

The



Computer Booter

Computer Booters of Sun Lakes

<http://www.computerbooters.com/>

April 2009

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Our April meeting will bring together two presentations that should be of interest for the majority of our members. Sue Kline will do a presentation on computer basics.

The second presentation will be conducted by our Vice President, John Durrett, and our SIG Director, Ralph Ilsen. They will do a live demonstration on the use of "Skype", which is a free computer to computer communication system using a web camera and microphone. At the end of this presentation, and in addition to other door prizes, the web camera and microphone used in the demo will be raffled off.

Kim Komando's Newsletter Tips



A CHANCE TO WIN A LITTLE MONEY!

Lifetime wants to help your bank account bloom this spring. Enter every day for a chance to win \$1,000. Open to U.S. residents, 18 or older. Deadline: 03/31/2009.

www.mylifetime.com

2009 SIG Schedule

by *Ralph Ilsen*, SIG COORDINATOR



The April SIG schedule is listed below. SIG meetings are held at Sun Lakes 1 in the Mirror Room. All evening SIG meetings start at 7 PM.

Be sure to wear your Computer Booters nametag to gain admittance to all SIG meetings. If you have any questions about any of the SIGs, you can contact me at Ralph@Ilsen.net or 895-1166. The SIG schedule can change after the newsletter is published so, for the latest information, look for our weekly broadcast e-mail messages. If you're not receiving our broadcasts, contact George Rodriguez 480-802-9080 casarod@hotmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

For those of you who own laptop computers, all the SIGs now have tables and AC outlets available so bring your laptop (or camera) to the SIG of your choice.

<u>SIG NAME</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>MEETING DATE</u>
Computer Beginnings Susan Klein	7:00 PM	1st Monday	April 6, 2009
Digital Imaging Jim Rahilly	7:00 PM	1st Wednesday	April 1, 2009
DVD Producing /ProShow Gold Ralph Ilsen	7:00 PM	2nd Tuesday	April 14, 2009
Photoshop Elements John Durrett	7:00 PM	2nd Wednesday	April 8, 2009
eBay <> How to use it! Arch & Linda Ward	7:00 PM	2nd Monday	April 13, 2009
Basic Computer & Beyond Rollie Baumann	7:00 PM	3rd Wednesday	April 15, 2009
Quicken Ben Thompson	7:00 PM	4th Tuesday	April 28, 2009
Microsoft Word Collett McNally	7:00 PM	4th Wednesday	April 22, 2009

Jim Ivey is available to Computer Booters members for one-on-one help with Word Perfect. You can reach Jim via e-mail at jimivaz@wbhsi.net.

Ed Ryczek will answer any Computer Booters member's spreadsheet questions. Contact Ed at edry01@earthlink.net.

From the President's Desk



Our April meeting will bring together two presentations that should be of interest for the majority of our members. Sue Klein has been doing a great job with her "Computer Beginnings SIG", her classes are well attended but only a fraction of our members are able to make the meetings. This month she will do a presentation on computer basics at the general meeting, which will allow her to reach more of our members and should be of interest to many of our novices and more experienced users.

The second presentation will be conducted by our Vice President, John Durrett, and our SIG Director, Ralph Ilsen. In a very

timely fashion, with the current economy being as it is, they will do a live demonstration on the use of "Skype", which is a free computer to computer communication system, using a web camera and microphone. At the end of this presentation, and in addition to other door prizes, this web camera and microphone will be raffled off.

So if you enjoy chatting with your friends and family and want to save money, this process will be just right for you.

See you at the meeting and remember that anyone arriving after 6:30 will not receive a ticket and consequently not be eligible for the door prizes raffle.

Membership Report

by Guy Laroche, CLUB RECORDS DIRECTOR



My Name is Guy Laroche. I am assuming the function of Records Director (Membership). I have been a club member since 2002. Before I begin my report, I would like to thank Ed Schweitzer for his long standing as Club Records Director. Ed is not gone as he is the new Welcome Director. So you will still see him at the door before the general meetings.

