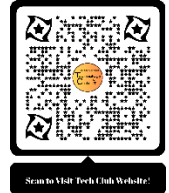




Bits & Bytes



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY KATHRYN QUERRY**

LCTC Board Election

Voting will take place in May. Stay tuned for details. We encourage you to respond to the first request to vote, else you will receive another, and another, and... until we have reached a quorum. We'd rather not bug you multiple times. Thanks!

The only positions that you will vote on are Vice President and Treasurer, each for a two-year term July 2026 through June 2028.

The current President and Secretary will complete the second year of their July 2025 through June 2027 term, after which these positions will be voted on for another two-year term.

The five additional board members are appointed by the existing board as needed and therefore are not elected by the membership.

Attention NEW Members! Join In May

New members joining the Let's Compute Technology Club in May will have 14 months of membership (through June 2027)! We offer 18 classes this May, so tell people you know who want technology help to join now and take a class this month!

Current members obviously have membership through June 2026, but you can renew at any time.

We will keep our dues at the low low low rate of \$25 per year for the 2026-2027 club year!

Find the 2026-27 application form on the [LCTC Membership](#) page at our website.

Temporary Technology Center Closure

Reminder: The Tech Center continues to anticipate 🧹 a decorator fluff-up sometime between May and October. It won't be that

entire time, just some portion of it. We'll let you know when we know. New paint, floor covering, chairs, plus a few functional and attractive additions! Hurray!

Summer Technology Center Schedule

Here is what the summer schedule looks like right now, but it can change at any time depending on: 1) When the Tech Center renovations occur; 2) Availability of our volunteers.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Classes	Yes	?	No	No
Open Lab	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bits & Bytes	Yes	No	No	Yes

CANCELED: May 19th Meeting/Social in Ventana Room

Instead, we look forward to planning an Open House in the newly fluffed-up Technology Center sometime in November or December. Stay tuned for details.



INSTRUCTOR CORNER

by Doug Graham, Director of Education

TECHNOLOGY CLUB MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES AND TECH TUTOR EVENTS

Class dates/times and content details are in the monthly schedule emailed to members, available in the Technology Center, and on the [Education page on our website](#).

- **Please email instructors to reserve your spot in classes and remember to email if you cannot attend.**
- **Note: Classes are subject to revision.**

Renew Your US Passport Online

by *Shelia Harbet*



Two classes on our May schedule offer you the opportunity for one-on-one help to **RENEW your US Passport**. The government's online system

is fairly easy, but we are here to provide support for Tech Club members to accomplish this in the Technology Center. **Once you register for this class you will receive information about which documents to bring to the class to complete the entire process online.**

Why the Technology Club is offering this support.

Many members may have a passport that needs renewing for upcoming exciting travel plans! Also, the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act (also called the SAVE Act or SAVE America Act) <https://www.vote.org/save-act/> is a federal bill that would fundamentally change how Americans register to vote. Every voter, including people who have been registered for decades, would need to appear in person at an election office with qualifying documents. For most people, that means a passport or certified birth certificate.

The online system is only for passport renewals. Here are eligibility requirements and exclusions for using the online system, according to Copilot AI.

Full Eligibility Requirements (All Must Be True)

According to the U.S. Department of State's official online renewal page, you may renew your passport online only if **every** condition below applies:

- **Your current passport was valid for 10 years** (i.e., an adult passport).
- **It expires within 1 year or expired less than 5 years ago.**
- **You are not changing any personal information, such as name or sex.**

- **You are not traveling within 6 weeks** of submitting the online application (online renewal offers *routine* service only).
- **You are physically located in a U.S. state or territory** at the time you apply.
- **Your passport is in your possession, undamaged, and has not been reported lost or stolen.**
- **You have your Social Security number** and required personal details available.
- **You understand your old passport will be canceled** after submission and cannot be used for travel.

If **any** of the above are not true, you must renew by mail or in person.

✘ You Are Not Eligible for Online Renewal If...

(These are drawn from both the online renewal rules and general renewal restrictions.)

