

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

December 2012

Boss HAAUG Speaks
page 2

Security Beat
page 3

Nominations for 2013 Board
page 4

**Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**
page 7

2013 Meeting Dates
page 8

Upcoming Events
page 9

**December 2012 Event
Schedule**
page 10

Got Junk?
page 11

Reviewers Wanted!
page 13

**Angry Birds Seasons: 2012
Holiday Calendar**
page 14



Panel Discussion: Gift ideas for the holiday season

It's a week (or so) before Christmas, and you are still trying to figure out what to get for that special someone. What to do, and where to go?

A panel of HAAUG members has some ideas in that regard, as well as where to try and find those last-minute trinkets. And, if you have any other questions on the topic, ask away!

The SIGs start at 9am, and the Main Presentation begins at 11:00.
We'll see you there on the 15th!



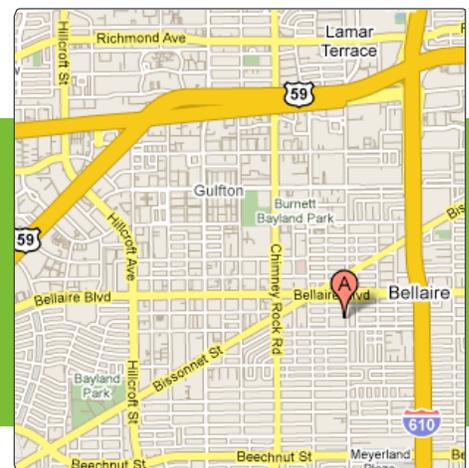
P.O. Box 570957
Houston, Texas 77257-0957

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



Last month I wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. Today I wish you Happy Holidays and a happy New Year. This was a great year for HAAUG, with the quality of our programming improved, and our finances and membership count stabilized.

Claire Jaschke and the Audit Committee went through the last three years of finance records, and the committee pronounced our finances in good shape. Your Board takes management of the club's money very seriously. I was a member of the board when there was a real possibility that we would need to end operations. Several years ago, the club was spending large sums of money for Internet hosting and meeting costs. We have cut those expenses significantly, and this year we were able to put \$5,000 in a Certificate of Deposit. We were able to finance the appearance of MacWorld Sr. Editor Chris Breem at the October meeting, and are planning to bring more national speakers to HAAUG in the coming year.

Membership Chair David Jaschke can now convert visitors to members using his iPhone and the club's Square account. Squareup.com is a mobile payment service that uses iOS devices to accept credit cards. Since the club subscribed to the Square system we have enrolled at least 15 new members and untold number of member renewals just because we could accept credit cards at meetings.

The Main Presentations this year have been the best with Bob LeVitus, Dwight Silverman and Chris Breem being the high lights. This coming year we plan to continue bringing top-notch speakers to the membership. Greg Wright did an outstanding job in organizing this years main presentations.

Ed Truitt put up with me just hitting the deadline to get this column to him so the Apple Barrel could be published on time. He also writes the monthly security column, as well as other content for the Apple Barrel. In his spare time, he and Tamara Alexander keep www.haaug.org up and operating.

Jim Connell has kept the minutes of the Board meetings for several years, he has also served on several audit committees. His service of Secretary is outstanding, but this is his last year as I was able to find his replacement. Jim also came up to the Civic Center on Fridays prior to the meetings and help set the chairs and tables up for the meeting. Thanks for your service Jim.

There are so many people that help keep HAAUG viable and you have my thanks for your efforts this year. There are volunteer opportunities available
(cont'd on p. 8)

Security Beat

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com



"Tis the season to go shopping..."

And, from reports on Black Friday and Cyber Monday activities, online shopping is continuing to gain in popularity. There are several reasons for this: the selection of goods available online is extensive, turning your Mac or iDevice into a super-store fit to rival the big boxes; prices are competitive with those offered by the brick-and-mortar storefronts (even taking into consideration the fact that Amazon.com, one of the larger online retailers, began charging Texas sales tax in July); and most online retailers are open for perusal 24x7 (even if, like [B&H Photo/Video](#), they don't take orders during certain religious or other holidays.)

Besides, who wants to be out in public during the [mass psychosis known as "Black Friday Madness"](#)? And who wants to spend most of Thanksgiving week participating in the ["Black Friday Campout"](#)?

OK, so we have established that there are very good and valid reasons for doing our holiday shopping online, rather than going from store to store to store to store to store... However, that doesn't mean that this activity is totally without a downside. Even though more employers are OK with shopping on company equipment, most of those employer-owned PCs run Microsoft Windows and Internet Explorer. Given its track record, I for one am loathe to use IE for online shopping, or in fact for any activity that asks me to provide credit card or other financial information. However, even for us Apple *aficionados*, there are risks to shopping online. Let's examine a few of them, along with ways to minimize the chance of becoming victims.

