

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

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September 2007

Boss HAAUG Speaks
page 2

General Meeting Parking Update
page 3

My Ten Sense on the iPhone®
page 4

Christmas in September
page 6

MacFest 2007
page 7

Classifieds
page 8

Minutes
page 10

Upcoming Events
page 12

Got Junk?
page 13

SIG Topics + Schedule
page 16



GoSOFT

Saturday, September 15th

Come hear Jennifer Bell from Prosoft Engineering, Inc., makers of utility software for Macs. The Main Presentation starts at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, September 15, 2007, at Rice University Media Center.

The General Meeting SIGs include topics such as Mac 101 & Fundamentals, Digital Photography, New Member Orientation, Adobe® Creative Suite, iTunes® + iPod®, iLife '06®, Mac One on One and much more!

Meeting Location

Rice Media Center
at Rice University

Entrance 8 / Building 47
University Blvd. @ Stockton Dr.

6100 Main Street, MS-529
Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 348-4882



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

Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



User group members get special pricing on all Nova products by making their purchases through the special web site.

www.novadevelopment.com/mug

In addition, HAAUG receives a 10% commission on the sales that are linked to our club's name through the Nova web site.

If you attended the August Meeting then you found the new parking lot that we will be using for the monthly meetings. The September meeting we will be in the same lot. This month's main presentation will be ProSoft engineering showing off their utilities.

We are still getting reports from members that they are not receiving HAAUG e-mail announcements. We are not getting bounces, which means that the messages are finding an e-mail account on the server. The problem may be that your Internet Service Provider is filtering HAAUG mail in their spam filter. I found that club e-mail was being sent to the spam folder in my account. This situation came to a head when I set my account to not deliver the messages in my spam folder. I used the Web interface on my account and found the HAAUG messages in spam folder. I needed to repeatedly move the messages from the spam folder to the In-box before they stuck. So if you are not getting HAAUG mail go to your ISP's web mail interface and see if HAAUG is in your spam folder. If you are unsure how to access your mail through the web consult your ISP's support.

I feel like a politician, last month I announced that I was not running for president again, well that statement was a little premature. I was prevailed to throw my hat back in the ring. Serving as President is an honor and I appreciate the confidence that my colleagues have in me. That doesn't mean that we quit looking for leadership talent. If you would like to serve on the board contact Doug Smith or David Jaschke. The board is always looking for new leadership.

Well you would have had to be on a cruise ship to miss the momentous announcement from Apple refreshing the iPod line up. The announcement of the price drop for the iPhone seemed to catch everyone by surprise. The debut of the iPod Touch is a product that a lot of folks seem interested in. The Touch gives you almost functionality of the phone with out the monthly bill. iPod and Wifi and a larger screen what more could you ask for. Apple is throwing a bone at the iPhone early adopters with a \$100.00 Apple store credit, and that seemed to quiet down the masses. So we all have the holidays to figure out what Apple Goodie we would like.

Please do not forget MacFest this year on September 29th at the UH Hilton. I think that this will be one of the best. Go to the HAAUG website to purchase tickets or at the meeting.

Phil Booth
2007 HAAUG President

Visit the the fine folks at K B Covers for great keyboard covers! They are offering all HAAUG members a 10% discount off their already great prices! Protect your keyboard and have all of your application shortcuts right at your finger tips. Use coupon code HAAUG for the 10% OFF offer.

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General Meeting Parking Update

