



GRAND BYTES

Sun City Grand Computers Club Newsletter

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President's Column: Special Announcement - 2023 Dues Increase

Our club recently upgraded its Classroom PC and Mac computers because they were no longer able to support the latest software updates and operating systems. The classroom computers were of the 2014 vintage. Additionally we are in the process of removing, replacing and updating computers in the Open Use room. As a technology focused club, we strive to have up to date equipment and software for our members to use!



Barbara Vivian
President

We worked these computers hard and squeezed the most we could from them. Our two Technical gurus, Ted Gray and Don Noteboom, spent MANY, MANY hours with work-arounds and they reached a point where it wasn't going to work anymore.

The Executive Board made the decision to replace these. With these necessary purchases, we have depleted our reserve. Our dues have been stable and were actually \$20 back in 2001! The Executive Board made the decision to increase dues to \$25 per year beginning in 2023. We feel that Club membership is the best value in Grand and hope you feel the same!

Renewals will begin December 1st for 2023. New members can join December 1st for membership through 2023.

Renew online or come into the Club for help. Contact our Membership Director, Kathy Cracraft at membership@grandcomputers.org if additional help is needed.

Email is not secure!

It's almost tax season again and time for my annual warning about email.



Dan Wallen
Tech Help Director
TechHelp@grandcomputers.org

"Email is not secure!"

On tech help Tuesday, a member came in and asked for help emailing documents to his new financial advisor. The documents included his W2 statements, tax returns and his driver's license.

I told him "NO" I would not help him and then explained that the only way to send sensitive documents (documents containing Social Security numbers, account numbers, driver's license numbers etc.) is for his financial adviser to send him a link to a secured server so that data can be transferred safely using encryption.

After explaining the reasons why not to send sensitive documents over email the member asked me "what if my financial adviser doesn't know how to send me a link to a secured server?" "FIRE HIM!" Because he doesn't get it.

When I needed a loaner car from my car dealer, the dealer asked me to email them a scan of my license and credit card. "Are you crazy?" I said, "I might as well post the scans on Facebook for everyone to see. I refused to send the scans via email and of course didn't get the loaner. I complained to the service manager, but he didn't get it, so I FIRED HIM and switched dealers.

It is the policy of Tech Help not to send sensitive data using email.

Okay Dan, what am I supposed to do? I have to get account information to my tax guy and he doesn't know how to set up an encrypted server.

You must go "old school". Get an envelope and put some stamps on it because even in 2022 there is still only one way to send a document securely that is protected by law and backed up by an arm of the federal government with badges and guns (shameless plug ahead) and that of course that is the United States Postal Service.

What equipment do we have?

Grand Computers Club offers two fully equipped, state-of-the-art rooms for use by members.



Ted Gray
Tech Director

The Classroom

12 seats with Windows 11 PC's and 12 MacOS system computers connected to High-Speed Internet.

Open Use Room

4 Apple iMac Computers, 16 Windows 11 PC Computers

All computers have a variety of the latest or most recent software and are connected to high-speed Internet.

State-of-the-Art Flight Simulator*

Powered by two gaming level computers and associated flight controls.

- One computer runs the instrument panel and flight controls & the other runs three wraparound monitors displaying the outside environment.
- Cockpit seating is a Volar Sim unit containing all hardware instrument panel flight controls.
- The joystick & rudder pedals are "Hall Effect" type for accurate control.

Additional Available Equipment for club member usage in the Open Use room

Printers:

- HP Black and White laser printer. (small fee)
- High speed HP color laser printer/copier. (small fee)
- HP printer on Wi-Fi for use with mobile devices

Other Devices:

- Real Flight Model Aircraft Trainer
- FAX machine for incoming and outgoing Faxes —local out-going calls only NO LONG DISTANCE!
- 35mm Slide Scanners
- *VHS to digital device, such as a USB Hard Drive, USB thumb drive, or DVD
- *8mm Movie film converter to MP4 file
- *Vinyl Record/Cassette Tape to any digital device
- *VCR to Digital copy equipment, *Vinyl to Digital copy equipment
- *Photo negative and print scanner to Digital
- *Flatbed Scanners with software to convert document formats

* Indicates equipment that requires a reservation to use. You can make reservations after you have logged into the website under "Reservations"

Join our Club! Use our equipment!

