

Grand Bytes

Grand Computers Club; Sun City Grand; 19753 N. Remington Dr., Surprise, AZ 85374
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One of our Club's VIPs: Rita Skarbek



Rita Skarbek has been a member of the Computers Club since 2005 and currently teaches computer classes, social media, digital editing and graphics programs. She is also the moderator and founder of the Graphics Special Interest Group which meets monthly from October through April. She is also quite involved with the Social Media Special interest Group and the Devices SIG. Rita frequently is the guest speaker for Coffee Chats, and other SIGs as well. She is the author of several internet blogs on technology,

graphics, and photography.

Besides owning the infamous feline, Cappie, she authors the "Ask Cappie The Computer Cat" monthly column for the Grand Lifestyles Magazine (a kind of Dear Abby column of Technology Issues which also features photos of pets who live in the community), chairs the Club's Publicity Committee and has designed several covers and ads for the magazine.

In the last several years she has also produced, written, and starred in two Sun City Grand (Channel 22) TV Series, *Rita Mary Commentary* with co-host Gretel Coursol and *The Three* (with Jeff Taylor). Both shows focused on introducing the community to new technology advances, learning about community organizations, clubs, and innovative lifestyle happenings in and around Surprise. Both shows can still be accessed and streamed from the www.GrandInfo.com website.

She has a Bachelors' and Masters' Degree from Loyola University in Chicago and has taken numerous courses in website development, photography, graphic arts, digital technology, computer software, and data management. Although she lived in Chicago for the majority of her life, her jobs allowed her to travel extensively throughout the Midwest and she vacationed worldwide.

In her early years she taught in high and elementary schools and later held positions in the Municipal Court Services, Medical Compliance Auditing, and Tech Services for the State of Illinois. For the last 25 years she worked as a Systems Monitor and Management Operations Analyst for the state of Illinois where she oversaw the installation of LAN systems and monitored the Computer Security Systems for Department of Human Services Offices throughout the State. She also developed employee educational programs and lectured throughout the state on technology issues and employee security awareness.

Photography and graphic design are her passions. She is an avid photographer and taught darkroom techniques at the Jane Adams Center in Chicago, exhibited at various galleries and art shows in the Chicagoland area and continues to teach digital editing and graphics programs in retirement.

Rita loves biking, foreign films, social media and especially basketball. Regardless of the level, (WNBA, NBA, Euro-league, or college basketball), if there's a game she'll be there or stream it into her living room. She continues to volunteer for the Surprise Police Department's Citizen's Patrol in their Administration Section-- working with the Vacation Watch and We Care Programs, and employs her photography and editing skills there. Her mantra is to never stop learning or exploring the wonders of life, and always try be kind to yourself and to every creature on this earth.



"Hey, remember how you debugged that code?
I think I just rebugged it."

Education's Corner



From January 11 - May 3, there were 679 invoices for classes, totaling \$10,960. There were 346 invoices paid through the club's green envelopes (51%); 333 paid through PayPal (49%).

There were 2197 enrolled in classes, but 1848 attended, resulting in 84.1% attendance.

Joyce Klonecz
Education
Director

Total Winter Classes:	Classes	Sessions
PC Classes	43	80
Mac Classes	19	33
'Other' Classes	46	81
All Classes Totals	108	193



Attendance Winter 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	173	153	88.4
02/28/16	16	218	172	78.9
03/06/16	17	166	138	83.1
03/13/16	15	188	163	86.7
03/20/16	16	179	146	81.6
03/27/16	13	176	147	83.5
04/03/16	1	12	10	83.3
04/10/16	2	26	21	80.8
Totals	191	2197	1848	84.1
Averages	13.64	156.93	132.00	83.79

(Note: a Windows 10 Basic class will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, accounting for two more sessions to add to graph above.)

Wait List Update: Since classes have almost ended, the wait list is no longer active, and does not carry over into the fall. If, in the fall, students are unable to get into a class, they will have to put their names on the wait list again.

Tech Help

Remember that Tech Help will continue 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.

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.

Membership's Corner



Martha McGill
Membership Director

We continue to attract new members to the Computer Club. With the reduced fee of \$10 ~ which buys a membership until September 30, 2016 ~ we attracted 34 new members in April.

As of April 29, we boast 1,551 active members. Tech Help sessions every Tuesday from 12:30pm to 3:30pm continue to be well attended; the \$10 membership is well worth the price of admission to avail yourself of the expert help offered by our tech volunteers. And, 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 12:30pm to 3:30pm . Reminder: you have the opportunity to re-view 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.