Shop at reputable retailers. This is just as true online as it is when visiting a brick-and-mortar store. There are many fly-by-night operators who are willing to separate you from your holiday shopping \$\$\$, and the cost of setting up a storefront is a lot less when all you need is a web site. Note that this isn't the same as "shop at *major* retailers": a mom-and-pop shop, that you know and have trust, can be every bit as safe as one of the mega retailers.

If it sounds too good to be true... it probably is. One of the big draws of online shopping is lower prices. Scammers take advantage of this, offering ridiculously low prices on goods. Unfortunately, once they have your money, you are likely to find that either (1) they don't have the goods, or (2) the goods they are selling are poor quality, or counterfeit, or (more likely) both.

Be wary of links - "think before you click." There are many ways the bad guys can try to trick you into clicking on their link: from using domains which are close to legitimate sites (e.g. "amazon.com" instead of "amazon.com"), to presenting a link whose actual URL isn't the same as the one you are reading, to the use of "link shorteners" (e.g. "bit.ly") which hide the actual name of the site from your prying eyes. If you are unsure, go to the retailer's web site by typing it in your browser bar

(cont'd on p. 8)

QuickTip



Sometimes, such as early this week, Apple's iMessages servers go down. If so, and you try to send iMessages, you may want to resend those messages as standard text messages or SMSs. OS X Daily had a [nice hint about how to do so easily](#). After you've sent the iMessage, if you see that it's not delivered, or if you simply want to use a belt-and-suspenders approach to make sure your recipient gets your message, just tap and hold on the blue bubble containing the message text, then choose Send as Text Message. It will get sent as a text message, and you can tell this by the green text bubble.

For this to work, you have to have your contact's phone number in their card. However, if you only have an email address for that contact, tapping and holding the text bubble shows Send to Email Address. In my tests, this failed every time, so I'm not exactly sure how this is supposed to work. (I assume that it would try and send the message as an email...) If anyone can get this to work, please post in the comments.

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20121120001123258>

Nominations for 2013 Board

HAAUG Board Nominating Committee

The following nominations have been received for the HAAUG Board of Directors, 2013 term. Election of the Board for the 2013 term will be held at the December General Meeting.

- ★ President : Phil Booth

- ★ Vice-President : Greg Wright

- ★ Secretary : Jack E Adair

- ★ Treasurer : Clair Jaschke

- ★ Membership Chairman : David Jaschke

- ★ Media and Communications Administrator : Ed Truitt

- ★ Two Directors-at-Large:
 1. Mike Epstein
 2. Mike King

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



If you ever want to create a reminder with an alert time, it's easy to do, and it's similar to Calendar's

Quick Entry feature.

Just type something like "Dinner with grandpa at 6pm", and you will get a reminder with an alert at 6pm today. You can even specify a date, or use relative dates like today, tomorrow, etc.

[kirkmc adds: This makes sense, and it's good to remind people of it.]

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20121117054149237>

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ADVERTISING RATES

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

Dimensions: 5" x 10.125"

Frequency: 1X \$125, 2X \$120, 3X \$115

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, October 20, 2012

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

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

Call to order: 12:39 p.m. by President Philip Booth following the conclusion of the October General Meeting, a quorum of voting members of the board being present.

General Announcements: Philip Booth thanked Greg Wright for making the arrangements for Chris Breen's presentation at today's General Meeting. The meeting was well attended, and Chris's presentation was a success.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Secretary – Jim Connell: The board unanimously approved the minutes of the board meeting held on September 15, 2012, as submitted.

Treasurer – Clair Jaschke: Clair Jaschke submitted written financial reports for September 2012 to the board. At the end of last month, HAAUG had \$8,837.50 in its checking account and a \$5,000 certificate of deposit. All bills received have been paid. The board discussed having a raffle of an Apple product at the December 2012 General Meeting.

Vice President – Greg Wright: Greg Wright reported by plans for the upcoming months:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| November 17, 2012: | Reagan Atkinson, Digital Camera Update |
| December 15, 2012: | Doug Smith, Last Minute Holiday Shopping |
| January 19, 2013: | Semi-Annual Swap Meet |
| February 16, 2013: | Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus, The State of Apple |

Bob LeVitus has confirmed that he will be available to

be the speaker at the February 2013 General Meeting. Phil will confirm that the dates for the 2013 meetings are reserved with the City of Bellaire. Rent has been paid to the City of Bellaire through December 2012.

