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Apple Barrel

The Journal of the Houston Area Apple Users Group

December 2015

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LAST MINUTE Holiday Shopping

Saturday, December 19
Bellaire Civic Center
7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, TX 77401
9 am - 1 pm



Last Minute Holiday Shopping

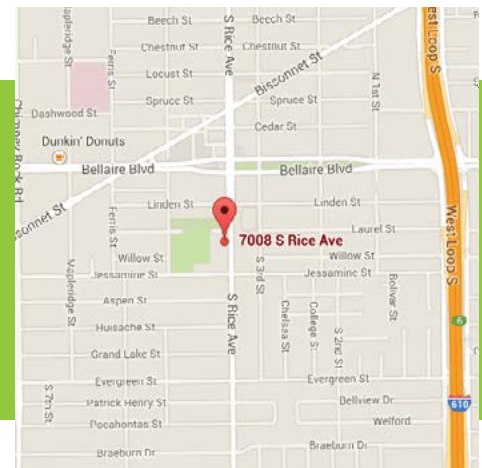
Join us at the HAAUG General Meeting this month where HAAUG's own Doug Smith will share his secrets to last-minute Holiday shopping.

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



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

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 Nominations

The HAAUG 2016 Board of Directors Nominations are as follows:

President	Phil Booth
Vice President	Steve Bridgham
Secretary	Jack E. Adair
Treasurer	Clair Jaschke
Membership	David Jaschke
Media and Communications	Ryan Eisworth
Directors at Large	Mike Epstein
	Mike King

TopXNotes Customer Notice

If you are a fan of the note-taking app TopXNotes, the developer has started a crowdsourced fundraiser to create Version 2 of the applicaiton. If you're interested in funding the next generation of the TopXNotes software, please [click here](#). This software was featured to HAAUG members at meetings in May 2010 and August 2005, and the developer has asked us to pass this note along to our user group members.



Boss HAAUG Speaks

Monthly Address from the HAAUG President



A big HAAUG thank you to Bob LeVitus for his usual great presentation. It was fun participating in the music video. It is December and Doug Smith, the Master of Deals, will give us some tips for our last minute holiday shopping on December 19th. We will be back at the Bellaire Civic Center for the December meeting.

The nomination process ended and we will be holding a voice vote at the meeting to elect the new board. We had no contested elections and this allows a vote of the assembled members at the December Meeting. We are working on the budget for club and should have it finalized by the February meeting. Even with the meeting at the Embassy Suites and the purchase of a new projector your club is in excellent fiscal shape.

Let me be one of the many to wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons. Have fun visiting your friends and families during this time and try your hardest not to become their computer support person. There is nothing wrong about using your knowledge to help friends or family but that shouldn't take you away from celebrating the season with them. If you have friends who are asking you about some Apple product encourage them to come to a HAAUG meeting. Although this is a time of giving and concern for the less fortunate, think about giving to charities throughout the year, not just at this time.

January is just around the corner and it will be swap meet time. I am already scouring around my house looking for items that I no longer use but are still useful to try and sell. You may have an old computer around that you are not using but some creative type might use it for some project that he/she is working on. The HAAUG web site should be updated with a link to reserve a table. Members are allowed one table for free. There is a small fee if you need power to show that your machine still works. Extra tables are available for a rental fee.

If you get a new piece of hardware or software tell the club about it by writing a review. Did it meet your needs? Was it well-built or designed? This is the information that HAAUG members need in case they also want to use that software or hardware. The Apple Barrel is always looking for submissions. You don't need to be a great writer which I prove every month.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their support of HAAUG over the past year. We have functioned without a programming VP and done well. As I said above the club is in excellent shape financially. The board is one of the strengths of the group and I thank them.

Phil Booth
2015 HAAUG President

Product Announcement

Patina Fills Need for Simple Drawing App for Mac

Fountain Valley, California—Mac users in search of a simple drawing app now have an appealing option in a polished but low cost newly launched program called Patina. Developed by a California company called Atek, Patina echoes the simplicity of Microsoft Paint, the widely used goto drawing tool for generations of Windows users, and goes further with a more visually appealing interface and additional functionality.

Patina sports a modern and slick appearance, with large tool buttons and color controls. Although more stylish in appearance than Paint, Patina shares the simple feel of Microsoft's popular app. Basic operations, such as drawing and manipulating shapes, setting and changing colors, moving and resizing objects, and doing annotations, are all very straightforward.

