

Grand Bytes

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

Website address: www.grandcomputers.org; Phone number: 623-546-7508

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One of our Club's VIPs: Ira Simmons by John Nuereberg



Although the new club President is a native of Brooklyn, New York, Ira Simmons spent over 30 years in the San Francisco Bay Area before moving to Arizona full time in 2011. In Sun City Grand, he is the representative for the Taos neighborhood and is also a member of the Steering Committee for Grand Learning where he has regularly prepared all the instructor evaluations. He also has served as Ticket Manager for the Singles Club and is still their web-

master. Previously he was a member of the Activities and Fitness Advisory Committee.

Ira is a graduate of City College of New York, holds a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from Polytechnic Institute of New York and is also a retired licensed Professional Engineer. For nearly half of his career, Ira inspected hydroelectric dams and powerhouses for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and after retiring from his day job in 2003, performed housing inspections in the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita until 2010.

Music, sports, reading fiction, writing non-fiction, traveling, politics, computers and tele-

communications are some of his many passions. In addition to his role as club president, Ira also teaches various iPad and iPhone classes including iTunes and Apple Music for the Computers Club, and you may see him when you visit Tech Help on Tuesdays. He is also the new leader of the Devices Special Interest Group (SIG). A published author, in 1990 Ira wrote "Black Knight" about his beloved NFL Oakland Raiders.

Ira is the father of three grown daughters and is now also a grandfather of two, with his family presently living in Southern California and Arizona.

General Membership Meeting January 6, 2:00 p.m., Apache Room, Chaparral Ctr.

For 2016 we will be having our General Membership Meetings in the Apache Room of the Chaparral Center. Our originally scheduled speaker, Carey Holzman is unable to appear and will be rescheduled at a later date. After the business side of the meeting on January 6, former Club President, Genealogy SIG leader, instructor and all-around good guy Leon Chapman has graciously offered to step in and will discuss one of his favorite topics: Drones.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Education's Corner



Joyce Kloncz
Education
Director

Please go to www.grandcomputers.org > Education > Course Listing or Class Schedule for a listing of winter classes which begin January 11. Registration will begin online on January 4 at 8:00 AM. You will also be able to click on registration help on the Education page. If you need further help registering, you can come to Tech Help on Tuesdays from 12:30 - 3:30. If you need further help, email education@grandcomputers.org.

Please read the class descriptions under Course Listing carefully. We often find that too many take a

class that is either too easy for them or too hard for them. Like Goldilocks, we want it to be just right!

Another tip: Last fall about a dozen of you who used PayPal to pay for your classes did not complete that last step verifying that it had gone through. Please make sure you follow through to the end of the process to assure that your invoice is paid.

We are adding a wait list on your home page at grandcomputers.org. Students can log in and add themselves to an online wait list for a course. IF there is any open seat, regular or laptop, then students will NOT be able to add themselves to the wait list for that course. Students are restricted to one entry per student per course. Wait list requests can be removed by students by clicking the date the request was entered.

We are pleased to offer 16 new classes:

De-Bugging Viruses in Mobile Device
Dropbox
Home Entertainment Basics
Home Entertainment Set-top Boxes
Home Entertainment Cutting the Cord
Mac OS X - Time Machine/Security
News Readers on a Device/Computer
Pinterest
PowerPoint for PC & Mac
Self-Publishing Your Written Work
Video Editing w/Adobe Premier Elements

Windows 10 Basic
Windows 10 Intermediate - Apps
Windows 10 File & Disk Management
Windows 10 Photos App
Windows 10 Advanced Care & Feeding

It is the intention of the Grand Computers Club to offer our classes at a very reasonable price - 2 hour classes are \$5; 4 hour classes are \$10, 6 hour classes are \$15, and so on. Our instructors offer their services as a courtesy; none receive pay for the hours they spend developing and refining their curriculum and teaching their class(es). A thank-you from their students is their reward!

