September 2013

Digital Camera Update

Saturday, September 21st

"'♫ 'Tis the season to go shopping..."

OK, so it may be annoying to see stores putting up holiday decorations before Labor Day. But, this is a good time to start planning, and actually doing, some of the holiday shopping, before the crowds (and the inevitable long lines) show up.

This year, we are again fortunate to have Reagan Atkinson from Houston Camera Exchange as the main speaker for our "Digital Camera Update". He can tell us what to look for (and what to look out for!) as we strive to fill those stockings and the boxes that will take up residence under the tree later this year.

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15. We'll see you there on the 21st!
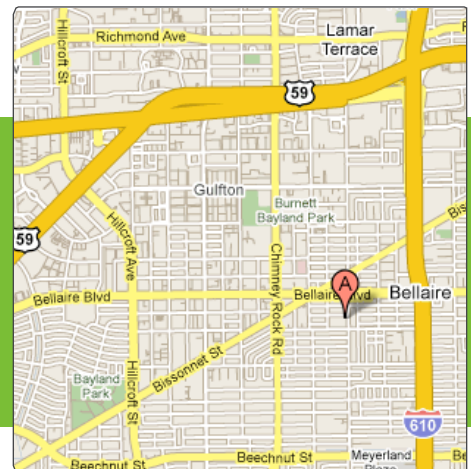
Meeting Location

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

Dear HAAUG,

I want to thank Maia Olsen of Smile Software for a great presentation on their flagship products: Text Expander, PDF Pen, and PDF Pen Pro. All three of those products save time and money.

Recently, I needed to submit a detailed medical history before treatment could start. The forms were sent to me as a PDF, and with my copy of PDF Pen I was able to fill it out on my computer, so the medical group did not have to deal with my very poor penmanship. How many of us have working typewriters anymore?

The one item that went unacknowledged was we were able to use the city's WiFi for FaceTime and screen-sharing sessions that made up the presentation. This means that we will be able to bring more out of town speakers to our meetings via teleconference. My preference will be to have these folks in person, but this is a great way to get good speakers for our meetings.

If you bought books for your iPad through the Apple Book store between 4/1/2010 and 6/21/12, a settlement has been reached in a lawsuit and you should be in line for some credit from Apple. You may receive email about this: google "iBook lawsuit" for more information.

This month we will have Reagan Atkinson from Houston Camera Exchange as our main speaker. He will talk about the latest developments in photography at the start of the Holiday season. Time to brush up on picture taking!

In October, we will have - live and in person - Chris Breen, Sr. Editor of Macworld Magazine. By then Mac OS 10.9 and iOS 7 should have been released, and Chris can give us a detailed review of the latest OS's from Apple.

Coming September 10th: Apple will have an iPhone roll out event. We know that there will be some kind of update to the iPhone 5, but rumors are flying around the Apple blogs that there will be a cheaper smaller phone in multiple colors. A Gold colored iPhone 5x. Also at this event it is rumored that the iPad will be updated. Stay tuned!

We know that Apple will soon be dropping the OS updates, iPhone updates, and release the new Mac Pro, This was stated in the WWDC Keynote, and September/October are Apple's traditional time to release new products for the holiday shopping season. It will be fun!

Fall is also the time when the Club seeks nominations for the Board of Directors. Please consider running for the Board. HAAUG needs new ideas to keep fresh. Contact me if you are interested in running for a seat on the Board, or volunteering for any other job.

Security Beat

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

If you have been reading, listening to, or watching the news for the past month, you probably have heard about how a particular three letter government agency has been engaged in various activities in order to feed its voracious appetite for data, some of which have been aimed at weakening some of the underlying protective mechanisms (e.g. encryption) we take for granted when trying to keep our data out of the hands of the bad guys. I am going to stay away from the debate on whether or not the three letter government agency has a legitimate need for that much data: that is a debate that is better held in our legislative chambers, and if you have a position on the subject I urge you to let those you elected to represent you know.

Nor, despite my overwhelming urge to do so, am I going to weigh in on the wisdom (or lack thereof) of deliberately introducing weaknesses and flaws in defensive systems - other than to state that the following: now that you know what has been going on, it is important to remember that these systems are *not* infallible, and they aren't a magic bullet that renders your data unstealable. You may need to protect your most valuable data by limiting its exposure to others: any time you are faced with the decision of whether or not to put something on the 'Net, this is one of the factors you need to take into consideration.

