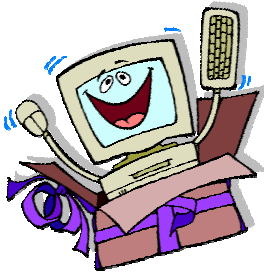
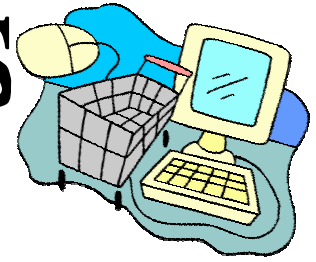


SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club



BITS & BYTES



WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

December 2011 Volume XVI Number 12

A Happy, Healthy Holiday Season to All

The Prez Sez...

December – I'm getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving as I write this and it's hard to believe the year has gone so fast that I'm now writing my column for December! I've looked at the mountain tops to our west this past week and enjoyed the beautiful snow there, so that must mean that winter has come to the Valley, kind of.

If you missed the November General Meeting, you missed a real eye opener. We know that Denise Welch always comes with goodies to demonstrate – and it was no different this time. However, she also spoke of the future of the computer and where it is heading. Not to bigger computers, but rather to the phasing out of computers as we know them and the growth of iPhones, iPads and such as their replacement. She spoke of a watch that can send your temperature and blood pressure to your doctor/hospital that is already on the market (but the infrastructure isn't there – yet). She described a small monitor that you can put on your chest if you suspect a heart attack, which can

transmit that information via the telephone to a medic, who in turn can immediately send an aide car/EMT if needed. Already available is a holograph keyboard that can be projected on a surface instead of the keyboard we use now.

Denise said that development/technology isn't doubling or tripling or quadrupling now; instead the line of development is straight upwards, meaning constant development.

We have a lot of learning coming our way in the future – part of which is with us now! I look forward to it with mixed feelings, and you may feel that way also. It means a lot to learn and adapt to – but ever onward and we always manage to adapt .. we can with the new technology too. (Remember typewriters, 45's and 78's, tape decks and black and white TVs. Remember the expression "You've come a long way, Baby!" Well, here we go again.)

Please remember that the computer lab is closed during the holiday season. Also, as always, there is no General Meeting in December.

Have a wonderful Holiday season.

Feature



A

Teacher

This month we resume featuring another of our volunteer teachers.

Dave Rosenthal, who teaches Quicken Basics for the PC and also Quicken Basics for the Mac, has provided an interesting bio on his background and how he and his wife came to SCPD.

We want to thank Dave for his article, and for dedication to teaching.

Feature a Teacher is on page four.

.....Not that you couldn't find it on your own - :-)



By Len Heller

Moderating a Mac SIG is much easier than I thought; this was my first "go" at it. I was a bit nervous at first, but luckily for me, there were many attendees who were very knowledgeable, answering questions and explaining problems that came from a friendly audience.

As it turned out, about half the audience had not yet decided to enter the world of the new LION Operating System. Most seemed to be in a "wait and see" mode.

Those of us who had made the plunge into LION, told of their initial problems and how they solved them. Each comment or question received a positive, and sometimes humorous, solution.

One of the first questions was about mail. LION made many "enhancements", but if they confuse you, there is a Mail Preference called "Classic" that very strongly resembles Apple's Mail application as it appears in Snow Leopard.

There were many questions, yet there were many simple answers. Solutions given freely and easily by those who had already been down that path.

To those of you who did not attend the Mac SIG meeting: We have many members who are extremely capable and knowledgeable and willing to help, but it's up to you to let them know that you have a question or a problem.

Shirley Allan donated about 6 or 8 Mac Manuals that she

had been using over the years when teaching earlier versions of Mac. She spoke about these manuals, and there were some present who were still using these earlier versions. Well, it turns out there is a small basket at the back of the Computer room, where people donate all sorts of books, parts, etc. My complaint is that I was at the front of the Computer room, and by the time I got to that basket, most of the goodies were gone.



The next Mac SIG will be on January 20.



By Lyn Morse

The gathering of Kindle users began with a bit of "myth busting", also known as correcting incorrect information. At an earlier meeting, information about covers for the Kindle that contained a built-in light, which drained power from the Kindle itself, and should be avoided, was challenged as being incorrect. At this meeting a handout from Amazon supported the fact that such covers do drain from the Kindle itself – including the one Amazon sells.