New Member Orientations

Last month, Education Director Joyce Kloncz and Graphics SIG leader Rita Skarbek, along with President Ira Simons, held our second informational presentation for new computer club members..

Topics covered include general membership information and what your membership entails: Tech Help, Coffee Chats, General Meetings, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Grand Computer Club classes, features of the club website and other club amenities.

The next New Member Orientation will be held on January 13 at 3:30 PM in the Maricopa/Havasupai Room next door to the Computers Club. Brand new club members will receive an invitation via email but any club members are welcome to attend.

Membership's Corner



Nancy Nelson
Membership
Director

It is hard to believe that we are ringing in the New Year. We, at the Computer Club, wish you a very happy and healthy 2016.

As you were notified, the extensive class schedule for the Winter Season is out and you will be able to sign up on line beginning January 4, 2016 at 8:00 am.

My term as Membership Director ended as of December 31st. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you and look forward to seeing you again on the

days that I monitor. Martha McGill is our new Membership Director. She will be available to help you and make your membership productive and enjoyable.

We now have 1,157 members both new and renewals. That number grows each day showing the interest people have in our club. A great way to participate, is to take classes, attend the SIG groups and our coffee chats. Our Tuesday afternoon Tech Help Sessions are extremely well

attended - I guess we all need help with computers and all of the new devices.

A great way to participate in our club is to be a volunteer. Anything from Monitoring to assisting in the classroom to being an Instructor. Any help is appreciated.

Again, I have enjoyed my two years as Membership Director, but know Martha will do a great job in this position.

Volunteers Needed!

The publicity committee is seeking new members to assist in the tasks of that committee. It involves creative and fun work with fellow members. If interested, please email: publicity@grandcomputers.org.

We are always in need of monitors, instructors, tech helpers and classroom assistants.

Grand Computers Club Board Notes

The next Grand Computers Club Board Meeting is scheduled for January 28 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mediterranean Room, Palm Center. All are welcome.

Coffee Chat

The Coffee Chat for January will be held on January 14 at 8:30 a.m. in the Hopi Room, Chaparral Center. The topic will be "Computer and Internet Security." Coffee and donuts are provided. This is a very important topic so bring a friend, whether in the club or not, as these meetings are open to anyone living in Sun City Grand.

Monitor's Corner



Steve Etherton
Monitor
Director

Monitors of the Month for Decem- ber:

Elfi Eades

As 2015 comes to a close, we have a total of 79 monitor volunteers with 5 inactive and 7 supporting members that do not monitor, but who serve the computer club in other capacities. That leaves us with a total of 67 active monitors. The Monitor of the Month for December 2015, Elfi Eades, is serving four sessions. We were open for 44 sessions this month which were covered by 18 women and 8 men. We appreciate the service our 26 monitors provided this month. Without their service, the *open-use room* would not be open to club members.

Winter class registration will begin January 4 at 9 AM (8 AM online) . If you have free time during that week, please stop by and see if you can provide assistance to the monitor on duty. We are usually inundated with a large number of members signing up for classes. They often need help finding their way around our web site, picking and choosing classes, printing invoices and class schedules. Any help during the first week of registration would be greatly appreciated.

Joey delaConcepcion is coming on board as the Monitor Director for 2016. Joey has been a part of the Grand Computers Club since 2006. Joey was Membership Director from 2010-2013. He teaches basic computer subjects, helps out monitoring and assists other instructors as well. He is actively a part of the Tech Help team. Needless to say,

Joey brings a great deal of experience to the Monitor Director roll. I am confident he will represent you all well before the Board as 2016 unfolds.

It has been a privilege for me to be a part of the computer club as Monitor Director for the past two years. I am so grateful to all of our monitors for their service to our club and for making my job as monitor director so rewarding. You have all been so responsible in signing up for open sessions, covering for each other and keeping me updated with the needs of the club. I am very proud of our family of monitors and for their dedication to service and support of the Grand Computers Club members.