On the other hand, even the less-than-perfect systems we have today are far better than the alternative of "nothing at all". How many of us, despite all that has been printed and talked about in the various tech media, still use open-access (unencrypted) WiFi hotspots in coffee houses, airport waiting areas, and the like? OK, maybe we don't do our online banking in such an environment (though you might be surprised by how many folks do), but do you pay bills, or check email? The former will send your payment information (bank account or credit card) out (hopefully through an encrypted connection to the web site using HTTPS!), while the latter will send your email address and password out (far too often, in plain text.)

Fortunately, there is an alternative for those times you find yourself with open WiFi as your only viable connectivity option. That alternative is called Virtual Private Networking (VPN), and allows you to establish an encrypted connection from where your PC or tablet is back to a special server running the VPN software. This is different from the concept of a proxy server, which interacts with the Web on your behalf. Both may act to protect your privacy, by limiting exposure of things like where you are (your IP address.)

QuickTip

When you flip the ring/silent switch on your iPhone, it goes quiet while it's locked/asleep—mostly. But unless Do Not Disturb is turned on, your iPhone will still buzz the hum of its internal vibration motor when alerts that would otherwise ring out arrive.

But there's a fix. You can make your silenced iPhone be truly silent with a single flick of a virtual switch. Head over to Settings, and tap on Sounds. Switch Vibrate on Silent to off, and your phone will be both sound and vibration free when you slide the ring/silent switch to the quieter position.

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20130904084520257

FBI Public Service Announcement: Ransomware Purporting to be from the FBI is Targeting OS X Mac Users

07/18/13—In May 2012, the Internet Crime Complaint Center posted an alert about the Citadel malware platform used to deliver ransomware known as Reveton. The ransomware directs victims to a drive-by download website, at which time it is installed on their computers. Ransomware is used to intimidate victims into paying a fine to "unlock" their computers. Paying the fine does nothing to solve the problem with the computer; do not follow the ransomware instructions. The ransomware has been called "FBI Ransomware" because it uses the FBI's name.

The newest version of ransomware targets OS X Mac users. This new version is not malware; it appears as a webpage that uses JavaScript to load numerous iframes (browser windows) and requires victims to close each iframe. The cyber criminals anticipate victims will pay the requested ransom before realizing all iframes need to be closed.

The ransomware is pushed to victims' computers when they browse common websites, specifically when they query popular search terms. Once the web browser is exploited, the victim's computer displays a pop-up warning that appears to be from the FBI. Cyber criminals use "FBI.gov" within the URL to make the warning appear more legitimate.

As the FBI saw in 2012, the warning accuses victims of violating various U.S. laws, then locks the user's computer. To unlock the computer and avoid legal issues, victims are told they must pay a $300 fine via a prepaid money card. Attempts to close the warning page results in additional messages that reappear each time victims try to close their web browser.

The simplest way to remove the ransomware's iframes is by clicking on the Safari menu and choosing the "Reset Safari," option, making sure all check boxes are selected. You may also hold down the Shift key while relaunching Safari, which will prevent Safari from reopening windows and tabs from the previous session. Victims can also disable the reopening feature across OS X from the General pane of System Preferences.

Ransomware messages are an attempt to extort money. If you have received a ransomware message, do not follow payment instructions. Be sure and file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov.

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This FBI Public Service Announcement was shared through InfraGard.

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh community

Minutes

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

Attendees: Philip Booth, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Greg Wright, Jack Adair, Mike Epstein, Mike King

Call to Order: By President Philip Booth at 12:01 PM following the conclusion of the July Semi-Annual Swap Meet, with a quorum of the voting members being present.

General Announcements: Phil thanked the Board for a good Swap Meet.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Secretary - Jack Adair: The minutes for June 2013 were unanimously approved by voice vote. Jack reported that he would be unable to make the August meeting and asked for a volunteer to take the meeting minutes. Clair Jaschke agreed to do this.

Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke: Clair presented the financial reports for June 2013. Our checking account balance as of the end of June was $10,523.11, and we have $5,012.52 in our certificate of deposit. All bills are paid; we have four checks to be deposited.

MacExperts has cashed the oldest check that we sent them; there remains only one check outstanding, which they have said they will eventually cash. KAGI is being used less and less; Square is now offering on-line payment, and we may look at switching to Square over KAGI in the future. Dave Jaschke has agreed to do a study into looking at this. Clair and Dave will coordinate to review and reconcile the charges from KAGI to ensure they match the club's expectations before we change or close the KAGI account.

Phil Booth reported that we are paid through September for our rentals to the Bellaire Civic Center.