Another "buster" involved how Amazon Prime works for the subscribers. A person had been told there was unlimited use for downloading books free.

Again, research from Amazon's website provided a handout which "busted" that one. With Prime, a subscriber is entitled to one free download per month, with no accumulation of free months if a month is not used. Also, a new book may be chosen only when the old one is returned. There is much more to learn about Prime, and your best source is to go to Amazon (or come to Kindle SIG).

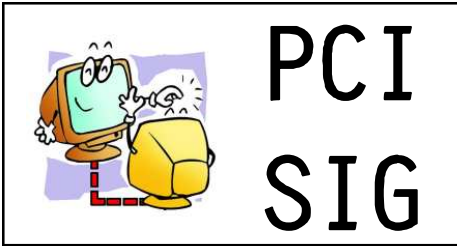
Several people said they were having great success downloading ebooks from our local libraries – after having obtained a library card from them, of course.

There was much discussion also about the new Kindle Fire. Several people said they had bought them and were waiting their arrival with great anticipation as they had been shipped that day. Sharing of that will be a highlight of the January meeting, naturally, as there is no December meeting.

As always, sharing of ideas and information were the backbone of the SIG, with that continuing as people left. A few lost in deep discussion had to be asked to continue in the hallway so the lab could be locked and the moderators could go home ... and that's a sign of great interest and deep involvement in what's been discussed.

So, enjoy your Kindle and the new books / magazines you acquire, and be ready to share - always.

The next Kindle SIG will be on January 17



**Terry Kay, Kent McDonald
and Arlene Faber**

Twenty four members gathered in the computer lab, all happy to see Kerry Greene returned to Sun City.

Kent McDonald reported that over four million iPhone 4s's were sold in the first four days and 85% of the stores ran out every day. The battery life is shorter than expected, and a beta-fix is already out. The SIRI digital assistant on the 4S is very popular with users. The TV controller Apple is working on may also have similar voice recognition. SIRI voice dictation allows you to send an email hands-free.

Android phones now have "Speak to It" but it seems to not be nearly as functional. New phones are coming that will work on 4G high-speed networks but they are not common yet and not available locally. The new phones have 1.5 GHz processors, amazing for a battery-powered device.

Windows 8 is being released in pre-Beta form. It is not recommended that most users download it yet. It will offer a touch interface like the Windows phone 7 software.

HP is now not getting out of the computer business. That decision was reversed by new CEO Meg Whitman, and they have now released a new tablet.

Apple is offering iCloud service to sync all of your Apple devices. They will also offer a free email account @me.com. iCloud will work with PC and Mac devices.

Amazon Prime members will have a free lending library of 5,000 titles for Kindle owners, allowing you to view one book at a time for a month at no charge.

TrueCrypt is available as a free download to encrypt the data on your flash drive. Verbatim and SanDisk are offering flash drives with encryption included.

Terry Kay welcomed back Kerry Greene who explained his recent absence and recovery. He thanked us for support during his illness.

Terry talked about next generation technology. He shared an IBM prediction about technology in the next 5 years. Sensors, 3D, holograms, battery life extenders, heat/energy recycling and traffic controls were some of the topics.

Richard Ravich reported on his work with IBM to reduce power use in data centers. This will help to reduce the impact on natural resources.



Kent said it costs about \$2.60 a month to leave all of the Computer Club's Mac computers ON during the day and sleeping at night. The lab PCs are required to be ON day and night so updates and Virus Scans can be scheduled to run when no one is using the lab.

Terry noted that the vertical windmill can produce enough energy to power a house. Local generation of power would reduce dependency on the national grid and area power failures.



Kerry demonstrated tools for putting the computer to sleep and how to tell when updates are waiting to be installed.

Watch out for phone callers telling you to turn on your computer or your hard drive will crash. Then they will try to get you to give them control of your computer. Be careful of where you go on the internet or clicking on links to unknown sites. Be sure to log off from your email account when you use the lab computers or any public computer. If your email gets hijacked you can and should change your password and security questions to cut off the hijacker.

Microsoft Security Essentials is well liked by a wide range of professionals in the computer field. Download the program to your desktop before deleting any other anti-virus program. Then go ahead with install of the new program.

Sometimes using a different browser (Firefox, Chrome, Safari) may resolve problems with opening some web sites.

The next meeting of the PCI SIG is Tuesday, December 13, at 7 PM in the lab.



