

**Grand
Computers**

SUN CITY
GRAND

SURPRISE,
ARIZONA

MARCH
2011



Wishing you a rainbow
For sunlight after showers,
Miles and miles of Irish
smiles

For golden happy hours—
Shamrocks at your doorway
For luck and laughter too,
And a host of friends that
never ends

Each day your whole life
through!



Letter from President Loren Lundquist:

Hi,

The club is experiencing great turnout for computer classes on both the Mac and the PC. The curriculum has been updated to teach newer versions of several programs and new offerings such as iPad and Analog-to-Digital conversion have been added. The winter-spring term is about half over but there are still many courses with openings. Consider looking over the offerings listed on the education page of the club website.

We now have the new volunteer tracking system up and running. It should be fairer to our volunteers and will certainly be easier for club officials compiling a list of volunteer efforts. In general, you get points for the time you serve as a volunteer, earning about a point for each hour you serve in a volunteer position. If you are scheduled to serve as a monitor, the system will credit you with 3 points when you

sign in to do your monitor duties. If you are serving as an assistant instructor on a class that has two 2-hour sessions, the system will credit you with 2 points for each session. Be sure that you run your CAM card through the sign in scanner at the monitor desk within the half hour before the class starts so that the system knows that you are there for the class. (As with students, our computer program only associates you with the class if you scan in during the period from one half hour before the class starts until the class ends. If you come in an hour ahead and use the open use room, you need to scan your card again closer to the class time so that the system will associate you with the class.) We know that instructors spend a great deal of time preparing for the classes they teach. To partially recognize this effort, the system is set to credit instructors with 4 points for each 2 hour session that they teach.

At the end of the calendar year we will look at the volunteer participation. Those volunteers (**President can't on p. 2**)

President *con't from p. 1)*

who have earned 15 or more points during the year will be invited to the volunteer recognition dinner in March of the following year. Like all the other clubs in Grand, Grand Computers runs on the efforts of its volunteers. We appreciate all that our volunteers do for the club. It doesn't take much effort over the course of a year to earn 15 points, which will get you invited to an entertaining evening with a great meal and quite a few door prizes. I hope to see you at next year's volunteer recognition dinner.

Our guest speaker at the general meeting Wednesday, March 2, will be Abby Stokes who will be talking about her book "Is This Thing On?" which is subtitled "A computer handbook for late bloomers, technophobes, and the kicking and screaming." Abby will have copies of the book for sale and there will be door prizes.

I hope to see you at the general meeting and around the club.

Loren Lundquist
President, Grand Computers.

Grand Computer Club
Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, March 2nd at 1:00 P.M.
Cimarron Center
The program will be presented by
Abby Stokes who will speak about her book
Is This Thing On?




COME MEET THE iPad

The Grand Mac SIG invites **all GCC members** to its Monday, **March 21** monthly Mac SIG meeting at which Doug Ralston, iPad instructor, will give a short overview on what an iPad can do for you. Art McCall will be presenting information on scanning basics as well. The meeting will be at Chaparral Center's **Apache Room at 4:30 PM**. Come join us!




There was a *Grand* turnout for the February Coffee Chat. The next Chat will be held on **March 10th from 8:30 - 10:00** in the **Hopi Room** at the Chaparral Center. The topic will be *Managing Digital Pictures* presented by Rita Skarbek, Jane Connors, JoAnne Posey, Alice Cooperman, and Sharon Hoobler. Coffee and rolls will be served. All residents of SunCity Grand are welcome to attend.
Bring a friend!



Membership Update
March 2011
Membership Director, Joey de la Concepcion reports that as of February 24, 2011 club membership was 950. Of those 173 were Mac users . 221 joined or renewed using Pay Pal.



BEHIND THE SCENES

CJ (Cheryl) Rainaldi is one of the many "behind-the-scenes" volunteers who help with a variety of computer club tasks. She

first volunteered at Grand Computers in 2005 as a monitor for the open-use room, then as a cashier for registration (back when hundreds of people waited in line to register on the same day) and then as an assistant to Ken Raske, Director of Education 2004-2009.

Her job as Assistant Education Director evolved under Ken and now John Nuerenberg to include assisting with all of the tasks associated with the education program.

CJ is also on the Publicity Committee, helping primarily with the slideshow that appears on the hallway-facing monitor in the classroom, with the Cappie Column in the Grand Times, and on the leadership team for the Graphics SIG. She also occasionally teaches classes, assists with classes and still pinch-hits at the monitor's desk.

