

THE APPLE BARREL

the **JOURNAL** of the **HOUSTON AREA APPLE USERS GROUP**

Volume 40 · Issue 9

September 2018

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The Apple Barrel
is a monthly publication of
The Houston Area Apple Users Group (HAAUG)
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Houston, TX 77243-0244

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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) 422-8437 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. 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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Forty years is a long time. In that time we have witnessed a technological revolution. Forty years ago personal computers were something that just a few people owned. They weren't the tools that we depend on today. Apple started out selling circuit boards and chips. They then graduated to selling finished computers by bringing out the Apple II. The machine evolved from cassette tape storage to five and a quarter inch floppy drive.

The Houston Area Apple Users Group came together forty years ago to pool member's experiences with the machine. Back then if you wanted software, you bought one of the few commercial applications, copied files from a floppy or typed in BASIC code from a magazine. The user group was the place where you heard about hardware and software.

HAAUG served the members by providing a sharing Library of Software. We were also authorized to distribute OS updates. This thing called the Internet wasn't a thing yet. Once a month you could sit in on various Special Interest Groups if you had an interest in a particular subject. The Apple II did have some "Killer Apps"—Visicalc was the first spreadsheet. Apple produced AppleWriter, one of the first word processors.

1983-84 Apple unleashed a new computer that was destined to shape personal computing. The Macintosh was the second computer that used a mouse-pointing device to interact with the OS. The first one was the short-lived Lisa computer. The Mac took over Apple and very soon the Apple II line was left on the side of the road.

The blue meanies of Microsoft, seeing that the graphical user interface was where personal computing was heading, brought out Windows. Apple was losing in the business market and since you could buy a machine from any of a hundred vendors, and price was the driving influence. The use of Windows was the common factor in buying decisions.

Apple users spent the nineties defending their choice of computer, especially if you needed to exchange files with PC users. Groups like HAAUG kept the faith. We were a small but dedicated group of people. We knew what others would discover—that the Mac OS was better than Windows. This is also the time when "PC" use took off with release the killer apps like Lotus 123 and Microsoft Word, that made the computer a necessary tool rather than a hobbyist machine.

The low point for Mac users was the release of Windows 95, the most Mac-like version of Windows that Microsoft developed. Microsoft promoted their Office suite of Excel, Word, and PowerPoint, moving Lotus and Word Perfect to the sidelines. This time period also brought us the Internet. To this point there were several Internet like services, America On-Line, CompuServe, even Apple had an Apple centric on-line service. The Internet cast those services to the side, especially with the Telcos, and cable companies started to offer broadband to the home. Online commerce was the Internet's killer app, giving us eBay and Amazon.

Despite the "perceived" problems with the Mac OS 8 and 9, HAAUG continued to meet, moving from the UH Students Center to Rice to several other locations. In the 2000's Apple released the iPod, and Mac OS X. The release of those products marked the turn-around for Apple.

2007's release of the iPhone marked Apples charge to the top of the heap. Watching the lines of people who waited to purchase the iPhone drove the Microsoft centered tech press nuts. There was the constant drumbeat of how the iPhone was going to fail, and how the price was going to limit its market penetration. Everyone waited for the iPhone killer, but it did not come from Microsoft, but Google with the release of the Android phone OS. Using the same model Microsoft used with PC's, Google licensed several manufactures to produce Android phones and flooded the market with inexpensive units. Cell Phone companies rarely offer buy one get one free iPhones. HAAUG kept up by offering SIGs covering iPhones and iPads.

Even fervent Mac users realize that Apple's profits come from the iPhone and the services that the company offers. In July the company's net worth was a trillion dollars. I can't tell you how many people have over the years written Apple's Obituary.

This was my attempt to note the highlights of the last forty years of technology progress. HAAUG is still working unlike HAL-PC. Please come to the September meeting where HAAUG will celebrate its fortieth Anniversary. The Houston Area Apple Users Group – 40 years of Members helping Members.

Club and Meeting News

Reagan Atkinson

...of the Houston Camera Exchange

Saturday, September 15

CenterPoint Energy Community Center

7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, TX 77401

9 am - 1 pm

	CenterPoint Energy Community Center
9:00 am	Mac 101 and Fundamentals, iOS Jonathan Magnus and Rick Roberts
9:30 am	
10:00 am	
10:30 am	
11:00 am	Reagan Atkinson of the Houston Camera Exchange
11:30 am	
12:00 pm	
12:30 pm	
1:00 pm	
1:30 pm	
2:00 pm	

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!

