

# SeniorNet®

Puget Sound Computer Learning Center

*Where skilled volunteer seniors teach seniors to use, enjoy computers*

Feb. 1, 2006, Vol. 7; Issue #2; Mail: PMB 705, 15600 NE 8<sup>th</sup>, Suite B-1, Bellevue, WA 98008-3958

Voice Mail: 206-232-5892; Email: [senior@seniornetps.org](mailto:senior@seniornetps.org); Phantom Lake Elementary School, Bellevue

For detailed Information, Class Schedules: <http://www.seniornetps.org/>

PHIL SCHEIER, Editor

---

## **VACANCIES FILLED ON FIRST-COME BASIS BUSY WINTER/SPRING SESSION UNDERWAY; A FEW CLASS OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE**

By LOUISE FLORA  
(Registrar)

**Barely one month into the Winter/Spring 2006 class session, many of SeniorNet's classes are already full. Some have wait lists for those wishing to join the class if and when vacancies occur. However, there are a few still open. But don't hesitate, they won't last long. Among the classes you can register for are:**

Computer Fundamentals – CF-3 – 2/2 & 2/9  
Introduction to Win XP – Intro-4 – 4/29 thru 5/3  
Word Processing – Word-2 – 2/16 thru 3/30  
Life Stores – Life-1 – 2/17 thru 4/7  
Internet for Fun – Net-1 – 2/15 thru 3/22  
Photo Editing – Photo-2 – 2/16 thru 3/30

**There are also a few classes beginning in April and May with openings. Call the voice mail 206-232-5892 for further information.**

**Due to popular demand, with more seniors creating their own CDs to store music and pictures, SeniorNet has added an additional Burning CD's class and we are now taking registrations for this class. Burn-3 will be offered on two Friday afternoon sessions, Apr. 21 and on Apr. 28, from 1:15 – 3:15. Nominal cost \$20.00 plus national membership.**

**According to KEN CRANDALL and BOB BALSLEY, the class has been significantly revised since last year as suggested by the student feedback. The class now minimizes**

any reference to history or technical details except where some knowledge is needed to understand how to burn CD's.

It will offer the opportunity to burn data files (three classroom exercises) and an audio (music) CD (one classroom exercise) We will continue to adjust the class to satisfy students as we get feedback. Don't delay – this class will fill quickly – send your registration and fee to SeniorNet PMB 705 - 15600 NE 8<sup>th</sup> St., Suite B-1 Bellevue, WA 98008.

## **A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN BY HELPING AT SENIORNET WEB SITE:**

This is a great offer by HAL MOZER who created and operates our very professional and helpful web site. He is looking for one or more people who would like to learn how the SeniorNet of Puget Sound web site is designed and to help maintain it when he is not available. Hal has two full months traveling out of the country scheduled for 2006! And he says he will not live forever, either. The program used to design most of the web site is Cool Page Pro. You can learn all about the program at this web site: <http://www.coolpage.com/cpg.html> If you are interested, contact Hal at [hal@halmo.com](mailto:hal@halmo.com) Incidentally, Hal's own web site, [www.halmo.com](http://www.halmo.com) is also made with Cool Page Pro. You can check out our site at <http://www.seniornetps.org/>

**FEB. 21 MEETING FEATURES TURBO TAX PROGRAM:** Just in time to help you prepare your annual tax returns on your own computer. Highlighting the Tuesday, Feb. 21 monthly membership meeting starting at 10 am is a talk by HAL MOZER who will describe how to prepare your taxes using the Turbo Tax software program. The meeting starts at 10 am, at the New Hope Ministries Church, 15760 - NE 4<sup>th</sup> St. Bring your questions with you.

## **SENIORNET STUDENTS AT PHANTOM LAKE SPUR YOUNGER CLASSMATES TO LEARN**

It's something to see: The enthusiasm for learning by youngsters at Bellevue's Phantom Lake Elementary School, and seniors at the same school attending daily computer classes at the all-volunteer SeniorNet Computer Learning Center classroom on the second floor of the spacious new structure.

Walking through the halls, many youngsters greet their senior classmates, often by name, going to and from classes whom they know as their own Granpals who help them in class. This is the unique SeniorNet program where members volunteer to work with the youngsters in their own classrooms, during regular sessions, quietly helping them to read and master other class chores.

