Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

April 2013

"I Cut The Cord"

Dwight Silverman

Saturday, April 20th

Techblogger, computer columnist, blog editor, social media evangelist @ Houston Chronicle chron.com. Co-host of Technology Bytes radio show, regular TWiT panelist. University instructor. Computer book author. Twitter junkie. Pizza lover.

HAAUG is privileged to have Dwight give the main presentation at our April meeting, during which he will talk about his experiences with "cutting the cord", liberating his household from the clutches of Big Cable.

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15. We'll see you there on the 20th!

Meeting Location

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Just outside Loop 610 and south of Bellaire Blvd.

Dear HAAUG,

March came and went with no major Apple announcements. Most Apple references on the web were how Apple is 'losing its touch'. Samsung announced a new Galaxy smart phone in a Broadway extravaganza held in Radio City Music Hall. The show got very poor reviews. The phone, on the other hand, got pretty decent reviews.

Many thanks to Rex Covington, Doug Smith, and Jeff Davis for giving us a flavor of the recently completed Macworld / iWorld. In case you missed the announcement, Macworld / iWorld is moving to March next year. Mark your calendars for March 27 - 29, 2014. The date change may mean that I can think about attending, as it is no longer near the start of the spring semester.

As I said above, there were no major Apple announcements, but Apple will make its 2013 Q1 financial results known on April 23. All of the business analysts are in heavy speculation as to what Apple will announce. Let me take a crack at it: Apple will make a bucket load of revenue but less profit on slightly lower sales. Also, it will still have more money in its bank than many third world countries.

Ed Truitt will have his usual security column this month, but I need to remind you to have your antenna up for email scams. I have received several emails addressed to President HAAUG. One was supposedly from a bank that we do not do business with requesting information, one or two from shipping companies about a package. I did not respond and I encourage you not to respond, either.

The April meeting will be on Saturday April 20th. I hope to see you all there.

Security Beat

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

If this is April, then it must be the season for taxes. Also, tax SCAMS. The government has issued the standard alerts, warning us to be on the lookout. However, in case you need a reminder, there is one cardinal rule to remember, which will go a long way toward keeping you (and your refund) safe:

> *The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email or social media channels to request personal or financial information.*
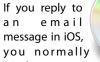
You can help the IRS combat this problem: to find out how, check out their page on [Reporting Phishing](#).

In other news: the geo-political world has gotten a lot more complicated lately. The rise in tensions in different parts of the planet has been accompanied by an increase in various forms of cyber-'hactivism' - from DDoS attacks to web site defacements to information stealing to 'doxxing' (posting private information of others online.)

Numerous financial institutions seem to be on the 'hit list' of the hacktivists. Whether the goal is to disrupt our economic system or to effect a large-scale funds transfer from our bank accounts to theirs remains to be seen. Either way, it would behoove all of us to take steps to protect ourselves. Exercising caution while banking on-line is a good start: refrain from visiting your bank's web site while on a public WiFi network, make sure nobody is watching over your shoulder as you type in your password, and yes, even use anti-virus software on the system(s) you use for banking. Monitor your account activity and balance, and report any discrepancy to the bank ASAP. If you get email claiming to be from your financial institution, don't click on any links (or open any attachments) in the email - instead, type the URL for the institution's web site into your browser (or select it from your bookmarks.)

Moving on to the next topic: email spam is a fact of life. So are anti-spam 'blacklists', used to try and stem the flood of spam by blocking inbound email from known spam sources. Unfortunately, in the world of shared hosting services, finding that your site is on one or more spam blacklists is a fact of life. Recently, one of our members discovered that our haaugnet.org domain wound up on such a list, and as a result he was unable to send email from his account. [MacHighway published an article on things we can do to prevent this from happening](#): it is a worthwhile read. The three things they recommend are:

QuickTip

If you reply to an email message in iOS, you normally wind up quoting the entire message you are replying to. Usually, all you want to reply to is a portion of the message.

By selecting that portion of the message in the received mail before replying, only that selection will be quoted, just as with OS X Mail app and most other computer-based email programs.

