Grand Computers

SUN CITY GRAND SURPRISE, AZ APRIL, 2007

A Message from President Leon Chapman

Where has the winter gone? March has been a very busy month with the volunteer dinner on the 9th at the Cimarron Center with 114 people in attendance, class enrollment on the 10th, an instructor breakfast on the 23rd, and Board picture taking. Thanks for all the great efforts by Joe Scanlon for planning the volunteer dinner and the decorations committee headed by Fran Morris, all the enrollment volunteers, and Ken Raske for the instructor breakfast.

The Board is "busy as beavers" trying to get their job descriptions all finalized. The new activities we are faced with include: 1) the preparations for our April speaker via Web-based video, 2) room reservations for 2008, 3) planning for Vista / Office 2007 updates – when and how many dollars, 4) Oktoberfest Grand Computers expo, and 5) exploring a Grand Computers Forum for our web site for technical questions.

April is the time that brings us both joy and sadness – many of our members will be leaving us for the summer; but, we will miss all of you – hurry back! The Board will start planning details for any new implementations of hardware / software for the summer months and set the stage for Fall enrollment in October.

*********** SPEAKER FOR APRIL ***********

David S. Platt will be our speaker on April 4th, 1:00 PM, Cimarron Center. David has published a book entitled "Why Software Sucks?". In this book, programming insider David Platt explains *why* that's the case and, more importantly, why it doesn't *have* to be that way. And he explains it in plain, jargon-free English that's a joy to read. This should be an interesting talk.

Membership Update

2007

Gretel Coursol, Membership Chair, Grand Computers Club, announced that the club membership has reached 967 with 106 of those being Mac users. The computer club would like all of its members to have email addresses so that we might be able to notify you of computer club events and keep you informed. If you do not have an email address, ask at the monitor's desk for Gretel's card (located in a box marked Membership) and call her. She can meet with you any Tuesday or Friday about 3:00 PM to set up your free email address.

A LOOK AT A GRAND COMPUTER VOLUNTEER:

EDUCATION DIRECTOR KEN RASKE

Ken and his father worked their 2500-acre cattle ranch in South Dakota for 24 years. For the next 5 years he pursued his BS as a Professionally Registered Industrial Engineer at the State University of South Dakota. Aerospace brought him to the Los Angeles area where he worked on, among other projects, the Red-Eye missile. His nephew is now running the ranch for the family.

With the fading of aerospace, Ken began a 20-year career in government as a Budget Analyst in the CAO's Office of LA County. Duties there for 10 years involved reviewing and making recommendations in the annual budgets for County Departments. This led to his promotion as the Director of Emergency Services for the County where he interfaced with FEMA as well as state and local officials in disasters, and held this post for the next 10 years.

It was in LA that he met his wife, Millie, who was a Financial Analyst in the Treasurer's office at SCE Corp (now EIX) after a first career in banking as a credit card officer. They soon will celebrate their 38th anniversary. After retiring to a golf resort in Palm Desert, CA, Ken traded hunting skills for golf, and in summers traveled in the Aerbus RV within the US and Canada. Ken's son in the San Diego area presented Ken & Millie with a beautiful granddaughter four years ago.

After moving to Sun City Grand in 1997, Ken became active as a Neighborhood Rep and then first full-term president of the Computer Club. He played a major role in the Club becoming the first chartered club with 50 members. At that time members were paying $50 annual dues. Ken

Oktoberfest

The Sun City Grand Computer Club will be participating in Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 6, 2007. The Computer Club will have demonstrations and displays, and the Special Interest Groups (Compose Yourself, Genealogy, Grand Macs SIG, and New Technologies) will also be participating.

The GCC Board will select a planning team soon to generate ideas and determine the type of demos and equipment needed for the event.

The purpose of the Computer Club participation in this event is to show our Sun City Grand residents all the amazing things you can do on a home computer.

Do you have any ideas? We welcome your input. Oktoberfest volunteers are also needed! Contact Arnie Gelb for more information at gelb@cox.net. Watch our website (grandcomputers.org) for more information about this event.

also was instrumental in the design and layout of the current space and projected future needs of the Club along with Bob Mosher who had the expertise in purchasing computers for the Club. Bob and he were elected as the first two resident members of the SCG Board of Directors.

Millie continued as a part-time employee in the Administrative offices of Del Webb, retiring in December 2005 from the Title/Escrow Department when the last home was sold in Grand.

For the past 2 years, Ken has served as the Director of Education for the SCG Computer Club and enjoys working with so many professional people involved in the Club and also learning more about the tech area of the Club.
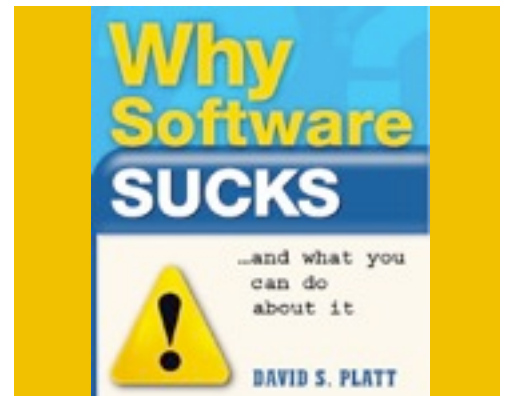
Grand Computers Computer Board 2007

Standing, left to right, back row: Joe Scanlon, Past President; Ray Hockstad, Vice-President; Don Noteboom, Director, Technology; Ken Raske, Director, Education; Hal Asher, Treasurer. Front row: Gretel Coursol, Director, Membership; Joyce Kloncz, Secretary; Leon Chapman, President; Mary Lammert, Director, Monitors.

The photo on the front page and the sunset above were taken by Grand Macs SIG Assistant Facilitator Gale McCall. Submit your own Sun City Grand photos for publication in our newsletters to Joyce at ljkloncz1@mac.com

The speaker at the GCC General Meeting Wednesday, April 4, 1:00 PM, at the Cimarron Center will be David Platt, author of the book "Why Software Sucks - and what you can do about it". He states software is "unsafe," unreliable," and too "hard to use". We have all been invaded by viruses, worms, spyware and more and should not be. We have all had programs crash, losing hours of work. We have all had difficulties learning programs and making them do what we want. This should not be the case and David explains in "jargon-free English" what you, a typical non-technical user, can do about these problems. Please join us!

Update on Electronic Registration

Online registration began on March 10 at 9:00 AM by club members from computers outside the Computer Club classroom. Club members were able to use the Internet to register for classes and their credit card through PayPal to pay for the classes from outside the Club room. Members also registered for classes online at the Club and paid for their classes in person. From March 10 through March 20 there were 26 club members who signed up for classes through PayPal. At the same time another 133 class invoices from members were processed for those who signed up for classes and paid the fees in person.

Fall classes begin October 15 for members with registration on October 13. On-line registration will again be available on computers both inside and outside the classroom. Those signing up for classes on the Internet will pay with PayPal.

Ken Raske, Education Director