

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

A Message from the President

Where We Are and Where We are Going!

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While I am now receiving plenty of questions about what will happen to the Computers Club when the Chaparral Center is closed for renovation, I am also still getting inquiries about the proposal to move the Club to a building outside of Sun City Grand. Let's address both.

First, **we are not moving to the old Del Webb Building on Mountain View Drive!** Along with the Stitchers and Billiards Clubs, the other Clubs impacted, our members spoke forcibly against the move at the March 30 Chat With the Board and Board Workshop. As a result, on the following day CAM announced that the moving plan was dead.

Now we come to the question of "What will happen to the Computers Club during the Chaparral Center renovation?" As of this writing here is what we know:

1. The Chaparral renovation will likely begin during the first week of June with completion by the end of September. The Chaparral Center will be completely closed during this time. Of course, we all know that schedules are often changed during construction and we remember that the renovations of Sonoran Plaza and the Adobe Center were extended beyond their initial dates; the Adobe indoor pool upgrade was not completed until nearly Christmas!
2. After a few false starts, CAM declined to offer us temporary space elsewhere in Sun City Grand. Initially there was a plan to have our Club share space with, take your pick, the Art, Language or Poker Clubs, all with their own buildings surrounding Sonoran Plaza. Instead it was decided to use any excess space in these Clubs for the storage of items being moved from Chaparral during the renovation.
3. Our Club would like to move the Flight Simulator to a location at The Colonnade and after finding a safe and secure space and we have received written approval from The Colonnade General Manager.
4. Presently we are attempting to reschedule our relatively few impacted events to other rooms. And we are also contemplating offering a limited version of Tech Help and an Open Use Room. The Computers Club Board will be sending a letter to both CAM and the Executive Board justifying the need to provide us temporary space during the Chaparral renovation.

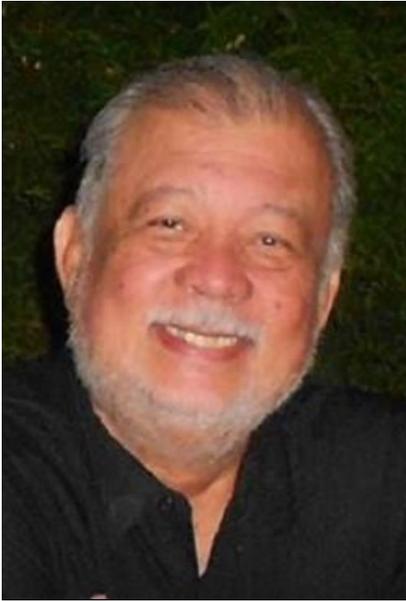
Obviously, we will keep you posted on our scheduling during the renovation. We will also announce any upcoming changes to our Open Use Room schedule as packing activities commence and Chaparral is closed (Beginning today, the Open Use Room will only be open from 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm). Finally, at the appropriate time, we will let you know of the reopening of the Club and its impact on our normal Fall schedule.

So don't forget to regularly check your email for updates and have a great summer!

Sincerely,
Ira Simmons
President
SCG Computers Club



One of Our Club's VIPs: Joey DelaConcepcion



Did you know that Monitor Director Joey delaConcepcion was also once the Membership Director of the Computers Club? You also may have asked why Joey speaks with an accent? Answer: he is a native of the Philippines!

Joey graduated in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. After taking flying courses at the Philippine Airlines Aviation School, he graduated as a commercial pilot in 1967 and right after graduation flew for Philippine Airlines. This was when he met his wife of 47 years... Joyce.

Joey arrived in the United States in 1981 with Joyce and four children... Jennifer, Jonathan, Judy and Honey. All their kids are professionals with families of their own, with nine grandchildren... scattered all over... in Germany, Kansas and California.

In 1985, Joey was employed by Procter and Gamble as a technician, where he operated a chemical reactor for their manufacturing plant in Sacramento, California. It was interesting to run a reactor through a Honeywell TDC 3000 computer. Joey took early retirement from P&G in 2005 and with Joyce selling her care-home business, the DelaConcepcions moved from California to Arizona and into Sun City Grand.

One more interesting fact about Joey: he used to belong to a 'rocking band' as a teen-ager and he believes he can still play guitar although "it 'kinda' went away when the karaoke was invented!" But he still can sing with a karaoke 'full orchestrational background'.

Otherwise Joey likes to tinker with small gadgets in his small workshop and likes photography and of course, computers. His first computer was an Apple 2E in 1985. Since then he has been into computing and in addition to teaching various Windows 10 classes for the Club, assists other instructors, is a Tech Helper and fills in as a monitor.

In conclusion, Joey does it all and is one of our most valuable members.

See Joey's monthly column on Page 5.