Members that have not paid their dues for 2009 are no longer eligible to attend meetings or SIGs. However, they can be reinstated by sending in their renewal dues now.

For potential new members and for renewal, log onto the Computer Booters website, www.computerbooters.org, scroll down to membership in the left column and click on it. Print out the form, fill it out and return it with your check for \$24 for single membership or \$36 for two people living in the same household to the address on the

form or bring it to the next general meeting on April 7, 2009 at Sun Lakes 1 in the Arizona Room at 6:30 PM. (Please write legibly as it is important we have the correct e-mail and phone number as well as the correct spelling for the badges).

Membership badges will be available at the general meeting on April 7, 2009 for those that have paid their dues and have not picked them up. We have presently over 60 badges that have not been picked up.

If you change your email and/or home address and or phone number, please let the Records Director know so the records will be correct and you will continue to receive announcements.

Be advised that the membership desk on the night of the general meetings closes at 6:30 PM. Late comers will not receive a raffle ticket.

Look Who's Volunteering

by Darlene Herring, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



I'm sure the 121 members and guests present at our March meeting were glad they attended. The speakers covered interesting topics and the Q&A queries were answered by knowledgeable representatives. Behind the scene, our loyal volunteers set up the equipment as usual - Ed Craze, Jim Walgren, Shadow Wrageand and Ben Thompson.

Name badges were given to the old and new members by Vivian Berman, Alan Behr and Shari Thompson. Lighting was in the hands of Ziggy Wirganowicz. Kathie Wrage distributed the door prize tickets for the drawings.

Eddie Schweitzer has agreed to fill the vacant "Members Welcome Director" chair on the Board of Directors of the club. We all hope he enjoys his new position.

Now it's time to get 'up close and personal' with another of our dedicated volunteers, Colette McNally. Colette was born in Wexford, Ireland. She moved to Sun Lakes in August 2005. Her interests are gardening, philanthropic causes, reading, Sudoku puzzles and traveling.

Colette is a member of Rotary International, East Valley Garden Club and Sun Lakes Computer Booter Club. She is Secretary on our Board of Directors.

Her work history has been as a Teacher, School Counselor, Department Head and Principal in schools in Spain ('60-'77) and Arizona ('77-'85). She worked in Guadalupe ('85-'95) for a non-profit organization, 'Centro de Amistad', while developing Prevention Programs. Colette worked also for Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley ('95-2005), where she developed the first Charter School for B&GCA, 'Mesa Arts Academy' while working as a program developer and as a grant writer. Colette is the Past President of Mesa Sunrise Rotary and presently Assistant Governor. She acts as Editor for East Valley Garden Club, producing and publishing a monthly Newsletter, "The Composter". Colette also participates on a Regional level as Secretary/Treasurer with New Mexico/ Arizona District Representative to the National Office. Colette McNally is an interesting person with a varied back-ground and we hope she will be our secretary for a long time to come.

Where do you go when you need to look something up?

Chances are, you go straight to Google.

Well, that probably isn't the best place to start your research. Google doesn't check sites to see how accurate their information is.

Instead, Kim Komando recommends **LibrarySpot**. You'll find a wealth of information there. Look up quotes, double-check

grammar and usage, or find calculators.

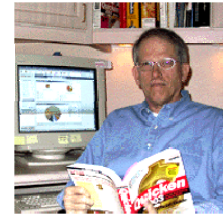
Of course, the **LibrarySpot** offers so much more. You never know what you'll find until you start exploring. In that respect, it's much like a traditional library!

