



GRAND BYTES

FEBRUARY 2018



President's Message

I have been in office a month and much has been happening. Without doubt, I can confirm that this is an active club with much going on! Our Winter classes are in full swing, Tech Help Tuesdays are well attended, and our ten Special Interest Groups have much going on also.

At the last General Meeting I mentioned I had been referred to as an "outsider" and it is true. My involvement with the club has been as a SIG leader; I have not been an instructor or a Tech Helper. I do not come with a technical background. As a result, I see things with different eyes.

My goals as President are: 1) to continue all the good work put in place by those before me; 2) to know the members and their technical needs, and 3) with input from members and volunteers, grow the club even stronger.

At our General Meeting, there was an agenda item called "Getting to Know You" in which I asked questions on how comfortable members were in purchasing a computer. They included: Did you need help in deciding which product to buy? Did you need help in setting up your new computer?

My next set of questions revolved around the possibility of adding a special place on our website that made specific information on brand, models, price categories, links to customer reviews

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I love my SSD

By Dan Wallen, Vice President

A few years ago, I received an Amazon gift certificate for my birthday. What would a guy like me need from Amazon I thought? I finally decided on a SanDisk SSD, or Solid State (disc) Drive for my laptop.

The disk drive most of us have is like a record player from our youth. It has a platter usually spinning at 5400 RPM and a read/write head on the end of an arm (like the tone arm on that record player.) The head floats just above the platter reading and writing data. The motor spinning the platter and the coil moving the read/write head back and forth are both subject to mechanical failure.

My SSD is just a big hunk of fast memory!

In my case, installation took less than 30 minutes. I carefully removed the back of my laptop, then removed the battery to expose the old disk drive. Two more screws and two connectors and the disk drive popped out of the laptop. Reverse the steps to install the new drive.

Most SSD drives come with a program to transfer your old operating system and files onto the new drive. I decided to do the geeky thing and start with a fresh copy of windows for my new hard drive. That meant re-installing all my programs manually then copying over my data files from a recent backup.

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Classes and More Classes

Winter classes are going well, and we appreciate your interest in our Grand Computers Club classes.

This winter, starting on January 8, 2018 we are offering 65 courses, 82 classes, 24 PC classes, 22 Mac classes, and 36 'Other' classes. Since classes have begun we have added 12 classes for a total of 94 classes. 'Other' classes include those that run on both PC and Mac, smartphones 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.

There are a number of Photoshop Elements 2018 classes being offered; Beginning Scrapbooking; Fix Old Photos; Fun with Your Photos. If you are thinking about purchasing the program, this is your opportunity to take a class and see what it is all about before purchasing the program.

We still have some difficulty with students signing up for classes and not attending. This is not fair to your fellow members as there often is a wait list. Please let your instructor know in advance if you cannot attend.

Go to www.grandcomputers.org > Education > Course Offerings or Class Schedule to learn more about our classes. Be sure to read the descriptions of our classes under Course Offerings so you will know just what is covered in the class, what the prerequisites are, and whether this class will be too easy or too difficult for you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are always looking for new instructors and assistant instructors. If you have a class that you want to teach and we are not offering it at this time, let me know. If you are interested in teaching, but you are unsure of your abilities, consider assisting in a class. You might be surprised by your abilities. If you are interested in either teaching or assisting contact the [Education Director](#).

Marie Frasca, Education Director
education@grandcomputers.org

Upcoming Meetings

*February 7 General Meeting
2 PM Cimarron Center
Agua Fria Room*

Topic: Staying Safe Online, Preventing Ransomware and Identity Theft by Bob Gostischa, plus a club update and Getting to Know the SIG Groups. Five door prizes given.

*February 8 Coffee Chat
8:30 AM Chaparral Center,
Hopi, Room*

Cleaning Your Windows – No Windex Needed; Dan Wallen will offer tips on getting the most from Windows 10. Coffee and donuts too!

*February 13 Computer Club Orientation
4 PM Sonoran Plaza Mesquite/Palms Rooms
Learn about our activities and programs offered.*

Vote Online for SCG Board of Directors

The Computers Club has teamed up with the Grand Election Team to provide voting assistance to ANY homeowner in our community who needs help with voting online.

Date for assistance in the Computers Club is:

Tuesday, February 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 am

Four computers will be available during this time and computer club assistants will offer individual help.

Your ballot contains your unique registration code. Please bring the code with you.

Special Thanks to Three Important People

The end of the year brought a change of roles and responsibilities to three very active individuals serving on the Board of the Grand Computers Club. All have contributed tremendous amounts of time making our club a success. All have been passionate and dedicated to the club. But the good news is they all will continue their Club support as SIG Facilitators, instructors or as Tech Helpers. We owe them many thanks for being there for us.



