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JANUARY 2003

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SWAP MEET

*Semi-Annual Hardware & Software
Member/Vendor Tabletop Showcase*

*Sign up online
or mail in form
on page 7*



Sat., Jan. 25, 2003

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

U of H Hilton Hotel

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Win a brand-new PowerBook in the Raffle!

Finish selling your raffle tickets for the PowerBook in HAAUG's latest fund-raiser or buy more yourself at the Swap Meet. Drawing for PowerBook to be held at Noon at the Swap Meet.

Convenience drives public acceptance of technology

BY PHILIP BOOTH

HAAUG SIG COORDINATOR

Convenience is one reason why some technologies supplant others. Let's take the phonograph for example. After Edison invented sound recording in the late 19th century, the phonograph—with a few improvements—remained the way most of us listened to music in the home for almost 100 years.

I'm sure that when the Victor Talking Machines were introduced, many people made comments like "the phonograph will never replace the piano in the parlor." Why did the phonograph take off? I contend that it succeeded because it allowed people to listen to the great artists of the time in their living rooms.

Granted the sound was not close to a live performance. But the phonograph evolved with electronic recording and the change to the LP format. This overcame the "78's" major drawbacks of poor sound reproduction and four-to-five minutes of music per side.

In the 1950's, developments in recording and reproducing technology, and the introduction of Stereo recording optimized the performance of the format. Records were now the way most of us experienced music. How many of us still have stacks of LP's. Again, sound

See TECHNOLOGY on page 5

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING • DEC. 3, 2002

Apple Barrel is a monthly publication of the HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS' GROUP (HAAUG), 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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SIG Coordinator: PHILIP BOOTH

Boutique: OPEN

Ad Manager: OPEN

Publicity Chairman: JOE FOURNET

Vendor Coordinator: REX COVINGTON

Volunteer Coordinator: OPEN

APPLE BARREL PUBLISHING

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

ARTICLES NEEDED - ALL FLAVORS

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

Members Present: David Crook, Joe Fournet, Barbara Long, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, James Warren, Mike Epstein, Rick Roberts, Randy Herzstein, Elizabeth English, Lyda McGhee.

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. by President David Jaschke.

Announcements: Bob LeVitus will not be here for the December meeting, but he will send a video presentation. Mike Lawshae had an auto accident this afternoon.

REPORTS

Secretary: Lyda McGhee – The October and November minutes were approved as written.

1st Vice President: Rex Covington – Bob LeVitus will be unable to be here at the December general meeting but he will try to find us a good replacement or will send a video presentation. The swap meet will be held in January on the 4th Saturday. Eye TV will be here in February and Microsoft Office will be the main presentation in March.

2nd Vice President: LaMark Johnson – LaMark was not here but the report was given by Rex Covington. The swap meet will be held the fourth Saturday in January and Rex will talk to Peter Gingiss regarding the use of UH facilities. We will be unable to meet at Rice in February.

Treasurer: Barbara Long – We have \$12,869.27 in the bank and a year-to-date income of \$1,360.97.

Membership: Mike Lawshae – Mike was unable to be present due to an automobile accident. Current member-

ship is 424.

Apple Barrel: George Sroka – George promises to write an uplifting editorial. The December issue will feature articles by Joe Muscara and Joe Kudrna. Bob Lewis also wrote another article on utilities. Many heartfelt thanks to George for the years he gave as *Apple Barrel* editor. David Crook, the new editor, was introduced.

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

Mac Librarian: Mort Butler – Mort was not present and has been sick for the past three weeks. Get well soon, Mort! We will have another CD ready for the December meeting with shareware programs endorsed by Bob LeVitus.

HAAUG Boutique: Vacancy – We need to find a volunteer for this position. Many thanks to Barbara Long for helping out with the Boutique.

HAAUG Hotline: David Trevas – David is still working on the Hotline problems. Hopefully, it will be fixed by the end of the year.

HAAUG Heaven: Randy Herzstein – Randy reported that everything is OK and HH was backed up several times in the past month. He is still waiting on the OS X version of First Class.

HAAUGNet: Jeff Davis – We have 4 new DSL users, 14 dialup users, and we are hosting 2 or 3 websites.

Webmaster: Isabel MacCrimmon – The goal is to have the new website completed before the end of the year. New site testing is to be done of a work group server.

Publicity/Vision: Joe Fournet – There will be no meet-

ing in December for this committee. Joe expressed concerns about the brochure and the phone number for the HAAUG Hotline. If it's not working, why print it?

