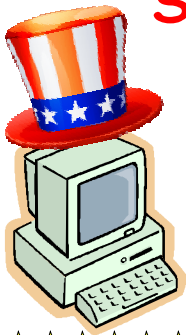


BITS & BYTES

WWW.SCPD-ComputerClub.org

July 2009 Volume XIV Number 7



Congratulations to the Newly Elected Board



Welcome to your New Year!

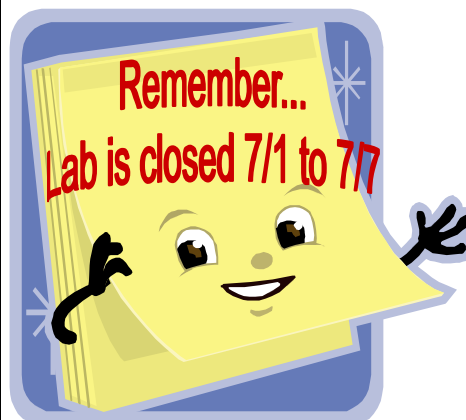
I know it's not January, but it is July and that begins the year for Let's Compute. If you haven't renewed your membership, you need to pull out that checkbook; dues are still \$25 per person, not per household.

I've been told many times through the years that our dues are the best deal in the Valley: Classes, meetings and presentations in Speakers' Hall, open lab time with access to printers and the internet, Bits and Bytes and others of like mind in learning just "a little bit more" about the world of computers. But, you know all that - that's why you join each year!

I'd like to welcome Linda Espinoza to the Board as our new treasurer. If you haven't met her yet, she also monitors, so you

Continued on page 3

- President
Lyn Morse
- VP - Education
Shelia Harbet
- Secretary
Jan Grenert
- Director of Communications
Kent McDonald
- Director of Maintenance
Barbara Kaye
- Director of Programs
Jerry Katler
- Treasurer
Linda Espinoza



Comic Life for the PC

By Jan Grenert

This doesn't sound like a program for us serious-minded seniors.



Comic Life is a relatively easy program to learn. You will drag photos on to a template and watch them pop into place. There are a great variety of templates and lots of tools in the program to set off and arrange your photos. This lesson take you through the basic steps.

If you want to be my "test class", the signup sheet is in book 15. Classes are on July 23 and a repeat on July 30 both at 3:00 pm

For this first class, I will provide the images, If this works well, the next time you can bring your own images.

There are some sample Comic Life pages in the signup notebook.

Take a look to see what this is all about.

July Schedule of Classes

DAY	DATE	TIME	CLASS	BOOK	TEACHER
Lab will be Closed July 1 – 7th					
Wed.	July 8	1 - 3	PC Quicken (1/2)	8	Frank Gombos
Fri	July 10	1 - 3	PC Quicken (2/2)	8	Frank Gombos
Sat	July 11		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon		
Mon	July 13	1 – 2:50	Beginning Mac: Terms & Desktop	1	Shirley Allan
Tues	July 14	7:00 PM	PC SIG		Lab
Thur	July 16		NO Board Meeting this month		
Fri	July 17	8 – 10	Comic Life (Mac)	1	Lyn Morse
Sat	July 18		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon		
Thur	July 23	3 – 4:30	Comic Life (PC)	15	Jan Grenert
Sat	July 25		Open Lab 10:00 to Noon		
Mon	July 27	1 – 2:50	Beginning Mac: System Preferences & Maintenance	1	Shirley Allan
Thur	July 30	3 – 4:30	Comic Life (PC) (repeat)	15	Jan Grenert

PC SIG

By Kerry Greene

The June 9th meeting was started by Terry Kay, who told us about bing.com, the new search engine from Microsoft that is intended to replace their live search utility. Bing.com is so new that nobody in the room was familiar with it. We went on to discuss tagged.com, and that many of us were receiving emails from tagged.com asking if we knew a certain person. Emails of this type should be immediately deleted – responding to emails of this type could expose your entire address book to the mass mailing techniques used by tagged.com.

Terry had some interesting information about the demographics of Internet usage, which led to a discussion about how we read more news online, which is slowly leading to the demise of traditional newspapers.

The use of greater amounts of bandwidth, such as downloading music and movies, is causing Internet Service Providers to start monitoring our usage, which may eventually lead to a sliding scale of pricing for heavier users. As other non-computer devices, such as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone services like Vonage and Magic Jack become more popular, even greater amounts of bandwidth will be required.

Terry said he wants to try the Magic Jack and will give us a report at a future meeting.

My share of the meeting was all about updates for your computer. We all get regular update advice for Java, a browser add-on from Sun Microsystems that enables animations on web pages. After installing the latest version, be sure to remove any previous versions you find in your list of installed programs. Another browser add-on called Flash Player from Adobe is required for certain web pages to display properly – be sure you have the latest version installed.

Some updates from Microsoft may call for special attention, such as Internet Explorer 8, a major upgrade to our current Internet Explorer browser. Early adopters have encountered problems – some serious – that could have been avoided by waiting a good amount of time before taking the plunge. We discussed ways to ‘hide’ the update until it is safe and advisable to proceed.

