

The



Computer Booter

Computer Booters of Sun Lakes

<http://www.computerbooters.com/>

October 2009

October newsletter highlights

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At our September 1 meeting, we presented Mr. Harvey Boyd, President and CEO of Western Broadband, with a plaque to recognize all the help he has given to the Computer Booters Club over the years, something that has been well earned. On Behalf of the Computer Booters of Sun Lakes we thank you Harvey, for all of your help and support over the years, both to our club and our community,.

Our next meeting on October 6, will offer our members a glimpse into what each of our SIG's are offering. Each of the Facilitators will provide information on what is covered in the specific SIG. We are doing this in hope to enlighten our membership so that they can decide to attend one or more SIG's in the future.

What is a Blog? *Blog* simply stands for Web log. During blogging's early days in the late 1990s, most blogs took the form of diaries, but rather than logging insights, opinions, and reactions on paper for storing in a dresser drawer, bloggers posted digital entries in chronological order to a central online location where others could read them and leave comments. Many companies maintain blogs to communicate developments, product details, and announcements. *Smart Computing*, for example, maintains a tech-related blog that is updated daily at SmartComputing.com.

You will find more complete coverage from my source in the Oct. 2009 issue of *Smart Computing*.

2009 SIG Schedule

by *Ralph Ilsen*, SIG COORDINATOR



The October SIG schedule is listed below. SIG meetings are held at Sun Lakes 1 in the Arts and Crafts Room. (**Please ask the front desk guard for directions to this new location**).

All evening SIG meetings start at 7 PM.

Be sure to wear your Computer Booters name tag to gain admittance to all SIG meetings. If you have any questions about any of the SIGs, you can contact me at Ralph@Ilsen.net or 895-1166. The SIG schedule can change after the newsletter is published so, for the latest information, look for our weekly broadcast e-mail messages. If you're not receiving our broadcasts, contact George Rodriguez 480-802-9080 casarod@hotmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

<u>SIG NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING DATE</u>
Computer Beginnings Susan Klein	7:00 PM	1st Monday	October 5
Digital Imaging Jim Rahilly	7:00 PM	1st Wednesday	October 7
DVD Producing /ProShow Gold Ralph Ilsen	7:00 PM	2nd Tuesday	October 13
Photoshop Elements John Durrett	7:00 PM	2nd Wednesday	October 14
eBay <> How to use it! Arch & Linda Ward	7:00 PM	2nd Monday	October 12
Basic Computer & Beyond Vacant	7:00 PM	3rd Wednesday	TBA
Quicken Ben Thompson	7:00 PM	4th Tuesday	October 27
Microsoft Word Collett McNally	7:00 PM	4th Wednesday	October 28

Jim Ivey is available to Computer Booters members for one-on-one help with Word Perfect. You can reach Jim via e-mail at jimivaz@wbhsi.net.

Ed Ryczek will answer any Computer Booters member's spreadsheet questions. Contact Ed at edry01@earthlink.net.

From the President's Desk



At our September 01st meeting we had the privilege of hearing new information on Western Broad band's new ESPN360.com service, free to all subscribers, from Mr. Harvey Boyd/President and CEO. At this meeting we took the opportunity to present Mr. Boyd with a plaque to recognize all the help he has given to the Computer Booters club over the years, something that has been well earned. On Behalf of the Computer Booters of Sun Lakes we thank you Harvey, for all your help and support, to our club and community, over the past few

years.

Our next meeting will offer our members a glimpse into what each of our SIG's are offering. Each of the Facilitators will provide information on what is covered in the overall SIG. We are doing this in hope to enlighten our membership so that they can decide to attend one or more in the future.

Remember that our SIG's are now being held in a new location, the Arts and crafts room. Thanks to Western board band this room is equipped with WIFI, at the highest level.



Our February, 2009, speaker was Dave Whittle of Webworking Services who told us about his new web site:

www.coolnotnot.com. He offered lifetime memberships for those members who signed up during the beta testing phase. I hadn't heard anything from Dave since receiving my Welcome E-mail. I got in touch with him and received the following update.

