THE JOURNAL OF THE HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

MARCH 2002

Apple Barrel

HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

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Opera, RagTime and muffins — oh my!

Time for some Spring cleaning. Here follows a collection of odds and ends accumulated since the beginning of the year on all things Mac. — The Editor

Opera browser alternative to Explorer and Netscape

Opera Software recently released the final version of Opera 5.0, their Web browser for System 7.5.3 through Mac OS 9.2. Opera boasts fast page rendering, easy keyboard navigation, flexible searching from within the browser interface, page zooming, and a host of tweaky configuration options. Although not perfect, Opera appears to provide highly credible competition for Internet Explorer 5.1 and Netscape 6. Opera's free to use in banner mode (similar to Eudora). If you wish to support Opera directly, it costs $40 new, or $20 for students and senior citizens. Opera 5.0 requires a PowerPC-based Mac running System 7.5.3 or later, and it's a mere 2 MB download.

http://www.opera.com/mac/

QuarkXPress 5.0 shipping

Quark has begun shipping QuarkXPress 5.0, a long-simmering upgrade to the company's industry-leading page layout software. The new version includes a tables feature for working with tabular information, layers for managing separate design elements, plus improved AppleScript support and color enhancements. QuarkXPress 5.0 also features Web publishing and XML export tools for designers using the program to create files not traditionally associated with page layout. Although Quark has stated that a Mac OS X version is under development, QuarkXPress 5.0 runs only under Mac OS 9 or the Classic environment of Mac OS X. The program is priced at $900, with upgrades available at $300 for registered owners of QuarkXPress 4.

Small Bytes

http://www.quark.com/products/xpress/

RagTime: Free page layout program a download away

What page layout program is less expensive than Deneba's Canvas, Adobe's PageMaker or Quark Express. (No, MacPublisher is not the answer.) RagTime is.

RagTime 5 is being offered by a German company that provides the software in both Mac and PC versions as a free download from their web site. However, it is a 50 MB download, so a fast connection is recommended.

RagTime was a pretty big hit in Europe, but not very successful in the United States when first released here in 1986. The idea of RagTime was to integrate word processing and spreadsheets into one program.

http://www.ragtime-online.com/

Complete online tax service available to Mac users

Dennis Sellers on MacCentral reported on January 16th that CompleteTax service is available to Mac users. It is an online tax preparation and filing service. ($17.95 US) It requires OS 9 and IE 5 or higher. http://maccentral.macworld.com/news/0201/16.completetax.php Service at http://www.completetax.com

MORE "SMALL BYTES" ITEMS ON PAGE 4

MAIN PRESENTATION

Thursby Software to demo Mac-Windows network solution

Thursby Software will demonstrate "Dave" during the Main Presentation on March 16 in Duncan Hall on the campus of Rice University. "Dave" is a cross-platform networking solution that uses standard TCP/IP protocol to integrate a Mac/PC network. "Dave" is installed on a Mac and requires no other hardware or software on a PC to allow sharing between the two platforms. For more information on "Dave," go to http://www.thursby.com/products/dave.html.

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 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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Volunteer Coordinator: JOE KUDRNA

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

MAC AND APPLE SIGS WANTED
Volunteers who have ideas for SIGs, please contact Phil Booth at pcbooth@swbell.net .

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 • FEB. 6, 2002

Members in attendance: Rex Covington, Lyda McGhee, Philip Booth, Clair Jaschke, David Jaschke, Elizabeth English, George Sroka, Howard Fitter, Randy Herzstein, Barbara Long, Mike Epstein, Mort Butler, Joe Fournet, David Trevas, Rick Roberts, Mike Lawshae.

The meeting was called to order by President David Jaschke at 6:30 p.m.

Announcements

Appointed Voting Positions:
Senior Advisor: Howard Fitter
Membership: Mike Lawshae
Apple Barrel editor:
George Sroka
Mac Librarian: Mort Butler
HAAUG Heaven SYSOP:
Randy Herzstein
SIG Coordinator: Phil Booth

The Appointed Voting Positions were unanimously approved.

Randy Herzstein will relinquish his director's position since he now holds two voting positions. Another director will be appointed to take his place.

Reports

Secretary – Lyda McGhee: The minutes for January, 2002 were approved. The December 2001 minutes were approved as amended.

First Vice President: Programs – Rex Covington: The Swap Meet was held January 19th. FileMaker will be here in February and will also do a special presentation during Rex's FileMaker SIG. Thursby Software, maker of DAVE, will be here in March and Corel will be here in April. Tom Turner from Corel will do the April presentation.