Announcement

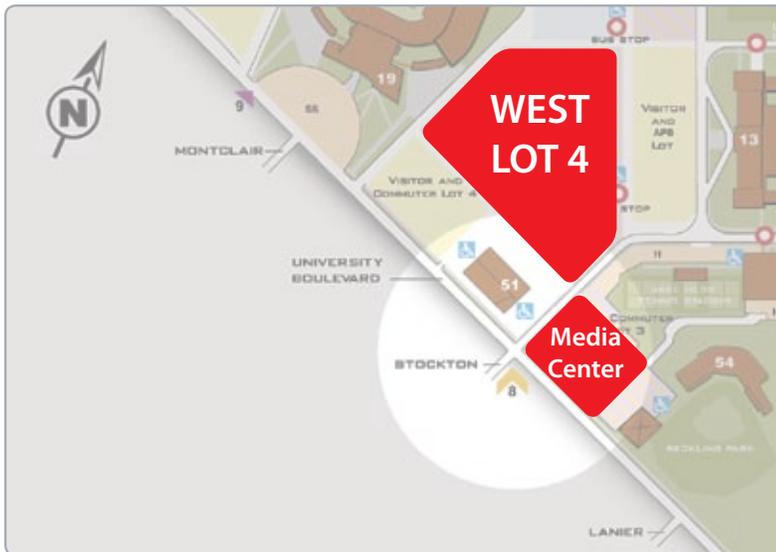
Rice Media Center Parking

For the next three meetings the parking lot next to the Media Center, the building where we meet, is closed. We will be using West Lot 4 which is adjacent to the Media Center See directions below

Enter the campus via ENTRANCE 8 (University Boulevard at Stockton Street), INSTEAD of turning right into the Media Center, turn LEFT at the same intersection and look for our parking attendant just ahead, on the right. The attendant will pass you through the gate free, into "West Lot 4" -- which is right across the street from the Media Center.

You will be able to leave at any time without presenting a card to the exit gate. Please try to avoid out-and-in-again as HAAUG gets charged every time the gate is opened.

Construction near the Media Center brought about the change. The construction company is using our normal lot as a staging area.



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My Ten Sense on the iPhone

By Tamara Sasha Alexander, *Apple Barrel Editor*

To vote and add your list of items you feel were left off the iPhone, visit www.iPhoneWishList.com

If I want what I need. Do I need an iPhone?

It has been an internal debate for a good week or so now, to buy or not to buy. Especially since they dropped the price for the iPhone® by \$200 across the board from \$499(4GB)-\$599(8GB) to the now “scandalous” \$299(4GB)-\$399(8GB), which has caused many to raise their fists in rage as if screaming “SHENANIGANS!” at a carnival booth.

Over the last couple of months, much hype has been given to the new Apple® iPhone®. According to the much-played television and web commercials, it is like having a dumbed-down laptop at your fingertips no matter where you are with the ability to store contacts, play music, view photos, watch movies and television shows, check your email, send SMS messages, take and store photos, surf the web and look up location information and driving directions. Most of all you can make a phone call with a speakerphone option. These features seemed almost irresistible at first. I mean really... If someone told you that you could eliminate three commonly used devices that you often don't have enough pockets or purse room for and utilize one gizmo to replace all three, what would your reaction be?



With all this talk about how easy-to-use and multi-tasking capable the iPhone is, I found more and more reasons why this was the latest gadget for me. For instance, in the last two weeks the graphic communications studio I work for has seen an increase in print production and last week there were a handful of times when viewing and reviewing emails exchanged and PDF proofs easily and on-demand would have proved to be indisputably priceless. This is when the search began for something to help put aspects of my daily life in sync.

At first look, the iPhone seemed like a cool utensil to add to the collection of portable electronics that make it into my purse. But after my experience at work, I started to ponder if all I needed was an iPhone or to go for the big enchilada and go with a robust PDA or Blackberry®.

In effect, I have decided to add my ten reasons to the countless lists of the disgruntled opinions mentioned in articles and tech-blogs that have kept me from making the somewhat “big” investment in what has been coined as one of the most intuitive mediums for mass communication. >>

