Bits & Bytes

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KATHRYN QUERRY

It's Like Getting a Puppy!

Did you get a new computer or a puppy over the holidays? They're a lot alike!

An old computer/elderly dog begins showing concerning signs of old age. Should I get a new computer/puppy? It means some bumpy roads ahead (get to know each other, teach it to obey my commands, learn manners and not destroy things, and general house-breaking).

Before tragedy strikes, I decide to get the new computer/puppy. Training begins and I conclude it is indeed a smart little thing. **Note One Important Difference:** Computer -- Must watch YouTube for hilarious puppy videos. Puppy – Hilarity is built in.

My new computer/puppy has many amazing talents, and we get along better each day. With patience and practice we will become as devoted to each other as with my old computer/dog (RIP).

Hey! Stop chewing on my files! AI Prompt: Where is my slipper? Aww, so adorable.

This is a Copilot AI created image. See "Ask AI" on page 3 for my prompt to create this image.

See you at February's General Meeting. All SCPD Residents are invited!

LET'S COMPUTE TECHNOLOGY CLUB
INVITES OUR MEMBERS AND ALL SCPD RESIDENTS
For an Informative and Fun-Filled Primer

Spectrum XUMO
THE FUTURE OF TV
Smaller, More Powerful, Easy to Use
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026
1:30 – 3:00 PM
Speakers Hall (SV Clubhouse)

STREAM LIVE TV, MOVIES & MORE!

| 100s OF CHANNELS | THOUSANDS OF MOVIES | RECORD UP TO 100 SHOWS |

PRESENTED BY RICHARD RAVICH

In This Issue

A VISIT WITH DOUG GRAHAM, LCTC's Program Director
by David Axelson, Bits & Bytes Editor

Doug Graham serves double duty with the Let's Compute Technology Club (LCTC), in the dual capacities of Instructor and Director of Programs. Born in Queens New York, Graham's father died before he was born, and he was raised by his mother, older brother and his maternal grandparents. When his mother remarried, Doug became an Army brat and his journey around the United States included Hawaii and graduation from Kailua High School, on O'ahu.

"I was offered an instrumental music scholarship to college," Doug recalled. "I wasn't that good, but I played a lot of instruments. If someone got sick, they said, 'Get Doug, he can play that.' I declined the scholarship because I didn't want to have all my waking hours consumed with music, and I didn't want to be a professional musician."

After considering a career in Veterinary Medicine, Plan B turned out to be architecture. In the event you are contemplating pursuing architecture as a hobby, Graham's educational path at Washington State University and beyond might dissuade you from that choice. The holder of a BS in Architectural Studies and a Bachelor of Architecture, an architect's professional degree, Graham then had a three-year mandatory internship, followed by numerous state certification exams. Total, eight years. Then comes the rarified air of earning a certification from the American Institute of Architects, as a Certified Development Strategist, one of just a dozen people to earn that distinction in the country.

Graham converted his education and training into a lengthy career as a professional practicing architect, which he described. "It's been interesting, I have worked on big capital construction projects and worked for management companies. I have done and am still doing some consulting on the side, helping organizations decide what projects they should build and to help organizations achieve their strategic goals to help their business positions. I have worked with hospitals, colleges and universities, and most of the time I work with presidents or people in the 'C' Suite (CEO, CFO, COO etc.). I'm still working as a consultant half time."

A concrete example Graham supplied for positive technology is the software Grammarly, which he deploys while corresponding with business decision makers. "When I started using Grammarly, my letters started with scores of 83 on a scale of 100. My correspondence needs to be both persuasive and technically correct. Over time Grammarly made me a better writer."

Christmas has a special meaning for Graham. His extended family, which includes his former wife, her twin sisters, and spouses combine to make the holiday happier for others. "We have such a good relationship and we have adopted Palm View Elementary School. What we do is buy a bag of toys for all the first graders and kindergarteners. We have done that for four years and we are doing that again this year. We help close to 120 kids and we spend a few hours giving the gifts away. And we give the teachers gift cards too."