CoolHotNot entered a limited beta on June 30. The site is coming along really well, and it's good enough for geeks and tech experts, but it's not yet ready for the masses - that's what they're working on and testing.

If you'd like to see how it's coming, you can register by clicking on the following link: www.coolhotnot.com/InvitedBy.aspx?whittle

Then, if you register and want to invite anyone else, you can give them your own link so you build your credibility score. For example, if you registered using the user-

By Patricia Hill, Review Editor

name of "patricia" (then your invitation link would be:

www.coolhotnot.com/InvitedBy.aspx?patricia

They're making the above system a lot more transparent, but the idea is that the more people who sign up in your invitation pedigree, the more credibility you'll have on the site, which factors into the weight given your product recommendations (i.e. the products on your lists) and your chances of winning cool stuff we arrange with vendors, among other things.

You can let people know that the site is in beta testing, and give them your link to sign up if they're feeling adventurous. John Dvorak says it's ready to go, but they've still got a way to go before it's ready for the average user group beginner. They're also looking at a deal with PriceGrabbers to improve the range of products available for a search. But they could definitely use some tech enthusiasts joining the site and creating lists of their favorite stuff!



Look Who's Volunteering *by Darlene Herring, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR*

September 1st was our first Club meeting for this year and even though many of our snowbirds are still missing, there were 77 present who braved the heat wave we've had all summer.

Our faithful volunteers who greet our members, prepare the equipment and do the necessary paperwork were on hand. Member greeters were Ed Schweitzer, Guy LaRoche, Vivian Berman and Shari Thompson. Equipment handlers were Jim Gatesman, Ed Craze and Shadow Wrage. Hans Naumann carried the microphone when needed for Q & A. The door prize tickets were given to each attending member by Kathie Wrage.

Ben Thompson is our "up close and personal" Club member for this month. Ben was born in Bartow, Florida, and joined the U.S. Air Force just after high school graduation. Ben and Shari were wed in Paradise Valley, AZ, on March 3, 1967 and have five (5) children. The Thompson's moved to Sun Lakes in May 2003. Ben enjoys being a pilot and flying as a Volunteer Mercy Pilot with "Flights of Life" who provide air transportation for blood, blood products and ambulatory patients for emergency needs. In December, 2003, Ben joined Sun Lakes Computer Booters Club and for the past four (4) years has been the Facilitator for the

Quicken SIG (Special Interest Group). He has also been the Presenter of technical topics at our Club's general meetings. Ben has volunteered numerous times in assisting other SIG facilitators with their equipment setup. He is, also, a member, past treasurer and IT provider of the Sun Lakes Aero Club He flies members on monthly excursions to interesting outings and events.

For five (5) years, Ben was the Field Engineer for Philco at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio; then, to Hoffman Electronics in Los Angeles, CA, for another five (5) years. He was employed by Motorola for twenty-five (25) years as Midwest Regional Technical Liaison for Government Electronics Division. His last transfer was to the home office in Scottsdale, AZ, where he worked in management until retirement in 1988 Ben joined the USAF for three (3) years and was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS, as an instructor for airborne electronics equipment. He also had a short assignment to Spokane, WA, teaching military technicians.

Thank you, Ben Thompson, for your willingness to go the extra step and do so much to help others. The Computer Booters Club is very fortunate and proud to count you as a special member.

Treasurer's Report *by Jim Rahilly, TREASURER*

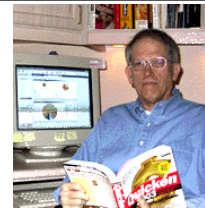


Balance as of September 01, 2009

\$ 2,035.81

Program Update

by John Durrett, VICE PRESIDENT



September Meeting

George Rodriguez opened the meeting, and welcomed all the returning members and their guests. Jim Rahilly, the leader of the Digital Photography Special Interest Group (SIG) gave an overview of his SIG and explained what he intends to cover with his SIG this year, including the kick-off meeting on September 2, 2009.

