

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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President's Corner



Gloria Young

Progress continues to be made on our new program for Those Without Computer Skills. Special thanks to all who have been spreading the word to the community. People are talking about it! This includes members, non-members, CAM staff and our SCG Board of Directors.

My spirits are brightened with individuals volunteering their help without being asked. I know of three neighborhood reps who have promoted our program to their groups. Many volunteers within the club have indicated their willingness to do more. Plus, I have

had several members offer to be a mentor/buddy when the program is implemented.

My first meeting at the purple chairs brought four eager-to-learn individuals without computer skills. And when I asked for additional help from you, the second meeting brought thirteen more! The purple chairs may not have been the ideal meeting place but gave us extra publicity!

Much information was learned about their needs, giving us good direction. One individual expressed wanting to learn enough to be a mentor or buddy herself, helping others as she is being helped.

Disappointment was expressed by those staying here for the summer when learning the new program wouldn't be rolled out till fall.

But I now have good news to share. An individual who was a buddy during the trial Beginners Basic PC class two weeks ago volunteered to teach this class during the summer! Again, another great example of people stepping forward without being asked!

The concept of our new program includes all parts of the Grand Computers Club.

- Basic beginning classes certainly will be a big part.
- New to Computers & Devices, a support group, will focus on adding additional knowledge, skills and self-confidence to new learners.

Tech Help will be available when issues and problems pop up.

Continued on Pg 2.

VP's Corner



Dan Wallen
Vice President

Look For The Lock!



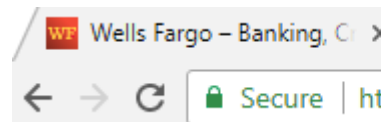
Recently several club members have asked me about logging into their bank website when they are traveling or away from their home secured Wi-Fi network. Not to fear, just "Look for the Lock!"

If the lock on the top left of your web browser is closed you have an encrypted connection between your web browser and your financial institution.

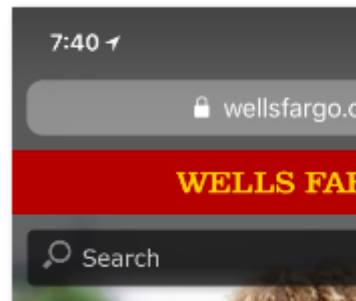
When you have an encrypted connection your personal data is scrambled so only the recipient can make any sense of it. If anyone was sophisticated enough to break into your network they would only see a meaningless set of numbers and letters.

It doesn't matter if you are home, in a

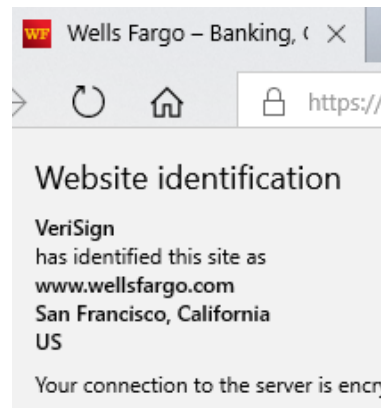
hotel, at the airport or in the parking lot of the CIA headquarters, if the lock is closed your session is encrypted and you are protected.



This works for your cell phone or tablet, too.



Don't believe me, just click on the lock.



On some shopping sites the lock may not appear while you are browsing for a product but as soon as it's time to pay you must "Look for the Lock!"

Just follow this simple rule: ANY-TIME you are on a website and using your credit card, looking at your bank account, checking your investments or submitting your social security number or personal information you must "Look for the Lock!" If the lock is closed you have an encrypted connection and your information is safe.

President's Corner Continued

The summer months will be spent preparing for program implementation this fall.

Thank you, members and volunteers, for your strong support in our endeavors. Making a difference in the lives of those without computer skills is alive and well in the community.

May everyone enjoy the summer.

Education's Corner



Marie Frasca

By the numbers:

Fall Session Summary

Classes offered this Winter term: 91

Total number of sessions: 163

Total number of registered students: 1,710

Number of Instructors: 29

Number of Assistants: 33

Number of classes Assistants Participated: 139

Winter classes ended with 30 PC classes, 25 Mac and 36 "Other" for a total of 91 classes. Thank you to the instructors and assistants for having a successful winter session.

Summer session registration started on April 20 and classes begin May 1 and go through June 30. There are 16 PC and 4 "Other" for a total of 20 classes. Thank you, instructors, for volunteering over the summer.

We have courses for PC classes including various Windows 10 courses. "Other" classes are: *iPad/iPhone Apps; Apps and More Apps; iPad/iPhone I Own One - Now What?* and *iTunes/Apple Music*. Some of these classes have one, two, three

and even four sessions.

Also added: *PC Basic Beginning Computer Skills; PC Basic Beginning Internet Skills; and PC Basic Beginning Email Skills*. We are planning to offer these classes at the fall session

For members who are interested in taking basic computer classes, there is a binder by the monitor's desk. The binder contains the descriptions and requirements for the basic classes. Ask the monitor for the binder for you to peruse in the open use room of the Grand Computers Club.

