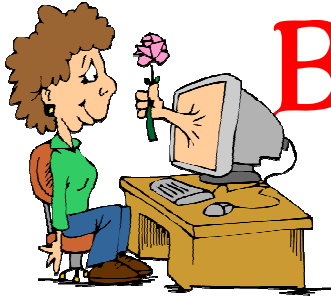


SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club



BITS & BYTES

WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

April 2010 Volume XV Number 4



April 27 General Meeting

The Prez Sez...

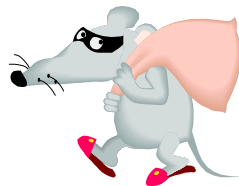
As you have noted from the small offerings of classes this month that it's time for a few more people to step forward to offer classes. This is a good time to try your hand at offering a class because class size dwindles as more leave the Valley for cooler climates. We've never shut the lab down for more than a week at a time, but that could become a possibility if those who have been teaching decide to take time off and no one new steps forward. IAT! (Check out C2C- page 7)

Election time is approaching, so be thinking if you would like to run for any of the Board positions. Please remember that Board meetings are held 12 months of the year, and is it important to be in attendance at those meetings. Of course, there are times when an appointment or a trip prevents a person from attending a meeting occasionally – that is understandable.

We are in great need of a Director of Programs. That is a demanding position to hold, and I can truly speak from experience

Continued on page 2

Identity Theft



Meeting Program

Special FBI Agent Mark Hunter of the Palm Springs Resident Agency (PSRA) will be the speaker at the April meeting. He is the Senior Resident Agent of the PSRA.

Agent Hunter will give a 45 minute talk on Identify Theft and then have a 15 minute Q and A session. The talk will be open to the entire Association. Computer club members may want to arrive quite bit early to insurer themselves a seat. A large crowd is expected.

The meeting will begin at **2:00** p.m. in Speakers' H a 1 1

Election of Officers

Elections are upon us for "Let's Compute". Nominations are open April 1, 2010 for the following positions:

- President
- Director of Programs
- Director of Communications
- Vice President of Education
- Director of Maintenance
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Method of Nominations:

- **Self nomination** in writing, e-mail acceptable. Please e-mail your nomination to Inez Calley at hicalley4@dc.rr.com
- **Nominate a candidate**, who then must submit a written statement accepting the nomination.
- Above nominations must be in by April 26, 2010.
- **Nominations from the floor** at the April 27, 2010 General meeting will be accepted if the nominee is present at the General Meeting and accepts.

Ballots:

- Ballots will be mailed to each member of record as of April 24, 2010
- Ballots must be returned by May 31, 2010 to ballot box in computer lab or mailed by May 31, 2010.

The Prez Sez...

Continued from page 1

having had that position for three years before becoming president. It means finding a speaker for the general meetings. If you wonder if that is why we haven't been having General Meetings, you are correct. We haven't had a Director since October; I managed to find speakers for November, January, February, April and May. The position needs to be filed; someone else needs to step forward to run for Director of Programs, otherwise the position will be eliminated – Association rules state that a club must have four officers on the Board. Also, our By-laws say that we must have two business meetings a year – we do that in September and June because of elections.

I know this has been a rather negative Prez Sez, but maybe someone, after reading it, will step forward to run specifically for Director of Programs. Also, while you're thinking of that, please remember that all positions are open to anyone who desires to run for the position.

In case you're interested in what the current board does, here goes:

Lyn Morse, in addition to being President – answers phone calls at home from members wanting to know when the schedule will be out and if a certain class is being offered, to what can be done with old computer stuff, teaches classes, speaks to individual members when questions/problems arise and works with the Association when there are questions and requests.

Shelia Harbet, in addition to being V.P. of Education, takes over as President when the President is absent. She schedules all classes, helps 'newbies' with information and suggestions when they want to offer a class as well as provide them with sample templates for class signup sheets. She also teaches classes, goes to people's homes to help with their computers and helps to maintain the PCs in the lab.

Jan Grenert, secretary, keeps the minutes and has maintained a history of operating rules for Let's Compute. Jan edits and publishes Bits and Bytes. That is not a part of her job description, but she took it on when the last person no longer wanted to do it. Jan maintains records beyond the minutes that help us remember when things were done, ordered, etc.

