



# GRAND BYTES

Sun City Grand Computers Club Newsletter

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## President's Column: Welcome back!



Barbara Vivian  
President

Welcome back to our Snowbird population! Stop in and say Hello! We've got lots of activities that we hope you'll take advantage of!

### What's NEW?

We have made some changes! We know that change can be challenging for some who are content with the way things were. We are confident that these changes will continue to make our club better for members and the volunteers who help every day.

One change effective August 1 st is that payment is now handled through a provider called "Affinipay". We moved away from PayPal due to many complaints from our members. We have moved to a credit/debit card only policy for payment of Membership Dues and Class Registration. Why? We counted up all of the hours that volunteers were spending processing the vast amount of paper necessary when accepting cash and checks, in addition to the delays that were being caused, and decided we should devote those 1500+ hours per year to other club activities.

Tech Help has continued through the summer and we've made it easier to check in by creating the ability to pre-register online prior to Tuesday and have "Check-in" volunteers at the door waiting to check you in. You aren't REQUIRED to pre-register - it just takes one step away from the process when you arrive at Tech Help. Try it out if you haven't already.

We have plans to upgrade much of the equipment in our open use room and classroom. Our Tech Director Ted Gray and the Tech Director Assistant, Don Noteboom have worked throughout the summer to update the software on the PC and Mac side, which seems to be occurring much more frequently with frequent security updates required. We have new iMacs in the open use room that are very pretty and functional too! New PCs will be coming soon to the classroom.

Our **Membership** renewal and application process has become more streamlined with the change to payment requirements. With the Sun City Grand transition to a new numbering system, our systems are being challenged to accept old and new CAM numbers; mismatched CAM numbers etc. so we have worked on creating a new interface that will accept both old and new numbers. More to follow.

Our **Education** classes started earlier this year - we extended the first "Semester" to accommodate more classes and there are plenty to choose from. If you missed a class you'd like to take, please login, go to the Education tab and click "Waitlist for a Class" and you can indicate your interest. Our Education team will attempt to accommodate these requests when there is interest expressed by multiple members so please let us know!

Our Club **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** have great things in store so watch for their meetings and topics on our website.

Our first **General Meeting** is October 5th at 2:00 in the Club Room at Cimarron Center. We will start off the year with a review of classes and demonstration of registration and more.

Our first **Coffee Chat** is set for October 13 th at 8:30am with a panel of members sharing their experiences with Zona Wyyred.

Our Web Developer, Dennis Jarc and his assistant, Leigh Donaldson have put in an extraordinary amount of time working to streamline all of the **administrative processes** and reporting necessary for running such a large club. We have **1500 members** now!

See you soon in the Club!!

## COMPUTER GENIUS GIVES IT AWAY



Boy, did we get lucky. When Jim Geffre said goodbye to Illinois and made Sun City Grand his new home, the entire community got smarter - computer-smart, that is. Computers became available for kids to do their homework, for job seekers to complete employment applications online, and for housebound adults to communicate with friends and family. And the best part? The computers are free.

Some people are born with musical talent or athletic ability. For Jim, he found his gift later in life, it's computers. In his capable hands, a broken-down Laptop computer is transformed into a valuable tool that can make a huge difference in someone's life.



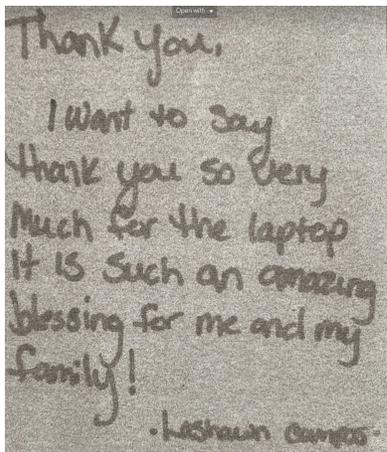
Jim managed Kmart stores for 32 years, where he worked on an innovative Point of Sale (POS) system that identified every piece of merchandise and was implemented throughout all stores. When an opportunity for early retirement showed up, he and his wife had already been looking at Arizona communities and favored Grand. They moved here in 2002, where he intended to tackle a long list of books just waiting to be read. But there were too many exciting new activities to pursue here in Sun City Grand.

He joined the Grand Computers Club and began helping other members who were rebuilding computers. Club members donated computers for upgrading and the rebuilt machines were gifted to schools and charitable organizations. At that time many were bulky desktops, but he says today everyone wants laptops. Eventually he decided to undertake the work by himself. He set up a workspace in his home garage, which was fine until the summer heat drove him indoors. In addition to rebuilding computers Jim takes on clients within our community that need computer system support and volunteers at Tech Help.

So far, Jim estimates he has rebuilt more than 1,000 computers, bringing them up to current standards and giving them away. Each device is outfitted with licensed programs such as; Windows 10, antivirus protection, Adobe Reader, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, as well as a full version of Office, including Word, Excel, Access and Outlook.

