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Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

September 2015

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

Reagan Atkinson

... of The Houston Camera Exchange

Saturday, September 19

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



Want Apple's **ON?** Latest Gadget **US?**

*Now is the time
to enter the 2015
HAAUG raffle!*

HAAUG is raffling a \$500 Apple Gift Card which could be used to purchase your very own Apple Watch! Tickets will be sold only at meetings starting in June and going through September.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. Cash or checks only.

Drawing will be held at the September meeting. You do not have to be present to win.

For more information ask a board member at a HAAUG meeting or go to haaug.org/raffle.



Cameras and Photography

Join us on Saturday, September 19 as Reagan Atkinson of the Houston Camera Exchange discusses all topics related to cameras and photography.

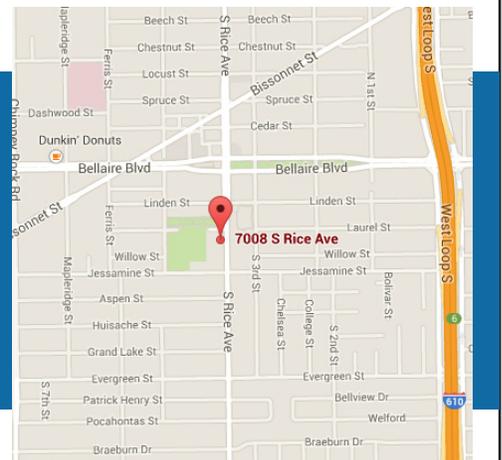
SIGs meeting this month include Mac 101 Fundamentals with Jonathan Magnus, iOS with Doug Smith and Rick Roberts, and Photography with Phil Booth.

SIGs start at 9:00 am and the Main Presentation begins at 11:00 am. We hope to see everyone there!

Meeting Location

Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Ave.
Bellaire, TX 77401

Free parking is available in the Civic Center lot and on several streets around the Civic Center.



New Apple Products

This month Apple announced some exciting new hardware. Pre-orders are already open for the new iPhone 6s and 6s Plus models. The launch date for the new iPhone models is September 25th. Apple also announced the iPad Pro, featuring a 12.9" display. With support for the Apple Pencil accessory the iPad Pro should be a favorite among illustrators and other creatives. The iPad Mini received an update and is now in its fourth iteration. The new iPad Mini is thinner and lighter than the previous model.

With the launch of the new iPad models, Apple continues to provide the original iPad Air (and current-model iPad Air 2) and the iPad Mini 2 for sale. This means there are now five flavors of iPad available from the Apple Store. On the iPhone front, the iPhone 6, 6 Plus, and 5s continue to be available for sale, so there are also five iPhone models. At current prices the least expensive iPad option is the \$269 iPad Mini 2 in a 16 GB configuration. The least expensive iPhone (unlocked, contract-free and at retail price) is the \$450 iPhone 5s in the 16 GB configuration.

There is a lot of talk about the "best" way to buy an iPhone now. It appears that carrier-subsidized phones have come to an end. With programs like AT&T Next and the new iPhone Upgrade Program, you can now purchase an iPhone by paying installment payments over a period of time. With both of these programs you can trade-in your device for a new one after you've completed a set number of installment payments. Next month after details about the iPhone Upgrade Program are finalized, we will compare details about all the ways you can buy an iPhone and the total cost of ownership and pros and cons of each.

Finally Apple announced the new Apple TV unit. This new Apple TV will be all about apps! It features a newly designed Remote with a swipe interface, is "coming soon" and will be available for \$149 once it ships.

Apple Watch Raffle

HAAUG is selling raffle tickets for a \$500 Apple Gift Card which you can use to buy your very own Apple Watch. The drawing will take place at the September meeting. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20. You don't need to be present to win!

Your Content Here

Have you tried a new Mac or iOS application? Found a neat accessory for your iPhone? Want to share a cool tip you've come across? Write about it, and send your column to editor@haaug.org. You can help make the Apple Barrel a better publication while providing valuable insight and opinion to your fellow HAAUG members!

Board of Directors Vacancy

As a reminder, we still have a vacant position on our Board of Directors. This very important position is in charge of arranging programming for the organization. If you are interested in taking on this role, speak with HAAUG President Phil Booth at a meeting or email him at president@haaug.org.

Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



I am writing this on the eve of the Labor Day holiday and Apple fans are waiting for the big announcement coming on September 9th. It is thought that new iPhones will be announced possibly a new Apple TV unit and new iPads. They should announce the days that Mac OS 10.11 El Capitan and iOS 9 will be released. When you read this you will have seen the announcement. The Apple Web is abuzz with speculation on phone colors, features, and prices.

I am really looking forward to the iPhone announcement as my iPhone 5 did a full gainer into my toilet. It promptly turned itself into a brick. I went to the Apple store but the only thing that they could offer was a replacement phone which they did not have, at any Houston store. I was not in the mood to drop \$250 to get an obsolete phone when new phones are about to be announced. I am trying a different methods to revive the phone which I will tell you about later.

Our friend Bob LeVitus preaches backup all the time. "Hello my name is Phil and I don't have a recent back up of my iPhone." That is me explaining to the Backup Anonymous meeting. My phone kept telling me that the phone did not have an iCloud backup. I consulted a colleague at UH and he did not have a real good explanation. My phone was locked connected to power and connected to my Wi-Fi network but would not backup. I do have an iTunes backup to my iMac but that was a few months ago. Bringing the new phone up will be interesting.

The other thing I discovered is that you do not realize how important these devices become until they are gone. For the last several years my cell phone has been my watch, even before I had an iPhone. No watch, no access to my calendar accept on my iPad and desktop. I use 1Password both on my iPhone and desktop. When I am at work and I need to log into a website I pull my phone out and open 1Password. Well I am unable to do that. These things are real helpful until you don't have them.

HAAUG hat-tip to The Chronicle's Dwight Silverman for his presentation at last month's meeting. It was interesting to here about the deals you can get on Internet access. Also disheartening about the work you have to do to keep from paying through the nose.

Last time to hype the HAAUG raffle for the \$500.00 Apple Store gift card. The drawing is this month but you can still buy chances at the meeting. Tickets are \$5.00 apiece or five for \$20.00. I can tell you that we have decided to add some extra prizes to sweeten the pot. But I will just say that for now. Remember you do not have to be present to win but tickets are only available at the meeting. You must collect your prize at a meeting, we will not send the cards in the mail. We want to get your picture for the Barrel.

This month Reagan Atkinson of Houston Camera Exchange will talk on the new products in Photography. He brings a wealth of knowledge about what's new in Photography. We will be at the Bellaire Civic Center September 19th and the meeting starts at 9:00.

Phil Booth
2015 HAAUG President

Notes from Last Meeting

August 15, 2015

At our August General Meeting, Dwight Silverman from the Houston Chronicle addressed our group about Internet speeds in the Houston market. He talked about pricing, speed and alternatives to traditional “hard-wired” Internet. He also discussed the influence that Google Fiber has had on the Internet market, even in cities where Google Fiber isn’t available. If you missed the meeting or want a recap, here’s a summary of the talk.

The major players in the Houston Internet market are AT&T which offers both U-Verse and DSL, and Comcast which offers cable Internet. There are no known plans to bring the gigabit-per-second Google Fiber to Houston at this time, however Comcast and AT&T both have 1 Gbps packages in some area. (At the time of the talk, Comcast’s gigabit service wasn’t available, but see the end of the article for more details on that). AT&T’s Fiber offering is called Gigapower, and runs at around \$110/month if you’re willing to deal with “targeted advertising” on your Internet experience. An extra \$30/month gives you gigabit Internet service without the targeted ads from AT&T. Comcast also has 2 Gbps Internet available in some parts of Houston, but it is quite expensive. For more details on that, check out a recent blog post from Dwight here: <<http://blog.chron.com/techblog/2015/08/secrets-out-comcasts-2-gbps-gigabit-pro-service-is-here/>>.

For typical Internet users the traditional Cable and DSL/U-Verse offerings of Comcast and AT&T should prove adequate. For those shopping for Internet through either provider Dwight offers the suggestion to always check and make sure you aren’t being shown a promotional price that will skyrocket after a year. Also, save money in the long-run by buying your own cable modem. While AT&T doesn’t allow third-party equipment on their U-Verse network (the protocol is pretty special) you can purchase a modem on your own if you’re using Comcast. Dwight recommends the Motorola SB6141.