From May through September the Open Use Room is available to all members Monday through Friday, 12:30pm to 3:30pm . Helpful monitors are present to help you with any questions you might have. Both MAC and PC computers are available for your use, and there is now a printer you can use to make copies of documents. Formerly the ability to print from a computer was the only option available. On Tuesday Tech Help days, you might want to avoid the Open Use Room if you are not seeking tech help as it is crowded and noisy. If you have just a simple task (e.g., printing a boarding pass) you may certainly use the computers to do so.

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 .(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!



General Membership Meeting

Our featured guest for the last monthly membership meeting of the season is Arnie Gelb who will be presenting "Windows 10 A Year In Review." Arnie did our first Windows 10 presentation last Fall and with its first anniversary on the horizon, this is an ideal time to assess how we are adapting. The General Meeting begins Wednesday, May 4, at 2pm in the Apache Room of the Chaparral Center, down the hall from the Club. Please plan to attend. And stay until the end because a prize drawing will conclude the meeting.

Seeking Candidates for 2017

Are you interested in serving on the Computers Club Executive Board for 2017? Presently the nominating committee is looking for members who want to be involved in the management and decision making of our club. If you are interested in applying or seek more information, please contact Jane Connors (jane@pnaau.org).

Monitor's Corner



Joey
delaConcepcion



First off a special thank you to **Ted Grey** and **Janet Van Why**. On April 15, the PM Monitor failed to show-up. AM Monitor Janet did her utmost, making phone calls, staying over an hour to keep the club open. Her resourcefulness led her to Ted our Tech Director, who was doing work in the classroom. Ted agreed to 'keep an eye' on the monitors' desk until the club's closing time at 3:30pm.

We have completed the purge of inactive monitors. In April, nine monitors have stayed in-active from the monitor's desk and did not take the refresher training. They now have been purged. 11 more monitors (absent from the monitors' desk for over a year.) have been added to the refresher training list.

The most current list of our attendance takers:

General Meeting Regulars: Virginia Miller, Lee Roach and Sandee Acocella. GM Back-ups: Camille Andreas, Cindy Steffen, Gretel and yours truly.

Coffee Chat Regulars: Vicki Lauhoff and Connie Bollard. CC Back-ups: Cindy Steffen, Karen Kull and your always-on-call Monitor Director.

The update of the Monitor Handbook is almost complete as we are still fine-tuning some loose ends. A 'digital' binder is also available in the monitor's folder located at the Top right-hand corner of the monitor's computer.

Tips and Reminders are being sent out twice a week to keep monitors abreast of what's going on at the desk. This will be compiled in one document, working title: "Monitors Q and A."

Summary for April (as of April 26):

1. Number of sessions: 42 Sessions.
2. Monitor of the Month: Urmiah Lynch with 5 sessions served.
3. April participation: 28
4. Monitors' Total (yearly) participation: 63 out of 83.
5. 20 In-active Monitors: 9 Support members; 11 Have not monitored in the last year.

As the Open Use Room schedule changes to only one afternoon session for the Summer months, we can always use more help. If you are interested in monitoring, please contact me (623-255-7620 or Monitors@grandcomputers.org).

5 Ways To Stay Connected To Your Family and Friends.

1. Text your grandchildren from your smartphone to say hello
2. Take pictures of your beautiful spring yard and send them to your daughter
3. Challenge your sister to a game of *Words With Friends*
4. Join Facebook and find your friends from childhood
5. Email your brother from your tablet and see how he is doing

Courtesy: Bluehair Technology Group, Atlanta GA



President's Corner



Ira Simmons
President

As we head toward Summer, this is a good time to reflect on what the Computers Club has accomplished this past Fall and Winter.

As you have read in the other columns in the May Grand Bytes, we have held over 190 class sessions with nearly 2200 students registered, again have attracted over 1550 members and continue to help multiple people every Tuesday during Tech Help. Our Coffee Chats and General Meetings always produce strong turnouts as we continue to offer interesting discussions. In addition, we implemented a monthly Member Orientation session where we review how to partake of our many programs and how to get around the website. The release of Windows 10 and Mac El Capitan led to a revised curriculum in our Education Program and updates to all of our computers. Among other improvements, we expanded our Flight Simulator, added a new Slide Scanner and installed a new computer at the Vinyl, VHS, Cassette, and CD conversion table.