(Behind the Scenes *con't* in col. 2)



Acknowledging January's

Busiest Monitor



We are acknowledging this month, Kenneth Gill for his service during January 2011 for having volunteered to monitor for the most

number of sessions in the club room.

Thank you Ken!

Behind the Scenes *con't* from col. 1) computer was the summer of 1980; she bought a first-generation Macintosh in 1984 to create statistical tables for her dissertation; and after being the first administrator in a large suburban school district (Burnsville, MN) to use a computer for her work, she helped set up the network which was still the operating model when she left in 1999.

Dr. Rainaldi began her career in education as a high school English teacher and retired as an Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, responsible for bargaining with 13 different labor groups and administering personnel policy for 1,300 employees.

CJ and her husband, Frank, are in a variety of other Grand clubs and encourage everyone to volunteer at some level within Grand to maintain the great lifestyle that we all enjoy.

Volunteer Dinner



Sure and begorah, the Volunteer Dinner will be held Friday, March 18, 2011 in the Gila Room at the

Cimarron Center. Joe

Scanlon has sent out invitations to those who are eligible to attend this year. Please let Joe know if you will be attending, if you will be bringing a guest, as well as your (and your guest's) choice of entree no later than March 4th. If bringing a guest you will also need to send a check to pay for your guest's meal. Checks can be mailed to Joe at 180221 N. Sterling Dr., Surprise, AZ, or you can drop the envelope in Joe's mail slot at the clubroom.

New Equipment

On March 23 at 4 pm, the computer club will be conducting a seminar entitled '**Analog to Digital.**' This seminar will include instructions and demonstrations on how to use some of the new equipment we have in the open use room.

One item is a **new scanner** that can scan 35 mm slides, photos, documents, and negative film and save them as digital images on a CD. Much of that which we all have is not going to last long in its analog form due to deterioration and diminishing equipment options for projecting or using these items. Saving it to a CD is an easy way to use the materials as well as preserving them for a longer period of time.

Another item is one that will convert all those **VHS videos**, those we took of our kids long time ago, **to DVD**. This equipment and software also allows one to do limited editing, such as a section you wish to cut out before creating a DVD. Once on a DVD, copies can easily be made and sent to any interested party for viewing. VHS film will not last forever!

The third piece of equipment is a self-contained system that will allow one to record 33 rpm, 45 rpm, and 78 rpm **vinyl records to a CD**. Turntables are increasingly difficult to find with all the digital equipment taking up valuable retail space. To make a CD copy of that wonderful record one might have so as to play it on a trip in the car's CD player or elsewhere would seem to be the ideal solution. (**New Equipment con't col. 2**)

(**New Equipment con't. from col. 1**)

Those participating in the seminar will be able to print their own instructions for all three systems. A copy of the instructions will also be available beside each system as a user guide after the seminar. This seminar is the official kick-off of this equipment. Seats are limited, so if you have an interest in any of these systems, don't hesitate to register. The seminar is two hours long, costs \$5 and is for club members only.



New 35mm slide, negative film, photo, or document scanner.



Sun City Grand Computer Club

Registration, Tuition Payment, and Refund Policies

Registration and tuition payment for classes may be done entirely online. Please read the document [How to Register for Classes and Pay Online](#) available at the monitor desk. If not paying for classes online, please make sure your cash or check payment is submitted to the Club room and inserted in a green envelope. The monitor working the desk can assist you in this effort. **Tuition payments should be made within one week of registering.**

Tuition refund for class will be granted to students when a class is cancelled and transfer to another class is not possible. Cancellation may be caused by an instructor not able to teach, too few students in the class, or reasons beyond the Computer Club's control. Tuition refund for class **will not** be granted if a student cancels a class or does not appear in class, for any reason other than death, bereavement of a family member, jury duty, or severe illness or injury.



You Are Invited To A FREE Computer Event

An opportunity has come about within the Computer Club that will let you bring your membership to a new level. We invite you to join a great group of volunteer members by becoming a Computer Club Monitor. There is no charge for your name badge, training or support.

We are holding two training sessions for prospective, new and established monitors in the computer class room on: Wednesday, March 16 at 10:30am OR Tuesday, March 22 at 1:00pm (Depending on questions, allow 1 hr.)

If you are interested in accepting this free offer, please contact the Monitor Director:

(monitors@grandcomputers.org) and let him know your preference (Wed. or Tues.). You will receive a reminder and agenda two days prior to the event from: SCGcomputerclub@aol.com. Minimal computer experience is needed.

