

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: Martha McGill



Martha McGill, the new Membership Director of the SCG Computer Club, was born in Brooklyn, New York and lived in Flushing, New York for a short time while her father was preparing to set up a medical practice. World War II interrupted those plans, and while her dad served as a Seabee in the Navy, she and her mom and sister moved to Salem, Virginia to live with family for the duration of the war. Her family moved west and lived in Marin County (17 miles north of San Francisco) where the dream of a medical practice became a reality for her father.

Martha attended the University of Oregon, where she earned a BA degree. Returning to California after four years in the rainy Northwest, she lived on Telegraph Hill in San Francisco with three college friends and worked for Crown Zellerbach Corporation.

In 1962 Martha married Hap McGill, a young man from Belvedere, California. They began their married life in Mill Valley, had two boys, moved to Greenbrae, and then another child ~ a girl ~ arrived to complete the family. Volunteer work, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and all that was involved with those and other activities did not allow time for Martha to rejoin the "paid" workforce.

Eventually, however, a part time job in the Administrative Offices of the Kentfield School District (just two blocks away from her home) garnered a little extra money toward summer camp and other costly necessities associated with raising three kids. This job segued into a position as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and though she intended to work full time for just a few years, Martha retired in 2008 after 27 years in the employ of the District.

In 2010 Martha and Hap sold the family home in Greenbrae and moved to Sun City Grand. Their longtime/lifelong friends in California thought they were slightly crazy but the move is not one they regret in the least. Summers in Arizona are not for the McGills and though no longer owning a home in California, they have had the good fortune to housesit for friends from their former community who spend their summers in British Columbia. Spending several months in their old neighborhood in the Bay area provides the panacea.

Here in Sun City Grand, Martha and Hap enjoy playing on a Bocce League team once a week and have found a wonderful group of new friends through this activity. Martha has served for several years as an instructional assistant to Janice Oeswein, who teaches beginning Mac classes for the Club. She finds this to be very gratifying and enjoys helping eager students master their computer skills. Serving frequently as a Monitor in the Computer Club Open Use Room has been an asset to the learning process when taking on the role as Membership Director and affords the opportunity for interplay with the members. She plays in the Lady Putters organization once a week, and enjoys the ongoing Stability Ball class (thank you Marcy Rhodus!) in which she participates twice a week at the sensational fitness center here in Sun City Grand. Wonderful classes provided by Grand Learning also add another dimension to life in retirement.

As Membership Director, Martha brings enthusiasm in providing a meaningful contribution to the cadre of volunteers who are the backbone of the tremendously successful Sun City Grand Computers Club.



Education's Corner There were 1233 enrolled in classes, but 1051 attended, resulting in 85% attendance. This proves difficult for us as we have many on a wait list who would like to take that class, but students are not informing us that they won't be attending that class.



Joyce Klonecz
Education
Director

Our winter classes have been very successful and we thank you for your support.

| Grand Computers Class Attendance from Jan 3, 2016 through Feb 23, 2016 | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Week Of | Sessions | Enrolled | Attended | Percent |
| 01/10/16 | 10 | 125 | 109 | 87.2 |
| 01/17/16 | 16 | 166 | 143 | 86.1 |
| 01/24/16 | 21 | 222 | 199 | 89.6 |
| 01/31/16 | 16 | 201 | 162 | 80.6 |
| 02/07/16 | 17 | 202 | 176 | 87.1 |
| 02/14/16 | 13 | 143 | 109 | 76.2 |
| 02/21/16 | 18 | 174 | 153 | 87.9 |
| Totals | 111 | 1233 | 1051 | 85 |

| Total Classes to Date: | Classes | Sessions |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| PC Totals | 23 | 39 |
| Mac Totals | 13 | 20 |
| Other Totals | <u>31</u> | <u>52</u> |
| | 67 | 111 |

Wait List Update: We have been able to add many students from the Wait List. The only issue is some of those who put their name on a Wait List don't check their email to see that they've been added to a class when there's a cancellation or a new class added.

We have found that students are not reading the class descriptions for our new Windows 10 classes, and thus are enrolling in a class that is either too easy or too hard for them. Remember it is your responsibility to know what's in the class. Please go to our website > Education > Course Listing, and click on the class to find out more information about that class.

Grand Computers Club Board Meeting

The next Grand Computers Club Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 31 at 1:00 pm in the Mediterranean Room, Palm Center. All are welcome.

Coffee Chat

The Coffee Chat for this month will be held on Thursday, March 10 at 8:30 am in the Hopi Room, Chaparral Center. The topic will be "Multimedia Apps and Services" and a plethora of items such as podcasts, music, sports, movies and games will be explored. Coffee and donuts are provided. Our meetings are open to anyone living in Sun City Grand so bring a friend.

