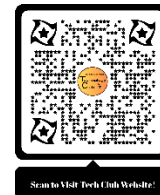# Bits & Bytes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KATHRYN QUERRY

In case you missed it, Bill Singer's November 18th presentation of Tech Gifts for the Holidays was fun and entertaining, as always. He also explained the importance of asking AI a detailed question, rather than a broad question, in order to generate a response more tailored to what you want to know. See December's "Ask AI" question for Bill's example, which you can customize to your circumstances.

Tech Tutor. Our popular Tech Tutor series is expanding! Members are flocking to these one-on-one scheduled events in the Technology Center where our specialists will try to help you with a specific tech question. There are three Tech Tutor events in December (Apple devices only this time). Check the class schedule emailed to members and in this issue. We plan to also offer PC and Android Tech Tutor events in 2026.

In addition, there are over 20 classes scheduled in December! Come learn something new.

In This Issue

DO WE BELIEVE AI? A WORD OF CAUTION
By Richard Ravich

In today's society most of us know that there are Artificial Intelligence (AI) programs that can answer many everyday life questions. My preference is to use chatgpt.com.

What do I use it for, you may ask? I have used it to generate a computer program to transfer 300 videos that one of my relatives took in Africa, thinking that they were taking pictures. ChatGPT generated the code for me, I embellished it slightly and let it rip. It generated approximately 20,000 individual pictures. If I had tried to do that manually, it would have taken years to complete!

ChatGPT offers much more than that if you subscribe and pay for it too.

What is the next possible AI challenge? How about having AI generate movie clips. Let's say you wanted to generate some propaganda against Israel and here is what you might ask ChatGPT to produce. "Generate a 30 second clip of an Israeli air force jet crashing into a mountain and exploding." Guess what, it would generate just that. There have been such clips being shown on our local news channels.

In summary, be vigilant in what you believe is true. Movies, pictures, information, and audio clips can be generated with AI. Remember, what you see may not be real. Scrutinize everything to validate that it is true and ask questions!

Watch and be amazed with this great video that my friend Liron produced that shows some of the above in action.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8cQ3Tb9L7Qo

♦♦♦

RICHARD RAVICH - TECH GURU & MORE
by David Axelson, Bits & Bytes Editor

Simply put, Let's Compute Technology Club (LCTC) Vice President and Instructor Richard Ravich is the go-to person for high level technology issues for the club. In a club full of knowledgeable tech types, Ravich is the first among equals. An only child born in Hartford, Connecticut, Ravich is a graduate of Marblehead High School, located 20 miles north of Boston on the Atlantic Ocean.

His interest in technology began at an early age, in large part due to a gift from his mother. "First of all, I was always interested in mechanical, or electronic items," Ravich recounted. I took a radio apart to see how it would work. My mother gave me a kit of parts that you put together to make electronic circuits. I learn by doing and I just devoured that. It was a turning point for me."

Richard attended Northrop University, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Electronic Engineering, and his college experience became the training ground for his future career. "Northrop was hard, especially the higher level classes. Most of the college professors were engineers or other professionals who taught in the morning and had a real job in the afternoon. We learned from professors with real practical experience."

College also intensified an early interest of Ravich's that carries on to this day, Ham Radio. "We had a Ham Radio club in college. Dr. Bill Dunn taught me everything I needed to know, including Morse Code. I took the test and I got only one question wrong." Ravich now holds the highest rated Ham license and true to his calling to teach, Ravich now conducts a Ham Radio Licensing Class for Technology Club members.

Ravich provided the background for his love of teaching. "For some reason, and I don't know why, many of the companies I worked for in the last 30-40 years, needed instructors to teach classes. I was an applications engineer at Data Products in Woodland Hills, CA, and they wanted someone to teach the Israeli Army how to fix the printers they bought. Nobody else wanted to go, so I was on the next plane. It seemed like every company I worked for, I became the instructor. I taught classes at IBM as well. I just fell into that."

