

The



Computer Booter

Computer Booters of Sun Lakes

<http://www.computerbooters.com>

March 2011

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March newsletter highlights

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday March 1, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. If you arrive earlier, you will be able to socialize with friends and new faces. In addition, you will receive a raffle ticket for valuable door prizes. After 7:00 P.M. raffle tickets are not given out. Our presenter will be Abby Stokes who will be giving a reassuring, jargon-free, and totally straightforward nuts-and-bolts presentation on basic computing. She is a published author and has lectured nationwide.

The *Tips & Tricks* portion of the meeting will be presented by Rollie Baumann, our very capable Hardware Manager.

START PLANNING NOW!

Want to learn about eBay? How about listening to a panel discussion about internet freebies? Want to learn about an iPod? iPhone? iPad? How about Skype? Then the 18th Annual SW Computer Conference is the place you want to be on June 3, 4 & 5.

See Patricia Hill's article on page 6 for further details. You will be glad you attended.

CLOSE TO HOME

BY JOHN MCPHERSON



From the President's Desk

by George Rodriguez, PRESIDENT



The Board of directors is looking for ways to make your participation in the club more rewarding and educational. We are now formulating the May meeting that will be done as a forum for Word and Excel. The dais will include members of the board who are familiar with the topic at hand and we will try to cover any questions from the audience as well as do a live demonstration by providing an example or if this is not possible to get back to the inquirer with a response afterwards.

We know that we cannot cover all the questions in one night and still stay within our schedule but this could be a stepping stone for some future

meetings. We will prepare a Q & A sheet on the questions and post them on our website. If any member has a specific question they can send them to me in advance so that the panel can research them and have a complete answer that will be shown at the meeting.

We want everyone to gain from this type of meeting and if it proves to be successful we will do others in the near future. If any of you have any software that you would like to see handled in this manner please make your wishes known and we will see if they can be accommodated at a future meeting.

See you at the meeting

2011 SIG Schedule

by Sue Klein, SIG COORDINATOR



Let me introduce myself in my new role as SIG Coordinator. I am also the SIG Facilitator for Computer Beginnings and former Communications Director. I will continue broadcasting SIG announcements. Other club announcements will be broadcast by the club president.

However, I must tell you that Ralph Illsen had to resign his position as SIG coordinator due to illness. Ralph will be missed for his friendly face and his helpful ways.

The SIGS will continue through May and resume in September. Most of our SIGS are monthly for 9 months and some only happen for 3 months. I hope to introduce what I am calling the "One Shot Workshop". These workshops will happen periodically throughout the 9 months. Each workshop will be a different subject and will not be subjects covered in the regular SIGs.

Buying and selling on Ebay is one of our SIGs in the spring. We had hoped to start it in January but we had a few problems. You still have time to catch the SIG on the 2nd Monday of the month in March and April. Linda and Arch Ward are very knowledgeable about buying and selling through this internet program.

SIG ideas, don't hesitate to share with me. I am looking for presenters for the "One Shot Workshop". For example, if you are knowledgeable in genealogy and have a program you use on your laptop we would love to hear about it. All I would ask of you is 2 hours of your time. I would help with setup in the Arts and Crafts room and for an hour you can share with other club members.

This is your club, share your knowledge, learn from the SIGs and enjoy. For our current SIG Classes Schedule, please go to our website: www.computerbooters.org.

Look Who's Volunteering

by Darlene Herring, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



On February 2, 2011, the Computer Booters held their monthly meeting with an attendance of 92 members and guests. Guy LaRoche, our Membership Director, was assisted by Alan Behr and Vivian Berman at the greeting table where the members and guests could ask questions and get new name badges. Ed Craze and Jim Gatesman, our dependable equipment experts, prepared the equipment for our evening's program. The floor microphone was hand carried by J.R. Scheidereiter so everyone would have use of it for the Q&As. Our lighting was controlled by Ziggy Wirganowicz. The door prize tickets brought smiles to the faces of the winners.