As Joey takes over as Monitor Director, keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing you in the club as I continue to serve as a club monitor...its fun, its needed and we get to meet many great residents of Sun City Grand

As always, we are in need of additional monitors so please continue to encourage members to join and become a part of the monitor volunteer team. Between our Monitor Shadow Training Program, Monitor's Handbook, and Monitor Handout "Sept 2015", they will have the tools to be effective at serving our members at the Grand Computers Club.

Happy New Year!

President's Corner



**Ira Simmons
President**

The last four pages of the Grand Bytes list the upcoming meetings of our 10 Special Interest Groups and the January Coffee Chat. But did you know that many of the SIGs regularly post summaries of their meetings and also go over and above the call of duty to provide additional relevant information?

For example the Apple SIG has their own website (<http://www.grandmacs.org/>) and also a monthly newsletter. The Devices SIG now has a Facebook page and the Genealogy SIG features a Yahoo

group for posting information and discussing topics. You may also want to visit the Graphics SIG website (<https://grandgraphics.wordpress.com/>) and the Social Networking SIG has a blog (<https://grandsn.wordpress.com/>). Not to be outdone, the New Technology SIG has a monthly newsletter and similar to most Special Interest Groups offers links to past presentations going back to 2013.

Finally if you can't make it to a Coffee Chat, you can still find what you missed by going to the home page of the

Club website, (www.grandcomputers.org), tap the Services link and then look for the Coffee Chats page.

Tech Help

Our Tuesday Tech Help sessions continue to be a huge success as we continue to address our members' issues and problems with their computers and devices. In the calendar year of 2015 we helped our members 1406 times, which based on a \$65 hourly fee in a repair shop, may have saved an incredible \$91,390!

Remember that Tech Help takes place every Tuesday all year from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm and no problem is too big or small for our Tech Helpers to address. You may want to wait until about 1:30 to 2:PM to avoid the initial rush.

Featured Article

3 little known tech-packing tricks to sprint through security

By Justin Ferris

If you're traveling, especially during high-traffic times like Christmas, you know the pain of getting through the airport. One of the biggest bottlenecks is the security checkpoint, where hundreds of people are taking off shoes, getting electronics out of bags, trying to find plastic trays, being sent back through the detector because they forgot to take off their belt and waiting for carry-on bags that have a container with an ounce too much fluid.

Not only is it frustrating, especially if you have a little one with you, it could make you late for your flight if you're already running behind. That's why when it's your turn you want to zip through security with no hassles. Today, we're going to give you three things you can do to make your experience as painless as possible.



1. KNOW WHAT TO TAKE OUT

How many times have you stood impatiently behind someone at the X-ray machine as they pulled out gadget after gadget to put in the bin. You might suspect their carry-on item is Mary Poppins' carpet bag. Maybe you've even done that yourself.

The good news is that you don't need to remove most electronic gadgets for screening. As long as the gadget is smaller than a 13-inch laptop, such as a tablet, eReader, smaller laptop,

smartphone, or camera, you can leave it in your bag.

The TSA might still ask you to remove smaller electronics if they can't see them clearly in the bag. Also, if you're coming back from an overseas trip, you need to be able to power up any electronics you have with you. If your tablet has a dead battery, for example, the TSA might confiscate it.

Laptops 13 inches and up, video game consoles (if you're carrying one for some reason) and other large electronics need to be put in a separate tray.

2. GET A TSA-FRIENDLY BAG

The reason the TSA has you remove larger electronic items is so the X-ray machine can get a good look at it without interference. Larger electronics already have enough material in them the agents need to examine.

However, if you have a TSA-approved laptop bag, you can generally send that through without removing the laptop. And a separate laptop bag doesn't count as your carry-on item. So, what makes an approved laptop bag?

Basically the bag needs to be able to fold flat so any chargers and accessories are out of the way. Bags that generally work are butterfly-style, trifold-style or sleeve-style bags. These bags will usually be labeled as "TSA," "security friendly" or "checkpoint friendly."

