



GRAND BYTES

Grand Computers Club Newsletter

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Oct 2023



President's Column: Welcome Fall!



Barb Vivian
President

We have jump-started Fall this year with our classes starting on September 11th. We have filled a few and added more so continue to visit the Education page for updates. We NEED instructors for several classes because some instructors have moved or are no longer able to teach. Please contact Marie Frasca at education@grandcomputers.org if you have an interest or would like to discuss how you can help.

BIG NEWS!

We're adding Saturday mornings to our Club Open hours! Beginning October 7th, we'll be open every **Saturday from 9:00am - 12:30pm**. We are also holding Open Houses on Grand Market Days so encourage your friends to visit the Club to see what we have to offer.

Tech Help is expanding their hours beginning October 3rd! We will start "Check-in" at 11:30 (30 minutes earlier than before). Tech Help begins at **12:00 rather than 12:30**. We always suggest you come after 1:30 to avoid the crowds but we're excited to be able to add thirty more minutes for our tech team to help members!

Haven't renewed since 2022?

Our discounted dues (\$15) are in effect through December 31st. January 1st, membership is \$25 for the year.

Our two monthly meetings are resuming. These are open to **all Grand residents** so bring a friend. **General Meeting is October 4th at 2:00pm** in the Pima Room. Following status reports from our board, and a quick review of Fall Semester classes and registration, we will present "*The Essentials of Password Security and Management*". Presented by Denise Wassanaar, Instructor, Tech Team member and Education Assistant.

Coffee Chat is October 12th at 8:30am in the Pima Room. Following a quick review of Club happenings, we will present "*Mastering Notifications: Streamlining Alerts on Tablets, Phones, and Computers*". See you there with donuts and coffee.

Tech Help: Buying a new Personal Computer (PC)

Buying a new computer can be a daunting and frustrating experience. This article is intended to provide you with **very general ideas and information** which will help make this task easier and help ensure you get the right computer for your needs.



First off, we need to talk about "consume" and "create". When it comes to how you utilize your computer, **in general**, you are either a "**consumer**" or a "**creator**". If you primarily leverage your computer to do searches on the internet, read/send email, shop, read books, play solitaire or similar types of games then you can consider yourself a "**consumer**". If you leverage your computer for all or most of what a consumer would, **and you often use, edit, or create** any or all the following then you can consider yourself a "**creator**".

- Spreadsheets (like Microsoft Excel or similar)
- Documents (like Microsoft Word or similar)
- Presentations (like Microsoft PowerPoint or similar)
- Modifying or editing large picture files (same for music)
- High end gaming

In general: if you are a **consumer**, you will **not** need the power (chip set etc.) and capacity (storage, memory etc.) in your computer that a **creator** would need.

Basic Computer "types" which are of interest to most of us:

- **Desktops** - these are normally larger "boxes" that sit on the floor and have a separate monitor and keyboard. In general, there is no need for most of us to buy a desktop computer as a laptop or tablet works just as well and is portable.
- **Laptops and Notebooks** are **basically** the same thing - they are small portable personal computers. There are different sizes for laptops, and they have an array of power/storage options (see * and **), with some easy in person shopping you can find the one that is right for you. Good choice for some **consumers and most creators**.

- **Tablets and Netbooks** are basically the same thing - they are ultra-portable computers that are even smaller than traditional laptops. These are normally not as powerful as a laptop and are in general, a better option for most **consumers**.

*Personal Options_

1. **Screen size:** this depends on your comfort level and eyesight capability. In general, I would suggest you stay in the 12-inch to 17-inch screen size.
2. **Brand:** There are many very good brands of Laptops and Tablets on the market. Most of them are similar in capability and cost. I would focus on the RAM, Hard Disk, and Screen size you need.
3. Most of us don't need a "gaming laptop" so if you see a laptop described as a "gaming laptop" be aware it probably has more power (i.e. cost) than you really need.
4. Ensure the computer has: Wi-Fi, Camera/WebCam, and USB etc. ports
 - a. **In today's laptop and tablet market, it often is necessary to purchase a USB Type-C Hub or a "port replicator" to ensure you have the ports you need.**

**Power and Capacity Suggestions:

Random Access Memory (RAM):

Suggested for a **Consumer:** 4 GB or 8 GB

Suggested for a **Creator:** 16 GB

Probably more than you need: 32 GB (extra cost)

Note: if you see acronyms like DDR4, LPDDR4X or similar...don't be confused just focus on the size.

Hard Disk (now often called a Solid-state Drive or SSD)

Suggested for a **Consumer:** 128 GB or 256 GB

Suggested for a **Creator:** 512 GB

Probably more than you need: 1 TB (extra cost)

Note: if you see acronyms like PCIe NVMe or similar...don't be confused just focus on the size and ensure it is SSD.

Operating System: Any new Laptop or Tablet should have **Windows 11** installed.

Note: If you save money on a Windows 10 computer understand that Microsoft has set the end date of Windows 10 support to October 14, 2025. After that point, Windows 10 will no longer receive new security updates from Microsoft, and Windows 10 will be considered end-of-life (commercially dead).

