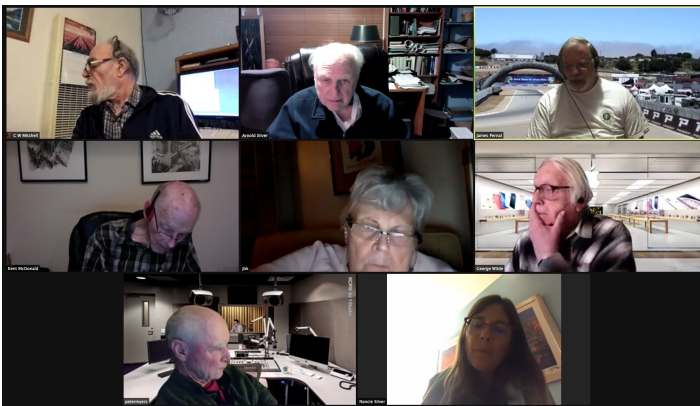




# South Bay Apple MUG Macintosh

vol 21, issue 5 **May 2021**

*A Monthly CUPFUL for South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members*



Above picture - Core Group members holding Zoom meeting on the Tuesday night following the monthly SBAMUG meeting. Core group members discuss future meeting topics and speakers, membership news, club finances, and other club-related issues. Club members may join these meetings; contact Nancie at [piglet10@cox.net](mailto:piglet10@cox.net) if you're interested.

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## Wednesday, May 26 - Zoom Meeting

The May 26 meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

- 1) A Zoom meeting invitation will sent to everyone signed up on the club's email list ([everybody@sbamug.com](mailto:everybody@sbamug.com)).
- 2) To be added to the mailing list, follow the instructions at <https://www.sbamug.com/our-sbamug-email-group/>
- 3) When you receive the Zoom invitation email, save the link to your calendar so that on the day of the meeting, you can find it more easily.
- 4) To join the Zoom meeting, click on the link provided in the invitation email. This will allow you to install the free Zoom app. The meeting invitation will also include a meeting ID and password, which you may need.
- 5) **DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ZOOM?** Anyone having trouble logging on to the Zoom meeting online should call CW Mitchell at 310-644-3315 before the next meeting and he will help you get logged on.

## **Wednesday, May 26** **Main Presentation**

Allison Sheridan will make a presentation about Parallels Toolbox. Join us to learn about this suite of useful tools that will make your computing life easier and more productive.

Hope you can join us to learn something new!

# Welcome to the SBAMUG!

## (South Bay Apple Mac User Group)

Members, friends and colleagues are invited to attend our monthly meetings (usually the last Wednesday of the month). Annual membership entitles you to receive this online monthly newsletter, plus many more benefits (see page 8). The \$35 annual membership dues will not be charged for 2021. Visit [sbamug.com](http://sbamug.com) to become a member or to get more information. **Meetings will be held virtually via Zoom until further notice.**



### SBAMUG Virtual Meeting Format:

**6:30-7:00 p.m.** Question & Answer Session  
*Everyone welcome, beginners encouraged!*

**7:00-8:00 p.m.** Main Presentation

### SBAMUG Monthly Calendar - Save the dates!

May 26 - Allison Sheridan will demo the new release of Parallels Toolbox

June 30 - TBD

### Membership Report: 72 members (as of 5/1/2021)

#### Thank You, Member Renewals:

Steven Barryte, Ray Chikahisa, Mike Pauls, John Baskett, Larry Sidor, Dick & Taffy Rath, John Gebhard

#### Membership-related Information/Questions:

Contact CW Mitchell at [cwmitchell@sbamug.com](mailto:cwmitchell@sbamug.com)

- for information about membership, dues and benefits
- if your name is misspelled or the expiration date is incorrect on your membership card

#### Two EASY Ways To Renew! Look for renewal letter

- 1 - Sign and date the form and return using the enclosed self-addressed envelope; or
- 3 - Bring form and payment to meeting (when in-person meetings resume\*)

\*At in-person meetings, please wear your membership card as a name tag. Your first name is larger so it's easier to read.

