



SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club

BITS & BYTES



WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

January 2010 Volume XV Number 1

General Meeting- January 26



The Prez Sez...

Lyn Morse

Another decade down! I don't know about you, but I don't know where 2009 went. Nothing grand happened, nothing earth shattering (shouldn't use that phrase in Earthquake country) and nothing unusual happened along the way last year, but my internal calendar is shaking its head wondering where the year went. My heart and brain tell me it was a very good year, and I count my blessings – including the blessing of being a part of Let's Compute and being able to speak with so many of you. Forgive me if I can't call up your name when we talk; my excuse is that there are so many of you and only one of me. That being said, I love the opportunity to chat with you when we meet – here or out there in the Valley somewhere. I even ran into one member in Old Town Phoenix and we had a good chat.

I'd like to begin 2010 by thinking of all the volunteers that make Let's Compute the wonderful club it is. As you can tell from the class schedule, it is beginning to grow with snowbird teachers

returning. I know that we would all like to see more classes offered, but there just doesn't seem to be any new volunteers to step forward to offer classes. We've lost a few of our teachers this past year to death, illness and relocation. A few others are facing challenges that may cut down on their volunteering time. Bottom line: more volunteer teachers need to step forward. Those you consider the teachers for Let's Compute are simply members even as you are. They've used a program and are comfortable with it – that does not mean they know everything about the program, but enough to get someone else started using it. A lot of you reading this have that same level of knowledge – and you are needed as teachers, even for just one class a month. And if you're asked a question you can't answer, give the same one I use: "That's a good question and I don't know the answer. Does anyone else? If you find the answer, would you share with me, please?" Some of you are smiling – you've heard me say that!

Which brings me to the topic of SIGs and why only two re-

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Laptops at January's General Meeting

Lyn Morse

No, that doesn't mean you need to bring your laptop if you have one. This is the topic for the day, with a PIAB (Presentation In A Box) from Lapworks, Inc. If you are considering purchasing a laptop, there will be some suggestions for you to consider. If you already have one (and I do), there will be information for you also. The PIAB is about 40 minutes long; I've watched it twice now in preparation for our general meeting and have to admit that it was worth my time for the most part. Of course, you won't be watching it twice – unless you want to see me about borrowing the DVD after the meeting.



Of course, Lapworks is in the business of making & selling trays on which to rest the laptop, thus providing air flow. The PIAB does a very good job of discussing what characteristics to consider if you are shopping for one.

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The Pres Sez.

(Continued from page 1)

main. SIGs, or Special Interest Groups, were meetings that dealt with a specific part of computing: i.e. Windows, Internet, Photography. Only PC SIG and Mac SIG are left, because – because for the others it was left up to the same person month after month to do the program, to come up with something of interest. They became tired and simply had to step away. Lack of volunteers to step in and lead resulted in the end of those SIGs.

You see another volunteer group when you go to general meetings. They greet you with a smile as you enter Speakers' Hall and make sure you have a ticket for the drawing. They answer questions and if there is a handout or such, they make sure you get one.

If you enjoy Open Lab time 6 days a week, make it a point to thank that monitor for giving of that two hours or one hour of time. Without them well, the lab wouldn't be open for you. How about volunteering in that arena? Talk with Moe Sullivan about joining that group of people who give of their time. Moe's telephone number is on the back page of Bits and Bytes, as are all numbers that you might need in regard to Let's Compute. And of course, Shelia Harbet's number is there also for those of you now planning to step forward and offer a class. (Remember the old TV commercial: "Try it, Mikey, you'll like it!).

There are more: The volunteers who help as aides to teachers. The volunteers who run our election process. The volunteers who audit our books at year's end.

And the lone volunteer, Sharon Kiel, who takes care to make sure there are supplies in the cabinets for all of us – where would we be without her to replace the consumable items! If you read the club articles in News and Views, it's Jill Johnson that puts them there – even from Montana.

