The
Gigabyte Gazette

The Monthly Newsletter

of the

Sun City Summerlin
Computer Club

NOVEMBER 2011

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President's Message

by Edith Einhorn

General Meeting: Our general membership meeting this month will be held on **Thursday, Nov. 3, 2011** at 7:00 PM in Desert Vista. We will have a short business meeting at which the Nominating Committee will present the candidates for SCSCC's 2012 Board of Directors. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at this time. We will also present recommended changes to the Club's constitution and bylaws, after which we will have a talk by a presenter from the Nellis AFB Community. Join us for this informative presentation, refreshments and fellowship.

Volunteer Thank You Dinner: This month we will again have our annual dinner to thank our many volunteers. These are the women and men who give of their time and expertise and make it possible for the Computer Club to live up to its purpose of members helping members. We have lots of opportunities for volunteers with and without computer skills. Please call me if you wish to join this dedicated group of members.

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions Notice: The SCSCC Board has recommended the following changes to the Club's constitution and bylaws. These changes will be voted on at the December meeting.

Constitution:

SECTION III.3

Dues shall be ~~$15.00~~ $10.00 per calendar year and may be pro-rated. Annual dues may be increased to an amount not to exceed $50 per year by a majority vote of the membership at a business meeting of the club. The SCSCAI must approve amounts exceeding $50 per year.

SCSCC Bylaws:

3.3   Club Dues are ~~$20.00~~ $10.00 per member per year, payable on or before January 1st of each year. Dues for a new membership commencing after July 1st and prior to December 31st shall be one-half of the annual amount for such partial year. The Board of Directors may establish a reduced dues rate for additional individuals living in the same household as the first member. To promote timely renewals, the Board of Directors may establish an "early bird" ~~discount rate~~ incentive.

I look forward to seeing you around the Computer Club.

Edith

838-7267

Issue Contributors

Faye Andrew – Manager / Editor

Irene Burt	Tom Burt	Tammy Collins
Edith Einhorn	Stu Gershon	David Kretchmar
Pat LeMay	Millie Taylor	Howard Verne

Editor's Note

We are now producing the November Gigabyte Gazette. The Computer Club is offering new classes this month. Don't miss the opportunity hear what is new in the computer world. If you have not attended the Kaffee Klatches, you are missing out on some excellent information and there are many useful tips.

We are still looking for new information to share with the club so if you have an area of expertise you would like to share by teaching a seminar or class please call Edith Einhorn. If you have computer information you would like to share with members of the club via our "Hands-Helping-Hands section of the Gigabyte Gazette, send your articles to me at fayeandrew@gmail.com. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Faye Andrew
702-242-4404

SCSCC Board of Directors Actions

The Computer Club Board of Directors took the following actions on October 12, 2011:

No Board Actions were taken at this meeting.

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 3rd, 7:00 PM Desert Vista

There will be a short business meeting at which the Nominating Committee will present the proposed slate of officers and directors for 2012. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at this time.

Elections will be held at the December meeting. Also in December, members will be asked to approve the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws. These changes are in my President's message in the Gigabyte Gazette and were sent to you in a message on the SCSCC_News group.

Dues renewal for 2012 will be collected at the November and December meetings. Dues are $10.00 per person for the year. New members who pay this month will have their dues paid through December 2012. We will have an early-bird cash drawing in January for those members who pay their dues on or before December 31, 2011.

Our guest speaker this evening is from the Nellis AFB community. He will speak about the military mission and operations. As always, there will be time for questions and answers as well as refreshments. Guests are welcome.

Welcome New Members

James Carlson	Mike Showalter
Stanely Evans	Donald Singer
Leonard Herscovitch	Fred Soltis
Suzanne Hoiles	Josephine Stephenson
Belle Rosenberg	Lynn Wuebker
Akiko Ruliem	Michael Wuebker
Toni Ruppert	Barbara Zagel

November 2011 Calendars

To view the November calendars, click the following hyperlink:
http://www.scs-cc.com/Calendars/scscc_calendar_2011-nov.pdf

Members Helping Members

Editor's Note: "Members Helping Members" is a column that includes computing tips that our members find useful and that they would like to share with their fellow SCSCC members. Please email your tips to the GG Editor, Tom Burt, at: **tomburt89134@cox.net** with the title "GG: Members Helping Members".

