

# Grand Macs Newsletter



Macintosh  
Special Interest Group  
of Sun City Grand

## Winter Class Information

Winter class registration is Saturday, January 6, at 9 AM at the Chaparral Center. (See page 2 for Macintosh winter classes.)

Registration this session will be a little different. You will still obtain your number, starting at 8 AM, at the registration table to register. When you are brought to the classroom to register, a helper will aid you in putting in your user name and password and access the class lists for you. You will then register and pay for your classes in the Open Use room.

Next session you will be able to register on-line from home! The club is still researching strategies for members to pay class registration fees.

## MAC MAGIC IN THE DESERT

A reminder that representatives from Macs West will be at our meeting on January 17 to pre-sell tickets for their Mac Magic event. They have scheduled some interesting seminars for this event, including iPods A-Z, Leopard Preview, Digital Photography, iLife, Hardware & Maintenance, Genealogy on a Mac, Mac Scrapbooking, iListen, Windows to Mac, and Mac Web Magic. Vendor Reps from Argosy West Computer, Biltmore Apple Store, CompUSA, iListen, MacMedia, Macs RWe, and Mac to School will also be in attendance. More information can be obtained at <http://www.macswest.org/expo>

## Grand Macs Meeting

### January 17

Join us on Wednesday, January 17, at the Yavapai Room, Chaparral Center, at 4:00 PM for our monthly Grand Macs meeting. We have a three-in-one program for you: H&R Block's On-line Tax Prep Programs (by Bob Shaw), RSS Feeds (by Marty Schwerin), and Cocktail (by Art McCall). H&R Block has donated seven pieces of software to be given away after the meeting: Tax Cut, Deduction Pro, & Attorney. We invite you to join us and bring your friends.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

Wednesday, February 22

Wednesday, March 21

Wednesday, April 18



**Winter Class Schedule for Mac Classes**

<b><u>Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0</u></b>		
Jan. 10, 11, 12	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Hoobler
<b><u>Introduction to Macintosh</u></b>		
Jan. 15	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Kloncz
<b><u>AppleWorks Word Processing</u></b>		
Jan. 22	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Kloncz
Feb. 6	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	A. McCall
<b><u>Digital Camera Use for Macs NEW CLASS</u></b>		
Jan. 23	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Buxton
<b><u>Back Up: Hard Drive Maintenance</u></b>		
Jan. 24	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	A. McCall
<b><u>AppleWorks Database</u></b>		
Jan. 29	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Kloncz
Feb. 8	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	A. McCall
<b><u>Digital Scrapbooking</u></b>		
Jan. 30, 31, Feb. 1, 2	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Hoobler
<b><u>iWork Demo</u></b>		
Feb. 5	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Kloncz
<b><u>IWeb Demo</u></b>		
Feb. 12	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Kloncz
<b><u>Introduction to Tiger, Level I</u></b>		
Feb. 14	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	A. McCall
<b><u>Introduction to Tiger, Level II</u></b>		
Feb. 15	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	A. McCall
<b><u>Reunion 8.0</u></b>		
Feb. 19, 20	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Hoobler
<b><u>Print Explosion</u></b>		
Feb. 26	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	G. McCall
<b><u>Elements of Scanning NEW CLASS</u></b>		
March 6	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	A. McCall
<b><u>iPhoto</u></b>		
March 8, 9	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Hoobler

**Welcome New MAC SIG members:**

We welcome the following Mac users who joined the GCC as a Mac user this past fall: Laurie Carlson, Grace Ferreter, Jack Windham, and Richard Zeyen.

We hope that you will join us at our Grand Macs SIG functions.

With the addition of these individuals, the MAC SIG has now grown to 135 members.



**GRAND COMPUTER CLUB (GCC) MEETINGS**

Wednesday, Jan. 3: 1:00 PM  
Smart Computing Magazine

Wednesday, Feb. 7: 1:00 PM  
Microsoft: Kathy Jacobs

Wednesday, March 7: 1:00 PM  
Lifelock Identity Theft

Remember that all Grand Computer members are invited to the GCC general membership meetings the first Wednesday of the month.

**MacMedia Visits Grand Macs SIG**

Dan Fusselman, below, employed by MacMedia, located in Glendale's Arrowhead Center, presented information on wi-fi December 20 at our monthly Grand Macs meeting. He provided interesting information on Apple Extreme and Apple Express and showed how to connect our Macs and our speakers for wi-fi usage.



