Grand Bytes

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Regular Contributors

President's Corner

Gloria Young

Your help is needed. Last month I wrote of individuals who were too intimidated and too embarrassed to join the Grand Computers Club because they had no computer skills. Since then many of you have confirmed a need to reach out to them. I felt genuine enthusiasm and support from our community.

Much excitement exists among volunteers within Grand Computers Club too. I've been in contact with the Board of Directors of Sun City Grand and they also applaud our efforts to create a program for those without computer skills.

I have spent a fair amount of time thinking of how we can make this an exciting and rewarding project. I see this as a large project, much more than adding a few classes. I see our Club welcoming this group and creating a new level of service for them. It could include a new Special Interest Group created just for individual without computer skills. Or, the use of a "buddy" or mentor system to reduce and quickly wipe away fear and intimidation new comers might experience.

Now this is where I need your help. The Computers Club does not know who these individuals are, but you may have a friend, a neighbor or perhaps even your spouse who would benefit. I would very much like to visit with individuals having no computer skills to ask what is necessary in their minds to design a program that is truly meaningful to them.

A few questions asked would be: What would make you comfortable when learning about computers? How would you want to use a computer? What would you like to learn? Should classes last one hour or two hours? Would you be willing to provide feedback on things that might be improved?

Now the next thing we should address is whether the individual must have a computer to take classes. I do believe students must practice what is taught in class if they are to retain the information. The Computers Club has twenty computers in its Open Use Room for members to use and this is where students could practice things learned in class.

If a new student would like to buy a computer, Tech Helpers could provide

VP's Corner

Dan Wallen

Alexa

Manual Labor

Last year I wrote an article in the Grand Bytes about my home automation and how I integrated my lights and more importantly my hot water recirculating pump with my Echo Dot.

On my way to the shower, I say "Alexa, turn on the water pump." I get hot water in seconds. In the evening I say "Alexa, turn on the lamp," click and the lamp goes on. My neighbors once asked "Who is Alexa and why are you always yelling at her

Last night, my wife was crocheting and yelled over to Alexa,

"Alexa, turn on the lamp." There was no response. So, I tried it, "Alexa turn on the lamp!!," still nothing. Alexa finally responded, "The Insteon hub that connects to the lamp is not responding." I peeked behind my TV where all my network components live only to discover what I feared, the hub that connects to all my smart devices was dead.

I called the company and was told the hub had a 2-year warranty so a new one would arrive in 7 days. But first, I had to delete all the devices on my account, peel off the label from the hub and send a picture of the de-labeled hub to

the company. AND once the new hub arrives, I would have to reconnect and reprogram all the devices.

7 DAYS, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO FOR 7 DAYS?

Turn on the shower and wait 10 minutes for the water to get hot?

Turn on the lights with the wall switch?

I can't take it….

President's Corner—continued

information on how to make purchasing decisions plus help getting it up and running.

To summarize, I see this as an exciting community-wide project. A project that includes awareness and promotion by SCG residents and our CAM staff, involvement of instructors and students; with lots and lots of communication including updates in various forms such as Grand Lifestyles, email blasts, neighborhood reps and club presidents informing their groups; all keeping the buzz of excitement alive. If we work together as a community, we can make a difference in lives and have fun at the same time.

Again, please invite those without computer skills to share their thoughts with me so we can develop the best possible program. Let them know I will be at the purple chairs in the Chaparral Center Tuesdays, April 10 and April 17 from 1 PM to 2 PM for those wanting to give input or learn more.

Gloria Young

president@grandcomputers.org

Education's Corner

Marie Frasca

By the numbers:

Classes offered this Winter term: 91

Total number of sessions: 163

Total number of registered students: 1,683

Winter classes are going well, and we appreciate your interest in our Grand Computers Club classes.

Members of the Computers Club asked if there will be a course for people who have little or no knowledge of the computer. After some research, three courses have been scheduled for April. They are:

PC Basic Beginning Computer Skills – April 9 and 12 at 10:30 am
PC Basic Beginning Internet Skills – April 16 at 10:30 am
PC Basic Beginning Email Skills – April 19 at 10:30 am.

There are still a number of classes open

Go to www.grandcomputers.org > Education > Course Offerings or Class Schedule to learn more about our classes. Be sure to read the descriptions of our classes under **Course Offerings** so you will know just what is covered in the class, what the prerequisites are, and whether this class will be too easy or too difficult for you. Click on *the name of the class* to read about the class, click on the *date* to register to use the computers in the classroom and click on the *seats* to register to use your laptop.

Summer courses will be offered May 1 through June 30, 2018. On April 15, classes will be released for viewing to our membership. Class registration begins on

April 20 and classes begin May 1.

 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are always looking for new instructors and assistant instructors. If you are interested in teaching, but you are unsure of your abilities, consider assisting in a class. You might be surprised by your abilities. If you are interested in either teaching or assisting contact the Education Director.

For more information, contact me.

Marie Frasca
Education Director
education
@grandcomputers.org

General Meeting

Don't Get Scammed!