Second Vice President: Facilities – LaMark Johnson: was not present and no report was given.

Treasurer – Barbara Long: The treasurer's report will be posted in Club Business this week. Swap Meet income: $440 for tables and $5,514 for membership. The cost of the Hilton Hotel for the Swap Meet was $984.

Membership – Mike Lawshae: There are presently 422 members. Out of the 422 members, 219 have HAAUG Heaven accounts. At the Swap Meet, there were 61 special renewals for 2 years each.

Apple Barrel – George Sroka: George says that the February issue will be "festooned with pink hearts in honor of Valentine's Day." He is also happy to report that there are a couple of new Apple Barrel volunteers. Last month, the Apple Barrel was printed late, but it did get delivered before the meeting date.

Apple Barrel Ad Manager – Vacancy: no report was given.

SIG Coordinator – Phil Booth: Rex will do an iPhoto session at 9:00. Digital Whatever will be on hiatus for several months and, in its place, Phil may do a Final Cut Pro SIG for a few months. Isabelle MacCrimmon will present a GoLive SIG at 9:00 for several months. Mort will be unavailable for the April OS X SIG.

Apple Librarian – Mort Butler: Five or six sets of the OS X CD's were sold and there are 20 sets left. We need more of CD #3 for new members – Mort will burn 25 more for Mike. Mort will also have CD #4 ready for the March meeting.

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

Volunteer Coordinator – Joe Kudrna: was not present and no report was given. Rex will contact him.

Publicity Chairman – Joe Fournet and Mike Lawshae: Advance releases have been sent out re: Thursby Software (DAVE) and FileMaker Pro.

Boutique Manager – Amy Denton: was not present and no report was given. Amy wants Rick (Roberts) to buy the T-shirts.

HH Hotline – John Reeves: Rex has the software for John and they will get together. Rex will put the new software on a 7200 Power Mac.

Committee Reports

HAAUG Heaven – Randy Herzstein reported that HAAUG Heaven is now running on a new G4 server with all user accounts now on a single hard drive instead of three. The upgrade to the latest FirstClass server is underway and an email will be sent when accomplished. Also, about half of the HAAUG Heaven users have logged on over the last two months and a plan was discussed to increase the usage of HAAUG Heaven.

Audit Committee for 2001 – Committee: Chairman Randy Herzstein, Mort Butler, and Howard Fitter.

Old Business

What is the plan for HAAUGNet? A committee (Randy Herzstein, Jeff Davis, and Rex Covington) will make a long-range plan for HAAUGNet.

New Business

President David Jaschke asked the directors to take on the responsibility to contact other board members and keep abreast of their plans so that, in the event that someone is not at the board meeting, a director will know what is happening and be able to report to the board.

The following appointments were approved unanimously:

Rick Roberts: *Apple Barrel Ad Manager*
John Reeves: *HAAUG Heaven Hotline*
Jeff Davis: *HAAUGNet*
Jim Oliver: *Mentor Program*
Rex Covington
Vendor Coordinator
Joe Kudrna
Volunteer Coordinator

Someone is needed to take over the Boutique. Rex will talk to LaMark's wife who has expressed an interest.

A committee was appointed to review and inventory HAAUG email messages: Chairman Randy Herzstein, Mike Lawshae, George Sroka, Phil Booth, and Joe Fournet.

A committee was also appointed for the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet: Chairman Rex Covington, Barbara Long, David Trevas, and Phil Booth. Both Apple and MicroCenter have volunteered to sponsor such an event.

The Audit Committee for 2001 will look at both 2000 and 2001 records.

HAAUG needs a WebMaster and this is a newly created position. Rex will ask Isabel MacCrimmon if she is interested.

Mike Lawshae made a motion regarding a new membership contest: A current HAAUG member will receive a one month extension to his/her membership for every new member that joins between now and the July Swap Meet and mentions the current member when signing up. This motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. *Minutes from January meeting available on HAAUG Heaven.*

FileMaker Pro web solutions touted

BY GEORGE SROKA
APPLE BARREL EDITOR

FileMaker Pro Solutions Developer George Bigham outlined the database and web solutions provided by FileMaker Pro during the Main Presentation at the February HAAUG meeting on the campus of Rice University.

Bigham said FileMaker Pro offers solutions that "normal human beings can use" compared to Microsoft Access, "which normal human beings cannot use." He pointed out that Microsoft doesn't offer a Mac version of Access, which he suggested might be a blessing.

FileMaker Pro is a robust, multiplatform flat and relational database capable of creating dynamic web content, Bigham said. He pointed out that several large organizations—including local ones such as Rice University and Compaq—use FileMaker Pro extensively.

