

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

November started off with our website being down for several days due to problems at Data Realm, our service provider. As a result, our webmaster, Bob Crawford changed providers and got us back in business.

Due to problems during this time period, any emails you may have sent to our website were never received, and therefore no replies from me or others were sent. If you wish to resend, I encourage you to do so.

You may have also noticed that weekly Little Bytes were not sent to you. We now have a new provider to handle large numbers of emails, so every member receives communication from the Club in a timely manner.

Other than that, it was business as usual

in the Club including a very busy November 7. In the morning our Club made a presentation to the Space Allocation Committee requesting additional square footage. The Committee will be making recommendations to the SCG Board in February 2019.

In the afternoon we had 141 attend our General Meeting and I would say it had a lot to do with the presentation topic: What to Do Before Your Spouse Dies! Positive comments continue to be given. It was suggested that we repeat the presentation at a later date, and we consider videoing so others could learn from it, too.

Our programs for those without computer skills and for those without investing skills are moving forward. Please refer to separate articles in this issue.

At our October 25 board meeting several items were approved. The Computers Club is now offering for sale thumb drives (sometimes called memory sticks or flash drives) to our members.

The cost, including sales tax, is \$6 for 16G of storage. You may make the purchase with the monitor when coming to the Club.

Within the next few months the Club will be placing an order for navy blue logoed shirts for board members, volunteers and our members to purchase. More information will be sent at that time.

One more action - the Club will give tours of our Open Use Room and Classroom. We have a great facility with great equipment. Tours could also be beneficial to residents wishing to know more about our services. More details to follow on when the tours will begin.

Another new possibility the Club is exploring is the use of kiosks to relay information about our Club. I will ask for your input and share additional news as decisions are made.

In the meantime, enjoy the holiday season.

VP's Corner



Dan Wallen
Vice President

The Bond

My obsession with home automation continues

My wife likes to keep the ceiling fans on HIGH so when I sit down in my recliner or at the kitchen table, I'm hit with hurricane force winds. So, first I must FIND the remote control before I can switch the fan down to "human speed." I thought there must be a way for Alexa to deal with this.

My first stop was smarhome.com where I have bought most of my home automation. They have a fan module that would have to be wired into the fan. Great, my wife is going away so I can take apart the ceiling fan and wire in the new module while she is gone. But just before clicking on buy, I found the Bond.

The Bond ([https://](https://bondhome.io)

bondhome.io.) is a device that will learn which ceiling fan remote control you have, then send out the same remote-control signals on its own to control your ceiling fans. Once you get it to work, you can link it to the Echo Dot. Since my Kitchen fan and living room fans are fairly close, I figured the Bond could control both fans.

I ordered the Bond and it came the same afternoon via Amazon Prime.

You plug the Bond into the wall then as with most of these new gizmos, you download a free app onto your phone to configure the WiFi connection. Then you simply tap on the learn button and hold down a key on your existing fan remote. The app finds your remote control and displays it on the screen. Next you

go onto the "skills" section of your Alexa app and download the Bond skill. Once you enable the Bond skill, Alexa will find your ceiling fans.

It was time for a test.

"Alexa, turn down the damn fan!!" A distinctive **"CLICK"** could be heard and the fan slowed down.

But what about the fan in my master bedroom, surely the Bond wouldn't work around the corner and down the hall?

I grabbed the bedroom fan remote and programmed it into the Bond. **"Alexa, set the bedroom fan to off!"** Another **"CLICK"** could be heard from the bedroom.

I love this thing....

Should You Receive an Electronic Gift for Christmas...

If you receive a smart phone, tablet or other device remember that Grand Computers Club offers classes to help members learn how to use them. The education director is setting up the winter session. Class schedules will be available to view in early January. Classes are offered if the instructors are available to teach.

Please check for a complete listing of classes at grandcomputers.org or visit the club for more information.

