or log onto HAAUG Heaven for late-breaking announcements.

All meetings are scheduled to be held at the University of Houston, until further notice.

The next meeting of the HAAUG Board of Directors will be April 26, 1999 at 6:30 PM in the offices of Fiserv, Inc., 5718 Westheimer, Suite 200. The Board generally meets on the last Monday of each month, holiday conflicts excepted.

Apple Barrel Deadlines

The Editorial Staff of the Apple Barrel thanks you for your support!

Post your articles (SimpleText format preferred) to the Apple Barrel Drop folder on HAAUG Heaven or to bobmcg@hal-pc.org on the Net. The dates we need copy by for the rest of the year are indicated below. We'll update them as needed. Deadlines around the holidays could change.

(Editor's note: We prefer SimpleText, but will take just about anything.)

Copy Needed by	For Issue Dated
Apr 25th	May 1999
May 30th	June 1999
Jun 27th	July 1999
Jul 25th	August 1999
Aug 29th	September 1999
Sep 26th	October 1999
Oct 24th	November 1999

HAAUG Heaven's New Phone Number

By Administrator

HAAUG Heaven announces its new phone number, 713-993-3312. Please check in the "News" conference for additional information when logging on.

Attention:

If you would be willing to be listed as a specialist in something or other post a message to the Apple Barrel Drop folder on HAAUG Heaven or to Elizabeth English on HAAUG Heaven or to betty@cityscope.net on the net with a bit of information and a phone number. We need your:

Name:
Specialty (you decide):
Phone number(s):
& Best time to call:
e-mail address optional:

We have 15 volunteers for the job so far. We get ten more and we'll have a whole page of 'em (in fine print)!

HAAUGNet

by David Jaschke

HAAUGNet is now ready to accept a limited number of accounts, making HAAUG an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Applications will be available at the next general meeting. Setup includes a one time, non-refundable \$45 charge, six months of service for \$60 and sales tax of \$8.66 for a total of \$113.66. Renewals will be available for six months at \$64.95 or twelve months at \$129.90. Only current HAAUG members can join HAAUGNet and other terms and conditions apply. Support will be via HAAUG Heaven. HAAUGNet members will enjoy unlimited internet access, plus access to thousands of new groups. Come to the next meeting and join up!

Miscellany

Main Presentation — Adobe

The speaker for our April 17 Main Presentation will be David Hood from Adobe. He will be demonstrating new products and answering your questions about Adobe's new line of software. Please join us for Adobe's first HAAUG presentation in a long time. Help persuade them to return frequently as they enter what is sure to be a new age in the life of one of the most famous software companies in the world.

The Boutique

It will be there sometime. Get there early to get your HAAUG logo'd stuff! But get blank Zips at the library.

Early Sigs

There are two (2) sigs that meet at 9 AM.: The Spreadsheet SIG in the Pacific Room and Mac 101 in the Atlantic Room.

Zips & Imation

The Library will have Zip disks full of stuff for \$15, about what they cost blank mail order. They will also have blank ones and blank Imations for \$13.50 each.

PRO

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USB, FireWire is “hot plugable.” Several vendors will introduce FireWire devices soon. FireWire hard drives will take power from the bus, eliminating the need for a separate power supply.

I can't comment on the new monitors that Apple introduced because I purchased a ViewSonic last summer. So I have new, wild blue-and-white computer with a *very* beige monitor. I have also decided to retain my old keyboard and Macally two-button mouse. The keyboard supplied with the new computer is similar to one sold with iMacs, and the mouse is the same iMac “hockey puck.” I'm not impressed with either of them. The new CPU does have one ADB port, allowing users to use older keyboards and mice, and software that requires an ADB key. One warning I must give: if you have an ADB keyboard, do *not* plug in a USB keyboard at the same time or the machine will stall.

I haven't really probed OS 8.5.1, but I'm happy it was on the hard drive unpacked and ready to go. No hour-long start-up process as I experienced starting up a WinTel machine for the first time. I think I had to set the clock. I did run the OS Setup Assistant, but most of my settings were the default, so I really did not need to.

I quickly loaded Photoshop, PageMaker, and FileMaker Pro. All of the titles ran faster. Sorting a 600-plus record database took just seconds.