Membership's Corner



Martha McGill
Membership Director

The second month serving the SCG Computer Club as Membership Director has flown by at breakneck speed. I've learned so much and yet there is still more to absorb of the many facets of my still-new position. My heartfelt thanks to the "veterans" who have served on the Board prior to my becoming a newbie! You are always there to help me out when I'm stumped with a new dilemma!

The Club continues to hum and vibrate with the enthusiasm of our members. As of February 23, 2016 we boast 1,446 active members! With the advent of registration for the many classes offered for the Spring session came renewal and new member-

ships, inspired by the desire to participate in the learning opportunities offered. The classes are but the tip of the iceberg of opportunities afforded by membership in the Club. Tech Help sessions every Tuesday from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM continue to be well attended; these knowledgeable volunteers are able to solve almost all the problems you are having with your devices, be it a PC or Mac, smartphone, tablet or software ~ and there is no fee. All that is required is that you are a current member of the Club!

It's easy to renew your membership or become a new member from the comfort of your home by going online (www.grandcomputers.org). You may pay using PayPal (online) or by visiting the Grand Computers Club Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Yearly dues are \$20 from October 1

through the next September 30. Dues are just \$10 from April 1 through September 30. If you are submitting payment at the Club, please complete the required information on the white Membership Application Envelope legibly and accurately. Part of my responsibility as Membership Director is to compare the information on those envelopes with the information on our database and it does facilitate a more speedy conclusion to this task if I am able to decipher the handwriting and determine whether the data is current in our system! This process is important, as often phone numbers, email addresses, etc., have changed and I am able to correct the database to reflect these changes. Note: you have the opportunity to review pertinent information on the "Update Your Membership Record" feature on the "Members Only" page of the website. Be sure to update that information if you have a new email address or phone number to insure that you receive timely notifications sent out by the Club.

Don't forget that the Open Use Room is available to all members Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. If you are uncomfortable navigating our website to renew a membership or join the Club, you will find friendly monitors available at all times to lend their assistance in these endeavors and additionally to answer any general questions or concerns you might have! Both MAC and PC computers are available for your use.

Regardless of whatever problem you are having with any of the aspects of your membership, I am always available to help. If I don't have an answer, I will find someone who does! So please feel free to contact me for any reason

(www.membership@grandcomputers.org) (or [623-398-8639](tel:623-398-8639)) and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Keep enjoying our grand and special club!

Tech Update

Last month we mentioned that approval was given for the upgrade of the The Nagler flight simulation station with new monitors and a more stable chair (cockpit). Installation of the monitors and the cockpit (trade name: Volair Sim) was completed this past week and testing of the upgraded setup has been ongoing.

Special thanks to Club Technical Director Ted Gray and Jack Gossett of the Flight Simulator SIG for their efforts in making all of this possible. Ted has constructed a special platform for the cockpit and has also worked to achieve a comfortable fit between the chair and the operating equipment for all our aspiring "pilots."

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Monitor's Corner



**Joey
delaConcepcion
Monitor Director**



We presently have a total of 91 Monitors on the roster and 67 are considered active (up from 56 last month). There are 24 inactive monitors, with 8 support members and 3 who still have to renew. 13 members have not monitored for over a year. For February, there were a total of 42 monitor sessions with 26 monitors actually participating.

A big THANK YOU to our Monitor of the Month **Janet Van Why**, having served five sessions. And a big THANKS to the 26, without whose service the open-use room would have been closed to club members.

We have trained and qualified 5 new monitors in January and 7 in February, a total of 12 as of today. A hearty Computers Club welcome to New Monitors: **Jan Beatty, Rosann Lassman, Cathy Harvey, Cindy Steffen, Daren Proctor, Lee Roach** and **Mary Bohnsack**.

I received a few calls from long ago-monitors asking for 'refresher training'. We will be offering this training to monitors who want to be updated on our most current policies and procedures. If you are in this category, call 623-255-7620 (leave a message) or send an email to monitors@grandcomputers.org. To the 13 monitors that have not monitored for over a year, watch for an email in your inbox.

We also have new Attendance Takers stepping up to the plate. Thanks to AT volunteers: **Connie Bol-lard, Sandee Acocella, Camille Andreas, Cindy Steffen** and **Gretel Coursol**. Truly a big help to our General Meeting and Coffee Chat regulars: **Virginia Miller** and **Vicki Lauhoff**.

A new Plexiglas top has been purchased for the monitor's desk. No more taping of notices on the desk-top!

