

# Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

February 2011

**Boss HAAUG Speaks**  
page 2

**The Daily: Is This the Future  
of the Newspaper?**  
page 3

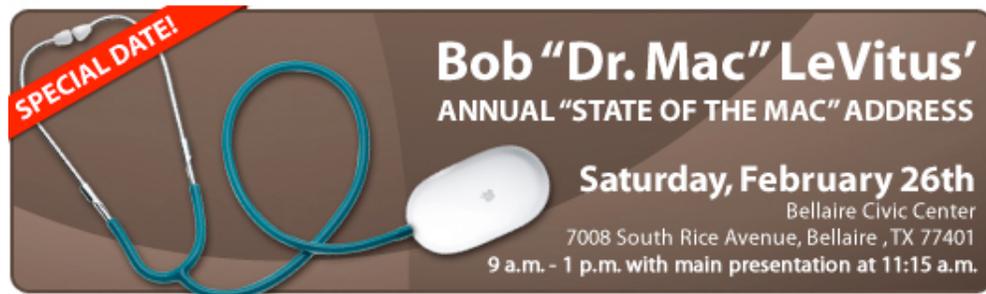
**Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes**  
page 7

**Upcoming Events**  
page 9

**February 2011 Event  
Schedule**  
page 10

**Got Junk?**  
page 11

**Product Review: ZAGGmate**  
page 14



**Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus'**  
**ANNUAL "STATE OF THE MAC" ADDRESS**

**Saturday, February 26th**  
Bellaire Civic Center  
7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, TX 77401  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m. with main presentation at 11:15 a.m.

**"State of the Mac" Address**  
**Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**  
(Note that this is the 4th Saturday of the month!)

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus delivers his annual "The State of the Mac" Address! "BBQ SIG" to follow!

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15.  
We'll see you there on the 26<sup>th</sup>!



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

## Meeting Location

**Bellaire Civic Center**  
7008 South Rice Avenue  
Bellaire, TX 77401

Just outside Loop 610 and  
south of Bellaire Blvd.



# Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



We have heard from the President, the Governor, and the Mayor about the "State of": and Bob LeVitus, will give his point of view on the state of Apple, at our February 26th meeting. Now I would like to give you, the members of HAAUG the state of your user group. It is a mixture of good and not so good news. First, let's review the good stuff: we still have an active, functioning organization. We have trimmed the operating expenses of the group to the point that we are seeing a tiny amount of surplus. Part of the trimming came when we moved our web host which significantly cut that expense. The move to the Bellaire Civic Center also reduced our meeting costs considerably, and has given us a stable place to meet. We have recently moved our telephone hot line to a free provider which cut our expenses even further. These changes have taken a lot of work on the part of board members, past and present.

On the negative side: HAAUG continues to hover at around 200 members. While that level of membership will sustain the group given current expenses, it is not high enough to allow us to move forward with new programs, or to bring many speakers from out of town. It would be great if a few of those new Mac/iPad/iPhone owners discovered HAAUG! If you are getting a lot of support calls on Apple products you might encourage those friends and family members to come to the February meeting.

Another issue we face is with leadership. While the leadership in the group is dedicated, it is essentially the same group of people from the last time I was president over three years ago. We need more members of HAAUG to volunteer for a position on the Board, or help out at a meeting. Organizing the main presentation at the monthly meeting is the job of the programming VP. If several members formed a committee the job could be shared and HAAUG could get some new ideas for programs. Helping with even the smallest task can make a big difference.

There are positives and negatives but we are still providing help for Apple users in the Houston area. At the February Meeting members of the board will present the 2011 budget for member approval. we will also be asking for a few members to step forward and help HAAUG move into the future. Our current initiative is renovating our web site at [www.haaug.org](http://www.haaug.org). We are evaluating the use of WordPress as the foundation for the site, which will allow more people the ability to contribute and manage content without having to purchase expensive software. WordPress will also allow us to design better forums, that will spur more interaction. This was possible because folks stepped up and raised their hands. Working on the website would be a great opportunity for someone who wants to learn WordPress. If you have read this far you will notice the theme of getting involved. I can't stress that theme enough.