**“Green Apples”**

**Tech Talks**

**Dates for Winter:**

**Tuesday, January 9**

**Tuesday, February 23**

**Tuesday, March 13**

**3:00-4:00 PM**

**Computer Room**

**Chaparral Center**

**Bring your Mac problems to be discussed by Grand Macs volunteers. Laptops are welcomed.**

## Too Many Apps

The below article by Christopher Breen is reprinted with permission from MacWorld and can be found in its entirety at: <http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/mac911/2006/12/toomanyapps/>

Reader Stephen Good is concerned about his Mac's performance. He writes: "Do too many apps slow down a Mac? System Profiler lists 375 on my G5 iMac. I could remove tons of them with AppZapper, but would that quicken my system?"

I can answer that question with a definite maybe. I waffle and weave because the absence of an application may help performance depending on what the application is doing in both its work and off-hours.

For example, if the application runs some background job that's placing demands on your Mac's processor, the existence of the application could slow down performance. I use Ambrosia Software's terrific screen capture tool, SnapzPro X 2. A gander at Activity Monitor tells me that even though I'm not doing anything with it, it's taking up about 0.50 percent of my CPU's attention. I'm not suggesting that Snapz is doing any harm with such pitiful demands, I point to it only to illustrate what background processes can do.

With that in mind, put Activity Monitor to good use and see which background processes appear at the top of the list when you sort by % CPU. If they're apps you can do without, getting rid of them may help performance.

If an application requires a login item -- you have a backup program that requires a scheduling component that monitors your Mac behind the scenes, for example -- it can take your Mac longer to boot up. Again, if you don't need the application, getting rid of it (and its accompanying login item) may bring you to the Desktop a little bit more quickly when you first start your Mac.

And open applications can suck on the CPU as well. For instance, I have Microsoft Word open while I type this entry in BBEdit. Word's doing absolutely nothing, as far as I can tell, yet Activity Monitor tells me that it's using between 3 and 4 percent of the CPU. And I've found that if I leave a browser open for days on end, performance can wane as well. Quitting and relaunching the browser helps.

So, try quitting applications when you're really and truly done with them. If you find that one of your apps is sucking more of your computer's oomph than you care for, see if you can find a less processor-hungry alternative.

Looked at your Dashboard widgets lately? Third-party widgets can distract your processor too. See what they're doing in Activity Monitor. Clear out the more processor hungry widgets that you installed out of curiosity but never use.

Finally, if your Mac is so crammed with applications (and other kinds of data) that you have very little room left on your hard drive, performance is going to suffer because the OS uses free hard drive space for its virtual memory scheme. At the very least I try to leave 10 percent free space on my startup drive so the OS has room for those virtual memory chores.

Below is an updated list of the Mac classes, objectives, descriptions. This is also available on the website: [grandcomputers.org](http://grandcomputers.org)

### NEW CLASS! Elements of Scanning

#### Course Objectives:

- To understand the basic strategies of scanning documents and photos.
- To learn to use the Computer Club's Canon scanner for Macs.

#### Course Description:

This seminar will provide you with strategies for scanning a document, scanning to iPhoto, and scanning for email purposes. We will use the Computer Club's Mac scanner but the same general principles will apply to most scanners used today. One session (1 hour). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience.

### NEW CLASS!

#### Digital Camera Use for Macs: What You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid To Ask

#### Course Objectives:

- To understand what to look for in purchasing a digital camera.
- To provide strategies on how to use a digital camera effectively.
- To provide helpful information on how to utilize your Mac to manage your photos.

#### Course Description:

This seminar will answer the following questions: What camera do I buy? What accessories do I also need? How do I take good pictures? How do I load the pictures onto my computer? How do I organize my pictures? How do I store my pictures? How do I print my pictures? How do I send them through email? One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

### Introduction to the Macintosh

#### Course Objectives:

- To begin to understand and use a Macintosh confidently.
- To provide helpful information for the Macintosh beginner.

#### Course Description:

This class is for the beginner to Macintosh. Learn the basics about Macs: making folders, using the Dock, Safari, Spotlight, Dashboard, Mac terms, help menu, toolbars, Text Edit, PDF files, etc. One session (2 hours). No prerequisite.

### AppleWorks Word Processing

#### Course Objectives:

- To understand and implement Appleworks Word Processing.
- To gain confidence and self-assurance when using the software program.

#### Course Description:

This Apple program will give you basic word processing uses. Put graphics into your letters. Learn the many shortcuts to speed up your work. Easy to use software. One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

### AppleWorks Database

#### Course Objectives:

- To understand and implement Appleworks Database.
- To gain confidence and self-assurance when using the software program.
- To take your current data and put it into a database.

#### Course Description:

Take all of those addresses you collected over the years and put them in this easy-to-use data base which allows you to sort those for holiday cards, invitations, etc. We'll show you how to print labels as well. Other database uses will be covered. One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**Print Explosion****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and use confidently the software program Print Explosion.
- To provide helpful information on how to utilize this software as a tool for many home projects, such as business cards, address labels, greeting cards.

