

# GRAND BYTES

February, 2015

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Grand Computers Club; Sun City Grand; 19753 N. Remington Dr., Surprise, AZ 85374

Website address: [www.Grandcomputers.org](http://www.Grandcomputers.org); Phone number: 623-546-7508

## One of our Club's VIPs



Ted Gray  
Technical Director

Ted Gray is not one to "Toot his own horn," so I will share with you what I have learned about him and gleaned from a previous article written by Loren Lundquist in February 2011.

Ted grew up in various states before his parents moved to the Phoenix area, and remembers racing down Bell road when there was nothing out here but desert and occasional orange groves, and Bell Road was the "Road to Nowhere!" There was no "Friendship Bridge" crossing the Agua Fria River, and Ted is the first person Loren met who had ever actually seen water in the Agua Fria River, and at times it flooded the road!

Ted spent four years in the Air Force and did a tour in Viet Nam before returning to civilian life to complete his education with a doctorate. He was living and working in California when he felt his aging parents needed him to be closer. So in 2003 Ted and his wife moved to Grand

The Tech Director position became available and Ted was approached and accepted the position. The Board decided to install Mac computers in the classroom and run four operating systems on those computers. It was Ted, with assistance from Joe Parla, who made

this happen. Both men are fluent on Macs as well PCs. Since that first Mac transition, the club has seen several hardware and software changes and updates, all directed by Ted with his assistants, Don Notebook and Don Exner, among others. Without the skill and knowledge Ted has, our club may not be a very functional organization!

Ted enjoyed doing triathlons, marathons, and obviously he loves making computers do his bidding. He is a serious bicyclist and runner, frequently seen all over Grand.

## Password Reset Function on Club's Website

### PLEASE READ!!!

Our webmaster, Bob Crawford, has added a very helpful function to our website. When logging into the site at the Member Login button and mistyping the password three times, you will receive a confirmation box asking if you want to reset your password. Click OK. An email will be sent to your email account, which is on the club's records, with a new password. Once you log in to the site, you can change your password or leave it as is. This should alleviate a lot of frustration. It could cause some, however, if you come to the club and don't remember your email account password. I suggest you log into the Grand Computer Club's site before you go to

the club for any reason and make sure you can get in. You may then go through these standard steps at home to login to either renew membership or register for classes.

### **A Note Regarding Tech Help**

We have had many very successful Tech Help sessions this year with a lot of satisfied “customers.” Unfortunately, many people end up sitting around waiting until their turn.

Even though we ask you to sign up for Tech Help no earlier than 12:30 p.m., it doesn’t mean everyone has to be there at 12:30! It may be more worth your while appearing at the club room and signing in at 2:00 p.m. or even 3:00 p.m. It seems that those who come early wait for 1-2 hours while the room is virtually empty by 3:00 p.m. No problem if you want to come early; you just need to be prepared to wait longer.

### **A Message from our SIGs**

We are so please to have ten (yes, that’s right, 10) special interest groups (SIGs) working in our club. They offer a wide variety of subjects, at least one of which everyone should benefit by attending. Please check out the ‘SIG Ads’ at the end of this issue. If you would like more information, please go to our website and click on the button SIGs. From there, go to the specific SIG of which you are interested

### **A Couple Notes about Tech Help**

Our skilled volunteers at Tech Help have indicated that there are a lot of people that appear at 12:30 to sign up for this service but then many end up waiting around for 1-2 hours to be helped. It may be advised to come a little later and sign up so you don’t have to wait as long. Our volunteers also say that the room clears out for the last hour or hour and a half, so there shouldn’t be a problem coming later.

I used to go to the Adobe Athletic Club at 5:30 before going to working downtown. I often met people there when the place opened at 5 a.m. They always said that they got there before the club opened so they could exercise their jaws before they exercised their other muscles. I have been at the computer club on a Tech Help day and I don’t see the jaws being exercised too much!!