Recipients of the computers include schools, charitable organizations, and local veterans' groups. He asks that they not divulge where the computers come from, insisting, "I want it to be a total donation." Computers have become an essential tool in order to function in today's

world. As he continued, he became more aware of the need out there. Now he considers upgrading computers for needy families and kids to be his greatest achievement.



Some students are as young as third or fourth grade and often take the computers home with them. An older student describes how the laptop helps her to create a resume so she can find work. St Vincent de Paul in Sun City makes the computers it receives available to nearby needy communities. Often grateful recipients write letters of thanks for the computers.

An excerpt from one heartwarming communication says it all, "...may God bless you always and I can't say this enough. Thank you very much. You are an angel sent when most needed. Thank you again."

[Click to read more thank you notes that Jim Geffre has received.](#)

If you have a Laptop computer, a Mac, tablet, iPad or android device to donate, please drop it off at the Grand Computers Club located in the Chaparral Center with attention to Jim Geffre.

Please contact Jim by phone ([623-544-3394](tel:623-544-3394)) or by email [geffre1949@yahoo.com](mailto:geffre1949@yahoo.com) to arrange for a drop-off at Jim's home. Email is preferred. Jim will email you back his physical address. You can then leave the computer outside his house. Please be sure to include the password to unlock your computer or tablet and your email address with the computer and include the power cord with the computer and the charger for a tablet. Jim will email you a tax form for taking a deduction on your tax return. (You can deduct up to \$150.00 per laptop).

Jim Geffre was interviewed by Cori Brett.

## Website: Sign up for Tech Help

On Home Page <https://www.grandcomputers.org>

- Activities dropdown menu > Tech Help Information for non-members
- Blue Tech Help card

Both point to the Public Tech Help information web page with a login link.

On Member Home Page

- Tech Help dropdown menu > Tech Help Information for members
- Request Tech Help link on the top right panel

Both point to the Member Tech Help info web page which has a link to the new Tech Help module.



## Security Questions: I hate to repeat myself but....



Dan Wallen  
Tech Help Director

[techhelp@grandcomputers.org](mailto:techhelp@grandcomputers.org)

I continue to see members losing access to their email because they haven't updated their security settings.

If you move, change your phone number, change your router, change your internet provider or buy a new computer, you may be asked for your password when you log into your email service. If you don't know your password and try to reset it, your email service will send a recovery code to your phone or another email address, whatever is listed on your security settings.

For example, you ask Gmail to reset your password and Gmail sends the reset code to a phone you had in Minnesota before you moved. Since you do not have access to that Minnesota phone anymore, you will be locked out of your email. In addition to losing your email, you lose access to your calendar and contacts too. In the case of Gmail, Yahoo, MSN and most email providers, there is no one to call for help.

Many members tell me they never had an email password. This is not true; everyone has an email password, but your browser may have been entering your password for you automatically.

If you need help with your security settings, come see us at Tech Help on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm.

## SIG Focus: Apple SIG



Hi everyone, Welcome back to the Sun City Grand community, and Grand Computers Club. The Apple SIG will have our monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each Month, starting on October 17, 2022 at 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the Chaparral Center in the Hopi Room. First meeting we will review iOS 16 the latest iPhone operating system.

The Mission of Apple SIG is to serve the needs of our members of the Grand Computers Club interested in Apple/Mac computers, Apple devices, and services. I invite all Apple users to suggest any and all ideas to me so that we can meet your needs.

The club has a great Education department that provides classes for all Apple users, if you have a need let me know and we will work to meet your needs. Also don't forget we have Tech. Help on Tuesdays 12:30 to 2:30 to help with any concerns you may with your devices. I look forward to meeting you all at the SIG meeting, and or Tech. Help you may contact me at the email address Below. Kindest Regards Don Cacciatore  
[apple@grandcomputers.org](mailto:apple@grandcomputers.org)

## SIG Focus: Compose Yourself SIG

We are writers who enjoy writing. We thrive on making ideas come alive through the power and use of words. We write to have fun, to relive experiences from our past, and to realize new perspectives on life.



We are a group of individuals who come from all walks of life.

Our goal is to write (for personal reasons), participate in the sharing of writings, ideas, life experiences, and knowledge. We accomplish this in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

Our goal is to encourage participants to realize the purpose of their individual writing pieces and to send some or all their finished writing pieces to friends, relatives, and/or to be published.

We meet twice a month for sharing written work, critiquing pieces when requested, and learning new techniques.

Upcoming meetings are Tuesday, October 4 and Monday, October 17 in the Sonoran Plaza, Mesquite Room from 1 - 3 PM. If you have an interest in writing, we invite you to join us for a few meetings to see first-hand what our SIG does.

## SIG Focus: Devices SIG



### Devices SIG Meeting October 24

Although most of us are just returning from a summer break, the technology world is never on hiatus! For our first Devices Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting of the season we will bring you all the highlights and happenings from the past few months that will impact your smartphones, tablets, personal assistants, streaming devices and so much more.

The Devices SIG will meet live on Monday, October 24, 3:30pm in the: Mesquite/Palms Rooms of Sonoran Plaza.. No reservations necessary, just bring your CAM card.