SIG Coordinator: Phil Booth – Unfortunately, Joe Muscara has decided to end the Spreadsheet SIG. Bob Lewis is getting more games and gearing up for a new Games SIG. In December, Digital Whatever will feature Final Cut Pro with Phil Booth.

Vendor Coordinator: Rex Covington – Rex has already started notifying vendors of the swap meet on the 4th Saturday in January.

Volunteer Coordinator: Vacancy – no report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

Raffle: Rex reported that the raffle is going well.

Spring Fling: The Spring Fling will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Bellaire Civic Center at 7008 S. Rice. Topics include OS X in depth, Office applications, Final Cut Pro, and a Mac shop.

Brochures: Rex and George are handling the brochures and new brochures are needed for the upcoming weekend. The Hotline phone number problem needs to be resolved.

Nominations: The nominations were listed and the report was accepted by the Board. There are no contested offices.

NEW BUSINESS

MicroCenter's User Group Extravaganza will be held on Sunday, December 8 from 12 – 5 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

So long. Farewell. auf Wiedersehen. Goodbye.

BY GEORGE SROKA
APPLE BARREL EDITOR

First, let's dispense with the obvious irony that my first commentary as editor of the *Apple Barrel* is being written on my way out the door. I feel like the boy who everyone assumed couldn't speak until one day he asked someone to pass the butter. When asked why he hadn't spoken until then, he replied: "I didn't need anything until now."

What I need now is to say how grateful I am to have served as the editor of the *Apple Barrel* for the past three-and-a-half years. It's been fun, challenging, a pain in the butt, and a joy—often simultaneously.

I'm equally grateful to have worked with such a wonderful group of people, both on the *Barrel* staff and the Board of Directors. They're all dedicated, funny, and hard working. Do yourself a favor and volunteer for a position with HAAUG just for the sheer fun of sharing time with them.

In particular, I'd like to thank my copy editors and proofreaders, who

made the *Barrel* better through their keen attention to all the little details that go into a monthly newsletter. The *Apple Barrel* staff is Betty English, Manley Mandel, Janet Marks, and Gem Smith. Many thanks to you all. Without your help, the *Apple Barrel* would not have won an Adobe User Group Achievement Award at MacWorld for being one of the best user group newsletters in the country.

Finally, I'd like to address an issue that came up a few years ago when HAAUG surveyed members who let their memberships lapse. We asked these ex-members—many of whom rejoined due to the survey—why they hadn't kept up their memberships, what they liked and disliked about HAAUG, and so on.

A few said they didn't find HAAUG to be a friendly organization. They felt ignored and unwelcome at the monthly meetings. In fact, they felt shut out because no one talked to them. It felt like someone telling us our collective breath stank when we knew for sure we had just brushed our teeth.

I pondered those comments and came to the following conclusion: people tend to talk only to the people they already know. It takes a special effort to approach someone you don't know and strike up a conversation. It's important for HAAUG veterans to make that effort with newcomers.

So what I'm going to do, starting with the next general meeting, is look for someone I've never talked to before and strike up a conversation. If you see me coming, brace yourself for conversation or run for the hills. We are ALL ambassadors for HAAUG. I encourage everyone to identify newcomers and try to make them feel welcome.

In fact, HAAUG is looking for members to serve as greeters at the monthly meetings to help newcomers. That volunteer job is yours for the asking.

So, in parting, I encourage you all to share the friendly spirit found in our motto of "Members helping members since 1978." HAAUG is a great organization, one that celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. I've been proud to serve as editor of the *Apple Barrel*.

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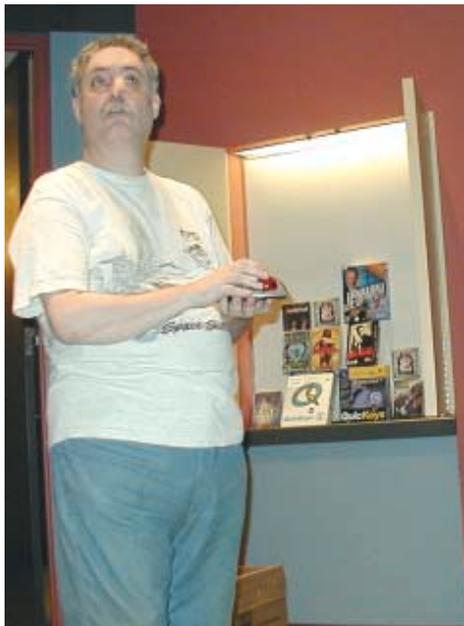
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Santa Came Early

