Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

February 2012

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"The State of Apple" + Some Cool Stuff Dr. Mac Likes

Saturday, February 18th

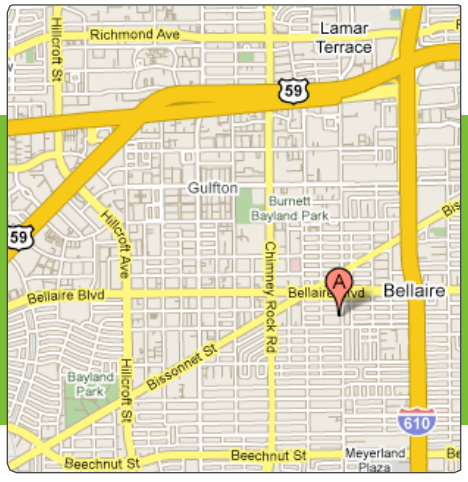
Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus delivers his annual "The State of Apple" Address, along with some thoughts on the recent Macworld/iWorld conference. The Board meeting and the traditional "BBQ SIG" follow afterwards.

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15. We'll see you there on the 18th!

Meeting Location

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Just outside Loop 610 and south of Bellaire Blvd.



HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP

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

Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President

February is a great month for HAAUG. We will be having Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus - our good friend, columnist for the Houston Chronicle, and noted author - at the February 18th meeting. He will be giving us his thoughts on the State of Apple, and what happened at the recently completed Macworld | iWorld in San Francisco. This promises to be a good meeting, so please invite your Mac OS and iOS friends to the meeting. Maybe they will decide to join us on a regular basis!

The major Apple news was the tremendous holiday quarter that the company turned in. Quoting from the Apple press release "The Company posted record quarterly revenue of $46.33 billion and record quarterly net profit of $13.06 billion, or $13.87 per diluted share." "The Company sold 37.04 million iPhones in the quarter."..."Apple sold 15.43 million iPads during the quarter,"..."The Company sold 5.2 million Macs during the quarter," all of those numbers represented large increases over the the previous year's quarter. It was reported that Apple is sitting on 100 million dollars, an amount of cash equal to twice the debt of Greece! Instead of paying a dividend, Apple uses the cash to purchase long term contracts for LCD screens, processors, disk drives, and memory, which allows the company to predict production costs over a long period of time.

As I stated above, the annual Mac extravaganza was held recently. It was rebranded as Macworld | iWorld and attempted to cover the whole range of Apple products. From what I read in the blogs, it was given decent reviews. With Apple and other major software vendors no longer participating, the show will likely never have the draw that it once had.

I was driving to work the other day and noticed the large AT&T store on the Southwest Freeway and reflected on how little I depended on AT&T to support my iPhone. They are my network provider, and the device would not work without them. But I do not get iOS updates from them, I do not have them repair my phone, and I do not buy apps from them. Apple provides all of the support for the unit. If you have an iPhone, you know that your device will not materially change, except about once a year. As long as your iPhone is new enough the iOS updates will work with your device. I do not own an Android phone (nor have I ever looked at getting one), but I have noticed that the handset makers are bringing out new models every six months or so. Google is depending on the carriers to get OS updates to their customers. That is the fundamental difference between Apple and the rest of the cell phone hardware industry. Apple considers you the iPhone owner to be its customer. The rest of the industry considers the cellphone carrier to the their customer.

I was having some problems with my internet service thanks to some hungry squirrels, but I was able to get it repaired. It is amazing to me how much we depend on the internet for communication, and other activities as well. I am also amazed, especially at work, how inefficient something like email is. I will get messages with questions and it sometimes takes 4 or five emails to get a result that is satisfactory to both parties. This is why groups like HAAUG still exist. Yes you can get a wealth of information from the net, but talking face to face with another person allows both parties to come away from the experience knowing that they, and each other, understood what went on. Do not get me wrong: email is a great way to get information to another person quickly; but I still like talking on the phone or meeting someone face to face. It allows me to ask the questions that might not get asked in an email exchange. Despite the length of this column I find it very hard to communicate in written form. And, I suspect there are many others like me out there.

Editorial: Take Your Apple To Work

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

Like many HAAUG members, I remember the days when Apple computers were no stranger to the halls of commerce. In fact, during the early to mid 1990s, part of my responsibilities as an IT support professional included providing support to my company's population of Mac users. (Incidentally, most of that support was in the form of answering questions regarding the Windows applications that were running on the PowerMacs that had Windows cards installed.)

But then, changing circumstances led to Apple's banishment from many workplaces. The perception that Windows PCs were cheaper (due in part to Microsoft's allowing PC vendors to include a "free" copy of Office with every PC purchased), and the desire to achieve the nirvana of standardization, were two of the major players in this shift.