You can also read about the classes on our website. Go to www.grandcomputers.org > Education > Class Schedule. Be sure to read the descriptions of our

classes. Click on the name of the course to read what is covered in the class, what the prerequisites are, and whether this class will be too easy or too difficult for you. Click on the date to register to use the computers in the classroom and click on the seats to register to use your laptop.

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED: We are always looking for new instructors and assistant instructors. 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.

education@grandcomputers.org

Club Hours: The Grand Computers Club will begin its summer hours of 12:30—3:30 p.m. These hours will be in effect from May 1 through September 30.

Monitor's Corner-Joey de la Conception



By Caterine O'Brien

There are a total of 77 identified Monitors. April participation to date is 18. Yearly participation has been 43. There are 43 Support Members. Thirty-four Monitors have been inactive for 1 year. Monitor of the Month is TBD.

"What does a Computer Club Monitor do?" That's a question often asked. Most importantly, Monitors are the initial personal face of the Club. We are Ambassadors of the Club to non-members and the daily Greeters and Facilitators to all members.

First, here is what we do for non-members. Almost daily Sun City Grand residents stop by to ask about the Computer Club. What is offered here? What equipment do you have? What classes do you offer? When is the facility open? What kind of technical help can I get? What is the price of membership? Here is our opportunity to present all that gives such VALUE to our Club's membership. We answer by sharing the marketing brochures on the Club and on the education department. But we don't stop there, we open the Club web site and demonstrate how to navigate it to get all the details on courses, class prices and schedules, Club meetings, areas of Special Interest Groups and their meeting dates and times. We point out all the computers in the Open Use room configured as both pc's and MAC's, the printers, the scanners and the video - cd - slide converter equipment. The slide converters are a big hit. We show the Training room and all equipment available for classes. We usually end with, "And would you like to learn to fly?"

You can learn to pilot any of dozens of different aircraft and land in most major airports in many countries around the world. And if you should crash, you can get up and just walk away from our Flight Simulator." That usually knocks them off their feet or at least elicits a big smile. We explain one of the greatest values of the club, Tuesday Tech Support which is free to all members. We share that we are open every weekday with full day winter hours and a half day summer schedule. Then we go over membership dues and end with "This is the best deal in town!"

Second, here is what we do for members. We open the Club room and make sure the printers/copiers have paper and toner. We greet and check-in members. We process new membership and renewal applications and dues payments. If needed, we assist members in enrolling for classes and accept and provide receipts for cash or check payments. If we are able we help users with basic problems using the computers, the printers, the scanners and other equipment. We collect copier monies. We keep the Open Use room orderly and, at end of day, we secure and close the room.

Who can be a Monitor? Any interested current member who likes to meet and interact with people. You don't have to be a computer expert. The shifts are 3 to 3 ½ hours. And it is up to the member to choose the days and shifts they want to serve. There are no mandatory volunteer requirements.

So check out one of the largest clubs in SCG and the one with the best VALUE!

Membership's Corner-Martha McGill



What's so cool about membership in the Sun City Grand Computers Club? If you are an active member, you already know that opportunities abound for you to improve skills on your computers and devices by enrolling in the many classes and Special Interest Groups (SIG) offered, using the computers, printers (and the newly installed Fax machine) in the Open Use Room and availing yourself of the best bargain in town ~ Tech Help Tuesdays (12:30 - 3:30) where our very knowledgeable "techie" will solve the problems you are having with any of your computers, tablets, or the myriad of other devices you may possess. Your grandchildren will probably also consider you cool when you can give THEM tips, instead of the usual other way around. An added bonus is the \$1 ice cream cone that is available just down the hall at the Grand Café.

If you have been a member but failed to renew your membership this year, be cool and do so now! The annual membership fee is \$20 but, as is tradition, was reduced to \$10 commencing in April and will offer to you the privileges of active membership until September 30, 2018. Another bargain at half the price! And, speaking of cool, with the very warm weather beginning, the Computers Club offers you a pleasant and air-conditioned spot to take a break and provide a change of scenery. That's another way to be cool!

As Membership Director my role is to assist you with any aspects of your membership that pose a problem. The most common dilemmas posed for our members:

- forgotten passwords
- inability to log on to "Members Only" page
- CAM card when swiped at the Club by the Monitor reflects a name other than yours

All of these problems can be solved easily by contacting me! Business cards with contact information for Marie Frasca, Education Director, and myself are on the Monitor's Desk, so help yourself to one next time you are in the Club and tuck it away for future reference. 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.

Reminder Tip for May: When contacting me by phone or by email, please include your name, Member ID (CAM#) and any other pertinent information which describes your problem so I can have your data record handy and save time for all of us.

I'm pleased to report that we currently have 1,285 active members which is gratifying considering that the Club was virtually inoperable for six months due to the remodeling at the Chaparral Center!

I extend to all of you my wish for good health and a restful and rejuvenating summer wherever you are. Those who remain here for those hot months can still be cool by visiting the Computers Club and snowbirds will be cool as well as they depart for milder destinations.

Suggestions!