1. **Limited .Mac Synchronization** - currently there is no support for uploading, downloading or viewing .Mac files, directories, etc.
2. **Colorless iCal** - In the iCal widget there is no way to tell which calendar certain events are from, since it merges all synced cal data together... if only they assigned different colored text to distinguish btw different calendars.
3. **Mail's Bare Bones** - lack of indication to tell which email account an email came from, ex. if only they made the different subject lines different colors to differentiate btw my .Mac and spotlight emails.
4. **File Architecture** - directory-type access to files, notes, etc to email and backup. Although, I do understand that this feature didn't make it on the cut because of security and file architecture corruption concerns.
5. **No Drag-in-Drop Features** - lack of the ability to drop files, ie. PDFs, excel docs, etc. into a directory on the iPhone (like you're able to treat normal iPods as an external HD)
6. **Second-Class SMS Messaging** - mysteriously missing character counter with multiple recipients capability. I would think this overlooked feature could be implemented via a clever applet or small plug-in through a basic iPod/iPhone software update.
7. **iChat/AIM® (Instant Messaging)** - at the moment there no iChat or AIM-equivalent support. This is a feature or widget that even if it meant no file/directory transfers, is one of the most overlooked features when it comes to the iPhone and overall communications.
8. **Underrated Camera** - the iPhone's camera only takes snap-shots, but has no video capturing capabilities. Even the cheapest phone-cameras have this feature, even if the video was limited in 15sec intervals.
9. **Lack of Flash** - no flash for the mediocre 2MP snap-shot camera
10. **Nearly Useless Bluetooth®** - no data sync via Bluetooth. Why didn't Apple use simple permission keys such as requiring an authorization code, such as a password, to sync data, contacts, etc. For some reason I have the feeling that a "little" government-controlled organization consisting three-lettered acronym, starting with a "F" and ending with a repeated consonants.

In the end, the more I think about all the reasons I don't need it, the more I realize that I am comparing the iPhone to other media handheld devices such as PDA's and Blackberries. The iPhone was never intended to much less as mimic those devices. Once I came to peace with the fact that the iPhone is merely a simple cell phone, touch-screen iPod, with a —once again— simple snap-shot camera, I developed a new-found love for the device.

The inner-struggle and debate continues, but whether or not you own an iPhone, I'd be interested in your opinion. Either way, it essentially comes down to the fact that the iPhone is merely an iPod that "i" can "Phone" people with which might indeed be the basic essentials that I need as an alternative to being continuously attached to the hip with my laptop.

Again, the internal struggle continues...

Christmas in September

By doug Smith, VP Programs

Unpacking the last Christmas present.

Every one of us is too busy these days. But waiting until September before opening a gift is past the line. One item on my holiday list last year was an iMic from Griffin Technology. <http://www.griffintechology.com/products/imic/> I wanted it to transfer the crates of LP's in the closet into my iTunes library. Thinking about, I understood the setup would be a minor pain. Digging out the tools needed for the task and then choosing what to do first went round in my head a few times. Let's see, I'll need a turntable, amplifier, cables, albums and tables to spread it all out on. That won't go over well in our living room. I waited for the right time to hit me.

The kicker happened while sitting in the Micro Center parking lot wait for my youngest brother David to meet me last Saturday. The two latest editions of iCreate <http://www.icreatemagazine.com/> my favorite Mac magazine, and a good salad for lunch to pass the time as I waited for 45 minutes. The 44th edition covered my task back to front, and I had all of the applications they discussed! We all like to use what we have already paid for to get things done; iTunes and GarageBand could do all the transfers if I had the time and space. Time was at hand since the brother called to say he was now unavailable and Traci was out of town for two days so the mess of the task would be gone in time. Homeward bound in the rain, I considered what to songs start with.

An hour later a small stack of 45's were on the desk. Two TV trays held the needed equipment. The iMic was in place and set to line input per the instructions. Guess what? It works pretty darn well with the little filter suggestions the iCreate writer suggested. I notice today that the writer had rated this task as a "Beginner" so all of us are more than qualified to attempt this one.

So dust off the turntable, plug cables from the Record Out ports and into an iMic and then plug that into a USB port and hear that old music again for the first time. Better yet, hire your kids, grandkids or the kid next door to do the actual sitting there and transfers. They need the funds and we still don't have the time. Remember, we are too busy. Besides, it is the only way the kids will ever hear the music we grew up listening to.



MacFest 2007

University of Houston Hilton Hotel | Conrad Hilton Room

MacFest 2007 is coming quicker than you think . . .

Mark **September 29th** on your calendar!