FileMaker Pro 5.5 adds several new features, including a revamped and improved web publishing feature. "The newer versions have gotten the web stuff way lots better," Bigham said.

Another enhancement to the FileMaker Pro lineup includes FileMaker Pro Mobile, which enables users to export databases to their PalmPilot and compatible devices, then synchronize the hand-held version with the one on their desktop computer or server.

Bigham touted FileMaker Pro as a database solution simple enough for normal people to learn easily, yet powerful enough to handle any database or web-publishing need. For those who want to learn more, he suggested they "come to Rex's SIG and bug him unmercifully with questions."

The FileMaker Pro SIG led by Rex Covington meets at 12:30 PM after the Main Presentation.

Focus on FileMaker Pro: *George Bigham (left) described the database and web-publishing features of FileMaker Pro to a near-capacity crowd attending the February Main Presentation. – photos by David Scheuer*

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Add a month to your own membership with every new member you get to join between now and the Swap Meet in July.

Whimsy, wacky humor and Flash collide in muffinfilms

If you want to see what Flash can do and you appreciate a sense of whimsy, visit....

http://www.muffinfilms.com/

Digital photo fans rejoice

Everything photography—for beginners, advanced amateurs and professionals—is available at the Photographer's Online Information Place.

PhotographyTips.com is for everyone with an interest in photography. It is intended to help beginners get started in photography, and become so good at it that they turn into advanced amateurs. Accomplished photographers will also find useful tips and hints here. The primary objective is to help people like you to take better photographs.

You can sign up for a free newsletter as well.

http://www.photographytips.com/

Eliminate web formatting with Word's Paste Special

If you've ever pasted text from a Web page into a Microsoft Word document, you've undoubtedly noticed that the formatting from that Web page flies in right along with the text you've pasted. To get around this problem, simply choose Paste Special from the Edit menu and in the resulting dialog box, select Unformatted Text.

If you routinely face this situation, why not create a Paste Special macro? To do so, select Macro from the Tools menu, select Record New Macro from the Macro submenu, enter a key combination to fire the macro, click the Close button, perform the aforementioned Paste Special routine, and click the Stop Recording Macro button to save your macro.

Explorer 5.1 Classic at...

http://www.microsoft.com/mac/DOWNLOAD/IE/ie51.asp

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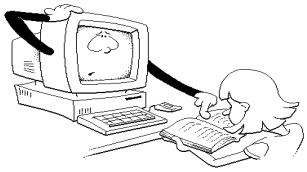

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Reach Mac users in the Greater Houston Area

SIGnificant Changes

After many years as SIG Co-ordinator, David Scheuer turns over the reins to Philip Booth

The new (Philip Booth) and retiring (David Scheuer-shown below) SIG Coordinators were asked the same set of questions recently posed to new board members. Scheuer's answers also serve as the short history of special interest groups in HAAUG. Read on…

DAVID SCHEUER

HAAUG member since?

The Apple II was current; the Apple II+ was just coming out. Atari had a hot new desktop. Trying to decide which to buy. So I think it was late 1979 or early 1980. Rhea Kramer was still typing the "Barrel" on mimeo forms and then cranking them out on blue paper for our then-current president Mike Kramer. I decided on the II+, by the way voting in favor of floating point basic, instead of integer basic, the main difference back then.

DAVID SCHEUER

Previous office(s)/position(s) held in HAAUG, including SIG leader?

Been a board member. Can't remember when. Probably 1985/1986. Did a few SIGs over the years. We had at one time a "random" room with tables and space for informal SIGs. I used to haul in my 512Ke and set up under a sign that said, "no questions are stupid here." Much later I used an empty room and called the SIG "The Miscellaneous SIG," both early day "Mac One-on-one" versions, which is why I created that SIG. Fortunately, others volunteered and it now gets along without me. Recently started the stock SIG. Mostly I prefer to either listen or kibitz at other people's SIGs. Back in 1997, I tried a CD trading room session at 3:00PM for members to come in and swap used games. It kind of petered out, the CD level wasn't that high back then. Might work now however.

Number of years in current or previous position?

Unsure. Perhaps 1985 to 2001—17 years or so. Shortly after the Mac came out, I got one—the 128K—on January 15th 1984. Lyle Washington was "SIG Coordinator" and there were only Apple II SIGs. But by the end of the year there were three MAC SIGs, and still at least seven Apple II series SIGs, I was sitting next to Lyle at board meetings and he asked me to handle the Mac SIGs separately (although in coordination with him), and thus created the new position of Mac SIG coordinator. Lyle died of cancer some years later and I inherited the position of SIG coordinator. Our club disk library is officially the "Lyle Washington library" in his honor.