If you are already knowledgeable on how to use your device but need a bit of assistance setting it up, you are invited to come to Tech Help Tuesdays between 12:30 - 3:30 pm.

Missing: Mac Computer Keyboard

After Tech Help on Tuesday, November 13, a white keyboard was missing from computer station 10. We believe it was accidentally picked up while a member was being assisted. If you were in the club that afternoon please check your belongings to see if the small keyboard was picked up by mistake.

Don't be embarrassed as these things happen. Just please drop the keyboard off at the Computers Club.

Education's Corner



Marie Frasca

By the numbers:

Fall Session Summary

Classes offered this Fall term

Total number of Classes: 82

PC—27

Mac - 16

Other—39

Instructors - 30

Classroom Assistants - 41

There are still a number of classes being offered for the fall session. If the class is full, add your name and class to the Wait List. You will be contacted in order on the Wait List when a student withdraws. Or, if there are enough students on the Wait List for a course, the instructor might do another class.

If you need help with class registration, please come to Tech Help, on Tuesdays from 12:30 pm -3:30 pm.

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 being taught in the class.

PC users - there are seats available for the following:

Windows 10 courses:

File and Disk Management

Intermediate-Apps

Photos App

Excel 2019/265

Mac users - there are seats available for the following:

Calendar

Contacts

Keynote

Mail; Pages

Reunion 11 Genealogy

Other classes include those that run on both PC and Mac. Seats are available for the following:

Android Google Apps

Android Tablets

Elements Editor: Fix Old Photos

Google Advanced Search Features

Home Entertainment - Cutting the Cord

Streaming Devices

iPad/iPhone Apps, Apps and More Apps

iTunes/Apple Music

The winter session will be starting in January and we are working on finalizing the classes. Information of the winter session will be emailed to our members around the middle of December.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are always looking for new in-

structors and class assistants. The steps to take if you are unsure about being a class assistant:

Register for a class - You will be amazed of how much you know.

Feeling comfortable after attending a class, request to be an assistant in the class.

Either speak to the instructor directly and ask the instructor if you can assist in the class. Or

Contact the education director and tell me about what class you are interested in assisting.

If you have been an assistant and feel you are ready to teach a class, the education director and instructors will guide you through the process.

You might be surprised by your abilities.

If you are interested in either teaching, assisting or for more information contact the education director at education@grandcomputers.org

Monitor's Corner



Joey de la Conception

The number of monitor sessions for November was 38, which included participation of 20 volunteers.

For the year November 2017 to present, we had a monitor participation of 47 out of a total of 72. Five monitor memberships have expired.

Nancy Nelson, the new Monitor Director for 2019, has started training. Joe Scanlon, Assistant Monitor Director, will be in charge of monitor duties when I am not available.

Monitors have been doing second monitor duties every Tuesday during Tech Talk. This will continue until May.

The monitor volunteers who helped with the Fall Festival are Vicki Lauhoff, Patti Fitzgerald, Dave Finney, Carolyn Driver, Gretel Coursol and Denise Midkiff. Thanks to them for their help!

What to Do Before Your Spouse Dies!

At the Nov. 7th General Meeting, Grand Computers Club brought an important topic, "What to do before your spouse dies" front and center to the audience as a reminder that we should prepare for death, as it will surely happen. This topic is essentially an estate planning matter. It is a critical part of anyone's financial plan.

It may not be easy to think about, but death becomes a stressful event to the survivor, and even more so when the spouse is not prepared. Caregivers too may relate to the topic.

There are the technical components of estate planning, and then there are some of the basic informational/operational components, such as knowing all the user names and passwords for one's accounts.

These accounts are important and need proper ownership arrangements with beneficiary designations. This all needs to be planned and part of one's overall estate plan under the direction of an estate planning attorney.

The Grand Computers Club may be of assistance through the outside professional speakers that are brought in to speak to the Financial Education SIG on estate planning matters. The Club may also be of assistance in its New to Investing Support Group meetings to provide basic information on the operational components.