Kent McDonald, Director of Communication, sends out Bytes and Bytes as well as all communications we receive from Let's Compute. He also prints out up-to-date lists of club members that are posted as reference for both monitors and teachers. He works with the treasurer in sharing the information on the membership application slips. He works at maintaining the printers, scanners and projector as well as problem solves on both the Mac and PC platforms. He troubleshoots the Internet when it seems to go haywire. He installs programs on the computers, and when there is a problem on a Mac, he's the one who handles that. He's also good on PC problem solving.

Linda Espinoza, Treasurer, does exactly what you would expect a treasurer to do. She maintains two accounts for Let's Compute – one for general operating funds and a separate one for equipment replacement. She works with the Association finance office as well as our auditor to maintain a clear record of funds coming in and going out. She works with Kent in maintaining an up-to-date list of club members.

Barbara Kaye, Director of Maintenance, maintains and keeps the PCs running and up to date. She researches the merits of our equipment when the Board is making decisions on purchases; it was Barbara who suggested that instead of replacing all the PCs that she rebuild them with component parts that would upgrade them to the latest component specifications. She also manages to teach occasionally.

As you've just read, Board members sometimes do more than the description that goes with the title. So, if any one sees a position that they are interested in running for, talk to that person and let them give you a first-hand accounting of what they do. Being on the Board is about people who have the desire to serve and are willing to give their time for those 12 months to do so.

Board meetings are held every month on the third Thursday of the month and are open to the membership.



By Kent McDonald

“Backing up your Mac” was the topic presented at the March 19 Mac SIG by Kent McDonald. Early methods used for backup in the 1980s were hardcopies, floppy discs, Bernoulli Boxes, and more recently, Zip drives. As external hard drives have become less expensive, they are now the most common and convenient device for backup of your system. However, fires and earthquakes can destroy your on-site backups, so it is wise to store a duplicate backup in another city, in a safe deposit box or in the Internet “Cloud.” Online services such as Carbonite, Apple MobileMe and Mozy will safely store your critical files for a modest annual fee.

Your computer can be corrupted by any of several effects, including hardware/software failures, power failures, operator error or disastrous fire/earthquake. Don’t assume that your backup is valid and usable unless you have actually tested it recently. If you need to recover quickly from a failure, you must have a bootable clone backup that is frequently refreshed. Without a clone, it may take you several days to rebuild your system from assorted discs and disks that you have saved. If you need to recover accidentally deleted files, an incremental backup such as the hourly Time Machine snapshots are perfect. Be sure to keep your software install

discs in a safe place if you ever intend to reinstall the software after a system failure, especially if you don’t have a clone backup. An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) is an inexpensive way to avoid the data/software corruption that usually happens when we suffer the numerous summer power outages. If you are using your computer when the power fails, you will almost certainly experience corrupted data on your hard drive that may disable your computer from running.

Mac users that have OS 10.5 or 10.6 are lucky to have the free Time Machine software that automatically makes incremental backups hourly while the computer is in use. You only need to connect an external hard drive, preferably one with Firewire 800 interface, and the rest is automatic. To protect against failure of the hard drive, you may buy a tandem pair of drives such as the LaCie RAID drives that store two copies of everything. If you have more than one computer in the house, the Apple Time Capsule is just the ticket. It contains both a hard drive and a wireless router so each of your Time Machine equipped computers are backed up in one place, wirelessly.

To wrap up the meeting, Kent related the Apple sales figures from the most recent fiscal quarter. Mac computer sales were 3.4 M, up 33% compared to a year earlier. Of those Macs sold, 63% were laptops. Apple iPhone sales were 8.7M, up 100% over the year-ago quarter.

The next Mac SIG will be held on April 16 at 9:00 AM in the computer lab.



By Kent McDonald

Terry Kay started the meeting with a discussion of the house fire and the guests who lost their wallets with ID, credit cards and drivers licenses. There were questions regarding the correct charging and maintenance of golf carts (there was already one house fire caused by a golf cart). He went on to explain the need for backing up your computer offsite. You can use Google Docs or an online provider such as Mozy to back up some important documents.

Kent brought us news from the computer world. A survey done recently says that Internet Access is becoming a fundamental right. YouTube can now automatically add captioning on your uploaded video. This may become available in several languages. Google has a new feature that can display some of the data from some government sites as charts and graphs. A survey says that the average PC user has to do a fix or update the computer about 75 times a year. This may present benefits of using Google Docs in a new light as a safer option.

The Android phone has been found to carry a virus that can transfer to the PC when the phone is synced to the PC. Last month 25% of the new televisions sold were set up with Internet connections by their new owners. The new Tivo Premire DVR product also has computer/Internet capa-

Continued on page 4

bilities which can connect to facebook, twitter, Netflix and more. Sony is expecting to sell 2.5 million new TV sets this year with 3D capability. The Sony BlueRay player, Playstation, and cameras will also have 3D capabilities.

