

Our
21st
Year

Apple Barrel



The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

Apple II • Macintosh • Newton

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July 1999

Semi-Annual SWAP MEET SAT. JULY 24

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University Center
Houston Room (2nd Floor)

- Buy and sell hardware and software
- Find that widget, dongle or doodad you're looking for
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Form for
Tables on
Page 7

Turning your Mac into a TV and radio easy with ixMicro

By Bill Frank

Thanks to MacInTouch's note in a posting June 15, I ordered an ixTV/FM directly from ixMicro (www.ixmicro.com) and received it less than 24 hours later thanks to FedEx.

I have a new 450 MHz G-3 and lamented not having an AV option available from Apple. ixMicro has solved that problem. It gives one almost all that an AV Mac has and more. It provides SVHS, RF or 75 ohm video input, stereo audio in and out. Two models are available, each has a TV tuner, one also has a FM tuner, one does not.

The Pluses: It was less than 10 minutes from opening the FedEx box to watching CNN on my monitor through my G-3. One uses an application called "ixTV Desktop," which is similar to Apple's Video Player. All needed software is found on a separate Macintosh CD.

At only \$100 plus shipping, the price is fair, especially considering it includes a TV/FM tuner. ixTV does not require a ribbon cable to the video card, a good thing since the feature pins on my ATI video card are

See Mac TV, Radio... page 8

Board Minutes 6/28/99

These are excerpts and unapproved.

In attendance were Jeff Davis, David Jaschke, David Scheuer, Joe Fournet, Elizabeth English, Stephen Cravey, Robert Lacey, Lyda McGhee, George Sroka, Mike Epstein, Howard Fitter, Rex Covington, Alán Alán Apurim, Jim Hofweber, Mort Butler, Patty Winkler, and Randy Herzstein.

Jeff Davis announced that the Swap Meet would be July 24th and he has made signs for us to distribute. By the way—he won't be going to MacWorld.

Secretary Lyda McGhee's minutes were approved as amended.

Programs Vice President Stephen Cravey reported that there is no Main Presentation for July, but that August will probably be VST (makers of PowerBook accessories and FireWire stuff).

Facilities Vice President Alán Alán Apurim reported that dates for the rest of the year had been confirmed. He also resigned his position (lack of time) and Rex Covington was appointed to replace him for the remainder of the year.

Treasurer Elizabeth English reported a net income of \$2,003.98 as of 6/28/99.

Membership Chairman David Jaschke reported on membership statistics.

Apple Barrel Editor George Sroka reported that there was little to no copy to date and asked that everybody think of something to write. There was a discussion about sending the Barrel to people as a pdf file

attached to an e-mail address. George will put a notice to that effect in the Barrel, and if we get enough responses it may be doable.

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

SIG Coordinator David Scheuer reported there were more problems with the repaired computer. Rex Covington volunteered to do a FileMaker SIG. There are no SIGs in July unless someone does a HAAUG Heaven SIG. No takers that I'm aware of.

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

Apple/Mac Librarian Mike Brouillette was absent. There was further discussion of how to handle the library using the remaining zip disks and possibly through the purchase of a Read/Write CD "burner." No final decisions were reached, but lots of folks are working on it.

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

Boutique Chairman Amy Denton was absent and no report was given. Patty Winkler made us some money taking Amy's place in May, but nobody asked for a report. Thanks, Amy—we appreciate it.

Old Business

HAAUG Heaven: Randy Herzstein reported that we need a fan for the 18 Gig drive. He is also still working on automating backups.

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 more paying users and no major problems have been reported, again.

New Business

Auctions went well and we discussed how to handle them more efficiently, making fewer waves, as it were. We will need to ask vendors if they have any objections. We plan to auction software and continue to give away T-shirts and things that we get from vendors (not HAAUG ones.)

Funds for the January 2000 meeting site were approved.

Up to \$150 was approved to create and print a swap meet postcard since the date was announced incorrectly at the last meeting.

Up to \$50 was approved to create and print business card to pass out to members for them to hand out to friends, relations, business associates, etc.

Up to \$150 was approved to create and print a postcard soliciting new memberships. The mailing list for this postcard is being developed.

Stephen Cravey resigned as Vice-President of Programs effective July 10, 1999. He's defecting to HAL-PC, but will continue to maintain HAAUGNet.

If you're interested, the meeting convened at about 6:30 and adjourned at 9:10.

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.

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

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Directors: Joe Fournet, Mike Epstein, Randy Herzstein, Michael Lawshae, Patty Winkler, Bob McGuinness.
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SIG Coordinator: David Scheuer

Ad Manager: Peter Gingiss (acting)
Publicity Chairman: Kimberly Reeves
Vendor Coordinator: Rex Covington
Volunteer Coordinator: Peter Gingiss
Apple Barrel Publishing
The Apple Barrel was produced by a committee including Elizabeth English, Jerry Jones, Manley Mandel and Bob McGuinness, 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 Apple Barrel Drop or to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

Snailmail or E-mail?

