



# Bits & Bytes



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY KATHRYN QUERRY

### Welcome to 2026!

**January is All About Education:** As usual, we start the New Year with our January "Meet the Instructors" General Meeting. All SCPD residents are invited to join Technology Club members on January 27, 1:30pm, in Speakers Hall. In addition to hearing individually from many of the instructors, there will be added fun with an AI-created component.

Keeping with this month's focus on education, in this issue you'll enjoy articles by two instructors, Barbara Spagnola and Errol Magidson.

Check out the monthly class schedule to peruse the **26 classes offered in January**, as well as **three Tech Tutor sessions**.

Want to digitize slides or old pictures? Joel Effron has spent time this past summer testing and updating the two flatbed scanners available in the Technology Center. He'll present a class on 1/20 to get you started!

**Come learn something new!**

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## TWO INSTRUCTOR STORIES

### USING POWERPOINT AS A POWERFUL TEACHING TOOL

*by Errol Magidson, LCTC Instructor*

In 1971 I started getting involved using the computer to develop lessons to help people learn. Computers were at a primitive stage of development then but have become more and more powerful ever since. The problem is many people still don't use the available software properly. Over the years I sat through boring presentations that used PowerPoint incorrectly. Presenters would display sentences or long phrases with very few

images that were too small and then proceed to read the words to the audience.

PowerPoint has become powerful enough now that I have learned to use it to develop documentaries. What makes for a good documentary? You need to research your topic and then tell the stories by using panning and zooming techniques, short video clips, pertinent images, and minimal use of text, along with the right music and narration. Register to learn these techniques in Technology Center classes during a three-part series on January 7, 14, and 21.

I tried doing this with the documentary I have presented live on "Chicago's Only Castle," which tells the incredible stories of those responsible for taking care of that Castle, stories that are tied to Chicago's rich history. February 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the Sierra Ballroom, I will use PowerPoint to tell the story of, "Del Webb: Renaissance Man of the 20th Century," the person responsible for our amazing community.

### **HELPING MEMBERS USE APPLE IPHONE** *by Barbara Spagnola, LCTC Instructor*

I began my volunteer work with Let's Compute Technology Club (LCTC) as a monitor in the Technology Center, which involved occasionally assisting members with technical issues. Since I enjoyed helping folks use their devices more efficiently and always received many questions about iPhones, I decided to teach beginning and intermediate iPhone classes. My career background included almost two decades with Northrop Grumman and another 18 years with Computer Sciences Corp, working in computer manufacturing systems, finance, IT contracts, and management. I found this computer experience allowed me to easily adapt to our ever-changing technology, especially that which is embedded in Apple's iPhones.

With IT manufacturers continually enhancing their hardware with new features

and the latest software updates, there are always new tips to share with our LCTC members. A smart phone is a powerful tool, which we as owners need to master and control, not the other way around! As many of us have invested significantly in our personal phones and tablets, it's to our benefit to learn to use them as easily and effectively as possible.

All the LCTC instructors and I look forward to seeing our members in future classes. Please know your questions are always welcome, and we're here to make your technology work for you!



### **TECH TUTOR** **One-on-One Help for Members!**

In January there will be two Tech Tutor events for Apple devices (1/7, 1/21), and one for PC/Android devices (1/14). Hours are 11:00-12:30 each time.

No registration is required. Members can just walk in during the hours posted on the monthly class schedule for your device type. Each person will typically have 10-15 minutes with a specialist who will try to help with a specific tech question.



### **BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU!** *by Richard Ravich, LCTC VP*

Our lives are about to be driven by AI, Artificial Intelligence. As we all use it more every day it is worth noting that the AI software does watch over what you are asking it. Everyone needs to exercise caution with what they ask. For example, a high school senior asked ChatGPT how to kill one of his classmates. ChatGPT flagged that question and sent it over to law enforcement, and this high schooler was arrested and detained.

The rule that everyone should follow when using AI is, would I ask this question to my

mother or spouse? If the answer is NO, then do not ask your AI app!