Terry showed a Microsoft warning about bugs in Internet Explorer 6 and 7. The fix is not yet available and it may be time to move to IE8. More info at www.esecurityplanet.com/features/article.php/3869591/Microsoft-Patch-Tuesday-Two-Bug-Fixes-IE-Warning.htm.

Windows XP Service Pack 2 is no longer getting updates, but Service Pack 3 updates should run for two more years.

Terry and Kerry showed how to check for updates from Microsoft and recommended using automatic updates. Google Docs can allow you to share a file with others and let others work on the same document.

You can increase the size of text on the Internet by holding down the control key and the plus key. Using the minus key will shrink the text.

Kerry talked about how to print things larger from IE 7 or 8 by going through Print Preview. We also discussed how to select just a portion for printing.

Terry talked about using "The List" to find vendors that have been used by other residents.

Kerry continued with a PC discussion using a laptop running Windows 7. We watched how to add a "Gadget" to the desktop, how to choose variations and how to find more of them. Kerry demonstrated how moving a window

to the sides or top or bottom of the screen causes the window to change size. We took some time to examine some of the other features. Kerry explored some of the things that have changed in the Control Panel. Some of the functions have new names. He went to user accounts and we looked at User Account Control settings. He also showed the personalization page. (This used to be called properties in earlier versions.)

Power Options may be reached by clicking on the battery icon at the bottom of the screen. It allows you to make many setting adjustments. Sleep keeps the power alive but hibernate cuts the battery power on a laptop.

Note: You can get gadgets for XP from Google.

Questions:

Where do you go to tell the display when to turn off.? This is adjusted in Power Settings. Periodically you should fully discharge the battery in a lap top and then fully charge it up. This should be done about once a month.

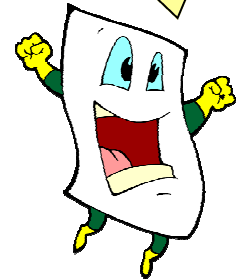
How do you know how much battery power is left? Just point to the battery icon or click and open it. Lowering the brightness of the display will conserve power. Heat will degrade battery run time.

The next PC SIG meeting will be on April 13 at 7:00 p.m.



Getting out the Ballots

Hello, Members - we could use some help.



Along with the nomination of candidates for Board positions comes the task of preparing and mailing the ballots to all of our members.



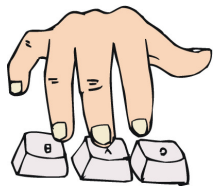
The Nominating committee could use a few willing hands to assemble the forms that go into the mailing. Inez Calley and her committee will prepare the ballots, the membership renewal forms, et al.

They just need extra help to make the assembly task go more quickly.

Please come and help. We will be in the Idyllwild room from 9 a.m. to noon on April 30.

Smiles and laughter always seem to show up at this time. Your helping hands and smile will be most welcome.

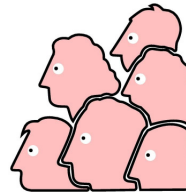
If you have any questions, please call Moe Sullivan at 760-772-4416.



Mac Hands-on

vs.

Demo Classes



by Shirley Allan

This is an observation I've made over the years of teaching in our lab. Perhaps it will help you decide to attend classes with a different outlook.

Since we were kids, the experts have always told us that folks learn in several ways and one way generally is predominant. Some learn via an audio stimulus. If you are one of these, you may find yourself thinking, "I remember Shirley saying...". Some folks learn visually. If you are one of these, you may find yourself thinking, "I remember her showing that on the screen." Some folks learn by doing. If you are one of these, you might find yourself thinking, "I remember clicking on that key." Of course, this is my very simplistic explanation of a much studied area. I have had residents tell me that they don't want to take a class unless the class is hands-on and they can have a computer.

My observation is that the folks that take the hands-on classes repeat the class a few more times (and that is good because I love to teach). But I wonder if these folks would benefit from taking a class and just watching the demonstration. I often think that those that are attending class and get a computer are so busy trying to find the right key or menu in a hands-on class that they don't absorb what is being taught.