I would like to thank Matt Willmore who served one and a half terms as president. He helped move our website and the current forums to our new internet host. He is still helping out even from his new home in South Bend, Indiana. Thanks also are due to

(cont'd on Page 8)

# The Daily: Is This the Future of the Newspaper?

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com



On February 2, News Corp. and Apple unveiled [The Daily](#), an iPad app which is being positioned as a “new model” for the newspaper business. Thanks to sponsorship from Verizon, the subscription is free for the first two weeks - which gave me (and many others) a chance to try it out (note: the two-week trial is standard on [newspaper subscriptions on the Kindle](#) via Amazon.com.) Having had a chance to work the the app, I think I can (sort of) answer the question I posed in the title. And that answer is... a definite *maybe*.

Before I get into that, though, let’s look at how the app runs, from an iPad standpoint. It certainly looks great, utilizing features such as Cover Flow to provide an elegant, rich graphical experience. The Daily also makes good use of the iPad platform, incorporating a variety of multimedia goodies, from slide shows to video clips to audio comments on articles(!) In addition, it does provide (though with some limitations) the ability to “share” content to others, as well as periodic updates through the day - both of these despite rumors to the contrary. The app is fairly stable (thanks to an update which addressed some early issues with the app crashing), and responsiveness is pretty crisp (which indicates the app isn’t overloading the graphics processor, an issue I have seen with a recent update to [Angry Birds](#).)



On the downside: the content updates seem to take *forever* (though they normally take about a minute over my WiFi connection), the “periodic” updates seem to happen every time you open the app, and when you get an “interim” update during the day, there is no indication as to what has actually changed (which is annoying, since I for one will not re-read every article to see what might be different - nor would I always spot the changes if I did.)

But, the real problem with The Daily has to do, not with the *look and feel* of the app, but with the *content*. Like it or not (and most media companies do *not* like it at all), the Web has changed the fundamentals of the news business, and not just in the context of the “dead tree edition vs. eco-friendly online edition” argument. We have become used to having access to breaking news 24/7 *as it occurs* (this is at least partially due to the introduction of all-news-all-the-time cable channels.) The Daily simply can’t keep up with truly breaking news: as [Houston Chronicle](#) tech blogger/journalist Dwight Silverman [noted in his review](#), The Daily had the misfortune to launch during the same time that protests in Egypt toppled the government there,

(cont’d on Page 8)

## QuickTip

Want to Get Album Artwork for just one album? Don’t use the Advanced menu.



If you select Get Album Artwork from the Advanced menu, iTunes will search your entire Music Library for songs with missing artwork (and will sometimes overwrite your artwork with mistaken album covers).

If you want to get a single album’s artwork, you might think that selecting a single track from that album and then choosing Get Album Artwork from the Advanced menu would accomplish that task. Unfortunately, iTunes still searches your entire Music Library no matter what tracks are selected.

In order to Get Album Artwork for a limited group of songs, right-click on the selected song (s) and choose Get Album Artwork from the contextual menu that pops up.

**[crarko adds:** I tested this, and it works as described.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20110210090639311>