Repair or Replace It?
By David Kretchmar

ConsumerReports magazine's August 2011 issue included an article discussing whether it was more cost efficient to repair or replace various household items. The analysis was based on data provided by 27,000 subscribers and their experiences with 53,000 broken items ranging from refrigerators to electronics to exercise equipment.

Of course I was particularly interested in the data relating to personal computers, both desktops and laptops/notebooks. ConsumerReports concluded that when either type of computer was over 4 years old, it was more cost effective to replace the computer than to have it repaired.

The article stated that the average cost of a computer repair was $164, and consumers were more likely to feel that a computer repair had been done badly than repairs to other household items.

I think the findings would have been very different if the survey had been conducted among Sun City Summerlin Computer Club members. Our Computer Club hardware Techs often successfully repair computers, especially desktops, that are over 4 years old. Of course labor is free if computers are brought into the Tuesday afternoon Hardware SIG, or done at a nominal charge if the work is done in the club member's home.

Computer Club Techs are often able to provide required parts at no charge using pieces we are able to salvage from donated computers. If parts have to be purchased, we are usually able to provide them at a substantial savings compared to prices charged by retailers.

Members should still be realistic about the lifespan of their computers. Any laptop older than 5 years or tower older than 6 years is likely living on borrowed time. I'm not saying that a computer should be pitched (or donated to the Club for parts) after 5 or 6 years; I have seen machines still *functioning* after 8 or 10 years. Older computers are just slower, more frustrating to use (i.e. programs not responding errors), and more subject to malware attacks and data loss than newer machines.

There is always some learning required when switching to a new PC, which today will come with the excellent Windows 7 operating system. But our Computer Club Techs and classes will help you make the transition with a minimum of heartburn.

Arguably the most valuable service Computer Club Techs are able to provide to our members is objective advice. We have no motivation to try to sell you a new computer or to convince you to do a repair or upgrade on an older computer that is not in your best interest.

<u>Special Interest Groups</u>

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) provide a forum for general discussion on a specific computer related subject. Admission to all SIGs is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. All of the following meetings are held in the Classroom <W> or <M> indicate whether a SIG would be of interest to Windows, Macintosh.

Creative Graphics <W/M>
1st and 3rd Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Mel Neiman (228-6727)
Featuring tips, tricks, demonstrations and giveaways with information on greeting cards, business cards, labels, simple desktop publishing, digital photo tips and using photos in your projects, creating slide show informational frames, using fonts and creating your own clipart from fonts, e-mail stationery and animated signatures, journaling, and scrapbooking using computers, new tools for publishing found in PrintMaster.
Very basic photo imaging processing, using small utilities related to graphics, fonts and catalog.

Digital Media <W>
3rd Thursday, 9:00 a.m.
Tom Burt (341-7095)
The Digital Media SIG provides a forum for members interested in all aspects of computer-based digital sound and video to meet, discuss, and learn more about the topic. The SIG's target audience is intermediate to advanced digital media users, but all members are welcome.

Genealogy <W>
2nd Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Zane Clark (562-3684)
Genealogy is one of America's most popular and rewarding hobbies. Come; let us help you find your ancestors on the Internet. We will explore helpful, free, sites and assist you in building your family tree.

GMail and Other Google Programs <W/M>
1st Thursday, 10:00 a.m.
Pat Lemay (254-1499)
Pat has adapted her popular Gmail seminar to become a regular monthly SIG. All members are welcome. This is your place to learn about all things Google.

Hardware <W >
Every Tuesday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
George Lobue (256-0822), Chuck Wolff (233-6634)
This SIG provides **club members only** with no cost assistance for those having upgrades and / or problems with their computers. Bring in only your PC tower and your problems. Our TECH team will give you our best effort. Be sure to mark your cables so you can re-connect when you get home.

iPad SIG <W/M>
4th Thursday, 10 a.m.
Zane Clark (562-3684)
This SIG will be your forum for learning about and discussing the Apple iPad tablet device.

Macintosh Users' Group <M>
2nd and 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Ed Barkin (243-6597) and Rose Mary D'Aloisio (255-2813)
This is for Macintosh users of all experience levels. We will have Q&A, so bring your questions and/or problems.