At the December meeting of the Game SIG, Bob Lewis raffled off more than a dozen pieces of software contributed by MacPlay, MacSoft, Freeverse, Blizzard, Ambrosia, CE Software and Symanics — photo by David Scheuer

Apple announces 'supersized' PowerBook, new software

As announced at MacWorld this month, Apple is now offering "supersized" and "petite" versions of the PowerBook G4, plus loads of new or improved software. (The following is adapted from a news release on the Apple web site.)

The PowerBook G4 is being joined by two new family members. The new 17-inch PowerBook G4 sports an industry-first 17-inch widescreen display, and an ambient light sensor that dynamically adjusts the brightness of the screen and of the new fiber-optic, backlit keyboard. It comes with a SuperDrive and built-in support for Bluetooth, FireWire 800 as well as 400, and new AirPort Extreme technology.

At the other end of the size scale, the new 12-inch PowerBook G4 comes in the smallest package ever from Apple. It also has built-in Bluetooth support, it's AirPort Extreme ready, and you can configure it with a SuperDrive instead of the standard Combo drive.

Apple is also offering an

immediate \$200 price cut on the original 15.2-inch (diagonal) screen, 1GHz, SuperDrive-equipped PowerBook G4.

In other Macworld news, Apple announced the immediate availability of two new software packages plus upgrades to software currently shipping with new systems.

Keynote is a new generation of presentation software that brings the ability to create beautiful, professional-quality presentations to everyone for \$99.

Final Cut Express provides the digital video enthusiast with professional-level editing, compositing, titling, audio mixing, color correcting, and effects tools for \$299. It features the same interface and workflow as Final Cut Pro.

iLife includes the latest, much-improved versions of iTunes, iPhoto, iMovie, and iDVD on a single disc for \$49. All the upgraded software *except iDVD* can be downloaded for free. The upgraded version of iDVD comes only on the iLife disc.

HAAUG member who sells the most raffle tickets earns an iPod

The HAAUG member who sells the most raffle tickets in our latest fund-raiser earns an iPod for their efforts.

Only HAAUG members can sell raffle tickets for the Apple PowerBook (retail price \$2,499), but anyone can buy. So ask your friends, co-workers and neighbors if they'd like a chance to own

the world's best laptop for the price of a \$5 raffle ticket (or six for only \$25).

The raffle drawing will be held at Noon at the January Swap Meet. So make your final sales push now.

Tickets will also be sold at the Swap Meet on Saturday, Jan. 25, if you'd like to buy more yourself.

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Technology

Continued from page 1

quality and convenience made LP's appealing, as not many of us can play Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto or the licks of Jimmy Hendricks.

The next evolution was the audio cassette, and its success was due to being able to play them in the car, on the beach, or anywhere you wanted to have music. Ray Dolby developed noise reduction technology, which took most of the tape hiss out of the cassette. Also cassettes enabled you to program your listening by making your own tapes.

Recordings prior to the mid-1980's offered a good analog reproduction of the musical performance, allowing anyone to hear the latest hit records whenever they wanted.

In the mid-1980's every thing changed with the introduction of Compact Disc Digital Audio. The format took off beyond everyone's imagination, quickly relegating LP's to the dustbin of history. Cassettes held on longer because CD players for cars were not fully developed until the early 1990's.

As with the introduction of every new technology, some complained that CD's sounded "tinny," and insisted LP's were superior. However, those complaints were outweighed—again—by the convenience of the format. The public liked the small size, and the absence of surface noise and static. The listener simply dropped the CD in the machine and

out came music. Barring extreme abuse, the CD played the same way every time.

Soon portable players with memory caches were introduced that compensated for the skip problems, followed by CDRs that allowed anyone to build their own collection of songs. The audiocassette faded as a means of recording and playback.

CD technology progressed, and developments in the format answered most of the critics. However, some "purists" prefer LP's and some bands release "vinyl," claiming the sound is better. Then something called "MP3's" popped up on the radar screen. Small solid-state playback devices were developed, making possible the compression of CD audio files into much smaller files for playback on these small devices.

Again, convenience and features win. MP3's can be loaded on a computer or playback device, and sent to friends. The MP3 format allows for the manipulation and storage of sound in ways unavailable to average users just a few years ago.