December Featured Teacher

Dave Rosenthal

Hi. I am Dave Rosenthal.

I am a retired Pediatrician who practiced in the cities of Los Altos, Sunnyvale and Mountain View in the Bay Area, south of San Francisco. I had a full-time practice of Pediatrics and Pediatric Hematology (blood diseases of children). I was on the clinical teaching staff of Stanford University Medical Center. I represented my profession by serving as Chief of Pediatrics for two terms at El Camino Hospital, President of the Santa Clara Medical Association, Delegate to the California Medical Association and Alternate delegate to the American Medical Association.

When I was approaching retirement, Nancy and I looked both North and South in California and found there was no place that matched what Sun City Palm Desert had to offer. So we made the big move and arrived in Paradise. We moved into our home in 2003.

I have always been interested in computers and worked on them a little while I was still practicing. I used Quicken for a few years, and when I joined the Computer Club I learned there was no active Quicken class program. I am not a computer guru and certainly not a Quicken guru, but I do know a lot from using it over these years. I volunteered, was accepted and here I am as an Instructor. I have no affiliation with Quicken and only receive 2x the salary of all the other instructors ($2 \times 0 = 0$).

Quicken is a nice financial program, and although it takes some effort to use it has its rewards and fun. It makes life with your accountant so much easier. I hope you will find the time to allow me to help you get started.



December Schedule of Classes

DAY	DATE	TIME	CLASS	OS	Book	TEACHER
Fri	Dec. 2	3:00	PhotoShop: Picture Manipulation	Mac	1	Alan Gamble
Sat	Dec. 3		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Wed	Dec. 7	1 – 2:50	Sending & Receiving Mail (Lion)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	Dec. 8	3 – 4:30	LibreOffice Text (1& 2/4)	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Fri	Dec. 9	2:40 -4	PrintShop: Customizing Projects	PC	4	Arlene Faber
Sat	Dec. 10		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Tues	Dec. 13	1 – 2:50	Video email (Lion)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
		3 – 4:20	Beginning Quicken	PC	8	Dave Rosenthal
		7:00	PCI SIG			Lab
Thur	Dec. 15	8 - 10	Picasa/Muvee	PC	15	Bob Osborn
		1:00	Intro to Firefox	PC/Mac	7	Al Sebseviz
		3 – 4:30	LibreOffice Text (3& 4/4)	PC	2	Jan Grenert
Sat	Dec. 17	10 – 12	Open Lab 10:00 to Noon			
Tues	Dec. 20	1 – 2:50	Introduction to Lion (1/3)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
		3 – 4:20	Beginning Quicken	Mac	8	Dave Rosenthal
Thur	Dec. 22	1 – 2:50	Introduction to Lion (2/3)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Sat	Dec. 24		Happy Holiday – Lab Closed			
Mon	Dec. 26		Happy Holiday – Lab Closed			
Tues	Dec. 27	1 – 2:50	Introduction to Lion (3/3)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Wed	Dec. 28	1 – 2:50	Text Edit (Lion)	Mac	1	Shirley Allan
Sat	Dec. 31		Happy Holiday- Lab Closed			

Tame the Lion By Shirley Allan

Many of you may not have upgraded to the newest Operating System for the Mac called "Lion" and are still hesitant to do so. If you're still hesitant, I will repeat the Introduction to Lion Class in December. If you have taken it before, you will notice some added information. I continue to find ways to modify Lion so that I am happy with it, and I think you will too.

"Versions", which allows one to go back in a Time Machine-like sequence, is really something to watch, but "Conversation" in Mail can be daunting. Take this class and find out how to set up your computer to use the tame the Lion attributes that you don't like and use those that you do.

Teacher Notes

Print Shop Corner By Arlene Faber

Come on in and explore the possibilities available in Print Shop. There is so much more you can do with your projects when you know how to customize them.

This month we will find ways to vary the headlines so your words really pop. You can use custom colors and create increased depth and style. Text can be varied in size, color and style to create the effect you really want. The Art Gallery has loads in it but did you know that there are tools to create custom crops for those pictures and your own. Did you know that you can change the colors of some of the graphics?

Class will be on December 9 at 2:40 pm. Sign up sheet is in Book 4 in the Lab for "Print Shop Customizing Projects."