As always, we are in need for more monitors, so if you are interested in helping the club and also greeting other members, drop me an email at monitors@grandcomputers.org.

Thank you all for your service.

Monthly Members Orientation

Our Member Orientation sessions continue to be a big help to new members as we review what Computers Club membership entails: Tech Help, Coffee Chats, General Meetings, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Grand Computer Club classes, using the club website and other club amenities. Special attention is given to registering for classes, what to do if you can't attend and how to manage the Wait List when a class is filled.

The next New Member Orientation will be held on Wednesday, March 9 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 member is welcome to attend.

A Word To The Wise

When attempting to correspond with you, our members, more often than not we have discovered that your personal information is not correct, possibly because it is out of date. So it would be a good practice to occasionally log on to the Members Only portion of the website (www.grandcomputers.org) and press the "Update Your Membership Record" link. There you can make changes to your email address and phone number.

Tech Update (continued)

Remember that to use the two flight simulators ("Flight Simulator" and "Real Flight"), you must reserve time on the Club website. Click the Reserve Computer Time link on the Members Only page at grandcomputers.org. And if you want to arrange training on either simulator, drop an email to flight@grandcomputers.org.



**Ira Simmons
President**



President's Corner

Presently one of my biggest concerns as President of the Computers Club is the planned renovation of the Chaparral Center, tentatively scheduled to begin sometime this Summer. This past month I attended a somewhat informal meeting on the topic, chaired by CAM Board member David Jordan.

In addition to Mr. Jordan, the meeting was attended by some of the Chartered Clubs that regularly use the Chaparral Center; the Pinochle, Bridge, Canasta and Social Game clubs. But besides

the Billiards Club, we were the only "permanent" tenant present.

The meeting was basically an exploratory session and issues about room temperatures, furniture, and décor including lighting were identified. A significant component of the renovation concerns the expansion of Grand Café. And in addition to an overall interior designer, a kitchen consultant will also be hired.

Certainly both the logistics of the renovation plus what effect the project has on our present equipment including the room that contains our servers are my greatest concerns. Because there presently is no set timetable for the project, at this

time it is not known how our Summer programs would be impacted, how long the Club could be closed, or perhaps even if we could remain open in a limited capacity. Obviously you will be informed of additional developments as the planning progresses.



Important: General Membership Meeting

Our featured guest for the monthly membership meeting is Tech-guru Corey Holzman.

Known for his high-energy, fun and participatory presentation style, Carey uses no scripts, does not rehearse so his presentations are always free-wheeling and unpredictable.

Carey spent six years as the co-host of the longest running, nationally syndicated radio talk show on computers, and is also the author of *The Healthy PC*, a book from McGraw/Hill. Carey has a successful YouTube channel with over 117,000 subscribers and more than 10 million video views where he shows how to build your own computer, virus removal techniques and product reviews. Since 1995 Carey has been running his own computer repair, upgrade and sales business out of Glendale and he enjoys sharing his experience and knowledge of computers and electronics with others in a unique, yet fun and entertaining way.

In the monthly overview report that will precede Mr. Holzman, we will be explaining and taking questions concerning the Executive Board decision to purchase new video equipment and a drone. As required by the Policies and Procedures that governs our Chartered Club, because this expenditure is estimated to exceed \$2000, we will be asking the membership for a vote of approval. A prize drawing will conclude the meeting.

The General Meeting begins tomorrow, March 2, at 2pm in the Apache Room of the Chaparral Center, down the hall from the Club. Please plan to attend. Door prizes will be given.

Featured Article

Best sites to help you with your taxes

By Kim Komando Staff

Tax season is here and, if you're like many people, you probably prefer to do your taxes yourself with the help of tax software. In fact, you probably have a particular product you've used for years, whether that's TurboTax, TaxACT, H&R Block or something else.

However, if you haven't looked at the other options in a while, it might be a good time to do it. Even this year, the major providers have changed up their offerings a bit. Let's take a look at a few tax scenarios and which software could work best.



TAXACT

Price: Free: \$0; Basic: \$9.99; Plus: \$14.99; Premium: \$19.99

State tax filing fee: Free: \$0; Basic: \$9.99; Plus: \$14.99; Premium: \$14.99

The cheapest way to file your taxes, aside from filling out the forms by hand and mailing them, is TaxACT. If your taxes are basic enough (form 1040EZ/A), you can use the Free option that gives you free federal AND free state filing.

Keep in mind, though, that your high school economics teacher was right: There's no such thing as a free lunch. You "pay" for TaxACT with your time. The Free option won't import data from prior years, so you'll be filling out all your information again, although it can import W-2 data.