Harvey Boyd, the local head of Western Broadband, introduced the audience to a new service from his company, ESPN360. This service, which is free to all Western Broadband Internet Subscribers, includes real time televised broadcasts of sports from across the nation. It is a chance to track your favorite football or basketball team from your college days and watch their games as they happen during the year. It is a new service, and Harvey is hoping it adds value to Western Broadband customers.

The second guest speaker of the evening was Kate Gertz, who runs a PC and Macintosh computer service company from Mesa, Arizona. Kate explained how the Apple's iPod, iPhone and iTunes work, and gave a demonstration of their features. If you want to contact her for follow-up information, she can be reached at doctorkate@cox.net.

October Meeting

One of the benefits of membership in Computer Booters is the availability of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which are free as a part of membership in the club. Not all members understand what these SIGs have to offer, and might be hesitant to commit an evening to attending one of them without knowing more.

The program for October will include a special overview of each of our SIGs by their respective leaders. The SIG leaders (or facilitators) are club members who are all volunteers and devote extra time to researching special things of interest to members and to leading monthly discussions on these subjects. We want to be sure the club members know what is available, and hope they will decide to attend some of these SIGs in the future. The SIGs provide an opportunity to meet with other club members and to not only learn about how computers or technology devices (such as digital cameras) can work for you, but to socialize with other members in a less formal atmosphere than the large monthly club meetings. This special agenda should be of interest to all our current and prospective members. If you are not a member of our club, this is a perfect opportunity to see what makes us "tick". See you at the October 6, 2009 meeting.

MORE ABOUT BLOGS: Twitter is a blog. It is an example of microblogging, or using short snippets of text to communicate with others. The New York Times uses Twitter to communicate with readers. Almost all companies use blogs to communicate. Intel (scoop.intel.com), Microsoft (windowsteamblog.com/blogs), and Google (googleblog.blogspot.com) are three examples. The US government has a blog: **USA.gov** that includes employee-written blogs about federal programs and offerings at : **Gov Gab** (blog.usa.gov/roller/govgab).

If you have not yet availed yourself of these advances, you should.



Membership Report

by Guy Laroche, CLUB RECORDS DIRECTOR

The membership and the attendance to meetings have diminished over the last couple of years. In order to attract good speakers and get enough volunteers to run the operation, we need a strong membership base. Please talk to you friends and neighbors to tell them about the Computer Club and the benefits available. Sorry, but the membership is only opened to Sun Lakes residents (any Sun Lakes)

We are now accepting renewals for 2010 Computer Booters membership. New members will get the rest of the year free. Their membership will expire December 31st, 2010 (a great deal!).

Please renew early to avoid the lines before the December and January meetings. Renewal forms are available on our website www.computerbooters.org found in the left column of the online newsletter under membership. All new and renewing members must fill out a membership form. This is to ensure the data is up to date and correct. Please make sure the data is legible, especially the e-mail address.

You can also pick up a form at the front desk before the general meeting of the Computer Booters of Sun Lakes.

Please check the appropriate category (Individual or Family NEW member or Individual or Family RENEWAL). The member-

ship rates are still a bargain. Individual membership is \$24.00 and Family membership is \$36.00. Your membership status allows you to attend the general meetings, which includes presentations and door prizes. You are also entitled to attend any or all SIGs (Special Interest Group) meetings during the month. Check the available ones on the Computer Booters Web site. Other benefits are: discounted subscription to the very popular magazine *Smart Computer* (plain English computer information), and discounted software programs purchases.

Attach (do not staple or tape) your check to the form and bring it to the meeting or mail it to the address on the form. The deadline for renewals is January 31, 2010. If not renewed by the deadline, you will be removed from the broadcast listings. Do not let this happen or you will miss upcoming announcements of the SIGs and other important messages from the Computer Booters. Also, you will not be able to attend any of the SIGs.

If you change your email and/or home address, please let membership know so our records will be correct.

Membership badges will be ready to be picked up, at the membership desk, before the general meeting following the receipt of you application.