Club's Presentation to the Space Allocation Committee Available to View

On Nov 7th our Club made a 15-minute presentation requesting additional space followed by 15 minutes of questions and answers. Only six executive board members were permitted attendance, but the meeting was taped for later viewing by residents.

The video is now available on the SCG website for our club and the other clubs making presentations. You can find the video by following these steps:

- Go to grandinfo.com
- Click on Resident Log-in to sign in
- Hover the mouse over the word "Association"
- Scroll down the left column to Board Information; click on Board Meetings and Meeting Videos
- Scroll down to the end of page, click "Load More"
- Click on Grand Computers Presentation

The individuals preparing the presentation were: Board members: Gloria Young, Ira Simmons, Dan Wallen, Nancy Collins, Marie Frasca, and Past Presidents: John Nuerenberg, Joe Scanlon and Leon Chapman. We hope the video will answer questions you may have.

Membership's Corner



Martha McGill

The holiday season is suddenly upon us! I hope your Thanksgiving this year was special and your blessings were counted as you celebrated with family or friends ~ or a mixture of the two. We all have so much for which to give thanks, maybe more this year than usual as we have watched so many whose lives have been ravaged by the wildfires in California.

At this time last year our active membership count was 554 and now, a year later, we already have 927 active members! With Fall classes drawing to a close, Winter classes will soon be offered and will commence in January 2019. We know that many of you are looking forward to availing yourselves of the opportunity to augment your technical skills and knowledge of your various devices. Maybe you will receive the gift of a new computer, tablet or phone. The winter classes will undoubtedly fill up quickly so if you have been putting off renewing your membership I encourage you to do so soon. You may also need help, whether with a new device or an existing one, so a current membership will allow you to attend Tech Help on Tuesdays (12:30 PM-3:30 PM) where our knowledgeable volunteer "techies" will assist you with technology dilemmas. Yearly dues are only \$20 (October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019) ~ a true bargain!

Pesky Passwords!

As Membership Director, I receive an average of two phone calls/emails a day because a member has forgotten his/her password. I'm not always available instantly to reset a password and more often than not the per-

son needs immediate help in order to register for a class or just log on to the "Members Only" page. We encourage you NOT to have a password. This option available to you and is easily accomplished.

Go to our website, www.grandcomputers.org

At the top right hand side of the page you will see a link to "Log In". Click on that link.

Type in your "Member ID (your CAM#), and your Password (which hopefully you remember!) and select "Log In".

You will find yourself on the "Members Only" page and will find options specific to your data record. Merely select "Change your password" and follow the explicit instructions. While you're at it, select "Update your membership record" to ascertain that the information is current! Below is what you will see on the top half of the page.

From this page you can perform the following actions.

Update your membership record

Change your password

Register for classes

Withdraw from classes

Wait list requests

View your class schedule

Download your class schedule

View your class invoices

View and enter your volunteer service

Reserve computer time

View videos

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.

Happy holidays to one and all!

NEW! New to Computers Support Group

Implementation of this program began in October and consists of three parts: 1) classes for those without computer skills, 2) a support group to assist with problems occurring after classes are completed and 3) a monthly series of "how to" presentations consisting of useful skills in daily living.

The October classes were well received. The December classes filled quickly. The classes will be offered again during the winter session starting mid-January.

One of the things students tell us they appreciate is having a "buddy" at their side to help during the class. Our goal is to have students feel welcome and comfortable when taking these classes.

Having a support group to assist after the classes are finished is another good way to help students to use what has been learned. We encourage individuals to participate in both the classes and support group.

In addition, we have had two monthly topics (October and November) which have been well received with over forty attendees in each session. **The next presentation will be Dec. 17th, 10:00 - 11:30 AM in the Agua Fria Room at the Cimarron Center. The topic will be: How to Purchase Tickets Online for SCG Events.** Wouldn't it be great not to have to stand in line to buy those tickets!