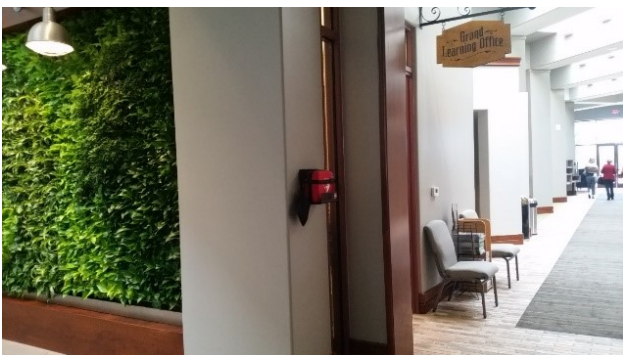
Gloria Young, President

By now you may have discovered that I welcome suggestions. This one was provided by Elfi Eades, one of our monitors, and while it has nothing to do with computers, it could be very important to someone, perhaps even you.

In the Chaparral Center between the Living Wall and the door of Grand Learning hangs a small red box referred to as an Automated Extended Defibrillator or AED for short. It is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm and can send an electric shock to the heart to try to restore a normal rhythm.

AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. If you see a person in need of help, grab the box from the wall, open and it will give you verbal instructions.

We hope we never have to use the red box, but it may save someone's life as was the case with our monitor and another individual at the Cimarron. This truly qualifies as making a difference in someone's life.



Who Wraps Cords This Way!

Gloria Young, President



This Photo by Unknown Author

A couple of times a month I borrow a computer from the Grand Computers Club to use at check-in for my Compose Yourself SIG. Every so often I am simply amazed to pull out the cords finding them to be very neatly wound with the ends evenly in place.

I suppose I am fascinated because I wad up the necessary but undesirable cords and stuff them into the computer bag like dirty clothes going into a full hamper. My husband is another individual who has always wrapped those cords to perfection.

Now I am not a slob, so this does cause me to ask the questions "Who wraps cords this way?" and "Why do they bother?"

I have a theory, although not even close to proven, that it is the tech geeks and nerds who wrap those cords oh so neatly! Is it because as computer experts they are organized by their very nature? Is it because they are respectful of their equipment? Is this just part of their love affair with their computers? Perhaps they just have idle time.

I don't know the answers. More research is needed. I admit I enjoy reaching into the bag and finding neatly wound cords. I admit to carefully wrapping and tying up excess cords on my table lamps to hide them from view. But, even if I practiced learning from the best of nerds and geeks, my wound computer cords would never look as great as theirs! Based on my cord winding, I likely will never become one of them!



General Meeting

The May General Meeting will be in the Agua Fria Room, Chaparral Center.

After the business side of the meeting, an interesting topic entitled "See a 3-D Printer in Action!" Guest presenter Doug Bishop will create an object before your eyes and provide information.

General Meeting

Date: April 4

Time: 2:00—3:30 p.m.

Place: Agua Fria Room, Cimarron Center

Publicity Committee Needs Your Help!

The recently reorganized publicity committee is in need of several volunteers with specific skills. John Nuerenberg, the publicity chair, is looking for the following:

- Writers — members that can write articles for the *Grand Lifestyles* magazine. These would need to be human interest stories that would appeal to all residents of Grand and not particularly publicize the Grand Computers Club.
- Photographers — members that can and will take photos at various club events, whether Coffee Chats, General Meetings, SIG meetings or any other; this will be an assigned job for a particular purpose.
- Graphics Designer — to assist the group in photo manipulation and graphics designing for articles and ads.

For more information and your willingness to be a part of a dynamic team, please contact John Nuerenberg at nuerenberg@msn.com.

Wanted - Older Laptop Computers!

WANTED - Older laptop computers! Please help out by donating your older laptop to Jim Geffre as you purchase a new one. Jim repairs them, updates them, and donates them to schools and St. Vincent DePaul. He would like the laptops to have Windows 7, Windows 8 or already be upgraded to Windows 10. Include the power cord with the computer. Jim wipes the hard drives or puts new ones in, and if needed, adds memory to at least 4GB and adds Office. Jim will also except Mac laptops. You may drop them off at the computer club with his name on it. Please include your email address on the computer, the password to unlock the computer and Jim will email you a tax form for deducting from taxes. (You can deduct up to \$150.00 per laptop). You may contact Jim by phone - 623-544-3394 or by email at - geffre1949@yahoo.com

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Pages

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 p.m.

Place: 1st Tuesday: Sago Room; 3rd Monday: Phoenix Room, both in the Palm Center

Contact: Gloria Young - CY@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 1

Topic: Read and discuss your written stories.

Ham Radio SIG



Provides members a forum for learning the many facets of ham radio including emergency communications.

Place: Grand Computers Club Open Use Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: April Kramer - hamsig@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: May 25 1:00 p.m. (NEW DAY & TIME)

Topic: Antennas

New Technologies SIG



Provides members with an open discussion forum of technologically advanced ideas

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of every month (all year long)

Time: 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Joe Parla - newtech@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: May 17



"You should check your e-mails more often. I fired you over three weeks ago."