Grand Bytes

Special Edition

Special points of interest:

Grand Computers Club
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

10 Things You May Not Have Known About Them
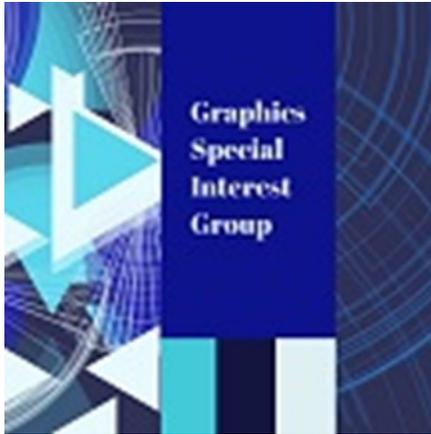

Compose Yourself SIG

By Gloria Young, Co-Facilitator, CY@grandcomputers.org

1. We are a writing group
2. With varied levels of writing skills.
3. When asked, we offer gentle suggestions to improve writing;
4. Types of writings include memoirs, autobiographies, journals, fiction, poetry, and screenplays.
5. From October through May we meet twice a month – first Tuesday and Third Monday
6. Meetings run from 1 – 3 PM.
7. If you are a member of the Club, you can be a member of our SIG - no additional fees.
8. If you are not a member of the club, you may attend three meetings to learn about us.
9. There is no need to preregister for meetings – just come bringing your CAM card.
10. You are invited to bring a writing to read or, to join in discussion.

If you have an interest in writing you might like to join the Compose Yourself SIG for camaraderie of others who write, as motivation to start or continue your writing, or to learn from other writers.

I still have high hopes that SCG reopens our facilities June 1st or soon after and the Compose Yourself SIG can expand its meetings to include the summer months. If this happens, our meetings will be in the club classroom the first and third Mondays through September. Stay tuned…….

Graphics SIG
By Rita Skarbek – Facilitator, Graphics@grandcomputers.org

1.   The SIG meets in the Computer Club Classroom from 4 to 5:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month from October thru March.

2. The current focus of the SIG is to learn about the latest apps and programs that help members enhance their photos, videos, illustrations and other graphic related platforms.

3.   In the first two sessions of the upcoming 2020-21 year, (the Oct and Nov meetings), the SIG will introduce you to the vast array of Adobe Photo and Video Programs for your PC, tablet and smartphone and discuss how they work, and how you can download them to your PC or device.

4.   In December 2020 and January 2021 SIG meetings the focus will be on learning the steps and techniques to make short videos using various simple programs and also how to share them on various SM platforms.

5.   In February and March 2021 we will look at the various social media platforms you can use to edit and share your photos and videos and create some fun special effects.

6.   In every session we update members about upcoming classes, (dates, and times) that you might be interested in taking, based on your interest in the SIG and give a short summary of what each class is about.

7.   The SIG has additional special presentations with guest speakers to share information about new classes and new application updates.

8.   There are many "hands on" sessions where you learn how to use an app or editing process, on your own device.

9.   In each session, members share information and insights as to how they created their specific work of art, discuss, exchange ideas, and demonstrate the process with other members.

10. The SIG is always open to participant suggestions on adding or modifying monthly topics based on interest and direction of the group members.

New Technologies SIG
By Joe Parla – Facilitator, NewTech@grandcomputers.org

1. Our mission is to provide the club members with a forum for the open discussion of technologically advanced ideas and experiences.

2. We examine device upgrades and enhancements and the different ways to build or modify your own devices to obtain improved function and performance.

3. We provide "hands on" demonstrations and presentations of the latest software and hardware advancements. The subject matter discussion may sometimes be more advanced and presented at a higher level than our general classes.

    These subjects include hardware/software relating to advanced video, networking, security and the latest cutting-edge technologies. Most operating systems are addressed such as Windows, OS X, Chrome OS, LINUX, Android, and iOS.

4. We work with the Grand Computers Club Board of Directors to upgrade and acquire state-of-the-art equipment for use in our classes, meetings, and SIGs.

    Examples include 7.1 surround sound, 4K/Ultra High Definition video projector and monitor, mobile device broadcast ability (Chromecast, Airplay, Miracast, etc.) and Listen Everywhere, a hearing assistance audio system.

5. We meet every month of the year to provide a continuous flow of news and technology development.

    Due to the temporary closure of our meeting facility, we conduct the meeting via video conferencing apps like Zoom and Skype.

6. Even though the meeting discussions can become technical for the novice, there is opportunity to ask for a simpler explanation of the terminology.

7. The meetings are mainly a presentation with interaction from the audience, and sometimes a live-demonstration or video. As with most live demonstrations of new technology, there is always a chance of some disappointing or humorous results.

8. The monthly meetings are normally held in the Grand Computers Club classroom on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 3:30-5:00pm. If the topic is popular, the room can get full. The annual attempt to get a larger room in the Chaparral Center has not been successful the last few years. If a larger room can be obtained, then we can have a better and more comfortable seating experience including desktop space for your devices, beverages and snacks. Maybe video conferencing can help.