Along the way, Graham developed an interest in technology. "I like ideas and I'm interested in how technology impacts society, how it impacts business, and also learning about productivity tools." Graham's class offerings on behalf of the LCTC include topics such as the ramifications of AI and its impact on education and the economy. Another popular class he teaches centers on Phishes, Spoofs and Scams. Graham added, "I think the bad guys are getting more and more

sophisticated, with seniors being targeted. That class probably provides the most benefit to the most people."

On the personal side, Graham took a 6,000 mile solo driving trip this past summer, a venture that encompassed the West Coast of the U.S., into Canada, across British Columbia, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and then back to Palm Desert. "I called it a Techie's Road Trip. I used AI and Chat GPT to sketch out an itinerary. Through technology I connected with people and family I hadn't seen in decades. Technology aided and abetted my choices."

*This month LCTC Instructor Doug Graham will offer his new class "**XPRIZE: Solving (some of) the World's Greatest Problems**." Please refer to the February 2026 LCTC Class Schedule for date and time of this informative class that may offer a renewed sense of hope for humanity.*

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This month's *Ask AI* prompt is: **Create a color image of a computer screen showing an adorable puppy asleep on a slightly chewed human's bedroom slipper.**

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). Adjust the prompt to suit your curiosity.

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

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February...

2nd is Groundhog Day
14th is Valentine's Day
16th is Presidents' Day
22nd is California Day
All Month is Black History Month

2026 GENERAL MEMBER MEETINGS
Speakers Hall, 1:30-3:00, unless otherwise indicated.

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 Meeting/Social
Tue, Jun 23	TBD

TECH TUTOR
One-on-One Help for Members!

In February there will be one Tech Tutor event for Apple devices on Thu, 2/19, 10-12.

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.

Join/Renew Your 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

Join and learn something new!

Find Joy in Smiling!


Let's Compute Officers 2025-2026

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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
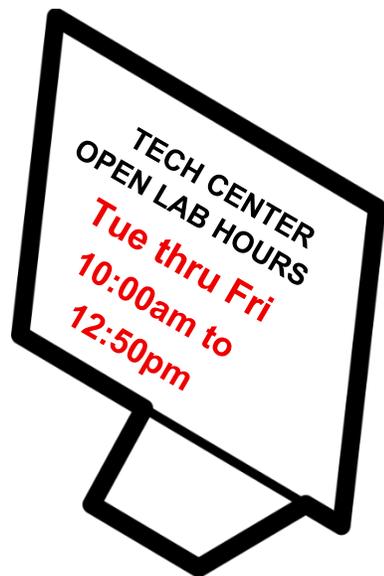
HOLIDAY	2025-2026 Tech Center Closures
MVC Closed for Renovations	SEPTEMBER
Labor Day	Mon, September 1
Columbus Day	Mon, October 13
Veterans Day	Tue, November 11
Thanksgiving	Thu/Fri, November 27/28
Christmas	Thu/Fri, December 25/26
New Year's Day	Thu, January 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Day	Mon, January 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!
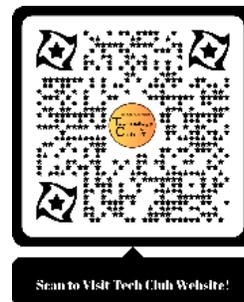
FEBRUARY 2026 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
TECHNOLOGY CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES AND TECH TUTOR SESSIONS.

We are offering **21** classes along with **1** Tech Tutor event. 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. *NOTE: The monthly class schedule is subject to revision.*