Photoshop <W>
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Zoltan Steiner (256-1161)
This SIG will provide you with an overview of many of the basic elements found in both Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Photoshop Elements, two extraordinary photo retouching, image editing, and color painting software programs.   The Adobe Photoshop programs offer the tools to get professional-quality results. If you wish to enhance your photographs, this SIG will be most helpful and of great value. This SIG's target audience is intermediate to advanced digital imaging users, but all members are welcome.

Picasa <W>
4th Monday, 1:00 p.m. (Meets November through April)
Stu Gershon (255-3309)

Stu will be conducting this SIG as a monthly workshop, using Picasa 3 as the tool for organizing and editing digital photos. This SIG's target audience is beginner to intermediate digital photography users, but all members are welcome.

Kaffee Klatches

Kaffee Klatches provide a forum for general discussion on all computer-related subjects. Admission to all Kaffee Klatches is on a first-come, first-seated basis and is subject to the maximum allowed by fire code regulations. All of the following meetings are held in the Classroom.

Beginners Kaffee Klatch <W/M>
Every Saturday, 9:00 a.m.
Bill Wilkinson (233-4977)

If you are a novice or near-beginner computer user, or if you just want some refresher information together with a refreshing cup of coffee, then jump-start or recharge your computing knowledge by attending the BKK sessions. At each session, attendees will explore from one to four topics of particular interest to beginners and near-beginners. The topics are always announced a couple of days in advance via e-mail to SCSCC members who have subscribed to the club's message board. Each topic is presented in a step-by-step manner and is supported by "how to" notes that can be easily and conveniently downloaded from the BKK web page. Following each "up front" presentation of one or more topics (approximately 60 minutes in duration), an informal open-ended Question and Answer period takes place for those who wish to participate, listen, reflect, or inquire.

Q&A Kaffee Klatch <W/M>
Every Monday at 8:30 a.m.
Sy Bensky, Tom Burt, Sandy Mintz

This is a Q&A meeting is designed for everyone to ask questions and exchange ideas in a friendly atmosphere. No one knows it all and no question is too "dumb". We learn from answers to others' questions. If you need help with a computing problem, this just might be where you find the answer. We're here and you'll get a warm welcome!

Kaffee Klatsch <W/M/L>
Every Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.
Sy Bensky (242-6695)

This KK is for all users from beginning to advanced. The KK discussions are not restricted to any one subject, computer platform or computer-knowledge level but should be computer or technology related. We will try to answer your questions, help you keep your systems updated and provide some useful "tips and tricks." If you have a tip or information you would like to share, we encourage you to bring it in and share since the SCSCC is built on "neighbor helping neighbor." The fellowship is great, the coffee is good, and the education received from the KK attendees is priceless. Stop by on Tuesday morning and have a cup of coffee with us.

November 2011 Classes

Because there are a limited number of computer stations available for hands-on participation, pre-registration is necessary for all classes. See individual class descriptions for details on how to register.

BOOT CAMP CLASSES

CLASS For NOVEMBER 15, 16, 17, 22, and 23, all from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Lead instructor: Bill Wilkinson

If you know of friends in the Sun City Summerlin community who may be interested in taking this class (see below for course description), would you let them know that this program is available?

The class is designed to accommodate both the brand new computer user as well as the individual who would like to fill some gaps in his computer knowledge and experiences. The student manual is geared toward participants who use Windows XP, Windows Vista, or the new Windows 7.

Registration Details:

To register or seek additional information, please telephone **Faye Andrew at 242-4404.** She will arrange to register your friends for an upcoming class and collect the course fee.

Prerequisites: Must be a 2011 Club member ($15 membership dues) and own a computer with the Microsoft WINDOWS XP, WINDOWS VISTA, or WINDOWS 7 operating system installed.

COURSE FEE: Fifteen dollars ($15.00); materials include a participant's manual, a CD, and a portable flash drive.

Boot Camp Course Description:

Boot Camp is an introductory course designed for members who are new to computing and/or the Microsoft Windows operating system. It also serves as an excellent review for intermediate users who want to fill some gaps in their computer knowledge.

This hands-on class has a limited enrollment of 12 with each participant working at an individual computer station in the Computer Lab. A multi-member team of lead instructor and four coaches will provide step-by-step instruction that will include demonstrations, guided practice and individual coaching assistance.