Snowbirds welcome and needed as this is the time of the year when we have our heaviest schedule. If you are not sure, but thinking about it, come and sit in for the training and then make your decision.

Monitors have access to free books and equipment that members turn into the club. They receive early access to computer class registration. They earn points, through service, for access to the *FREE* Annual Volunteer Dinner.

Giving Back To Be Able To Receive More





11th Annual
**AZStRUT
COMPUTER
RECYCLE DAY**



**Saturday April 16th
9:00 AM to Noon
Surprise: APS Service Center
16800 N. Dysart Rd.**

Grand Computers Club encourages all residents of Sun City Grand to participate in the AZ StRUT Computer Recycle Day. Questions about this recycling event can be made directly to Arizona StRUT main office phone (480) 222-4066.

AZ StRUT Computer Recycle Day is an opportunity for individuals, civic organizations, small businesses and others to recycle their used and obsolete computers and computer parts, while benefiting Arizona schools and non-profit groups.

All donated computers will either be refurbished by AZ StRUT classrooms or recycled for components. Refurbished computers will be donated to local non-profit organizations and schools. For your protection, every attempt will be made to scrub the hard drives that are being refurbished by AZ StRUT; however, we cannot guarantee that a hard drive's content will be completely erased. Before donating your old computer it is recommended that you reformat your hard drive.



Items that can be donated include any computer components, hard drives, monitors, mouse, printers, scanners, cables and cellphones. Please take your items to the APS Service Center on Saturday, April 16th, 9AM to Noon.



Bits and Pieces



Tips for Techies*

P.C. Users: Windows Logo plus the + sign zooms in.

Mac Users: Command > "w" closes current window



ERIN - where the wind has a sound like a soft sweet song, and anyone can hum it, and heather grows upon the hills and shamrock not far from it. 

Request for Laptops



Jim Geffre has a goal to set up an entire classroom with computers because the school has only one lab with limited access. This means he needs from 15 to 25 laptops to be rebuilt to XP Pro.

Please help out by donating your old laptops as you buy new ones. Jim would like the laptops to have windows XP on them. Include the restore disks if you have them, as well as the power cord. Jim puts in new hard drives if needed, adds memory to at least 1GB, adds Word or Open Office and sets them up with Juno, 10 hours free for a dial up service.

You can contact Jim at:

623-544-3394 or geffre1949@yahoo.com

NOTE: Jim will accept Macs as well.

Just a Reminder



- Mar. 2 - General Meeting
- Mar. 4 - Last Date to Respond to Joe re: Volunteer Dinner
- Mar. 10 - Coffee Chat
- Mar. 16 -New Monitor Training
- Mar. 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 18 - Volunteer Dinner
- Mar. 22 - New Monitor Training



Special Interest Groups (SIG) of Grand Computers

If you are a member of the GCC, you may attend any of these SIG meetings.



Compose Yourself SIG

Provides club members a forum for writing about their family

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

March 21

Topic: Memoir Writing

Place: Aqua Fria Room, Cimarron (Oct.-May)
Computer Classroom, Chaparral (Jun-Sep)

Contact: Robert Heskin, 975-4035

CY@grandcomputers.org



New Technologies SIG

Provides members with a forum for the open discussion of technologically advanced ideas

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM

March 16

Topic: Basic Computer Security

Place: Palo Verde Room, Sonoran Plaza

Contact: Joe Parla

NewTech@grandcomputers.org



Genealogy SIG

Provides club members a forum for researching family history

Meetings: 1st Thursday of each month (Oct-May)

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 PM

March 3

Topic: Website Creation

Dr. Leon Chapman

Place: Computer Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Leon Chapman, 398-8900

Genealogy@grandcomputers.org



Grand Mac SIG

Provides members a forum for Mac users and for classes on the Mac computer

Meetings: 3rd Monday of each month (Oct-Apr)

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 PM

March 21

Topic: A Look at the iPad, and Scanning Basics

Place: Apache Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Joyce Klonecz, (623) 215-2397

Mac@grandcomputers.org



Graphics SIG

Provides club members a forum to discuss graphic applications

Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month

Time: 2:30 - 4:00 PM

March 10

Topic: Portrait Improvement

Place: Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Rita Scarbeck, 748-8992

Graphics@grandcomputers.org



Financial Education SIG

Provides club members a forum for financial education

Meetings: 4th Friday of each month (Oct - May)

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

March 25

Topic: Exchange Traded Funds
By Fidelity Investments

Place: Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Cliff Jacobson, 466-8700

Investments@grandcomputers.org