

Grand Bytes

Grand Computers Club; Sun City Grand; 19753 N. Remington Dr., Surprise, AZ 85374
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Table of Contents:

	<u>Page</u>
One of our VIP's	1
Coffee Chat	1
Volunteers	1
Tech Help	2
General Meeting	2
Special Interest Groups	3,4,8,9
Member Orientation	4
Featured Article	6,7
Wanted	9
<i>Regular Columns</i>	
Education	2
Membership	3
Monitors	4
President	5

One of Our Club's VIPs: Dan Wallen



Dan Wallen was born and raised in New Brunswick New Jersey (Exit 9 on the turnpike) On his sixteenth birthday, he applied for a part time job at the Post Office which was paying \$3.05 per hour.

During the next several years Dan sorted, collected, canceled and delivered mail and in 1978 started working full time in the maintenance department maintaining sorting and canceling equipment.

Let's move to 1986 when Dan joined the newly created IT department installing and maintaining Wang and VAX mini computers and a Novell local area network using PCs. In the early 1990s, he was installing PCs from Maine to St. Croix as the Postal Service transitioned from physical to electronic time cards.

In 1992 came the big move; the Postal Service relocated Dan to the data center in Minnesota, home of the world's largest non-military payroll. He managed a group of 10 employees who maintained the networks and servers of the data center. When Dan retired in 2009 (after 37 years,) his team had grown to 50 employees and were maintaining 4,000 Windows based servers, 1,000 PCs, web based middleware and the certificate of authority for the Postal Service nationwide.

Dan proposed to his wife while piloting a Cessna 172, 1500 feet over the sight of their first date, the beach at Seaside Heights, New Jersey. Dan said to his future bride "Marry me or get out!" They have 3 children, 2 boys in the Twin Cities and their daughter and her husband live in Ohio with his 20-month old granddaughter Lillian.

Dan has traveled to all 50 states and now he and Ms. Wallen are traveling the world with recent trips to France, Italy, Germany and the Czech Republic. The next trip is to Australia and New Zealand.

In addition to the Computers Club, Dan is a member of the Bocce Club and the Grand Woodcrafters. With all the activities in Sun City Grand, Dan's favorite pastime is showing up on Tuesday afternoon at the Computers Club for Tech Help!



Coffee Chat - Thursday November 10: Latest Smartphones and Tablets

The Fall shopping season always includes the release of new computer devices. In our monthly coffee chat we will survey what's new and what might fit your needs. Free donuts and coffee!

The Coffee Chat begins at 8:30am in the Chaparral Center, Apache Room. *For more information please contact Pam Kostel, vicepresident@grandcomputers.org.*

Urgent: Volunteers Needed.



Our nominating committee is still searching for members willing to serve the Club on the Board of Directors for 2017. Specifically we are looking for candidates for the Secreterial and Education Director positions. It may sound overwhelming but the incumbent Board Members will work with you as long as necessary as you transision into the position. If interested in being a Computers Club insider, please email: president@grandcomputers.org or call (623) 556-9412.

Education's Corner



Registration for GCC fall classes continues right up to the day of the course. If any need help with class registration, please come to Tech Help, on Tuesdays from 12:30pm -3:30pm.

Remember that you must renew your membership in order to register for classes. You can do this online by logging in or at the club. Memberships expired September 30.

This fall we are offering 62 different classes, with 76 sections: 18 Mac classes, 23 PC classes, and 35 'Other' classes. 'Other' classes include those that run on both PC and Mac, smartphone and smart tablets, such as Apple and Android, social media, and photo editing classes. Some of these classes are one session, or two sessions, three sessions, or even four sessions. And some of our classes are offered several times, such as Windows 10 classes.

Joyce Klonecz
Education
Director

Go to www.grandcomputers.org > Education > Course Offerings or Class Schedule to learn more about our fall classes. Be sure to read the descriptions of our classes under Course Offerings so you will know just what is in the class.

If you have any ideas of classes that we might consider offering starting in January, please contact me at education@grandcomputers.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are always looking for new instructors and assistant instructors., especially for Windows 10 classes. If you are interested in teaching, but you are unsure of your abilities, consider assisting in the class. You might be surprised by your abilities. If you are interested in either teaching or assisting contact the [Education Director](#).

For more information, contact me at education@grandcomputers.org

Joyce Klonecz
Grand Computers Club
Education Director
623-215-2397
education@grandcomputers.org

Tech Help

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: While our Tech Helpers are highly competent, they are not miracle workers and cannot get blood out of stones! If you have a Windows computer that does not have at least Windows 7 installed or an iPhone or iPad older than four years, we would prefer that you skip Tech Help and instead consider buying a new product.