A new shift seems to be underway, and Apple products (led by the iPad and, to a lesser extent, the iPhone) seem to be making their way back into the business world. And, in a nod toward the reality of a new generation of knowledge workers, some companies are even re-evaluating their policies concerning the use of "personal tech" on the job.

These are exciting times to be in IT support, to be certain. Of course, there are some minefields which need to be navigated, and carefully.

The first minefield has to do with the need to separate personal "stuff" (data and apps) from business "stuff" - something the iPad and iPhone, with their single-user paradigm, aren't all that good at. But, there is hope - since iOS naturally sandboxes data, and provides some limits on sharing data across apps, companies have a natural choke point for managing data. Actually, they have two: if they write apps using HTML 5 instead of XCode, the data can remain where it belongs - on the corporate systems, where it can be backed up, and access-controlled, and all those other things companies do to protect their valuable information.

The second minefield is one that Microsoft had to navigate during the last decade. I am speaking of security vulnerabilities and the patches needed to fix them. Despite our protestations to the contrary, Microsoft has done a very good job here - their OS and apps are getting more secure with each version, and their patches normally apply without problems. Compare this to the recent Security Update for OS X, which caused application crashes in Lion, and broke Rosetta apps in Snow Leopard. This is one area where Apple needs to learn from what Microsoft has done, and get their act together - because when the result is a business disruption, failure (of security patches to install and work properly) is NOT an option.

The last minefield (at least, the last I will talk about here) is the need of Corporate IT staff to learn to live in a world where they don't control everything. Many corporate IT types are scared witless of the barbaric hordes of Apple/Android/homebuilt devices getting on their network and messing things up. This is a case where standards have to be carefully thought out, and communicated to the user community. While not an easy task, the result (if done properly) will be an IT environment which really does help users to be more productive, while saving the company some significant dollars.

QuickTip

Maybe everybody already knows this, but I missed it in all the new features of iOS 5. The iPad mail app adds a new gesture to show and hide the message list window when in portrait orientation.

I always use my iPad's Mail app in landscape mode because I get to see my message list in addition to the message detail. And for some reason, I find it tedious to push the mailbox button at the top left of the screen to see the message list. iOS 5 added the ability to swipe right anywhere on the message window to pop up the message list and to swipe left to hide it again. Nice! Not having to move my finger six inches has somehow made portrait mode much more bearable for me.

[**crarko adds:** Well, I didn't know it either, so here's the hint. I also was a landscape mode only iPad mail user.]

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20120120060035517

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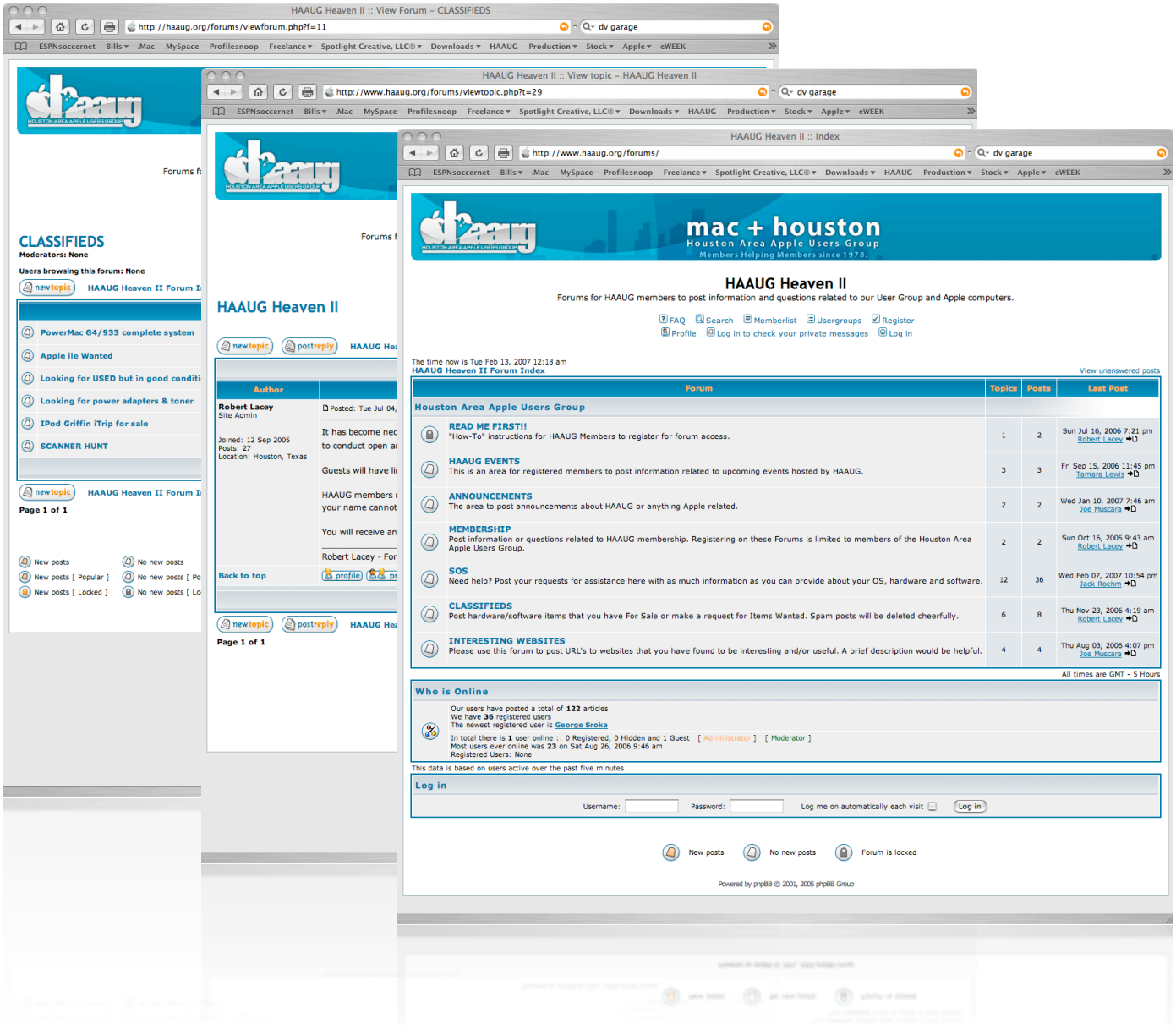
HAAUG discounts can be found on the HAAUG Heaven forums.