Our monthly "How to" topics are selected based on practical skills you might find yourself wishing you knew how to do. Please stay tuned for more topics January through April.

We hope to see many of you either taking classes and coming to the support group meetings or coming to the "How to" Series of presentation topics.

Written by Susan Lucas, New to Computers Support Group Chair

NEW! New to Investing Support Group

The Financial Ed SIG offered a new class to members of our Club in November called Fundamentals of Investing. It was designed for individuals who have little knowledge of financial investments but want to learn more.

I took the class as I am now handling the financial matters of our household; while I know our passwords and where the money is, my actual hands-on experience is weak.

Now, I didn't learn everything there is to know, but I can begin to talk more intelligently about investments and finances. The best take-away from the class was how good I felt knowing people in the Computers Club are available to help me and others like me.

My next step is to attend the SIG's New to Investing Support Group Meetings where individuals knowledgeable in finances will answer my questions. This will allow me to continue building my knowledge.

I invite all with an interest in learning more about financial planning to attend the next two meetings of the **Financial Ed SIG**:

December 14th, 1 - 3 PM, meeting topic is "**2018 Income Tax Update**". It will be presented by Herb Norton, a SCG resident, active tax professional and IRS enrolled agent.

January 25th, 1 - 3 PM, meeting topic is "**What Happens When You Die?**" David Eastman, partner at Morris Hall PLLC will talk on:

- Is there a difference between a will and a trust?
- What is the government's estate plan for me?
- What are the tax implications after death?
- What will happen to my retirement accounts after I pass - will they be stretched out or depleted?
- How will my pets be cared for after I am gone?
- Are my family and their inheritance protected?

Please note that the **New to Investing Support Group Meetings** are held from 10:00 - 11:30 AM on Dec. 14 and Jan 11th. These will be round table discussions for the purpose of helping with your individual questions.

I hope many of you can attend these meetings. The above meetings will be held in the Mediterranean Room at the Palm Center.

Written by Gloria Young, Grand Computers Club President

General Meeting

After the business side of the meeting at the December General Meeting, there will be a presentation entitled "Digitizing Your Past Life," presented by Earl Greenberg

General Meeting

Date: December 5

Time: 2:00—3:30 p.m.

Place: Agua Fria Room, Cimarron Center

Coffee Chat

The December Coffee Chat will feature Klaudia Jurewicz discussing social media, "What's New and How to get Ready for the Holidays!"

Coffee Chat

Date: December 13

Time: 8:30—10:00 a.m.

Place: Hopi Room, Chaparral Center

Coffee and Donuts Provided!

New to Computers Support Group

One of our new support groups will be holding a meeting, hosted by Lorena Nieto, Lifestyles Manager, discussing "How to Purchase Tickets Online for SCG Events"

New2Computers Support Group

Date: December 17

Time: 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Place: Agua Fria Room, Cimarron Center

New to Investing Support Group

One of our new support groups will be holding a meeting to provide a forum for inexperienced investors to attend and bring their questions and topics upon which they would like to learn more or get clarification.

Fundamentals of Investing Support Group

Date: December 14

Time: 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Place: Mediterranean Room, Palm Center

Tidbit Learned at November Coffee Chat

Joe Parla gave a suggestion that could be helpful to those with hearing loss on how to improve the sound on their TV, allowing individuals to hear and understand dialog more clearly.

It's a matter of going into the settings on the TV and changing the treble.

The info is different with each TV manufacturer.
Here are two articles that may help:

<https://www.komando.com/tips/424454/get-clearer-sounds-from-your-tv-with-this-one-hidden-setting>

<https://success.highfive.com/hc/en-us/articles/206500445-Recommended-TV-Audio-Settings-all-brands->

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Pages

Apple SIG



Provides an opportunity to gather with Apple/Mac users for classes and informational sessions.