Our "Up Close and Personal Volunteer" for this month is Doug Fairbanks. His title is Assistant Newsletter Editor for the Computer Booters and the instructor for the ProShow DVD SIG group. Here is his interesting life so far -

Doug was born in Tacoma, Washington. After his father's death in 1944, his mother returned to Montana and remarried. Doug grew up on a ranch there, finishing his elementary school in a small one room country school, riding horseback to school. In 1952 after graduation from high school, his high school coach told him his name was next on the draft list for the Army. Wanting to stay away from Korea, he joined the US Air Force. His basic training was at Parks AFB near San Francisco, California. Then on to Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas, for training as a mechanic on aircraft engines. Next stop was Great Falls, Montana, where he was later transferred with his unit by train to New Jersey and finally aboard a troop carrier to Eng-

land, where he spent the next 3 years at Moleseworth Air Force Base. Much of his time there was spent as a flight mechanic/scanner on B-29s. Doug was then assigned to Berkstrom AFB, Austin, Texas, working on KB-29s. Then to Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska, for a 3 month Tour of Duty.

He and Doris were married in 1960 in Inglewood, California, and were blessed with two children. Doug attended Northrop Institute of Technology in Inglewood for four years and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He was employed by three different local Aero-Space companies in the Los Angeles, California, area before wanting to move north.

In 1966 he moved his family back to Washington and started to work for the Boeing Company. In 1972, Boeing transferred him and his family to Frankfurt, Germany, as a representative to Lufthansa Airlines for 2 years. In 1984, he was again transferred to Bandung, Indonesia, to assist their aircraft company in the development of a maintenance program for the aircraft they were building. Doug was instrumental to many airlines throughout Europe, Africa and Asia, making many trips to assist them in improving their aircraft maintenance and in the development of their computerized maintenance programs. Doug spent nearly 8 years overseas - 3 with the US Air Force and 5 with the Boeing Company. He retired after nearly 30 years with Boeing and in 1994, he and his wife moved to Sun Lakes.

Sun Lakes is very glad, indeed, they decided to settle here. Thank you for sharing your memoirs!



Membership Report

by Guy Laroche, CLUB RECORDS DIRECTOR

This is it! If you have not renewed your membership for 2011, you will not receive communication from the Communication Director of the Computer Booters and will not be able to attend SIG Classes. The database has been purged as of February 2nd. Membership is on a calendar basis (January 1st to December 31st) and you can still rejoin for the remaining of the year. We do not prorate for partial year. However, person who joins toward the end of the year will be extended to the following year.

For people interested in the club and who still hesitate, guests are welcome at the general meeting (one attendance is free). It is the best way to see what the Computer Booters has to offer and you can talk to existing members. Bring a friend or neighbor. The new dues for 2011 are now in effect and are as follows: \$36.00 for individual and \$48.00 for two persons living at the same address. This covers general meeting, door prizes, and all SIG Classes (Special Interest Group classes), not to mention that you can always talk to someone in the Club. We have a number of members that can answer computer related questions.

Membership forms for 2011 are available on

our website www.computerbooters.org. They can be found in the left column of the home page under membership. Everyone is requested to fill out a membership form, even if they are renewing. Filling the form on-line is the best way to ensure the data is accurate and readable, especially the e-mail address. However the form cannot be sent on-line, it has to be printed. You can also pick up a form at the front table before the general meeting of the Computer Booters of Sun Lakes. Attach (do not staple or tape) your check to the form and bring it to the meeting or snail mail it to the address on the form (P.O. Box).

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

Please note: General meetings start promptly at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of each month (except summer time). Doors close when the meeting starts. If you are late you will not receive a door prize ticket. SIG Classes also start at 7:00 pm according to the schedule found on the Computer Booters Web site. Check the web site, as we are preparing new activities and programs.