To do this, tap and hold on a word in the section of the email you want to quote. When the selection handles come up, drag them to select only that portion of the email you want to quote. Then tap on the arrow button to reply to the message.

[**kirkmc adds**: This is pretty basic, but there's no hint on the site, and I'd bet a lot of iOS users aren't aware of this.]

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20130331202623845

"Stuff Dr. Mac Likes": The Links

Bob "Dr Mac" LeVitus

AIRBAC back pack: http://airbac.com

Monoprice - Cables, adapters and stuff: http://www.monoprice.com

OWC - Voyager drive docks: http://eshop.macsales.com/shop/NewerTech/Voyager/Hard_Drive_Dock

Fry's Electronics: http://www.frys.com
 Enough said. Red Laser and Safari are welcome to compare prices while you shop in the store.

IK Multimedia: http://www.ikmultimedia.com/products/iklipstudio/
 iPad and iPhone Stands and mic clips

Pro Prompter Teleprompter App: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/proprompter/id309792203?mt=8

ZeroChroma: http://www.zerochroma.com
 iPhone and iPad cases

Logitech: http://www.logitech.com/en-us/ipad-keyboard-cases
 iPad keyboard cases (now available for iPad mini!)

Mac Bartender: http://www.macbartender.com
 Menu bar management. 4 week free trial.

iTunes Capo App ($49.99):
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/capo/id415922585?mt=12

Clarify App: http://www.clarify-it.com
 Clarify a screen capture app with a 14 day free trial

Mousepose ($4.99): http://www.boinx.com/mousepose/overview/

Keyboard Maestro ($36): http://www.keyboardmaestro.com/main/

Spotify music (from $10 / month): http:www.spotify.com

Tilt Shift Focus app for the iPhone (99¢):
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tilt-shift-focus/id367819552?mt=8

Colorstrokes ($2.99):
https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/colorstrokes/id459413843?mt=12

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh community

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

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

Attendees: Philip Booth, David Jaschke, Ed Truitt, Clair Jaschke, Mike King, Jack Adair, Mike Epstein

Call to Order: By President Philip Booth at 1:23 PM following the conclusion of the February General Meeting, with a quorum of the voting members being present.

General Announcements: None.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Secretary - Jack Adair: The minutes for January were unanimously approved by voice vote. It was then agreed to defer all other business to the March 16 board meeting due to the length of the February General Meeting, which featured Bob LeVitus' annual "State of Apple" presentation.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Adjournment: At 1:24 P.M.

Security Beat...

- **Make sure each email address has a unique password:** that way, if one password gets compromised, it can't be used to break into the other accounts.
- **Make sure each computing device is using SSL to send email:** otherwise, sending and receiving email over a public network is like posting your userid and password on a bathroom stall, with a note to "Steal Me!"
- **Run a virus scan on your PC:** and that includes Macs, as well! Most recent spam 'campaigns' have been linked to malware. And most modern malware targets, not the operating system, but installed applications like Java or Flash or the browser.

Till next month: keep 'em safe!

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

Email Issues

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

Last month, the server that handles the email for HAAUG (haaug.org and haaugnet.org) wound up on several anti-spam black lists. As a result, some members experienced problems sending email to Apple's consumer email domains (me.com, mac.com, and icloud.com). This problem should be resolved now: however, if you are still experiencing problems sending email to other domains, please let me know.

Thanks!

Links...

1Password (for Mac: also available for iOS, Windows): https://agilebits.com/onepassword/mac
$49.99 w 30 day trial

Dropbox (cloud storage): https://www.dropbox.com
First 2 gigs of cloud storage is free

Mac Geek Gab podcast: http://www.macobserver.com/tmo/features/mac_geek_gab/
Dave Hamilton and John F. Braun come together weekly to discuss things of interest to Mac geeks

CrashPlan: www.crashplan.com
Online backup for your files

Canvas Pop: www.canvaspop.com
Printing photos on canvas

Text Expander for Mac: www.smilesoftware.com
Typing shortcut utility

Focus app: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/focus-add-depth-tilt-shift/id432599692?mt=12
Add depth to photos by focusing on a subject and adding lens blur to the background