**Virtual Meetings:** Online via Zoom

**In-Person Meetings:** Lomita VFW Hall  
1865 Lomita Blvd., Lomita

**Mailing Address:** C.W. Mitchell  
4861 W. 136th St., Hawthorne CA 90250-5631  
**Phone:** (310) 644-3315

**Email:** [info@sbamug.com](mailto:info@sbamug.com)

**Website:** <http://www.sbamug.com>

### Officers & Volunteers:

President: Kent McDonald

Vice President: Jim Pernal

Secretary: Nancie Silver

Treasurer: C.W. Mitchell

Directors at Large: Dave Nathanson, Arnold Silver, George Wilde, Joan King, Pete Myers

PD Disk Editor: Jim Pernal

Membership: C.W. Mitchell

Member Development: Pete Myers

Programming: Kent McDonald

Server Director: Dave Nathanson

Newsletter: Nancie Silver

USPS Liaison: C.W. Mitchell

Refreshments: Arnold Silver/Andy Paroczai

Greeter: Position is open

### Other Meetings:

- Tuesday (6 days after last Wednesday) - SBAMUG Core Group, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Contact CW Mitchell at [cwmitchell@sbamug.com](mailto:cwmitchell@sbamug.com) or send email to [info@sbamug.com](mailto:info@sbamug.com) for core group Zoom meeting invite.
- 3rd Thursday every other month - InDesign User Group, 7:00 p.m. at various locations in LA area, [laidug.com](http://laidug.com)
- Last Saturday each month - Northrop Grumman - Ham Radio & Computer Swap Meet, 7:00-11:30 a.m. Meet at SE corner of Marine/Aviation Blvd, Redondo Beach (visit [w6trw.com](http://w6trw.com) to see if swap meet is cancelled due to Covid-19)
- Los Angeles Portable Users Group: Mac OS X, iPhone, iPod, MacBook, etc. at [lapug.org/](http://lapug.org/)
- Find more: <http://www.apple.com/usergroups/>

THE SOUTH BAY MUG (ISSN 1058-7810) is published monthly for \$35 per year by South Bay Apple Mac User Group, 28110 Ridgeforest Court, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275. Periodicals postage paid at El Segundo, CA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE SOUTH BAY MUG, c/o CW Mitchell, 4861 W. 136th Street, Hawthorne, CA 90250-5631.

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## May 2021 Shareware

Six items this month. Three are from the Mac App store, the rest are available from the sellers' websites.

**BackupLoupe for Mac 3.3.5:** Analyze, browse, and restore Time Machine backups. You can identify files that are taking up too much space. Predicts when your backup drive is likely to fill up. Drag and drop restore of items. Mac OS 10.13+ \$18.00

<https://www.soma-zone.com/BackupLoupe/>

**Diaryl for Mac 2.0.26:** Personal note taking app. Jump between past entries using the calendar tool. Add images, drawings, weblinks, heading labels and more. Free but in app purchase of \$14.99/year adds passwords, secure iCloud sync, and more. Exports PDFs. Mac OS 10.13+ Mac App store

**Garden Planner for Mac 3.7.85:** Garden and landscape tool. Arrange plants, trees, buildings, and objects in an easy-to-use 'drag-and-drop' interface. Use tools to quickly create paving, paths, and fences. Mac OS 10.6+ \$38.00

<http://www.smallblueprinter.com/index.html>

**QuickPlan for Mac 8.2:** Project planning app using Gantt charts. Gantt charts are bar graphs that illustrate a project schedule. For business use mostly, but could be used for major home improvements and the like. Mac OS 10.12+ \$47.99

<https://quickplan.app>

**Touch Metronome for Mac 1.1.7:** Virtual metronome. Spacebar can be used for stop/start. Several sound choices. Mac OS 10.12+ \$0.99 Mac App store.

**UTC Time for Mac 1.1.1:** Displays UTC time in the menubar. Used to be called GMT but that designation ended in 1972. Free Mac OS 11.1+ Mac App store.

See you at the May meeting online.

Jim Pernal PD Editor

*Do you lose your keys, leave things behind when you're out of the house, can't find your car in a parking lot, or worry about things being stolen? AirTags might be the answer!*

### 13 AirTag Tracking Scenarios

Apple's [AirTag](#) is an odd product from a company that typically makes devices designed for interaction. It's an inert button designed to be tracked passively across Apple's crowdsourced Find My network, in which every iPhone, iPad, and Mac that opts into the Find My network provides privacy-protecting location information about wayward hardware.

*Here is the link to the full article:*

<https://tidbits.com/2021/05/15/13-airtag-tracking-scenarios/>

Article written by Glenn Fleishman on May 15, 2021.