- Your passport was **issued before age 16**.
- Your passport was **issued more than 15 years ago**.
- Your passport is **damaged, lost, or stolen**.
- You need to **change your name** and do not have legal documentation.
- You need to **change your sex marker**.
- You need **expedited service** (online renewal is routine only).
- You are **outside the United States** when applying.

🔗 Why These Rules Exist

The online system is designed for straightforward renewals where identity, eligibility, and document integrity are already established. **Any situation requiring additional verification—damage, name change, lost passport, or older documents—forces an in-person or mail process.**



You Are Not Too Old to Get Your Amateur Radio License!

by *Richard Ravich, WD6FIE*

Now that Morse code is no longer a requirement to get your amateur radio license, more and more people have been attracted to Ham Radio. But many people in their older years have been overlooked. Here in Sun City Palm Desert, where resident ages range from 55 to well over 100, I had the idea to teach our

seniors the necessary information to get their license.

I approached the Let's Compute Technology Club and it was agreed I could add this as a course using the Technology Center. There were five students. My idea was not to ask them to memorize each question and answer, but for me to explain each question in detail so that the students had the background material to understand the correct answer. I also supplemented each class with real world examples that I have experienced in my 60 years of being a ham. We used the Gordon West (thanks Gordo!) License Book as our guide and for three months went through about 50% of the questions. At this time, I had two dropouts, both for medical reasons, leaving three students.

The students were eager to get their licenses, so they proceeded, on their own, to read the balance of the book and started to take the various practice exams that are online. Once they hit an 80% success rate, I told them to take the license exam and assured each one that they would pass. And all three of the students passed the Technician Class exam with flying colors, missing just one question each.

And I forgot to mention the ages of these three students. Including myself, the average age is 75 years young, me being the oldest. Asked why they wanted to be a ham, one student volunteered that she wanted to challenge herself to understand new material and that increasing her memory will hopefully decrease the possibility of dementia as she ages. She is now studying for her General and I know that she will pass with flying colors.

Another student said that years ago he had a neighbor who was a ham. He visited that neighbor constantly and was intrigued with how many people he could talk to. Now retired, he can concentrate on studying for his own license.

The third student commented that he always wanted to be a ham radio operator but had no idea how to go about it. Working full-time to support his family he didn't have the time to investigate how to become a ham. Now that he is retired, he has had the time to devote to studying and my class just happened to come along at the right time!

All three students commented that the exam was easy once they had completed the online practice exams.

Keep an eye on our Fall schedules for the start of another class series to license more hams in our community. Join us!



Sun City Palm Desert Technology Club 2026 new hams (L-R Front row) Linda Schwartz KO6MBV, Tom Harpole KM7EDB. (Back row) Instructor Richard Ravich WD6FIE, Jared DuFresne KO6MES.

Apollo 11 (July 1969) flew to the moon on 4 kilobytes of memory. The guidance computer that landed Neil Armstrong on the lunar surface had less power than your smartphone's calculator app.

Let's Compute Officers 2025-2026

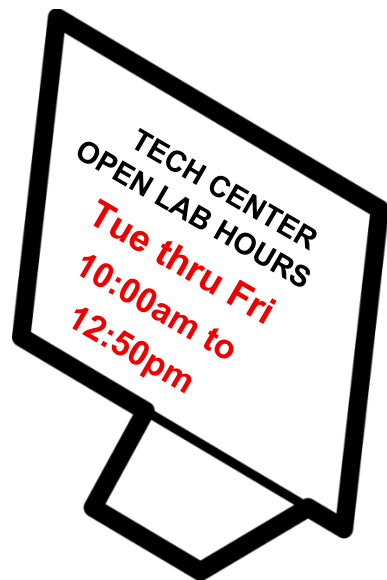
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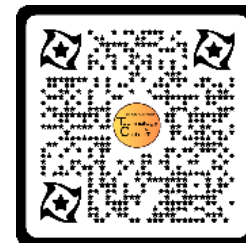
Meeting Schedule

Board Meeting	Third Monday 2:00 PM
General 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!