



Bits & Bytes



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY KATHRYN QUERRY

THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER WILL BE CLOSED AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

Unfortunately #1, it looks like the Technology Center will now be closed through September. No firm completion date can be given for Mountain View clubhouse renovations.

Unfortunately #2, the Technology Center is not included in this year's renovations. We hope for a facelift next summer. 🙄

Fortunately #1, Susan Fisher is creatively organizing for a few classes to be available to members while the Technology Center is closed. These will take place in Lake View Clubhouse and/or via Zoom, beginning this month (see page 2) and continuing in September.

Fortunately #2, each summer we work on small but necessary club projects. For example, in the past we have updated our bylaws (NOT a small project, as I painfully learned...), created a mission statement and a club logo.

This summer Board members are each writing their detailed job descriptions for smoothing future transitions. Also, we are updating our **Standing Rules**, which have been in place for many years and are periodically updated.

Standing rules help the club function smoothly by covering specific, practical

matters that don't belong in the higher-level governing documents like bylaws. They:

- **Define** how things get done, such as meeting procedures, Technology Center rules and guidelines, member duties, and communication.
- **Tailor** practices to our culture and workflow without overhauling core rules.
- **Ensure** that fundamental practices remain uniform even as members and leaders change over time.
- **Streamline** day-to-day decision-making and minimize confusion.

Unlike bylaws, standing rules are flexible and can be changed by a simple majority vote of our Board. Ours evolve with circumstances and technology. The newly revised document will be posted on our website once it is approved.



Join/Renew Your Membership For 2025-2026

Member dues are still only \$25 per year. Our club year is July through June. We want to keep the dues at this low rate this year in part because, much to our regret, we have needed to suspend or reduce classes and close the Technology Center during renovations in Mountain View Clubhouse.

You'll still find the membership application form in all clubhouse kiosks/carousels and it is always available on our website (<https://scpdcaclubs.com/dev/clubs/lets-compute/>). Snail-mail the form with your U.S. check (no cash via U.S. mail, please) to Let's Compute, 38180 Del Webb Blvd., PMB #166, Palm Desert, CA 92211.

We appreciate your support!



AUGUST CLASSES!**By Susan Fisher, Director of Education**

Since we can't be in the Tech Center or Speakers Hall, we are offering several Zoom information and demonstration classes in August. The class schedule with more details will be emailed to 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 members. Here's what's available for August:

Please use the email link to the instructor to register for a class. Class size is limited. We cannot guarantee walk-ins will be able to attend. If you are registering for a **Zoom class, the instructor will send you the link after you register.**

iPhone Basics – Review***Lake View Clubhouse, Arrowhead Room*****Mon, 8/11, 6:00-7:30 pm****Email Instructor: [Barbara Spagnola](#)**

A review of the major topics covered in previous classes. Let's make sure you're ready for the software updates Apple will be releasing this fall.

The Robots Are Coming! The Robots Are Coming! **Zoom Class****Sat., 8/16, 2:30-4:00 pm****Email Instructor: [Doug Graham](#)**

The convergence of AI, mechanical engineering, and materials science has driven an exponential leap in the development of humanoid robots.

Phishes and Spoofs and Scams—Oh My! **Zoom Class****Sat., 8/23, 2:30-4:00 pm****Email Instructor: [Doug Graham](#)**

This class introduces how scammers are trying to steal your money, your identity, and your vote.

**APPLE -- CHANGE IS COMING!****By Steve Berman, Director of Mac Maintenance**

Apple is releasing substantial updates to its operating systems for all devices, including iPhones, iPads, Macs, Apple Watches, and CarPlay. These updates are typically

introduced to developers at the annual Developers Conference, which took place in June. Generally, these updates are released to the public concurrently with the new iPhone. You will notice that instead of sequential numbering Apple will be using the year of the release. The most visually significant change will be the Liquid Glass User Interface, which features layered depth, motion, real blur, and glass-like transitions. Further updates will be forthcoming.

I have been using developer beta updates and can report that I observe all of them as significant, although they are not yet ready for public use. I anticipate that we will all be able to locate the new operating systems by the time they are released, followed by the minor updates and fixes that are likely to follow.

I believe Apple is on the correct path, and we will all be enjoying the new operating systems within months of the release dates.

I will continue using the beta updates and report my findings to you. Stay tuned!