***"Useless But Important Information"***

(Jimmy Buffett song)



This month's **Ask AI** question is suggested by Richard Ravich:

**How can having your pacemaker adjusted**

**impact blood pressure?**

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!

**It's In the Name!**  
***Artificial Intelligence***  
**is a creation of the**  
**human mind.**  
**AI is not human.**

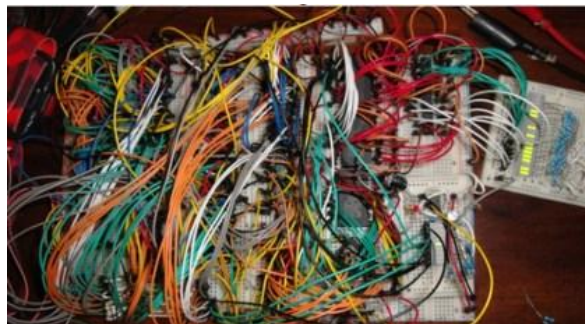


**2026 GENERAL MEMBER MEETINGS**

**Speakers Hall, 1:30-3:00**  
**(unless otherwise indicated)**

Tue, Jan 27 ..... Instructor Presentations  
Wed, Feb 25 ..... Xumo, Richard Ravich  
Mon, Mar 16 ..... Todd Luttmers, Home Digital Security  
Tue, Apr 28 ..... Jay Samit, The Second Act Advantage  
Tue May 19 5- 7pm, Ventana, Annual Social/Mtg  
Tue, Jun 23 ..... TBD

**Technology Center Wiring Project**



Thank You! to the HOA for updating wiring in the room. Internet speed has doubled! This project has been led by Brian Locke, HOA Information Systems & Communications Director. It is a superbly professional job. *(Just kidding with that picture!)*



**Join/Renew Membership for 2025-2026**

Member dues are still only \$25 per year. Our club year is July through June.

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](#). Drop off at the Technology Center or 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**





## JANUARY 2026 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

**Membership Is Required for All Classes and Tech Tutor Sessions.**

We are offering 26 classes along with 3 Tech Tutor events. Use the instructor email link to register for classes. You will be sent a link for a **Zoom** class, if offered, after you register.