MacFest

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FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
www.haaug.org/macfest



Scheduled Speakers include recognized Mac authors and past MacWorld Conference and Expo presenters **Bob LeVitus, Chris Breen** (via iChat), **Andy Ihnatko + Lesa Snider King.**

Don't miss this dynamic event at the **University of Houston Hilton Hotel's Shamrock Ballroom** **Saturday, September 30th from 8:30 to 4:30.**

Tickets can be purchased at the general meetings or by visiting www.haaug.org.

Ticket Prices –

Members Pre-Event	\$35.00
Members At-the-Door	\$45.00
Non-Members Pre-Event	\$45.00
Non-Members At-the-Door	\$55.00

Take advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to get a magnitude of mac-based information here in Houston.

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh Community

Got a story, or photo you would like to see in the monthly edition of the Apple Barrel?

The Apple Barrel is always looking for good, meaty material for its monthly publication. If you have a personal story, review of a new product or just a funny or helpful thought, feel free to spread the word via the Barrel.

Submit your story, review or photos, etc. to: abe@haaug.org

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Dimensions: 3.5" x 2"

Frequency: 1X \$30, 2X \$25, 3X \$15

** Dimensions of advertisements may vary as a result of document layout.*

Minutes

Of the HAAUG Board of Director's Meeting - August 7, 2007

Attendees: Philip Booth, Jim Connell, Michael Epstein, Joe Fournet, Clair Jaschke, David Jaschke, Barbara Long, Michael Miron, Rick Roberts and Doug Smith.

Call to order: 6:39 p.m. by President Philip Booth.

General Announcements/General Meeting Recap: Phil Booth complimented Michael Miron on the room arrangement for the July Swap Meet at the Hilton University of Houston Hotel. Using a smaller room helped make the Swap Meet one of the most successful in recent years.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Secretary: The minutes of the board meetings held on June 5, 2007, and on July 3, 2007, were unanimously approved without amendments.

Treasurer – Barbara Long: The financial reports for July 2007 will be available shortly. HAAUG has at least \$10,000 in its bank account, and all bills have been paid.

1st Vice President – Doug Smith: The following main presentations have been scheduled for upcoming General Meetings:

August: Rusty Little from Alsoft, Inc.
September: Jennifer Bell from Prosoft Engineering, Inc.
October: Kickoff of Photo Contest (Rex Covington)
November: Michael Garfield
December: Announcement of Photo Contest Winners/Election of Officers
January: Semi-Annual Swap Meet
February: Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus's State of the Mac Address

Doug Smith will investigate having Dreux Ste. Marie or Jeff Davis make a presentation on Leopard at the October General Meeting, provided that Leopard is released prior to the October General Meeting.

Doug announced that he will not stand for re-election as the 1st Vice President—Programming, but will seek presenters for the General Meeting main presentations at next year's Macworld.

2nd Vice President – Mike Miron: Due to rebuilding of the baseball field at Reckling Field, the parking lot adjacent to the Rice University Media Center is currently unavailable and will not reopen until October, at the earliest. It is uncertain whether HAAUG members will be allowed to park adjacent to the Media Center once the parking lot reopens. The board discussed alternatives for parking and meeting locations at Rice. Mike Miron and Rick Roberts will explore the alternatives with the Rice administration. The Greenbriar Lot and the credit card parking lot adjacent to the campus police building are possible parking options for the August General Meeting. An announcement regarding parking for the August General Meeting will be made to the membership within the next ten days.

SIG Coordinator – Rick Roberts: Since a large number of attendees are leaving the General Meeting after the main

presentation, not as much space is needed for the afternoon SIGs. The afternoon SIGs include iTunes/iPod, Digital Photography, and Adobe Creative Suite (when Tamara Alexander is available). The iTunes/iPod SIG can be held in the classroom, with the Digital Photography SIG in the main auditorium.

Doug Smith announced that the Lake Jackson SIG has been suspended due to the closing of the bookstore where the SIG had been meeting. The Lake Jackson SIG will resume if there is a demand for it and if a new location can be found.

Apple Barrel Editor– Tamara Alexander: No report.

Webmaster – Jeff Davis: Jeff reported by e-mail that the servers are working normally.

Membership – David Jaschke: Three new members joined HAAUG during July, and sixteen members renewed their membership. HAAUG had 253 members at the end of July, a decrease of six members from July 2006.