General Meeting - Wednesday November 2 - Windows 10

The main topic for the next General Meeting is "Windows 10 - A Work In Progress" It is more than one year after its release but Windows 10 is still causing a stir. Arnie Gelb will answer your questions and also explore the recent Anniversary Update. A membership update that may include a vote on club matters will open the meeting.

The festivities begin at 2:00 pm in the Chaparral Center, Apache Room, down the hall from the club. For more information please contact Ira Simmons, president@grandcomputers.org.

Membership's Corner



Martha
McGill
Membership
Director

WOW! The SCG Computer Club is bustling with activity as our calendar year for 2016-2017 (October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017) commences! Fall classes have begun and are being well attended and Tuesday Tech Help continues to be a popular attraction as our members avail themselves of the opportunity to solve technical issues with their various devices. Others are attending the various Special Interest Groups (SIG). All of this and more for only \$20 a year! That said, if you have not renewed your membership do so now to remain involved in the myriad of activities offered. It's easy to renew from the comfort of your home by going online (www.grandcomputers.org) which will open the Home Page for the Club. On this Home Page you will need to log in by selecting "Log In" at the top right hand corner of the page. This will take you to the "Members Only" page. You will see the option "Click here to renew using Pay Pal". You may select this option to pay online. If you do not choose to renew online you may visit the Grand Computers Club - Monday through Friday, any time between 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM – and the monitor on duty will renew your membership.



One of the tasks required of my position as Membership Director is to reconcile the information you enter on the white Membership Envelope with that shown on our database. Often I find that email addresses, telephone numbers, etc., differ from that on the database and I do correct and update the information. It is important that this information is maintained on a current basis. You have the opportunity to review information pertinent to your membership with 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. It is on this page that you may also change your password. Since passwords continue to be a vexing problem for our members (too many passwords for too many sites!), we encourage you to choose no password.

My role is to assist you with any of the aspects of your membership which might pose a problem. I am always available to help. If I don't have an answer, I will find someone who does! Please feel free to contact me for any reason at www.membership@grandcomputers.org or [623-398-8639](tel:623-398-8639) and I will respond as quickly as possible.

Thanks to all of you ~ our members ~ for your participation in the SCG Computer Club! It is you who make our Club so very successful!

Special Interest Groups



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 Kloncz - apple@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Monday, November 21

Topic: Gift Ideas for Apple Users

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)

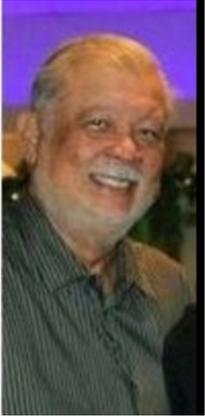
Place: Mesquite Room, Sonoran Plaza; Phoenix Room.

Contact: Gloria Young - CY@grandcomputers.org

Next Meetings: Tuesday, November 1; Monday, November 21



Monitor's Corner



Joey
delaConcepcion
Monitor
Director

1. Number of sessions, 42.
2. Monitor participation for October: 23
3. October Monitor of the Month is a tie: Urmiah Lynch and Kate O'Brien with 5 sessions each.
4. Monitors' Total (yearly) participation: 67 out of a total of 83.
5. 16 In-active Monitors: 10 Support members; 6 Have not monitored in the last year.

Monitor Meetings: Two meetings were held last Sep. 26 and 30. We discussed mostly on the monitor guidelines. A 3rd meeting is scheduled for Nov. 21 at 3:30 in the classroom... for the benefit of returning 'snowbirds'.

Monitor Handout and Checklist: Other than the Monitor Handout (7 pages), a Monitor Checklist (4 pages) is accessible/downloadable from the website.

One-on-One Training is available, upon request. The training is for new monitors or as a refresher course if you have been away from the monitor's desk in quite a while. Send an e-mail to monitors@grandcomputers.org or call: 623-255-7620.

Thank you all for your services.

Next Member Orientation - November 9

Our first orientation meeting of the season was a huge success with about 50 new, existing and prospective members on hand. Attendees are given a general overview of the Club including how to navigate the Club website.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 9, 4:00pm - 5:00pm in the Maricopa/Havasupai Room next door to the Club. For additional information contact Pam Kostel, Vicepresident@grandcomputers.org. Hope to see you there.

Special Interest Groups

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, November 15

Topic: Protecting Your Device.