As CD's supplanted analog LP's, so do MP3's threaten to overwhelm "traditional" CD's. When producing technology for public consumption, convenience is king.

National Public Radio (NPR) did an interesting series on the development of recorded sound and pop music. To learn more, go to <http://www.npr.org>, and search for "Techno Pop the Secret history of recorded music."

Welcome these new and renewing HAAUG members

Donald Achttien	John Harris
Maria Almanza	J. H. (Pete) Holland
Urvine Atkinson	Jerry Holtman
Carl Baker	Lloyd Irwin
Carolyn Barrar	Thomas Jenkins
Bob Beeley	Spence Kerrigan
David Beeman	Robert Love
M. Sean Blakley	Rod McCullough
Sharon Boyle	David Morgan
Richard Brear	Bridgett Norris
Alva Carlton, Jr.	Kirit Patel
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Boss HAAUG's Hogs

BY CLAIR JASCHKE

In honor of David's first year as President of HAAUG, I decided to give him appropriate gifts throughout the year. I hope you enjoy them too.

December 2001 (Christmas): Caroling pig oinks "Oh Christmas Tree!"

February 2001 (Valentine's): Valentine card featuring the Cu-pig

March 2002: Biker Pig from the Air Liquide March of Dimes fundraiser

June 2002 (Father's Day): Piggy bank ("get away loot")

July 2002:
Chatterbox radio with pig that moves its mouth with announcer or music (photo at right)

August 2002: Ty plush pig

October 2002 (anniversary): multicolored Oinking Ollie Pig walks, oinks, wiggles tail, nose & ears

December 2002 (Christmas): Pig on Parade calendar

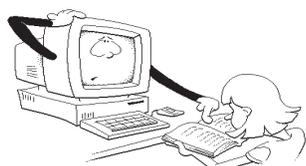


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Mark your calendars:

HAAUG's 2003 General Meeting dates

HAAUG normally meets the third Saturday of the month at Rice University in Duncan Hall. The Swap Meets are typically held in January and July on the Main Campus of the University of Houston. Dates and locations are subject to change, so check the Barrel or www.haaug.org.

Jan. 25	Swap Meet @ U of H	July 19	Swap Meet @ U of H
Feb. 15	Location TBA	Aug. 16	Rice University
March 15	Rice University	Sept. 20	Rice University
April 19	Rice University	Oct. 18	Rice University
May 17	Rice University	Nov. 15	Rice University
June 21	Rice University	Dec. 20	Rice University

January 2003 Swap Meet

Register online for a table
at <http://www.haaug.org>



Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Evening Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____
Member Number _____ Expiration Date _____
Number of tables desired _____ Table Fee total _____
Electricity Fee (if applicable) _____
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THE H A A U G S E M I - A N N U A L S W A P M E E T

Saturday, January 25, 2003 • 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Hilton Hotel on the University of Houston Main Campus

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 January 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

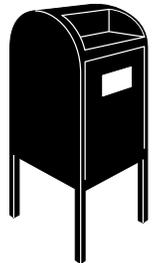
number, expiration date, phone number, so it can be confirmed with your table number.

For reservations via the web, go to <http://www.haaug.org>. Look for the link to the Swap Meet Table Reservation Form. Simply fill out the form and hit "submit."

If you are unable to register via the web, fill out and mail this printed form. The mailing address is already pre-printed for your convenience. Please leave enough time for the form to be received by mail no later than the Thursday before the Swap

Meet. Before mailing, fold form in thirds and tape edges to keep information private.

Each table will be tagged with the reservation name. An alphabetical name list will be posted on the doors, in case you forget the reserved table number. The event will take place in the same space in the University Hilton Hotel that we occupied previously.



Upcoming Meetings

Winter Swap Meet coming

HAAUG's biannual Swap Meet will be held Saturday, Jan. 25, in the Hilton Hotel on the Main Campus of the University of Houston. Those with paid-up (as of January) memberships are entitled to one free table at the Swap Meet. Sign up for your table online at the HAAUG web site or use the form on page 7.

In February, HAAUG will not meet on the campus of Rice U. due to a scheduling conflict. More information to come.

HAAUG Board meets Feb. 4

The HAAUG Board of Directors will meet next at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, in the offices of HAL-PC, 4543 Post Oak Place. Members are welcome to attend.



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Drawing for laptop to be held at Noon at Swap Meet

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