Another bit of information. We had 223 people sign in for Tech Help in January alone. If we figure each person averaged one hour of service it would be 223 hours of service. Keep in mind if you go to a commercial service and need only 10 minutes, you get charged for the first hour. So, at \$65 per hour for a commercial service, we have provided relief of \$14,495 to our members. That number is quite stunning to me and I hope it shows how much value we, and I hope you as well, benefit from this service.

### **Membership’s Corner**



Nancy Nelson  
Membership Director

We are already going into our 5th month of the Computer Club season and we are active in so many areas- Classes, Sigs, Meetings, Coffee Chats, Tech Help, Open Use Room and Monitor Sessions. If you walk into the open use room, you will see Ted Gray continually working to upgrade our equipment. All of our Tech Experts are so willing to help us, the members. We are so lucky!

As of Jan 27th, we have 1264 members, 301 are new members, with 963 renewals.

Our open use room is available to all members Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, with the exception of Tuesday

afternoons reserved for technical help given to any and all members.

Membership is \$20 for the year, renewable each Oct. Come in and see what we offer and how you can offer your services. All of our officers, monitors, instructors and helpers are volunteers.

Join in the fun and learning experience.

## Monitor's Corner



Steve Etherton  
Monitor Director

The Grand Computers Club is in full swing for the winter semester. Class registration got off to a roaring start on January 5th. We “swiped” 108 member cards that day. Joyce Kloncz, Joey dela Concepcion, Gail McCall, Don Noteboom, John Nuernberg, Gretel Coursol along with monitors Mary Kent, Sharon Hoffman, Vicki Lauhoff, Martha McGill and Sandra Acocella were there to assist members registering for classes. It was a very exciting day. According to Joyce Kloncz we had 238 class invoices registered on the first day and twenty-four volunteers registered on Sunday, January 4th from 4-6PM. Throughout the week several monitors came in to assist the monitor on duty with class registration as well. A special thanks to all you who volunteered to help and for going above and beyond in your service.

During the month of January we were open for 41 sessions. Serving this month were 19 women and 7 men. The Monitor of the Month for January is Sandra Acocella. She served more sessions than any other monitor.

We currently have 86 monitors with 5 who have not renewed their membership. We also have 7 supporting members who do not monitor but do

serve the computer club in other capacities. This leaves us with 74 active monitors. Thanks go out to all 26 monitors who served during the month of January.

**Tech Help** is held every Tuesday afternoon from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. This three hour session is used exclusively for Tech Help. Members requiring technical support for PC computers, Apple computers, iPhones, iPads, Android phones or tablets and software problems are invited to come in for assistance from our group of fifteen **Tech Help** skilled volunteers. Be aware that during this time the *open-use room* is closed to all other functions including personal use of the computers.

On January 15, I posted an updated version of the Monitor Handout in the class handout section of the Grand Computers Members-only site. To download and/or print a copy, log-in to [grandcomputers.org](http://grandcomputers.org) and under “You can download these documents and class handouts” you will find the Monitors Handout - Jan 2005.

My thanks to all our monitors for all you do. You make a real difference to the Computer Club and its membership.

## Education's Corner



Joyce Kloncz  
Education Director

Winter Term began Monday, January 12, 2015 and will run to Friday, April 24, 2015. We offer 105 classes for our members: 34 PC classes, 18 Mac classes and 53 Other classes.

Registration is still open for fall classes. Explicit directions for registering online are at our website: [www.grandcomputers.org](http://www.grandcomputers.org) > Education > Register Online > Click here for registration preparation instructions.

However, please be aware that the Education Director does not do student registrations. When a notice of an additional section is emailed to members, I occasionally get an email back, saying something like, “OK, sign me up for that class.” I will however register those who are on a waiting list, as they should be the first to be offered the choice to take additional sections of classes.