HAAUG would like to know whether you'd prefer to receive the monthly Apple Barrel newsletter via e-mail as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file or through the mail as delivered now.

E-MAIL ADVANTAGES:

- **FASTER DELIVERY.** It takes about two weeks or more to print and bulk mail newsletters to the membership after the Barrel is finished. Bulk mail delivery is unpredictable. E-mail delivery would put the Barrel in your hands faster and weeks before the monthly meeting.
- **REDUCED COSTS.** OK, we admit—it would save us money. The fewer newsletters we have to print and mail, the more money we have to spend on programs and other nifty HAAUG stuff.

SNAIL MAIL ADVANTAGES

- **DOWNLOAD TIME.** The complete Barrel in PDF format could easily top a megabyte. Even with a 56k modem, that's several minutes of downloading before you can view it on screen or print it out. This could be called "the hassle factor."
- **THAT "NO PAPER" PHOBIA.** Yep, we're supposed to be living in the "paperless society," but there's still no substitute for the sheer physical presence of a printed newsletter showing up in your mailbox. As long as you don't mind depending on the post office to get it to you before the next meeting, that is.

Tell us your preference

Send an e-mail message to apple_barrel_drop@haug.org with your name, member number (it's on the mailing label) and your e-mail address.

DISCLAIMER: If we don't get several responses, it ain't gonna happen. So make your preference known.

Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there.

- *Will Rogers*

Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today, because if you enjoy it today you can do it again tomorrow.

- *James Michener*

The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it.

- *Michelangelo*

Anything less than a conscious commitment to the important is an unconscious commitment to the unimportant.

- *Stephen Covey*



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HAAUG members offered 20% discount on McHurricane thru Aug.

Al Boyd, Texan and author of McHurricane has offered members of HAAUG a 20% discount off the price of McHurricane through the end of August, 1999. With that \$5 off plus sales tax, the total will be \$21.65.

When you register, just write

"HAAUG discount" somewhere on the registration form. The program is available on the net at <http://members.aol.com/stormeye> or on HAAUG Heaven.

The current version as of this writing is v3.3.6.

Fun (and useful) software I like

By Betty English

e-mail: betty@cityscope.net

McHurricane:

A program for tracking hurricanes. (Duh!) Anyway, I like it. Those things make me really nervous. I grew up in a desert and rain is difficult enough to cope with. When I was the HAAUG Librarian, I would prepare a floppy with Hurricane tracking programs on it in April and distribute it for free during Hurricane season. Even if the current librarian could do that now, where would iMac users stick the floppy?

This year Al Boyd, Texan and author of McHurricane, has offered members of HAAUG a 20% discount off McHurricane (see above).

There has been a new page added to McHurricane's website. During the season, McHurricane files for each storm will be posted that can be downloaded. I will try to keep the files as current as possible. You will need a password to open the files, which will arrive either with or soon after your registration.

MacTicker:

Ever seen those lunatics just standing there staring at a bunch of numbers going by? You can have your very own ticker on your Mac (20 minute delay, but what do you expect for \$25?) You can download a demo from www.galleon.com/macticker/ purchase or HAAUG Heaven.

TypeIt4Me:

This is probably one of my favorite programs in the world. I'm not that good at typing. This is a little Control Panel Device that sticks yet another icon in your Menu Bar. It's available on HAAUG Heaven or on the web at www.r-ettore.dircon.co.uk.

What it does is type stuff for you. Say you have a name like Elizabeth A. English. That's not really difficult, but "eae" followed by the space bar types it for me, so I don't have to think.

Default Folder:

Okay so I have a tie as to my favorite program. This is yet another Control Panel that lets you set up Folders on your Mac that it will return to quickly within Open/Save dialog boxes. You can set them up as you go, by the way. You don't have to spend a couple of hours figuring it all out. It will help a lot to read the docs at least once. Lifted from the README file, "Default Folder is a control panel that...provides many of the essential features of the commercial SuperBoomerang and Directory Assistance utilities, but without the infrequently used extras that take their toll in compatibility, memory, and CPU usage. Default Folder is fully compatible with Mac OS 8.6, and supports both Standard File and Navigation Services Open and Save dialogs."

I've uploaded this to HAAUG Heaven and it's available on the net at www.stclairsoft.com

Meeting Dates

1999 HAAUG Meeting Dates

General Meetings Board Meetings

July 24 (Swap Meet) July 26

More Tentative 1999 Dates

Aug 28	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 Thursday, May 27, 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 gsroka@aol.com 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
Jul 25th	August 1999
Aug 29th	September 1999
Sep 26th	October 1999
Oct 24th	November 1999
Nov 28th	December 1999
Dec 26th	January 2000

What's good for General Motors (but not Bill Gates)

At a computer expo (COMDEX), everyone's favorite billionaire Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry, saying: "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon!"