TaxACT Free calculates your taxes by asking you a series of questions about your income, finances and assets. It won't handle deductions, investments, independent contracting or business. You also only get email support with questions.

If you have more complicated taxes, you'll need to look at higher tiers like Plus or Premium that give you more filing options and free phone support for complicated questions.

SMALL BUSINESS AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS: H&R BLOCK

Price (Online file): Free: \$0. Basic: \$24.99. Deluxe: \$34.99. Premium: \$49.99.

State filing fee: Free: \$9.99; Basic, Deluxe, Premium: \$36.99

If you're looking for an all-purpose tax solution and you can find your way around a tax worksheet, then H&R Block's online tax tool is a solid bet. It's especially helpful for small businesses.

H&R Block lets you file as a small business after buying the Basic Edition for \$19.99. The Basic Edition comes with clearly-written basic help documentation. If you want extra help categorizing your expenses, however, then you're going to have to shell out an extra \$10 for the Premium Edition.

After that, though, you'll find that H&R Block's do-it-yourself tax tool will save you time and money. For example, if you used another online tax tool last year, then you can import all of last year's information directly into H&R Block's system..

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Best of all, if you decide that you want to enlist the help of an accountant at any point, it costs just \$60 to have a certified accountant look over your forms.

If you have a working knowledge of your income and tax terminology, or you're willing to do a little extra research, then H&R Block is a great solution.

GUIDED TOUR: TURBOTAX

Price: Free Edition: \$0. Basic: \$19.99. Military: Free or \$24.99, depending on rank. Deluxe: \$29.99. Premier: \$49.99. Home & Business: \$74.99.

State filing fee: \$36.99

There's no better way to learn the math behind your tax return than by doing it yourself. The best step-by-step solution to doing your own taxes for the first time is TurboTax.

Tech Help

Our Tuesday Tech Help sessions continue to address our members' issues and problems with their computers and devices in large numbers. Every week we are helping 30 to 50 members.

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. Tip: you may want to wait until later in the session to avoid the initial rush.

Note: Although we have a regular crew of 10-15 Tech Helpers on-hand every Tuesday, we can always use additional volunteers, especially with expertise in Android smartphones and tablets.

Volunteers Needed!

We are in the process of reworking the publicity committee as there are some exciting new projects just around the corner.

And we are always in need of monitors, instructors, tech helpers and classroom assistants. A point system is in place for all volunteers to earn points to qualify for the annual Volunteers Dinner and other perks. If interested, please email: president@grandcomputers.org.

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: Pam Kostel - vicepresident@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10

Topic: Multimedia Apps and Services

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: Monday, March 21

Topic: TBD

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 pm (Mondays); 11:00—1:00 pm (Tuesdays)

Place: Mesquite Room, Sonoran Plaza; Phoenix Room.

Contact: Gloria Young - CY@grandcomputers.org

Next Meetings: Tuesday, March 1, and Monday, March 21

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: Tuesday, March 15

Topic: Photo and Video 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 Meeting: Thursday, March 3

Next Topics: All about fonts.

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: Friday, March 25

Topic: A "Set and Forget Investment Plan."



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: Friday, March 18

Topic: Hangar Flying



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: Thursday, March 3

Topic: Googling with Geoff Rasmussen.



Graphics SIG



Provides members a forum for discussing graphic applications.

Meetings: 2nd Thursday (October - April)

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

Place: Havasupai/Maricopa Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Rita Skarbek - graphics@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10

Topic: Review of Photogene and Pixlmatr apps plus photo copy-right issues for photographers,.

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: Havasupai/Maricopa Room, Chaparral Center

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 16

Topic: Device Security and Protection

Social Networking SIG



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

Meetings: 2nd Monday (October – April)

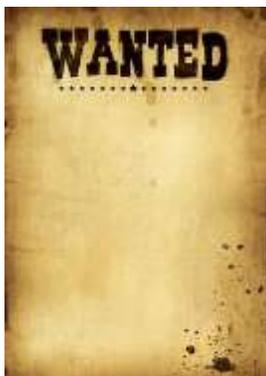
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: John Nuerenberg - social@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Monday, March 14

Topic: What's Trending?



Wanted: Old Laptops

Club member Jim Geffre donates old laptops to schools and would like the laptops to have Windows 7, Vista or Windows XP. Drop off 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) with Jim's name on it. No desktops or printers please (they can be donated to Goodwill.)

You can contact Jim Geffre at 623-544-3394 or geffre1949@yahoo.com

Wanted: Old Cell Phones

Drop off your old cell phones in the open use room. A colorfully-decorated collection box is available for their deposit on the counter across from the monitor. Your donation helps our veterans.

The old phones are recycled for phone cards that are sent to our soldiers.