



GRAND BYTES

Grand Computers Club Newsletter



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President's Column:

We have a FANTASTIC slate of Candidates for 2024!

I will be stepping down as your president on January 1st but will remain on the Executive Board as the Past President so will not be going away. I love this club and mostly love to work with the wonderful group of volunteers in every area of the Club. As one of the largest clubs in Grand, it takes many people putting in many hours to provide the benefits we have to the Grand community. We have, unequivocally, the hardest working, dedicated group of volunteers and they're also FUN! This is what keeps me here. THANK you to all of you who made my two years as President a true delight.



Barb Vivian
President

Our Nominating Committee has put together a great slate of candidates for 2024. Membership will vote at the December General Meeting – December 6th at 2:00pm in the Sonoran Plaza – Palms & Palo Verde room.

I am excited to share the slate and am in absolute FULL SUPPORT of these candidates and think the Club will continue to get even better with their leadership!

****President: Clay Stephens** – Moving from his position as Tech Help Director. Active tech team member, class instructor, and passionate Club promoter.

****Vice President: Tom Shepherd** – Active instructor, New Technology SIG leader, leader of our New to Computers initiative and frequent presenter.

Treasurer: Debbie Meyer will continue providing her expertise and guidance to keep us fiscally responsible and thriving.

Secretary: Gaile Brinkman will continue supporting the Executive board as the Club Secretary, keeping the Board informed and managing our room requests and reservations.

Membership Director: Kathy Cracraft will continue providing her expertise in retaining our members and building our future with new members.

Education Director: Marie Frasca will continue providing her dedicated expertise in providing an outstanding offering of excellent classes to our members.

****Monitor Director: David Weeks** will be moving into this position – new to the Executive Board, but active as our new Devices SIG leader, an active monitor, tech help team member, class instructor and class assistant.

****Tech Help Director:** Ann Hopperstad has been actively working with Tech Help, as a Tech Team member and an assistant to Clay Stephens. She has also been an active class assistant, SIG assistant, membership assistant and more.

Technical Director: Ted Gray will be continuing in this critical role, ensuring that the Club can provide technology that supports the various activities in the classroom, open use room and Club events around the community.

**** NEW Candidates**

Matter? What Does It Matter?

Matter is a new standard that's meant to bridge the gap between every smart home ecosystem out there. And it is a huge gap, indeed!



Ira Simmons
Apple Sig Chair

When personal assistants: smart plugs, smart switches and other such devices first entered the scene about 9 years ago the marketplace was dominated by Amazon. It was so easy to go on Amazon and buy a relatively cheap "smart" plug, download the accompanying app, connect a lamp and then issue a voice command such as "Alexa, turn bedroom light on." Google Assistant and to a lesser extent Samsung also joined the party but for the most part, Apple couldn't get out of the starting gate! Sure, you could ask Siri "Where is the nearest Italian Restaurant" or "What is the temperature in American Samoa", but except for using their expensive home pod as a hub, you couldn't much boss Siri around the house. And although a few smart items were apple compatible, they were comparatively expensive, and often not easy to set up.



Introduced about a year ago, what Matter 1.0 did was give Apple somewhat equal footing with their competitors. So if you decided to buy a relatively cheap smart light switch, you now had the choice of connecting to Siri, Alexa, Google Assistant or maybe all three! In the early days of personal assistants, almost everything I bought was Alexa

compatible and I established much of my house with Amazon but after I purchased two home pod minis earlier this year, and given that the Home app on all my Apple devices was available but dormant, I wanted to expand what I could do with Apple. So after adding more smart light switches, I now can yell Siri to more objects than ever! I'm just sorry that more Apple compatible stuff was not available earlier.



Matter 1.2 is the latest iteration which promises such items as refrigerators, dishwashers, laundry washers and dryers and smoke alarms will soon join the wacky world of Personal Assistants.

The Apple smart home of our dreams is almost here!

And yes, Matter does Matter!

Education: Hope to see you in the classroom!

We are now about halfway through our Fall Semester. We have seen a lot of interest in what we are offering. There are still plenty of classes offered and we'll be adding more in the days ahead. So, keep checking back on the website to see what's available.



New this semester is our Class listing booklet that you can find online as well as in print at the Club. You will find class descriptions and specifics for each class in this booklet.

Almost all of our classes are being held in the classroom. One instructor is offering two classes online via Zoom.

We will see more instructors returning to Grand in the coming months and are already building classes for the Winter session.

Please stop in to the Club if you need help with registration, getting class handouts printed, or just have questions about the classes. You can also find a detailed description of the registration process in the "Education Help Booklet" - also available in a print version at the Club. Find this online after logging in - go to Education - Registration Help. Come in on Tuesday during Tech Help and someone can work with you to choose and register for classes or put yourself on a waitlist for a full class. Remember, payment must be received when you register to hold your spot in class.