9. Possible upcoming topics for the next few months are: Bluetooth 5 for headsets and other device connections; latest progress on the 5G network rollout; Chromebooks that can really get the job done; video production on the cheap; personal privacy – is it too late to close the barn door?; and What's in your Man-Cave or She-Shed?

Financial Education SIG
By Richard Gabel – Facilitator, Financial@grandcomputers.org

1. The Financial Education SIG mission is to provide information and share experiences regarding personal financial matters.

2. Our goal is to provide members with the knowledge necessary to take a more active and informed role in their own financial affairs.

3. The SIG is not just for those with self-directed investment accounts. Many of the members have financial advisors and professionally managed investments.

4. Monthly SIG meetings feature presentations by financial professionals on subjects such as: Sector Investing, Portfolio Management, Economic Forecasts, Tax Law Revisions and Estate Planning.

5. The SIG also has two sub-groups and a support group.

6. The "New to Investing Support Group" is for those with limited experience who wish to broaden their investing knowledge.

7. The "Income Investing Sub-Group" discusses a wide variety of financial matters at their bimonthly meetings.

8. The "Technical Analysis Sub-Group" focuses on the application of investment performance charts and the development of indicator driven trading strategies.

9. The SIG does not invest money or provide financial advice. All information is for educational purposes only.

10. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Non-members are allowed to come 3 times before being asked to join the Computers Club.

Please see www.grandcomputers.org for details on meetings that will resume this fall.

Digital Scrapbooking SIG

By Jane Connors Facilitator, Scrapbook@grandcomputers.org

1.   We use one of the top-of-the-line photo editing programs, Adobe Photoshop Elements version 2020, which is now equipped with artificial intelligence to teach new and easier methods of enhancing photos. This enables you to be creative, enhance, organize, repair or resize .jpeg files and photos.

2.   Many of our members are not interested in Digital Scrapbooking at all. They prefer to learn new techniques and get ideas to enhance their pictures. They then make projects such as Family History collections, charts, cards, slideshows, collages, posters, flyers and wall art, mugs, blankets, tee shirts, etc. with photos for their friends and family to enjoy.

3.   It does not matter if your platform is Mac or a PC.   Both work equally well with the Adobe Photoshop Elements programs. The only requirement is your computer must have the latest operating system software (i.e. Windows 10 or Mac Catalina), virus protection and security programs installed, and Adobe Photoshop Elements version 2018-2020. Your laptop should be less than 5 years old to perform effectively with the Adobe programs. Computers are available in the classroom and open use room to work on.

4.   Give a portion of yourself to family/friends as you share your creations and preserve memories (either as hard copies or online).

5.   The digital photo enhancements presented in our meetings can help you improve photos that you may want to post to Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites.

6.   Use the tools you already have more efficiently, that is: digital files, a computer (with maybe a flash-drive) and your own creative juices.

7.   You do not have to know how to put together a Digital Scrapbook before attending our SIG meetings. If you want to learn how to make a digital or hard copy scrapbook with your own photos, we will teach you how to organize your digital supplies to get started and then assist you in creating a beautiful photo keepsake book.

8.   Save space in your home as you consolidate, and backup scanned and digital items.

9.   Members of our group are always learning something new.

10. We have a lot of fun in our twice-monthly meetings!

Flight SIM SIG

By Bill Homewood Facilitator, Flight@grandcomputers.org

1. You can learn to fly for FREE!

2. Our staff are trained professionals in the fields of flight training, maintenance, and air traffic control.

3. You will learn from trained pilots, former military and licensed civilian pilots.

4. We have numerous planes from Biplane, Cessna, Bonanza, Pontoon, Biz Jets, SR-71, F-35, up to the space shuttle.

5. We have airports across the USA and around the world.

6. You do not have to be a "trained pilot" to join - we will teach you from the ground up!

7. Join us if you have always wanted to fly, but never had the chance nor the money….. maybe you:

    Graduated from High School, had to pay for college, ended up in the service or married, bills to pay, kids to put through school, house payments, work, etc. etc. etc.

    OR – You have a license but have not flown for years - now you can fly in air-conditioned comfort.

    OR – You are an old pilot and just want to stretch your wings. Feel that wind blow through your hair - come on in.

8. Most important: We do a lot of "hangar flying" - enjoying good companionship, good friends, and be entertained. Telling stories that are not necessarily true but are believable!

9. Did I mention FREE! - do not have to buy gas, insurance or hangar space.

10. We have monthly meeting and often have guest speakers. You will not believe who lives here in the Grand / Colonnade and frequently share their stories with us.