Participants will be introduced to the basic vocabulary and concepts necessary to establish an understanding of Windows. They will be instructed in practical techniques for managing and organizing their own data files, will be introduced to important strategies for working successfully with word processing documents, email, and the Internet, and will learn how to read and write data from and to a compact disk and a portable flash drive. Those participants who own a digital camera will actively participate in a demonstration on copying photos from a camera to their hard drive, utilizing their newly acquired skills of file management.

Windows 7 Basics: Introduction to Windows 7
Instructor: Howard Verne
Tuesday, November 29th, at 1PM
Location: SCSCC Lab

This session is a basic survey of Microsoft's Windows 7 Operating System and is intended to give members who have recently purchased a new computer with Windows 7 installed or those who have upgraded to Windows 7, a way to jump start their knowledge of Microsoft's newest OS. This is your chance to get *hands on* instruction on Windows 7!

Prerequisite computer skills required to attend this course:
　Ability to use a mouse to open/close/minimize windows
　Ability to start a program (such as Internet Explorer)
　Basic understanding of files and folders

This hands-on class has a limited enrollment of 12 with each participant working at an individual computer station. A multi-member team of lead instructor and coaches will provide step-by-step instruction that will include demonstrations, guided practice and individual coaching assistance. There is no fee for this class.

Using MS Excel to Create and Manipulate a Spreadsheet

Wed. Nov. 30 (session 1)
Wed Dec. 7 (session 2)
Wed. Dec. 14 (session 3
All at 1:00 PM in the SCSCC Lab
Instructor: Edith Einhorn

From home to business, a spreadsheet is a valuable tool for organizing and sorting data. A spreadsheet can be used to create an address list, a data base of your music collection, your anniversary, birthday and Christmas card mailing list, your household budget, your household or automobile expenses, or any other data, alpha and/or numeric.

This is a 3-session class with each session dependent on the one that came before. Participants should plan to attend all 3 sessions.

Session 1 will cover the basics of creating and formatting a spreadsheet. Subsequent sessions will become more advanced and personalized for the participants in the class.

This class will be limited to 12 students. There is no charge, but you must register. Send an email to eunicorn@cox.net. Include your name and telephone number.

<u>November 2011 Seminars</u>

For Computer Club seminars, there is no requirement for advanced registration unless explicitly stated. Seating is first-come, first-seated.

Introduction to Digital Photography

Thursday, November 3 at 1 PM
Instructor: Stu Gershon
Location: SCSCC classroom

What better way to spend Halloween than letting me help you spend your money ☺ I will try to help you know what to look for, how much to spend and where to buy a NEW digital camera. Click on the following link to see a description of Stu's seminar:

http://www.digitaldoconline.com/Introduction%20to%20Digital%20Photography%20HANDOUT.htm

Workshop: How to Operate Your Digital Camera

Monday, November 14th at 1 PM
Presenter: Stu Gershon
Location: SCSCC Classroom

Stu's workshop will focus on how to effectively operate your digital camera. Must bring camera, FRESH batteries, owner's manual and BLANK memory card. **LIMIT 15 PEOPLE.** Pre-registration is required. Email Stu at: stugershon@gmail.com.

The Workshop handout is at: http://digitaldoconline.com/Yourcamera.htm.

EBay SELLING

Monday, November 28th 10:30 AM
Presenter: Tom Kimber
Location: SCSCC Classroom

Founded in late 1995, EBay is the leading online marketplace for the sale of goods and services by a diverse community of individuals and businesses. Today, the EBay community includes over 50 million registered users, and is the most popular shopping site on the Internet when measured by total user minutes. These seminars, presented by an avid EBay user will share his secrets for making good buys and effective sales at this Internet marketplace.

Investment Resources on the Internet

Wednesday, November 30, at 9:00 AM
Presenter: Tom Burt
Location: SCSCC Classroom

It's important that seniors follow and manage their investment portfolios. The Internet provides a wealth of helpful information for doing this.

This 2 1/2 hour seminar will feature a discussion and a walk-through of a series of interesting web-sites to illustrate the many resources you can tap into to invest wisely and profitably and to follow how your investments are doing. We'll include a demo of tracking your investments using the Yahoo Finance portfolio tracker and also look at placing an online order to buy/sell a stock. The seminar will include a bio-break and lots of opportunities for Q&A.