CON

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can carry, but it is HOW it was done that I hate. Like a manic-depressive, we have gone from the old ports to the new ports in only six months. There is no transition machine featuring a full set of ports, allowing Mac users who have invested hundreds, even thousands, in old-style peripherals to continue using them with the awesome G3 until we can afford to replace them. Instead, we now have a machine that is “plug and prey” to use

I use Microsoft Word 5.0, but decided to get Office 98 to enable me to work on Office 97 documents at home. Office 98 installed politely without dropping a lot of stuff all over the hard drive. Like many other people, I will have to give the devil its due and praise the latest version of Microsoft Office for the Mac. I am not a big fan of all the assistants wanting to format things for me, but I do like the continuous spell and grammar check. I'm afraid that I got spoiled with the version on my office WinTel machine.

I discussed above what Apple left out of the machine, but is that a hindrance? It could be if you have a lot of legacy SCSI equipment that you need to connect to one of the new G3 towers. If you buy the fastest model, it comes equipped with a PCI SCSI card. Several SCSI adapters are available, but you will need to download the driver software from the manufacturer's web site.

The lack of traditional serial ports will be a problem if you want to connect a modem, graphic tablets or serial printers. USB devices are in the pipeline, but that means that you will be replacing items that are still serviceable.

The lack of the traditional 3.5-inch floppy drive may or may not be a problem. There are USB Floppy drives available, but again that represents an extra expense. The mantra from the WinTel crowd is that Apple is foolish to not include a floppy drive on either the iMac or the new G3 towers. It seems to me that Apple is ahead of the curve again. After all, Apple was the company that started using the 400K version of the

and hardware that is always due next week (when the iMac was released, very little of the promised USB stuff was actually shipping!). In every way, the Blue Mac is more like today's Windows PC.

What separates a visionary from an insane man is to be practical with his prediction. Steve Jobs—for all his gusto and charisma—is the latter. He has no grasp on reality, rules by loud words, and expects everyone to ask how high when he says “jump.” He expects that FireWire would catch on as quickly as USB, which existed for two years prior to the release

3.5-inch floppy in the first Macintosh. Some might complain: “Oh there's no removable media—it will never work.” Well, my new machine came with an Iomega Zip drive, and I easily added the USB floppy. I will use that to move files from my office machine to my new home computer so I can do office work at home.

The one thing I have not commented on is the case itself. It certainly is not your daddy's computer. The door covering the CD-ROM tray looks like the first candidate for coming off. I'm sure Apple did a torture test on the design, but I just feel that it is a little too flimsy.

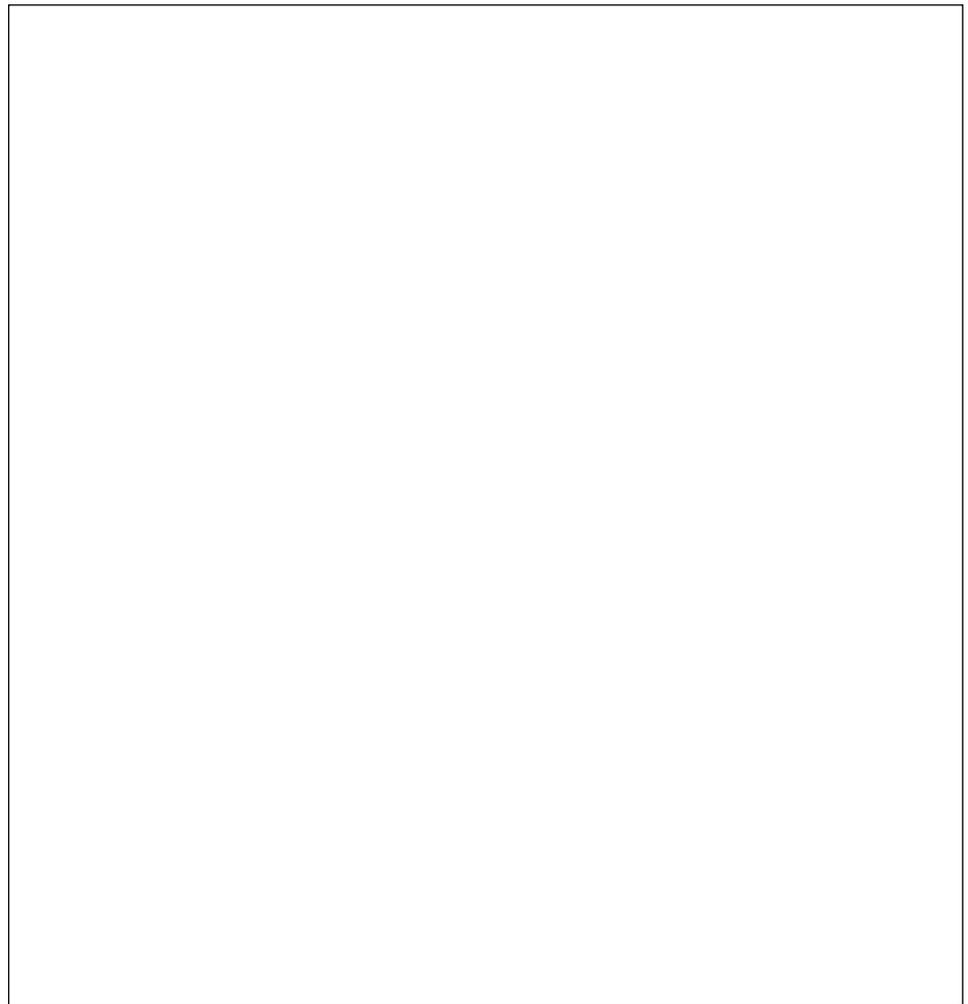
On the good side, this case is great for those of us who like to look under the hood. The motherboard is easily accessible by opening the side. No more undoing screws and lifting the case cover, then disconnecting power and data cables to get to the RAM slots. The side case folds down, allowing access to the PCI slots and the SIMM slots.