Digital Scrapbooking SIG

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

Meetings: Every Monday (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: Monday, November 7.

Topic: Digital Scrapbooking for Beginners.



President's Corner Every year the Chartered Clubs go through a drill to determine their room assignments for the coming year. The drill consists of a lottery drawing as the names of the clubs are drawn from a hat in random order. We submitted our room reservation request in March but did not get results until October. In past years, no matter what order the lottery, nearly all the Chartered Club room requests were granted. Unfortunately for the Computers Club, with a relatively new CAM employee handling room reservations, not this year.



Ira Simmons
President

I'll save you all the gory "inside baseball" details of our meeting with CAM but note the following changes for 2017, all not initiated by our Club:

In 2016 we scheduled the annual dinner honoring our volunteers on April 1. While the dinner was a success with a nice turnout, some of our volunteers who are winter residents could not attend. So in our room reservations submittal to CAM for 2017, we moved the volunteer dinner to March 17. Based on past experience with planning such events, arrangements for caterers and music groups must be made months in advance. And we were in the process of executing contracts for the 2017 Volunteer dinner when we learned that CAM moved our Volunteer Dinner back two weeks to March 31!

For many years the Financial Education Income Investing sub-group met all year-round the first and third Mondays in the Cimarron Club room at the Cimarron Center from 8am to 10am. They may be the only group in Grand that meets at Cimarron so early! But what we received back from CAM was truly mind boggling: the group's first meeting of a given month stays at Cimarron but the third week session was farmed out to various locations: Apache Room at Chaparral Center, Mesquite Room at Sonoran and Agua Fria back at Cimarron!

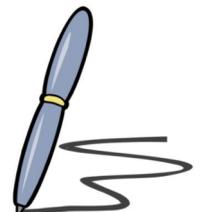
Beginning in January, all the Special Interest Groups that meet in the Maricopa/Havasupai Room next door to the Club will begin at 4:00 PM. Thus the Devices and Graphics SIGs will occupy a later time slot while the New Technologies SIG will remain at 4:00 pm. Unfortunately for events in the Maricopa/Havasupai Room we are at the mercy of Grand Learning and unlike the Computers Club; their classes begin at many different times and often last longer than two hours.

Another proposed devastating room assignment that fortunately we refuted and subsequently had changed involved moving the Apple Special Interest Group, our largest SIG, which has been at the same time and place since 2006 (third Monday, 4:30pm – 6:00pm, Apache Room) to a ridiculous 5:30pm – 7:00pm, right in the heart of the dinner hour!

I have filed a Project Proposal request with the CAM Lifestyle Advisory Committee to be placed on their agenda to discuss and hopefully change the procedure for determining room reservations. I may be biased here but all clubs are not created equal! The Computers Club probably submits more individual room requests than any other chartered club with is reflective of our large membership and multiple activities. It should be the absolute last resort of the scheduler to disrupt the schedules of regularly scheduled meetings because on one given day a Chartered Club was unlucky in a lottery!

Additional message from the the President: Always Sign Your Name

As President of the Computers Club I frequently receive emails from members and I always try to answer promptly. However I sometimes receive emails with no name of the sender, only their email address. Frequently any emails received without identification may contain links to websites which may lead to spam and even worse: malware, ransomware or viruses! So it is my policy to delete such emails without a response. It should be your policy too.



So when writing to me at president@grandcomputers.org or any other member of the Club, always leave your real name.

Featured Story

Which AA batteries perform the best?

By Mark Jones, Komando.com

The invention of the battery changed the way we use technology. It allowed us to get rid of the power cord and take our gadgets wherever we want. Think about how less useful your smartphone or tablet would be if you had to plug it in whenever you wanted to use it.

With the gift giving season right around the corner, we thought we'd take a look at some batteries you might need and tell you which ones are the best performing. There are all kinds of brands from Duracell to Kirkland and even Amazon is selling their own branded batteries.

AA BATTERIES



First, let's look at the most common disposable AA battery types.

Alkaline

Alkaline batteries became a popular replacement for zinc-carbon batteries in the 1970s. The alkaline battery was built to last two to 11 times longer than older batteries.

- **Positives** - One great feature of alkaline batteries is they have a really long shelf life. They can sit around between five and 10 years and still have plenty of energy. They are also relatively inexpensive.
- **Negatives** - Some downsides to alkaline batteries are they are prone to leaking and they're not great for high-drain devices. If the battery leaks while in use, it could damage your gadget.