Dwight also offered advice to call your ISP and see if they can get you a better rate. It helps to try to “re-negotiate” your prices when promotional rates expire or better rates are being offered to new customers. Dwight has a blog post on the Chronicle about re-negotiating his rate with Comcast, which was met with some difficulty but did succeed: <<http://blog.chron.com/techblog/2015/03/two-days-one-chat-three-phone-calls-and-two-lies-from-comcast/>>.

Internet users who use very little data may be able to use cellular Internet options from AT&T or Verizon to get online through a Personal Hotspot. These plans vary in price but usually have rather low data limits. One advantage of a Personal Hotspot is that it can be taken with you anywhere the cellular carrier has service.

Lastly, if you or someone you know has a child who qualifies for the National School Lunch Program, low cost Internet is available for their family through the Internet Essentials program. To apply for the Internet Essentials program visit <<http://internetessentials.com>>.

Ryan Eisworth

User Interface

By Phil Booth



Almost everything that we interact with has a user interface or UI. Companies hire UI specialists when they design websites or design new products. New or redesigned websites or new products are subject rounds of testing and evaluation. I can't name names but I have visited several company's websites and metaphorically beat my head against the screen while trying to navigate the site. It was either poorly designed or was several years old and had not been updated since it was released.

When you slide into the driver's seat of your car do you realize that the basic human interface of the car is about a hundred and fifteen years old. Back in the early 1900's cars had steering wheels, accelerator and brake foot peddles, and some kind of gear shift. Some functions are now automated but the basic way of controlling your car is the same.

If Rip Van Mac-user fell into a deep sleep in 1990 and didn't wake up until 2015, I am of the opinion that he could sit down at a modern mac running OS X and could operate the computer. He would not know about some of the new commands but he could double click on an application icon and launch the program. He could also double click on a file icon to launch that file's program. He would understand the use of folders and how to access the content in folders. Like the car the basic UI of the Mac has not changed. By the way, Rip would also know how to drive a car in 2015.

When we use software/computers we decide to use the intellectual property of a team of programmers and designers. You may not like the design but if you want to use the software you are stuck with what is presented to you. Unless you are a programmer or you badger the design team you really can't change the program. Many of us chose the Mac OS over the other solution. We liked the way Mac OS looked, and the way it worked; "The Mac OS gets out of the way and lets me do my work," were explanations on why we did not use Windows.

Think about that when you sit down at your computer, or use an electric drill for that matter. The position of the controls on a drill are important for the ease of use of the tool. I can give many examples of how important design is. Many of us have a favorite mouse because it feels good in your hand and the controls are easy to use. You use a particular keyboard for the same reasons. I am using a MacAlly keyboard that I bought when I owned a G3 tower. I used it when I had my G5 tower. I tried the wireless keyboard that came with the iMac but went back to the MacAlly. I like the way it feels and the key action. We all make these decisions on the equipment we want to use. We also complain when we use some kind of tool that is difficult to use.

Event Schedule

September 19, 2015

	Main Room	2nd Room	3rd Room
9:00 am	Mac 101 and Fundamentals SIG Jonathan Magnus	iOS SIG Doug Smith Rick Roberts	Photography SIG Phil Booth
9:30 am			
10:00 am			
10:30 am			
11:00 am	All Things Photography Reagan Atkinson		
11:30 am			
12:00 pm			
12:30 pm			
1:00 pm			
1:30 pm			Board of Directors Meeting
2:00 pm			

Mac 101 and Fundamentals with Jonathan Magnus: The SIG for basic to advanced Mac topics.

iOS with Doug Smith and Rick Roberts: Discuss all things iPhone, iPad, iPod, iTunes, and iCloud.

Photography with Phil Booth: For all interests related to digital photography.

Upcoming Events

Future Meeting Dates and Events

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Ad Hoc Meetings

Groups are welcome to use the casual spaces to meet on other topics. Scheduled SIGs take precedence. If you have an idea for a SIG, email the HAAUG SIG Coordinator at SIG_Coordinator@haaug.org!

BOD Minutes

July 18, 2015

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

Attendees: Phil Booth, David Jaschke, Clair Jaschke, Jack Adair, Mike Epstein, Ryan Esworth

Call to Order: By President Phil Booth at 11:53 AM following the conclusion of the July Swap Meet.