The last real Apple II SIG was AppleWorks under Wayne Bockleman, which kept going until 1996 as I recall.

The longest running SIG was "Games" run by Bob Lewis from early 1985 to 1997 or '98, or so. At least 12 years, maybe longer. It was also one of our best-attended SIGs until almost the very end. I attribute that last year decline to the "graying" of our membership. People used to bring their kids back then. Bob sometimes ran a Utilities SIG, which included how to squeeze a little more out of an over-age Plus, later how to hop-up a IIsi. And of course some actual utilities.

First Mac you ever used was?

128K. Unless a Lisa counts, I had one of those on my desk at work in 1983.

Current Macintosh you use?

B&W G4/400. Of course it has 1.5Gigs of RAM and I recently installed a 100 Gig HD when Sam's rebate brought the net down to $120. All at the bargain prices as you would expect from "The Mac Shopper."

Do you work in a Mac-friendly office or school?

Used to. I'm retired. But I did work in Mac-friendly environments until then. I was the Mac support person amongst other tasks. Actually when I started, I was Apple II support, later Lisa support. Then we got the Macs in. Another task was Systems Manager to a 1 Meg mini-system that filled a major part of a floor. The power filter (surge suppressor) was 6' by 12' by 3' and cost $25,000. The 100 Meg (yeah, Meg, not Gig) hard drives were the size of washing machines, and the stepping motors that moved the heads weighed in at 70 pounds and could crack walnuts. I know because I had to help haul a couple up two flights of stairs one Sunday (elevator went out) when we were doing a hard drive upgrade. A printer card, a simple parallel printer card was $2,495 and it was comparable in size to the motherboard in my G4. We ran that system around the clock processing seismic data.

Power user of what software program, if any?

Getting out of date and out of practice. Used to be a heavy user of Excel and Photoshop, back when an employer corporation paid to put the latest and greatest on my desk, where they further paid me to learn it. Now I'm retired, it's out-of-pocket, and I'm gradually falling behind. However, I'm working intensely on "Tomb Raider" (for six months now) but I still haven't gotten lead game character "Lara" out of her back yard training ground. I keep running her into walls, but she's very patient with me. Just says "Oh no, that's not the way."

Even though you didn't ask: Influence on the family?

Major. My son Jack became a summer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

SIGS

9:00

SPECIAL! Home Networking – Sarah Gonzales will be giving a presentation on Home Networking at 9:00 in McMurtry Auditorium.

Mac 101 –Ken Martinez**– Jamail Conference Rm** Prerequisite, owning a Mac or Mac clone: This one-hour SIG is for beginners or those with basic Macintosh questions. Join us with your questions and/or conversation. This SIG is general although hardware oriented, Mac Fundamentals leans more toward system software.

Spreadsheets – Joe Muscara **– Jensen Conference Rm.** 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. Considering the hour, there's usually a lot of fun and experience in the room.

10:00

OS X –Mort Butler**– McMurtry Auditorium** The OS-X SIG will continue explanations of System operation and some areas to look out for, with Q&A following the seminar. There will also be a demonstration of the latest version of HAAUG Heaven.

Appleworks/Clarisworks– John Reeves **– Jensen Conference Rm.** I plan to show some of the updated features of AW 6 while using Mac OS X.1. No schedule is set, just which topics the members want to see that day. Any other topics that members wish to cover are also welcome.

Macintosh Fundamentals – Jonathan Magnus**– Jamail Conference Rm.** A beginner's SIG that will answer beginner's 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, Mac 101 is primarily hardware oriented..

11:15

Main Presentation– McMurtry Auditorium "Dave" by Thursby Software

12:15

Business Meeting McMurtry Auditorium 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.

12:25

New Member Orientation – McMurtry Auditorium Getting the most from your membership. How HAAUG Works to serve you

12:30

SPECIAL! HAAUG Heaven demo –Randy Herzstein, HAAUG Heaven SYSOP, will demonstrate HAAUG Heaven, explain the setup process and answer questions from members.

Mobile Computing –Joe Kudrna**–Jensen Conference Rm.** All things Mobil, and wireless. This month we will cover wireless networking.

Java Script– Jonathan Magnus **–Jamail Conference Rm.** Is changing to a discussion of the Unix foundation of OS X. I will do some Unix commands.Something about basic terminal commands. We will go to some web sites for examples.