XLR8 app: https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/xlr8/id506486124?mt=8
Makes your car sound like an exotic super car as you drive

Upcoming Events

Houston Area Apple Users Group 2013 Officers and Directors

President
Phil Booth

Vice President
Greg Wright

Secretary
Jack E Adair

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, May 18th, 2013

To Be Announced
Watch this space for details.
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, June 15th, 2013

To Be Announced
Watch this space for details.
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, July 20th, 2013

Semi-Annual SwapMeet
Time to clean out the gadget stash again! Our mid-summer opportunity to buy and sell gently-used Apple (and related) "stuff".
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, October 19th, 2013

Chris Breen, Sr Editor of Macworld
This meeting should be on your "must attend" list. Reserve the date!
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/

April 2013 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: "I Cut The Cord" by Dwight Silverman		
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting; followed by social time/lunch	

Main Presentation: "I Cut The Cord" Dwight Silverman discusses his experiences separating his household from the clutches of Big Cable.

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

You may have seen the news that Google Reader is shutting down as of July 1, 2013. If you use Google Reader, you may want to save your feeds to be able to import them into another RSS reader.

Go to Google Reader, then click on the gear icon at the right of the page and choose Settings. Click in Import/Export. In the Export your information section, click on Download your data through Takeout. Follow the instructions to download your data.

When you download the data, you'll get a ZIP archive. Double-click it, and look in the Reader folder for a subscriptions.xml file. You can use that to import your feeds into other RSS readers.

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20130314062131852

Become Part of the Action

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

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:

☐ New Membership ($35.00)　　☐ Renewal ($35.00)
☐ Two Year Renewal ($70.00)　☐ Student ($10.00) *Requires Student ID)*

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. SwapMeets 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, which is available to members on the HAAUG web site in Adobe PDF 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, e-mail, or at the monthly meetings.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
People with common interests, including Macintosh and OS X basics, 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.

Review: Lytro Light Field Camera

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

Back in the late 1990s, a new camera came out - one which I felt would revolutionize consumer photography. It was the Sony Mavica MVC-FD7, and while the images it captured weren't as good as you could get on film, it stored them on 3.5" floppy disks - which could be read on pretty much every computer made at the time. Given time, the image quality of digital cameras improved, and digital capture is now the rule, rather than the exception.

Fast-forward a decade and change, and we are at the brink of what may be the next "big thing" in photography. A company by the name of Lytro has come out with a plenoptic, or "light field" camera. Instead of focusing the incoming rays of light onto a 2-dimensional plane, this camera records the light rays coming in from different angles, and special software allows the user to do some neat tricks in post-processing.

Lytro Light Field Camera
(photo by Ed Truitt)

What kind of tricks, you ask? Well, to start with, you are able to re-focus the image. Did you accidentally focus on the bridge behind your main subject? No problem, simply change the focal point with a single click? This is, in fact, the problem that provided the original inspiration for the design of the Lytro camera. Another trick is called "perspective shift", where you change the point of view of the image (similar to using a tilt-shift lens.) And the real trick? By sharing your images on Lytro's site, those who view them can perform these same techniques, which results in what Lytro calls "living pictures".

As you can guess, when this camera started shipping last year, I started looking for an excuse to buy me one. Last month, I finally gave in, and ordered an 8GB model. It arrived a few days later, and I got busy taking pictures.

The camera looks like a little rectangular kaleidoscope, and is fairly simple to operate: with a constant f/2 aperture, I only have to set the ISO (sensitivity) and shutter (speed), and those only if I want to. There is a power button and a shutter button, and the zoom is controlled by rubbing your finger against the back of the body (which looks sort of odd when you are doing it.)

So far, I have had mixed results with the camera. It doesn't have image stabilization, so low-light photography tends to be a bit on the blurry side. Also, the type of image that this camera is made for has content both close-up and far away. Many of the images I have taken look only so-so, but the few that were the right type have taken my breath away. The jury is out as to whether or not this represents the future of photography, but it is certainly an interesting example of what is possible.

The Lytro camera comes in both an 8GB (350 pictures) model for $399, and a 16GB (750 pictures) model for $499.