On April 4th, during the Sun City Grand Computers club monthly meeting, Dan Wallen will present a program titled, **Don't Get Scammed**, where he will demonstrate and discuss the latest computer scams.

General Meeting   Date: April 4
Time: 2:00 PM—3:30 PM   Place: Agua Fria Room, Cimarron Center

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Member Orientation

Date: April 10   Time: 4:00 PM   Place: Mesquite/Palms Rooms in Sonoran Plaza

Orientation is open to club members and residents of Sun City Grand. Topics covered include general membership information and what your membership entails: Tech Help, Coffee Chats, General Meetings, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Grand Computers Club classes and other amenities.

Membership's Corner-Martha McGill
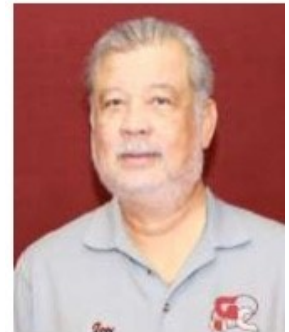

Martha McGill

They say that time flies when you're having fun! It seems like the snowbirds just arrived; but now it's almost time for them to leave again! There actually seems to be more availability of parking! The Grand Computers Club is still abuzz with activity.

At the close of the 2016-2017 year, we boasted a total of 1,491 active members. We have garnered 233 new members since the beginning of our 2017-2018 calendar year (October 1, 2017– September 30, 2018) and at this time have a total of 1,230 members. The renovation of the Chaparral Center last summer and early fall necessitated the closure of the Club, and only Tech Help on Tuesdays, held in the Palm Center, remained as an offering to our members during that time. There were no fall classes and the closure resulted in a decline in active membership.

Reminder Tip: If you move (e.g., from one residence to another within Sun City Grand) please let us know that you have done so. This will enable us to change the information on our data base that is associated with your membership. When a move is made, your CAM number changes and unless your data is up-to-date you may encounter difficulties signing in and/or registering for classes.

Martha McGill

Membership Director

SCG Computers Club

membership@grandcomputers.org

Monitor's Corner-Joey de la Conception

Late February, I announced, Kate O'Brien was appointed Assistant Monitor Director replacing Don Exner.   Kate has been a member of the club since 2015 and has been generous with her time supporting the club. She helped pack up the club prior to the Chaparral renovation and more recently manned the Club, single handedly, during the March 10 Arts and Crafts Faire. Please welcome Kate the next time you see her at the monitor's desk.

The club had 44 monitor sessions in March which were covered by sixteen monitors. Due to a high level of inactive monitors the list was purged during March removing ten monitors whose membership had expired plus six who have not served for over a year.

Two monitor training sessions were held, and one-on-one training is made available. If you are interested in becoming a monitor, we' would enjoy hearing from you.

We expect April to be another busy month before members begin returning to other parts of the country and to Canada. Starting May 1, the Grand Computers Club summers hours will be 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM.

Joey delaConcepcion

Monitor Director

monitors@grandcomputers.org

Would You Like to Broaden Your Investment Knowledge and Access to Investment Sources of Information?

The Financial Ed SIG leaders are thinking outside the box. What does this mean?

They are wondering if there are residents in SCG wishing they could broaden their investment skills and access investment related resources but don't know **the basics**, or how to get started, or where to turn for help.

As a first step, the Financial Ed SIG is creating a class for this Fall called, "Fundamentals of Investing" for the sole purpose of starting with the basics. The class will cover key steps to successful investing; understanding and managing risk; learning basic investments from FDIC bank insured CD's, Treasury bonds to stocks, mutual funds plus much more.

But this SIG hopes to do so much more to **help beginners** broaden their knowledge of a variety of investments. They are considering a series of meetings (via a new subgroup of the Financial Education Special Interest Group) with worthy topics. They are looking at creating this new sub-group for newcomers/inexperienced investors, so they won't feel lost in the investment world. Instead they can find support and grow in confidence.

Who would be a candidate for learning? Anyone who wants to get started with broadening their knowledge of investments. It could include a husband and wife, jointly learning; or it could be a spouse needing to learn more about investments.

As always, we are interested in knowing how we can create an environment in broadening your investment knowledge that works for you.   In addition, volunteers with experience in this field or organizational skills are needed to join in making a difference in the lives of others. Feel free to discuss with Richard Gabel, the Financial SIG Leader at Financial@grandcomputers.org, or Clifford Jacobson, Class Instructor, csjacobson@outlook.com.

DISCLAIMERS
• The Special Interest Group (SIG) does not invest money and does not provide specific financial advice.
• All information, programs, sample portfolios are for illustration and education purposes only and are not investment recommendations.
• All investment decisions are the sole responsibility of each individual.
• The rule of "Let the Buyer Beware" always applies.

Coffee Chat

Coffee Chats are held on the second Thursday of each month from October through April.

These are open to all residents of Sun City Grand and house guests. Coffee and finger food are provided.

A brief presentation on a topic of interest is given and then the floor is opened for questions. Experts from Grand Computers are on hand to answer questions.