Standard alkaline batteries do not work well in high-drain devices like digital cameras. The reason is they are not capable of pumping juice out fast enough.

There are special high-drain versions of alkaline batteries but your best bet, and most cost-effective choice, is to use a rechargeable battery for high-draining devices.

Lithium

Next, we'll take a look at lithium batteries.

- **Positives** - Lithium batteries are great for high-drain devices. They are also really lightweight, weighing about one-third of alkaline batteries. Lithium batteries work really well in smoke detectors because they will last up to seven years in use. They have a shelf life of between 10 and 15 years.
- **Negatives** - Lithium batteries are more expensive than alkaline batteries. Also, it's very rare but lithium batteries have a small possibility of exploding.

Lithium batteries are very lightweight. They are also great for cold weather conditions and are rated for lower temperatures than any other type of battery.

Plus, when stored at cool temperatures, lithium batteries can retain about 90 percent of their charge for nearly 15 years.

Zinc-carbon

Finally, we will look at zinc-carbon batteries.

- **Positives** - Zinc-carbon batteries have a long shelf life. They are also very inexpensive and are good for low-drain devices like remote controls and clocks.
- **Negatives** - Zinc-carbon batteries have the lowest capacity of any of the disposables.

Continued on Page 7

Featured Story

Which AA batteries perform the best

continued from Page 6

Zinc-carbon batteries date back to the 1800s and it's the original chemistry for household batteries. Alkaline batteries have pretty much replaced zinc-carbon batteries in use these days because they last up to 11 times longer.

Consumer Reports (CR) recently did a study on AA batteries. They tested a total of 15 different lithium and alkaline batteries, including several brands. Here is what they found:

Lithium batteries

- Energizer Ultimate Lithium AA - CR only tested two lithium style batteries and this one came out on top. It received an overall score of 89.
- Energizer Advanced Lithium AA - This one came in second with an overall score of 82.

Alkaline batteries

- Duracell Quantum AA Alkaline - CR tested a total of 13 alkaline batteries and this one is the best. It received an overall score of 89.
- Rayovac Fusion Advanced AA Alkaline - Overall score of 85.
- CVS Max AA Alkaline - Overall score of 82.
- Duracell Coppertop Duralock AA Alkaline - Overall score of 80.
- Kirkland Signature (Costco) AA Alkaline - Overall score of 80.
- Rite Aid Home AA Alkaline - Overall score of 79.
- AmazonBasics Performance AA Alkaline - Overall score of 71.
- Walgreens W Alkaline Supercell AA - Overall score of 71.
- Energizer ecoAdvanced AA Alkaline - Overall score of 68.
- Energizer MAX +PowerSeal AA Alkaline - Overall score of 67.
- CVS AA Alkaline - Overall score of 62.
- Dynex (Best Buy) High Capacity AA Alkaline - Overall score of 60.
- EcoAlkalines AA Alkaline - Overall score of 59.

As you can see by their scores, the higher rated alkaline batteries perform as well as lithium batteries.

The alkaline batteries are nearly half the price of lithium, so if you're using them for low-drain devices they're your best bet. Some examples of low-drain devices are remote controls, toys, LED flashlights, clocks and radios.

Are you still throwing away batteries?

Stop that! You can recharge batteries. Use a battery recharging station that recharges all your batteries and may also have USB charging ports, too.

Bonus tip: How to make your batteries last longer, safely

Once you have decided which battery to stock up on, you'll want to make them last as long as possible. Here are a few rules to follow that will make your batteries last longer in the safest way:

- Keeping unused batteries stored in a cool, dry place will help them last longer.
- If you know you're not going to use a gadget for a few months, take the batteries out and store them in a cool, dry place.
- Before putting new batteries in your gadget, clean the contact surfaces and battery compartments with a cloth.
- Don't mix and match batteries in the same device. If the device calls for multiple batteries use the same brand, type and age. This is a safety precaution.
- Once a battery dies, dispose of it immediately and keep it out of the reach of young children. You can even recycle batteries if you so choose.
- If a battery feels like it's overheating, stop using it. If it gets too hot it could damage your device.

Special Interest Groups

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, December 9

Topic: 2016 Income Tax Updates.

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, November 18

Topic: Continuation of Flight Simulator Intro



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, November 3.

Topic: DNA - Geoff Rasmussen Live.



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, November 16.

Topic: Virtual Reality Now.



Special Interest Groups

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, November 10

Topic: Other viable photo organizing and editing choices.

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, November 14

Topic: What is social media? And why don't you have a Facebook page?

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 armed forces.