**Course Description:**

This is simply the best greeting card program for the Macintosh. Learn how to make greeting cards, address labels, signs & posters, letterhead, calendars, certificates, banners, crafts, business cards, postcards, fax cover sheets & envelopes - all in an easy-to-use program. You will take home a sheet of address labels and a sheet of business cards. One session (1 ½ hours). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**Adobe Photoshop Elements 3****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and use confidently Adobe Photoshop Elements 3, an easy-to-use digital photo application.
- To provide helpful information on how to format, edit, and print photos and then save to a CD.

**Course Description:**

In this "hands on" class, we begin by preparing a disc to be burned that will be the "negatives" of your photos, and make a contact sheet showing the contents of the disc. Resizing photos for e-mailing at a printable resolution will be covered. We will discuss various formats and their uses. Skills will be introduced that will allow you to fix common flaws to improve your photos and to repair damaged photos so they may be kept for future generations. A discussion of the additions to Photoshop Elements 4 will also be covered. Three sessions (2 hours each). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**Reunion 8.0****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and use confidently the genealogy program Reunion 8.0.
- To provide helpful information on how to enter student's own data into program.

**Course Description:**

Reunion is the highest-rated genealogy software for the Macintosh. There is room for names, dates, places, stories, photos, notes, tidbits and sources. The perfect tool to record and organize your family history. This is a "hands on" class. You will learn to enter information on a digital card, attach a picture to the card, print reports and/or large, colorful tree charts, and timeline charts. Two sessions (2 hours each). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience.

**iWeb Demonstration****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and begin to use confidently Mac's new website building software iWeb.
- To provide helpful information on how Mac users can begin to build their own web site.

**Course Description:**

Learn about Apple's new web software from the iLife Suite. This demo will give you ideas on how you can build your family's own web site, using .mac and with a free 2-month membership. Choose from 12 professionally designed themes and templates. Add photos, movies and music with the iLife Media Browser. Create web pages using a flexible text and graphics canvas. Publish to .Mac with one click. One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**iPhoto****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and use confidently Apple's digital photo software iPhoto.
- To provide helpful information on how to manage your digital photos.

**Course Description:**

The easiest way to import, organize, edit and share your digital photos. Performance and support is available for up to 250,000 photos. Edit and compare images in full-screen mode. Create pro-

quality greeting cards, calendars and books with your favorite photos. Enhance your photos or give them a unique look with one click. Two sessions (2 hours each). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**Digital Scrapbooking****Course Objectives:**

- To understand how to make one's own digital scrapbook.
- To provide helpful information on where to find components for use in making a digital page.

**Course Description:**

Learn to use the Layers Palette in PhotoShop Elements to create digital pages. We will visit some web sites and learn where to find the components for making pages, how to download them and where to save them. Students will complete a digital page under direction, and during the last session each will create a page independently. We will discuss printers and inks to use, sizing your digital photos, and preferred dpi for scanning images. This class will enable you to make digital scrapbooks of your memories. A great gift for children and grandchildren, and less expensive (and less messy) than paper scrapping. Four sessions (2 hours each). Prerequisite: Photoshop Elements

**iWork Demonstration****Course Objectives:**

- To begin to understand Apple's new presentation software iWork, which contains Pages 2 and Keynote 3.
- To use iWork to produce documents ranging from newsletters, presentations, charts, etc.

**Course Description:**

Learn to use the software iWork to create, present, and publish with style. The two applications, Keynote 3 and Pages 2, allow you to quickly create exceptional documents and presentations in minutes. One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Basic word processing skills

**Back Up: Hard Drive Maintenance****Course Objectives:**

- To understand the basic need for backing up your data.
- To provide various back up strategies.

**Course Description:**

Sooner or later your hard drive **WILL** fail, and when it does all your precious data will be lost. We will look at some strategies to keep your hard drive healthy as well as what to back up, how often to back it up, what software to use, and to what to back it up. This is a seminar style presentation; *it is not hands on*. One session (1 hour). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**Introduction to Tiger - Level I****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and begin to use confidently Mac's operating system, OS X Tiger and the changes made from OS 9.
- To provide helpful information on Mac's capabilities.

**Course Description:**

This course will provide an introduction to Tiger, giving the student an over-all experience of what Tiger is all about. Learn about Mac OS X new features such as permissions, user accounts, desktop manager, etc. Burn a CD. One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Intro to Mac or equivalent experience

**Introduction to Tiger, Level II****Course Objectives:**

- To understand and use confidently Apple's operating system, OS X Tiger.
- To provide additional helpful information for the Mac user who has mastered some parts of Tiger.

**Course Description:**

This course will be a continuation of Introduction to Tiger, Level I. One session (2 hours). Prerequisite: Introduction to Tiger, Level I