Now to the good part: naming all the volunteers that do step forward. You see their names on the back page of Bits and Bytes every month, or if they are a teacher, on the class list each month. You see them doing their volunteering for the club. Thank them, for without them, you would have no Let's Compute. All of these people contribute to making Let's Compute the wonderful club it is!

Have you noticed that I haven't mentioned the Board yet? It has been a true pleasure to work with this group of people. They give of their time and talents more than you could ever know, and what a talented group it is. Backgrounds are as varied as America itself is - and blended together, they not only work well for you but also enjoy working/laughing together as they do so.

What better time to recognize this elite, special group of people – the volunteers of Let's Compute – than at the being of a new decade.

If I could, I'd give each and every one of you a brand new Macintosh computer with all the programs you'd love to play with installed (I just had to make it a Mac), but since I can't do that, my most sincere and heartfelt thanks – as well as a wish of happiness and health - for each and every one of you.

class Notices

EXCEL:MAC

Helene Barker

This class is designed to give some simple guidelines for Excel. The focus will be Medical records. Start the New Year fresh and get your data where you can use it.

This is a MAC Class using MSOffice8 for MAC. Even if you're a PC person, you'll find something useful, and you are welcome.

See the sign up sheet (Book 1) for more details.

PRINTSHOP

Arlene Faber

If you use photos in your Print Shop projects, did you know you can do the photo corrections right there in Print Shop? There are a large number of tools that can correct small flaws like red eye, crop, brighten and shape your photos and it is all possible while you are working on the project. It can also convert photos to black & white or sepia tone.

Check the schedule for the class date. You should already have some experience with the program before taking this class. You may bring in photos of your own on CD or Thumb Drive, but I have a set I will provide for practice in class.





By Lyn Morse

Following in the pattern set by the Let's Compute, there was no meeting in December. Do mark January 15 on your calendar, as we will be meeting then.

The November meeting had about 25 people in attendance. For the first 30 minutes it was a sharing of ideas and information found useful in our computing. Of course, discussion always covers what's new, and in this case the topic was Snow Leopard – several saying they had installed it and liked it. Most were waiting a bit longer before upgrading to the new system.

New systems led to the discussion of purchasing new computers. Kent went on line to Apple's website and showed us how to find and purchase refurbished computers. Quite a few shared that they had refurbished computers and were quite pleased with them and the savings involved in not buying new ones. Kent explained sometimes the 'refurbished' computers are really overstock and Apple just wants to clear the shelves. Of course, having the same warranty as a 'new' one is a real incentive to go the refurbished route – Apple Care may even be purchased for them!

Of course, that topic led to the sharing that many of us purchase refurbished items for our computers, such as external hard drives. It was an interesting discussion and notes were taken!

The next meeting is on January 15, at 9:00 AM.



By Kerry Greene

Our monthly meeting on December 8th filled the room to capacity with 30 enthusiastic members.

Kent McDonald began the meeting with news items, such as the Beta release of the Google operating system called Chrome, which will eventually be used on smart phones and net books when it is ready for final release. On the same subject, there are already 14 updates/changes to the new Droid smart phones, which use the Android operating system and are offered by Verizon.

An operating system familiar to us all, Windows XP, Service Pack 2, will no longer be supported by Microsoft after July 13, 2010. Windows XP, Service Pack 3 will continue to be supported until May of 2014. If you are using Windows XP, it would be wise to install Service Pack 3 if you have not already done so. All updates are available at: www.update.microsoft.com.

Kent also had some hardware news – HP will soon be marketing an all-in-one PC similar to the MAC, like the new MAC computers in our computer club lab.

With the recent release of Windows 7, it was time to take a little tour. Thanks to the generosity of member Jan Fishbein, we were able to preview Windows 7 on her new Dell laptop. The most notable changes are in the taskbar, which has been

streamlined yet adorned with new features, such as multiple thumbnails for open programs (which can individually be closed right from the thumbnail image), jump lists for recently opened files, and easier access to Windows Explorer. The Windows Vista Sidebar is gone, but gadgets such as time, weather, news, etc. are still available to be placed anywhere on the desktop. A very helpful new feature will allow viewing of two windows side by side – drag one window to the left of the screen and it will occupy exactly half of the screen – drag the other window to the right side to fill the right half of the screen. To maximize a window, simply drag it to the top of the screen, and it will fill the whole screen.