**Susan Fisher, Director of Education**

WHEN	WHO and WHAT
Sat, 1/3 10:00 am- 12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: <a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a> <b><u>Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class:</u></b> 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.
Mon, 1/5 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Washington Email: <a href="mailto:sw2128001@gmail.com">sw2128001@gmail.com</a> <b><u>The Amazing Apple Watch:</u></b> Review Messages App, set Activity goals, use Water Fitness, and explore Apple Wallet features including Apple Cash and Apple Pay.
Tue, 1/6 11:00 am- 12:30 pm	<b><u>Walk in. No registration necessary</u></b> <b><u>Tech Tutor Event for Apple Devices:</u></b> Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Tue, 1/6 3:00-4:30 pm <b>New Class</b>	Instructor: Steve Washington Email: <a href="mailto:sw2128001@gmail.com">sw2128001@gmail.com</a> <b><u>Tesla Supervised Self Driving (FSD):</u></b> Learn how to use FSD. I use it all the time, and I believe it makes me a safer driver.
Wed, 1/7 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: <a href="mailto:emprof@ameritech.net">emprof@ameritech.net</a> <b><u>Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 1:</u></b> Create a high-quality documentary about a trip, family history, your grandchildren, and more. <b><u>Requirements: Basic knowledge of Microsoft PowerPoint (Windows)</u></b>
Thu, 1/8 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson <b>RESCHEDULED TO Thur. 1/15</b> Email: <a href="mailto:sandy@myerson.org">sandy@myerson.org</a> <b><u>Microsoft Excel–The Basics:</u></b> Learn to create, organize, and analyze data in spreadsheets using Excel. Covers formatting, built-in formulas, sorting, saving, and sharing.
Thu, 1/8 3:00-4:30 pm <b>New Class</b>	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: <a href="mailto:steveberman@mac.com">steveberman@mac.com</a> <b><u>Getting the Most Out of Your iPhone Camera:</u></b> We will learn about the setting for the camera and how to get the most from the most used camera in the world!
Fri, 1/9 1:00-2:30 pm <b>New Class</b>	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: <a href="mailto:steveberman@mac.com">steveberman@mac.com</a> <b><u>Editing Your Photos with Apple's Photo App:</u></b> Adjust your photos' appearance and easily remove unwanted objects. (For iPhone 15, 16 and 17 users)
Sat, 1/10 10:00 am- 12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: <a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a> <b><u>Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class:</u></b> See information for this class on 1/3.
Sat, 1/10 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Doug Graham Email: <a href="mailto:dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com">dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com</a> <b><u>Phishes and Spoofs and Scams – Oh My!</u></b> Scammers target your money, identity, and vote. This presentation will prompt discussion and highlight ways to lower your risk of becoming a victim. <b><u>Hybrid class – in Technology Center or Zoom</u></b>
Tue, 1/13 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: <a href="mailto:steveberman@mac.com">steveberman@mac.com</a> <b><u>Mac Basics Part 1:</u></b> Discover what's new in Tahoe OS26 and locate your favorite tools quickly.
Wed, 1/14 11:00 am- 12:30 pm	<b><u>Walk in. No registration necessary</u></b> <b><u>Tech Tutor Event for PCs and Android Phones:</u></b> Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Wed, 1/14 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: <a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a> <b><u>Xumo—Using the Spectrum Streaming Set Top Box:</u></b> 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.
Wed, 1/14 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: <a href="mailto:emprof@ameritech.net">emprof@ameritech.net</a> <b><u>Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 2:</u></b> See information for this class on 1/7.

WHEN	WHO and WHAT
Thu, 1/15 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: <a href="mailto:steveberman@mac.com">steveberman@mac.com</a> <b>Mac Basics Part 2:</b> Discover new Mac OS features and pro tips for organizing your desktop including using Stacks, keyboard shortcuts, Split View, sharing and Siri.
Thu, 1/15 5:00-6:30 pm	Instructor: Bill Singer Email: <a href="mailto:wsinger2@earthlink.net">wsinger2@earthlink.net</a> <b>How to Talk to ChatGPT — and Why You'd Want To:</b> Explore five areas in which ChatGPT can make daily life easier — including Health, Finance, Technology Assistance, Travel and Companionship. ChatGPT can help with daily tasks in health, finance, tech, travel, and more.
Fri, 1/16 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson Email: <a href="mailto:sandy@myerson.org">sandy@myerson.org</a> <b>Using Zelle vs. Venmo:</b> Either payment can be made directly to another individual or company. Learn how to use Zelle and Venmo and the benefits of each. <b>This is a demo class.</b>
Sat, 1/17 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: <a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a> <b>Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class:</b> See information for this class on 1/3.
Sat, 1/17 1:00-2:30 pm <b>New Class</b>	Instructor: Doug Graham Email: <a href="mailto:dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com">dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com</a> <b>Emerging Technologies – The Sky is NOT the Limit:</b> Discover how advancing technologies—visible and unseen—are transforming our world. This multimedia presentation will spark new ideas and conversation. <b>Hybrid class – in Technology Center or Zoom</b>
Tue, 1/20 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Barbara Spagnola Email: <a href="mailto:aauwbarb@gmail.com">aauwbarb@gmail.com</a> <b>iPhone Basics - iOS26 Review:</b> A discussion of the newest features, followed by tips for using iOS 26 and a review of some major topics from previous classes. <b>iPad users welcome.</b> Instructor:
Tue, 1/20 3:00-4:30 pm <b>New Class</b>	Joel Effron Email: <a href="mailto:Joel@effron.com">Joel@effron.com</a> <b>How to Use the Technology Club's Scanners:</b> The club has two scanners: one for documents (up to legal size) and photos, and another for multiple photos or slides, which save files as individual JPEGs. Save your digitized files to a USB drive.
Wed, 1/21 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Gay France Email: <a href="mailto:gfrance7@icloud.com">gfrance7@icloud.com</a> <b>Apple's Photos Edit and Pages are Friends:</b> Use the Photos app to edit photos and clipart designs to use creatively in the Pages app. They work together to make cards, flyers, business cards, etc. This is a <b>hands-on class</b> for Macs and laptops, but not iPads.
Wed, 1/21 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: <a href="mailto:emprof@ameritech.net">emprof@ameritech.net</a> <b>Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 3:</b> See information for this class on 1/7.
Thu, 1/22 11:00 am-12:30 pm	<b>Walk in. No registration necessary</b> <b>Tech Tutor Event for Apple Devices:</b> Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Thu, 1/22 1:00-2:30 pm <b>New Class</b>	Instructor: Sandy Myerson Email: <a href="mailto:sandy@myerson.org">sandy@myerson.org</a> <b>Let's Make a Flyer with Microsoft Word:</b> This is for all basic Microsoft Window users. You will have a beautiful flyer at the end of the class.
Thu, 1/22 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Washington Email: <a href="mailto:sw2128001@gmail.com">sw2128001@gmail.com</a> <b>Apple Watch Very Basics:</b> Learn setup, how to update the watch and iPhone operating systems (iOS). Learn how to select a watch face, access Apps, how to use the Control Panel, Apple Watch Fall Detection and AFib Detection.
Sat, 1/24 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: <a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a> <b>Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class:</b> See information for this class on 1/3.
Wed, 1/28 3:00-5:00 pm	Instructor: Tony Serra Email: <a href="mailto:tonyserra@prodigy.net">tonyserra@prodigy.net</a> <b>Using Windows 11 File Explorer- Basics for Beginners:</b> 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.
Sat, 1/31 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: <a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a> <b>Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class:</b> See information for this class on 1/3.