I guess what I am saying to all of you is take a chance; take classes even if there is no computer for you to use. You may find out that you gain more than you thought you would. Experience a class differently to see how much you absorb. No matter which way you learn, everyone always gets a handout to remind you of what was said and shown on the screen. Of course, there are those classes where you create something (a graphic landscape or bird for example) where it makes sense to use a computer. For those classes, you are always welcome to bring your laptop if folks have already signed up for the eight Macintosh computers. Even then, the demo can be very entertaining as you laugh at the crazy creations the attendees have made, and there are handouts to take home to see if you can do better.



Do You Need A Surge Protector?

A surge protector looks similar to a power strip and has multiple outlets to plug in your computer, monitor, and other peripherals such as a printer or fax machine. But more importantly, it also protects your computer and peripherals from power surges, which are sudden peaks in the electrical current flowing into your home. Power surges can be caused by downed power lines, faulty wiring, or regular electrical maintenance in your neighborhood. Fluctuations in the electrical current being delivered to your PC and its components can cause permanent damage to hardware, such as the motherboard, processor, or hard drive, causing a loss of irreplaceable files. Over time, power surges can shorten the life span of your computer equipment, but a surge protector will absorb any increase in electrical current and shield your system from potential harm.

Protect Your Network

Keep your Wi-Fi network private by activating your router's password-protected encryption. This will prevent strangers from using your Internet service by wirelessly connecting to your network. Such uninvited guests will, at the very least, leech part of your bandwidth but may also have more nefarious schemes in mind—for example, exploring files on your hard drive or using your service for illegal activity.

These tips are from Smart Computing magazine

April Class Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	CLASS	OS	BOOK	TEACHER
Thur	Apr. 1	3 – 4:30	Word 2007 (1/5)	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Sat	Apr. 3		Lab Closed			
Mon	Apr. 5	3 – 4:50	Safari to the Internet	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Wed	Apr. 7	1:00	Address Book	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Thur.	Apr. 8	3 – 4:30	Word 2007 (2/5)	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Sat	Apr. 10		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Mon	Apr. 12	8:30 - 10	Greeting Cards: Print Explosion (3 & 4)	Mac		June Cross
		1:00	Setting up Mail Accounts	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Tues	Apr. 13	7:00	PC SIG			Lab
Wed	Apr. 14	9:00	Files & Folders	PC	12	Charlie Voelker
Thur	Apr. 15	9:00	Board Meeting			Idyllwild room
		1:00	Intro. To Firefox	PC/Mac	7	Al Sabsevitz
		3 – 4:30	Word 2007 (3/5)	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Apr. 16	9:00	Mac SIG			Lab
Sat	Apr. 17	10 – 12	Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Mon	Apr. 19	1:00	Mail Preferences & Views	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Wed	Apr. 21	1 – 2:50	Sending & Receiving email	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Thur	Apr. 22	3 – 4:30	Word 2007 (4/5)	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Apr. 23	1 – 2:30	PrintShop: Finding & Using Images & Photos	PC	4	Arlene Faber
Sat	Apr. 24		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Mon	Apr. 26	1 – 2:50	iWorks Pages (1/2)	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Tues	Apr. 27	2:00	General Meeting: Identity Theft by (Special Agent Mark Hunter, FBI)			Speaker's Hall
Wed	Apr. 28	1 – 2:50	iWorks Pages (2/2)	Mac	1	Shirley Alan
Thur	Apr. 29	8 - 10	Picasa 3.6	Mac/PC	16	Bob Osborn
		3 – 4:30	Word 2007 (5/5)	PC	2	Jan Grenert

April Classes Listed Alphabetically

Class	Date	Time
Address Book	4-7	1:00
Board Meeting	4-15	9:00
Files and Folders	4-14	9:00
General Meeting	4-27	2:00+
Introduction to Firefox 3	4-15	1:00
iWORKS		
Pages 1	4-26	1:00+
Pages 2	4-28	1:00+
MAC SIG	4-16	9:00
Mail Preference & Views	4-19	1:00
Picasa 3.6	4-29	8:00+
PC SIG	4-13	7:00 pm

Class	Date	Time
Print Explosion: Greeting Cards		
Part 3 & 4	4-12	8:30+
PrintShop:		
Finding & Using Images	4-23	1:00+
Safari to the Internet	4-5	3:00+
Sending & Receiving email	4-21	1:00+
Setting up Mail Accounts	4-12	1:00
Word 2007 Beginning Series		
Word 1	4-1	3:00+
Word 2	4-8	3:00+
Word 3	4-15	3:00+
Word 4	4-22	3:00+
Word 5	4-29	3:00+