Upcoming Events

November 17, 2018: Mike King, Marcy Spears, Ryan Esworth (HAAUG Panel) – *Three Case Studies in Home Automation*

January 19, 2019: *Houston Area Community Electronics Swap Meet and Sale* – This event will be held at the normal meeting location at the CenterPoint Energy Community Center. Registration is open now at <<https://haaug.org/swap>>.

Discounts for User Group Members

As a member of the Houston Area Apple Users Group, you're eligible for a wide range of discounts for User Group members! To see the current deals and offers, visit the [Apple User Group Resources](#) site, and enter the special access code in the emailed newsletter.

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, 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](#) 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. You can help make the Apple Barrel a better publication while providing valuable insight and opinion to your fellow HAAUG members.

Apple introduces iPhone XS, XS Max, and XR

by Ryan Eisworth

At their September 12th media event, Apple unveiled three new iPhone models: iPhone XS, XS Max, and XR. The XS (which Apple would prefer you think of as "Ten S" rather than "Excess," builds on the iPhone X. Some of the improvements in the new model include a new System-on-a-Chip, the A12 Bionic, which is now made on a 7-nanometer process and features an Apple-designed GPU and improved Neural engine. The camera system has been improved somewhat. The rear cameras are still dual 12 megapixel, and the front TrueDepth camera is still 7 megapixels, as with the iPhone X, but there are new capabilities in Portrait mode with Smart HDR and dynamic depth of field, which lets you adjust the depth of field and blurring of background objects after a photo has already been taken. The iPhone XS has improved ingress protection against water, carrying an IP68 rating versus the iPhone X's IP67. This means the phone is tested to withstand water immersion of two meters for 30 minutes.

The iPhone XS Max is the iPhone XS's bigger brother, and for the first time, the larger iPhone is only differentiated by the size of the screen. The XS Max has a 6.5" OLED display versus the 5.8" display on the XS. The phones are otherwise the same in functionality. In the past, the Plus-sized iPhones have had other improvements over their regular-sized counterparts, particularly in the camera system, but that is not the case with the XS lineup.

The iPhone XR is a new "budget" phone. It is similar to the iPhone XS lineup but lacks the OLED display, instead sporting a "Liquid Retina" LCD. The size of the screen is between that of the XS and XS Max, at 6.1". The phone only has one rear camera, which appears to be identical to the wide-angle camera found in the XS and XS Max. Water resistance is only to one meter. 3D Touch is absent, but there's a new "Haptic Touch" feature that debuts with the iPhone XR. The iPhone XR otherwise has a similar feature set to the XS devices, and as a bonus, it has the longest advertised battery life of any of the models and comes in a variety of colors, versus the white, black, and gold that are available with the XS.

iPhone XS models are available for preorder and will ship beginning September 21. The base price for the XS is \$999; the XS Max starts at \$1099. The XR is available on September 26th and preorders begin on September 19th. The base price for the iPhone XR is \$749.



Left: iPhone XS
Right: iPhone XR
Image: Apple, Inc.

Apple Watch Series 4: Bigger Screens, New Faces, and Enhanced Health Monitoring

by Julio Ojeda-Zapata, via TidBITS

At its special event on 12 September 2018, Apple led off the announcements by unveiling fourth-generation Apple Watch models that, for the first time, deviate significantly from the size and shape of older models. Though more compact than precursors, the new Apple Watch Series 4 models include bigger screens that go closer to the edges.

There are new model-specific software features, too, including an assortment of watch complications and faces that cram more information onto the gadgets' compact displays—or just look trippy.

The Series 4 models also incorporate significant new health-monitoring features courtesy of new and improved sensors that can detect if users have experienced falls or are experiencing abnormal heart rhythms.

Hardware: Larger, Faster, and with a “Mechanical and Responsive” Feel

Apple slightly boosted the vertical screen dimensions of its smartwatches to 40mm and 44mm, up from the 38mm and 42mm dimensions that had been standard thus far. The screens are, correspondingly, a bit wider, as well, to preserve their slightly rectangular proportions.