Treasurer's Report *by Jim Rahilly, TREASURER*

Fund Balances as of February 11, 2011:

Rainy Day Reserve Fund	\$	1,129.47
Current Operating Fund		<u>4,707.63</u>
Total Funds	\$	<u>5,837.10</u>



Program Update

by Ben Thompson, VICE PRESIDENT



February 2011 Meeting

Our presenter for the month was Gene Barlow of User Group Relations. Gene worked with user groups for the last 14 years of his IBM career to see this community grow in members and influence in the industry. After he retired from IBM, he set up his own consulting firm to continue this work. He continues to be an active part of the user group community.



Gene represents Acronis Software and has worked with PC user groups for over 25 years. He understands this marketplace extremely well and has thousands of user group friends and acquaintances. He described for us the best way to back up our computer. Making regular backups of our computer's hard drive is the most important thing we should be doing to protect and maintain our computer.

His presentation included the several benefits of partitioning the hard drive, the advantage of partition backups over file backups, procedures for restoring files or entire partitions and the Sandbox feature of Acronis Software which provides several advantages including allowing visitors (Grandkids) to use your computer with no downside effects.

Gene offered a free copy of 'Acronis Drive Monitor' to the attendees which can be downloaded from <http://www.acronis.com/homecomputing/download/drive-monitor/>. He also made the Acronis True Image and Disk Director Software available to members of Computer Booters at an attrac-

tive discount.

March 2011 Meeting

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday March 1, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. Our presenter will be Abby Stokes who has a gift for taking the terrified by the hand and teaching old dogs new tricks. She has single-handedly demystified computers for over 135,000 people, mostly seniors, in the course of the past 17 years. Abby has taught courses in basic computing at Cooper Union and New York University's School of Lifelong Learning, as well as computer skills to private and corporate clients. She has lectured on the topic across the country.

Abby will be giving a reassuring, jargon-free, and totally straightforward nuts-and-bolts presentation that will introduce late bloomers, grandparents, technophobes, and the digitally challenged to all the wonders of using a computer, and have the audience using digital cameras and PDAs with ease. This information is also available in her book, "Is This Thing On?": A Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking & Screaming" will be available at the meeting.

The people who did not grow up with personal computers will learn everything they need to get wired; how to select, buy, and set up computer; how to sign up for e-mail; how to establish internet access, and how to use the World Wide Web.

Attendees will receive information on peripherals like printers, scanners and wireless modems as well as for basic software, such as word processing programs. Abby will delve further into the online world to reveal search engines and web navigation, information on online banking and shopping. Security issues, "netiquette," blogs, and digital photos, transferring them from camera to computer and sending them as attachments, will be discussed.

The "Tips & Tricks" portion of the meeting will be presented by **Rollie Baumann**, our Hardware Manager.

Review of two articles, *by Patricia Hill, Review Editor*

ARE YOU READY FOR SOUTHWEST 2011?

Would you like help organizing your digital photos? Want to learn about eBay? How about listening to a panel discussion about freebies? Want to learn about an iPod? iPhone? iPad? How about Skype? Want to meet other computer enthusiasts and share experiences? Then the 18th Annual SW Computer Conference is the place you want to be on June 3, 4 & 5. These are but a sample of the workshops and tech sessions scheduled for this year's SW Computer Conference.

The conference is held at the beautiful Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=2953947, in San Diego. Room rates are \$103, single or double occupancy. That's per room – not per person! What a deal! Simply call the resort at 800.772.8527 or use the URL above to make your reservation. Tell them you're with the SW Computer Conference so you receive our special rate. Discounted parking is \$4 per day. The room rate is valid from May 30 through June 8, so grab your family and add some vacation time. **The special room rate expires May 8.**

You can also register through the conference web site, www.theswcc.org. **The \$75 early bird registrations must be postmarked by May 16.** Registration from May 16 through the conference is \$100.

Did you take what you're sure is a prize-winning photo? Then be sure to enter the Digital Photo Contest. There are four categories: Animals, Digital Art, Nature/Landscape, and People. There will be some great prizes. The rules and entry form are on the conference web site, www.theswcc.org.

Questions? E-mail me at booterpat@aol.com, or give me a call at 895-2196.