The volunteers who basically make this Club go are transitioning into Summer Mode which means afternoon hours only for our Open Use Room, fewer Special Interest Group sessions and for this year, no Summer Classes. But as your Club President, I will be busy looking out for your interests. The renovation of the Chaparral Center will likely begin in a few weeks and our expansion proposal is now in the hands of the CAM Board of Directors. I will keep you informed of the progress of both programs. Finally we have either approved or are currently considering the purchase of new equipment that will make our classroom even a better place to teach and learn.

So on behalf of all the Board Members and Club VIPs, a large thank you to all our members for your continued support.



Vice President Pan Kostel and President Ira Simmons at the Computers Club table during the Newcomers Coffee for new Sun City Grand residents, April 4, 2016



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.

They are recycled for phone cards that are sent to our soldiers.

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

Featured Article

6 Travel Tips with Smartphones

by Abbey Stokes

Are you planning a trip out of the country? Let's talk about precautions you should take so you don't come home to a smartphone bill that'll ruin your vacation after-glow.

1. Call Your Cell Phone Service Provider (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, etc.) – Before traveling overseas call your cell phone service provider and ask what packages they offer to use your cell phone international—several different choices of global your phone (calling the U.S., calling email...) and ask how each of those is



vider (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, etc.) – Before service provider and ask what packages they offer to use your cell phone international—several different choices of global your phone (calling the U.S., calling email...) and ask how each of those is

2. Turn Off Data Roaming – Assuming plan, the moment you board the plane, Settings on your smartphone and turn off Data Roaming and the Cellular Data Plan. That's the best way to prevent your phone from randomly using data to search for emails and texts throughout the day. Better that you control specifically when the Cellular Data is used. You can turn the Cellular Data on and off as you need it so as not to exceed the plan you've chosen.

vider (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, etc.) – Before service provider and ask what packages they offer to use your cell phone international—several different choices of global your phone (calling the U.S., calling email...) and ask how each of those is

you didn't pay for an unlimited Cellular Data for your international destination, go into the Settings on your smartphone and turn off Data Roaming and the Cellular Data Plan.

3. WiFi Is Your New BFF – If the hotel or home you're visiting has wifi, you're all set. When on wifi you can check email, visit websites, send photos, text, and use the GPS feature on your phone. You want to be careful when you're outside of that wifi area. That's when things can get pricey. Wifi is a free zone where you can use almost all of the features of your phone without incurring additional charges. The one exception is voice calling. You may still be charged international fees for phone calls (in and out). You might have the option of turning on wifi calling or better yet use a service like Skype.

4. Skype Your Phone Calls – Skype is a free website/app that allows you to use your smartphone, tablet, or computer to call, text, or video chat internationally for free or at greatly reduced prices. When you're in a wifi area and communicating with another Skype user, your calls, video chats, or texts are free. FREE! Using a credit card you can open a Skype account and pay a very small (and I mean VERY SMALL) amount to call people who aren't registered with Skype. I have yet to see a phone company offer more competitive pricing than Skype for international phone calls.

5. When In Doubt, Use Airplane Mode – If you arrive at your destination and can't remember what your smartphone plan allows for, simply go to your Settings and turn on Airplane Mode. Airplane Mode will stop all transmission to or from the phone. So no emails, texts, phone calls, or visiting websites. No signal = no ugly phone bills. You can still take and view photos, read your notes, or listen to any music saved on your phone. Once back in the safety of a wifi area you can turn off Airplane Mode and turn on wifi.



6. Document With Your Camera – love about your visit. Why not also take a photo of your passport and the back and front of your credit cards so you'll have that information on your phone at all times? I even take a photo of my rental car, when traveling—parking lot full of cars.

Of course you're going to take photos of everything you see. Why not also take a photo of your passport and the back and front of your credit cards so you'll have that information on your phone at all times? I even take a photo of my rental car, when traveling—parking lot full of cars.

Remember that to put away your smartphone for a day is a great vacation choice. Smell the roses, enjoy the sea breeze, linger in a museum while your smartphone becomes your personal assistant taking all of your messages

Bon Voyage!

Upcoming Special Interest Group Meetings

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

Note: The May 3 meeting has been canceled.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 16.

Topic: Read and discuss your written stories.

Financial Education SIG



The Financial Education SIG's focus is education and sharing of knowledge in the area of financial investments. **Contact:** Richard Gabel - financial@grandcomputers.org

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

Technical Analysis Subgroup: 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center. Next meeting: May 5.

New Technology 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, May 18

Topic: Augmented and Virtual Reality



What did the spider do on the computer?

Made a website!

What did the computer do at lunchtime?

Had a byte!

What does a baby computer call his father?

Data!

Why was the computer cold?

It left its Windows open!

What do you get when you cross a computer and a life guard?

A screensaver!