Genealogy SIG

By Leon Chapman – Facilitator, GenealogySIG@Grandcomputers.org

1. We have meetings the 1st Thursdays, Oct-Apr, 3:30-5pm, in the Computers Club Classroom.

2. We provide a focal point for people to meet and work together in a common interest.

3. We encourage members to create family genealogy books and reports.

4. We assist members in developing skills for inputting and organizing their family data.

5. We enable members to share genealogy problems and issues with other members.

6. We advise members on simple means for limited self-publication.

7. We assist members in computer techniques to aid in writing reports on their family.

Genealogy SIG Calendar

DATE	MEETINGS
Oct. 1, 2020	Photo Editing using FastStone image viewer – Dr. Leon Chapman
Nov. 5, 2020	Researching Your Family – Dr. Leon Chapman
Dec. 3, 2020	DNA Workshop – Review DNA Results - Scott Wallack
Jan 7, 2021	General Genealogy Workshop & Questions – All Attendees
Feb 4, 2021	Researching Your Family – Dr. Leon Chapman
Mar 4, 2021	General Workshop on Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, FamilySearch.org – Scott Wallack & Dr. Leon Chapman
Apr 1, 2021	Genealogy Apps for Phones & Tablets – Dr. Leon Chapman

Apple SIG

Apple SIG Now and Beyond, apple@grandcomputers.org
By Ira Simmons—Apple SIG Facilitator

The dastardly Coronavirus may have cancelled our March and April Apple SIG meetings, but it did not stop Apple from releasing new products and updating its various operating systems. In particular the new, smaller iPhone SE with a starting price of $399 is creating much buzz. And don't forget the COVID-19 tracking tool that Apple and Google jointly developed for the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Tim Cook and his company continue to make the world a better place.

Despite the limitations, we continue to keep www.grandmacs.org humming along. We have split the Latest Apple News page into three parts including a section with Coronavirus articles. Our "How To" area is also split into three parts and I'll bet you can find the answer to any of your Apple computer and device questions. Plus much interesting speculation on the Apple/Mac Rumors page.

The topics for the two cancelled meetings; Photos for Mac and Apple Music will be rescheduled next season and we'll also be planning other informative and entertaining meetings. Wherever you are spending this Summer, continue to follow the local guidelines and hopefully we'll all meet again in October.

Devices SIG

Devices SIG Now and Beyond

By Ira Simmons—Devices SIG Facilitator, devices@grandcomputers.org

Certainly it was not pleasant to have our last two sessions cancelled. But from the adversity of the Coronavirus shutdown, a few bright spots have emerged for the club members who are a part of the Devices SIG.

One is the explosion of video streaming as subscriptions to Netflix, Hulu and others have gone through the roof as people spend more time at home watching TV. In January the main topic for our Devices SIG meeting was video streaming and it produced the largest turnout in our history. We continue to expand the Video Streaming page at www.Devicessig.org and will definitely schedule more similar meetings, perhaps a closer look at the many subscription programming choices, when, hopefully, we resume in the Fall.

The other Devices SIG area that has greatly expanded is Video Meetings. Seemingly everybody and their brother-in-law started using Zoom and the Video Meetings page of our website have provided many relevant articles including concerns about security. Skype, FaceTime and meeting programs from Google and now Facebook are also available. Although most people are likely sitting at their desktops or laptops for video meetings, smartphones and tablets also offer interesting capabilities, especially the flexibility to easily change your room location and often using a superior web camera.

When the Devices SIG meets again, we plan to expand our look at Personal Assistants, explore the best apps in many categories for multiple devices and as always keep you up to date on new and exciting products. Despite all the limits we are now facing, let's all try to have a great summer and don't forget to regularly visit www.grandcomputers.org, www.devicessig.org and our Devices SIG Facebook page.

Ham Radio SIG

1. You don't have to be a licensed Ham Radio operator to enjoy the benefits of our SIG. An interest is the only requirement!

2. We provide a place for members to gather and converse, be entertained and learn about ham radio.

3. We provide those with an interest in ham radio, a way to get their questions answered.

4. We provide a "network" of residents, who could communicate with one another without the use of cell phones or Internet.

5. We are currently busy working on Emergency Communications.

6. We meet monthly October—May.

Contact Gordon Bousman at nw7d.ham@gmail.com for more information.

Gearing up for FALL — Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer Instructors & Assistants Needed for Classes in Fall 2020!

We are looking for new instructors and assistant instructors. For Fall Semester!

If you have a class that you want to teach and we are not offering it at this time, let me know.

If you are interested in teaching, but you are unsure of your skills, consider assisting in a class. You do NOT need to be an expert to assist! You might be surprised by your abilities. If you are interested in either teaching or assisting, contact the education director.

Marie Frasca— education@grandcomputers.org

Looking for Graphics Designers!!!

If you have some **Time**, some **Graphic** skills, or some **Writing** skills, the Publicity Committee is looking for you!

Contact Barb Vivian, Publicity Chair: Publicity@grandcomputers.org.

Monitoring is FUN!! We could use YOU! For Fall 2020!

Help the club stay open by serving as a monitor.
You don't need to know how to run the equipment or be a technology expert.

We just need **friendly people** willing to be helpful.

Great training is provided.

Contact Susan Lucas, Monitor Director: montor@grandcomputers.org.