

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

February 2005

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Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus State of the Macintosh Address

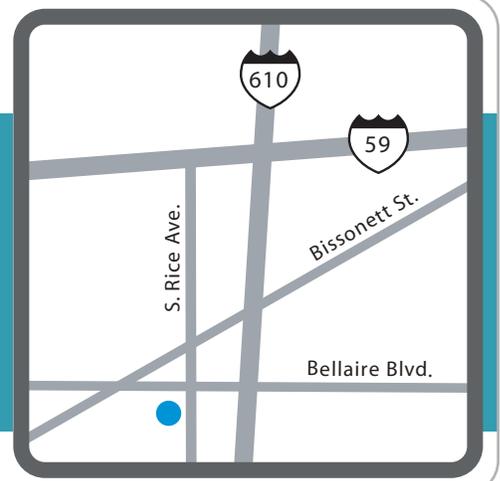
Saturday, February 19th, 2005

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus will be presenting his yearly "State Of The Mac Address." Bob LeVitus is a leading authority on Mac OS and the author of 47 computer books, including Mac OS X Panther For Dummies and GarageBand For Dummies. Bob also writes a weekly article for the Houston Chronicle. See you there!

Meeting Location

Please join us this month at

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 S. Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401



P.O. Box 570957
Houston, Texas 77257-0957

Inside Back Cover

Last-minute, space-filling Apple news

Apple Barrel

is a monthly publication of the HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP (HAAUG), 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. HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc.

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Apple Announces Two-for-One Stock Split

Cupertino, California—February 11, 2005

Apple [has announced] that its Board of Directors has approved a two-for-one split of the Company's common stock and a proportional increase in the number of Apple common shares authorized from 900 million to 1.8 billion. Each shareholder of record at the close of business on February 18, 2005 will receive one additional share for every outstanding share held on the record date, and trading will begin on a split-adjusted basis on February 28, 2005. •

Geek-y HAAUG Server Stuff

by Jeff Davis—Webmaster, HAAUGNet Admin

For months we've had what we call triple 9 uptime, it's impossible to have 100% uptime, because something always goes down, a router somewhere or what ever, but our servers have been doing great, with the exception of a power outage in the building, which resulted in both servers being off line for 1.5 hours, they've been up and running 100% of the time. The really cool thing was after the power outage, both machines restarted automatically, with all hard drives spinning back up and all services coming back online with out any people involved. CPU utilization averages just below 20% for the haaugnet.org server with the haaug.org/haaug heaven server just over 20%. CPU peaked at almost 90% on haaugnet.org and at 67% for haaug.org/haaugheaven. Network traffic peaked on haaug.org/haaug heaven at 247.58KB/s and 246.12KB/s on haaugnet.org. Both servers could handle many more users and we look forward to pushing these CPU's alot harder. •

Volunteers, we thank YOU!!!

There are many opportunities to volunteer, and we appreciate all of you who pitch in with our organization of "Members Helping Members." That's what it's all about!

Whether it's unfolding chairs or tables, assisting with the boutique, helping out at the membership desk, helping the SIG coordinator, joining committees, teaching a class, or serving on the Board of Directors—it all helps and we appreciate it!

See you at the next meeting!
Casey Sivula, Volunteer Coordinator

Hot News

Important information for the discerning Mac user

iTunes Music Store Downloads Top a Quarter Billion Songs

Cupertino, California—October 19, 2004

Apple [has] announced that music fans have purchased and downloaded more than 250 million songs from the iTunes Music Store. iTunes users are now downloading one and a quarter million songs per day, which is an annual run rate of almost half a billion songs per year. The iTunes Music Store is now available in fifteen countries, which together represent more than 70 percent of the global music market.

“When we launched the iTunes Music Store we were hoping to sell a million songs in the first six months—now we’re selling over a million songs every day, and we’ve sold over a quarter billion songs in total,” said Steve Jobs, Apple’s CEO. “iTunes is leading the way into the digital music era and together with iPod is changing the way millions of music lovers find and enjoy their music.”