Richard and his wife Charna have been residents of Sun City Palm Desert since 2018. Ravich retired from IBM after handling several major accounts for the company and he didn't waste any time joining LCTC. "I signed on the day we got here in 2018. I was drawn to the club because of our ability to spread newer technology to our members."

Known around the LCTC as the in-house PC guy, Ravich also has an affinity for the Apple side of the tech world. Ravich explained, "I can do both. I have a Mac Book I use for traveling. At one point in my career, we got new PCs every two years. I've been happy using a Mac for certain things and it works really, really well. I just installed a fourth PC in my office. One is a server, one is a daily driver, one is for amateur radio and the fourth one I just installed last week is my play machine, my sandbox."

Before you pigeonhole Ravich as just a tech savant, know that he is also a member of the Photography Club, square dances on Wednesday evenings, and serves as the Volunteer Coordinator of SCPD's Neighbors 4 Neighbors. Other interests include traveling with Charna, and the couple has intermingled international and domestic travel over the years including trips to Israel, Germany, the Netherlands and China. A river cruise is on the docket for 2026. Richard and Charna are also

the parents of three grown children, two boys and a girl, who in turn have among them four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

As we concluded our interview, I posed to Ravich the question of the most significant change in technology he has experienced during his career. Without hesitation he said, "Miniaturization. Everything has gotten so much smaller. The new Xumo cable box from Spectrum is one-eighth the size of the old box. When I was in college, the computer took up a whole room and had to be air conditioned. Now there is more power in my phone than in the computers where I used to work. To me miniaturization is unreal."

December 2025 Ravich will be teaching 'How to Use the Spectrum XUMO Streaming Set Top Box' December 3rd and 4th; and Ham Radio Technician License Class 4 on December 6th and Class 5 on December 13th. Attending Classes 1-3 are a prerequisite for these two sessions. Please refer to the complete December 2025 LCTC Schedule of Classes emailed to members and included in Bits & Bytes for additional information.

♦♦♦

The Technology Center will be closed:

- Thursday, December 25
- Friday, December 26
- Thursday, January 1, 2026

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Have a warm and merry holiday season!

Join/Renew Your Membership for 2025-2026

Member dues are still only $25 per year. Our club year is July through June. We have kept dues at this low rate this year because, regrettably, classes were reduced while the Technology Center was closed during building renovations.

Now you can stop in the Tech Center Tue-Fri, 10:00am to 12:50pm. Join/renew, see class schedules, and learn what else the Technology Club offers!

You'll also find the membership application form in each clubhouse kiosk/carousel, and it is always available on our website. 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

Join and learn something new!

♦♦♦

"Useless But Important Information"
(Jimmy Buffett song)

This month's *Ask AI* question is suggested by Bill Singer, and is also an example of creating a detailed prompt to more helpfully focus the response:

Please suggest Christmas gift ideas for a 10-year-old boy who loves building sets, funny adventure books, soccer, and anything to do with space. He does not like puzzles, arts-and-crafts kits, or anything too noisy. I'd like gifts that are fun, age-appropriate, and not too expensive.

Type in or ask that question when you open your favorite AI app (Microsoft's Copilot, OpenAI's ChatGPT or Atlas, Google's Gemini, Perplexity, other).

Whether you're already an Artificial Intelligence prompt pro, or just starting, try the exercise for an informative response!

♦♦♦

DECEMBER 2025 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

This month we are offering 21 classes along with 3 Tech Tutor events! Your membership includes access to classes and events. Please use the instructor's email link to register for classes. If you are registering for a Zoom class, the instructor will send you a link after you register.

Susan Fisher, Director of Education, is responsible for organizing and preparing the schedule.