**Let's Compute Officers 2025-2026**

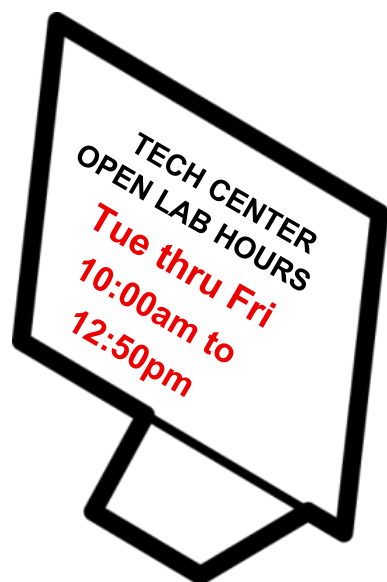
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Treasurer, Ann Shepperd .....	541-414-9021 .....	<a href="mailto:annmilshep@gmail.com">annmilshep@gmail.com</a>
Director of Membership/Comm, Bill Singer .....	760-636-5055 .....	<a href="mailto:billebsinger@gmail.com">billebsinger@gmail.com</a>
Director of Monitors, Lucy Reyes .....	760-702-1177 .....	<a href="mailto:luzyureyes@gmail.com">luzyureyes@gmail.com</a>
Director of Education, Susan Fisher .....	626-833-4316 .....	<a href="mailto:susangfisher511@gmail.com">susangfisher511@gmail.com</a>
Director of PC Maintenance, Richard Ravich .....	760-772-3905 .....	<a href="mailto:richard@ravich.us">richard@ravich.us</a>
Director of Mac Maintenance, Steve Berman .....	914-755-1556 .....	<a href="mailto:steveberman@mac.com">steveberman@mac.com</a>
Director of Programs, Doug Graham .....	213-215-9462 .....	<a href="mailto:dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com">dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com</a>

**Specialists**

Supplies .....	Lynne Gordon .....	619-606-6259
General Meetings .....	Lucy Reyes .....	760-702-1177
Bits & Bytes Editor .....	David Axelson .....	619-806-8608
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



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!