We all like to have a pretty picture on our desktop, and Windows 7 has given us a bunch of new ones. Pick a favorite or choose from a theme that can be set to change to a new picture as often as you wish. This changing desktop background is in addition to the screensaver of your choice, and the images are all incredibly beautiful. The more I learn about Windows 7, the more I want it.

After our tour, many questions were asked about upgrading. An upgrade to Windows 7 from Vista Home Premium or higher is pretty smooth, but it would be a good idea to run the Microsoft Windows 7 Compatibility Tool first; this will explain what software and drivers are needed for currently connected peripheral equipment. An upgrade from any version of Windows XP is not recommended. A clean install of Windows 7 is possible if the computer has a modern processor, a good graphics device, and enough memory to support this new system. It is on my short list, for sure.

January Class Schedule

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>OS</u>	<u>BOOK</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
Mon	Jan. 4	8:30 - 10	Word Old Version (4/4)	PC	2	Moe Sullivan
		1:00	Beginning Mac: Terms (1/4)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
		2:00	Beg. PC (1/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
Tues	Jan. 5	8:30 - 10	Adv. Photoshop Elements (New)	PC	14	Jim Calvert
		2:00	Beg. PC (2/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		3:00	Power Point2007 (1/3)	PC	5	Chuck Hellman
Wed	Jan. 6	2:00	Beg. PC (3/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
Thur	Jan. 7	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (Brush up - 1/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		1:00	Beginning Mac: Desktop (2/4)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
		2:00	Beg. PC (4/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		3 - 4:30	Word 2007 Basic 1/5	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Jan. 8	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (Brush up - 2/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		2:00	Beg. PC (5/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
Sat	Jan. 9	Open Lab 10:00 to Noon				
Mon	Jan. 11	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (Brush up - 3/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		1:00	Beginning Mac: Preferences (3/4)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
		2 - 3:30	Beg. PC (Brush up - 1/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
Tues	Jan. 12	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (Brush up - 4/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		2 - 3:30	Beg. PC (Brush up - 2/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		3:40 - 5	Power Point2007 (2/3)	PC	5	Chuck Hellman
		7:00	PC SIG			Lab
Wed	Jan. 13	9:00	Files & Folders	PC	12	Charlie Voelker
		1:00	Beginning Mac: Maintenance (4/4)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
		2 - 3:30	Beg. PC (Brush up - 3/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
Thur	Jan. 14	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (Brush up - 5/5) (Series 1)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		1:00	Introduction to Firefox 3	Both	7	Al Sabsevitz
		3 - 4:30	Word 2007 Basic 2/5	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Jan. 15	9:00	Mac SIG			Lab
		2 - 3:30	Beg. PC (Brush up - 4/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
Sat	Jan. 16	Open Lab 10:00 to Noon				
Mon	Jan. 18	8:30 - 10	Photoshop Elements (1/3)	PC	14	Jim Calvert
		1 - 2:50	iWork: Pages - Word Processing (1/2)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	Jan. 19	8:30 - 10	Photoshop Elements (2/3)	PC	14	Jim Calvert
		1 - 2:30	PrintShop - Photo Tools	PC	4	Arlene Faber
		3:00	Power Point2007 (3/3)	PC	5	Chuck Hellman
Wed	Jan. 20	8:30 - 10	Photoshop Elements (3/3)	PC	14	Jim Calvert
		1 - 2:50	iWork: Pages - Page Layout (2/2)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	Jan. 21	9:00	Board Meeting			Idyllwild Room
		8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (1/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		1 - 2:30	Beg. PC (Brush up - 5/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		3 - 4:30	Word 2007 Basic 3/5	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Jan. 22	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (2/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert

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January Class Schedule

Sat	Jan. 23		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Mon	Jan. 25	8:30 -10	Beg. PC (3/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		1 – 2:50	iWork: Intro. To Numbers	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	Jan. 26	9:00	Excel	Mac	1	Helene Barker
		2:00	General Meeting			Speakers Hall
Wed	Jan. 27	8:30 - 10	Beg. PC (4/5) (Series 2)	PC	3	Jim Calvert
		1 – 2:50	iWork: Business/Calling Cards	Mac	1	Shirley Allan



Security Beginner How To: - Think before you Act.

