

# THE APPLE BARREL

the **JOURNAL** of the **HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP**  
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**Raf Batista to Present FileMaker Pro at March Meeting**  
*page 2*

**Apple's AirPods, Reviewed!**  
*by Joe Muscara, page 3*



## FileMaker Pro

*The Apple Barrel*  
is a monthly publication of  
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**Houston Area Apple Users Group** is Houston's oldest and largest Apple User Group. 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](http://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. For a full list of membership benefits as well as a form to join HAAUG by mail, see the Membership Benefits page later in this issue.

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by Phil Booth, 2017 HAAUG President

- 1 Boss HAAUG Speaks**  
by Phil Booth
- 2 Club and Meeting News**
- 3 Apple AirPods, Reviewed**  
by Joe Muscara
- 4 Bob LeVitus Visits HAAUG**
- 5 Board of Directors Minutes**  
January 2017
- 6 Membership Benefits**

Dr. Mac Bob LeVitus paid his annual visit to HAAUG last month and instead of his usual presentation, he focused on improving your productivity. He recently created a new website, <[workingsmarterformacusers.com](http://workingsmarterformacusers.com)>, that is full of tips and tricks to increase your productivity. He is a proponent on working on one thing at a time. If you have to write an article for the HAAUG Apple Barrel, sit down and write. Write hard for at least twenty five minutes. Don't mess with email don't visit the web unless you need to do research. Turn off feeds from news services that will take your attention away from your task. After the twenty five minutes take a break, then get back on it. This is something that I plan on doing.

His next tip is to learn to type, keyboard, or what ever you want to call it. If you are not typing forty words a minute, you are behind the eight ball. You can take the test at [typingtest.com](http://typingtest.com) to measure your speed. The site offers games and exercises to improve your speed.

Finally, and this is a big finally, use keyboard short cuts such as Cmd+S for Save, Cmd+C for Copy, and Cmd+V for paste. Hit the Cmd+S key combination to save your work frequently and you will not have to worry about losing your file if the computer locks up. The fewer times you grab the mouse, the more productive you can become.

Go to <[workingsmarterformacusers.com](http://workingsmarterformacusers.com)> and sign up for his news letter and get some free gifts. LeVitus has also written a new book, *Working Smarter for Mac Users*, which he has self-published. Go to the website for all the details of the book.

I am a month late but I want to welcome Marcia Spears as the new HAAUG Secretary. She volunteered in January and was appointed at that meeting. I appreciated her interest and willingness to help. Remember that we are always looking for members to help with the group.

Apple news was quiet other than the notice that the new Apple campus will open in April. There were rumors about an iPad event, but no official invitations were released. Apple did hold an annual shareholder's meeting but it was mostly pro-forma business.

March's main presentations is another discussion about File Maker Pro. In April we will have a presentation on home automation. I hope to see you at the meeting!

# Club and Meeting News

## FileMaker Pro

...with Raf Batista

**Saturday, March 18**

**Bellaire Civic Center**

7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, TX 77401

**9 am - 1 pm**



	Main Room	2nd Room	3rd Room
9:00 am	<b>Mac 101 and Fundamentals SIG</b> Jonathan Magnus	iOS SIG Rick Roberts	
9:30 am			
10:00 am			
10:30 am			
11:00 am	<b>FileMaker Pro</b> Raf Batista		
11:30 am			
12:00 pm			
12:30 pm			
1:00 pm			
1:30 pm			<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>
2:00 pm			

Raf Batista of the Houston FileMaker Developers, Users and Trainers Group will discuss FileMaker Pro during the main presentation on March 18, 2017.

## Special Interest Groups

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

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

**Special Interest Group 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](mailto:SIG_Coordinator@haaug.org)!

### Join the HAAUG Board of Directors!

We will soon be asking for members to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors. Please consider putting your name up for a leadership position. For more information, talk to any board member at a meeting or send an email to [president@haaug.org](mailto:president@haaug.org).

### Meetup Group

The Houston Area Apple Users Group is now on Meetup.com! Click here to visit our group's Meetup page and join. We will of course continue to publish all meeting news on our website at [haaug.org](http://haaug.org), to our Facebook group, and all other outlets as usual; this is simply an additional way to market our organization to the local community. If you are already a HAAUG member and join the Meetup group we will mark your dues as paid on the Meetup website, so you won't have to pay HAAUG dues twice!

### HAAUG Website Updates

If you haven't visited the [HAAUG website](http://haaug.org) recently, stop by and check it out. Learn more about the organization, get up-to-the-minute news and updates, and browse the Apple Barrel archives, dating back to 1996!

### Submit Your Content to Apple Barrel!

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](mailto:editor@haaug.org). You can help make the Apple Barrel a better publication while providing valuable insight and opinion to your fellow HAAUG members.

# AirPods are a Great Product!

by Joe Muscara

I've been using Apple's various earbuds with iPods and iPhones for years. They have ranged from okay to pretty good as far as sound quality and comfort. They are nothing special, but they worked. And, I didn't mind getting them sweaty when I would use them on a workout because they weren't so great that I used them all the time. I wasn't using them for anything besides that and the occasional phone call (I don't like holding a piece of glass against my face so I usually use either speaker mode or the earbuds for longer calls).

Apple's most recent model, EarPods, were a definite improvement in comfort and staying in my ears. Still, they weren't perfect as far as that. For instance, while running especially on windy days, they would often fall out of my ears. Apple's new AirPods solve that problem, and more. It appears that the biggest factor in EarPods falling out of ears is not the shape as much as the cord. While AirPods have the same shape as EarPods, they don't fall out under the same circumstances as the EarPods. In fact, I have not had AirPods fall out of my ears at all, even after running with them every day for over six weeks as of this writing. I love that!