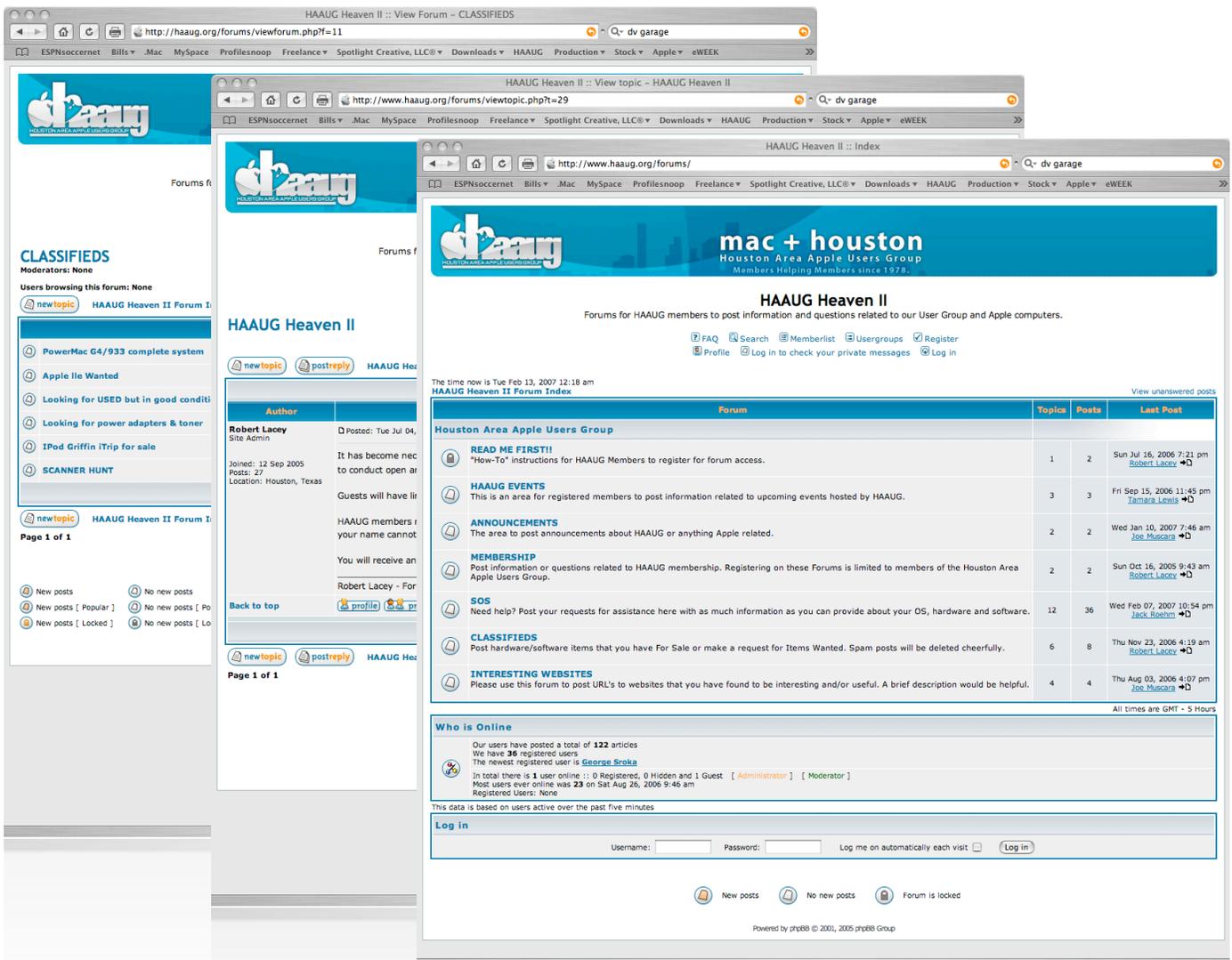
# Find great specials online!

Special Offers for HAAUG Members via HAAUG Heaven

## Check our forums for daily deals!

HAAUG discounts can be found on the HAAUG Heaven forums.

# http://haaug.org/forums



NOTE: You must be a current registered HAAUG member to use these discounts.

# 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](mailto:abe@haaug.org)



## QuickTip

[A recent hint](#) showed a great tip for quickly pulling up a blank Safari tab on iOS devices. The author's instructions, though, indicated another tip many might not know when entering a URL into mobile Safari.

When viewing a web page, we all know to tap on the address field so we can enter a new URL. In mobile Safari, however, there's no need to first tap the X to clear the existing URL in the address field. Instead, just tap the address field and begin typing when the keyboard appears. Mobile Safari will automatically overwrite the existing address.

[**crarko adds:** I tested this, and it works as described. It's a good followup to the other hint. Anything that speeds up Mobile Safari is a good thing in my book.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20110208191707347>

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# Classifieds

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#### General Rate Policy

If more or less space than specified is used within one year from the date of first insertion, the rate will be adjusted to the earned rate published here.

#### Frequency Rates

Number of insertions in a 12-month period determines frequency rate.

#### Black and white rates (per issue):

##### 2/3 Page Ad

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##### 1/2 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625" x 5"

Frequency: 1X 90, 2X 85, 3X 80

##### 1/3 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625" x 3.375"

Frequency: 1X \$75, 2X \$70, 3X \$65

##### 1/4 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75" x 5"

Frequency: 1X 65, 2X 60, 3X 55

##### 1/6 Page Ad

Dimensions: 5" x 2.5"

Frequency: 1X \$40, 2X \$35, 3X \$30

#### Business Card Ad

Dimensions: 3.5" x 2"

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

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

# Minutes

HAAUG Board of Directors Meeting – Saturday, January 15, 2011

**Location:** Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas.

**Attendees:** Tamara Alexander, Philip Booth, Jim Connell, Michael Epstein, Clair Jaschke, David Jaschke, Michael King, Rick Roberts, Doug Smith, Ed Truitt, Julie Woellert and Greg Wright.