If a class you wish to take is already filled (“0 seats” will be listed on the class schedule), you may send an email to [education@grandcomputers.org](mailto:education@grandcomputers.org) asking to be put on a waiting list. In the email subject line, please put the name of the class you are requesting. In the event the instructor is available to teach an additional section AND there is a space and time available, we MAY offer an additional section. But be aware that all our instructors are volunteers, some are teaching many classes already, and we all have another life beyond the Grand Computers Club! This is in direct response to a member who said, “You have to offer more classes!”

It’s very important that, if you register for a class, that you attend that class. We have had many instances in the past where a member has registered and didn’t show up at the class. This is unfair to our members who may be on a waiting list for a class. If you haven’t paid for a class and you find you cannot attend, you can withdraw from the class when you go to your page on our website. However, we do not refund class fees unless there is a medical or other emergency for you or a family member. So please try to register only for those classes that you intend to attend to be fair to your fellow members. Please see the following chart for attendance percentages. They aren’t what we want them to be.

| Week Of       | Sessions | Enrolled | Attended | Percent |
|---------------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 01/11/15      | 12       | 86       | 79       | 91.9    |
| 01/18/15      | 15       | 127      | 113      | 89      |
| 01/25/15      | 12       | 127      | 85       | 66.9    |
| <b>Totals</b> | 39       | 340      | 277      | 81.5    |

## President’s Corner



John Nuereberg  
President

When I was the education director for three years, I realized the percentage of no-shows for classes was more than I cared for. I tried several things to no avail. It seems to come down to everyone’s consideration of others as well as that of the instructor. It is also the fact that our classes are very inexpensive, making it not too much of a loss if a student skips class. To charge more would not be a wise move. We come down to asking you to notify the education director that you can’t make the class whether you would be receiving a refund or not. This would potentially allow another student who really wants to take the class and may be on a wait list, to enroll. It is a shame to have open seats in a class with a wait list.

We are seeking ways to make the password situation more workable for those that forget their password when logging into the computer club’s website. At this point, we have in place the procedure stated on page one of this newsletter. We are going to see if we can further refine it to make it easier for you.

This is our busiest term for classes, and Joyce Klonecz is doing a remarkable job with scheduling. It is also very busy with all the other club activities that we offer to you for skills improvement and education. If you know of any other topics or subjects you would like to



see discussed, let us know. And better yet, volunteer!!!

Have a great Arizona winter.

## Notes from Your Board

The Grand Computers Club Board met with most SIG facilitators on January 29 to discuss an increased presence on our club's website as well as a site or blog of their own that a person could link to.

An opportunity was suggested by Rita Skarbek to hold Newcomers' Orientations, perhaps once per month during the non-summer months. This would be a short session to explain what the club can do for new members, including SIG's, Coffee Chats, general meetings, and Tech Help. The hope is that we will invite all new members that joined in January to this orientation.

A vote was taken and passed to have our financial books audited by an outside professional auditor. We have selected one living in Grand that will charge \$60 per hour. We felt that with the sum of money with which we are dealing with, this should be done annually.

## 10 Tips for Online Shopping Safety

By Sandy Berger, CompuKISS

[www.compukiss.com](http://www.compukiss.com)

Amazingly, in today's topsy-turvy world, because of vulnerabilities in the processing of credit and debit cards used at retail stores and the hackers who are focusing on those vulnerabilities, right now shopping online can actually be safer than swiping your card at a local store. For safety sake, however, there are a few online shopping rules that you should follow.

1. The first of these is to always have a good antivirus program installed on your computer and to update your antivirus program and other

software like the operating system whenever an update is available. When in doubt, don't click on links. This is especially true of email where phishing schemes are prevalent, but you should also be careful when you are surfing the Web or visiting social media websites.

2. Shop at trusted, established websites. Don't use any sites that you've never heard of. If you want to try a new website, check to see if any friends or acquaintances have used it successfully.

3. Pay only through secure sites. Typically the address in your browser will change from "http:" to "https:" during a secure connection.

