Grand Computers

SUN CITY
GRAND
SURPRISE,
AZ
MAY, 2007

A Message from President Leon Chapman

The April speaker via web-based video was a success. Next year, many of our monthly speakers will be through the web-based video sessions. We hope to improve on the sound and other minor issues that we had.

The Board has made a decision to wait until the summer of 2008 before deploying the Microsoft Vista operating system and Office 2007 updates. The operating system is just lacking too many drivers and software compatibility at this point. We have installed Vista on a test machine in the Open Use room and will continue testing compatibility issues. We expect to have Vista seminar classes in the fall that will be taught using just the instructor computer (no student machines).

We are in the initial planning stages of an Oktoberfest Grand Computers Expo that will showcase "The Amazing Things You Can Do with a Computer". We are planning eight different displays with live demonstrations. To compliment this Oktoberfest activity, we are planning a special focused article in the October Grand Times issue highlighting our Computer Club. We need your help in the following areas: signs for the displays, flyers, club members for questions and answers, and membership table support. See the article on page 3 for more information.

Membership Update

2007

Gretel Coursol, Membership Chair, Grand Computers Club, announced that the club membership has reached 996 with 108 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. All club members without email addresses have been contacted and the Computer Club hopes all will obtain an email address.

Granite Falls North
Hole #16

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In the Education area we are planning several new classes for the fall. These will include video editing for television, Vista seminar for beginners, and web page development seminar.

The Board has started the ground work for Grand Computers to become a drop site for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program. It was started in 2004 by a 12 and 13 year old brother and sister in Norwell, MA. The goal of the program is to help our soldiers serving overseas to call home to their families. "Cell Phones for Soldiers" hope to convert old cell phones into more that 12 million minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas in 2007. In essence, we will provide a drop box for old cell phones that will be shipped (at no cost to the club) to ReCellular. They pay for each phone and the money is used to buy a prepaid calling card. On average, each old cell phone is converted to 60 minutes of talk time for our soldiers to call home. The vision is to expand the Drop Site to include all of Sun City Grand. For additional information on this program, visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com. If you are interested in helping in this program, please contact Joe Scanlon, at (623) 214-1747, or e-mail him at pastpresident@grandcomputers.org

********* **SPEAKER FOR MAY 2 GENERAL MEETING, 1:00 PM CIMARRON CENTER** *********
Dr. Leon D. Chapman, President of Grand Computers,
will overview the Computer Club's accomplishments during the last year.

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This will be the last newsletter until fall. We hope you have a great summer!

Leon Chapman, President, Grand Computers
president@grandcomputers.org

A LOOK AT A GRAND COMPUTER VOLUNTEER

Gretel Coursol

Director of Membership

Gretel comes from a family of aviation pioneers. Her father, Walter Sternberg, is listed in Who's Who in American Aviation. Her mother, Madeline Moon, was the third stewardess hired by Eastern Airlines. Her brother, Skip, owned his own plane. And her cousin, Buzz Aldrin, went to the moon. Gretel also has a pilot's license and 3 years ago jumped out of a perfectly good airplane.

Gretel was born in Jacksonville, Florida, moved to Illinois and then to New Jersey. The airline family settled in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1949. Gretel was a member of the first graduating class of Coral Gables High School. (She attended the 50th reunion in 2001.) She then went to school at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. It was on a flight home for spring break the first year that she met her first husband, Air Force career officer and pilot Ben Knight. They were married 2 months before Gretel graduated with an Associate in Arts degree. The highlight of Ben's military service was a 2-year assignment to Casablanca, Morocco. Sadly, Ben was killed in a commercial flight returning from Guam in 1960. Gretel was 26 years old with 3 children.

Having passed the SEC exam in Atlanta, Gretel worked as an account executive for an investment company for a year. After moving back to Florida to work for National Airlines in the VIP room behind the ticket counter, she had the incredibly sad task of informing her boss when JFK was shot (the special reps in Dallas knew before it was announced on air) and the delight of helping welcome the Beatles to the US.

In 1964, Gretel met her second husband, Jerry, at a PTA meeting. He was a widower with 2 sons. That "his, hers, and ours" marriage produced two more wonderful sons. Gretel went to work for the University of Miami Cancer Center as a Research Assistant in the Dept. of Epidemiology and Public Health. The survey research there led to a position with the Cancer Control and Outreach branch of the Center where her team published a directory of cancer resources throughout the State of Florida. From there, she moved over to administration and worked for 13 years as Manager of Business Services, Cost Centers and Facilities for the Cancer Center. While employed by UM, Gretel earned her Bachelor's Degree (with honors) by attending evening classes (imagine you and your children helping each other with algebra homework). When she took early retirement in 1996 to care for her mother, the Center gave her the computer she used for work. The Center had computerized their offices by 1984 and Gretel fell in love again (this time with computers), purchasing her own IBM PC for home. A list keeper, Gretel initially used Lotus spreadsheets for just about everything.

Gretel arrived in SCG in 1998, and has been a member of Grand Computers since April of that year helping in the education area and monitoring. She was also e-mail chairman for Grand Stitchers for several years … until Juno shut her down for "spamming."

In addition to her work at Grand Computers, Gretel is treasurer of her PEO chapter and works one day a week in the administrative office of the Surprise Police Citizen's Patrol.

Gretel has 3 living children, 6 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and a 12-year-old Sheltie named Cheerio. She drives to Montana and Colorado each summer to visit everyone. Any time you have a couple of hours to spare, ask her about her "grands" and "greats."

Oktoberfest

Arnie Gelb, Chair, Oktoberfest 2007, has announced that the theme for the Grand Computer Club displays will be "The Amazing Things You Can Do With A Computer." Oktoberfest will be held October 6, 2007.

Eight stations will be set up in the Maricopa Room, next door to the Computer Club room. The following displays and/or application demonstrations are being considered: Vista, Linux, Open Office, Simulator 10, PDA, Genealogy, Picasa, E-Mail, XP, Opera Browser, Flight Studio, Web Sites, Compose Yourself, Photo Shop, Macintosh Demonstrations, iPods, and Made on a Mac.

The Computer Club objectives for this event are to get Sun City Grand residents interested in the Computer Club, show people what a computer can and will do, tell what classes are offered at the Club, and show what classes will do for you.

If you are interesting in helping out with set-up, demonstrations, or have further suggestions for the Club, please contact Arnie at NewTech@grandcomputers.org