**Call to order:** 11:55 a.m. by President Phil Booth, a quorum of voting members of the board being present.

**Appointment of the Senior Advisor:** The board decided to defer the appointment of the Senior Advisor until the February 2011 board meeting.

## MONTHLY REPORTS:

**Secretary – Lyda McGhee:** The board unanimously approved minutes of the board meeting held on December 18, 2010.

**Treasurer – Clair Jaschke:** Clair Jaschke reported that HAAUG has money in the bank and that all bills she has received have been paid. She will ask Jeff Davis to cancel the old HAAUG Hotline this month so that HAAUG may discontinue paying IAPC.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Programming – Greg Wright:** Greg Wright confirmed that Bob LeVitus is available to be the speaker at the HAAUG General Meeting on February 26, 2011. The board approved the purchase of a roundtrip airline ticket at a cost of \$97 for Bob LeVitus's transportation on February 26. Greg is considering a panel discussion about Apple TV and media alternatives such as Slingbox and Roku as a Main Presentation topic for the March General Meeting.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Facilities – Doug Smith:** Phil Booth reported that he has contracts from the City of Bellaire for use of the Bellaire Civic Center at HAAUG's monthly meetings for 2011 and that HAAUG has paid the City the rental for the first three months of 2011. He suggests that HAAUG pay the monthly rental in

advance on a quarterly basis.

**SIG Coordinator – Open:** No report. Rick Roberts will publish the list of SIGs for next month's General Meeting.

**Apple Barrel Editor – Ed Truitt:** No report. The deadline for submission of articles for the February Apple Barrel is Saturday, February 12, 2011.

**Membership – David Jaschke:** David Jaschke reported that HAAUG had 194 members at the end of December 2010, a decrease of one member from November 2010. HAAUG began 2010 with 201 members. Last month there were nine membership transactions, including one new member, five early renewals, and the renewals of two lapsed members.

**Webmaster – Jeff Davis:** No report.

**HAAUG Heaven Sysop - Open:** No report.

## OLD BUSINESS:

**MacFest Committee:** No report.

**Web Operations Committee--Ed Truitt:** Phil Booth, Ed Truitt and Tamara Alexander will meet and arrange a conference call with Matt Willmore to resolve the remaining issues for the transition of the redesigned HAAUG website to WordPress/BuddyPress and for the conversion of the Apple Barrel to a blog format. Anyone who is interested is invited to participate in the meeting in person or by iChat.

**HAAUG Hotline Alternate Services--Greg Wright:** Greg Wright requested that the old HAAUG Hotline Number at IAPC needs to be terminated this month, now that the new HAAUG Hotline number on PhoneBook is operating. The board thanked Greg for his efforts in moving the HAAUG Hotline to the PhoneBook service, which will save HAAUG approximately \$900 a year.

**Budget Committee:** The proposed budget for 2011,  
(cont'd on next page)

# Minutes...

(Cont'd from Page 7)

which the board approved last month, will be submitted to the membership for a vote at the February 2011 General Meeting.

## **Audit Committee Report--2009 Financial Records:**

Clair Jaschke advised the board that no audit of the 2009 and 2010 financial records will be undertaken this year, due to the updating of the financial records that is currently underway.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Accounting Software:** Clair Jaschke reported that she has purchased the Account Edge software that the board previously approved. The board unanimously approved the purchase of training materials for the software at a cost of approximately \$100.

**Revision of HAAUG's By-Laws:** Phil Booth invited the board members to participate in updating the by-laws. One of the changes suggested is to combine the positions of Apple Barrel Editor, Webmaster and HAAUG Heaven Sysop into one position.

**Website Passwords:** Ed Truitt will obtain the passwords from Jeff Davis so that more than one person can access the website.

**Adjourned:** 12:40 p.m.

# Boss HAAUG...

(Cont'd from Page 2)

Doug Smith for taking over the rest of Matt's term. Doug has served HAAUG as the Programing VP for the last two plus years and the quality of programming reflects his efforts.

I hope that you will come hear "Dr Mac" at the February 26th meeting and join us for the coming year. Think about bringing a friend - HAAUG loves meeting new people!