Thus the continuing education becomes an exciting two-way street for both the Granpals and the elementary school students. Basically, the children learn, first hand from their senior Granpals, that the adventure of continuing education just never stops.

For area seniors, 50 and over---oftentimes, way over—SeniorNet offers a wide array of computer classes for the Winter/Spring Schedule. These range from basic basic classes for beginners, to such courses as Windows XP, Microsoft Word, Photo editing, Travel Planning, Genealogy, Life Stories, Using the Internet, Creating CDs, Quicken etc. For details call 206-232-5892, or visit the SeniorNet web site at [www.seniornetps.org](http://www.seniornetps.org). Visitors interested in learning computers, or broadening their knowledge of the many available programs, are also cordially invited to attend the free Open Labs held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, from 9:30 am--Noon, in the classroom at Room 213.

Students are taught by skilled volunteer senior instructors in the large classroom. Here, students sit at one of the 18 late-model, high-speed Dell computers to learn hands-on. The instructor's computer is attached to a projector so students can follow every keyboard/cursor operation on the huge screen at the front of the room on their own assigned computer.

*And how about Ancient Skiers Week in Sun Valley?*

## **ADVENTURES WITH OUR SENIORNET SKIERS: RAY HANSEN DOES THE ONE-POLE DOWNHILL**

What is this nonsense about growing old—er gracefully—and carefully? Lots of our SeniorNet members here remain very active on the ski slopes of the Northwest, Idaho and in Canada, when they can tear themselves away from their computers.

It doesn't hurt when you are a veteran SeniorNet member, according to RAY HANSEN, our former curriculum coordinator, who recently returned from an outing to Whistler up in Canada. Something about learning how to maintain your balance whether trying to correct a computer problem while meeting class deadlines, or whizzing down snowy slopes. Seems Ray was on the lift with his son, heading for the top, when somehow one of his two ski poles fell into the snowy wasteland far below. The pole had landed in one of the inaccessible areas off limits to skiers for safety reasons, so a forbidden spot to try and retrieve the pole. But Ray still had to ski down. This is when Ray polished his balancing skills by hitting the trail, making the turns etc the interesting way. But despite some interesting balancing moments, it all worked out in the end. After racing to the bottom--and enjoying the experience-- he was able to get another pole at the shop. This came from a motley assortment of similarly dropped poles later retrieved when the snow melted at the end of the season. At least, Ray says, he did have a ski for each foot for the ride down.

Hansen is only one of a large number of allegedly senior SeniorNet members still young at heart and eager to challenge the snow-covered slopes. A number of other SeniorNetters here are still active on the various ski sites here, including JOE PONTECORVO; ERVIN VERNON; CURRICULUM COORDINATOR BOB BALSLEY; CHUCK FLORA who used to ski regularly with his wife, REGISTRAR LOUISE FLORA until she decided it was time for a break; GERRY WILLIAMS who answers the SeniorNet voice mail. She takes the same Tuesday bus with Pontecorvo for the trip to Stevens Pass; FRANK SHAVER who takes SeniorNet courses, and travels with Flora to ski land; BILL AND MARILYN BUMPAS who travel up to Stevens several times a season. Another SeniorNet couple, JACK and MARGE KRUGER, were in Sun Valley this past month ---are you ready? — for Ancient Skiers Week.

Marge, asked to describe the group, wrote: "The minimum age is 60. (I think you might be hard put to find anyone there who is 60 however.) Originally you also had to have skied on a rope tow before WWII but they changed that a number of years ago. It is a Seattle organization of approximately 1,000 members and approximately 300 were in Sun Valley that week. They don't do any other trips, just the last week of January in Sun Valley each year."

Louise Flora reports lift tickets are available at a lower price for those age 70 and up, at Stevens, and are free at Mt. Bachelor. Vernon, a former instructor, and his wife, Vera, are now living in Jubilee, a senior community in an area called Hawks Prairie, north of Olympia

*(Thanks to skier Ray Hansen for working up ski information)*

## **KEY TUESDAY, FEB. 7<sup>th</sup> SCHOOL VOTE NEARS TO CONTINUE NEEDED FUNDING OF 2 LEVIES**

The urgent need to vote Tuesday, Feb. 7 and support continuation of two vital Bellevue school levies to maintain high teaching standards is being stressed by Citizens for Bellevue Quality Schools (BQS), backed by the SeniorNet Computer Learning Center which has its computer classroom in the Phantom Lake Elementary School.