The new models are thinner than Series 3 and Series 2 models, however, with less total volume. How much of a difference this really makes is probably a matter of feel, so if size is a concern, we recommend trying one on before buying.

Apple advertises the Series 4 displays as having an “edge-to-edge” design, and while there's less of a black border than on the previous models, the display doesn't completely fill the screen. The corners of the displays are curved, too, and the overall viewing area is about 30% larger.

Other core hardware highlights include:

A speaker that is 50% louder, in order to optimize phone calls, Siri exchanges, and two-way conversations using the new Walkie-Talkie feature in watchOS 5.

A microphone that Apple relocated from the left edge to the right edge, just below the Digital Crown, to reduce echo and make audio exchanges clearer.

A re-engineered Digital Crown that includes haptic feedback with what Apple describes as a more “mechanical and responsive” feel, including the sensation of incremental clicks.

A redesigned back, which is now made entirely

of sapphire crystal and black ceramic. Apple says this will improve cellular reception.

A next-generation S4 chip with a custom 64-bit dual-core processor that is supposed to deliver twice the speed of the Series 3 while maintaining about 18 hours of overall battery life.

For athletes, there's a next-generation accelerometer and gyroscope that can sample motion data up to eight times faster, along with improved battery performance of up to 6 hours during outdoor workouts.

Bluetooth 5 support for improved data-transfer speeds and more reliable connections to iPhones over longer distances.

Software: New, More Complicated Watch Faces

Apple had previously announced watchOS 5, now slated to ship on 17 September 2018, but the company used the Series 4 announcement to reveal additional software features intended to take advantage of the new, roomier displays. These include:

New complications: Apple added more complications, and cooked up an entirely new Infograph watch face that can incorporate an advertised eight complications for maximum utility (though a sharp-eyed reader says the actual number appears to be nine). One welcome complication provides circular pictures of loved ones for one-tap communication. Other complication options here include health gauges for athletes and multiple time zones for travelers.

New faces: These include mesmerizingly animated Fire, Water, Liquid Metal, and Vapor faces. For those who like the Breathe app, there's a new Breathe face, with three visual flavors along with the app's functionality. Though these faces are meant to show off the new Series 4 screens, they reportedly will be backward-compatible with older watch models. New Apple Watch faces.

Face lifts: The popular Modular watch face, with its extra-large center complication showing an extended snippet of information, now features more options—including data from Apple's Stocks, Activity, and Heart Rate apps. It also supports more third-party apps, allowing users to show scores from the MLB At Bat app, flight info from the Qantas app,

among others. This face is getting a slight name change to Infograph Modular, at least in its Series 4-specific iteration.

Health: Watching for Falls and Abnormal Heart Events

The original Apple Watch struggled a bit to justify its existence, with Apple focusing initially on the fashion market. In subsequent updates, Apple turned its attention to fitness, where the Apple Watch has proved popular. With the Apple Watch Series 4, the company is now concentrating on making the Apple Watch into a health-tracking device.

Accordingly, Apple trotted out some new health-related features to make the Series 4 more of an “intelligent guardian of your health.”

Fall Detection

If a user takes a hard fall, the Apple Watch can now detect that event thanks to that next-generation accelerometer and gyroscope. The fall-detection capability can monitor “repeatable, identifiable patterns” such as wrist trajectory and impact acceleration to determine if a user has fallen, or just slipped or tripped.

What happens after a hard fall depends on the circumstances. The Apple Watch initially displays an alert with an option to contact emergency services for help. If the user is not lucid and can’t act on that, the watch automatically reaches out to emergency services along with designated emergency contacts.

Improved Health Monitoring

The Apple Watch has helped many people track their health through its ability to measure such things as calories burned, resting heart rate, and abnormally high heart rates via an optical heart sensor. Apple is now building on these capabilities with additional health-monitoring features.

Most notably, Series 4 users can now record an electrocardiogram (ECG), via Apple’s new ECG app. An ECG can help determine if your heart is beating normally, or if it’s showing signs of atrial fibrillation (AFib), a condition that can lead to significant health complications such as strokes.

To take an ECG reading, you touch the Digital Crown for about 30 seconds to receive a heart-rhythm classification courtesy of a new electrical-heart sensor with electrodes built into the dial and back crystal. Apple’s Health app stores those readings, and you can share them with doctors. (This capability was previously available via a \$200 add-on product called Kardiaband.)