Of course, there might be times when the TSA agents will ask you to remove your laptop anyway, but in general you shouldn't need to.

Since we're talking about luggage, you also want to make sure you have TSA-friendly locks on your checked baggage. Otherwise if the TSA needs to open your bag they'll cut the lock off and your bag will be unprotected for the entire trip. Of course, most new luggage locks are TSA-approved.

3. SKIP THE USUAL SECURITY

If you just don't want to wade your way through security at all, you can sign up for TSA PreCheck. The idea is that the TSA checks you out thoroughly before you travel so you can go through security without removing shoes, laptops, liquids, belts or light jackets.

The process of getting approved takes a minimum 2 to 3 weeks, and can go longer if there are obstacles, so you should start it as soon as possible before your departure date. To apply, go to the [TSA PreCheck application page](#).

As part of the process, you will need to visit an application center to provide documentation and fingerprints. PreCheck costs \$85 but is good for five years and works on international flights with select airlines.

Coffee Chat



Coffee Chat, a monthly forum of various technological innovations and information, is presented for all residents of Sun City Grand. Plenty of time is allowed for discussion and questions. Of course, what is a Coffee Chat without coffee and donuts!

Meetings: 2nd Thursday (October - April)

Time: 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Place: Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Ira Simmons - vicepresident@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 14

Topic: Computer/Internet Security

Apple SIG



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

Meetings: 3rd Monday (October - April)

Time: 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Place: Apache Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Joyce Klonecz - apple@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 18

Topic: El Capitan - Home Security Apps

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 - 3:00 p.m.

Place: Phoenix Room, Palm Center

Contact: Gloria Young - CY@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5, and Monday, January 18

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: 3:30—5:00 p.m.

Place: Havasupai/Maricopa Rooms, Chaparral Center

Contact: Ira Simmons — devices@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 19

Topic: Social Media Apps

Digital Scrapbooking SIG



The Digital Scrapbooking SIG's purpose is to share techniques and information concerning digital scrapbooking.

Meetings: Every Thursday (October - April)

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Jane Connors and JoeAnn Posey,
scrapbook@grandcomputers.org

Next Topic: TBD

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 - 3:00 p.m.

Place: Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Richard Gabel - financial@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 22

Topic: TBD

Income Investing Subgroup: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Cimarron Club, Cimarron Center

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

Flight Simulator SIG



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

Meetings: 3rd Friday (October - April)

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Place: Apache Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Bill Homewood- flight@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 15

Topic: (Guest) Conrad Graff, Retired Cargo Pilot

Genealogy SIG



Provides members with a forum for researching family history.

Meetings: 1st Thursday (October – April)

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Leon Chapman - genealogy@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 7

Topic: Troubleshooting Legacy

Graphics SIG



Provides members a forum for discussing graphic applications.

Meetings: 2nd Thursday (October - April)

Time: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Place: Havasupi/Maricopa Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Rita Skarbek - graphics@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 14

Topic: Instagram...what is it? .

New Technologies SIG



Provides members with an open discussion forum of technologically advanced ideas

Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of every month (all year long)

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Havasupi/Maricopa Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Joe Parla & Arnie Gelb - newtech@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 20

Topic: Gray Hat Hacking

Social Networking SIG



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

Meetings: 2nd Monday (October – April)

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: John Nuerenberg - social@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: January 11

Topic: Tips on Uploading Photos on Facebook

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. Don't worry about personal data as Jim wipes the hard drives clean or puts in new hard drives. If needed, Jim adds memory of at least 1 to 4GB, adds Microsoft Office or Open Office and sets them up with 10 hours of free dial-up service Juno. Jim will accept Macs as well. Drop your old laptop at the club with your name and email address so Jim can email you a tax deduction form, (you can deduct up to \$500.00 per laptop) and Jim's name on it. You can contact Jim at 623-544-3394 or geffre1949@yahoo.com.

No desktops or printers please (printers can be taken to Goodwill, Office Max, or Best Buy for recycling).