Of course, even the Internet can't replace libraries. Fortunately, **LibrarySpot** links to many library Web sites. That makes it easy to track down books and other resources at nearby libraries.

www.libraryspot.com

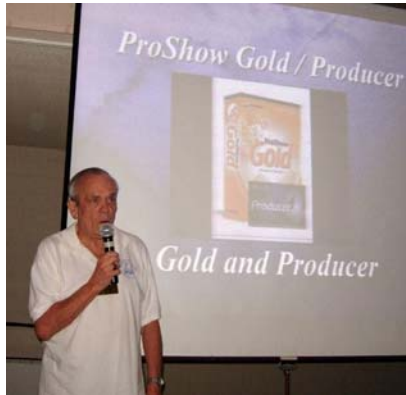
Program Update

by John Durrett, VICE PRESIDENT



March Meeting

Ralph Ilsen, the leader of the ProShow Gold Video Producing SIG, gave us a demonstration on using ProShow Gold to create a slide show. The demo was excellent, and Ralph explained how to use many of the built-in features of ProShow Gold. He also showed two presentations created using ProShow Gold, and they were quite professional.



The second speaker for March was Gene Barlow. Gene shared his valuable insights on how to protect your computer and your data using backup software and external devices. Gene gave a demo of backing up his notebook and all of its changes using



Acronis True Image software. The procedure was easy to follow, and many members took advantage of the special user group rates for the discounted software after the meeting.

April Meeting

Sue Klein, the leader of the Computer Booters Computer Beginnings Special Interest Group, will give a slide presentation reviewing the many keyboard commands that are available to the computer user once they take their hand off the mouse. Keyboard commands are made for the typist which was the way software was originally designed. Sue notes that we can thank Apple for the Windows mouse design. She will also have handouts listing keyboard commands for use at home.

The second speaker for April will be a dual presentation by Ralph Ilsen and John Durrett. They will review and demo Skype software, a Voice Over the Internet (VoIP) protocol that allows you to talk with others and share videos over your high speed internet access. The good news about Skype is the software and use of their network to talk with other people on the Internet is all free. Skype also offers phone over the Internet service at low monthly rates, and that will also be discussed. The Computer Booters Club is sponsoring a special drawing for a free video camera and mike that evening that can be used with Skype. See you all at the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

by Jim Rahilly, TREASURER

Balance as of March 8, 2009

\$5,792.15



Report on The 2009 International Consumer Electronics Show

Patricia Hill, Review Editor

The 2009 International Consumer Electronics Show (CES) was produced by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) in Las Vegas in early January. It's a frenzied week of exhibits, keynotes and after hour parties and walking, walking and more walking.

This year, CES was smaller than previous years. With the global economy being what it is, no one expected anything different. CEA released 2008 attendance figures at 141,000. While it will be a couple months before the 2009 attendance numbers are available, it's believed that it will be in the 110,000 range. Personally, I liked it a little smaller. I didn't have to fight my way to any of the booths and there were lots of people available to talk about their products.

Several organizations give out awards, such as CEA Innovations Awards <http://cesweb.org/awards/innovations/default.asp>, CNET Best of CES, <http://ces.cnet.com/best-of-ces/>, Global Media Awards, <http://www.globalmediaawards.org> and Tech and Engineering Emmy Awards by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences <http://www.cesweb.org/awards/techEmmys.asp>.

While these awards are important, I have my own awards for the best end user consumer products. These were found at ShowStoppers, an after-hours, press-only special event where hot companies with cool products meet the press.



If MapQuest doesn't quite do what you want it to, you can check out Rand McNally, www.RandMcNally.com. Check out the More Roads, Better Directions feature. They have more roads and maps than either MapQuest or Google. While their directions also try to take us through the wall in our gated community, overall I found it easier and more accurate than MapQuest. The Traffic Report is real time. There are a lot of popup ads, but they are only visible for a couple of seconds. You can order maps, globes and atlases from their store as well as use a travel reservation link.

Diskeeper Corporation, www.diskeeper.com, is the undisputed innovator in defragmentation software to enhance the performance and reliability of Windows® computers. I received the 2009 version at ShowStoppers and will be reviewing it in full next month. It's been one of my favorite products for several years now and I don't expect the new version to disappoint.

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The COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES is a non-profit organization established to aid personal computer users in achieving maximum results from their home or small business computer. This newsletter is published monthly from September through June by the COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES. It is not connected with any commercial or private business. The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate. However, the COMPUTER BOOTERS OF SUN LAKES assume no responsibility for inaccuracies or omissions. Any information used from these articles is at the user's risk.