HAAUG Heaven Forum/HAAUGNet—Robert Lacey: Robert Lacey reported by e-mail that the HAAUG Heaven Forum has been operating normally.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audit Committee: Jim Connell presented the report of the Audit Committee for the audit of the 2006 financial records. The committee found all of the financial records for 2006 to be well maintained and in good order. Based upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the board adopted a policy that checks that have been issued and have not been cashed within a period of one year from the date of issue be charged off the books.

NEW BUSINESS:

Macfest 2007: Phil Booth announced that the Macfest Committee will meet next week. Barbara Long reported that Macfest has \$785 in income so far and reminded the board that donations are needed for Silent Auction items for Macfest.

Nominations Committee: David Jaschke was appointed chairman, with Phil Booth and Doug Smith as committee members. Phil Booth announced that he would not stand for re-election as president.

Adjourned: 7:34 p.m.



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

Ziggy's Healthy Grill
2202 W. Alabama
Houston, TX 77098
(713)527-8588

www.ziggyshealthygrill.com



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Please visit with a HAAUG Board Member during the General Meetings or
visit www.haug.org for more information.

For more Information, please visit <http://www.haugnet.org>

Upcoming Events

Subscribe to the HAAUG iCalendar at www.iCalShare.com

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2007 Officers and Directors

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1st Vice President Programs
Doug Smith

2nd Vice President Facilities
Mike Miron

Secretary
Jim Connell

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Barbara Long

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Vision Committee Chairman
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Volunteer Coordinator
- OPEN -

Senior Advisor
Clair Jaschke

Apple User Group Liaison
Doug Smith

Saturday, September 29th

MacFest • 9am -2pm | TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Visit www.haaug.org for details!

Chris Breen, Andy Ihnatko, Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus, Lesa Snider King and more!
Hilton University of Houston Hotel, 4800 Calhoun Rd., Houston, TX 77004, (713) 741-2447

Saturday, October 27th

General Meeting • 9am -2pm

Main presentation: Photo Contest Pre-Contest Presentation with Rex Covington
Rice University Media Center • University Blvd. @ Stockton Dr., (713) 348-4882

Saturday, November 17th

General Meeting • 9am -2pm

Main presentation: "The High-Tech Texan" — Michael Garfield
Rice University Media Center • University Blvd. @ Stockton Dr., (713) 348-4882

Saturday, December 15th

General Meeting • 9am -2pm

Main presentation: HAAUG Annual Photo Contest + HAAUG Elections
Rice University Media Center • University Blvd. @ Stockton Dr., (713) 348-4882

Saturday, January 19th

Semi-Annual Swap Meet • 9am -2pm

University of Houston Hilton Hotel

Saturday, February 16th

General Meeting • 9am -2pm

Main presentation: Bob LeVitus — "The State of the Mac Address"
Rice University Media Center • University Blvd. @ Stockton Dr., (713) 348-4882

Find out the Latest News on Future HAAUG Meetings...

www.haaug.org/meetings.htm

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For more information on computer recycling opportunities, visit:

<http://www.chron.com/content/chronicle/special/03/recycle/index.html>

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Paying for your membership online with a credit card is secure, fast, and easy!

Visit www.haaug.org/join for details on joining.

Join By Mail:

Please Fill out and complete the following form. Send a check or money order payable to HAAUG and mail it to the address shown Below. First year dues are \$45 and renewals are \$40 per year thereafter. Memberships are available for full-time students at \$25 per year, including the first year. Associate memberships are also available for \$25 per year.

Your membership card will be mailed to you. You may pick up your starter kit at the next HAAUG meeting.

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Check # _____

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How did you hear about HAAUG?

Do you know someone who would be interested in joining HAAUG? Y | N

Would you be willing to volunteer in HAAUG?

Mail check to:

HAAUG
P.O. Box 570957
Houston, TX 77257-0957
Attn.: Membership Chairman

Membership Benefits

Enjoy the benefits of being a HAAUG member.