Remedy to live longer:

My granddad used to put a spoonful of gunpowder into his tea every morning. He said it was a very old remedy to help him live longer.

In fact he lived to the ripe old age of ninety seven and left a widow, two children, fourteen grandchildren and a fifty foot crater where the crematorium used to be.

Balanzza Ergo Digital Luggage Scale
(BZ200), cost \$24.95
www.Balanzza.com

OK, OK, so the Balanzza Digital Luggage Scale isn't one of the usual hardware reviews you'll read in the newsletter, but it's one that will save you money.



One of the giveaways at ShowStoppers at CES this past January was Balanzza, a digital luggage scale. ShowStoppers is an after-hours, press-only special event where hot companies with cool products meet the press. And this is definitely a cool product! We spent time in Europe in August and had stringent airline baggage allowances. British Airways allowed 51 pounds per bag, but Aer Lingus allowed only 44. Our total baggage weight fell within Aer Lingus's allowance, but we knew that with a week in London, we'd never get everything back together in the right bags. Everything we read on Aer Lingus's web site indicated they enforced their rules.

Balanzza to the rescue! Simply hook the sturdy fabric strap around the handle of your

suitcase, and then use the device's plastic handle to lift your bag off the ground for a few seconds. After the beep, set the bag down and the digital scale shows the bag's weight in pounds or kilos. If it saves you from a single excess-baggage charge, it has paid for itself.

The scale is a winner for the heavy packer or souvenir collector tired of unhappy surprises at the check-in counter. You won't have to worry going to the airport just how much you've overshot your limit and how lenient the ticket agent will be. Let's face it, the scales in hotels aren't that accurate! Simply bring the scale with you and you won't have to drag your suitcase away from the check in counter to redistribute weight from one bag to the other. How embarrassing! No more overweight luggage charges. You don't even have to translate pounds to kilos on overseas flights.

The Balanzza weighs $\frac{1}{2}$ pound, so if you're packing up to the very last ounce, don't forget to allow for this added weight. The scale comes with 2 AAA batteries and is available through the Balanzza web site: www.Amazon.com, www.ebags.com, as well as other luggage sites.

Questions that intrigue me: *Can you cry under water? *How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered? *Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity? *What disease did cured ham actually have? *How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage? *If a deaf person goes to court, is it still called a hearing? *Why are you 'IN' a movie, but you're 'on TV'? *Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground? *Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?



The COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES is a non-profit organization established to aid personal computer users in achieving maximum results from their home or small business computer. This newsletter is published monthly from September through June by the COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES. It is not connected with any commercial or private business. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate. However, the COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES assume no responsibility for inaccuracies or omissions. Any information used from these articles is at the user's risk.



The COMPUTER BOOTERS meet the first Tuesday of each month, except in July and August when we do not meet, and in March when the date and/or location changes due to the Sun Lakes One homeowners meeting. Call for the date and location of the March meeting. All other meetings are held in the Arizona Room of the Sun Lakes One Country Club at 6:30 PM. which is south of Riggs Road on Sun Lakes Blvd. CB Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:30 PM in *a room to be announced* at Sun Lakes One Country Club.

Member of



Contact John Durrett regarding membership at:
jcdurrett@wbhsi.net or 480-895-8822

Other computer user groups have our permission to use the articles written by our members as long as credit is given to the author and source and notice is sent to the Editor or Assistant Editor:

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Doug Fairbanks, Assistant Editor

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2009 CALENDAR CORNER

Meeting 6:30 PM Tuesday October 6, 2009

Club presenters: The program for October will include a special overview of each of our SIG's by their respective leaders. The SIG leaders (or facilitators) are club members who are all volunteers and devote extra time to researching special things of interest to members and to leading monthly discussions on these subjects.

2009-10 Monthly Meeting Dates

Tuesday, 6:30 PM--Arizona Room, Sun Lakes 1

2009

October 6

November 3

December 1

2010

January 5

February 2

March 2*

April 6

May 4

June 1

* Meeting place will change due to HOA 1 Annual Meeting.