



Bits & Bytes



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY KATHRYN QUERRY

THE TECHNOLOGY CENTER REMAINS CLOSED IN SEPTEMBER

The good news is that we are working toward being back in the Technology Center by October! The hallway door may not be accessible if building renovations are still going on at Daily Grind/Martini's, but we can use the back door. (Did you ever notice that there is a back door in the Tech Center?) It's always locked and only HOA has a key, but we can request that it be open as needed.

We had a few "remote" classes in August, and several more during September, including a September 3 Tech Tutor event, offering members one-on-one help with their Apple mobile devices. See Susan Fisher's article in this issue on learning opportunities available in September.



SCAM ALERT By Richard Ravich

Have you been defrauded of money by some scammers? A scam has recently erupted with Facebook ads from lawyers claiming to be able to get your money back from the scammers. **Don't fall for it!** These lawyer ads are fake -- most are generated by AI from scammers in China and they will steal every dollar you may have in your checking and savings accounts. They will show you their Bar license (fake, but it sure looks real) and other documents to entice you into trusting them. **Don't fall for it!** My best advice is: If the offer sounds too good to be true, it is probably false. Please be very careful out there.



SCAM ALERT

By Ann Shepperd

I received this TEXT scam.

Oregon (DMV) Final Notice: Enforcement Begins July 19th.
Our records show that as of today, you still have an outstanding traffic ticket. Per Oregon Administrative Code 15C-16.003, if you fail to pay by July 18, 2025, we will take the following actions:

1. Report to DMV Violation Database
 2. Suspend your vehicle registration effective July 18th
 3. Suspend driving privileges for 30 days
 4. Go to a toll booth and pay a 35% service fee
 5. You may be prosecuted and your credit score will be affected
- Pay Now:

<https://oregon.gov/loyal/live/us?qr=w1usz1>

Please pay now, before enforcement, to avoid a license suspension and further legal trouble.
(Reply Y and reopen this message to click the link, or copy it to your browser.)
{YC:4N:98:1U:R9:AE:1Y:DX:U3}

Being the cynic that I am, I knew something wasn't right. So, instead of losing my mind, I tried to figure out how this could happen.

1. My car hadn't been in Oregon since 2020 when I moved to SCPD, nor had I driven any other vehicle when visiting friends in Oregon.
2. My car is registered in California and so is my Real ID.
3. I received this text on 7/17 and it states I needed to act by 7/18.
4. I looked up the country code for the phone number sending the text -- it belongs to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It then dawned on me that my cell number still has my southern Oregon area code. I am sure that I am not the only one who didn't change their cell phone number when they moved. But, just because I'm paranoid doesn't mean someone isn't out to get me!



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!

**SEPTEMBER CLASSES!**

By Susan Fisher, Director of Education

The Tech Center continues to be closed due to renovations in Mountain View Clubhouse; however, we are still offering five classes in September and a Tech Tutor event. The classes are either on Zoom or in person in the Lake View Clubhouse. Look at the schedule emailed to members for more details. Here is a quick list.

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.**

Tech Tutor – Apple iPhone and iPad

Lake View Clubhouse, Tahoe Room

Wed., 9/3, 6:00-8:00 pm

No registration required. Bring your own fully charged iPad or iPhone. Plan your question for a 10-15 minute one-on-one help session with a Tech Tutor.

Mac Basics–Part 1

Lake View Clubhouse, Tahoe Room

Mon., 9/8, 6:00-7:30 pm

Email Instructor: Steve Berman

Let's explore the features in Apple's new operating system, Tahoe OS26, and find out where all your favorite tools are now.

Emerging Trends - What's Happening Out There in Medicine? **Zoom Class**

Sat., 9/13, 2:30-4:00 pm

Email Instructor: Doug Graham

A multi-media presentation about emerging trends in medicine including procedures and treatments.

Phishes and Spoofs and Scams, Oh My! **Zoom Class**

Sat., 9/20, 2:30-4:00 pm

Email Instructor: Doug Graham

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

What's New with iPhone and iOS 26

Lakeview Clubhouse, Tahoe Room

Tues., 9/23. 6:00-7:30 pm

Email Instructor: Steve Berman

We'll introduce you to what's new with iOS 26. You'll be able to take advantage of some or all of the new capabilities and tools.

Emerging Technologies - What's Happening Out There? **Zoom Class**

Sat., 9/27, 2:30-4:00 pm

Email Instructor: Doug Graham

Doug introduces us to a dozen technologies that individually are changing the world!