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



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

Apache Room, Chaparral Center & Cimarron Club, Cimarron Center.

Next Meeting: May 15.

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

Next Meeting: May 4.

Education's Corner

Education Report - April 2017



Joyce Klonecz
Education
Director

From January 8 to April 22, there were 499 invoices for classes, totaling \$8105.

There were 231 invoices paid through the club's green envelopes (46%); 268 paid through PayPal (54%). All invoices are now closed. All classes have been held and registration has been turned off. The wait list has been turned off as well.

Loren Lundquist offered an Excel and Word class for CAM employees in April. There were six employees enrolled; we then opened it to general membership to fill the two classes.

Due to the Chaparral closing for remodeling, it is possible that fall classes will be delayed.

We have a potential new Education Director for 2018, Marie Fresca. I have spent a couple of hours with her going through the Education Director tabs on the web site. She has decided she will work with me fall session, and then determine if she is able to take this position at that time. She was concerned with the amount of time required. If she is not able to accept the position, I have told the nominating committee I would do it for a 5th year.

Grand Computers Class Attendance from Jan 8, 2017 through Apr 22, 2017

Week Of	Sessions	Enrolled	Attended	Percent
01/15/17	12	138	121	87.7
01/22/17	17	155	133	85.8
01/29/17	8	86	77	89.5
02/05/17	13	124	106	85.5
02/12/17	16	160	132	82.5
02/19/17	14	162	130	80.2
02/26/17	13	153	127	83
03/05/17	17	179	142	79.3
03/12/17	14	145	118	81.4
03/19/17	3	26	19	73.1
03/26/17	9	114	92	80.7
04/02/17	9	96	81	84.4
04/09/17	6	45	38	84.4
Totals	160	1681	1382	82.2

2017 Mousepad

A reminder that our 2017 Mousepad is on sale at the Monitor Desk in the Open Use Room for \$3.00. Grab one before the Club closes for the Chaparral renovation.



Membership's Corner



Martha
McGill
Membership
Director

GRAND COMPUTERS BOARD MEETING MEMBERSHIP REPORT

MEMBER COUNT
(As of April 24, 2017))

Total Paid Members	1,448		
PC Users	72%	1,039	
Mac Users	28%	409	
PayPal Paid Users	33%	463	



Member Count Since 2006

2006-2007	1,469
2007-2008	1,248
2008-2009	1,197
2009-2010	1,086
2010-2011	1,216
2011-2012	1,082
2012-2013	1,296
2013-2014	1,394
2014-2015	1,561
2015-2016	1,673

As would be expected, new and renewal memberships have slowed to a snail's pace as classes are no longer available and snowbirds are departing. Tech Help Tuesdays are most certainly responsible for recent renewals and new members. We are not likely to reach last year's total of 1,673 when the Club is shut down for the summer months and possibly part of the fall.

Martha McGill
Membership Director/Grand Computers
Membership@grandcomputers.org

Special Interest Groups

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: To Be Determined

Contact: Joe Parla - newtech@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Wednesday June 21. (No meeting in May)

Topic: Windows 10 Creator's Update



April 2017 Monitor Report

Monitor's Corner



Joey
delaConcepcion
Monitor
Director

April Monitor Sessions. As of April 27.

1. Number of sessions for April: 40
2. April Monitor participation: 13
3. Monitors' Total (yearly) participation: 55 out of a total of 92.
4. 30 In-active Monitors: 11 Support members; 13 Have not monitored in the last year; 6 expired memberships.

April Monitor of the Month: Richard Vick.

Monitor of the Year Award, 2016: Congratulations to Sandee Acocella. 3rd Year in a row. We missed the 'Monitor of the Year Award' at the volunteer dinner. We will recognize Sandee at the May 3 General Meeting.

New Monitor Training and Refresher -for old monitors who have been away: One-on-one training is available upon request. Send e-mail to: monitor@grandcomputers.org or call 623-255-7620.

E-Mail Address change: The Monitor Director's e-address has been changed to: monitor@grandcomputers.org. Note: 'monitor' without the 's'.

Joey delaConcepción
GCC Monitor Director

Special Interest Groups

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

Place: Phoenix Room., Palm Center.

Contact: Gloria Young - CY@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 2



Still Wanted: Old Laptops

Even though the Club will be soon be closed for the Chaparral renovation, we are still collecting 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.



Also 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.

Vice President's Corner

Home Automation Part 3



Dan Wallen
Vice President

I recently bought an Amazon Echo Dot (www.amazon.com/.) You've seen the Amazon Echo on TV being advertised by Alec Baldwin. The Dot version is simply smaller, the size of a hockey puck.