General Announcements: Phil reported that the club was able to sell a projector for \$50.00 at the Swap Meet. All told, it was an average Swap Meet.

Monthly Reports

Secretary - Jack Adair: Minutes of the June BOD meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke: Clair reported that our checking account balance as of the end of June was \$4,074.12. Our savings account balance was \$10,002.50, for total cash on hand of \$14,076.62. All bills have been paid, and all funds have been deposited for June.

We have a check to MacExperts that has been outstanding for three years. We are going to void this check in our account. We will send them another payment through Chase.

Programming Report: Phil reported that we have booked Dwight Silverman for August and Reagan Atkinson for September as presenters for our next two meetings. Phil will re-check with Dwight around the first of August to make sure everything is OK. Phil will E-mail Reagan in early September to make sure he is still a go.

Phil will talk to Jeff Davis to try and get a joint meeting with the Medical Center group to get Dreux St. Marie to present.

If that does not work, Phil will try to get Bob LeVitus to come talk in October to talk about iOS 9 and El Capitan. If Bob is not available, we may do another panel discussion about iOS 9 and OS X El Capitan.

Membership - David Jaschke: Dave reported that we ended the month of June with 138 members, which was down by four from May, and down from 150 members (a difference of 12 members) from June 30, 2014. We did not have any renewals or new members join in June. We did sell \$135.00 of raffle tickets.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems - Ryan Esworth: Ryan asked if everyone got the Apple Barrel issues. He said we are now up to 12 pages in the monthly issue. He logged into MacHighways and got a warning that eight of the mailboxes

are above their quota. He is now getting E-mails properly. Ryan made a page on Facebook as a means of getting a Swap Meet ad - he ran a Facebook ad that did not turn about to be effective. He will E-mail "HAAUG Club Business" to discuss the disposition of the above-quota messages. He has added the Apple Watch ad to the Website, and has also added the blogs of the future presenters.

The calendar shown on the site has now been fixed and is linked to Ryan's Google account. He would like to add other people as administrators.

New Business

Audit: Phil presented a formal written report of the Audit committee. He will E-mail this to the Secretary so that it can be recorded as part of the minutes. Phil reviewed the report with the Board. Dave moved that we accept the audit report as written, Mike seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the members presents.

Adjournment: At 12:27 P.M.

Classifieds

Products and support for the Macintosh community

Got a story or photo you would like to see in the monthly edition of 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, photos, or other content to: editor@haaug.org

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Interested in putting your company in our monthly Apple Barrel publication? Email editor@haaug.org to make it happen!



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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.

Rates (per issue)

2/3 Page Ad

Dimensions: 5 x 10.125 in.

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

1/2 Page Ad

Dimensions: 7.625 x 5 in.

Frequency: 1x \$90, 2x \$85, 3x \$80

1/3 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75 x 5 in.

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

1/4 Page Ad

Dimensions: 3.75 x 5 in.

Frequency: 1x \$65, 2x \$60, 3x \$55

1/6 Page Ad

Dimensions: 5 x 2.5 in.

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

Business Card Ad

Dimensions: 3.5 x 2 in.

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

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

Become Part of the Action

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

Join Online With a Credit Card

Paying for your membership
online with a credit card is
secure, fast and easy.

Visit www.haaug.org/membership
for details on joining.

Join by Mail:

Please print 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: _____

Cell 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 willing to join HAAUG? Y | N

Would you be willing to volunteer in HAAUG?

Mail check to:

HAAUG
Attn: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 570957
Houston, TX 77257-0957

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, which is available to members on the HAAUG website 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.

[The Apple Barrel](#) is a monthly publication of the **Houston Area Apple Users Group (HAAUG), P.O. Box 570957, Houston, TX 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, where 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 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 activities may be limited to members only. HAAUG is an independent support group of Apple product users and is not affiliated with Apple, Inc. The following are trademarks of Apple, Inc.: Apple, Apple II, Apple IIgs, Macintosh, Mac, iMac, iBook, PowerBook, MacBook, MacBook Air, MacBook Pro, iPhone, iPod, iPad, OS X, iOS, ImageWriter, LaserWriter and the Apple logo. All other brand names are registered trademarks or trademarks of their respective holders, and are hereby acknowledged.

Got Junk?

Houston-Area Computer and Equipment Recyclers

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