With Apple’s legendary ease of use, pioneering features such as iMix playlist sharing, seamless integration with iPod and groundbreaking personal use rights, the iTunes Music Store is the best way for Mac and PC users to legally discover, purchase and download music online. The iTunes Music Store features more than one million songs from the major music companies and 600 independent record labels, over 9,000 audiobooks, gift certificates and exclusive music not found anywhere else online. •



Hardware Update

The latest hardware releases from Apple Computer

"Apple continues to lead the industry with the most innovative notebooks," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "With new features like the scrolling TrackPad and Sudden Motion Sensor, the new PowerBooks are the ultimate combination of performance and portability."

Apple Unveils Faster, More Affordable PowerBooks

Cupertino, California—January 31, 2005

Apple [has] unveiled the fastest, most affordable PowerBook line ever, featuring PowerPC G4 processors running up to 1.67 GHz, faster hard drives and a faster 8X SuperDrive—all housed in the PowerBook's signature aluminum enclosure. All new PowerBooks come standard with 512MB memory, faster graphics, integrated AirPort 802.11g, Bluetooth 2.0 wireless networking and two new Apple patent-pending technologies—the scrolling TrackPad and the Sudden Motion Sensor.

Designed for creative and business professionals, the new PowerBooks introduce Apple's patent-pending scrolling TrackPad that works with every application and document, so users can easily scroll through long web pages or across large photographs. Simply touch the trackpad with two fingers instead of one to quickly scroll or pan within the window. Every PowerBook also includes Apple's patent-pending Sudden Motion Sensor technology which integrates a tri-axis accelerometer to help protect a spinning hard drive if the notebook is



Photo credit

Courtesy of Apple Computer

accidentally dropped. Apple's revolutionary backlit keyboard with ambient light sensors for working in low-light conditions is now built in to all 15- and 17-inch PowerBooks and is up to 10 times brighter than before.

The new PowerBooks deliver increased performance with both the 15- and 17-inch PowerBook models offering up to 1.67 GHz PowerPC G4 processors and industry-leading ATI Mobility Radeon 9700 graphics processors with 64MB or 128MB of graphics memory. All models now include 512MB of 333 MHz DDR SDRAM and faster 5400 rpm hard drives for demanding professional applications. The 17-inch PowerBook now features Dual Link support to drive Apple's breakthrough 30-inch Cinema HD Display as an external monitor, and this feature is also available as a build-to-order option on the 1.67 GHz model of the 15-inch PowerBook. •

For more information, visit <http://www.apple.com/powerbook/>

Build-to-order options for the new PowerBook line include up to 1.25GB DDR RAM on the 12-inch model and up to 2GB on the 15- and 17-inch models, an 8X SuperDrive (DVD±RW/CD-RW) optical drive, 128MB graphics memory with Dual Link DVI on the 1.67 GHz 15-inch (for enabling the 30-inch Apple Cinema HD Display as an external monitor), a 100GB Ultra ATA/100 hard drive running at 5400 rpm on all models, AirPort Extreme or Express Base Station, Apple displays and the AppleCare Protection Plan.



Dr. Mac Direct Now Offers Mouse Calls Like You've Never Experienced Before

San Francisco, California—January 12, 2005

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus [has] announced Doctor Mac Direct, a new service for troubleshooting, technical support and training on any Macintosh software issue. Now for the first time, any Macintosh user can request a Macintosh expert's help and receive phone support or use a totally new interactive Web-based control method that allows the Mac expert to see and work on the problem remotely. Doctor Mac Direct also offers online interactive training, assistance with system migration, pre-purchase buying advice, and more.

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus and troubleshooting guru, Ted Landau, also demonstrated the service for the first time to select press attending Macworld Conference & Expo San Francisco 2005. The new Doctor Mac Direct service will be available to the general public later this month.

"Doctor Mac Direct is exactly the kind of set-up I wanted to help my own father when he was alive," stated Bob LeVitus, founder of Doctor Mac Direct. "There were so many times I wanted to reach through the Internet, see his screen and move his mouse to quickly fix what he needed. The technology and bandwidth are finally here! Doctor Mac Direct is starting a revolution in tech support and training on the Mac using state of the art technology, leading industry experts and the mother of all troubleshooting gurus in Ted Landau at the helm with me."