Join us for the premier computer networking and education event for computer users – Windows, Mac, Linux – all are welcome for a weekend of fun, camaraderie and education! Hope to see you there.

THE CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW (CES)

CES www.cesweb.org is produced by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) every January in Las Vegas. Last month I told you about their new Technology Enthusiast membership. I hope some of you took advantage of it.

CES is the largest consumer electronics trade show with 2,700 technology companies exhibiting. The 2011 CES set several new records, including 30,000 international attendees and [22 top CEOs participating in keynotes](#). It's a frenzied week of exhibits, keynotes and after hour parties, not to mention walking, walking and more walking. That said, the show isn't my main focus for attending. It's being able to go to ShowStoppers, an after-hours, press-only special event where hot companies with cool products meet the press. At ShowStoppers you're talking with company executives and their media relations people. They know what they're talking about and can answer your

questions. No Booth Bunnies allowed.

This year at ShowStoppers I saw some very new interesting companies as well as some old favorites. Here's the scoop – check them out.

Diskeeper, www.diskeeper.com -- Diskeeper is an automatic defragging program. Install it, set it and forget it. Really. If you can't remember to defrag your hard drive, then this is the program for you. A fragmented hard drive runs slower because your files and/or programs are fragmented – the first few bites are in one sector, the next several in another sector and the remainder in even another sector. It takes a while for your computer to find the entire file or program. The more fragmented files you have the slower your computer's performance. Diskeeper 2010 Home is a \$29.95 download and there is a trialware download also. It's been one of my favorite programs for several years now. They've never let me down.

ASP Technology (Anti Sleep Pilot),

www.antisleeppilot.com -- Nearly 20% of traffic accidents are caused by fatigue according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety study www.aaafoundation.org. Driver fatigue causes just as many casualties in traffic-related accidents as alcohol use. A tired driver has eight times greater risk of crashing than a rested driver, which is one scary statistic. Anti Sleep Pilot is a portable in-car active safety device that scientifically measures driving fatigue. The ASP continually monitors conditions that affect a driver's fatigue level. The active safety system uses the patented Anti Sleep Pilot algorithm to calculate driver fatigue in real time. Sensors take into consideration the car movement, time of day and ambient noise to determine how loud the warning sounds should be. Anti Sleep Pilot emits sound and light signals to interact with the driver and inform him or her when it is time for a preventive break. It's not currently sold outside of Denmark; the expected price will be around \$250. This isn't the usual less than \$100 product I write about, but since having one could save your life . . . Check out the video on their web site and see if you don't agree. I'll let you know when it's available.

PocketBook, www.pocketbook.com – There's a new e-reader in town. Well, not exactly "in town"; their mall kiosks are only in New York, Seattle and Overland Park, KS, but they expect to expand rapidly in this country. The PocketBook is the first e-reader to include a factory-installed language translator dictionary. Users have access to a library of 250,000 books they can download for free. This number will soon double. With the PocketBook, customers gain more than just the ability to read books. Each product includes a host of other options, including games, notes, picture viewing, Bluetooth capability, and a calendar. There are five models; prices start at \$139. A unit wasn't available for review, but it seems worth checking out.



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 meets 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 may change 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 7:00 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 the Arts and Crafts Room at the Sun Lakes One Country Club.

Member of



For membership information contact Guy Laroche 480-883-0638, mr1968zeus@msn.com

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 our Editor or Assistant Editor:

John Harrill, Newsletter Editor
Doug Fairbanks, Assistant Editor

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2011 CALENDAR CORNER

Meeting 7:00 PM Tuesday March 1, 2011

Featured Speaker: Abby Stokes will be giving a jargon-free, and totally straightforward nuts-and-bolts presentation on basic computing.

Tips and Tricks: The “**Tips & Tricks**” portion of the meeting will be given by **Rollie Baumann**, our Hardware Manager.

2011 Monthly Meeting Dates

Tuesday, 7:00 PM--Arizona Room, Sun Lakes 1

2011

March 1

April 5

May 3

September 6

October 4

November 1

December 6