April Monitor and Open Lab Schedule

DATE	DAY	10-12	12 - 12:50
Apr. 1	Thurs	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Apr. 2	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Apr. 3	Sat	CLOSED	CLOSED
Apr. 5	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Apr. 6	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Apr. 7	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Apr. 8	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Apr. 9	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Apr. 10	Sat	L. Rowe	CLOSED
Apr. 12	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Apr. 13	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Apr. 14	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Apr. 15	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Apr. 16	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Apr. 17	Sat	L. Rowe	CLOSED
Apr. 19	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Apr. 20	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Apr. 21	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Apr. 22	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Apr. 23	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Apr. 24	Sat	G. Kennedy	CLOSED
Apr. 26	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Apr. 27	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Apr. 28	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Apr. 29	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Apr. 30	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner

CARE TO CHAT?

C2C?

Learn the 'new' Language
By David Phelps,
WEA Communications Director

Just when we thought mastery of the intricate rules of English grammar and punctuation had been achieved, along comes a whole new "language" associate with social media and social networking.

- A3 Anytime, anywhere, anyplace
- AAF As a matter of fact
- AAK Alive & kicking or Asleep at the Keyboard
- ADIH Another day in hell
- ADIP Another day in paradise
- AFC Away from computer
- AML All my love
- AMOF As a matter of fact
- AYDY Are you done yet?
- AYSOS Are you stupid of something?
- AYS Are you serious?
- AYTMB And you're telling me this because?
- B9 Boss is watching
- BASOR Breathing a sigh of relief
- BF Best friend
- BFF Best friend forever
- BIF Before I forget
- BOLO Be on the lookout
- BYTM Better you than me
- CAM Camera
- CD9 Parent (adult) is round
- CID Consider it done
- CSL Can't stop laughing
- CU See you
- CUL See you later



BIF...

WFMNM...

Watch

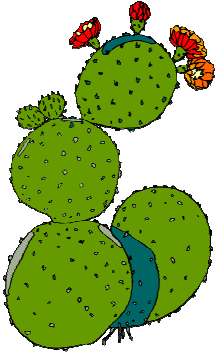
For

More

Next Month

CUL

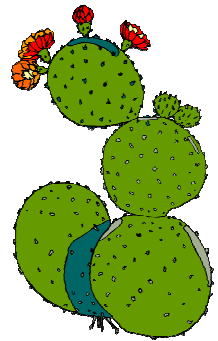
April General Club Information Meeting Schedule



April Showers



Bring Cactus Flowers



PC SIG	April 13	7:00 PM
BOARD MEETING	April 15	9:00 AM
MAC SIG	April 16	9:00 AM
GENERAL MEETING.....	April 27	2:00 PM

"Let's Compute" Officers

Lyn Morse, President	760-345-4466.....	lynmorse@aol.com
Shelia Harbet, VP Education	760-360-7146.....	shelia@csun.edu
Jan Grenert, Secretary, Newsletter Editor.....	760-360-9085.....	jgrenert@dc.rr.com
Kent McDonald, Director of Communications.....	760-345-2931.....	rkmcdonald@earthlink.net
Linda Espinoza, Treasurer	760-200-9299.....	puananioi@aol.com
Barbara Kaye, Director of Maintenance	760-772-6520.....	barbarak1775@aol.com
Jim Calvert, Director of Programs	503-828-8815.....	jim2anna@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Betsy Lewis	Finance Review Committee
June Cross.....	Computer Sale
Nominating Committee	Inez Calley

April Teachers

Shirley Allan.....	345-5087
June Cross.....	345-7876
Arlen Faber.....	299-3933
Jan Grenert.....	360-9085
Al Sabsewitz.....	772-3025
Bob Osborn.....	200-1149
Charlie Voelker.....	345-0123

Volunteer Coordinators

Call to volunteer:

35 MM Scanner Coordinator	George Hans	345-3875
General Meeting Volunteers	June Cross	345-7876
Supplies	Sharon Kiel.....	772-0745
News & Views	Jill Johnson.....	772-4809
Monitor Coordinator	Moe Sullivan	772-4416

April Lab Monitors

Norm Alpert	Walt Kasner	Kurt Pearson
Celia Chu	Georgia Kennedy	Leonette Rowe
Bill Crowley	John Manion	Charlie Voelker
David Feign	Bob Osborn	

35 MM Scanner Monitors

George Hans	Leonette Rowe
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Board Note:

Jim Calvert was appointed as Director of Programs at the March 18 Board meeting.

Jim will finish out the term of the previously vacant position.

Thanks, Jim.



Publication of the SCPD
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