## Education: Fall Session Of Classes Have Begun



Marie Frasca  
Education  
Director

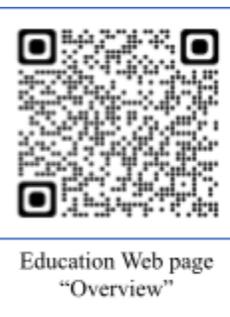
The fall session of classes began on September 12, 2022. We are offering online classes via Zoom and continue with our classroom classes at the computer club.

**Classes for the fall session will be held:**

- o **In-Person (Club classroom)**
- o **Online (via Zoom)**
- o **Hybrid classes** will be held simultaneously in the classroom and online via Zoom.

For an **Overview** of what is happening for the fall session classes go to Welcome to the Education web page. **>Education Tab>Overview<**.

If you are new to Zoom or skeptical about taking a class using Zoom, the club is offering free Zoom lessons to our members. To fill out the form click on the link: [Zoom Help](#) or enter <https://tinyurl.com/Zoom-Help-for-Online-Classes> in your internet browser and someone will contact you to set up one-on-one training.



### Requirements to join a Zoom class:

1. Each student must have their own email. (members **CANNOT** share an email)
2. The link to the class will be emailed to you once the class is paid.
3. The link will go to the email listed on the Members Only webpage.
4. To check the email listed, click on "Update your membership record".

To view the full list of classes being taught for the fall session: Go to: [Register for Classes \(grandcomputers.org\)](#) and scroll down to "Class Register List."

To register for a class held in the classroom click  on.

To register for an online class, click the  button.



### Having problems paying for the classes?

The Grand Computers Club website needs to **Allow Pop-Ups** for the Affinipay Invoice Summary to appear.

For instructions to **Allow Pop-Ups** on the GCC website only:

- Google Chrome browser click: <https://bit.ly/3DVW90X>
- Microsoft Edge Browser click: <https://bit.ly/3Snahpa>
- Safari Browser click: <https://bit.ly/3rak3Pe>
- Firefox Browser click: <https://bit.ly/3S8VIL3>

**Still having problems? - come to the computers club for assistance.**

As of October 1, 2022 the club will be open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

You can also come during Tech Help on Tuesday's from 12:30 p.m. till 2:30 pm.  
If you cannot visit the club, email education director: [education@grandcomputers.org](mailto:education@grandcomputers.org)

For the class description, click on the name of the course.

#### For detail information how to:

- o Register for classes and use a credit or debit card
- o Sign up for a free Zoom application and join a class
- o And registration requirements for online classes



Sign into the "Welcome to Grand Computers Club Website",  
click on >Education tab>Education Help<

Click: **Booklet - Guide to Register for Computer Classes**. The booklet contains the information for registering for classes, attending Zoom meetings, paying for classes and more.

#### Volunteers Needed

Interested in teaching a new computer topic, being an instructor and/or classroom assistant or questions on the education classes contact the education director at [education@grandcomputers.org](mailto:education@grandcomputers.org)

## Membership: How to Join or Renew



Nancy Collins  
Membership

Hope everyone has had a great summer whether here in Grand or in other neighborhoods!

We have been busy making updates to our Website at Grand Computers so don't forget to bookmark our Website in your browser to make it easy to log in.

When you land on the homepage, you will see the red box at the left on the screen. Click on the **box** and you will land on the Membership page.

- To join our Club for the first time, click on **Join**.
- If you have paid dues through December 31 st, 2022, there's no need to renew now!
- If your membership has expired, you will need to click on **Join** and fill in the Application.
- On the left of this form is your Sun City Grand Resident information. Fill in your CAM number and last name and hit "Look up" and your membership status for the Club will be shown. If you are current there is no action required.
- For those Joining or Renewing, after you fill in the application, you will be taken to a page through our new credit card processor, AffiniPay. You do not pay a fee to use this service. If the payment screen does NOT come up, please check and remove any AD Blockers you may have set for your Website browsing program: Edge, Safari, etc.
- Need help with this? Come into the Club and our Monitors will assist you OR come in to our Tech Help on Tuesdays from 12:30 - 2:30.

If you have any problems or questions, please feel free to call or email me! I am always glad to help!

Nancy Collins, Membership Director 623-398-5286 [Membership@grandcomputers.org](mailto:Membership@grandcomputers.org)

## WE NEED MORNING MONITORS - CAN YOU HELP?

# VOLUNTEER



Have you monitored at the club before? We need you to fill our morning slots as we expand our hours starting October 1<sup>st</sup> to 9-3:30. If you can schedule a session or two that would be a great help to keep the Club open!

We will meet with past and current monitors to update you on the current Club procedures and work side by side with you, as needed, to bring you up to speed.

Interested in becoming a monitor? We provide one-on-one training!

Contact Steve Etherton, our Monitor Director at [monitor@grandcomputers.org](mailto:monitor@grandcomputers.org) and get started.