Vice President - Greg Wright: Greg reported that Phil is still waiting for an answer from Smile Software for an August presentation. If Smile cannot make it, Rick Roberts and Phil will combine to talk about smart apps and weather apps.

We are waiting to hear if Reagan Atkinson can present in September. We will ask Ed Truitt to see if Reagan can be available for either August or September. Dreux St. Marie has indicated he would like to present sometime during the fourth quarter. Greg is checking to see if he can make it in November.

Confirmed topics for the remainder of the year are as follows:

- Saturday, October 19: Chris Breen from Macworld
- Saturday, December 14: Doug Smith (Holiday shopping special)

Membership - David Jaschke: Dave reported that we ended the month of June with 165 members, which is down from 173 members at the end of May, and 176 members as of June 30, 2012. Dave reported that June was a low activity month with only eight renewals. We had two renewals by KAGI and two by credit card.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems - Ed Truitt: Ed was absent this month. Phil Booth reported that the first Saturday of August would be the deadline for submission for the August Apple Barrel.

Minutes...

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Adjournment: At 12:19 PM.

Boss HAAUG...

I want to thank the many club members who help us clean up the Civic Center after our meetings. Your assistance is appreciated very much, as it helps us keep the rent manageable.

Security Beat...

There are several types of VPN servers available, and if you don't care to roll your own, you can find someone who will provide the server for you to connect to (for a fee, most likely.) One solution I am going to take a look at is OpenVPN (http://openvpn.net), which provides client and server-side software, as well as the VPN service. I have installed the OpenVPN server on a virtual server I have with a hosting provider in Dallas, and hopefully by next month I will be able to write about my experiences, and let you know what I think of this as an addition to the layers of security we all need to safely surf the Web.

You may have noticed that I left the FBI's PSA from last month in this edition. I did so deliberately: the warning it conveys is still relevant, and it also reinforces an underlying message that the Mac and iOS community needs to hear: the best security systems, the A/V scanner with the best coverage, is of no use if the person sitting at the keyboard falls for all the tricks the bad guys throw at us.

Till next month: keep 'em safe!

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

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 19th, 2013

Chris Breen, Sr Editor of Macworld
This meeting should be on your "must attend" list, with Mr. Breen helping
HAAUG celebrate its 35th anniversary. Reserve the date!
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, November 16th, 2013

To Be Announced
We have something really special being planned - stay tuned for further details!
Location: Bellaire Civic Center | Map online at **www.haaug.org**

Saturday, December 14th, 2013

Holiday Shopping Special
HAAUG member Doug Smith reveals his secrets as to where to find those last-
minute holiday items.
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/

September 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: Digital Photography Update by Reagan Atkinson		
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting; followed by social time/lunch	

Main Presentation: Digital Photography Update - Reagan Atkinson from Houston Camera Exchange talks about what the holiday season will bring, digital camera wise.

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: Ed Truitt – I'll bring in my new Lytro light field camera, and we can discuss: just another fad, or the future of photography?

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

When you want to snap a Panorama photo with your iPhone, you know the drill: You tap the button, and then slowly, steadily move your iPhone from left to right to capture the best possible panoramic photo.

But what if you're already standing at the right side of your horizontally-oriented subject? It seems crazy that you need to head all the way to the opposite left side, just so you can snap your wide photo.

And indeed, that WOULD be crazy. You don't have to. Instead, just tap on the Panorama arrow/line, and it flips directions.

http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20130904095303102

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.

Second Impressions: Macbook Air Lock - Security Skin
Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

Last month, I wrote about my first impressions of the Macbook Air Lock and Security Skin Bundle.

In the time since I have installed the skin, I have had numerous opportunities to use it. It has done the basic job I bought it for, providing a receptacle for the security locking cable which allows me to secure the Macbook Air so it won't grow legs and walk off. It doesn't add any appreciable weight or thickness to the Air, which is a really good thing for me given that the light weight and thin profile were what caused me to choose the Air over the newest Macbook Pro in the first place.

There is one problem I have noticed, though, and I am not sure how long it will be before this problem renders the Security Skin useless to me.

That problem is that I have begun to notice cracks in the clear plastic casing. In several places, small pieces of the casing have come off.

So far, these cracks/chips have appeared in areas away from the screw holes and the security lock receptacle, and this makes them mainly cosmetic annoyances.

And yet, because I haven't been abusing the system, I am annoyed, because I don't understand why I should be seeing *any* chips or cracks.

I will leave the Security Skin on for now, and let you know how it progresses.

Security Skin's security slot
(photo by Ed Truitt)