Chip Set (power and speed): **In general,** most new laptops and tablets will have a functional and feasible chip set so I would focus more on RAM, Hard Disk, Screen size than on the chip set. Common manufacturers are Intel (i3-i9, Celeron) and AMD (Ryzen series).

With this information you can now start to look at the laptops and tablets available and have an idea on what you need. Note that there are many websites you can use to compare and contrast different makes, models, and costs for laptops and tablets. One that I have used is:

www.bestproductsreviews.com (search on laptop or tablet).

Also remember, if you are a Computer Club Member, bring any questions you have regarding new computers, and which one might work for you to Tech Help which is every Tuesday from 12:30 to 2:30. See our Club Website for details: <https://www.grandcomputers.org>

Education: Fall Session Has Started! Register NOW for Classes.



Marie Frasca
Education Director PhotoProfilePhoto.com

To register for classes, go to website:

<https://www.grandcomputers.org/Member/HomePage.php>

Click on the "Education" tab for the menu.

Click on "Registration for Classes"

When registering for a class, first read carefully the list of prerequisites in the class description. Students are taking classes that are too difficult or too easy for them. This is troublesome not only for the instructor and your fellow classmates but you will find yourself discouraged in the classroom. There are classes for **beginners**, **intermediate** and **advanced**. We ask that you find the right one that fits your needs.

Upcoming Classes. [Click Image to register](#)

<p>Monday, October 2</p> <p>10:30am iPhone Basic Setup Workshop</p> <p>3:30pm PC Basic Beginning Word 2019/ Windows</p> <p>Wednesday, October 4</p> <p>3:30pm Photoshop Elements Design Your Own Cl</p> <p>Wednesday, October 11</p> <p>10:30am Apple Watch - Workshop</p> <p>Monday, October 16</p> <p>8:00am Mac Basic Beginning Computer Skills</p> <p>10:30am Windows 11 Beginners to Computers (Cla</p> <p>3:30pm Android Smartphone Basics (Class 1)</p> <p>Wednesday, October 18</p> <p>10:30am Online Rummikub</p> <p>1:00pm Google Drive and Google Docs</p> <p>Friday, October 20</p> <p>8:00am Mac Basic Beginning Computer Skills</p>	<p>Monday, October 23</p> <p>1:00pm PowerPoint Microsoft 365 (Windows 10 &</p> <p>Wednesday, October 25</p> <p>10:30am Apple Watch-Almost All You Want to Know</p> <p>1:00pm Google Drive and Google Docs</p> <p>1:00pm PowerPoint Microsoft 365 (Windows 10 &</p> <p>Friday, October 27</p> <p>10:30am Apple Watch-Almost All You Want to Know</p> <p>Monday, October 30</p> <p>1:00pm iPad Basics - Set up</p> <p>Wednesday, November 1</p> <p>10:30am Apple Music / Apple Books / Apple TV</p> <p>Thursday, November 2</p> <p>10:30am Password Security and Management - Th</p> <p>1:00pm Android Smartphone Contact,Message &</p>
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It is important to pay for class when you register.

Payment is due the day you register for the class.

You will also receive access to the handout when payment is received.

Fall session ends Dec 15, 2023

The next education session is the winter session beginning January 2024. The club will be working over the Holiday break getting ready for the winter session. Information will be going out when registration begins through e-blasts when finalized with the start of the classes.

If you are not receiving the club's eblast, please contact the computers club.

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. For more information, contact me. Marie Frasca Education Director education@grandcomputers.org

For questions on the education courses, contact Marie Frasca, Education Director at education@grandcomputers.org.

New Technologies: "Review of the Electric Vehicle Industry"

Thursday October 19 3:30 in the Computer Club Classroom

"Review of the Electric Vehicle Industry"

Presentation to be given by Gary Graunke. Gary is an expert on EV's; he has been in the past the President of the Oregon Electric Vehicle Association, has extensive computer experience and has created educational materials relating EV's to climate, economic and national security issues. Anyone is welcome to attend - you don't have to be a SIG member and there is no need to preregister.

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Thursday November 16 3:30 in the Computer Club Classroom

"Medical Technology - Key Trends for the Future"

- Wearable Devices
- 3D Printing
- Portals
- VR and AR Training
- Smartphone Apps

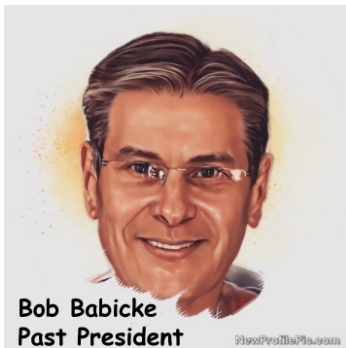
Join us for a lively technical discussion about these interesting new devices and techniques. Anyone is welcome to attend - You don't have to be a member of the SIG - You don't have to be a member of the Club - You don't even have to register - Just Show Up!

Please contact Tom Shepherd at NewTech@grandcomputers.org if you have any questions.



Summer is Over and... Apple Hosted A New Event for 2023!

Hopefully everyone has had a great and safe summer. Soon the Snowbirds will be flocking back to the Grand, and our classes have started up again.



