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OCTOBER 2001

Apple Barrel



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Apple Store a small slice of paradise for Mac fans

BY REX COVINGTON
HAAUG VICE PRESIDENT

When I recently visited my family in Fort Worth, I realized an Apple Store would be opening in the North Dallas area that same weekend. I asked my daughter, Crystal (almost as much an Apple enthusiast as I am) if she would like to attend the grand opening, and she said she'd love to.

Crystal and I arrived about 9:00 am and quickly found a parking place near the new Neiman Marcus store. However, we had to search for an entrance to the mall. The Apple Store is located in the southeast quadrant of the mall, between Neiman's and Dillard's. A small crowd had already gathered at the front of the Apple Store.

At least 20 store employees, in black Apple T-shirts, were in and outside the store, greeting and mingling with the crowd. The

word was the store would open at 10 am on the dot. The Apple faithful were gathering by the minute. By 9:30 am, the crowd was stringing around the mall, blocking entrances to some of the stores. Mall employees were already marking off four waiting areas, and the walk to the end of the line got longer by the minute.

I decided to get some pictures and mingle with people in line while Crystal held our place. Most of the crowd was from the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. Many of them had never heard of Apple Computer, and were curious about the store that had more people waiting to get in than any other store in the mall!

As 10:00 am approached, the four waiting areas were filled and still growing. At 9:55 am, the Apple crew inside and outside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Membership badges or cards required in Dec.

Starting with the December General Meeting, HAAUG membership badges (preferred) or membership cards will be required to: 1) receive a raffle ticket or a raffled item; 2) purchase the HAAUG update CD (new version coming soon); 3) vote at meetings; and 4) purchase auction items.

The HAAUG Board approved a motion requiring badges/membership cards at the October Board Meeting. The hope is that members will start wearing their badges, which will help us all become more familiar with each other. Another goal is to limit the benefits of membership to the members. If ID is *not* required, guests attending the meeting can receive auction items, purchase CDs, etc.

Guests are certainly still welcome at our meetings. Requiring ID is simply meant to limit the benefits of membership to only those who are dues-paying members.

List of Mac specialists revived; sign up now

An old HAAUG tradition is being revived in this issue of the Apple Barrel with the reappearance of the "Specialists' List" on page 3. Members with expertise in a software package or hardware problem can sign up and share their knowledge with others. It's a great way to share your hard-won knowledge and enthusiasm.

If you'd like to sign up as a specialist, send an e-mail with your specialty and contact info to the address listed below the specialists' list.

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.

If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (713) 522-2179 or sign up via our web site <http://www.haaug.org>. Annual membership is \$45 for new members, \$40 for renewing members, \$20 for student members and \$20 for associate members (out-of-state members who receive the *Apple Barrel* through e-mail only). 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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Ad Manager: PETER GINGISS (acting)

Publicity Chairman: JOE FOURNET

Vendor Coordinator: REX COVINGTON

Volunteer Coordinator: DAVID CROOK

APPLE BARREL PUBLISHING

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 to *Apple Barrel Drop* on HAAUG Heaven or e-mail to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING • SEPT. 4, 2001

Members in attendance: Jeff Davis, Mort Butler, Lyda McGhee, Randy Herzstein, Jonathan Magnus, Joe Fournet, Mike Lawshae, C.J. Settles, David Scheuer, Joe Kudrna, Rex Covington, George Sroka.

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

Reports

Secretary – Lyda McGhee: The minutes taken by Joe Fournet at the August board meeting were approved as written.

First Vice President: Programs – Rex Covington: Jeff and Rex will present QuicKeys at the September meeting. October is open and Corel will be here in November.

Second Vice President: Facilities – Jonathan Magnus: Everything went well but we do need some bigger room signs at Rice to make the rooms easier to find.

Treasurer – Elizabeth English: There is a year-to-date loss of \$215.99.

Membership – Mike Lawshae: Current membership is 386. One of our members, Macy Stern, died in July.

Apple Barrel – George Sroka: Everything is “rolling on” as usual. The *Apple Barrel* will feature Digital Day at the September meeting. HAAUG has entered the User Group Academy newsletter contest and paid a \$25

entry fee.