Hand-selected industry veterans comprise the staff of Doctor Mac Direct experts who use jargon-free language to help users track down and resolve problems, conduct personal training or offer advice. Doctor Mac Direct services are available for any issue related to Mac



OS X or Classic Mac system software, Apple software or third-party software. Doctor Mac Direct experts will also help Mac users migrate systems or transition to Mac OS X.

Doctor Mac Direct's experts use an incident-appropriate combination of telephone, email and a unique Web-enabled control software system to communicate with Macintosh users based on their needs and connectivity situation. Macintosh users with a broadband connection can choose to install a plug-in for Safari that allows Doctor Mac Direct experts to see their screen and move their mouse for quicker problem solving, migration help or training.

Starting later this month, Macintosh users can call, toll-free 1-877-DrMac4U (1-877-376-2248) or visit doctormacdirect.com to request a Doctor Mac Direct expert's help, training and advice. Requests will be answered with an estimated time, cost, matched expert and proposed appointment. Problem resolution prices start at \$30 for a quarter-hour resolution. Doctor Mac Direct guarantees resolution in the time estimated or will continue working toward resolution at no additional cost.

"Mac users win big with high-quality help and a resolution guarantee that we'll fix what's wrong within our estimate or keep working on it at no additional cost until we do," LeVitus continued. •

For more information, visit <http://www.doctormacdirect.com/>



Photo credit
Rex Covington

Classifieds

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February SIG Topics

General Meeting—Saturday, February 19, 2005

Mac 101 — Jonathan Magnus
Prerequisite, owning a Mac or Mac clone: this one hour SIG is for beginners or those with basic Macintosh questions.

Digital Photography — Joe Muscara
Bring your cameras, bring your photos (printed or electronic) and we'll discuss what makes a great photo; tips and techniques for taking better pictures; where using digital differs from film, and much more.

HAAUG Heaven Forums — Robert Lacey
This is a SIG for Members who want to use the new HAAUG Heaven forums. This session will demonstrate how to sign up, log on, create and respond to posts.

OS X — Rex Covington
Panther Fundamentals.

Photoshop — Micah Gartman
Topic to be announced.

Macintosh Fundamentals — Jonathan Magnus
Rick Roberts will substitute for Jonathan this month and discuss back-up strategies.

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

	9:00am	10:00am	10:45am
Room One	HAAUG Heaven	OSX	
Room Two	Digital Photography	Photoshop	
Room Three	Mac 101	Mac Fundamentals	
Room Four	Open	Open	New Member Orientation

Business Meeting

The business meeting will be conducted before the Main Presentation.

Mac Hardware Topics — Doug Smith

HAAUG VP Doug Smith will demonstrate the installation of a processor upgrade card in his computer. Thanks to OWC for the loan of the card.

Mac Games and Utilities — Robert Lewis

This Month we will look at how to care for your Mac. During this time we will look at the Latest versions of DiskWarrior, Norton's SystemWorks 3.0.1, TechTools 4, and Drive 10. In addition, we will look at what I consider the top shareware utilities available on the web. Time permitting, I will also do a demonstration of Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King by Aspyr Software. Door prizes at the end of the SIG.

iLife '04 — Micah Gartman

Learn how to create, organize and share your music, photo, and movie collections.

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.

Please look for the numbers designating the areas that the SIGs will meet.