As it happens every Fall, Apple hosts its big Event to roll out all the new products that it has developed. The event this year was on September 12th and was called "Wanderlust". The highlights of the event were the new iPhones and the Apple Watch.

No matter what else comes in 2023, the new iPhone will be the biggest launch of the year. There were 4 models released...the iPhone 15, iPhone 15 Plus, iPhone 15 Pro and the iPhone 15 Pro Max.

The iPhone 15 and 15 Plus have the Dynamic Island, same chip processor as the iPhone 14 Pro, and the camera can take 48 megapixel RAW photos with the built in camera.

The iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max have the new A17 chip and all are built with a titanium body. Additionally, the new phones are equipped with an Action Button (like the Apple Watch Ultra) and the 48 megapixel camera has an ultra-wide mode to capture incredible detail. Along with the typical upgrades to processing speed, display and battery life, the iPhone 15 Pro models add a 5X Optical zoom for incredible close-up shots.



The new phone also means the arrival of iOS 17, which launched as a free software update on Sept. 18. It included new features such as Contact Poster, Name Drop and Live Stickers. These features and others will be the highlight of the October Apple Special Interest Group meeting on October 16th.

Will you upgrade your phone this year? Which iPhone to choose?

Here's a quick rundown of all the iPhones that are available through Apple and its starting price:

- iPhone 15: \$799
- iPhone 15 Plus: \$899
- iPhone 15 Pro: \$999
- iPhone 15 Pro Max: \$1199
- iPhone 14: \$699
- iPhone 14 Plus: \$799
- iPhone 13: \$599
- iPhone SE: \$429

Apple Watch

It wasn't just the iPhone enjoying the attention at Apple's event. The tech giant also unveiled Apple Watch Series 9 and the Apple Watch Ultra 2, each with a new S9 chip (the first chip upgrade in 3 years)

Along with the new chip set, all Apple Watches will get the new operating system, Watch OS10. This OS brings a whole new look to your watch and enables widgets.

Watch OS 10 is a comprehensive app redesign for more information at a glance. Advanced metrics, views, and experiences for cyclists. And

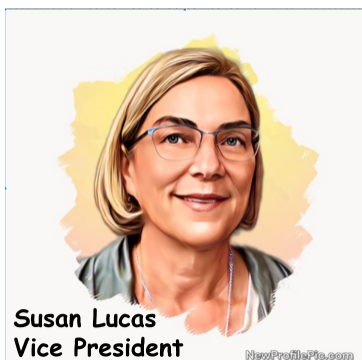


insights for mental and vision health. It's the biggest update since the introduction of Apple Watch.

Here's a quick rundown of all the Apple Watches that are available through Apple and their starting price:

- Apple Watch Series 9: \$399
- Apple Watch Ultra 2: \$799
- Apple Watch SE: \$249

Welcome back to all of the GCC seasonal members!



The Computers Club is ready and waiting for you; offering classes, tech help, general and SIG meetings, Coffee Chat and more. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

There is so much in the news about AI (artificial intelligence) and other cool technology. Wanted to share with you something that I stumbled on and found interesting; [Bird Buddy](#) - a bird feeder with a wireless camera and smartphone app that lets you view

recordings of the activity in the feeder and can even identify various species of birds that visit.

There are a couple different brands of feeders including: [Bird Buddy with Solar Roof](#). This feeder can identify who or what is feasting at the feeder, and creates video clips and still photos. Cost is \$269 - \$279.00.

[Wasserstein Bird Feeder Camera Case](#) - literally a feeder with a case for a camera. It can accommodate the Blink Outdoor, the Ring Stick Up Cam Plug-In and a few Wyze cameras that can deliver instant smartphone alerts. The cost of the case is about \$70.00 plus the camera.

The DIY option - a window feeder or a pair of binoculars.

One of these camera bird feeders may be the solution to more easily identifying a bird versus looking it up in the [Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds book](#) or online.



Reminder from Membership:

Some of the great benefits of belonging to the Grand Computer Club



Monthly Newsletter - "Grand Bytes" - Current news of what is happening in the Club (Oct-April).

Weekly Newsletter - "Little Bytes" - Reminders of upcoming events/meetings.

Classes - Check www.grandcomputers.org for the class listings.

Tech Help on Tuesday - FREE one on one support for most devices.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) - Each SIG has a specific interest focus with monthly, bi-weekly, or weekly meetings - generally October - April.

Check www.grandcomputers.org for SIG schedules, meeting topics, times, and locations.

Monthly presentations at our General Meetings and Coffee Chats - Special topics each month related to equipment, applications, tips/techniques, and more. (October - April).

New Member Orientation - Held monthly (October - April) to familiarize new members in detail about our club and benefits offered.

Equipment and Software for member use includes:

- PC and Mac Computers connected to high-speed Internet
- Copy/Fax/Scan machines (small fee)
- Color/B&W Printers (small fee)
- Scanners and digitizing equipment for converting VHS tapes, vinyl records, and 35 mm Slides*
- Flight Simulator*
- Flatbed Scanners w/software to convert document formats*

*Require reservations at www.grandcomputers.org Member page

See you at the club!