Financial Education SIG: BE PREPARED!

How to Organize for a Surviving Spouse



The Financial Education calendar for December includes:

INVESTING WORKSHOP: December 5th & 19th; 8-9:30 Chaparral Center, Apache Room

An interactive session for all things investing. Stocks, bonds, commodities, etc. All topics allowed - except politics!

WEBSITE APPLICATIONS: December 1st & 15th; 8-9:30 Chaparral Center, Computer Club Classroom. We access financial websites with information you need for intelligent investing. This can be a very hands-on-your-keyboard session.

MONTHLY SEMINAR: December 9th, 1-3:00 Chaparral Center, Hopi Room

David T. Eastman is our speaker this month. He has given many classes for *Grand Learning* on all facets of estate planning. He is a very engaging speaker and we are very fortunate to have him as a speaker.

His title this month: **BE PREPARED! How to Organize for a Surviving Spouse**

For more information, contact Scott Wallick or Harold Tilstra at financial@grandcomputers.org

New Technologies SIG: Upcoming Topics



The New Technologies Special Interest Group (SIG) is the place to go to keep abreast of the latest in technology. The SIG shares ideas and information about leading edge devices, technologies, and innovations. We have an interesting and informative schedule of events coming up in December 2022 and on into 2023.

Thursday December 15 our topic will be the always popular "Tech Toys Buying Guide for the Holiday Season". Learn about the latest gadgets that

are the hot deals for the holiday season.

So far in 2023 we have scheduled:

January 19 - "All About Alexa". Did you know that this virtual assistance technology is capable of voice interaction, music playback, marking to-do lists, setting alarms, streaming podcasts and more? Find out how it works at this fun session.

February 16 - "Highlights from 2023 Consumer Electronics Show". The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) is the largest technology event in the U.S., held every year in Las Vegas in January, attended by over 100,000 people. This is where most of the major hi-tech companies introduce their new phones, tablets, laptops, home robots and more. Attend to hear a great summary of the most interesting announcements.

All meetings are at 3:30 in the Chaparral Center, Computer Classroom - please contact Tom Shepherd - tomshepherdaz@gmail.com if any questions.

Graphics SIG: Upcoming Topics

PLEASE NOTE: The Graphics Special Interest Group (SIG) has moved to a *new day and time!*

Beginning in December 2022, we will be meeting in *the Chaparral Center, Computers Club Classroom* on the *third Wednesday of the month, at 3:30 pm.*

Join us each month to learn about the latest and greatest photo and video editing apps for your smartphone, iPad, tablet, Mac, PC, as well as online websites (free or for pay) where you can edit on any computer, any time, without downloading apps to your PC or Mac. Our SIG Group provides a place for people to meet, socialize, learn, and exchange ideas and information about:

- The latest applications and editing tools for enhancing photos, graphics, and videos as well as providing an understanding of related graphic media such as fonts, gifs, graphic design templates, presentations, web page design, photo books, etc.
- How to safely share photos and videos on web sites like Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, Twitter, Snapchat, Shutterfly, and other Social Media sites

The topics for our next two meetings:

Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 3:30 pm. We will continue the discussion of the "**Best Photo Apps of 2022**" for your Smartphone, iPad, Tablet, PC and Mac, with a live demo on editing online from any computer using some of these top rated apps. Join in the discussion and let us know your favorite photo editing apps!

Contact: Rita Skarbek at graphics@grandcomputers.org for more information.

Meet our new Membership Director Kathy Cracraft



Kathy Cracraft
Membership Director

My name is Kathy Cracraft and I am your new GCC Membership Director as of November 1, 2022. I am originally from Minnesota but arrived in Grand from several years in Bozeman, Montana. I worked in the computer world for many years before I retired and when we started wintering in Grand in 2015, I decided to join the club so I could stay active and keep up with the changing world of Technology. I started helping at the club with monitoring, then moved to a Class Assistant with the Android Smartphone and PC classes and eventually joined the Tech Help crew. Recently, I was asked to take on the role of Membership Director. It has always been a pleasure to work with this group of dedicated volunteers and to help with all the club activities.

Please remember to Renew/Join so you do not miss any of the great benefits the club has to offer.