Tue, 12/2 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Barbara Spagnola　　　　　　Email: aauwbarb@gmail.com **iPhone Basics - iOS26 Review:** Explore Apple's software update, iOS26 with a discussion of the newest features, followed by a review. **iPad users are welcome.**
Wed., 12/3 11:00-12:30 pm	**Walk in. No registration necessary** **Tech Tutor Event for your Apple Devices:** Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Wed, 12/3 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich　　　　　　Email: richard@ravich.us **How to use the Spectrum XUMO Streaming Set Top Box:** Learn about Spectrum's free streaming set-top box offered to Sun City residents through the HOA plan, allowing users to record shows in one room and watch them in another.
Thu, 12/4 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson　　　　　　Email: emprof@ameritech.net **Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 1:** Create a high-quality documentary about a trip, family history, your grandchildren, and more. *Requirements: Basic knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint (Windows)*
Thu, 12/4 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich　　　　　　Email: richard@ravich.us **How to use the Spectrum XUMO Streaming Set Top Box:** Learn about Spectrum's free streaming set-top box offered to Sun City residents through the HOA plan, allowing users to record shows in one room and watch them in another.
Fri, 12/5 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson　　　　　　Email: sandy@myerson.org **Microsoft Excel–The Basics:** **New Class!** Learn to create, organize, and analyze data in spreadsheets using Excel. Covers formatting, built-in formulas, sorting, saving, and sharing.
Sat, 12/6 10:00-12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich　　　　　　Email: richard@ravich.us **Ham Radio Technician Class Licensing Class #4:** We will go over questions and answers needed to pass a 35-question exam given by the Federal Communications Commission to become a licensed amateur radio operator. Class #4 of 5.
Sat, 12/6 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Doug Graham　　　　　　Email: dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com **How's Your App-etite ?** **New Class! Hybrid Class - Zoom OR in the Tech Center** Orientation to common and unique free apps such as driving directions, stars and constellations, plants or fun and games for smartphones and tablets.
Mon, 12/8 10:00-11:30 am	Instructor: Alan Radin　　　　　　Email: aradinpd@gmail.com **ON1 Photo Raw:** A powerful, non-destructive editor that combines many of the best features of Lightroom and Photoshop for photographers of all levels.
Tue, 12/9 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman　　　　　　Email: steveberman@mac.com **Apple Pages: Basic Word Processing:** **New Class!** Word processing application is equal to or better than Microsoft Word and it comes free with Macintosh computers.
Tue, 12/9 3:00-5:00 pm	Instructor: Tony Serra　　　　　　Email: tonyserra@prodigy.net **Using Windows 11 File Explorer–Basics for Beginners:** Hands-on lessons for beginners on using File Explorer and managing files names of various parts, work with a USB drive to Copy, Move, Rename, Delete & Organize pictures, documents, files and more.