Patina's functionality surpasses that of Paint in a number of ways. For example, objects can be rotated at any angle rather than being limited to specific degrees of rotation. Other enhanced features include transparent image saving and a convenient slider for controlling a variety of app functions, such as tool stroke thickness and text font size.

According to Atek company president Dan Rothman, "Many people who have switched over from Windows to Mac love Apple hardware and software but miss Microsoft Paint for doing simple drawings. We evaluated drawing apps for Mac that were currently available and found they were either unrefined open source programs or complex vector applications for designers and artists. There were no OS X apps that could match the userfriendliness of Paint. We aimed to fill that void with Patina."

Rothman added: "With all kinds of people now using Apple computers, unlike in the past when most users were design professionals, the time is right for there to be a simple, userfriendly drawing app for all types of Mac users to enjoy, including adults, students, and children."

Patina, which is currently offered for free on promotion in the Mac App Store through December 9, 2015, opens with a tutorial screen that points out the main features of the app and makes it easy to start using it.

Computer Requirements:

- * OS X 10.8 (Mountain Lion) or later
- * 9.3 MB

Pricing and Availability:

Patina 1.0, which is optimized for Retina Display, is available worldwide exclusively through the Mac App Store in the Graphics & Design category for \$2.99 (free upon launch on promotion through December 9, 2015 only).

Editor's note: While the developer's press release states that the free promotion for Patina is through December 9 only, Patina was still free on the Mac App Store at the time of publication (December 15).



Event Schedule

December 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	Last Minute Holiday Shopping Doug Smith		
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

January Swap Meet

The January 16 meeting will be HAAUG's semiannual swap meet. Time to start gathering those unused electronic and computer items that are gathering dust in your house!

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

October 17, 2015

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

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

Call to Order: By President Phil Booth at 12:36 PM following the conclusion of the October General Meeting.

General Announcements: We persevered despite the issues with the Bellaire Fire Department fire truck pull that significantly decreased our attendance this month. Phil expressed his appreciation to the "First Impressions for OS X El Capitan" panel as well as the HAAUG Trivia Challenge participants.

Monthly Reports

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

Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke: Clair reported that our checking account balance as of the end of September was \$4,797.00. Our savings account balance was \$10,002.74, for total cash on hand of \$14,799.74. All bills have been paid, and all funds have been deposited for September.

Programming Report: Phil got no response from ArsTechnica for a presentation for October, so he organized the "First Impressions for OS X El Capitan" panel discussion and the HAAUG Trivia Challenge. We have confirmed Bob LeVitus for the November 21 meeting to discuss Mac OS X El Capitan. However, Bob indicated he would be reluctant to come back as soon as February 2016, which is when he does his customary "State of Apple" address.

We have an issue with the November meeting due to a Bellaire High School Fun Run on November 21. The question was: should we use the Civic Center venue despite the issues with closing down Rice Ave.? The likely best option is a change of venue to the Embassy Suites if possible, in that we need a venue with suitable parking with Bob LeVitus coming. The Board voted to approve a maximum expenditure of \$1,500.00 for rental expenses, but the location is still to be determined. Phil will work this issue next Friday.

The planned December 19 meeting is a Christmas shopping idea meeting, hopefully led by Doug Smith, with the rest of the board members able to participate if Doug is not available.

Membership - David Jaschke: Dave reported that we ended

the month of September with 138 members, which is down by 3 from last month, and down from 153 members (a difference of 15 members) from September 30, 2014. We had a total of 3 transactions in September, which included one lapsed renewal, one early renewal, and one two-year renewal. All of these transactions were by check.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems - Ryan Eisworth:

The electronic communications are working correctly, although the Apple Barrel got published at the last minute. Ryan is toying with the idea of changing the website over to WordPress.

Ryan also brought up the idea of putting out a survey of the membership regarding desires of what the membership wants to see in main presentations and SIGs, with the possibility of incentivizing participation by doing a drawing for a gift card. Ryan will work up the possible survey questions and send it out to the Board.

New Business

State Registration: Phil has not yet done anything about the state registration.

Wi-Fi Subscription Issue: The Bellaire WiFi was much better today. Phil will check out the cost of WiFi for the November meeting at our selected venue.

Possible Projector Purchase: The board unanimously approved a motion to spend up to \$2000 for a new projector.

Adjournment: At 1:11 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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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!

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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.**

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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 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.

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Houston-Area Computer and Equipment Recyclers

Houston area recycling centers:

Environmental Service Center

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5900 Westpark • Dial 311 or 713-837-9130

Goodwill COMPUTER WORKS

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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

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