# The Daily...

(Cont'd from Page 3)

pointing out the glaring deficiencies in this area for all to see. On the other hand, The Daily is better positioned: as a platform for more in-depth reporting/analysis/editorial commentary (areas where real-time updates are neither needed nor even really desired), coupled with a web site to provide access to breaking/real-time news.

So, will I continue my subscription past the two week free trial (at \$0.99/week)? I probably will, for now. I do believe in the iPad as a news reader, and I am, after all, an inveterate early adopter. The app has already improved since its inception, and I suspect that, given time, the producers of The Daily will get it right - or, at least, *more* right.

# Upcoming Events

## Houston Area Apple Users Group 2010 Officers and Directors

President  
**Phil Booth**

1st Vice President Programs  
**Greg Wright**

2nd Vice President Facilities  
**Doug Smith**

Secretary  
**Lyda McGhee**

Treasurer  
**Clair Jaschke**

Director-at-Large 1  
**Jim Connell**

Director-at-Large 2  
**Michael Epstein**

Director-at-Large 3  
**Michael King**

Director-at-Large 4  
**Rick Roberts**

Apple Barrel Editor  
**Ed Truitt**

HAAUG Heaven Sysop  
**OPEN**

Membership Chairman  
**David Jaschke**

SIG Coordinator  
**OPEN**

Immediate Past President  
**Matt Willmore**

Boutique Manager  
**Barbara Long**

Webmaster  
**Jeff Davis**

HAAUG Hotline  
**Phil Booth**

Mentor Program  
**- OPEN -**

Publicity Chairman  
**Jim Connell**

Vision Committee Chairman  
**Joe Fournet**

Volunteer Coordinator  
**OPEN**

Senior Advisor  
**OPEN**

Apple User Group Liaison  
**Doug Smith**

## Saturday, February 26th, 2011

### State of the Mac Address by Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus

Our favorite local Mac personality will visit us in February to present another edition of the "State of the Mac" and discuss what's new with our beloved platforms. This is sure to be a packed meeting, so arrive early in order to get a seat!

**Location:** Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at [www.haaug.org](http://www.haaug.org)

## Saturday, March 26th, 2011

### (To Be Announced)

Program to be announced.

**Location:** Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at [www.haaug.org](http://www.haaug.org)

## Saturday, April 30th, 2011

### (To Be Announced)

Program to be announced.

**Location:** Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at [www.haaug.org](http://www.haaug.org)

## Locations, Directions + Parking

### Bellaire Civic Center

7008 South Rice Ave. • Bellaire, TX 77401

The Bellaire Civic Center has been a great location asset of HAAUG for the past 4 years and includes many amenities such as wireless internet and both open and closed spaces for Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and other functions.

Find out the latest news on future HAAUG meetings...

[www.haaug.org/meetings.htm](http://www.haaug.org/meetings.htm)

# STARTRONICS

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# February 2011 Event Schedule

	Main Room	2nd Room
9 a.m.	<b>Mac 101</b>	<b>iOS</b>
10 a.m.		<b>Digital Photography</b>
11 a.m.	<b>Club Business</b>	
11:15 a.m.	<b>Main Presentation: The Annual “State of the Mac” Address with Bob “Dr. Mac” LeVitus</b>	
1 p.m.	<b>Social time and cleanup; lunch to follow</b>	

**Main Presentation:** It’s that time of year again! Time, that is, for Bob “Dr. Mac” LeVitus to give us his “State of the Mac” address!

**Mac 101 & Fundamentals:** Jonathan Magnus - The SIG for basic to advanced Macintosh topics.

**Digital Photography:** Andrew Polk – Bring your cameras, bring your photos and we’ll discuss what makes a great photo.

**iOS:** Doug Smith – iPhone/iPod/iPad -- Oh, who are we kidding? iPad stuff!

**Ad hoc:** Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics. Scheduled SIGs take precedence.

The HAAUG SIG Coordinator is currently open. If you would like to volunteer to be the SIG Coordinator, please see any member of the Board of Directors.

