Grand Computers

SUN CITY GRAND SURPRISE, ARIZONA

DECEMBER, 2008

Pictured above are GCC members and their registrar helpers enrolling online at the fall class registration in October.

A Message from President Leon Chapman

There will be only one enrollment for our winter/spring classes. Enrollment will be on Saturday morning, January 17th from 9-11:30 AM. Classes will begin on Monday, January 19th.

Our Grand Computers General Meeting will be on December 3rd at the Cimarron Center at 1:00 PM. Our guest speaker will feature Kathy Jacobs from TechSmith. She will be talking about their products Snagit and Camtasia.

TV 22 interviewed me last week for the Grand Computers Club. I don't have a date for the airing of the interview, but check the dates on the site: www.grandinfo.com.

Membership Update

December 2008

From the Membership Director, Gretel Coursol: As of Nov. 15, our club has 1142 members. Of those, 164 are Mac users.

As a reminder to a few members who rented last season and have a new CAM number this year, entry to the Club is driven by your CAM number. If that has changed, please contact me and give me the new number. If it isn't changed in your record, you will not be able to get into the Club.

If you would like to set up a free e-mail address, I'll be happy to help you with that. Email me at membership@grandcomputers.org

The final ballet for the Grand Computers Board of Directors is shown below:

**Candidates' Statements of Acceptance
to serve on the Board for the year 2009**

- President.…………………………………………Ray Hockstad
- Vice President.…………………………………Loren Lundquist
- Secretary.…………………………………………Joyce Kloncz
- Treasurer.…………………………………………Hal Asher
- Tech Director.……………………………………Jeff Taylor
- Education Director.……………………………Ken Raske
- Membership Director.………………………..Gretel Coursol
- Monitor Director.………………………………Don Exner
- Immediate Past President (Non-Elected)….Leon Chapman
- Historian (Non-Elected)............……………..Sharon Hoobler
- Web Master (Non-Elected)…………………..Bob Crawford

A vote will be take at the December 3rd General Meeting for the new Board.

A BIG Thank You!

I would like to personally thank everyone on the current and past Board of Directors for their support during my term as President of the Grand Computers during the last three years. It has been my pleasure to work with all of the great volunteers to the computer club during that time.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Leon Chapman, President, Grand Computer Club

December 3 GCC General Meeting

1:00 PM Cimarron Center

**Kathy Jacobs from TechSmith:
"Snagit and Camtasia"**

EDUCATION UPDATE

As we approach the year-end you still have time to register for one or more of the open seat classes. There are several classes that you can choose from including beginning, intermediate and advanced subjects. Classes for this term will continue until January 15th.
Registration for Winter/Spring classes is set for January 16, 2009 at 4:00PM for Volunteers and January 17, 2009 at 9:00-11:30AM for all Club Members at the club. Members will also be able to register ON-LINE beginning at 9:00 am on January 17th.

The new Winter/Spring class schedules will be available On-Line on the Website on January 2, 2009. Classes will begin on January 19.
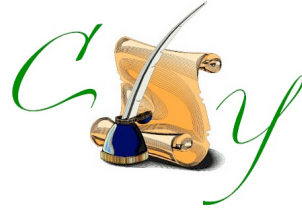
Be sure to renew your Membership!

Happy Holidays,
Ken Raske, Director Education

Education@grandcomputers.org

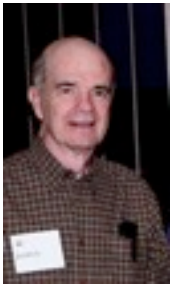Pictured below are CJ Rainaldi, Assist Director, Education, and Ken Raske.

The next five pages of the December Grand Computers Newsletter feature information about the five Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of the Grand Computer Club:

Compose Yourself, New Technologies, Genealogy, Investments, and Grand Mac SIG.

Compose Yourself SIG
Memoir Writers

Members of Compose Yourself write personal memoirs for children and grandchildren, believing life stories may be lost unless preserved on paper. Participants are invited to share drafts with one another either at monthly meetings or over the Internet. Members give positive responses. Meetings include discussions of possible topics and suggestions for writing as well as the sharing of both early drafts and finished pieces. Time for ten-minute writings on a suggested topic is a popular monthly activity, with discussions following.

Plans for the current year include a joint meeting with the genealogy club, program segments of future meetings presented by member volunteers, and a social get-together spring and fall.

Jim Hale is the SIG coordinator, assisted by Judy Jones. Dana Wall is the program chairman.

Meetings: Third Monday of every month
Time: 1-3:00 PM
Place: Palms Room, Sonoran Plaza (Oct-May) and the PC Club Classroom (June-Sept)
Contact: Jim Hale, 546-9711, CY@grandcomputers.org

We provide club members a forum for writing about their family. We are writers using word processors that share writings with one another regularly via email and at monthly meetings. Sun City Grand residents may come to a meeting as our guest to observe and/or participate in the activities.
Our goal is to enjoy writing for personal reasons or publication by participating in the sharing of writings, ideas and knowledge. The finished writings may be sent to friends or relatives, especially children or grandchildren, and some may be submitted for possible publication elsewhere.