4. Never email your credit card number, social security number, or personal information to anyone. No reputable seller will request it by email since email is not secure.

5. Do your banking and shopping from home where you are on your own secure network. Wi-Fi hotspots at local coffee shops and other establishments usually do not offer enough protection unless the user takes some added precautions, which can be cumbersome for the average user.

6. Create strong passwords consisting of numbers, letters, and symbols. Do not use words or names. Make the password for each banking and shopping site unique. Keep your passwords private.

7. Credit cards are generally the safest option for shopping online. When using a credit card, you have limited liability and the ability to have the credit card company intervene if something goes awry. Debit cards can also be a good choice as long as you have investigated their liability limits, which may be higher than those of credit cards.

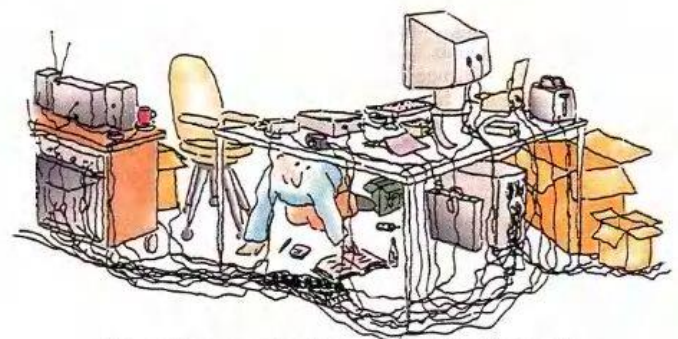
8. Keep a paper trail. Let's face it, none of us have perfect memories. Print and save records of your online transactions, including the name of the seller, product description, price, and date of purchase. Most reputable merchants allow you to print a receipt after the transaction is complete. You can use these printed receipts to compare to your bank and credit card statements.

9. Monitor your bank accounts and credit card purchases regularly. Report any discrepancies or unusual charges to your financial institution immediately.

10. Your social security number is the key to your identity. Be miserly about sharing it with anyone, especially online. No reputable merchant will ever ask for your social security number to make a purchase.

Credit card theft is pretty easy to get through. Usually you notify your financial institution and they issue you a new card. Identity theft is much more difficult to handle because a thief can open lines of credit in your name, buy a car, and obtain new credit cards. In order to steal your identity, the thief needs personal information like social security number, address, phone number and financial information. So be careful when giving out any such information.

Many financial experts say that having your bills sent to you electronically and paying them electronically is safer than sending and receiving them by mail. They also recommend shredding paper documents with personal information. So whether you use a credit card at a physical store, you shop and pay bills online, or you pay bills by mail, the key word is "caution." Our mothers taught us to watch our wallets and keep the doors closed. Now we have a lot more convenience, and also a lot more to watch out for.



"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."



### Compose Yourself SIG A Writing Group

*Provides members a forum  
for writing.*

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (October – May)

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Place:** Phoenix Room, Palm Center

**Contact:** Gloria Young [CY@grandcomputers.org](mailto:CY@grandcomputers.org)

**Next Meeting:** February 16



### Devices SIG

*Provides a focal point for  
people to meet and work  
together on hand-held  
devices.*

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday (October – April)

**Time:** 3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Place:** Maricopa/Havasupai, Chaparral Center

**Contact:** Leon Chapman  
[devices@grandcomputers.org](mailto:devices@grandcomputers.org)

**Next Meeting:** February 17

**Topic:** Photo Apps, Collages, FaceTime, and  
Video Chat



### Financial Education SIG

*Provides members a forum  
for financial education.*

**Meetings:** 4<sup>th</sup> Friday (Jan, Feb, Mar, Oct; 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday  
(Apr, Nov, Dec)

**Time:** 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Place:** Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

**Contact:** Richard Gabel

[financial@grandcomputers.org](mailto:financial@grandcomputers.org)