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

SIG Coordinator – David Scheuer: Digital Day will be September 15 and will feature SIGs on both still cameras and video cameras. We have a volunteer who wants to present Adobe GoLive but we do not know if she is willing to do a one-time SIG or a series.

Apple Librarian – Mort Butler: It seems that we can no longer put any Apple software or updates on user group CDs. Jeff will contact our Apple representative to get a definitive answer to this question, especially as to updates.

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

Volunteer Coordinator – David Crook: was not present and no report was given.

Publicity Chairman – Joe Fournet and Mike Lawshae: The HAAUG website needs to be updated and we need to get rid of the Adobe advertisement.

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

Committee Reports

HAAUG Heaven – Randy reports that HH is running fine and he is backing up every ten days to two weeks. First Class server v.6

has just been received and it will allow one to access HH from any computer with any browser.

Internet Committee – OS X server has been installed on the G3.

Old Business

Strictly Business Expo – we need volunteers and George will create some updated brochures for the show.

Voice Mail – HAAUG Hotline – Randy wants to be able to retrieve messages over the Internet.

New Business

A motion was approved to spend \$53 for two FileMaker Pro plug-ins for the membership database. They will help to automate making the membership reports.

Kagi will change the way they pay us and it should result in a small savings.

We will start requiring all monthly attendees to wear badges – they must have a badge to participate in auctions, drawings, voting, and buying membership CDs. This will be put in the *Apple Barrel* and emphasized at the next meeting.

We need a WebMaster and that position needs to be defined. We will need to add a non-voting position appointed by the Board of Directors.

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

Specialists

Rex J. Covington

Specialties:
FileMaker
Adobe Indesign
VectorWorks or AutoCAD
 281-300-4788
 rex@covington.cc
 rexjc@dynamiccdd.com
 www.dynamiccdd.com

Morton Butler

Specialties:
Networking, Training, and General Computer Help. Software help for Operating Systems, Internet, Browsers, E-mail, Spreadsheets, Databases, Word Processors, etc.
 281-890-9330 will get you answers, 9 am to 6 pm weekdays.
 E-mail for answers at other times to mort@pdq.net Or call my cell-phone at 281-650-6080.

Al Carlton

Specialty:
Excel
 Alva Carlton, Jr.
 6102 Winsome, 7B
 Houston, TX 77057-5548
 713- 780-4351
 e-mail alcat@aol.com

Bruce R. Baker

Specialty:
Apple 2 computers and software
 Phone: 713-921-1742
 work 713-667-7566-13
 Email: bbaker@hal-pc.org

Isabelle MacCrimmon

Specialties:
Adobe GoLive 5.0: Adobe Certified Expert.
Adobe Photoshop 6.0: Adobe Certified Expert
Illustrator 9 and some LiveMotion.
 Email: izzyvision@swbell.net
 Please contact via email only.

Howard Fitter

Specialty:
M.Y.O.B.
 713-626-2732
 hlfit@mac.com
 Availability is very flexible



HOWDY, AND KEEP COMING BACK

At the end of September's Main Presentation, we invited new HAAUG members to join the "big cheeses" in a photo. The new members are bracketed by Vice President Rex Covington on the far left and President Jeff (I like to drop my pants in public) Davis on the far right. New members left to right: Larry Wild, Edmond Phillips, David Trevas and Mary Ly.

Welcome new, renewing members

Sharon Boyle

Ralph Cohen

Bradley Davis

Rosette Dawson

Bernice Friedman

Ken Harbour

Paul Hauffe

Rose Hohenberger

Sidney McGraw

James Moody

Stan Nethery

Wanda Olszewski

Tracy Owen

O. Keith Owen, III

Gil Palen

Chris Palmer

Edmond Phillips

James Schriver

C J Settles

William Treadway

L.C. Wild, Jr.

New Apple Stores feature four zones

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the store began clapping and cheering and the excitement quickly spread to each of the waiting areas, while other mall patrons wondered what was going on. At 10 sharp, the lights were turned on, and the Apple Store at Willow Bend was opened to the waiting crowd. They let people into the store in groups of 50, which seemed to work well.

Crystal and I got in about 10:30 am and spent an hour in the store. Inside the bright, very white store was an extensive selection of Macs, 300 software titles and peripherals like MP3 players, digital camcorders, digital cameras and scanners. All of the Macs were connected to the Internet, and several were set up to allow users to make movies,

burn custom music CDs, and publish their digital photos on a personal website.