Go to www.grandcomputers.org and click on the 'Membership' image. To contact me, send email to Membership@grandcomputers.org

Education: There are more Classes for the FALL Session



Marie Frasca
Education
Director

There are still a number of classes being offered for the fall session. Look at the list of courses available by going to [Grand Computers Club](#) Click >Education Tab>Register for classes< on the home page or scan the QR code.



Register for Classes

[Register for the class](#)

To sign up for a class in the classroom, Click **Register** button.

To sign up for a class online, Click **Online** button.

You might have to login again and follow the directions.

Your seat in the class is not guaranteed until the class fee is paid. You will receive an email confirmation (almost immediately) that confirms you have paid the class registration fee.

Classes available in the classroom or online for December

Mac Classes

- Calendar For Mac
- Keychain Passwords
- Mail for Mac
- Time Machine How to Back-Up Your Data

'Other' Classes

- Android Smartphone Camera, Photos and APP
- Android Smartphone Contact, Message & Calendar
- Android Smartphone Email and Navigation
- Apple Music (iTunes)
- Elements Project Improve Portraits
- Google Drive and Google Docs
- iCloud for Mac and PC
- Kindle Direct Publish-Upload and Print a Book

2023 WINTER SESSION TENTATIVE DATES

January 2, 2023 - Monday, Classes released to the membership for view only

January 9, 2023 - Monday, Registration begins at 8:00 am for all members

January 16, 2023 Monday, Classes begins

April 28, 2023- Friday, Classes ends

Volunteers need for Instructors and Class Assistants

If you are interested in teaching contact the education director at education@grandcomputers.org

If you are unsure of your abilities to teach, consider assisting in the class.

You might be surprised by your abilities. If you are interested in assisting the instructor in a class, contact the education director at education@grandcomputers.org

Upcoming Events



Grand Computers Club Upcoming Presentation Meetings and Topics for 2022

Please visit our website at www.grandcomputers.org



SCAN ME

Education - Register for classes.

Go to www.grandcomputers.org and visit the Education Overview Page.

Membership - Membership in our Computer Club offers so many opportunities!

Credit Card payment ONLY! For more information, click [HERE](#)

For additional information contact Membership@grandcomputers.org

Tech Help for members EVERY TUESDAY from 12:30 - 2:30pm

More information at www.grandcomputers.org > Tech Help

In Person at the club AND via Zoom Video Conferencing. Check the calendar for Zoom info.

Must be a Club Member to participate. Bring your device, passwords, & power supply for in person help.

Computers Club Meetings Open to ALL SCG Residents:

General Meeting - 1st Wednesday Oct-Apr **WE ARE FULL - NO MORE RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE**

Annual Meeting LUNCH sponsored by Zona Wyyred. NOTE: start time at 11:30.

RSVP is necessary to president@grandcomputers.org

December 7 11:30 AM Cimarron Center, Agua Fria Room

Contact Barb Vivian for additional information at president@grandcomputers.org



Coffee Chat - 2nd Thursday Oct-Apr 8:30-10am Location: [Sonoran Plaza, Palo Verde Room](#)

December 8 8:30 AM **Current Scams and How to Avoid Getting Scammed**

Coffee & Donuts Provided!

Contact Susan Lucas for additional information at vicepresident@grandcomputers.org.

New to Computers & Devices Support Group - 2nd Tues Oct-Apr 9-10:30am.

Chaparral Building – Hopi Room or Zoom

December 13 9:00 AM **Ten Great Websites for Seniors** - find safe, fun and informative websites that are particularly suited to provide education, entertainment and information to seniors

Contact Tom Shepherd for additional information at NewToComputers@grandcomputers.org.

Orientation - New to the Club or need a refresher about what it has to offer?

Join us for a detailed Club overview followed by a tour of the Club facilities.

Next orientation on Friday, Dec 16 3:30-5:00 pm at [Chaparral Center - Apache Room](#)

Contact Susan Lucas for additional information at vicepresident@grandcomputers.org.

For **Special Interest Group Activities (SIGs)**, go to <http://www.grandcomputers.org> > SIGs
Or if viewing online, click [HERE](#) or on a logo below.



NEED MORNING MONITORS - CAN YOU HELP?



Have you monitored at the club before? We need you to fill our morning slots as we expand our hours starting October 1st 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 and get started.

Please send comments, corrections, suggestions and Grand Bytes newsletter articles to publicity@grandcomputers.org