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

QuickTip

This hint describes how to easily see all the emails in one conversation without having to open them and scroll through.

If you have your emails 'organized by conversation' you will see in the email list in the left column the number of emails in that conversation. You can just click on the email showing in the left-hand column and hit the Right arrow key. This causes all the emails in that conversation be shown in a drop-down list by date, one on each line, below the latest one. To undo the list, press the Left arrow key.

[**crarko adds:** This is one of those obvious shortcuts that can hide forever if not mentioned.]

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20111109153250162

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media communications association international

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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.

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1/4 Page Ad
Dimensions: 3.75" x 5"
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1/6 Page Ad
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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, December 17, 2011

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

Attendees: Philip Booth, Jim Connell, Michael Epstein, Clair Jaschke, David Jaschke, Michael King, Rick Roberts, Ed Truitt, and Greg Wright.

Call to order: 1:17 p.m. by President Philip Booth, a quorum of voting members of the board being present, following the conclusion of the December General Meeting.

General Announcments: Philip Booth thanked those who led the panel discussion on photography, including Andrew Polk, Michael King, Ed Truitt and Greg Wright, at today's General Meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Secretary – Open: Phil Booth announced that following last month's board meeting, the minutes of the board meeting held on October 15, 2011, were approved as submitted by an electronic vote of the voting members of the board. The board unanimously approved the minutes of the board meeting held on November 19, 2011, as submitted.

Treasurer – Clair Jaschke: Clair Jaschke submitted written financial reports for November 2011 to the board. At the end of last month, HAAUG had $11,097.44 in its bank account.

1st Vice President – Programming – Greg Wright: Greg Wright announced the following schedule for upcoming meetings for 2012:

- January 21: Semi-Annual Swap Meet
- February 18: "The State of Apple" Address (Bob LeVitus) and Report on Macworld/iWorld 2012
- March 17: Cutting the Cable: New Ways to Watch TV, Part 2, and Report on SXSW 2012
- April 28: Presentation on Microcontrollers (Jonathan Magnus)

Greg expressed appreciation for those members who volunteered today to help with, and suggested topics for, future Main Presentations at next year's General Meeting. He wants to see a committee of members who are not on the board take the lead in developing programs of the General Meetings. The board discussed the suggested Main Presentation topics, including inviting vendors to make product presentations, the feasibility of inviting Chris Breen and Andy Ihnatko to make presentations at the General Meetings, and the possibility of having SIG coordinators make presentations to the General Meetings. He also reminded those who will be attending Macworld/iWorld and SXSW next year to collect vendor giveaways for ticket drawings at the conclusion of future General Meetings.