Monthly Meetings

This is where the excitement begins. On the third Saturday of each month, members of HAAUG meet for a day filled with activities, including presentations by major software and hardware vendors, special interest group (SIG) meetings, public domain software libraries, raffles and much, much more. Swap Meets are held twice each year, in January and July

Software Libraries

HAAUG maintains public domain and shareware libraries for the Apple II, Macintosh and Newton systems. HAAUG also distributes system software for the Macintosh (7.0.1 and earlier), Newton and all Apple II series computers. HAAUG has been designated by Apple Computer to be the Central United States Repository for Apple II Software.

Bulletin Board System & Internet Link

HAAUG Heaven is our 24-hour meeting place with several gigabytes of downloadable software, helpful information and discussions on all topics of computing, all accessible at rates from DSL speeds down to 33,600 bps.

HAAUG Heaven

provides each member with an internet e-mail address allowing exchange of world-wide electronic mail. Many discussion topics and many internet newsgroups make the answers to your questions as close as your keyboard.

Club Magazine

Club and industry news, meeting information and special member offers are published in our monthly newsletter - The Apple Barrel. The Barrel's content is also available to members on HAAUG Heaven in Adobe Acrobat format.

Mentor Program

The HAAUG Mentor Program puts people with hardware, software, system or network problems in contact with volunteers who can provide solutions. Contact with the mentors can be made through the HAAUG Hotline, HAAUG Heaven, e-mail or at the monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

People with common interests, including Macintosh and OS X basics, Newton, internet, games, educational computing, databases, publishing, graphics, desktop video, programming and more gather for in-depth discussion, product demonstrations, tutorials and general knowledge sharing.

HAAUG Hotline

Call the HAAUG Hotline at 713-522-2179 for the latest meeting information, to leave voice mail for officers.

Lots of Fun & Friendships

HAAUG is a not-for-profit volunteer group founded in 1978, three years before there was an IBM PC. Approximately 300 members enjoy the benefits of HAAUG. We range from beginners to experts, but we all know the secret to making our computers more valuable - a HAAUG membership.

Learn more about the benefits of HAAUG membership at www.haaug.org.

The 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 at www.haaug.org.

Annual membership is \$45 for new members, \$40 for renewing members, \$25 for student members and \$25 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 to members only. HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple Computer, Inc. The following are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc., Apple, Apple II, Apple IIGS, eMac, Macintosh, iMac, iBook, PowerBook, ImageWriter, LaserWriter and the Apple Logo. All other brand names mentioned are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective holders, and are hereby acknowledged.

SIG Topics + Schedule

General Meeting - Saturday, September 15, 2007

Ad hoc

Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics.

Scheduled SIGs take precedence. The HAAUG SIG Coordinator is Rick Roberts.

If you have a topic that you think warrants a SIG, please see Rick (large, bearded fellow) at the General Meeting, or email him at

rroberts@mac.com.

Sig Leaders

Mac 101 Fundamentals

Jonathan Magnus

This SIG is for basic Macintosh questions.

Mac One on One

Members helping members, one at a time.

Digital Photography

John Reeves

Bring your cameras, bring your photos (printed or electronic) and we'll discuss what makes a great photo.

iTunes® + iPod®

Rick Roberts

What's new, what's cool, how it works.

Cool Beans

Doug Smith

The host of bbwg.com demos and new cool stuff for the Mac.

	Auditorium	Classroom	Gallery
9 a.m.	Mac 101& Mac Fundamentals		
10 a.m.	Mac 101& Mac Fundamentals	Mac One on One	
11:00 a.m.	11:00 to 11:15 - We will transition to the business meeting and main presentation in the auditorium. Get in early, we'll move the schedule as fast as we can.		
11:15 a.m.	Business Meeting.		
11:30 a.m.	Jennifer Bell from Prosoft Engineering, Inc.		
12:00 p.m.	Digital Photography		
1:30 p.m.	iTunes® + iPod®	Cool Beans	
2:30 p.m.	Tear down, pack it up, and clean it up...		
3:30 a.m.	BBQ SIG location to be determined by consensus.		

Room assignments and SIG topics are subject to change at any time.
SIG leaders are volunteers, be nice to them.