The Apple Store is divided into four parts: the home and education section; the pro section; the solutions area consisting of four sections (music, movies, photos and kids); and the Genius Bar, where you can have your questions answered and service done on your computer. If they don't know the answer, they have a hot line (a red phone) to someone who has the answer. The center isle has over 300 software titles.

I think Apple is spending their money well. The stores look great and—best of all—it's a computer store that's all Apple! They need at least one Apple Store in every major city. I can't wait for the Houston version.

SIGN UP for the Specialists' List: Would you like to share your hard-won software and hardware expertise with your fellow HAAUG members? Then volunteer to join the Specialists' List. Simply e-mail your name, specialty or specialties, contact information (phone, e-mail or both—your choice) and times you'd normally be available to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

A GALLERY OF DIGITAL PHOTOS BY MEMBERS

After last month's "Digital Day," members were invited via e-mail to submit their favorite digitally-taken photos for publication in the *Apple Barrel*. Here's a selection of the submissions exactly as they were submitted except for a little cropping to fit them on the page. — *The Editor*

RIGHT

Photo by Isabelle MacCrimmon: Camera: Kodak DC290 - 2.1 megapixels. Taken in daylight, no flash, Shutter speed: 1/512 sec, F7.2, 7.8mm lens (digital - not 35mm equivalent). Taken June 29 on Galiano Island, British Columbia, Canada



LEFT

Photo by John Crawford: Shot at 1024 x 768, which is a reasonable compromise between resolution and file size. With a 32 Mb Memory Stick, I can get close to 100 pictures, of my choice.



BELOW

Photo by Robert Courtemanche: Taken with a Nikon Coolpix 995 with the resolution on the second highest setting, providing a picture that is about 1MB and roughly good enough for 300 dpi printing. The picture was taken at a shutter speed of 1/60 using an "ISO" of 800. It was taken without a flash, since the 995's flash is terrible and only goes about 15 ft. So it is an existing light shot at night.

RIGHT

Photo by Roland Rouxel:

Taken with a NIKON 990 Coolpix.

3.34 Mega pixel through a window early in the morning in Round Top Texas. Very strange what nature can do!



Big 3 in Japan battling over digital video standards

BY JOE KUDRNA
HAAUG MEMBER & SIG LEADER

The last big electronics' war being fought in Japan is one America lost decades ago: video. The big three in Japan are Canon, Sony, and Matsushita (maker of Panasonic and National brands). While Canon quietly makes top quality film, video, and digital cameras, Sony and Matsushita are in a battle to the death. Remember Sony's Beta videotape? That superior video system lost out to inferior VHS tape, a story often used to compare Macintosh to Windows.

Well, Matsushita was behind VHS, and completely embarrassed Sony. Ever since then, the two have been at each other's throats. This July, that war heated up, much to the benefit of consumers. This is the year of the affordable digital video. Finally, digital video is good enough to rival film cameras, and cheap enough to be affordable to the consumer.

Apple is heavily advertising its consumer video capabilities (great timing, but needs better ads in Japan), and FireWire/iLink is nearly standard on PCs everywhere. Now the race is on over who will dominate the revolution in DV.

Matsushita fired the first volley in that war last year. In 1998, Sony introduced its chewing gum-shaped, 10 pin with write protect lock, purple Memory Stick. The flash memory found in Memory Sticks is RAM memory that keeps its information after the power is disconnected. Since then, all Sony products have included MS slots, including their Clie Palm OS PDA's.

This year, Panasonic released a major update to its old postage stamp sized 7 pin MultiMediaCard (MMC).

The "SD" is about 50% thicker, adds 2 more pins to the connector for nine total, and a tiny write protect switch. Panasonic computers and devices and some third party products, support the new SD (Canon does support SD). The biggest threat to Sony may have been getting Palm Computers to include SD slots in its new line of m50x PDA's, which challenges Sony's Clie.

Sony shot back this summer by updating all Clies to color screens, the first to do so in the Palm OS camp, and a 40% price drop on all its Memory Stick products, making it cheaper than the old, low cost industry standard CompactFlash and SmartMedia memory products. Sony is also losing the standards' war with 8mm video tape losing ground to mini-DV tape.