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### Monthly Newsletter Submissions

Submit suggestions for topics or articles for newsletter to Nancie at [piglet10@cox.net](mailto:piglet10@cox.net) and I'll consider them for the next newsletter. Articles may be edited to fit space.

Thanks!

## Should You Buy the New Apple TV 4K?

There's a new Apple TV on the market (see "[Apple Updates Apple TV 4K; Introduces New Siri Remote](#)," 20 April 2021), but is it worth buying? As the author of [Take Control of Apple TV](#), let me walk you through scenarios depending on how you watch TV now and give my recommendations.



### If You Still Use a Second- or Third-Generation Apple TV

The second-and-third-generation Apple TVs were great units, but it's time to move on. Many apps no longer work correctly or at all (see "[Third-Generation Apple TVs Suffering from Apple TV Software Update 7.6](#)," 28 September 2020). If you've been using one for all this time, you've more than gotten your \$99 worth from it.

The only question is whether it makes more sense to buy a new Apple TV or move to another platform. See "If You Don't Own an Apple TV" below for the pros and cons.

### If You Use an Apple TV HD

The original fourth-generation Apple TV, now dubbed the Apple TV HD, is still supported. Unless you crave 4K resolutions or HDR color, both of which require support in your TV, there's no need to upgrade.

However, if you're interested in replacing your original Siri Remote with the redesigned second-generation model (see "[Second-Generation Siri Remote Review](#)," 24 May 2021), you're already looking at a \$59

purchase, so it might be worth spending the extra \$120 to buy the new Apple TV 4K and get a bit of future-proofing.

4K has been standard for some years now, so if you're still watching a 1080p-only TV, it's only a matter of time until you'll need or want to replace it, almost certainly with a 4K model, and then you'll want 4K and HDR support.

### If You Use an Apple TV 4K

If you already own an Apple TV 4K, there is no compelling reason to spend \$179 for the few niceties the new Apple TV 4K brings:

- The second-generation Siri Remote
- A faster processor
- Support for HDR video at 60 frames per second
- Support for [4K 60 frames-per-second YouTube videos](#)
- Faster networking with Wi-Fi 6
- Support for the [Thread](#) cross-platform home automation protocol, which might become interesting
- Support for [HDMI ARC](#) passthrough so if you have an ARC-enabled TV, you can output audio from any HDMI-connected device to a HomePod (but not a HomePod mini)

Apart from the second-generation Siri Remote, none of those are likely to change your overall viewing experience that much. But if one seems important to you, it might be worth the upgrade.

That said, even those interested in upgrading might want to wait a bit. There isn't much HDR 60 fps content just yet, and Apple might announce some intriguing new features in tvOS 15 that take better advantage of the new hardware. And while Apple TVs aren't often discounted, you might luck out or find a refurbished model later.

(Continued on page 5)



## If You Don't Own an Apple TV

Until recently, if you wanted to watch your Apple DRM-encrusted movies and TV shows on a TV, you pretty much needed an Apple TV. That's no longer the case. Most major TV platforms like Android TV, Fire TV, and Roku now include the Apple TV app, which gives you access to your library and Apple TV+ content. Many TV platforms even support AirPlay input and integrate with HomeKit.

Strictly speaking, you probably don't *need* an Apple TV. Here are some reasons you might consider one.

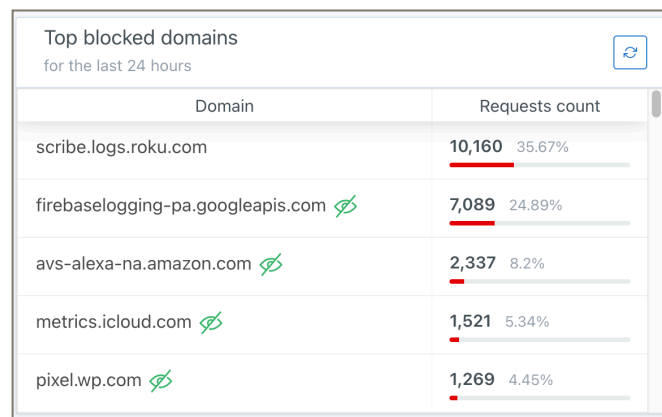
**Picture and Audio Quality:** Apple has to justify the Apple TV 4K's \$179 price, and the Apple TV seems to have fallen into the niche of accessible, high-quality audio and video. Other media players might give you better picture quality (a streaming box can't compete with 4K Blu-Ray), but the Apple TV makes it pretty painless. It's easy to set the Apple TV to match the original frame rate and dynamic range of a film, and the new Color Balance feature makes calibration simple (see "[How to Use Color Balance in tvOS 14.5](#)," 28 April 2021).