Source: Smart Computing Magazine

Modern security programs are truly remarkable. They detect an unimaginable volume of viruses and spyware hidden in emails or tucked into downloads. They also stop adware and pop-ups, manage and monitor the network traffic into and out of your PC, and can even look for traffic patterns that could potentially be an attack. Unfortunately, security software cannot protect computer users from their most dangerous threat—themselves. The simple fact is that the actions and assumptions that we make every day can circumvent protection from the most comprehensive security tools.

■ Awareness Means Everything

Folks get themselves into trouble when they overlook the importance of security tools in the first place. Perhaps you buy a new PC, use the free security software that accompanies the unit, and then never bother to renew the subscription. Sure, it will continue to scan, but without updates, your system is left wide open for any new threats that cross the Internet. You bolt your doors and lock your windows, so spend a few dollars per year and keep your PC secure. And once your security software is up-to-date, use it on a regular basis to perform complete system scans. If you let the software run scheduled scans, make sure that the PC is actually powered on at the scheduled time.

Be aware of your environment, nearby people, and your Internet connection. For example, it's a bad idea to access your bank account on a PC at the public library or your local cybercafe—you never know who might be looking over your shoulder to catch a glimpse of your username and password. Even worse, your logon data may still be cached on the public PC once you're done, allowing anybody else to simply sit down and log in again or view your browsing history to see pages that you've visited. If you do access private sites, be sure to log out and close your Web browser before leaving the PC. If possible, delete your browsing history, too. For example, with Internet Explorer 8 running, click Tools, Internet Options, click the Delete button in the Browsing History area, and then delete all of your traces, including browsing history and cookies.

There are also security vulnerabilities anywhere that you access the Internet through unsecured Wi-Fi connections. Anyone in the area with simple (and readily available) network analysis software can “sniff” the unsecured wireless radio waves and discern passwords, usernames, email content, and other potentially sensitive information. Public places are absolutely the wrong place to exchange private data. Period.

January Classes Listed Alphabetically

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Advanced Photoshop Elements	1-5	8:30	Excel	1-26	9:00
<u>Beginning Mac</u>			Files and Folders	1-13	9:00
Part 1 - Terms	1-4	1:00	GENERAL MEETING	1-26	2:00+
Part 2 - Desktop	1-7	1:00	Introduction to Firefox 3	1-14	1:00
Part 3 - Preferences	1-11	1:00	<u>iWORKS:Pages</u>		
Part 4 - Maintenance	1-13	1:00	Word Processing	1-18	1:00+
<u>Beginning PC</u>			Page Layout	1-20	1:00+
Part 1	1-4	2:00	<u>iWORKS series</u>		
Part 2	1-5	2:00	Intro to Numbers	1-25	1:00+
Part 3	1-6	2:00	Business/Calling Cards	1-27	1:00+
Part 4	1-7	2:00	MAC MUG/SIG	1-15	9:00
Part 5	1-8	2:00	Picassa 3.5	1-28	8:00+
<u>Beginning PC - a repeat</u>			PC SIG	1-12	7:00 pm
Part 1	1-21	8:30+	Printshop - Photo Tools	1-19	1:00+
Part 2	1-22	8:30+	<u>PhotoShop Elements</u>		
Part 3	1-25	8:30+	Part 1	1-18	8:30+
Part 4	1-27	8:30+	Part 2	1-19	8:30+
Part 5	1-29	8:30+	Part 3	1-20	8:30+
<u>Beginning PC - Brush Up</u>			<u>Power Point</u>		
Part 1	1-7	8:30+	Part 1	1-5	3:00
Part 2	1-8	8:30+	Part 2	1-12	3:40+
Part 3	1-11	8:30+	Part 3	1-19	3:00
Part 4	1-12	8:30+	<u>Word</u>		
Part 5	1-14	8:30+	<u>Word 2003 for XP</u> continued from December		
<u>Beginning PC - brush-up - a repeat</u>			Part 4 of 4	1-4	8:30+
Part 1	1-11	2:00+	<u>Word 2007 Basic Series</u>		
Part 2	1-12	2:00+	Word 1	1-7	3:00+
Part 3	1-13	2:00+	Word 2	1-14	3:00+
Part 4	1-15	2:00+	Word 3	1-21	3:00+
Part 5	1-21	2:00+	Word 4	1-28	3:00+
BOARD MEETING	1-21	9:00			