The Germans have also been drawn into this war (shades of 1940?). Sony has involved the incredible talent of the Carl Zeiss lens company, possibly the best in the world, but Matsushita allied themselves with the *other* great lens company, Leica Decomar!

Sony does have a problem; it's going at it alone with Memory Stick. Unlike the MMC or SD, very few other parties use Sony's Memory Stick technology (the expensive white Memory Gate), and this could doom the product. In Japan, the sides have been pretty much drawn against Sony, but the US—being slow to adopt new technology—is led by Sony because it is the only computer with a flash memory stick port "standard." It is a weak lead, and can change instantly, and Sony does not want a repeat of the BetaMax fiasco. Sony may be willing to bend over backwards to cement a solid position in the world's largest and most pros-

perous economy. Apple IS the prominent multimedia platform and a great match for Sony.

Consider this: The Macintosh Portable was a mammoth 17-pound "boat anchor" that Sony turned into the tiny PowerBook 100. Sony also made the 3.5-inch floppy drive used by Apple since the first Mac. Japan also saw the improved PowerBook 540c, the 550c, which is better than the 190 or 5300 series. Then IBM Japan came out with the amazing PowerBook 2400 Comet, which is as light as a Duo. Past relations with Japan have been very successful for Apple, and should continue that way, especially if Apple wants to stay ahead of the competition.

Written with Word 98 on a PowerBook 550c (You can't keep a great computer down!).



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Thanks, Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press donates books for raffle at our monthly meetings. To thank them for their generosity, 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.

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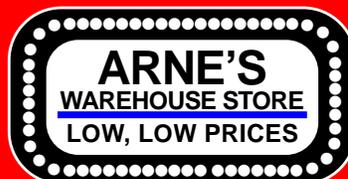


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the Apple Barrel
really is until you
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SIG Schedule

OCT. 20, 2001

updated Oct. 2, 2001

McMurtry Auditorium	Jensen Conference Room	Jamail Conference Room	Anteroom to Jamail Conference
<p>9:00 HTML Bob Lacey Bob Lacey will continue with HTML in a shortened one-hour format as the group indicates its preferences.</p>	<p>SPREADSHEETS Joe Muscara Have a question about how to do something with a spreadsheet? Drop on by and we'll help you figure it out. In the meantime, just don't be surprised if the discussion roams to the latest Macs, what's in the new OS, what's new for the Mac, or anything else remotely Mac related.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Available</p>
<p>10:00 OS X Mort Butler OS-X SIG will show the MicroMat "Drive 10" program and discuss iTools disk at the Apple site. Also, discussion of the new OS 10.1 updater which is now available.</p>		<p>MAC FUNDAMENTALS Jonathan Magnus A beginner's SIG that will answer beginner and intermediate questions. The operating system ins and outs, the built-ins and the add-ons, tuning it and keeping it happy. This general SIG is mainly software oriented.</p>	<p>Available</p>
<p>11:15 MAIN PRESENTATION: Corel The main presentation features Corel and the Mac products it is releasing under a new name: Procreate. Tickets for drawings for giveaways, if any, will be given out at the beginning of the main presentation to members with their membership badges or cards <i>only</i>.</p>			
<p>12:15 BUSINESS MEETING: Club President Jeff Davis 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. FOLLOWED BY THE NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AT 12:25.</p>			
<p>12:30 FILEMAKER PRO Rex Covington Learn how to make your database work better.</p>	<p>MOBILE COMPUTING Joe Kudrna We'll talk about the new Palm OS Hardware, and the use of Flash memory storage (Memory Stick and SD). <i>See Part 2 of Joe's article on Japanese innovations in electronics, specifically digital video, on page 5.</i></p>	<p>JAVASCRIPT Jonathan Magnus We're proceeding onward. The SIG is now on chapter 20. The book chapters are at http://www.htmlgoodies.com/primers/jsp/.</p>	<p>MAC ONE-ON-ONE Volunteers as available. We will try to have a few experienced Mac users to meet with people who need assistance either with a Mac or with the club itself. Discussions on a one-on-one basis. Volunteers are more than welcome to join in.</p>
<p>1:45 DIGITAL WHATEVER Cancelled for October.</p>	<p>INTERNET Larry McLoughlin Come make the most of the Internet.</p>		<p>COCOA PROGRAMMING David Trevas A preliminary meeting to see whether there's interest in having an ongoing Cocoa programming SIG.</p>