Mac One on One Volunteers as available **Ante room to the Jamail Conference room.** 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.

1:45

Digital Whatever – Philip Booth – **McMurtry Auditorium.** Last month we edited video with Final Cut Pro, In March, there will be a demo of BIAS Peak, and Cubase AV for those interested in music on the Mac.

Internet – Larry Mcloughlin**– Jensen Conference Rm.** Come make the most of the Internet.

Cocoa programming –David Trevas**–Jamail Conference room** We will discuss how to use OpenGL 3D graphics in Cocoa programs. OpenGL is the dominant graphics system for high-end games, computer-aided design (CAD) packages, flight simulators and scientific and medical imaging systems. We will cover the article "Using OpenGL with Cocoa" written by our group's leader and published in the current issue of MacTech magazine. Bring your laptop for a "hands-on" experience.

March 16, 2002

HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

	McMurtry Auditorium 1	Jensen Conference Room 2	Jamail Conference Room 3	Jamail Ante-Room 4
9:00 am	**Home Networking**	**SpreadSheets**	**Mac 101**	**Open**
10:00 am	**OS X**	**Apple/Clarisworks**	**Mac Fundamentals**	**Open**
11:15 am	**Main Presentation Thursby Software "Dave"**	**Open**	**Open**	**Open**
12:15 pm	**Business Meeting**	**Open**	**Open**	**Open**
12:25 pm	**New Member Orientation**	**Open**	**Open**	**Open**
12:30 pm	**HAAUG Heaven**	**Mobile Computing**	**Mac OS & Unix**	**Mac one on one**
1:45 pm	**TBA**	**Internet**	**Cocoa Programing**	**Open**

MAIN PRESENTATION Thursby Software, developers of "Dave," the Software that allows Mac and PCs to live on the same network, and talk to one another.

SIGnificant Changes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

apprentice to Apple in Cupertino, Ca. after his sophomore year in college, and wound up working there full time for several years after graduation from college. He worked on video board, and chip design, not programming. He explained this decision by reminding me of the late nights when the phone would ring, mostly after a thunderstorm, and a someone would say the DG system I managed is off line, all the little red lights are on, can I come in quick. A programmer friend of mine with another company used to regale him with stories when she came to visit. She told him all the heavy-iron horror tales of weekend crash recoveries, three days living in the computer room trying to fix a leap-year glitch, and such. So he decided to avoid the software area. My daughter, Susan, started working for a Mac-based ad agency in San Antonio while in college and went to work there full time after graduation. She's still a graphic artist working on a Mac.

PHILIP BOOTH

HAAUG member since?

1994 I think, I was a member in the 80s when I had an Apple// but dropped out.

Previous office(s)/position(s) held in HAAUG, including SIG leader?

None. I helped Dave Scheuer out by doing the SIG Handout

Number of years in current or previous position?

Just started. I was active in another organization that kept my attention.

First Mac you ever used was?

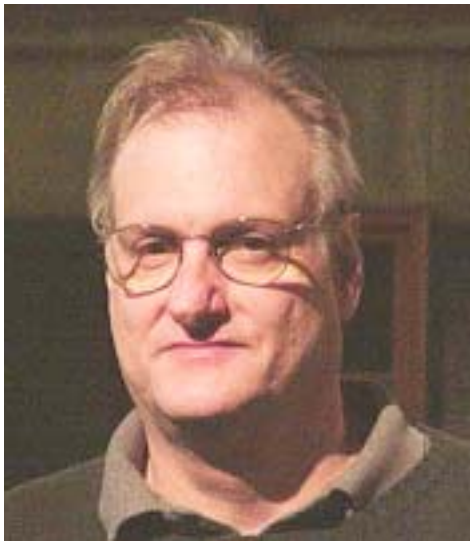
One of the first all in ones 128/512 (Rented at Kinkos) Bought a Quadra 840AV in 94.

Current Macintosh you use?

Current axe is a 350 B/W G3 Tower.

Do you work in a Mac-friendly office or school?

Semi. University of Houston speaks both platforms with some Unix thrown in



PHILIP BOOTH

for good measure, while my shop owns two 9600 Macs (Avid NLE) and a dual 800 with Cinema Display (very nice). I use the dark side for my office work.

Power user of what software program, if any?

I am learning Final Cut Pro, have some proficiency in Photoshop, and use an audio editing program called Peak. Kind of a media geek.

MAIN PRESENTATIONS

MARCH
Thursby Software
Maker of "Dave"

APRIL
Corel
CorelDraw, Procreate

MAY
Connect Learning
Software Training

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