**MEET BARBARA SPAGNOLA,
Instructor****By David Axelson, LCTC Secretary**

During our interview, it became apparent that Pittsburgh, PA native Barbara Spagnola has the perfect background to be an LCTC Technology Instructor. Her undergrad degree from Penn West University combines nicely with her MBA in Management Science from USC. She described her bicoastal switch saying, "I was lucky to get into USC from a no-name teachers' college. I received a National



Science Foundation Grant for teachers and then I switched to business so I could learn more about computers and business.”

Two of her career highlights included working for aerospace giant Northrop Grumman on their B-2 bomber stealth program, in computer manufacturing and management. “I was also teaching lunchtime spreadsheet classes at Northrop,” Spagnola said. “It helped my career because once they figured out I had communication skills, more opportunities opened up. Then there weren’t too many women in management positions.”

Not surprisingly, Barbara’s other career highlight was teaching. “I taught for almost 10 years in middle school and high school. And I did some parttime teaching at the community college level. The other reason I like to teach now with LCTC is once you work in the computer field and know the logic, it’s easier to adapt to technology. That background helps you work with computers.”

Spagnola began her LCTC affiliation as a Lab Monitor, which included helping people who needed computer assistance. “Steve Washington was teaching classes on Mac maintenance and he was my mentor. When I started being an instructor, I used his materials. I like to teach the beginning classes and that’s how I got started.”

Currently Spagnola teaches Beginning and Intermediate iPhone classes and will again when the LCTC Lab reopens this fall. My wife and I have taken her iPhone classes and they are invaluable.

On the personal side, Barbara and her husband Chuck have been married for 38 years and are the proud parents of two sons. Both of whom, perhaps not surprisingly, followed Barbara into the computer/tech field. “Our oldest is Nick who lives in Brooklyn, New York and he works in computer science in a startup, after working for Microsoft for four years,” Barbara said. “Our other son Spencer

is the vice president for a company which makes unmanned drones for the military. He and his wife have a three year old daughter Addison, who is our only grandchild. Both sons went to Cal Poly, one to Pomona and the other to San Luis Obispo.”

The Spagnolas are very familiar with SCPD, as they were vacation renters for five years, prior to moving here fulltime in 2022. “We lived in La Mesa for 15 years and then Morro Bay, which was beautiful,” Barbara added. “But with COVID and our granddaughter’s arrival, and with traffic getting so bad, we needed to pick a place. We were too far from our children in Orange County.”

As you might imagine, Spagnola didn’t let retirement sneak up on her without being prepared. “I worked remotely for the last 10 years of my career on the Central Coast in San Diego. I tried to prepare for my retirement by doing volunteer work. I applied to be on the Citizens Finance Committee for the City of Morro Bay and we worked to create citizen-friendly budget documents for the city. I really met some interesting people. I also worked as treasurer for four different political candidates, who all won. And I worked for the County of San Luis Obispo as a voting volunteer. I was in charge of three precincts.” Spagnola is able to make good use of her past municipal financial experience, currently serving on the SCPD Finance Committee.

On balance, Spagnola’s teaching philosophy is brief but heartfelt. “I love helping people use their devices effectively. Some of my students have sent nice cards to me after taking a class, and I appreciate the sincere thanks my repeat students have shown.”



Wise Words

*There is a low correlation between
being right and being happy!*

Let's Compute Officers 2025-2026

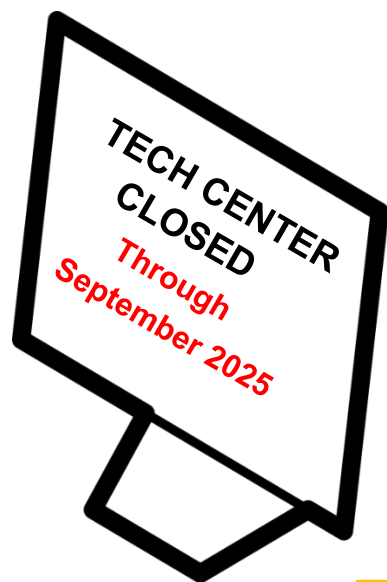
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Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting	Third Monday 2:00 PM
General Member Meeting	When Announced 1:30 PM



HOLIDAY	2025-2026 Tech Center Closures
MVC Closed for Renovations	AUGUST & SEPTEMBER
Labor Day	Mon, September 1
Columbus Day	Mon, October 13
Veterans Day	Tue, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thu/Fri, November 27/28
Christmas	Thu/Fri, December 25/26
New Year's Day	Thu, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Day	Mon, January 19
Presidents Day	Mon, February 16
Memorial Day	Mon, May 25

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