Finally, we talked about the merits of free programs that protect and help clean up your computer, such as AVG Antivirus/Antispyware, Malwarebyte’s Anti-Malware and SuperAntiSpyware.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 14th at 7:00 pm in the computer club lab. If attendance is no better than our last meeting, we will take some time off and start up again on Tuesday, October 14th. Check back here for that announcement.

July Monitor and Open Lab Schedule



Prez Sez...

Continued from page 1

Date	Date	10-12	12-1
1-Jul	Wed	CLOSED	CLOSED
2-Jul	Thu	CLOSED	CLOSED
3-Jul	Fri	CLOSED	CLOSED
4-Jul	Sat	CLOSED	CLOSED
6-Jul	Mon	CLOSED	CLOSED
7-Jul	Tue	CLOSED	CLOSED
8-Jul	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
9-Jul	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
10-Jul	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
11-Jul	Sat	G. Kennedy	CLOSED
13-Jul	Mon	C. Chu	B, Crowley
14-Jul	Tue	L. Espinoza	R. Kreisler
15-Jul	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
16-Jul	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
17-Jul	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
18-Jul	Sat	G. Kennedy	CLOSED
20-Jul	Mon		B, Crowley
21-Jul	Tue	L. Espinoza	R. Kreisler
22-Jul	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
23-Jul	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
24-Jul	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner
25-Jul	Sat	B. Yeh	CLOSED
27-Jul	Mon		B, Crowley
28-Jul	Tue	L. Espinoza	F. Diaz
29-Jul	Wed	C. Voelker	D. Feign
30-Jul	Thu	B. Osborn	N. Alpert
31-Jul	Fri	J. Manion	W. Kasner

might check the monitor schedule to see when she's 'on duty' and drop in to say hello.


Thanks to those of you who returned your ballots in time for them to be counted. Out of a membership of almost 1,000, 312 voted. Of course, some came in late; as in any election, those didn't count. Quite a few were returned as undeliverable, and we have those bundled. When you renew, please make sure you have a current address as that is the address the ballots are mailed to.

FYI: all election ballots are locked away just in case there is a challenge. The Board thanks Pat Palladino and her team for (1) the time spent in organizing and sending out the ballots, (2) separating the ballots from the renewals and checks when you returned them, (3) counting the ballots, (4) preparing and presenting the results to the board and (5) locking the ballots away.

I've seen the class schedule for July, and the 'pickings are slim' (as we would say in the Ozarks). Remember, teachers are volunteers. Like the large percentage of us, they are retired and are teaching because they enjoy it, not because they HAVE to. It's rewarding for those of us who teach, hearing from our 'students' as they learn a new program or pick up a new way to do something. If you've thought of teaching a class, now would be a good time to give it a whirl – I think you'd find it rewarding. Call Shelia Harbet, VP of Education, and talk with her. Her telephone number and email address are always on the back page of Bits and Bytes, as are all the officers.

Stay cool, and keep learning new things with your computer. PC people, one new thing you can learn is a delightful program Mac people have enjoyed for a couple of years: it's Comic Life, being taught this month by Jan Grenert. She thinks it's right up there with sliced bread – something everyone will like. She's right!





July General Club Information

Meeting Schedule

PC SIGJuly 14 7:00 PM
 No Board Meeting In July
 Computer Lab Closed July 1 thru July 7
 We're kickn' back!

"Let's Compute" Officers

Lyn Morse, President.....345-4466.....lynmorse@aol.com
 Shelia Harbet, VP Education360-7146.....shelia@csun.edu
 Jan Grenert, Secretary, Newsletter Editor360-9085.....jgrenert@dc.rr.com
 Kent McDonald, Director of Communications345-2931.....rkmcDonald@earthlink.net
 Linda Espinoza, Treasurer200-9299.....puananioi@aol.com
 Barbara Kaye, Director of Maintenance772-6520.....barbarak1775@aol.com
 Jerry Katler, Director of Programs772-6405.....jerryk@dc.rr.com

Committee Chairs

Betsy Lewis..... Finance Review Committee
 June CrossComputer Sale
 Pat Palladino..... Nominating Committee

July Teachers

Shirley Allan..... 345-5087
 Frank Gombos 345-9723
 Jan Grenert 360-9085
 Lyn Morse 345-4466

Volunteer Coordinators

Call to volunteer:

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

July Lab Monitors

Norm Alpert	David Feign	John Manion
Cecilia Chu	Walter Kasner	Bob Osborn
Bill Crowley	Georgia Kennedy	Charley Voleker
Frank Diaz	Bob Kreisler	Beverly Yeh
Linda Espinoza		

Welcome New Monitor



Sandy Livran

35 MM Scanner Monitors

George Hans Walter Goldsmith Leonette Rowe



Publication of the SCPD
 "Let's Compute" Computer Club
 Address Correspondence to:
 Bits & Bytes
 38180 Del Webb Blvd.
 Palm Desert, CA 92211

Bits & Bytes is distributed to current members of the SCPD "Let's Compute" Computer Club, which provides this publication for informational purposes only. The club neither endorses nor promotes any of the products or services that have been mentioned or suggested herein, or at any meeting, and assumes no responsibility or liability