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Wed., 12/10 11:00-12:30 pm	**Walk in. No registration necessary** **Tech Tutor Event for your Apple Devices:** Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Wed, 12/10 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson Email: sandy@myerson.org **Microsoft 365 Demo Class:** Discussion features in a Microsoft 365 one-year subscription—such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Defender, OneDrive, and Outlook—and cover basics like Outlook, Calendar, file sharing, and note-taking.
Thu, 12/11 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: emprof@ameritech.net **Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 2:** Create a high-quality documentary about a trip, family history, your grandchildren, and more. *Requirements: Basic knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint (Windows)*
Thu, 12/11 3:00-4:30	Instructor: Steve Washington Email: sw2128001@gmail.com **The Amazing Apple Watch:** Review Messages App, set Activity goals, use Water Fitness, and explore Apple Wallet features including Apple Cash and Apple Pay.
Sat, 12/13 10:00-12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: richard@ravich.us **Ham Radio Technician Class Licensing Class #5:** We will go over questions and answers needed to pass a 35-question exam given by the Federal Communications Commission to become a licensed amateur radio operator. This is class #5 of 5.
Sat, 12/13 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Doug Graham Email: dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com **How's Your App-etite? New Class! Hybrid Class - Zoom OR in the Tech Center** Orientation to common and unique free apps such as driving directions, stars and constellations, plants or fun and games for smartphones and tablets.
Mon, 12/15 10:00-11:30 am	Instructor: Alan Radin Email: aradinpd@gmail.com **ON1 Photo Raw:** A powerful, non-destructive editor that combines many of the best features of Lightroom and Photoshop for photographers of all levels.
Tue, 12/16 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: steveberman@mac.com **Mac Basics Part 2:** Discover new Mac OS features and pro tips for organizing your desktop including using Stacks, keyboard shortcuts, Split View, sharing and Siri.
Wed., 12/17 11:00-12:30 pm	**Walk in. No registration necessary** **Tech Tutor Event for your Apple Devices:** Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Wed, 12/17 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson Email: sandy@myerson.org **Using Zelle vs. Venmo:** Either payment can be made directly to another individual or company. Learn how to use Zelle and Venmo. Learn the benefits of each. **This is a demonstration only class.**
Thu, 12/18 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: emprof@ameritech.net **Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 1:** Create a high-quality documentary about a trip, family history, your grandchildren, and more. *Requirements: Basic knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint (Windows)*
Thu, 12/18 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Bill Singer Email: wsinger2@earthlink.net **How to Talk to ChatGPT — and Why You'd Want To: New Class!** Explore five areas in which ChatGPT can make daily life easier — including Health, Finance, Technology Assistance, Travel and Companionship. Learn how ChatGPT can help with daily tasks in health, finance, tech, travel, and more.
Tue, 12/30 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Washington Email: sw2128001@gmail.com **Apple Watch Very Basics:** We will learn setup, how to update the Watch and iPhone operating systems (iOS). Learn how to select a watch face, access Apps, and how to use the Control Panel, Apple Watch Fall Detection and AFib Detection.

Let's Compute Officers 2025-2026

President, Kathryn Querry .... 707-803-6119 .... kquerry@outlook.com

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Director of Mac Maintenance, Steve Berman .... 914-755-1556 .... steveberman@mac.com

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News & Views .... Kathryn Querry 707-803-6119

Webmaster .... Lucy Reyes 760-702-1177

Printers .... Richard Ravich 760-772-3905

Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting .... Third Monday 2:00 PM

General Member Meeting .... When Announced

TECH CENTER
OPEN LAB HOURS
Tue thru Fri
10:00am to
12:50pm
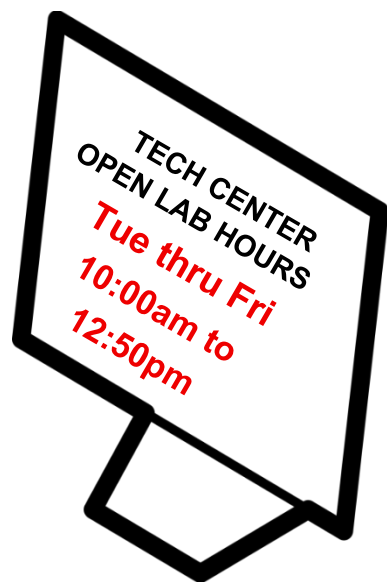
HOLIDAY	2025-2026 Tech Center Closures
MVC Closed for Renovations	SEPTEMBER
Labor Day	Mon, September 1
Columbus Day	Mon, October 13
Veterans Day	Tue, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thu/Fri, November 27/28
Christmas	Thu/Fri, December 25/26
New Year's Day	Thu, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Day	Mon, January 19
Presidents Day	Mon, February 16
Memorial Day	Mon, May 25

Scan this QR Code with your smartphone camera to visit the Let's Compute website, or click here.
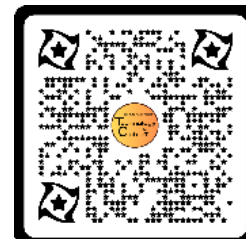
Scan to Visit Tech Club Website!