Meetings: 3rd Monday (October—April)

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. p.m.

Place: Apache Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Ira Simmons - apple@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: December 17

Topic: Mac Media Visits

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 Meetings: Tuesday, December 4 and Monday, December 17

Topic: Read and discuss your written stories.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Pages

Devices SIG



Provides a focal point for people to meet and work together on hand-held devices.

Meetings: 4th Thursday (October—April)

Time: 4:00—5:30 p.m.

Place: Maricopa/Havasupai Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: devices@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: December 27

Topic: The Cloud and Your Device - Dan Wallen

Digital Scrapbooking SIG



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

Meetings: Every Monday (October, November, January - April)

Time: 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Jane Connors - scrapbook@grandcomputers.org

Next Meetings: January; ALL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER CANCELLED.

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: Mediterranean Room, Palm Center

Contact: Richard Gabel - financial@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: Friday, December 14

Topic: 2018 Income Tax Update.

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

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

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) Pages

Flight Simulator SIG



Provide a focal point for members to meet, work, and exchange ideas about flight simulators.

Meetings: 3rd Friday (October—March)

Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Place: Pima Room, Chaparral Center

Contact: Bill Homewood - flight@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: December 21 - CANCELLED

Genealogy SIG



Provides members with a forum for researching family history.

Meetings: 1st Thursday (October—April)

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

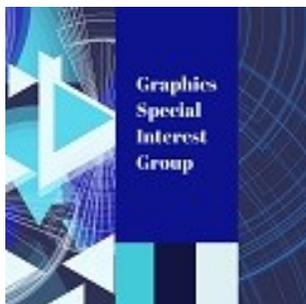
Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Leon Chapman - genealogy@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: December 6

Topic: Better Together: Making Your Case with Documents and DNA - Pattie Lee Hobbs, CG

Graphics SIG



Provides members a forum for discussing graphic applications.

Meetings: 2nd Thursday (October - March)

Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Rita Skarbek - graphics@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: December 13

Topic: Have you ever been the guy or gal assigned to take the group shots at special events like birthdays, club events, special meetings? Or you just would like to share your images with friends and family easily and safely? How do you decide which images to post, where to post them, and how to make sure your group, family, or club has access to them? Our own Ira Simmons will discuss the various photo sharing options as well as tips on how to take those special images, share, and archive them as well.

Ham Radio SIG



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

Meetings: 4th Friday (October - April)

Time: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Place: Grand Computers Club Classroom, Chaparral Center

Contact: Mark Heroux - hamsig@grandcomputers.org

Next Meeting: December 28

Topic: The New Net; Planning Topics

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: December 20

Topic: Browse 4 Fun!

iToons

Sunil Agarwal & Ajit Ninan



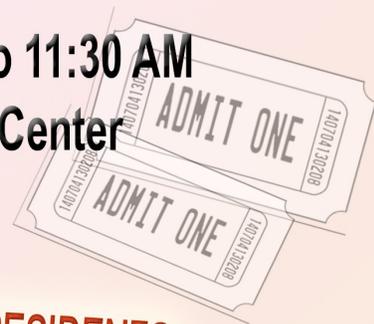
**GRAND COMPUTERS CLUB IN CONJUNCTION WITH
YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT
PRESENT A NEW SERIES OF "HOW TO" WORKSHOPS**

**Third
Session**

"HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE FOR SCG EVENTS"

Presented by Lorena Nieto

**Monday, December 17, 10 AM to 11:30 AM
Agua Fria Room, Cimarron Center**



FREE TO ALL SUN CITY GRAND RESIDENTS



Computer Club Classes:

From \$5 to \$20 per session

Courses Designed for Beginners to Advanced Students

Website: www.grandcomputers.org

Contact us by email: NEW2COMPUTERS@GRANDCOMPUTERS.ORG

Grand Computers Club is located in the Chaparral Center