**Don't let this be you.
Learn how you
can tame a computer
to work for you!**

January Monitor and Open Lab Schedule

DATE	DAY	10-12	12-1
Jan.1	Fri	Closed	Closed
Jan.2	Sat	Closed	Closed
Jan.4	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Jan.5	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Jan.6	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Jan.7	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Jan.8	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Jan.9	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed
Jan.11	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Jan.12	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Jan.13	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Jan.14	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Jan.15	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Jan.16	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed
Jan.18	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Jan.19	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Jan.20	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Jan.21	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Jan.22	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Jan.23	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed
Jan.25	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Jan.26	Tue	K. Pearson	K. Pearson
Jan.27	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
Jan.28	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Jan.29	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
Jan.30	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed

Got Junk??



If you missed the opportunity here in SCPD to rid yourself of things electronic – like printers, scanners, externals, TVs or computers – and you're at a loss to what to do with them, this is your answer: Desert Gateway Center, located at 73750 Dinah Shore.

The next time you go to Costco, put those items in your trunk. Instead of turning west on Dinah Shore to go to Costco, turn the other direction (east) on Dinah Shore.

Go about a mile and you'll see Desert Gateway Storage on the left side. They will take the all electronic items FREE: No large appliances though.

This service is only available to residents of Palm Desert, Ca. If your license plates are from any where else, you might need to provide proof that you reside, even temporarily, in Palm Desert, California. A utility bill receipt will do.

Unloading the items is your responsibility, so bring some muscle if you have large items like TVs.

Desert Gateway Storage is open seven days a week;
Monday through Thursday from 9 - 4
Saturday and Sunday from 9 - 3

Laptops at January's General Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

I know, some of us use the good ole rubber door-stops to slant our computers – and that works and is a bargain price, but some of us like to dispense the heat generated by the laptop with the built-in fans that some trays have. It's the ole maximum - different strokes for different folks.

Laptop has sent a couple of trays to be used as door prizes. Just thought you'd like to know. See you at Speakers' Hall on the 26th.

Be sure to bring your membership card for quick entry to the meeting....and pick up a opportunity ticket at the door too.

January General Club Information Meeting Schedule



PC SIG.....	Jan 12.....	7:00 PM
MAC SIG	Jan 15.....	9:00 AM
BOARD MEETING	Jan 21.....	9:00 AM
GENERAL MEETING	Jan 26.....	2:00 PM



"Let's Compute" Officers

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

Committee Chairs

Betsy Lewis	Finance Review Committee
June Cross	Computer Sale
Nominating Committee	Open

Month Teachers

Shirley Allan.....	760-345-5087
Helene Barker.....	760-360-5713
Jim Calvert	1-503-828-8815
Arlen Faber.....	760-299-3933
Jan Grenert	760-360-9085
Chuck Hellman	760-861-2175
Kent McDonald	760-345-2931
Bob Osborn.....	760-200-1149
Al Sebsevit.....	760-772-3025
Charlie Voelker.....	760-345-0123

Volunteer Coordinators

Call to volunteer:

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

Month Lab Monitors

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

35 MM Scanner Monitors

George Hans	Walter Goldsmith	Leonette Rowe
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New Monitor



Kurt Pearson



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