December Classes Listed by OS

MAC CLASS

	DATE	TIME
Firefox - Introduction	Dec. 15	1:00
Lion -Intro:		
• Introduction to Lion (1/3)	Dec. 20	1 – 2:50
• Introduction to Lion (2/3)	Dec. 22	1 – 2:50
• Introduction to Lion (3/3)	Dec. 27	1 – 2:50
Lion- Miscellaneous topics		
• Sending & Receiving Mail	Dec. 7	1 – 2:50
• Video email	Dec. 13	1 – 2:50
• Text Edit	Dec. 28	1 – 2:50
PhotoShop: Picture Manipulation	Dec. 2	3:00
Quicken - Beginning	Dec. 20	3 – 4:20

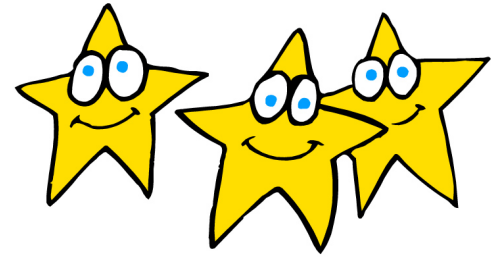
PC CLASS

	DATE	TIME
Firefox- Introduction	Dec. 15	1:00
LibreOffice Text (1 & 2/4)	Dec. 8	3 – 4:30
LibreOffice Text (3 & 4/4)	Dec. 15	3 – 4:30
PrintShop: Customizing Projects	Dec. 9	2:40 -4
Picasa/Muvee	Dec. 15	8 - 10



December Monitor and Open Lab Schedule

Date	Day	10-:12	12-12:50
Dec.1	Thurs.	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Dec.2	Fri.	J. Manion	S. Shiffman
Dec.3	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed
Dec.5	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Dec.6	Tue	H. Cook	H. Cook
Dec.7	Wed	C. Voelker	J. Hicks
Dec.8	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Dec.9	Fri	J. Manion	S. Shiffman
Dec.10	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed
Dec.12	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Dec.13	Tue	H. Cook	H. Cook
Dec.14	Wed	C. Voelker	J. Hicks
Dec.15	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Dec.16	Fri	J. Manion	S. Shiffman
Dec.17	Sat	L. Rowe	Closed
Dec.19	Mon	C. Chu	B. Crowley
Dec.20	Tue	H. Cook	H. Cook
Dec.21	Wed	C. Voelker	J. Hicks
Dec.22	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Dec.23	Fri	J. Manion	S. Shiffman
Dec.24	Sat	Closed	Closed
Dec.26	Mon	Closed	Closed
Dec.27	Tue	H. Cook	H. Cook
Dec.28	Wed	C. Voelker	K. Gibbons
Dec.29	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
Dec.30	Fri	J. Manion	S. Shiffman
Dec.31	Sat	Closed	Closed



**Happy Holidays
To
Let's Compute
Computer Club
Members**



December General Club Information

Meeting Schedule



PCI SIG	Dec. 13	7:00 PM
KINDLE SIG	No Meeting in December	
BOARD MEETING	No Meeting in December	
MAC SIG	No Meeting in December	
GENERAL MEETING	No Meeting in December	

"Let's Compute" Officers 2011-2012

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.....	jpgrenert@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
Jerry Katler, Director of Programs.....	760-772-6405.....	fishfoto@me.com

Committee Chairs

Finance Review Committee	Betsy Lewis
Computer Sale.....	Open
Nominating Committee.....	Open
News & View Writer	Yvonne Michelsen

Volunteer Coordinators

Call to volunteer:

35 MM Scanner Coordinator	George Hans	345-3875
General Meeting Volunteers	Jean Ferrull	200-1165
Supplies	Sharon Kiel.....	772-0745
Monitor Coordinator	Moe Sullivan.....	772-4416
	Email:modwenas@hotmail.com	

December Teachers

Shirley Allan.....	760-345-5087
Arlene Faber	760-200-3933
Alan Gamble.....	760-469-5650
Jan Grenert	760-360-9085
Bob Osborn.....	760-200-1149
Dave Rosenthal.....	760-772-7029
Al Sebsevitiz	760-772-3025

December Lab Monitors

Kevin Gibbons	Bob Osborn
John Hicks	Leonette Rowe
John Manion	Sara Shiffman
	Charley Voelker

35 MM Scanner Monitor

George Hans



Publication of the SCPD
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 Address Correspondence to:
 Bits & Bytes
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