This month's topic is "The Constant Change of Buying a Cell Phone."

Coffee Chat is held on April 12 at 8:30 AM in the Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Pages

Apple SIG

Provides an opportunity to gather with Apple/Mac users for classes and informational sessions.
Meetings: 3rd Monday (October -April)
Time: 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM.
Place: Hopi Room, Chaparral Center
Contact: Joyce Kloncz - apple@grandcomputers.org
Next Meeting: April 16
Topic: What's New in Review with Apple?

Compose Yourself—A Writing Group SIG

The Compose Yourself Writing Group uses word processors to write their memoirs and stories and share writings with one another at the meetings.
Meetings: 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday (October – May)
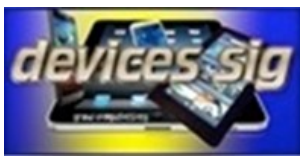**Time:** 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Place: 1st Tuesday: Sago Room; 3rd Monday: Phoenix Room, both in the Palm Center
Contact: Gloria Young - CY@grandcomputers.org
Next Meetings: Tuesday, April 3, and Monday, April 16
Topic: Read and discuss your written stories.

Devices SIG

Provides a focal point for people to meet and work together on hand-held devices.
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday (October – April)
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Place: Maricopa/Havasupi Rooms, Chaparral Center
Contact: Ira Simmons — devices@grandcomputers.org
Next Meeting: April 17
Topic: News, Weather & Sports, presented by Ira Simmons

Digital Scrapbooking SIG

The Digital Scrapbooking SIG's purpose is to share techniques and information concerning digital scrapbooking.
Meetings: Every Monday (October, November, January - April)
Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center
Contact: Jane Connors and JoeAnn Posey, scrapbook@grandcomputers.org
Topic: TBA

Financial Education SIG

The Financial Education SIG's focus is education and sharing of knowledge in the area of financial investments.
Meetings: 4th Friday (Jan., Feb., Mar., Oct.) and 2nd Friday (Apr., Nov., Dec.)
Time: 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM
Place: Mediterranean Room, Palm Center
Contact: Richard Gabel - financial@grandcomputers.org
Next Meeting: April 13
Topic: Basic Rules: Investing for a Lifetime— Bob Adams

Income Investing Subgroup: 1st and 3rd Mondays,
8:00 AM- 10:00 AM Apache Room, Chaparral Center

Technical Analysis Subgroup: 1st and 3rd Thursdays,
8:00 AM- 10:00 PM Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Genealogy SIG

Provides members with a forum for researching family history.

Meetings: 1st Thursday (October – April)
Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center
Contact: Leon Chapman - genealogy@grandcomputers.org
Next Meeting: April 5
Topic: Watch Geoff Live: Cemeteries
presented by Geoff Rasmussen.

New Technologies SIG

Provides members with an open discussion forum of technologically advanced ideas
Meetings: 3rd Thursday of every month (all year long)
Time: 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center
Contact: Joe Parla - newtech@grandcomputers.org
Next Meeting: April 19
Topic: Personal Security

Ham Radio SIG

Provides members a forum for learning the many facets of ham radio including emergency communications.
Meetings: 2nd Monday (October – April)
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM
Place: Grand Computers Club Open Use Room, Chaparral Center
Contact: April Kramer - hamsig@grandcomputers.org
Next Meeting: April 9
Topic: Community & Personal Preparedness (for hams)

The Mysterious Little Black Mouse

Weeks had passed since an email was fired off by our frustrated technical director letting us know a little black mouse had gone missing from the Computers Club classroom!

It was stolen! Or, accidently picked up, but nonetheless it was missing. More emails were sent. This time asking Tech Helpers to look for the little guy. A description was given: black with a white stick-on tag identifying the computer it belonged to: WIN10.

The lost or stolen mouse was discussed at board meetings. He became well known in the Club.

Procedures were changed. All Tech Helpers were to be more careful on Tech Help days. Instructors were reminding students to leave the mice behind when class was over. Our Vice President volunteered to straighten up all the computer stations after Tech Help ended, taking inventory of remaining mice.

With time passing, "The Mouse" was nearly forgotten. That is until, standing at my kitchen table, emptying my dark colored computer bag my retreating hand revealed a little black mouse with a white tag showing: WIN10!

It felt like a live hand grenade. I wanted to throw it far away. Feeling like a thief being caught, my mind raced. What should I do? Toss it in the garbage, never to be spoken of? Wipe off my finger prints and return to the Club in the dark of night?

I soon regained control of my senses and rushed an email to the assistant director and the vice president fessing up. Both quickly replied. One saying, "This was the best laugh I had all day!" I'm hoping when the technical director returns from vacation he finds it humorous too.

As president of the Computer Club, I am glad I brightened someone's day and I humbly apologize for any trauma "The Mouse" and I caused. There are however, unanswered questions rolling through my head. When the missing in action mouse was first announced, I carefully checked my computer bag. Why did I not find it? Plus, I loaded and unloaded my laptop several times using this same computer bag. Why did I not see it until now?

Gloria Young