Ira Simmons was President of our Club for the last two years and Vice President the prior two years. He was also an instructor for five years, SIG Leader for five years and a Tech Helper for three years. Ira saw us through 2017, a difficult year due the renovation of the Chaparral resulting in our club being shut down for almost six months. Ira remains on the board as Past President and will continue to be the SIG Leader of Devices



John Nuerenberg has just finished his two-year term as Past President. He also was President for two years, Education Director for three years, an instructor for eight years and Social Networking SIG facilitator for five years. He guest lectured at several Coffee Chats, general meetings and at Arizona Traditions on the topic of Facebook and social media.



Joyce Klonecz has served the club in many positions over the years. In 2005 she became the MAC SIC Facilitator and immediately began teaching MAC classes. She has remained in this role for 12 years. She has been a Tech Helper for five years, Secretary for three years, Monitor Director for one year, and President for two years. At the end of December, she finished serving four years as Education Director. In 2013 and again in 2016 she won an international volunteer award from the Association of Personal Computer Users. She will remain as the Apple SIG leader and a Mac instructor.

Monitor's Report

January Monitor Sessions.

1. Sessions for January: 44
2. Monitor participation: 16
3. Monitors' Total (yearly) participation: 43 out of a total of 96. (19 have not yet renewed.)
4. 50 In-active Monitors: 14
Support members; 17 have not monitored in the last year; 19 expired memberships.

New Monitors: Donna Koca, Kandace Ellis, Marilyn Carlson.

January Monitor of the Month: It looks like it's going to be Richard Vick.

Monitor of the Year, 2017: Richard Vick.

Monitor Refresher: One-on-one training is available upon request. Send e-mail to: monitor@grandcomputers.org

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

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Our Volunteers are very important to the operation of our club. On Friday, Feb. 16 in the Agua Fria Room at the Cimarron our volunteers will be honored for their 2017 service with a complementary dinner and a chance to win one of the many door prizes. Ninety-four have already sent their RSVP with a few more expected. Many thanks to Joe Scanlon and his committee for coordinating the event.

We are looking for additional instructors, assistant instructors, Tech Helpers, monitors, and guest speakers. Let us know if you'd like to be a part of our volunteer team. We can get you started.

Credits are earned for time volunteered and with a minimum number of credits you become eligible for next year's dinner. Should you reach a higher number of credits you may bring a guest at no charge.

Being in the Right Place at the Right Time

By Gloria Young

On the day of the Grand Reopening of the Chaparral Center a gentleman was looking at our sign outside our door. He commented, "I see the Computer Club is closed during the summer." "Oh, no we are open," I responded. "But that's not what your sign says," he replied.

We both stood reading the sign. The man was right. The sign was silent about summer hours because we put out a different sign reflecting our May through September hours.

The sign has now been replaced to more clearly define when the club is open.

Tech Help on Tuesdays

Anyone needing help with computer, laptop, tablets and smart phone problems is invited to come to the club on Tuesdays for Tech Help. The hours are from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. There generally

is a line of people at the start but if you want to avoid the crowd consider arriving around 2 PM.

With limited space inside the club we are now placing chairs in the area just outside our door, along with the sign-in process. We want the event to be more efficient for the members, monitors and Tech Helpers. Your feedback is welcome.

Membership's Corner

Membership Report

THANK YOU to all our members! We are grateful to you on so many fronts, mainly for your patience and understanding while the Club was not operational for so many months. Many of you renewed your memberships for the 2017-2018 year, despite the fact that we were not able to offer Fall classes and there was no access to the Open Use Room. Many of you availed yourselves of Tech Help Tuesdays during the summer and early fall, where you patiently endured the crowded temporary space we occupied in the Palm Center and where you often had to wait because of our limited resources there!

From September 1, 2017 until January 28, 2018 we now boast 1,055 active members! Most gratifying is the fact that during that time period we acquired 162 new members, with 101 of those joining in January 2018. Welcome to our new members ~ we know you will thoroughly enjoy the many offerings and benefits of membership in the Sun City Grand Computers Club! And welcome back to those who have renewed their memberships and will also enjoy the amenities of our club through September 30, 2018 (dues are \$20 from October 1 September 30).

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The enthusiasm and energy of our members with the reopening of our facilities is contagious! We hope that if you have been a member but have not renewed that membership for 2017-2018 you will do so! It's easy to renew from the comfort of your home! From our Home Page

(www.grandcomputers.org) log in by selecting the "Log In" option at the top right of that page. You will be asked to enter your Member ID (7 digit CAM#) and your Password (feel free to contact me if you cannot remember your password). You will be directed to the "Members Only" page, and given the option to "Click here to renew using PayPal". If you have never established a PayPal account, you may choose to use a credit card and that option is also listed. (For more information, log into www.grandcomputers.org > Login > View Videos > How PayPal Works.)

We understand that there are those of you who do not wish to use PayPal and/or a credit card. If this is the case and you do wish to renew your membership, we will happily assist you. Just stop by the Club in the Chaparral Center from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday and the Monitor will happily help you with the process.

My role is to assist you with any of the aspects of your membership that 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 and I will respond as quickly as possible. I check my email frequently and receive messages left on my voice mail in an email format so am able to respond promptly even if I am out of town or away from my phone for a period of time.