11:15am	12:30pm	1:45pm	
Main Presentation	iLife '04	Open	Room One
Open	Mac Games and Utilities		Room Two
Open	Mac Hardware	Open	Room Three
Open	Mac One-on-One	Open	Room Four

Minutes

Of the HAAUG Board of Director's Meeting—January 4, 2005

ATTENDEES

David Jäschke, Doug Smith, Joe Kudrna, Clair Jäschke, Barbara Long, Mike Epstein, Christina Huston, Rick Roberts, Joe Fournet, James Warren, Morton Butler, Micah Gartman, Philip Booth, Casey Sivula, Rex Covington, Gene Zimmerman, Tamara Lewis, Jim Connell

CALL TO ORDER

6:30 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Davis is recovering from surgery

REPORTS

Secretary: Clair Jäschke

Clair presented the December minutes, which were approved

1st Vice President: Doug Smith

January 15	Swap Meet	Bellaire Civic Center
February 19	State of Mac	Bob Levitus

Doug reported that air arrangements have been made for Bob Levitus (Dr. Mac) to attend the February general meeting. No presenters are scheduled for March and beyond. Doug hopes to sign up presenters at MacWorld.

2nd Vice President: Joe Kudrna

Joe reported that the Bellaire Civic Center has been reserved for the February general meeting for Dr. Mac's presentation.

There was a discussion regarding the number of tables and chairs needed for the Swap Meeting at the Bellaire Civic Center. Barbara has table coverings. There will be a set-up party Friday evening.

The Holiday Inn Greenway Plaza has been tentatively reserved for the general meetings from March through June. These reservations have been confirmed but no contract has been signed. This Holiday Inn now has wireless Internet.

The July Swap Meet will be at the Bellaire Civic Center.

Treasurer: Barbara Long

Barbara reported that the G/L report has not been posted yet; she is waiting for the final bills and expenses. Bank balance is \$13,877.96; sales tax has not been paid yet.

The purchase of the projector and projector screen has been recorded.

Boutique Manager: Barbara Long (acting)

Barbara reported that two caps were sold at the December meeting.

Membership: Morton Butler

Mort reported that there are 378 members. He is working on a sample handout for new members with OS 9 including a CD. There will also be a handout for OS X new members with a CD that includes OS 10.2.

Apple Barrel Editor: Micah Gartman

Micah reported that he does not have a draft of the January Apple Barrel yet. He is waiting for MacWorld announcement. He is looking for someone to write the next installment of the history of HAAUG. David Jäschke said he would write this and his final Boss HAAUG column.

SIG Coordinator: Philip Booth

Phil reported that there would be no SIGs for January due to the Swap Meet. Rick Roberts was elected the new SIG Coordinator and Phil will work with him to assure a smooth transition. Someone other than Rex may do the OS X evening SIG for January, but Rex will continue the FileMaker Pro evening SIG in February. The Board would like to thank IAV for providing a meeting place for the evening SIGs.

HAAUG Heaven Sysops: Robert Lacey

Rex reported that the HAAUG Heaven forums are up and running but are not getting a lot of use. Members need to be encouraged to use the forums. Phil and/or Robert could do a SIG or demo at the Swap Meet.

HAAUGNet Sysops: Jeff Davis

Rex reported that HAAUGNet had one glitch this month but was ok after the server was restarted. Otherwise, it has been running well. There are 21 clients and is paying for itself.

Publicity: Christina Huston

Christina reported that she has sent publicity notices on the Swap Meet to the Houston Chronicle, Houston Press, and other publications.

Vision Committee: Joe Fournet

Joe reported that there was no meeting in December. The committee will probably meet after the Swap Meet. Rex will update the HAAUG Club Business e-mail so that the new Board members will be notified.

Volunteer Coordinator: Casey Sivula

Casey reported that there were 65 members at the December meeting and 7 or 8 visitors.

HAAUG Hotline: Rex Covington

Rex reported that he has been researching a couple of companies that could handle the Hotline for us. Both are about \$20/month and would provide an 800 number (to which the current Hotline number could be forwarded). HAAUG would have to pay the cost of the 800 number including minutes. There would be no contract and the people he talked to were very nice. Messages would be e-mailed as wave files. There could also be announcements. Overall, a nice system. There would be up to 20 mailboxes. Rex will also be checking on software at MacWorld; he wants a system as hands-off as possible. With a software system, we would have to find a place to put it. If we put it at IAPC, we would have to buy another line. We don't want to keep it at Startronics. Our current phone bill is about \$75/month and includes Yellow Page listings, which are used a lot.

