

Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

December 2013

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

LAST MINUTE with Doug Smith

Holiday Shopping

Saturday, December 14

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, TX 77401
9 am - 1 pm



Last Minute Holiday Shopping with Doug Smith Saturday, December 14th

'Tis the season to go shopping.

If you are like many of us, the season will go by all too fast, and you will find yourself staring Christmas day in the face, with at least one gift still on the "to buy" list.

Fret not, HAAUG's own Doug Smith will be on hand to impart some last-minute shopping tips, which will help you fill the stockings and complete the under-the-tree package arrangements.

The SIGs start at 9am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:15.
We'll see you there on the 14th!

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



The second holiday of the season has come and gone, and I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving with your friends and family. For many of us, we are gearing up for Christmas and New Years: some of us are coming down from celebrating Hanukkah. My best wishes to everyone.

Thanks to Dreux St. Marie for another great presentation on what Apple is up to. Thanks also to the Texas Medical Center MUG for co-sponsoring the meeting that allowed Dreux to present to us.

We will be asking the membership at the December meeting to elect the incoming officers and they will be the same as last year. There is something to be said for continuity, but there are members of the board that are asking for help. We really need members to help run the organization. The Board will also submit the annual budget to the membership for approval. The group's finances are in great shape, and the budget that we are proposing will show a slight positive balance at the end of of 2014.

December's meeting is coming quick. We will meet on 12/14 and get advice from Doug Smith on last minute shopping deals. January will be the first swap meet of 2014 and if you have some technology that is no longer relevant to you, it is time to see if it will be useful to someone else. Reserve your table, bring your stuff, and see if you can find it a good home.

We are working on bringing another heavy hitter to the February meeting, but I will wait until things are confirmed. Also, we have firmed up the meeting dates for 2014 with the City of Bellaire. April will have a deviation in the schedule as we will meet on the last Saturday of the month (4/26/2014.) We will meet early in December also.

Again, my best wishes to you for your holidays.

Security Beat

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com



(Ed. note: Due to an unexpected illness and hospital stay, the Apple Barrel for this month was delayed. In order to get it out, I am reprinting the Security Beat column from last December.)

"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
(cont'd on p. 8)

QuickTip

Apple changed the behavior of the Power button in 10.9 Mavericks.



Press the button once, and it puts your display to sleep. Press and hold it for a second or two, and the Shutdown / Restart / Sleep dialog appears. Press and hold it for even longer, and your Mac gets completely powered off.

<http://hints.macworld.com/article.php?story=20131025154203251>

Nominees - 2014 Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following slate of candidates for the 2014 HAAUG Board of Directors. Nominations will be solicited from the floor, and the election will be held, during our December General Meeting.

PRESIDENT

1. Phil Booth

VICE-PRESIDENT

1. Greg Wright

SECRETARY

1. Jack E. Adair

TREASURER

1. Clair Jaschke

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

1. David Jaschke

MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR

1. Ed Truitt

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE (2 POSITIONS)

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

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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):

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1/2 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625" x 5"

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

1/3 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625" x 3.375"

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

1/4 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75" x 5"

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

1/6 Page Ad

Dimensions: 5" x 2.5"

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

Business Card Ad

Dimensions: 3.5" x 2"

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

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

Minutes

HAAUG Board of Directors Meeting – Saturday, September 21, 2013

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

Attendees: Philip Booth, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Jack Adair

Call to Order: By President Philip Booth at 12:20 PM following the conclusion of the September General Meeting.

General Announcements: Reagan Atkinson's presentation was very well received. Phil indicated that he needed to E-mail Maya Young, the presenter from Smile Software at our August meeting, with thanks for an excellent presentation during August.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Secretary - Jack Adair: Since we did not have a quorum present at the meeting, the amended minutes of the August meeting will be sent out to the board with a recommendation for approval. Jack Adair will count the votes.

Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke: Clair presented the financial reports for August 2013. Our checking account balance as of the end of August was \$10,815.22, and we have our \$5,012.52 in our certificate of deposit. All the bills and paid and the checks are deposited.