**Income Investing:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays 8 AM;  
Cimarron Club

**Technical Analysis:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 8 AM (Oct-  
May) Grand Computers Club Classroom



### Flight Simulator SIG

*Provide a focal point for  
members to meet, work,  
and exchange ideas  
about flight simulators.*

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (September – April)

**Time:** 2:00 – 3:30 PM

**Place:** Pima Room, Chaparral Center

**Contact:** Bill Homewood  
[flight@grandcomputeers.org](mailto:flight@grandcomputeers.org)

**Next Meeting:** February 20

**Topic:** Hangar Flying



### Genealogy SIG

*Provides members with a  
forum for researching family  
history.*

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (October – April)

**Time:** 3:30 – 5:00 PM

**Place:** Grand Computers Classroom

**Contact:** Leon Chapman

[genealogy@grandcomputers.org](mailto:genealogy@grandcomputers.org)

**Next Topic:**

**February 19:** Your Civil War Ancestors:  
Beginning Your Research



### Graphics SIG

*Provides members a forum  
for discussing graphic  
applications.*

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (October – May)

**Time:** 3:00 – 4:30 PM

**Place:** Maricopa/Havasupai Room, Chaparral  
Center

**Contact:** Rita Skarbek  
[graphics@grandcomputers.org](mailto:graphics@grandcomputers.org)

**Next Meeting:** February 12

**Topic:** Restoring old photos step-by-step



### Apple SIG

*Provides an opportunity to gather with Apple/Mac users for classes and informational sessions.*

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday (October – April)  
**Time:** 4:30 – 6:00 PM  
**Place:** Apache Room, Chaparral Center  
**Contact:** Joyce Klonecz [mac@grandcomputers.org](mailto:mac@grandcomputers.org)

**Next Meeting:** February 16  
**Topic:** Yosemite OS



### New Technologies SIG

*Provides members with an open discussion forum of technologically advanced ideas.*

**Meetings:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday (all year long)  
**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
**Place:** Maricopa/Havasupai, Chaparral Center  
**Contact:** Joe Parla & Arnie Gelb  
[newtech@grandcomputers.org](mailto:newtech@grandcomputers.org)

**Next Meeting:** February 18  
**Topic:** Cyber Warfare!



### Social Networking SIG

*Provides a focal point for members to meet, work, and exchange ideas about social networking programs.*

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (October – April)  
**Time:** 4:00 – 5:30 PM  
**Place:** Grand Computers Club Open Use Room,  
**Contact:** John Nuerenberg  
[social@grandcomputers.org](mailto:social@grandcomputers.org)  
**Next Meeting:** February 9  
**Topic:** FARK and other new programs

### Coffee Chats

**Meetings:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (October – April)  
**Time:** 8:30 – 10:00 AM  
**Place:** Hopi Room, Chaparral Center  
**Contact:** Sam Valenti  
[vicepresident@grandcomputers.org](mailto:vicepresident@grandcomputers.org)  
**Next Meeting:** February 12  
**Topic:** Tech Toys

As always, coffee and donuts provided!

### Wanted – Old Laptop Computers!

Please help out by donating your old laptops to Jim Geffre as you buy new ones. Jim donates these to schools and would like the laptops to have Windows 7, Vista or Windows XP that say Vista compatible on them. Include the restore disks if you have them, as well as the power cord. Jim wipes out the hard drives or puts in new hard drives, if needed, adds memory to at least 1 to 4GB, adds Microsoft Office or Open Office and sets them up with Juno, 10 hours free for a dial-up service. Jim will accept Macs as well. Drop your old laptop at the club with your name and email address so he can email you a tax deduction form, (you can deduct up to \$500.00 per laptop) and Jim's name on it. No printers please (printers can be donated to Goodwill.)

You can contact Jim at 623-544-3394 or [geffre1949@yahoo.com](mailto:geffre1949@yahoo.com)