We look forward to seeing you in our beautiful new digs!

Martha McGill, Membership Director, 623-398-8639

SCG Computer Club

www.membership@grandcomputers.org

Special Interest Groups

Special Interest Groups, referred to as SIGs, are member groups that share common computer or technical interests. The groups are member driven extra-curricular activities, normally with a different and interesting topic at every meeting.

SIGs are neither classes with a designated instructor nor are they specific courses of instruction. Rather, these groups are independent and meet under the direction of a "Contact Person" whose job is to schedule meetings and generally lead the topic of the week or month.

Remember that all SIG meetings are free and do not require a reservation. So pick the SIG that you find interesting and plan to attend their next meeting. Just show up with your CAM card.

Apple SIG

Feb 19, 4:30 – 6 PM in Hopi Room at Chaparral

Evernote: Get organized, Work Smarter, Remember Everything

**Contact: Joyce Klencz,
Apple@grandcomputers.org**

Compose Yourself Writing SIG

Feb 6, 1 – 3 PM in Sago Room at Palm Center,

Feb 19, 1 - 3 PM in Phoenix Rm at Palm Center

Read and Discuss Written Stories

Contact: Gloria Young, CY@grandcomputers.org

Devices SIG

Feb 20, 4 – 5:30 PM in the Maricopa/Havasupai Rooms, Chaparral

Cloud Storage & Security by Dan Wallen

Contact: Ira Simmons,
Devices@grandcomputers.org

Digital Scrapbook SIG

Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, from 6 – 8 PM in the Computer Classroom

Topics to be announced

Contact: Jane Connors,
Scrapbook@grandcomputers.org

Financial SIG

Feb 1, 8 AM, Computer Club Classroom Technical Analysis

Feb 5, 8 AM, Apache Room, Chaparral Center, Income Investing

Feb. 15, 8 AM, Computer Club Classroom, Technical Analysis

Feb. 19, 8 AM, Apache Room, Chaparral Center, Income Investing

Feb. 23, 1-3 PM, Mediterranean Room, Palm Center, 2018 Outlook – Wells Fargo Private Bank

Contact: Richard Gabel,
Financial@grandcomputers.org

See grandcomputers.org/SIGs

Flight Simulator SIG

Feb. 16, 2 – 3:30 PM, Pima Room, Chaparral Room

Hangar Flying

Contact: Bill Homewood,
Flight@grandcomputers.org

Genealogy SIG

March 1, 3:30 – 5 PM, Computer Classroom

Picture This: Images You Can Freely Use-J. Russell

Contact: Dr. Leon Chapman,
Genealogy@grandcomputers.org

Graphics SIG

Feb 8, 4 – 5:30 PM, Apache Room in Chaparral Center

Contact: Rita Skarbek,
Graphics@grandcomputers.org

HAM Radio SIG

Feb 12, 4–5:30 PM, Computers Club, Open Use Rm

Mission Statement - SIG Organization

Contact: April Kramer,
HamSig@grandcomputers.org

New Technologies SIG

Feb 15, 3:30 – 5 PM, Computer Classroom

Cloud Storage

Contact: Joe Parla,
NewTech@grandcomputers.org

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President's Message

available to our members. The information could also include components, i.e., CPU, memory size, storage, graphics card, etc.

My final question was "If the computer club puts this information on its website, would you find it useful when making purchasing decisions?" An overwhelming number of hands went up in support.

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors agreed at its last meeting to move forward with this enhancement to your membership.

Also, during the General Meeting, attendees were given the opportunity to give input using 3 x 5 cards on classes they would like the club to consider. The results will be shared at our February 7 General Meeting. There was one request made and has board approval that I will share now. We will be placing a suggestion box at the Club.

Know that I am serious when I say I want to know the members and their technical needs. I want to hear your ideas on ways to grow the club. One last comment. I have met many new members and volunteers. Everyone has been kind, gracious and encouraging. I have also come to realize that I may need to speak with you more than once in order to remember your face and name. Please do not give up on me.

Gloria Young

President of Grand Computers

president@grandcomputers.org

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I love My SSD

The result was better than I expected. From the time I press the power button until I get my password prompt is about 20 seconds. Entering my password until my icons appear on my desktop, almost instantaneous! Double clicking on Google Chrome brings my home page up in under 5 seconds. Coming out of hibernation, the speeds get even faster.

Initially these solid-state drives only came in small sizes, 125 to 250 gigabytes, but now you can buy them in sizes over a terabyte. Of course, solid state drives are not cheap, but prices keep falling. Amazon will sell you a 500 Gigabyte drive for \$150.

If your favorite geek needs more speed and you don't know what to buy him for his birthday, consider a Solid State Drive.

Dan Wallen

Vice President

vicepresident@grandcomputers.org

Arts & Crafts Faire

The Grand Computers Club will have a table outdoors on the Avenue of the Clubs. This concept was so popular at the Fall Fest in November that it is being added to the Spring event. Please stop by to see us. Bring your friends.