**APPLE FACTOID**

By Steve Berman

Apple began transitioning its products to USB-C cable connections starting with the iPad Pro in 2018, replacing the proprietary Lightning connector. This shift continued with the iPad Air (4th generation) in 2020, the iPad Mini (6th generation) in 2021, and the iPad (10th generation) in 2022. The iPhone 15 series, released in September 2023, marked the first iPhones to adopt USB-C, aligning with European Union regulations. The European Union would not allow Apple to sell iPhones in Europe until they had a USB-C port. Subsequently, in October 2024, Apple updated its Magic Mouse, Magic Keyboard, and Magic Trackpad to feature USB-C ports.



CAPTIONS FOR LIVE CONVERSATIONS

By Kathryn Querry

What if our conversations could have closed captioning? There are numerous apps for that!

Hearing loss can lead to social isolation as it progressively becomes more difficult to take part in conversations and public events. My friend, Barb, is very social and wants to stay that way. Her hearing aids are a big help but not always enough. So Barb has installed Google's free *Live Transcribe* app on her Android smartphone. She's delighted with how helpful it has been, both in-person and on some phone calls.

What does Google's *Live Transcribe* do?

- Instant, real-time speech-to-text transcription of conversations using your phone's microphone. The text appears on your phone's screen. Text size can be adjusted for easy viewing.
- *Live Transcribe* supports over 120 languages and dialects, with real-time language switching, and the ability to add custom words like names or household terms.
- Sound alerts appear on the screen, such as smoke alarms, doorbells, or crying babies. Sound alerts can be customized for things like appliance beeps or other household noises.
- Keeps a 12-hour sound history, so you can review what happened. This setting can be changed to temporarily save up to three days of transcription history.
- It's deeply integrated into Android's various accessibility settings.
- Google's official *Live Transcribe* app is free and available for most Android devices.

What about Apple devices?

If you're looking for ambient sound alerts and advanced AI transcription, Google's *Live Transcribe* is unmatched -- but only on Android. A *Live Transcribe* app is available for Apple, but it is made by another company (Mighty Fine), not Google. For iPhone users, Mighty Fine's version is a solid, user-friendly alternative, especially for everyday conversations. Mighty Fine's *Live Transcribe* app supports fewer languages (70) and does not have sound notifications.

iPhones do have a built-in speech-to-text transcription feature called *Live Captions*, which transcribes speech system-wide, including FaceTime and media. Apple's *Live Captions* feature has improved significantly in recent updates, especially since iOS 18 and macOS Sequoia—but its accuracy still varies depending on context. Compared to Android's *Live Transcribe*, Apple's version is described as "somewhat below" in accuracy and responsiveness. Some users report that it struggles with natural conversation flow, misinterprets words, and lacks context awareness.

There are quite a few other speech-to-text apps out there, meeting varying needs. No matter what you choose to try, remember to download/install apps from the Google Play Store or the Apple Store.

A real-life Android *Live Transcribe* situation

Recently, four of us were having dinner at Boulevards. Barb activated *Live Transcribe* with one tap, placed her phone beside her, and I watched as it instantly and accurately began typing out everything the four of us said. Barb had the text size set large so she could easily read it without picking up the phone or leaning over the screen.

The restaurant was busy and noisy, typically one of the most difficult environments in which to follow conversations. In addition to the large text transcription, occasionally the sound alert bubble "Crowd" popped up on the screen, indicating the background noise may have caused a word or phrase to be missed in the transcription – though it was rare and never enough to lose track of the conversation.

Barb has shared her *Live Transcribe* discovery with many people who see her using it on cruises and during her other travels and about the town.



"Politeness is the art of choosing among your thoughts."

Madame de Staël (Swiss-French Writer and Philosopher, 1766-1817)

Let's Compute Officers 2025-2026

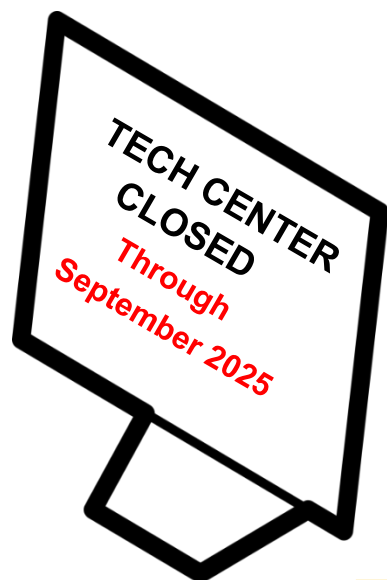
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Meeting Schedule

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



HOLIDAY	2025-2026 Tech Center Closures
MVC Closed for Renovations	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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