Date/Time	Class
Tue, 2/3 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: steveberman@mac.com **Mac Basics, P. 1**: Discover what's new in Tahoe OS26 and locate your favorite tools.
Wed, 2/4 3:00-4:30 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, 2/5 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.
Fri, 2/6 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: richard@ravich.us **Xumo—Using the Spectrum Streaming Set Top Box**: This free set-top box offered to Sun City residents through the HOA plan, allows users to record shows in one room and watch them in another.
Sat, 2/7 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: richard@ravich.us **Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class**: 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.
Tue, 2/10 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson Email: sandy@myerson.org **Microsoft Excel-The Basics**: Learn to create, organize, and analyze data in spreadsheets. Covers built-in formulas, sorting, saving, and sharing.
Tue, 2/10 3:00-5:00 pm	Instructor: Tony Serra Email: tonyserra@prodigy.net **Windows 11 Basics for Beginners**: Class will cover the very basics of Windows 11 with demos and **hands on practice**. Learn basic features like simple note taking, using File Explorer, Shortcuts for keyboard & Desktop, Playing Videos & Music Files, Using USB Drives, Searching, and more.
Wed, 2/11 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Gay France Email: gfrance7@icloud.com **Apple Pages, Page Layout review & Valentines**: Review of tools and methods of Page Layout, the creative app to make cards and notes. We will make hands-on Valentine's Day cards in class.
Wed, 2/11 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: emprof@ameritech.net **Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 2**: See class on 2/4.
Thu, 2/12 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: steveberman@mac.com **Getting the Most Out of Your iPhone Camera**: We will learn about the setting for the camera and how to get the most from the most used camera in the world!
Fri, 2/13 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 and the benefits of each. **Demo Class**

Sat, 2/14 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: richard@ravich.us **Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class**: See information for this class on 2/7.
Sun, 2/15 1:00-2:30 pm **New Class!**	Instructor: Doug Graham Email: dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com **XPRIZE: Solving (some of) the World's Greatest Problems**: XPRIZE tackles the world's most urgent and complex challenges – those too big, too risky or too complicated for tradition institutions to solve. This class may leave you with a renewed sense of hope for humanity. **Hybrid class – in Tech. Center or Zoom**
Tue, 2/17 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Steve Berman Email: steveberman@mac.com **Editing Your Photos with Apple's Photo App**: Adjust your photos' appearance and easily remove unwanted objects. (For iPhone 15, 16 and 17 users)
Tue, 2/17 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Barbara Spagnola Email: aauwbarb@gmail.com **iPhone Basics — Control Center and iOS26 Tips**: Explore the Control Center and learn what's changed with the latest iOS updates including navigation, customization, quick-access controls, and useful new iOS 26 tips. **iPad users are welcome.**
Wed, 2/18 3:00-4:30 pm	Instructor: Errol Magidson Email: emprof@ameritech.net **Using PowerPoint to Create a Family Documentary, Part 3**: See class on 2/4.
Thu, 2/19 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Walk in. No registration necessary. You must be a member to attend.** **Tech Tutor Event for Apple Devices**: Tutors will provide one-on-one, 10–15-minute sessions depending on availability and number of attendees.
Thu, 2/19 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Bill Singer Email: wsinger2@earthlink.net **Creating Graphics with Canva—the Basics**: This free, online, beginner-friendly, powerful graphic design tool can be used to create flyers, invitations, bookmarks, brochures, presentations, social medial posts, websites, videos and more. We will cover Canva's primary features and show examples of how you can use it.
Fri, 2/20 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Sandy Myerson Email: sandy@myerson.org **Let's Make a Flyer with Microsoft Word**: This is for all basic Microsoft Window users. You will have a beautiful flyer at the end of the class.
Sat, 2/21 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: richard@ravich.us **Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class**: See information for this class on 2/7.
Sun, 2/22 1:00-2:30 pm	Instructor: Doug Graham Email: dgrahamaiacds@gmail.com **Emerging Trends – What's Happening Out There in Medicine?** How about a heart artery bypass procedure done in a doctor's office? Disease treatment based on your DNA or microbiome? Tiny robots injected into your bloodstream to scrub plaque off your arteries? Science fiction? Nope, it's here. **Hybrid class – in Tech. Center or Zoom**
Sat, 2/28 10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Instructor: Richard Ravich Email: richard@ravich.us **Ham Radio Technician Licensing Class**: See information for this class on 2/7.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Let's Compute Technology Club fosters digital literacy and life-long learning. Members enjoy access to current technology resources and educational opportunities through classes and workshops held in our modern Technology Center. We create an inclusive community by inviting all SCPD residents to informative presentations by technology experts.