Adding more hard drives is a simple operation because they are mounted on the floor of the case. You will need to add the SCSI adapter if you want to add extra drives. There is a locking mechanism so those pricey RAM modules and PCI cards don't walk away.

My last comment on the case is that the handles are nice. I've had to move the two machines and I appreciate having something to grab on to.

I may be biased, but I think that Apple has a winner. Yes, they are dragging us into new technologies, but that is their job.

of iMac. The reality is it will be many many months before USB can stand in for Serial/LocalTalk ports, and at least a year (all of 1999) of preparation before FireWire can begin to replace SCSI. Because iMac is for consumers, it can slide, but it is idiocy to omit SCSI on a professional machine at this time. As much as I admire him for his rallying power, Apple would do even better if someone with down to earth common sense could control him. The way many Mac users now feel about the new undemocratic, no compromise port-less G3 is the same as its color: Blue.



Advertise with HAAUG!!

Reach Mac users all over the Houston area with an ad in the Apple Barrel. Rates are on the back cover.

HAAUG CLASSIFIEDS

Free Classified Ads

Free Classified ads to members on a first come first serve basis. Once your ad has run, you will need to re-post it. They will go in unused space as it becomes available.

That's Apple Barrel Drop on HAAUG Heaven, Apple_Barrel_Drop@haaug.org or, betty@cityscope.net on the 'net.

If I get them I'll run them. If not, I won't. These are to be personals, not business ads, by the way.

Directions to the Meeting

From Pasadena, Galveston, Clear Lake, and other points South, get onto I45 north towards downtown Houston. Take the Elgin/Cullen exit and turn left onto Elgin. Go under a group of overpasses then bear right onto a ramp that leads you to Calhoun. These used to work, but with the construction we don't really know.

At the 3rd light, turn right into "UH Entrance #1." The University Center will be ahead of you, the first building on the right. You can park free in the first parking lot on the right.

From most areas Southwest, West, and North, take the most convenient freeway to downtown Houston and get on Interstate 45 (Gulf Freeway) South. Take the Calhoun/UH exit and follow the road as it curves to the right.

Advertising Rates per Insertion

Space Size	1X	3X	6X
2/3 page	\$125	\$120	\$115
1/2 page	90	85	80
1/3 page	75	70	65
1/4 page	65	60	55
1/6 page	40	35	30

The Apple Barrel is published 12 times a year and is sent to all

HAAUG members and to about 125 other user groups. If you would like to advertise in "the Barrel" contact Peter Gingiss, Advertising Manager, through the HAAUG Hotline (713) 522-2179, on HAAUG Heaven or at (713) 721-4134 for more details.

E-mail Peter_Gingiss@haaug.org.

The Houston Area Apple Users Group provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information about Apple Computer products and their associated hardware and software. Meetings, newsletters, special interest groups, the BBS and other events create this forum.

Send hard copy to Betty English at 2131 Richey, Pasadena, TX 77502.

Send graphics files to Elizabeth English on HAAUG Heaven, or to betty@cityscope.net. Betty does the layout and likes eps files best, preferably compressed.

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