Proposed SIG: Pick up a sign-up sheet at meeting

MAX (MIDI) PROGRAMMING SIG Leader Anna Fay Williams: Max is a graphical programming environment for music and media applications for the Mac. MAX allows you to control anything with anything. For instance, you can use MIDI to control a laserdisc player, or mouse movement to control the playback of a Quicktime movie. Max provides a way to customize the logic of building an interface to interactive media. It lets you schedule events with millisecond accuracy, create complex mappings for incoming data, and run a large number of operations in parallel. In order to find the level of interest before starting a SIG, some sign-up sheets will be provided with a plan for doing the tutorials so that those who *are* interested in exploring MAX programming can download down the full version which they can use for 30 days. This version also includes some excellent tutorials which are used by the colleges now teaching MAX programming.

STOCK MARKET SIG

Not meeting this month.

Upcoming Meetings

Corel coming in Oct., Apple & iDVD in Nov.

Corel will present the latest information about their extensive line of products such as CorelDraw, Corel Graphics Suite, Corel Photo-Paint and more during the Main Presentation Oct. 20, 2001 at our monthly meeting.

In November, Apple Computer will present the latest information on iDVD, OS X and other Apple hardware and software during the Main Presentation, which begins at 11:15 AM.

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus will deliver his annual "Apple year in review" at the December meeting.

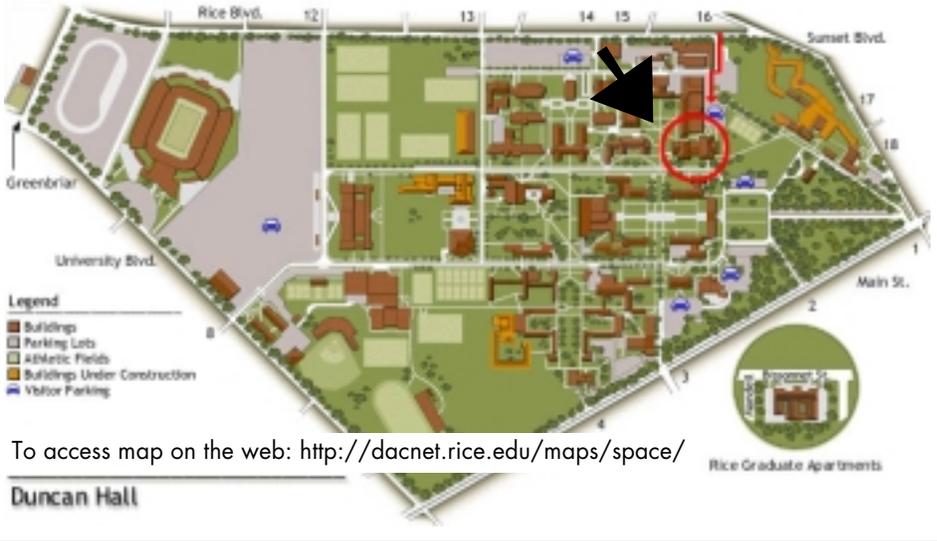
The next meeting of the **Board of Directors** will be Tuesday, Nov. 6, at HAL-PC, 4543 Post Oak Place. Check the HAAUG website (<http://www.haaug.org>) for any changes in location or schedule.

HAAUG meets at Rice University

HAAUG's meets on the Rice University Campus in Duncan Hall. The meeting space is being donated by Rice, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity. **DIRECTIONS TO THE MEETING:**

From US 59/the Southwest Freeway: Exit Greenbriar. Turn South toward the Rice University Campus. Turn East (left) on Rice Blvd. at the light. Look for entrance 16 on the right past Rice Stadium.

From Loop 610/the South Loop: Exit Main Street. Turn North toward the Medical Center. Turn West (left) on Sunset Blvd. Sunset Blvd. and Rice Blvd. split in about 1/2 to 1 block. Bear left on Rice Blvd. Entrance 16 is the first parking lot entrance on the left.



Corel and Procreate

MAIN PRESENTATION OCT. 20

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