Rex will write a proposal for the next Board meeting.

Webmaster: Rex Covington

Rex reported that he is trying to keep the website up-to-date. It was suggested that Rex and Jeff get together and go through the website page by page and revise or update as needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MacFest 2005 Committee: Phil Booth

(Rex Covington, Barbara Long, Casey Sivula)

Phil reported that the committee held a meeting in December for the 2005 MacFest to be held on Saturday, May 5, 2005. He sent the Board a preliminary budget. Rex and Doug will "beat the bushes" for additional presenters. Chris Breen and Bob Levitus are confirmed. David Pogue backed out. It is possible that there may be single sessions rather than concurrent sessions if there are enough "big" presenters. Next committee meeting is 3rd Thursday of January. There will probably be two meetings per month.

OLD BUSINESS

Projector Screen: Phil Booth

Phil reported that the screen has been bought for \$378.88. Phil has custody. The screen is 80" diagonal and easy to set up.

Projector: Rex Covington & Mike Epstein

Rex reported that the projector has been bought for about \$1,700. It was used at the December general meeting and some evening SIGs. It is really small (size of a brick). Rex appreciated Mike's help in arranging this purchase from IAV.

Randy Herzstein's Membership Fee: David Jäschke

David reported that the membership fee that Randy Herzstein submitted via Kagi was returned per the instructions from our lawyer. A check and simple letter was sent in a traceable manner. In order to be accepted for membership, Randy would have to ask

the Board for approval to rejoin. The Board could then consider whether to readmit him to the club.

Election Results: David Jaschke

David reported that a total of 89 ballots were received. Micah Gartman and Joe Kudrna counted the votes and reported the results.

President	Rex Covington
Vice President – Programs	Doug Smith
Vice President – Facilities	Casey Sivula
Secretary	Tamara Lewis
Treasurer	Barbara Long
Membership Chair	Morton Butler
Apple Barrel Editor	Micah Gartman
HAAUG Heaven Sysop	Robert Lacey
SIG Coordinator	Rick Roberts
Webmaster	Jeff Davis
Director-at-Large	Jim Connell
Director-at-Large	Mike Epstein
Director-at-Large	James Warren
Director-at-Large	Gene Zimmerman

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments

The Audit Committee to review the 2004 books was formed. Morton Butler is the chair and Mike Epstein also volunteered. Mort will ask Howard Fitter to join the committee.

A motion was approved to give Jeff Davis \$30 in iTunes gift card(s) as part of his get-well gift. The attending Board members also signed a get-well card.

A motion was approved for \$160 for the rental of chairs for the February general meeting.

A motion was approved for \$599.48 for the rent at the Holiday Inn for the March meeting.

February Board Meeting: The February Board meeting will be at the Ragin' Cajun on Richmond.

Final Remarks

Outgoing President David Jaschke made a short speech thanking all the Board members for their support during his two terms, especially during some very difficult times.

ADJOURNED

8:10 P.M.

NOTE

Any board or committee reports not listed in these notes were not presented or discussed.

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For more information, please visit <http://www.haaugnet.org>

The Houston Area Apple Users Group Board of Directors meets on the first Tuesday of every month. All members are invited. The meeting is held at:

Ragin Cajun
4302 Richmond Ave.
Houston, Texas 77027
(713) 623-6321



Upcoming Events

Subscribe to the HAAUG iCalendar at www.iCalShare.com

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2005 Officers and Directors

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Gene Zimmerman

Apple Barrel Editor
Micah Gartman

HAAUG Heaven Sysop
Robert Lacy

Membership Chairman
Morton Butler

SIG Coordinator
Rick Roberts

Immediate Past President
David Jaschke

Boutique Manager
Barbara Long

Webmaster
Jeff Davis

HAAUGNet Admin
Jeff Davis

HAAUG Hotline
Rex J. Covington

Mentor Program
Amy Denton

Publicity Chairman
Christina Huston

Vision Committee Chairman
Joe Fournet

Volunteer Coordinator
Casey Sivula

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April 2005

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