The few times a year I sit down to truly take in a film, I watch it on the Apple TV. Movies look fine on Roku's Apple TV app but are better when played through the Apple TV.

**HomeKit:** If you use HomeKit, the Apple TV makes a decent HomeKit hub (though a HomePod is even better because it serves as an always-on Siri controller). Plus, you can trigger HomeKit automations through the tvOS Control Center and with the Apple TV's Siri, which is fun to use with the second-generation Siri Remote.

**Privacy:** It's no exaggeration to say my Roku TV phones home every few seconds. I installed AdGuard on a Raspberry Pi on my home network, and the sheer number of requests generated by the Roku TV is absurd.

As you can see, Apple phones home a lot too, but an order of magnitude less frequently.



Domain	Requests count
scribe.logs.roku.com	10,160 35.67%
firebase logging-pa.googleapis.com 	7,089 24.89%
avs-alexa-na.amazon.com 	2,337 8.2%
metrics.icloud.com 	1,521 5.34%
pixel.wp.com 	1,269 4.45%

We know for a fact that TV manufacturers are scooping up your data (see "[Your Smart TV Could Be Tracking Everything You Watch](#)," 10 July 2018). How else do you think you can buy a 65-inch 4K HDR TV for \$400? The [manufacturer isn't making money from the hardware](#).

An Apple TV might not guarantee your privacy, but it may be your best bet outside of frustrating open-source media software on a Raspberry Pi.

**Apps:** The weakest argument for the Apple TV is the App Store, but it's still a selling point. There are some neat apps and games out there, but I don't get a sense that people care much about them, outside of video apps like Hulu and YouTube that you can get on any smart TV platform.

There are also a few core drawbacks to the Apple TV:

**Complexity:** Apple makes things simple, right? But it's hard to beat the integration of software baked into your TV. With the Apple TV, you have to deal with HDMI ports (make sure you buy a good high-speed cable, or you'll have problems), the quirks of HDMI-CEC, and fiddling with the Apple TV's settings.

(Continued on page 6)

It's much more accessible than most high-end home theater gear, and most of the issues go away after the initial setup, but it's still fussier than the TV's native software.

**Buggy software:** Apple doesn't appear to devote significant resources to tvOS, and it shows. It's still full of weird quirks. For instance, the much-touted TV app does a terrible job of keeping track of what I watch, even TV shows and movies from my Apple library.

**Cost:** At \$99, the second-generation Apple TV was revolutionary, thanks to its low cost and focus on streaming. The \$179 Apple TV 4K is, well, just expensive, and it's hard to recommend to those who aren't wholly invested in the Apple ecosystem. For much less, you can buy perfectly functional 4K streaming boxes, and for not much more, you can buy a full-blown gaming console (assuming you can find one). The Apple TV is one of the most expensive media players in its class, and it's not always easy to justify.

### The Best Apple TV Model to Buy

Assuming you've decided to buy or upgrade an Apple TV, which should you get? This answer is simple: the 32 GB Apple TV 4K for \$179. There is no reason to buy the \$149 Apple TV HD anymore, and I don't know why Apple still sells it. The hardware is significantly less capable, and you're saving only \$30. It's worth spending the extra money to ensure optimal compatibility with whatever TV you might buy in the future.

Likewise, I can't recommend the \$199 64 GB Apple TV 4K model to many people. There aren't many worthwhile apps and games, it's hard to fill up 32 GB of storage, and tvOS does a decent job of offloading apps if you somehow do manage to fill it up. The only reason to consider the 64 GB model is if you have bandwidth restrictions like low speeds or a data usage cap and anticipate downloading a lot of apps. In that case, the 64 GB of

storage will reduce the chance that apps are offloaded then downloaded again. 32 GB is fine for nearly everyone.

Article written by Josh Centers on May 24, 2021.