# Got Junk?

Computer recycling opportunities in the Houston area

## Houston area recycling centers:

### Environmental Service Center

11500 South Post Oak Road • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

### Westpark Recycling Center

5900 Westpark • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

### Goodwill COMPUTER WORKS

12230 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77077  
281-589-1215

## Commercial electronics recyclers:

### ScrapComputer.com

350 W. 38th St., Houston, TX 77018 • 713-691-9995

*\*\*Accepts all computer-related items free; offers free pickup for large amounts.*

### Altech Metals, Inc.

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-680-9325

*\*\*No TVs or monitors*

### ARM Trading, Inc.

2476 Bolsover, Suite 557 • 713-665-0213

### Compucycle

620 W. 6th St. • 713-866-8021

### ONYX Environmental Services

Baytown • 1-800-624-9302

### Houston Computer Recycler

6102 Brittmoore, Suite N • 713-937-3334

### Recycle America Waste Management Asset Recovery Group

2102 Atascocita Road, Humble • 281-540-8900

### Eagle Electronics

10612 Hempstead, Building A • 713-934-8585

### QuickTip



The process of loading a URL in a new tab on iPad can be rather cumbersome and slow. First, one launches Safari from the home screen, waits for the app to open and the old webpage to re-render, then one hits the tab switch button, presses the new tab space, waits for that tab to open, waits for it to switch to the search panel (this is the most irritating part of the process, since it seems to take even longer when what one really wants is the URL bar), and finally, one clicks on the URL bar to enter in a new URL.

To simplify this process considerably, just add a new icon to your Springboard that goes directly to about:blank. Details after the jump.

To add the new icon to your home screen, first open a new tab in Safari according to the usual method, and direct it to the url,about:blank. Then tap the more options icon (iOS 4.2) or the + icon (iOS 3.2) and select, 'Add to home'. Give your icon a name like 'New tab' or whatever you like then tap add.

In the future when you want to switch to Safari and open a URL in a new tab, just tap the 'New tab' icon, then tap the URL and X out the existing about:blank before entering in your own URL.

**[crarko adds:** I tested this, and it works as described. I found this even more valuable on my old, slow, iPhone 3G; and it's a good idea anytime you're using the cell connection instead of Wi-Fi.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20110207233330515>

# Become Part of the Action

Join or renew your membership with the one and only Houston Area Apple Users Group today!

## Join Online With a Credit Card:

Paying for your membership  
online with a credit card is  
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Visit [www.haaug.org/join](http://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.

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type Of Computer: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership (\$45.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$40.00)                            |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate (\$25.00)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$25.00) <i>Requires Student ID</i> |

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Member # (if renewing): \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about HAAUG?

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

Would you be willing to volunteer in HAAUG?

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### 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

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 and 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](http://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.**

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If you are interested in joining HAAUG, please call the HAAUG Hotline at (832) 305-5999 or sign up via our web site at [www.haaug.org](http://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, iPod, iPhone, iPad, 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.

# Product Review: ZAGGmate

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At the end of the monthly meeting of the [Houston Social Media Breakfast](#) (a group of “social media explorers in search of the next big thing while keeping our feet firmly planted in reality”), I was making the rounds, talking to folks, when I spotted what looked like a [Cr-48](#) “Google Chrome OS” laptop. I was pleasantly surprised when I realized it was in fact an iPad, mated with a [ZAGGmate](#) case *cum* wireless keyboard. After looking it over, I said, in the immortal words of [Capt. Steven Hiller](#), “*I have got to get me one of these!*”



So, after a bit of looking around the Web, I went to the local Best Buy, and brought one home.

The ZAGGmate (\$99.99 retail) is a brushed-aluminum case that fits snugly over the iPad (3G or WiFi versions), and contains a built-in bluetooth keyboard. It also has a groove in which you can place the iPad (both horizontal and vertical orientations are supported), along with a plastic “stand” which folds down and out of the way when not in use. This piece, to me, is probably the weakest component of what is otherwise a pretty solidly constructed device. As you can see from the picture, the assembled system is slightly smaller than a 13” MacBook Pro, and (as expected) the keys are a little small and closely spaced for heavy-duty typing.

After using it for a brief amount of time, I have decided that, indeed, I love the thing. And, the reason is simple. If you look at the top row, you will see some special function keys. These keys allow you to control specific iPad features, such as activating the “search” page, blanking the screen, and controlling the iPad playback functions.



Then, if you look at the bottom right, you will find a set of arrow keys. Keys which allow a typist to scroll easily within a text box (something that simply can’t be done in some cases when using the virtual keyboard.) While the bluetooth keyboard from Apple also contains these keys, that keyboard is not contained within a metal case which perfectly fits the iPad, providing some much-needed protection to the glass screen while maintaining a compact, easy to carry bundle.

A compact, easy to carry bundle which is IMO the perfect netbook.