After unpacking the Dot, you power it up and then using the Alexa app on your phone, you connect it to you Wifi system. The Dot does all of those silly things that Siri and Cortana does. "Alexa, What time is it," "Alexa what is the temperature in Denver" etc. I wanted the Dot because it would interface with my home automation effort.

In order to make the Dot do something meaningful, you need to enable a "skill." A complete list of "skills" can be viewed at www.amazon.com/skills.

Here are some examples of "skills" that I have enabled:

AT&T Texting:

"Alexa, tell AT&T to text Nadine."

Our Groceries:

"Alexa, tell Our Groceries to add ketchup to the shopping list."

Seinfeld Trivia:

"Alexa, open Seinfeld trivia."

For my home automation effort, I enabled the Nest skill. If I want to set the temperature on my Nest thermostat without moving from my easy chair, I say "Alexa, set the temperature to 70 degrees."

The Insteon skill lets me control my Insteon devices. To turn on the lights now I say "Alexa, turn on the lamp" or "Alexa, turn on the patio lights." My favorite thing is the hot water pump. In the morning as I head for the kitchen, I say "Alexa, turn on the water pump" and I get hot water to clean the coffee pot almost instantly. When I head off to the shower, I say "Alexa, turn on the water pump" and one minute later I can take a hot shower.

I'm hoping for a Chamberlain skill so I can say "Alexa, open the garage door" and I don't have to find that annoying button!

Dan Wallen
Vice President

May 3 General Meeting Home Automation

For our last General Meeting of the season Club Vice President Dan Wallen will provide the latest information about the rapidly growing world of Home Automation. We'll have a Club update and prizes too. For more information please contact Ira Simmons (623-556-9412, president@grandcomputers.org).



Open Use Room Summer Hours

A reminder that beginning today (May 1) and until the Chaparral Center renovation commences, our Open Use Room will be open from 12:30pm to 3:30 pm.

Feature Article

5 ways you're ruining your computer without realizing it

By Robert Isenberg, Komando.com



We often take our computers for granted. It's sad but true. We interact with our computers so much, we rely on them so heavily, that we forget what can happen when they stop working.

Worse, there are countless ways that we sabotage ourselves, overloading the computer with useless data, ignoring regular maintenance and forgetting to take routine security precautions. In short, many of us are destroying our own computers, one tiny mistake at a time.

Here are some typical ways we ruin our own systems and ways that we can break bad habits.

1. You're forgetting to back up your files

Let's admit, this used to be a real pain. You'd have to buy an external hard drive, plug it in, and then manually drag all of your files away from your desktop. But nowadays this process is easy; you can use Time Machine on your Mac, or Dropbox, or any number of cloud services. You can take every important piece of data and keep a carbon copy on the web. No matter what happens to your physical computer, your documents, photos and videos will all be saved.

2. You're relying on lousy passwords

Most people know that weak passwords are the kiss of death, but not everyone knows what a good password looks like. The best ones incorporate letters, numerals and special characters. They don't include personal information, like your birthdate or home address. Remember, you should use a different password for every service you use. If you can't keep track of them, try a "keychain" service, which will keep them all in one place. (Password-protected, of course.)

3. You haven't removed unnecessary files

Your hard drive is a lot like your home: If your living room is cluttered and chaotic, it's hard to get anything done. You may have downloaded a program that you used for several years, but you no longer use it. Why keep it on your hard drive? Maybe you have old videos that are clogging space when you could easily move this to a cloud service. The more junk you have lying around, the more you have to sift through it in order to find the things you need. Some of these programs may also be continuously running, which eats up your RAM. So take a few hours to do some spring cleaning. Your desktop will thank you.

4. You don't update your software

"Windows XP works just fine," you think to yourself. "Why would I bother to upgrade? It's all basically the same, right?" That may sound logical in your head, but it's very dangerous in a world overflowing with hackers. Companies routinely create new versions of their operating systems in order to patch vulnerabilities. You should do the same for all of your software and apps as well. The more outdated they become, the worse they'll run, and the more likely someone will be able to commandeer them.

(continued on Page 8).

Feature Article (continued)

5. You're relying on old antivirus software

You bought Norton AntiVirus software like five years ago and you haven't noticed anything amiss. So why would you need to update? Just like your operating system and apps, your antivirus software needs to be upgraded on a regular basis. Unless you have the latest version, your computer or mobile device is basically just asking to be hacked.

Bonus: You're beating up on your computer

Many computer owners focus their attention on the software, not the machine itself. But your computer is useless without its physical circuit boards, its cooling fans and its screen. When grime collects on the keyboard, or heavy books are stacked on your laptop, or you subject your desktop to extreme temperatures, these all have an effect on your device. So take care of your computer. The better you treat it, the better it'll treat you.

Photos from the 2017 Volunteer Dinner