Membership – David Jaschke: David Jaschke reported that HAAUG had 174 members at the end of September 2012, a decrease of 5 members from August 2012 and an increase of two members from September 2011. Last month there were eleven membership transactions, including five transactions by KAGI and one Square credit card transaction.

Media and Communications Administrator – Ed Truitt: Ed requested articles for next month's Apple Barrel be submitted by the first weekend in November. He appreciated the article on the iPhone 5. The website is functioning normally.

OLD BUSINESS:

Budget Committee: At today's General Meeting, the membership approved the 2013 budget as presented.

Nominations Committee: David Jaschke solicited nominations for officers and directors for 2013 at today's General Meeting.

Adjourned: 12:49 p.m.

Security Beat...

(cont'd from Page 3)

by hand, or by clicking on a previously bookmarked link.

If you are using a wireless network, use a secure one. Avoid "open" WiFi networks for shopping or any activity you want to keep private. And, WEP isn't much better. Look for a network with WPA or WPA2 encryption. If you can't find one, wait to make that purchase until you can.

While not exhausting, this list should help make your online shopping experience a secure and pleasant one. Until next time, stay safe - both online, and offline.

Got Questions?

If so, please send them in to abe@haaug.org.

Boss HAAUG...

(cont'd from Page 2)

and the Board would like to have as many people involved in leadership roles as possible. Contact me or another board member if you would like to get involved.

Since there are no contested races, the membership will elect the new Board at the December meeting. The slate of candidates for the HAAUG Board are in the Apple Barrel this month, as are the scheduled meeting dates for 2013.

2013 Meetings

(Philip Booth, HAAUG President)

We have scheduled the Bellaire Civic Center for the following dates in 2013 for the HAAUG Monthly General Meetings.

Sat, Jan 19th
Sat, Feb 23rd ¹
Sat, Mar 16th
Sat, Apr 20th
Sat, May 18th
Sat, Jun 15th
Sat, Jul 20th
Sat, Aug 17th
Sat, Sep 21st
Sat, Oct 19th
Sat, Nov 16th
Sat, Dec 14th ²

¹ Moved to the 4th Sat due to scheduling conflicts w/Bellaire Civic Ctr.

² Moved to the 2nd Sat due to proximity to the holidays.

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, January 19th, 2013

Semi-annual SwapMeet

Time to clear out the closet, or do some post-holiday shopping for gently-used Apple and related tech goodies.

Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at www.haaug.org

Saturday, February 23rd, 2013

Bob "Dr Mac" LeVitus

Our favorite local Mac personality will visit us to give his annual "State of Apple" address.

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/

STARTRONICS

George McKenzie

Macintosh/IBM Services, Maintenance & Repair Specialist

4141 SW Freeway Suite #470

Houston, Texas 77098

713-524-5646 FAX 713-524-4635

December 2012 Event Schedule

| | Main Room | 2nd Room | 3rd Room |
|------------|---|--|----------------|
| 9 a.m. | Mac 101 | iOS | Mac One-on-One |
| 10 a.m. | | Digital Photography | |
| 11 a.m. | Club Business | | |
| 11:15 a.m. | Main Presentation: Panel Discussion on gift ideas for the holiday season | | |
| 1 p.m. | Clean-up | Board of Directors meeting; followed by social time, and lunch | |

Main Presentation: Panel Discussion on gift Ideas for the holiday season. It's a week (or so) before Christmas, and you are still trying to figure out what to get for that special someone. A panel of HAAUG members has some ideas in that regard, as well as where to try and find those last-minute trinkets. And, if you have any other questions on the topic, ask away!

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

iOS: Rick Roberts - iPad, iPhone and the apps that make our lives better.

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

Mac One-to-One - Our newest SIG, focusing on personalized help with questions and problems.

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

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



In the latest version of iTunes (version 11), you can use Command + 1 through Command + 7 to switch the view between different sections of your iTunes library.

- Cmd + 1 = Music
- Cmd + 2 = Movies
- Cmd + 3 = TV Shows
- Cmd + 4 = Podcasts
- Cmd + 5 = iTunes U
- Cmd + 6 = Books
- Cmd + 7 = Apps

These shortcuts will only work if the corresponding sections of your iTunes library are enabled in the General pane of your iTunes preferences.

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20121129123027203>

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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.