2nd Vice President Facilities – Doug Smith: The board discussed purchasing its own ViewSonic remote control for the overhead projector at Bellaire Civic Center. Phil will make the purchase of the remote control pursuant to his authority to make expenditures under $100.

Membership – David Jaschke: David Jaschke reported that HAAUG had 170 members at the end of November 2011, a decline of one member from October 2011. HAAUG had 195 members at the end of November 2010. There were 14 membership transactions last month, including two new members and one lapsed member renewal.

SIG Coordinator – Open: No report. The board discussed switching the rooms for the SIGs starting with the February 2012 General Meeting.

Apple Barrel Editor – Ed Truitt: Ed requested that articles be submitted to him for next month's Apple Barrel no later than Saturday, January 7, 2012. David Jaschke would like to create a new list of specialists who would be available to help members on specific topics. The list would need to be kept updated and could be published in the monthly email to members.

OLD BUSINESS:

(cont'd on p. 8)

Minutes...

(cont'd from Page 7)

Website Revision: Ed Truitt reported that the new website layout has been implemented for the HAAUG website without migrating the content to WordPress at this time. This will allow use of the new layout while any bugs are identified and fixed before changing the content management system. Users are encouraged to provide feedback on any changes that might be needed.

Election of Officers and Directors for 2012: Phil Booth reported that at today's General Meeting, the membership duly elected the following officers and directors:

President:	Philip Booth
VicePresident:	Greg Wright
Secretary:	Jim Connell
Treasurer:	Clair Jaschke

Membership Chairman: David Jaschke
Media and Communications Administrator: Ed Truitt
Director-at-Large No. Position 1: Michael King
Director-at-Large No. Position 2: Michael Epstein

The new officers and directors will assume their duties at the General Meeting on January 21, 2012. Ed Truitt will request Tamara Alexander to update the list of officers and directors on the new website to reflect the newly elected officers and directors.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Events: The board discussed the feasibility of holding a MacFest in 2012 or 2013, including a possible regional event in which other Mac Users Groups in the southeast Texas would participate. Since such an event would require a significant commitment of time and effort on the part of the organizers and require promotion for the event to be successful, the board will determine whether the membership wants such an event and is willing to participate in organizing and promoting it.

Adjourned: 2:17 p.m.

Scam Alert!

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

It is coming up on tax season again, which means it is also time for the scammers to fire up their spamming programs. Follow a few common-sense tips, and hopefully you won't fall victim to their evil, scamming ways!

Tip 1: The IRS does not initiate official communications with taxpayers via email. If you get a notice about your refund, or advising you of a delinquency, it is very likely a scammer.

Tip 2: If you are still concerned that the email may in fact be official: *Don't click on any links* that appear on the email, and *don't open any files* that are attached! In fact, if you are to hover your mouse over the link, you might be surprised where that URL takes you! Last I heard, the IRS does not use servers in .ru land (Russia) to host taxpayer-interactive web apps, nor do they use Hotmail (regardless of the country) for their email.

Tip 3: Even if there are no links, or file attachments, be careful about responding. For example, the email my provide a toll-free number to call: this number may very well lead to a call center specializing in phishing and identity theft. If you feel you have to call the IRS, look up their number in the local phone book, or get it through an official web site (e.g. http://www.irs.gov) and dial the number yourself.

Last year saw a rash of scams revolving around the failure/rejection of electronic payments made through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS). So far this year, I have been getting a rash of emails from "INTUIT INC." asking me to correct my information as part of the "Internal Revenue Service [IRS] Name and TIN Matching Program". Whether it is one of these, or something else entirely - don't fall for it!

Want more information on this type of scam? Get it from a *trusted* source - visit the IRS at http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=217794,00.html.

Upcoming Events

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2012 Officers and Directors

President
Phil Booth

Vice President
Greg Wright

Secretary
Jim Connell

Treasurer
Clair Jaschke

Membership Chairman
David Jaschke

Media & Communications
Ed Truitt

Director-at-Large 1
Michael Epstein

Director-at-Large 2
Michael King

Senior Advisor
OPEN

Saturday, March 17th, 2012

New Ways to Watch TV, Part 2, and Report on SXSW 2012
More information on how to "cut the cable", and a report on the happenings at SxSW!
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, April 28th, 2012

Microcontrollers
Jonathan Magnus will teach us about these fascinating applications of technology.
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, May 19th, 2012

TBA
Stay tuned!
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **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

STARTRONICS
George McKenzie
Macintosh/IBM Services, Maintenance & Repair Specialist
4141 SW Freeway Suite #470
Houston, Texas 77098
713-524-5646 FAX 713-524-4635

February 2012 Event Schedule

	Main Room	2nd Room
9 a.m.	The Lion's Den	iOS
10 a.m.	Mac 101	Digital Photography
11 a.m.	Club Business	
11:15 a.m.	Main Presentation: "The State of Apple + Some Cool Stuff Dr. Mac Likes"	
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting; followed by social time, and lunch

Main Presentation: "The State of Apple + Some Cool Stuff Dr. Mac Likes", by Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus

The Lion's Den: Phil Booth - Our newest SIG, focusing on Apple's newest cat.

iOS: Doug Smith - iPad, iPhone and the apps that make our lives better.