The COMPUTER BOOTERS meet the first Tuesday of each month, except in July and August when we do not meet, and in March when the date and/or location changes due to the Sun Lakes One homeowners meeting. Call for the date and location of the March meeting. All other meetings are held in the Arizona Room of the Sun Lakes One Country Club at 6:30 PM. which is south of Riggs Road on Sun Lakes Blvd. CB Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 2:30 PM in the Mirror Room at Sun Lakes 1.

Member of



Contact John Durrett regarding membership at:
jcdurrett@wbhsi.net or 480-895-8822

Other computer user groups have our permission to use the articles written by our members as long as credit is given to the author and source and notice is sent to the Editor or Assistant Editor:

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2009 CALENDAR CORNER

Meeting 6:30 PM Tuesday April 7, 2009

Club presenter: Sue Klein, the leader of the Computer Booters Computer Beginnings Special Interest Group, will give a slide presentation

Guest presenter: The second speaker for April will be a dual presentation by Ralph Ilsen and John Durrett. They will review and demo Skype software

2009 Monthly Meeting Dates

Tuesday, 6:30 PM--Arizona Room, Sun Lakes 1

**April 7
May 5
June 2
September 1
October 6
November 3
December 1**

Honest Technology, Inc., is a Texas company www.honestech.com, that produces hardware and software for transferring and converting audio files from LPs and cassettes to CD or MP3 as well as converting between digital audio file formats. They control 50% of the market according to Jay Choi, Managing Director.

For all you videophiles, they just released Easy Video Editor 3.0. And for those of you, like me, who have more LPs than they care to admit, check out Audio Recorder 2.0 Deluxe.

The first personal messaging device that allows users to notify friends, family or an international 911 emergency call center was announced by SPOT LLC, www.findmespot.com.

This is a satellite GPS messenger device that looks like a small walkie talkie. SPOT Messenger's onboard GPS chip determines your exact coordinates and transmits your location to their commercial satellite system. Your message is delivered to the appropriate recipient via text message, e-mail or emergency service notification. Since its hardware introduction nearly a year ago, the SPOT has helped save more than 80 lives and has transmitted more than 5 million "piece-of-mind" and "track me" messages worldwide. If you're a hiker or drive through Arizona's back roads then you should check out SPOT.

Do you wish your computer could call a technician, so you don't have to? PlumChoice, www.plumchoice.com, has the ultimate service solution for consumers for PCs, MP3 players, PDAs and mobile phones. It's a 24/7/365 service company that promises -- no scripts, just know how; to take the fear out of technology and to communicate in plain and simple language. When you sign up for the service, the first month is free.

Data Robotics, www.datarobics.com, has some exciting storage news. The Santa Clara, California, company developed Drobo, an external storage system that includes data storage options by adding a layer of intelligence and configurability to simplify operations and enable the user to add storage capacity as needed. The Drobo cube holds up to 4 hard drives and they don't even have to be the same capacity. No software is required and it's literally "plug and play". Check out the video at www.drobo.com.

If you have a General Motors car you pay a monthly fee for OnStar to notify GM that you're locked out of your car, had an accident or you have some other problem. Ford Motor Company, www.ford.com, displayed some of their 2009 lineup in which they use your cell phone to communicate through their SYNC system to them with no additional cost. This feature is available in 2009 models with the electronic package. 911 Assist is active when a phone is properly Bluetooth-paired, turned on and connected to SYNC 911 Assist -- which normally happens every time the driver enters the vehicle with his or her phone. Before initiating the emergency 911 call, SYNC will provide a 10-second window to allow the driver or passenger to decide whether to cancel the call. If not manually cancelled within the 10-second window, SYNC will place the emergency call. A brief pre-recorded message will play when the call is answered, and occupants in the vehicle will then be able to talk directly with the 911 operator. The key advantage of SYNC 911 Assist is speed, as calls are placed directly to local 911 operators. A SYNC-assisted call should reach 911 operators faster than competitive systems, as there are no handoffs and no need to speak to a call-center operator.