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## Apple Announces Upcoming Accessibility Features

Apple has long emphasized accessibility features, and the company just [announced a slew of upcoming accessibility features](#) across many of its platforms:

- **SignTime:** With this new service, you'll be able to communicate with Apple support through American Sign Language, British Sign Language, or French Sign Language from a Web browser. If you visit a physical Apple Store, translators will be available through SignTime, with no prior notice required.
- **AssistiveTouch for Apple Watch:** You'll be able to use the movements of your arm and wrist to control the Apple Watch without using the screen or crown.
- **Eye-Tracking for iPad:** The iPad will be able to work with Made for iPhone (MFi) third-party eye trackers.
- **Explore images with VoiceOver:** Apple's VoiceOver technology for reading interface elements can now [describe images](#), adding details about people, text, table data, and other objects. (Continued on page 7)

- **Bi-directional hearing aids:** The MFi hearing device program is adding support for bi-directional hearing aids, which help with hands-free conversations. New devices with this technology will be available in 2022.
- **Audiogram support in Headphone Accommodations:** You'll be able to import the results of a hearing test to fine-tune the Headphone Accommodations setting.
- **Background sounds:** If you find everyday sounds reducing your focus, you'll be able to turn on a collection of background sounds that play while you use your iPhone or iPad.

Those are just the high points. Apple announced many more features, such as Memojis with oxygen tubes and cochlear implants, sign language in Apple Fitness+ workouts, and more. It's great to see the company working to improve the accessibility of its devices and making these efforts more public than in the past.



Article written by Josh Centers on May 20, 2021.

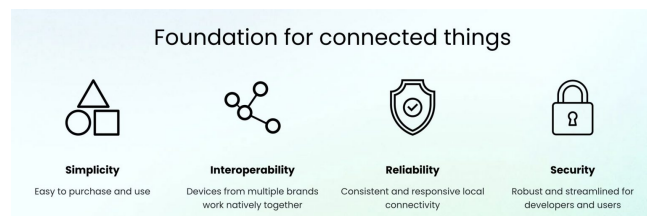
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*Here is the link to the original article:*

<https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2021/05/apple-previews-powerful-software-updates-designed-for-people-with-disabilities/>

## Home Automation Standard Gets an Official Name

In late 2019, Apple, Amazon, Google, and the Zigbee Alliance announced that they were teaming up to create a new interoperability standard for home automation (see "[Apple Teams Up with Rivals to Create Open Smart Home Standard](#)," 18 December 2019). [Stacey Higginbotham reports](#) that the standard now has an official name: [Matter](#). The Zigbee Alliance also has a new name: the [Connectivity Standards Alliance](#).



Matter sounds promising. The partner list includes just about every big company you can think of related to home automation and some you didn't realize were in that space, like grocery store chain Kroger. The standard is open source, and many of your existing devices will work with it when it's released later in the year, [including Philips Hue bulbs when paired with a hub running the latest software](#). In theory, you should end up being able to control one of Google's Nest thermostats with HomeKit or operate a HomeKit-only Eve device with Amazon Alexa.

Article written by Josh Centers on May 17, 2021.

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*Here is the link to the original article:*

<https://staceyoniot.com/project-chip-becomes-matter/>

SOUTH BAY APPLE MAC USER GROUP  
c/o C.W. Mitchell  
4861 136th Street  
Hawthorne, CA 90254-5631

## PERIODICALS



### ***Join, Renew or Give a Gift of a SBAMUG Membership!***

#### **For only \$35 per year\*, you get:**

- Monthly meeting presentations
- Get help from our experts via our Email Group
- Monthly newsletter (We publish 11 issues per year!)
- Use our Wiki
- Free web space & e-mail on our server
- Build your own website
- Create your own blog
- Special merchant discounts \$\$\$
- Occasional swaps, free software, opportunity drawings

<http://www.sbamug.com/join.html>

or contact Membership Chair  
CW Mitchell at

[cwmitchell@sbamug.com](mailto:cwmitchell@sbamug.com)

\*( \$35 membership fee waived for 2021 )

### **SBAMUG Membership Application**

South Bay Apple Macintosh User Group provides you with a local source of shared knowledge & experience through monthly meetings, trainings and monthly newsletter.

**Individual & Family Memberships: \$35 per year\***  
**(\*membership fee is waived for 2021)**

☐ **New Member(s)**

☐ **Member Renewal**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member computer interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner computer interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Devices you use most: \_\_\_\_\_

Current level of Mac expertise:

Member: \_\_\_ Beginner \_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_ Advanced

Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_ Beginner \_\_\_ Intermediate \_\_\_ Adv.

How did you hear about SBAMUG? \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help with the club. Please contact me at:

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Mail your Application (no check needed for 2021) to our mailing address (see page 2), or bring to our monthly meeting at VFW Hall when in-person meetings resume.***