In addition, the Apple Watch can intermittently analyze heart rhythms in the background and send a notification if an irregular heart rhythm—such as AFib—is detected.

It can also alert you if your heart rate is too low, which is potentially a sign of something serious. These features also are made possible by the optical heart sensor.

The ECG app along with irregular-rhythm notifications are due later this year.

The Apple Watch’s new health-monitoring features are getting nods from the American Heart Association and the Food and Drug Administration, giving the smartwatches considerable credibility as health devices.

The Apple Watch Lineup

The Apple Watch Series 4 starts at \$399 for GPS-only models and \$499 for cellular-capable models (which also require an additional monthly cell plan to fully leverage). The Apple Watch Series 3 had started at \$329 for the basic model and \$399 for the cellular model, making the new models pricier propositions.

For those who don’t want to spend so much and aren’t in need of the new capabilities of the Series 4, Apple is continuing to sell the Apple Watch Series 3, with a new starting price of \$279 for the GPS-only model and \$379 for the cellular model.

Along with the three aluminum finishes anodized in silver, gold, and space gray, the Apple Watch Series 4 is available in a gold stainless steel with a matching Milanese band, joining stainless steel models in silver and space black.

The new watches can be preordered beginning 14 September, and become available 21 September.

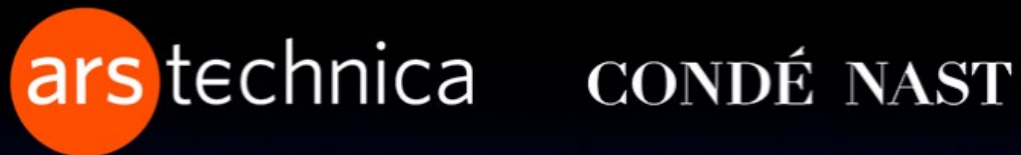
Notably missing from the announced lineup is the fancy, pricey ceramic Apple Watch Edition, which is apparently no more.

Apple is, as usual, trotting out new watch bands, but emphasizes that all existing bands will work just fine with the new, bigger watches and vice versa. Similarly, the niche Nike+ and Hermès versions of the Apple Watch come with new bands and matching watch faces. Notably, there’s a Nike+ Sport Loop with reflective yarn for safer outdoor, low-light workouts.

With the release of the Apple Watch Series 4, the buying decision becomes more difficult. The new health-monitoring features are particularly compelling, particularly for older folks who are concerned about falls or heart health, but they’re accompanied by increasingly steep price tags. Of course, if the price is a problem, the Series 3 remains available, but without some of the attractive new features. *Reprinted from TidBITS; reuse governed by Creative Commons license. TidBITS has offered years of thoughtful commentary on Apple and Internet topics. For free email subscriptions and access to the entire TidBITS archive, visit tidbits.com.*

Net Neutrality

by Lee Hutchinson of ArsTechnica



Net Neutrality: WTF is it and why should I care?

Lee Hutchinson
Senior Technology Editor

lee@arstechnica.com

Click above to see the slide deck from Lee's presentation on Net Neutrality.

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.

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?

Board Meeting Minutes

Houston Area Apple Users Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, March 17, 2018

Location: CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7001 5th Street, Bellaire, TX.

Attendees: Phil Booth Clair Jaschke Mike King
Steve Bridgham David Jaschke Mike Epstein
Marcy Spears Ryan Esworth

Call to Order: By President Phil Booth at 12:50 p.m. following the conclusion of the presentation.

Monthly Reports

General Announcements: Josh Centers (TidBITS) gave a terrific, well-received presentation on home automation.

Secretary: Minor typo corrections to the October and November 2017 minutes were presented. Three months of BOD minutes were presented for approval to the board. Acceptance of the minutes of December 2017, and January–February 2018 BOD meetings was proposed by Phil Booth, and seconded by Clair Jaschke and Ryan Esworth, and were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Clair Jaschke reported our checking account balance as of the end of February 2018 was \$4,638.72. Our savings account balance was \$8,005.10, for total cash on hand of \$12,643.82. All bills were paid and all funds deposited for February. The current reports included a \$2,000 transfer from savings to checking. The cost for our March presenter, Josh Centers, will be approximately \$600 for his flight and hotel accommodations.