I can only give a subjective review of sound quality. Despite being a musician, I tend to be not very discerning at times regarding this, especially in noisy environments. The AirPods sound good and at the very least are as good as EarPods. You still can hear the same outside noises as with EarPods as they are also not sound-isolating.

My favorite feature is the convenience. I carry AirPods with

me all the time, even around the house, and pop them in my ears when I want a better listen to something on any of my iOS devices. This is easy to do because once you set AirPods up with your iPhone, your iCloud account registers them with your other devices and it is as easy as selecting them from Control Center on the other device. I can quickly select them as the output from my iPad when I am using that.

The one negative is that there are no controls. With EarPods, I can change the volume as well as respond to a call or invoke

Siri using the controller on the right cable. AirPods only respond to a double tap to invoke Siri (this can be changed to play/pause or to do nothing at all). I find it's easier to change volume using the controls on my iPhone or Apple Watch. It seems silly to pause what I'm listening to in order to change the volume. I would like to see Apple add other tap combinations like maybe three taps for volume down and four for volume up, all customizable via the Settings app on the iPhone.

Overall, I highly recommend AirPods. If EarPods were generally comfortable for you and you didn't have much of a problem with them falling out, it is likely that AirPods will be even better for you. They are simple to set up and use, and being cordless is much easier and more convenient. You won't have to think nearly as much about carrying your iPhone within the right distance when you want to listen to music or make a call. Just leave it on your desk, in your bag, or in your pocket. Who likes being tied down?



# Bob LeVitus Visits HAAUG

Bob "Dr. Mac" LeVitus visited HAAUG last month to discuss "Working Smarter for Mac User." LeVitus has recently self-published an eBook on this topic, which is available from <http://workingsmarterformacusers.com>. The details of Dr. Mac's talk are included in this month's text version of the newsletter, which is emailed to our members. This content will be published in the April issue of the online/public version of the newsletter.



*Bob LeVitus at the February HAAUG Meeting, Ryan Eisworth*

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2017

**Location:** Bellaire Civic Center, 7008 S. Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas

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

**Call to Order:** By President Phil Booth at 12:03 PM following the conclusion of the January Swap Meet. Phil announced that Marcy Spears has agreed to be appointed to the post of Secretary. She was nominated and approved by the Board. We had a fairly successful swap meet today. Phil indicated his appreciation of Ryan's work in organizing the Swap Meet. Also, the general membership approved the 2017 Budget as proposed by the Board by voice vote.

## Monthly Reports

**Secretary - Jack Adair:** The minutes of the December 2016 BOD meeting were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report - Clair Jaschke:** Clair reported that our checking account balance as of the end of December 2016 was \$3,839.25. Our savings account balance was \$10,003.96, for total cash on hand of \$13,843.21. All bills were paid and all funds deposited for December. The Texas Sales & Use Tax form that is required was filed. It is now time to upgrade the Account Edge software for 2017. The board approved the expenditure of \$159.00 to purchase the upgrade.

**Membership - David Jaschke:** Dave reported that we ended the month of December with 135 members, which

was the same as November, and down from 136 members (a difference of 1 member) from December 31, 2016. We had 8 renewal transactions total for December. This included 3 regular, 2 by web via Square, 1 new by credit card, and 2 lapsed renewals. This was not bad for a month that usually has low activity.

## Programming Report - Steve Bridgham:

Next month will feature Bob LeVitus. Doug Smith has already made both his plane and hotel reservations. Phil asked for Dave Hamilton's E-mail address. Steve has been talking with Dave about the April meeting, which will be on April 22 and will most likely be held in the Pool House. At this point, March is open, we have another Swap Meet in July, and the rest of the year is open. We will tentatively put down a Home Automation presentation for March, either via Skype or a trip to Houston. The candidate is Josh Centers of TidBITS, which is the oldest Apple newsletter in existence. Josh authored the "A Prairie HomeKit Companion." In addition, we need to send our E-mails to Dwight Silverman and Lee Hutchinson to invite them to come back again.

Jonathan Magnus might also have interest in co-presenting the Home Automation presentation. We will likely schedule a programming summit next week at 6:30 on January 25 at the Midtown Cafe Express, 1101 Uptown Park Blvd.

We will also have to deal with the whole SIG issue once we move to the Pool House. There is no partitioning available there at all. We may start using our new

projector in that room.

## HAAUG Electronic Communications

**Systems - Ryan Eisworth:** Ryan reported that the Apple Barrel was published on schedule. Ryan indicated that is still interested in content supplied from the members. There are still issues about e-mails; Phil did not get the right notification about registrations for the Swap Meet. We did have good success with the new Swap Meet forms on the website.

Ryan reported that our Swap Meet press release definitely got published in Southwest News. Ryan said he would continue to submit press releases to Southwest News and The Houston Chronicle, such as one for the Bob LeVitus presentation in February.

There was a discussion about possible sponsorship of Web advertisements in the future.

## New Business

**Phone Service:** Ryan finished pairing us with Google Voice. The problem is that they still need to have a cell phone number paired with the account. We did get a volunteer from the board to supply the linked phone number. Our new number will be (832)-HAAUG37 (832-422-8437).

**Sullivan Steak House:** Phil got some correspondence from this business about possibly hosting a HAAUG event in the future.

**Adjournment:** At 12:56 PM

# Membership Benefits

## 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](http://www.haaug.org).

## 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?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