Membership is open to any resident of Sun City Grand. The only fee is a yearly membership in the Grand Computer Club for $20.

"We use threads from other SIGs and spin them into yarns."

New Technologies SIG

New Technologies SIG is a Special Interest Group (SIG) of Sun City Grand Computers Club. Membership requirements for the SIG are included in the membership in the Grand Computers Club. The New Technologies SIG focus is sharing knowledge and experience and helping members to fully realize the potential of their personal computer.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sun City Grand Computer Club New Technologies Special Interest Group is to provide the club members with a forum for the open discussion of technological advanced ideas and experiences. We look at PC upgrades and enhancements and the different ways on how to build or modify your own PC to obtain its maximum potential. We have "hands on" demonstrations and discussions of the latest computer software and hardware interfaces. The subject matter discussion is very advanced, and is given at a higher level then our general classes. These subjects include hardware / software relating to advanced video, networking, security and the latest cutting-edge technologies. Also covered are operating systems such as LINUX, and BSD UNIX.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES PURPOSE

- Provide a focal point for people to meet and work together in a common interest,
- Encourage members to share their experiences in the world of new technologies,
- Assist members in developing skills for software installation and configuration,
- Enable members to share configuration solutions/problems and other issues with other members,
- Advise members of Internet sites that will provide information of interest such as forums, solution resolution, and useful tools,
- Assist members in computer configuration techniques on different operating systems,

The New Technology SIG facilitator works with the Grand Computers Web Master to maintain a web-based archive of handouts and meeting information. The site is updated monthly after each meeting and resides on the Grand Computers Club Web site at: www.grandcomputers.org.

MEETINGS

New Technology SIG Monthly meetings are the Third Wednesday of the month at 4:00 - 6:00 PM. The meetings are in the Grand Computers Classroom.

The December 17 meeting will feature a "Show and Tell" of the following technologies: Yahoo Widgets and Malware removal tools.

All Grand Computer Club members are welcome to attend the SIG meetings.

Contact: Arnie Gelb, 544-4681, NewTech@grandcomputers.org

GENEALOGY SIG MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

The GENEALOGY SIG serves particular needs of the members of Sun City Grand Computer Club members interested in genealogy research. The target audience for genealogy reports, charts and books is mostly family and relatives with the hope that children and grandchildren will utilize the genealogy data for further research.

- Provides a focal point for people to meet and work together in a common interest,
- Encourage members to create family genealogy books and reports,
- Assist members in developing skills for inputing and organizing their family data,
- Enable members to share genealogy problems and issues with other members,
- Advise members on simple means for limited self-publication, and
- Assist members in computer techniques to aid in writing reports on their family.

GENEALOGY SIG Monthly meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 3:30 to 5:00 PM. The meetings are in the Grand Computers Classroom.

Contact: Dr. Leon D. Chapman, chapy@cox.net, 623-398-8900

DATE	DAY	TIME	MEETINGS
Dec. 4, 2008	Thu	3:30-5 pm	*"Genealogy Resources on the Internet"* *- Dr. Leon D. Chapman*
Jan 8, 2009	Thu	3:30-5 pm	*"GEDCOM Files / Create, Export, Import"* *- Dr. Leon D. Chapman*
Feb 5, 2009	Thu	3:30-5 pm	*"Publishing a Book" (Joint Meeting with Compose Yourself / Genealogy SIGs) – Judy Jones/Dr. Leon Chapman*
Mar 5, 2009	Thu	3:30-5 pm	*"Census Data" - Dr. Leon D. Chapman*
Apr 2, 2009	Thu	3:30-5 pm	*"Legacy 7 new features." - Geoff Rasmussen*
May 7, 2009	Thu	3:30-5 pm	*"Genealogy Charts – Legacy 7" – Dr. Leon D. Chapman*

Investment Education SIG

The Investment Education Special Interest Group was formed to expand knowledge, ideas and understanding relating to investing.   The SIG meets twice a month, and all types of investments are possible discussion topics, but Stocks and Bonds (and their mutual finds) and related topics are likely to be most frequently discussed. Each meeting will have a speaker presenting a specific topic. Speakers are invited from Fidelity, Schwab, Wells Fargo, Smith Barney, H&R Block, and others. Sun City Grand residents with special financial knowledge will also present some topics.

No prior knowledge of investing is required, and all Sun City Grand residents are welcome!   Of course, individuals with special knowledge and experience with investing are especially invited to participate, and to contribute to the discussions.