Membership: David Jaschke presented the HAAUG Membership Count Report ended February 2018. We had an excellent month. We ended February with 125 members, up by 2 from January which had 123 members. Last February we had 134 members. We had 12 membership transactions for February, of which 2 were new members, three 2-year renewals, 3 lapsed renewals, and 4 regular renewals. Of all of these we had 3 Credit Card transactions and 3 transactions by web, 1 of which was a new member. Pretty good month!

Programming Report: The programming summit meeting scheduled for February was rescheduled for March 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the Uptown Park Cafe Express (1101 Uptown Park Blvd, Ste 12, Houston, TX 77056, (713) 963-9222).

Steve reported that Dwight Silverman, Dave Hamilton and Jeff Davis all said yes to making presentations at the HAAUG meeting this year.

Proposed future meetings:

(April, confirmed): Dwight Silverman (Houston Chronicle), topic to be determined.

(May, confirmed): Lee Hutchinson (ARS Technica), Net Neutrality.

(June, confirmed): Ryan Esworth (Redline Networking), Stuff That Everyone Should Know. Programming Report, Steve Bridgham (continued):

(July, confirmed): THE SWAP MEET HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Ryan will post static announcement on the electronic communications for HAAUG (Facebook, HAAUG Website, and Meetup). In addition, e-mails to members will include this information each something is sent out.

Someone will also notify vendors that have participated in the past.

Ryan suggested that in place of the Swap Meet we hold a summit of "Maker Groups." He will work on this.

(August, confirmed): Phil Booth (HAAUG President), Presentation on Final Cut Pro.

(September, tentative): Reagan Atkinson (Houston Camera Exchange), Adobe Photoshop.

Steve Bridgham will confirm.

(October, tentative): Dave Hamilton (The Mac Observer), topic to be determined.

Reimbursement for airfare and hotel reimbursements are expected. Mike King and/or Steve Bridgham will confirm.

(November, confirmed): Ryan Esworth, Mike King, and Marcy Spears, Three Case Studies on Home Automation.

December (TBD)

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems: Ryan Esworth issued a combo February-March issue of the Apple Barrel. Both the HAAUG Facebook and Meetup sites were up-to-date. Ryan pointed out that there has been very little activity on the Meetup site and Twitter. The Meetup subscription has been renewed for the next six months.

New Business:

The audit committee will be meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Uptown Cafe Express (1101 Uptown Park Blvd, Ste 12, Houston, TX 77056, (713) 963-9222). Audit committee members include Phil Booth, Mike King, and Mike Epstein.

Adjournment: David Jaschke motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. and it was seconded by Mike King and Steve Bridgham.

Board Meeting Minutes

Houston Area Apple Users Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 21, 2018

Location: CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7001 5th Street, Bellaire, TX.

Attendees: Phil Booth Clair Jaschke Mike King (absent)
Steve Bridgham (absent) David Jaschke Mike Epstein
Marcy Spears (absent) Ryan Esworth (absent)

Call to Order: Officially, there was no board meeting. No notes are available for the April Board Meeting. Instead, the officers present conducted the audit for 2016 and 2017.

Monthly Reports

General Announcements: Dwight Silverman, from the Houston Chronicle, did a great presentation on Antisocial Media: Staying Private on the Public Internet.

Secretary: No minutes taken, Marcy Spears, Secretary was out. The information in this report is from the reports that were already prepared for April.

Treasurer's Report: Clair Jaschke Financial reports show that our checking account balance as of the end of March 2018 was \$3,795.59. Our savings account balance was \$8,005.16, for total cash on hand of \$11,800.75.

Membership: David Jaschke's HAAUG Membership Count Report indicated that we have 124 members as of the end of March. In February we had 125 members, down by one. Last year in March, we had 134 members a difference of ten.

In March we had 8 membership transactions, of which there were 3 regular renewals, 3 two-year renewals, one lapsed renewal, and one new member. We had two transactions using the web interface. No other reports were submitted.

HAAUG Electronic Communications Systems: Ryan Esworth issued the April issue of the Apple Barrel.

Other Business: The board members present completed the audit following the monthly meeting. They did not approve the March minutes because they did not have a quorum.