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating that, if GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines on the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally, your car would die on the freeway, and you would have to accept this, restart and drive on.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn, would cause your car to shut down and refuse to start, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive, but would only run on 5% of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car default" warning light.
7. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.
8. The airbag system would say "Are you sure?" before going off.
9. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until
10. GM would require that all car buyers purchase a deluxe set of Rand-McNally road maps (now a GM subsidiary), even though they neither need them nor want them. Attempting to delete this option would immediately cause the car's performance to diminish by 50% or more. Moreover, GM would become a target for investigation by the Justice Department.
11. Everytime GM introduced a new model, buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again, because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
12. You'd have to press the "Start" button to shut the engine off.

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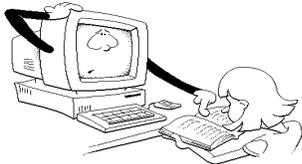
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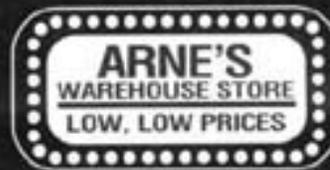
They will go in unused space as it becomes available. That's Apple Barrel Drop on HAAUG Heaven, Apple_Barrel_Drop@haaug.org or gsroka@aol.com on the Net. If I get them, I'll run them. If not, I won't. These are to be personals, not business ads, by the way.

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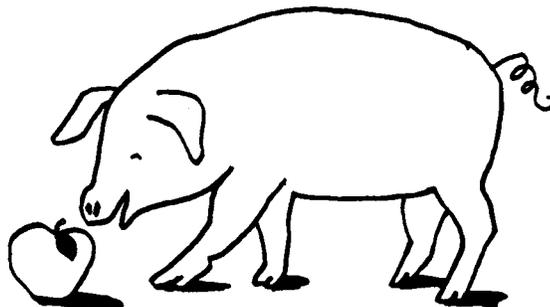
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THE HAAUG SEMI-ANNUAL SWAP MEET

Saturday, July 24, 1999 • 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

University of Houston University Center • 2nd Floor, Houston Room

Reservations are now being taken for tables with electricity and without. We can arrange to share tables for those members with a small quantity of items to swap.

One table is free for paid up members. Those with dues scheduled for payment in July can be paid during the meet. Extra tables are \$50 each for members. Dealer tables are \$50 each.

Electricity is \$5 each for both members and dealers (Cords will not be allowed across walkways).

Please provide your name, member

number, expiration date, phone number, so it can be confirmed with your table number.

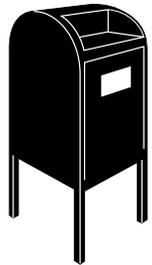
Each table will be tagged with the reservation name prior to the swap meet. An alphabetical name list will be posted on the doors, in case you forget the reserved table number. Everybody will be in the Houston and surrounding rooms on the second floor of the UC this time, so you don't need to select a location.

For reservations, send e-mail to:
jeff_davis@haaug.org or
jwdavis@iapc.net

If you are unable to send e-mail:

Call Jeff at (713) 745-0600 or (713) 404-3720 or fax the form to him at (713) 792-4715.

Or fill out the form and mail it to Jeff. The address is already there for you. Please mail soon enough so that he will receive it in time. Before mailing, fold form in thirds and tape edges to keep personal information private.



Advertising Rates per Insertion

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

Mac TV, radio decoder cheap, easy

Continued from page 1

used for an MPEG decoder daughter card for viewing DVD movies. Clicking FM on a drop down menu converts the ixTV Desktop into an FM radio, which works well with the supplied FM antenna.

The minuses: ixTV takes up a PCI slot. One could easily use up all the slots in a blue-and-white Mac replicating functionality of a beige G-3 by adding a SCSI card, ixTV card and a serial port card. The video tuner—while very good—lacks a method to fine tune via software as the ATI All-In-Wonder Pro card does on a PC.

The ixTV card lacks a video out. SVHS video out is again a feature of the ATI All-In-Wonder Pro cards for PCs, which do not require an extra slot as all its functionality is on daughter cards on a video card.

If you like to watch TV while web surfing, as I do, and can spare the PCI slot, the ixTV card is recommended. ATI has promised a video card which promises AV functionality with an external TV tuner (ATI XCLAIM VR128), but it is twice the price and has been 6 weeks away for many months. The ATI card would save using an extra PCI slot.

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 George Sroka, 1311 Willard Ste. 1, Houston, TX 77006.

Send graphics files to George Sroka on HAAUG Heaven or to gsroka@aol.com. Virtually any graphics or page layout format is acceptable; remember to include fonts and graphics.

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