Meetings: 2nd & 4th Friday of every month
Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Place: Hopi Room , Chaparral Center
(except Pima Room on December 19)
Contact: David Korts, 217-2065 Investments@grandcomputers.org

Schedule of Events for Investment SIG

December 12	Fundamentals of Retirement Income Planning	Rolf Crapo (Fidelity)
December 19	Asset Allocation Case Studies	Cliff Jacobson (SCG) Pima Room
January 9	Diversifying Your Portfolio with Fixed Income Investments Dave Stoker (Schwab)	
January 23	Beneficiary Designations Importance	Lance Marbel (Wealth Professionals)
February 13	Understanding Annuities	Rolf Crapo (Fidelity)
February 26	Focus 2009	Elizabeth Freeburg (Wells Fargo)
March 13	Establishing and Maintaining Your Estate Plan	Rolf Crapo (Fidelity)
March 26	Matching Your Portfolio Asset Allocation to Your Investment Type Tom Stitch (Wells Fargo)	
April 10	Basic Options Strategies	Colon Beck (Fidelity)
April 24	What to Expect From ETFs	Tim Bryan (Smith Barney)
May 8	Long Time Care Insurance	Lance Marbel (Wealth Professionals)

GRAND MAC SIG
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Grand Mac SIG is a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Sun City Grand Computers Club. Membership requirements for the MAC SIG are included in the membership in the Grand Computers Club. The Grand Macs focus is sharing knowledge and experience about the Apple Macintosh computer.

Contacts:

Facilitator Joyce Kloncz 215-2397 or mac@grandcomputers.org

Assistant Facilitator Gale McCall 975-3253 or mac@grandcomputers.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The MAC SIG serves particular needs of the members of Sun City Grand Computer Club members interested in Macintosh computers. The target audience is those with or those without Macintosh computer knowledge.

MAC SIG PURPOSE

•Provide a focal point for people to meet, socialize, and work together on Macintosh computers.

•Encourage members to use the Computer Club's Macintosh computers.

•Assist members in developing skills and computer techniques for using Macintosh computers and products through classes, demonstrations, and the experience of others within the Club.

•Provide a gateway for members of Apple User Groups, retail merchants, and others outside the Sun City Grand community.

•Represent the Grand Computer Club in contacts with other MAC SIGs within the area.

MEETINGS

Grand Mac SIG monthly meetings are the third Monday of the month at 5:00 PM in the Chaparral Pima Room. Green Apples Tech Talk meets at 3:00 PM on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday. Bring your Mac questions to be answered by Grand Macs volunteers.

• Saturday, Dec. 8: Grand Macs SIG Holiday Open House Joyce Kloncz's home

• December 15: iPhones, iPods, iTouch

• January 19: What's New in Technology - Arnie Gelb, New Technologies SIG

• February 16: Podcasts

• March 16: Garage Band

• April 21: Photoshop Elements 6.0

Grand Computers Club Technical Improvements Summer 2008

The Grand Computers classroom was totally updated during the summer. All the computers were replaced. New wide-screen monitors replaced the older 4:3 format monitors, similar to buying a new HD format television. The main operating system on all the computers is Windows Vista Home Premium but they also run Windows XP in a virtual machine, allowing us to teach both Vista and XP classes with the same computers.

New, more powerful projectors were installed in both the main classroom and in the open use room (for the Apple/Macintosh classes).

New computers were installed in the open use room to replace the aging machines that have special missions. The first machine is equipped with a VHS player and an analog-to-digital converter and is able to convert VHS tapes, or other analog data, to a digital format for either editing before burning to a DVD or just transferring directly to a DVD. The second computer is equipped with a 35mm slide scanner for digitizing slides. Both machines are also used for routine tasks, just like the 16 other windows computers, when not being used for these special missions.

There are now 7 computers in the open use area running Windows Vista with the remaining still running XP.

Two iMac computers were added to open use to allow for larger Apple/Macintosh classes. Since there was not space in the open use room without removing two Windows computers, the two iMacs were loaded with Boot Camp and Windows Vista to provide two operating systems. The computers run Windows Vista during the day when the demand is higher for the Windows machines and are then switched to OS X for the Apple/Macintosh classes at 4:00 PM, if needed.

A color printer was added to the open use room to eliminate the problem the Apple/Macintosh computers had with printing to a networked printer.

Hallmark Card Studio 2008, Firefox browser, and Picasa were added to open use Windows computers.

Microsoft Office suite, PrintShop2, and Adobe Elements 6 were added to the iMac computers running OS X.

The Club is doing its part to save energy. Whereas the computers used to run full-time, they now are set to go into Standby/Sleep after one hour of nonuse. If they are in Standby/Sleep mode they are "awakened" by pressing the ENTER KEY and waiting a few seconds.

The speed of the Internet connection was increased.

Editor's Note: The GCC Board of Directors thanks Don for his hours of work this summer providing all the improvements to the Grand Computer Club.

New Assistant Technical Director - Macintosh Named

The GCC Board of Directors recently created the position of Assistant Technical Director - Macintosh.

This position was created to ease some of the duties of the Technical Director and to also to have one person solely responsible for the maintenance of the eight iMacs in the Open Space Room. That person will also do system updates and install hardware and software.

Art McCall, long-time Macintosh user, has accepted the position. Art has been involved for many years with the GCC, having seen the Mac SIG grow from approximately 30 members to 164 members today.

Art, a resident of New York during the summer months, has asked Ted Gray to take over his duties over the summer.

Editor's Note: Thanks, Art and Ted, for taking on these responsibilities.