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.

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

The position of 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

As you know, Lion locks files that have not been changed for 2 weeks, so that you have to unlock them before editing them.

There is a control to change the length of time before a file is 'locked' by Lion.

In *System Preferences » Time Machine » Options*, there is a control to set the length of time after the last edit before files are locked.

The options are 1 day, 1 week, 2 weeks (default), 1 month, 1 year.

I presume that there's a corresponding plist setting that you can 'defaults write' to values not in the dropdown list.

[**crarko adds:** This is one of those things that's obvious once you know about it, but probably wouldn't think to look for it under Time Machine preferences if you didn't.]

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20120117084702549

Become Part of the Action

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

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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. Dues for regular members are $35 per year. Student memberships are available for full-time students at a high school, community college, or university for the rate of $10 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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- ☐ New Membership ($35.00)
- ☐ Renewal ($35.00)
- ☐ Two Year Renewal ($70.00)
- ☐ Student ($25.00) *Requires Student ID)*

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?

_____

_____

_____

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, raffles, and much, much more. Swap Meets are held twice each year, in January and July.

Bulletin Board System & Internet Link
HAAUG Heaven is our 24-hour meeting place with 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, iOS, 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 832-305-5999 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 200 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.

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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**.

Annual membership is $35 for regular members, and $10 for student members (limited to students enrolled full time at a high school, community college, or university.) 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.

Digital Photography: New MILCs Announced

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

If you are one of those who held on to some of their Christmas cash, and are in the market for a new camera, you may be in luck. Several vendors have just announced, or are about to announce, new offerings in the MILC (Mirrorless Interchangeable Lens Camera) genre.

The MILC - also known as EVIL (Electronic Viewfinder Interchangeable Lens) camera, combines many of the features found in the DSLR with the small size and light weight found in the Point & Shoot (P&S) cameras. The genre is well represented by the Micro 4.3 (M.4/3) offerings from Olympus and Panasonic, and Nikon recently entered the field with their J1 and V1 models.

This type of camera is getting increased exposure in the enthusiast and even the pro circles. Trey Ratcliffe (author of several books on photography, as well as the popular app 100 Cameras in 1 for the iPad [iTunes link] and the iPhone), recently explained in his article DSLRs are a dying breed - 3rd gen Cameras are the future why he will no longer be buying any new DSLR equipment - bodies or lenses. While his opinion is shared by a minority of the pro community at this time, the need for a large, heavy mirror and pentaprism has passed (mostly), and the iPhone has proven that smaller can be better (or at least as good) as single-purpose P&S or entry-level DSLR cameras.

The first announcement came from Pentax. Their new camera, the K-01, is an slr-style body with a 16 megapixel, APC-C size sensor; a 3 inch LCD screen; and built-in (sensor-shift) IS. It will shoot from ISO 100-25600. The camera is designed to accept Pentax K-mount lenses. It does not come with an eye level viewfinder. It comes in several colors, and has a kit lens (the 40mm f/2.8) which is the thinnest "pancake" lens I have ever seen. It should be available in March, and can be pre-ordered at Amazon.com for $899.95.

The second announcement has been in the rumor mill for some time, and was made public on Feb 7. It is the long-awaited M.4/3 version of the venerable Olympus OM 35mm film camera. The images of this new camera reveal an SLR-like body style, but with an EVF where the optical viewfinder normally resides; an extended grip/battery pack; and a tilt-able (but not fully articulated) OLED screen. The camera has the designation of OM-D (for "Digital"), though it is also called the E-5M. The price (body only) is $999.99. Two features that set this camera apart (other than the built-in EVF): the 16 MP sensor that will go up to ISO 25600, and the fact that the body is weather-sealed (like the E-5 DSLR.) There is also a new lens: a weather-sealed 12-50mm zoom, this lens is already appearing on the B&H site at a price of $499 (list.) The OM-D is available for pre-order on Amazon.com, either body-only or with a lens.

Is 2012 the year you will get something new in your camera bag? The thought is certainly crossing my mind!