Vice President - Greg Wright: Greg was absent this month but did submit a report, as follows:

HAAUG – Programming Lineup and Ideas

Date	Topic	Presenter	Confirmed?	Action Items/Who Responsible
21-Sep-13	Photo Equipment Roundup	Reagan Atkinson	Yes	Ed Truitt following up

19-Oct-13	Chris Breen	Chris Breen	Yes	Doug/Greg to follow up with arrangements
16-Nov-13	Dreux News (joint meeting with TMC MUG)	Dreux St. Marie	No	Phil following up with Jeff and TMC MUG.
14-Dec-13	Last Minute Holiday Shopping	Doug Smith	Yes	Doug
18-Jan-14	Swap Meet	Phil	Yes	Phil
15-Feb-14	State of the Mac/Apple	Bob LeVitus	Yes	Doug

Phil Booth indicated that he would assign follow-up responsibility for the November 16 joint meeting with TMC MUG back to Greg.

Membership - David Jaschke: Dave reported that we ended the month of August with 169 members, which is up three members from 166 at the end of July, and down 10 members from 179 as of August 31, 2012. We had four new members join and one lapsed renewal, along with four regular renewals (two 2-year renewals, two standard renewals) for a total of 9 transactions. We had 3 credit card and 3 KAGI transactions.

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

OLD BUSINESS: The audit report is still outstanding.

NEW BUSINESS: Next month will be HAAUG's 35th anniversary meeting. We will be buying two cakes and some drinks. Phil will request a budget of \$150.00 for this activity. We will likely procure the cakes from Sam's Club. Dave and Clair Jaschke will do the design work for the cakes.

(cont'd on p. 8)

Minutes...

(cont'd from Page 7)

In October, we will announce that we will select candidates for the 2014 Board of Directors. In November, we will present the slate of candidates so far and accept nominations from the floor.

Jim Connell informed Dave that our Twitter account needs to be updated and the announcements for the hotline need to be updated. Twitter page has not been updated since July.

Adjournment: At 12:47 P.M.

Security Beat...

(cont'd from Page 3)

legitimate sites (e.g. "amason.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 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.

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, January 18th, 2014

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 15th, 2014

"State of Apple" with Bob 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

Saturday, March 15th, 2014

To Be Announced

Stay tuned for further info.

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

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Macintosh/IBM Services, Maintenance & Repair Specialist

4141 SW Freeway Suite #470

Houston, Texas 77098

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December 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 and Elections		
11:15 a.m.	Last Minute Holiday Shopping with Doug Smith		
1 p.m.	Clean-up	Board of Directors meeting, followed by social time/lunch	

Main Presentation: Last Minute Holiday Shopping - HAAUG member Doug Smith reveals his secrets as to where to find those last-minute holiday items.

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



I discovered what Leo and Sarah call a “Duh tip” when I first started using the Mail app in iOS 7. I didn’t think much about it, until I heard Sarah talk about it on one of the [TWiT](#) podcasts.

There is a really easy way to move an addressee in Mail between the TO, CC, and BCC fields. Simply touch and hold the contact name/email, then drag it to the location you want it to be.

Become Part of the Action

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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: _____

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Type Of Computer: _____

Membership:

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

Check # _____

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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.

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.

Review: iPad Air

Ed Truitt, etee@me.com

When the new iPads came out this year, I promised I would hold off and not buy one. And, for a little while, I was able to resist. However, I soon learned that *Resistance is Futile*, and one day I found myself in the Downtown Tunnels, heading to the Apple reseller (TechOne Centre) down there. While they didn't have any iPad Airs in 64GB or 128GB capacity, they did have a black 32GB Air with my name written all over it.

It was quite a struggle, but I managed to wait until I got home before ripping the box open. I setup the Air over WiFi, and since it was half the capacity of my iPad 3, I set it up as a new device. Setup took less than 5 minutes, and installing the few apps I use all the time took about 15 minutes more, then I was off and playing with my new toy.

The first thing I noticed was just how light this device is. I often use an iPad while lying down, and I am used to leaning it up against a pillow. So far, I haven't had the need to do this with the Air: I am able to hold it comfortably for an extended period of time.

The next thing I noticed was just how responsive it is. This is partially due to the faster processor, and in part because I don't have nearly as many apps installed.

One of the features others have written about is the graphics performance, especially when playing 4K video. I have watched a few such videos, and the quality is indeed something to behold. On the other hand, most of the images (still or moving) I view on my iPad are not nearly the quality of 4K video, so I feel this is a feature I am not yet able to exploit fully.

I thought I would miss the extra storage capacity, but with judicious installation of apps and keeping my music/videos/etc in iCloud, I find that I still have almost 18GB free.

Am I happy I bought the iPad Air? Yes, I am - and so is my son, who inherited my iPad 3.

Is there anything I miss? Well, I am looking for a keyboard/cover, but want to be cautious, since I don't want to make the thing too heavy.