First: _____ Last: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Type Of Computer: _____

Membership:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership (\$35.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal (\$35.00) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two Year Renewal (\$70.00) | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (\$10.00) <i>Requires Student ID</i> |

Check # _____

Member # (if renewing): _____

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

Social Media & Internet Presence

The HAAUG web site at <http://www.haaug.org> is the place to go for up-to-date information on what we are doing. In addition, there is [a HAAUG group on Facebook](#), where people can go to interact with fellow HAAUG members on topics of interest related to Apple and its products.

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.

Reviewers Wanted!

Ed Truitt, Media & Communications Dir.

Do you like to read technical books? Do you fancy yourself a literary critic? Do you like to share your opinions with others? Why am I asking all these questions?

If your answer to most of the questions above is "Yes", then we have something for you: several publishers (including O'Reilly and Wiley) make copies of their book available, at no charge, for review. We are always looking for member-written content for the Apple Barrel, and your book review, published in the HAAUG newsletter, will satisfy both needs.

If you are interested, please see me at the meeting, or email me at abe@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 **(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.

Angry Birds Seasons: 2012 Holiday Calendar

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

One of the things I enjoyed as a youngster (and that I enjoyed sharing with Son when *he* was young) was the annual Advent calendar. Each day, a new door would open, revealing its contents to wondering eyes.

As we at the point where Son is grown but there are not yet grandkids to spoil, the traditional Advent calendar has (temporarily) lost its place on the shelf. However, I still yearned for something that would help re-create the feeling of daily anticipation I remember from years ago.

Thanks to the folks at Apple and Rovio, I have it.

I'll admit, I have been a fan of Angry Birds since the first game came out. It was a bit tricky to play on the iPhone, especially for large-fingered individuals like myself. However, I like the challenge of figuring out exactly where to place the birds where they'll do the most damage. And, the game designers at Rovio have been busy coming up with new ways to keep the paradigm interesting. One of their creations is [Angry Birds Seasons \(HD\)](#), which provides a series of levels themed on different holidays throughout the year. And, guess what they offer for the Christmas season?

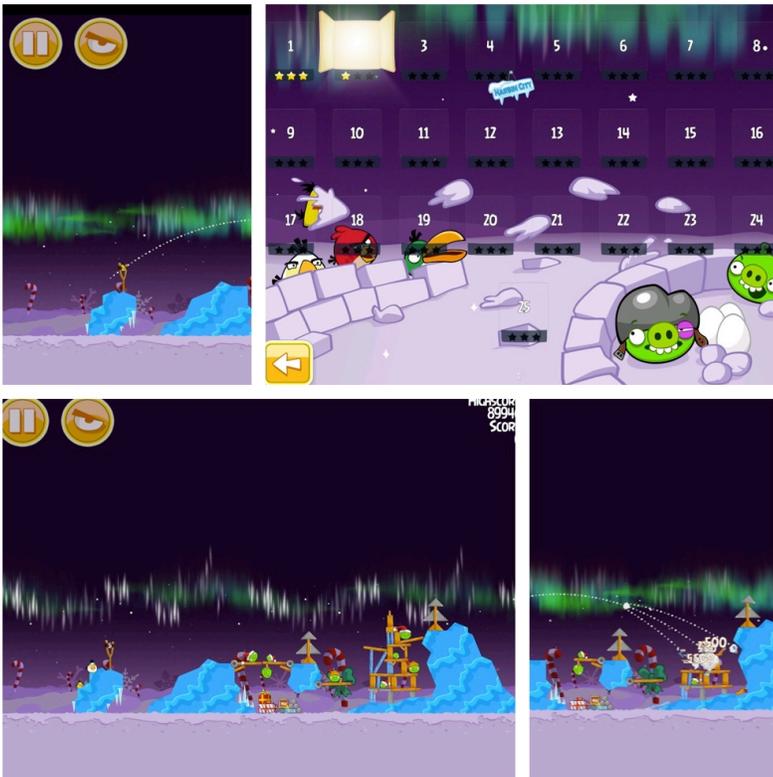
That's right: an Advent calendar!

It works like the traditional Advent calendar: each day, a new level is "unlocked" for play. You get the normal cast of Angry Birds and Bad Piggies, with the pigs decked out in elf or Santa hats instead

of military-style headgear. In line with the winter theme, there is also snow present, which tends to reduce the destructive effects of the various birds. I have also noticed that with this particular game, it is much more difficult to get the "three star" scores which is necessary to open up the extra levels.

However, those are minor nits. It is an Advent calendar, it fits on the iPad, and it provides me my daily dose of Angry Birds destruction!

Angry Birds is available as a free (ad-supported) download from the iTunes App Store, though I recommend you pony up \$0.99 for the iPhone version, or \$2.99 for the HD version which is optimized for the iPad.



Scenes from Angry Birds Seasons HD