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"

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

Hope to see you in the classroom!

Upcoming Classes

Wednesday, November 1

10:30am Apple Music / Apple Books / Apple TV

Thursday, November 2

10:30am Password Security and Management - The Basics

1:00pm Android Smartphone Contact, Message & Calendar (Class 2)

Monday, November 6

10:30am Android Smartphone Email and Navigation (Class 3)

1:00pm **Holiday Letters & Labels for Mac**

3:30pm Photoshop Elements Design Your Own Class

Wednesday, November 8

10:30am Apple Watch-Almost All You Want to Know

1:00pm **Holiday Letters & Labels for Mac**

Friday, November 10

10:30am Apple Watch-Almost All You Want to Know

Monday, November 13

1:00pm Mailchimp for Mass Email

1:00pm **Publisher 365 Microsoft Windows**

Wednesday, November 15

10:30am Android Smartphone Camera, Photos and App (Class 4)

1:00pm Mailchimp for Mass Email

1:00pm **Publisher 365 Microsoft Windows**

Friday, November 17

1:00pm iCloud for Mac and PC

Monday, November 20

10:30am Mind Stimulating Video Games for Seniors

Wednesday, November 22

10:30am Mind Stimulating Video Games for Seniors

Wednesday, November 29

1:00pm **Windows 10 & 11 OneDrive by Microsoft (Class 10)**

Thursday, November 30

10:30am **Windows 10 & 11 Mail, Calendar and People (Class 7)**

Monday, December 4

10:30am **Photos for Mac**

Tuesday, December 5

10:30am Gmail - Understand How it Works

Wednesday, December 6

10:30am **Windows 10 & 11 Photos App (Class 7)**

1:00pm Internet Resources for Creativity

Thursday, December 7

10:30am Gmail - Understand How it Works

Friday, December 8

10:30am **Photos for Mac**

1:00pm Password Security and Management - The Basics

Wednesday, December 13

10:30am **Windows 10 & 11 Edge Browser (Class 6)**

Friday, December 15

10:30am iMovie

Financial Education: Welcome to the 2023-2024 season for the Computer Club's Financial Education SIG!

The Financial Education SIG meets from November-March. Join us as we kick-off this season's series of meetings in just a few days. ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE CHAPARRAL CENTER.

Our season begins with the following meetings:



INVESTING WORKSHOP

First and third Mondays of the month; Apache Room 8:00-9:30 AM

Nov 6th : **"Welcome Back/Season SIG Kickoff"**

Nov 20th : **"My Online Identity Was Stolen! A SCG Personal Experience"**

WEBSITE APPLICATIONS:

First and third Thursdays of the month; Computer Club classroom 8:00-9:30 AM

Nov 16th: Check the Computer Club [Financial Education SIG webpage calendar](#) for specific topics.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION SEMINAR:

Second Friday of the month; Hopi Room 1:00-2:30 PM

Fri Nov 10: **Getting to Know Your Medicare Choices for Open Enrollment**

- Is Medicare Advantage a Good Fit for Me?
- Do I Have Medical Coverage When Traveling Outside the USA?
- I'm a snowbird. What's best for me?
- And more...

Guest speaker is Les Gum, of HealthMarkets Insurance Agency

Hope to see you all at our season kick-off "INVESTING WORKSHOP" on November 6th .

Scott Wallick/Harold Tilstra
SIG co-leaders

financial@grandcomputers.org Financial Education

[New Technologies: "Medical Technology - Key Trends for the Future"](#)



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!

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

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

[Devices SIG](#)

Come to our monthly meeting for open discussions including new and current hardware, information about security breaches, and versions of Apple IOS.



David Weeks
 Devices SIG Chair

Our last meeting went well. We covered many new devices, and apps.

- New scams that are running around lately.
- Some dangers with new technologies.
- New transportation devices.



Our next meeting on Monday, Nov 27 at 3:30 in the Chaparral Center, Hopi Room will cover home security topics.

- New devices available for your home, and car.
- Firestick setting for downloading new apps.
- Health settings, and emergency contacts.
- I may have some show and tell items also.

Please contact David Weeks at Devices@grandcomputers.org if you have any questions.

Reminder from Membership: It is almost time to renew.

It is almost time to renew your Membership for 2024 Membership year is Jan – Dec.

Starting 1 Dec 2023, you will be able to renew your Computer Club Membership for 2024 for \$25.00.

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



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

*Requires a reservation at www.grandcomputers.org Member page

See you at the Club

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