SeniorNet PRES. DELORES DAVIS is reminding SeniorNet members who live in Bellevue, of the importance of voting Feb. 7 and contacting family members and neighbors to also support the levies.

The first levy provides the school district funding for more teachers than the state pays for, textbooks and curriculum materials, teacher training, gifted and special education programs, a richer more expanded curriculum choices along with student transportation.

Equally key to continuing needed educational services, the second levy focuses on technology. This includes improved communication and collaboration among teachers, students and parents, long with data analysis tools to adjust classroom instruction to best serve students.

Pres. Davis stressed both levies are renewals of expiring levies, earlier approved by voters in 2002. Under state law, school districts must ask voters to re-approve these levies every two, three or four years, hence the Tuesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> vote.

**ONLINE SECURITY SAFER?** According to the computer newsletter, *TOURBUS*, "it's actually safer to use your credit card online, than in a brick and mortar building, or over the phone. That's because your transaction is automated -- no human will have a chance to copy down your card info and sell it to a guy in a trench coat behind the store." And HAL MOZER, who sent this news item along, adds. "I have long believed this to be the case and have told this to students and others who have asked."

**NEW FREE SKYPE DOWNLOAD** is winning praise from many sources with its free video calling, free worldwide phone calling and even a voice mail service, including former CURRICULUM COORDINATOR BILL URICH. Use the following URL to visit the home page with its detailed description of its services, and download directions: <http://www.skype.com/helloagain.html>. Urich in his message, said, " This is a fantastic computer to computer voice communications and there is also a feature for allowing people to contact individuals who do not have computers. Far better than anything that I have seen." Might be worth a visit to the site to check it out.

**THOSE HANDY MICROSOFT DOWNLOADS:** Microsoft Download Notifications is a free weekly mailing that provides you with the latest drivers, trial software, service packs, and other downloads from the Microsoft Download Center. <<http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=4397564>> The following downloads were published last month in preferred categories for this writer who requested specific downloads. (The publication date is shown in parenthesis following the description.) Those interested can register now <<http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=4397565>> if you are not already receiving Download Notifications. For support with downloads, visit the Help and Support site. <<http://go.microsoft.com/?linkid=2028325>>

## **YOUR SENIORNET DATE BOOK FOR FEBRUARY:**

**Tuesday Feb.7, at 11:30 am**

**No-Host Kaffee Klatch, Meet, Make New Friends  
Crossroads-Bellevue Mall Food Circus, 156<sup>th</sup> ave. NE, at NE 8<sup>th</sup>, Bellevue**

**Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 10 am**

**Monthly Membership Meeting  
New Hope Ministries Church, 15760- NE 4<sup>th</sup> st., Bellevue  
Followed by Kaffee Klatch at Crossroads Mall**

**Tuesdays, Feb.14, and Feb. 28, at 9:30 -12 Noon**

**Free Computer Help Labs-All Welcome, Members or Not  
Phantom Lake Elementary School, SeniorNet Classroom  
Instructors will sit with you at a computer to help solve problems**

=====

**NOTE: Those submitting news items for consideration are asked to keep them brief, and email them before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. All material subject to editing. Please send to [b26flyer@comcast.net](mailto:b26flyer@comcast.net)**

=====

**If you wish to receive this free monthly newsletter, update your email address or unsubscribe, rush your full name, phone and email address to [pugetsnet6@qwest.net](mailto:pugetsnet6@qwest.net). NOTE: While all computer-operating tips come from usually reliable sources, readers are reminded you use them at YOUR OWN RISK. Again, in case you have friends who are online, and may be interested in taking classes to expand their skills, please forward this newsletter to them by clicking Forward when this message is displayed. Then enter their address in the To box, and click Send. We welcome your brief personal news items and article items, suggestions, sent to the editor at [b26flyer@comcast.net](mailto:b26flyer@comcast.net)**

=====

**President: Delores Davis; Vice Pres. Patty Nelson; Treasurer: Joe Hesketh; Secretary: Martha Simon; Registrar: Louise Flora; Curriculum Coordinator: Bob Balsley; Facilities Coordinator: Ken Crandall; Public Relations Coordinator: Helen Hesketh; Immediate Past President: Adella Granger; Member-at-Large: Gordon Young ; Granpals Coordinator: Nancy Harsh; Online Newsletter Circulation: Bob Balsley; Online Newsletter Editor: Phil Scheier**

//////////