The target audience is club members who are moderately comfortable with surfing the Internet, who understand basics of investing and who want to improve their own skills in managing their investments. However, all members are welcome! The presentation handout is available at:
http://www.scscc.com/smnr/investment_resources_on_internet.pdf

Google Chrome Web Browser

Presenter: Pat Lemay
Location: SCSCC Classroom

Google Chrome is Google's free browser for Windows, Macintosh and the Linux operating systems. Chrome is designed to be fast in every possible way. It's quick to start up from your desktop, loads web pages in a snap and runs complex applications fast. The browser is streamlined, clean and simple. Chrome is designed to keep you safer and more secure on the web with built-in malware and phishing protection, auto updates to make sure the browser is up-to-date with the latest security updates. Chrome uses technologies such as Safe Browsing and sandboxing. Chrome has many useful features built-ins, including extensions, translation in the browser, themes, applications and more. This class will be taught on the Windows version of Chrome.

Digital Photography Column

by
Stu Gershon

Digital Photography?

Everyone around you is buying a digital camera. Is it time for YOU to join the club? There are many things to consider;

1.What are you going to use the camera for?

2.What type of computer do you have?

3.How much money do you want to spend?

The last question is the easiest to answer since you can spend anywhere from $100 to $3000!

If you don't have a computer, then you probably shouldn't buy a digital camera! I've often said, "A digital camera without a computer is like a boat without water!" If you're going to take snapshots (with a digital camera) and then bring them to Wal-mart, COSTCO or someplace else to do the processing, than you might as well spend just $4 and buy a disposal camera!

The main advantage of digital photography is to do your own editing – fixing up the picture. You can make a bad picture good and you can make a good picture better! If you don't want to edit your "pics," it doesn't pay to have a digital camera.

Another advantage of digital photography is immediate gratification – you see your pictures instantly in the LCD (screen) and enjoy them right away. However, if you don't want to edit them, you might as well buy a cheap Polaroid!

Finally, if you're going to take photos of pets, babies or sporting events, then most digital cameras under $500 will only frustrate you because of "shutter lag." This is the 1/3 to ½ of a second it often takes for all this technology to "snap" a photo. Moving objects don't stay in one place! In other words, what you see is NOT what you get!

Then WHY buy a digital camera?

1.YOU are now in control and can change the whole photo or part of the photo. You can make objects clearer, draw attention to one specific object in the photo, or change the color of either all or parts of the photo!

2.A digital camera, in the long run, is more economical. Prices of the actual cameras have come way down, and you never have to buy film because you can use the memory flash cards over and over again! Also, when you shoot a roll of 24 or 36 pictures, you have to pay to have all of them developed and printed. With digital photography, you only print the photos that you want!

3.Immediate gratification is enjoyable! It's fun for you and the people in the photo to see the results immediately!

4.You feel younger because you are "in touch" with new technology!

5.You never "show" a bad picture! You shoot all the photos you want and "delete" the bad ones – people think you're a great photographer!

Digital Photography is a great, new and exciting hobby. However, if you don't want to put in any effort (working with the photos on the computer) you're better off staying with film.

Stuart Gershon is known as "The Digital Doctor". He has given over two hundred classes at 45 different libraries in Nassau and Suffolk. You can get more information and the schedule of his classes at: **www.DigitalDocOnline.com**.

Stuart Gershon is known as "The Digital Doctor". He has given over two hundred classes at 56 different venues in Nassau and Suffolk. You can get more information and the schedule of his classes at: **www.DigitalDocOnline.com**. If you have any questions for the Digital Doctor, please send them to **stugershon@gmail.com**.

SCSCC November Lab Monitors

LEO JARZOMB REBECCA KINN	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2011
LAB CLOSED **RE-CARPETING**	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2011
LAB CLOSED **RE-CARPETING**	MONDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2011
LAB CLOSED **RE-CARPETING**	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2011
FRED COHEN JIM ENLOW	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2011
ENID HOPKINS BLANCHE YORK	MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2011
JOHN POLLET OPAL SMITH	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2011
RAYMOND PUN JOHN ZUZICH	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2011
MARILYN HALVORSON MARTI HAMILTON	MONDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2011
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM TAMMY COLLINS	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2011
DON PICKELL JOHN ZUZICH	SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2011
LOIS AYRES JOHN AYRES	MONDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2011
JO TOMEY TOM BRENNAN	WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2011