

SeniorNet®

Puget Sound Computer Learning Center

Where skilled volunteer seniors teach seniors to use, enjoy computers

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

PHIL SCHEIER, Editor

Come early; join us for Continental breakfast at 9:15 am
ELECTION OF OFFICERS SET FOR TUES, MAR. 21;
NATIONAL SENIORNET EXEC RANKINS SPEAKER

A first-hand report on the many program advances and other changes at SeniorNet headquarters in California will highlight the Tuesday, March 21 annual meeting of the Puget Sound Computer Learning Center, which includes the election of 2006-2008 Board Members. Officers. Ron Rankins, our new West Coast Regional Consultant, will give an update on the many changes at SeniorNet national. Door prizes also will be awarded.

The annual session will start with a continental breakfast at 9:15 am, with the meeting scheduled to begin at 10 am. As usual the meeting will be held at the New Hope Ministries Church, 15760 NE 4th St., Bellevue. A look at the past year's many achievements will be given by officers. Rankins was one of the speakers at our Fall Conference. He began his work at the Palatine, Illinois Senior Net Learning Center in 1995 and remained active until 2004. He recently accepted the position of West Coast Regional Consultant.

WORKSHOP THURSDAY, APRIL 6th TO FOCUS ON FREE/LOW-COST COMPUTER PROGRAMS

A stripping lesson at the SeniorNet classroom?????? True! But this is very practical and helpful. And that is only one of the many computer utility programs, some of them free, to be demonstrated at the workshop Thursday morning, April 6, from 9 am-Noon, at the classroom in the Phantom Lake Elementary School, Bellevue. But this stripping has to do with taking off/fixing and properly reformatting sentence and paragraph lines from forwarded email. But wait, there are other interesting and helpful utility programs on view at that time.

INSTRUCTOR GORDON YOUNG will give a presentation/demonstration of a special program, called EmailStripper, designed to easily handle the mail forwarding format problem, along with other handy utility program demonstrations to make life more interesting at the computer. Cost for this workshop will be \$10.00. Please mail your registration to:

SeniorNet - PMB 705
15600 NE 8th St., Suite B-1
Bellevue, WA 98008

Of course you've noticed the strange look of emails which have been forwarded to you, and which often arrives after being forwarded again by friends, uncles, aunts who only want to share the email with you because it is funny, is sad, is meaningful or has a real deep-meaning message.

The email arrives in desperate shape, with broken lines, lots of those double arrows (>>>s) and other confusing gunk. Help is at hand on this and other computer problems, at the popular special workshop. In forwarding the message from one receiver who in turn becomes a sender, the message layout changes from clarity to somewhat of a reading challenge. This program, Young says, takes care of those problems. It re-assembles paragraphs in proper format as originally sent.

All these programs can be downloaded from the Internet, and many are free. Some of the programs will be demonstrated and all will be described and discussed. The subject matter varies widely; from font management, a [text editor](#), a network speed measurement tool, removing hidden personal data from Word, a [true dictionary](#), and several others. Because of the variety of programs to be demonstrated and discussed, this will not be a hands-on session.

BELLEVUE SCHOOL LEVY VOTE A WINNER; SENIORNET PRAISED FOR ACTIVE HELP

By HARRY SHEDD

Bellevue Quality Schools and their volunteers continued right up until voting time Tuesday, Feb. 7, to pursue voter turnout and support for the two levy votes on the ballot. There needed to be a minimum 40% turnout of voters to validate the election and a minimum 60% "YES" vote to pass the two levy items. Both the Maintenance and Operations levy and the Capital/Technology levy were passed. These were "renewals" of the two levies and not new items. They come up for renewal every four years or so. A great big THANK YOU to all SeniorNet voters in Bellevue for turning out and for passing these critical levies. The endeavor included six nights of telephoning voters, sign assembling, posting of signs, manning a booth at Crossroads during Reflections, and many meetings along the way.

A state legislator, many "high profile" school and business leaders, PTA officials, teachers, students, and volunteers from every avenue were all active in pursuing a YES vote. Several SeniorNet volunteers were active participants and SNPS contributed generously to the effort.

My personal thanks to all the SeniorNet participants. *(Editor's note: Harry Shedd, long-time instructor, was among the active SeniorNet members in the campaign to win the continuation of the two school levies.*

SENIORNET TECHS WILL PLAY ACTIVE ROLES AT UPCOMING MARCH SENIOR FAIR AND EX

SeniorNet members will be informing other seniors of the computer-learning opportunities available from enthusiastic senior volunteers, at two upcoming senior fairs.

The first event, ACTIVE SENIOR FAIR, is scheduled for Saturday, Mar. 4th from 10 am-3 pm, and is sponsored by Overlake Hospital. This session will be held at Westminster Chapel, 13646 NE 24th Street, Bellevue. Puget Sound members will be at the exhibit table, talking to Seniors interested in learning in how to use the computer, printing information from the computer about

facts that happened on their birthday, inviting people to check out the Lab sessions on the second, fourth and fifth Tuesdays and asking people to join with us in volunteering.

This is a fun, free event that features enjoyable live entertainment, featuring a fashion show and Wrinkles of Washington variety show, mini-seminars, screenings and exhibits all geared to the active senior. There is free parking. Soup and sandwich luncheon buffet is available for purchase on site.

JOE PONTECORVO is coordinating this event and will be assisted by OTIS ROLEY, GORDON YOUNG, LOUSE FLORA, JOHN TUCKER, HAL MOZER, JUDY BAILEY, HARRY SHEDD, BOB SWENSON, JOE AND HELEN HESKETH.

HOBBY -VOLUNTEER EXPO

The second event geared for senior seeking to explore hobbies, is the upcoming Saturday, Mar. 11 Hobby & Volunteer Expo, from 10 am-3 pm at the Pickering Barn in Issaquah, adjacent to Costco. SeniorNet members are invited to volunteer for our computer-learning exhibit. In her invitation for volunteers, PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR HELEN HESKETH added, "SeniorNet will be once again be exhibiting our services, etc. and we look forward to having you drop by and give us your verbal support and inspiration. Volunteer at this time too! GORDON YOUNG has agreed to set up this display and there will be other SeniorNet members present during this day. Each organization or non-profit club will have an interactive activity in its display."

THERE'S MORE TO JUST SURFING THE INTERNET; CLASS SHOWS YOU HOW TO REALLY HAVE FUN

There's more to surfing the Internet than just getting all kinds of important information, or using Google to search the Internet, according to INTERNET INSTRUCTOR ROSS ROBERTS. He invites adventurous seniors to sign up now for the SeniorNet Internet class, for "away we go" joy rides of discovery.

Yes, much more to surfing the Internet than just hunting down stock quotes, interest rates, how to cook cauliflower, and explore far-distant lands. You can learn the approximate value of your house via viewing comparables, find out where gas prices are lowest, find out if you are due any missing money, set up personal slide show to send to your mother, start a blog about B-26 memories, hunt for long-lost childhood friends school friends, work friends, military friends, even if they never went to school, relatives, old (by now) girl or boy friends, commission personal stamps, listen to internet radio, eBay, Craig's list, or take a photographic space trip around the Earth via Google Earth to find your home, or share your PC's processing power in search for extra terrestrial intelligence SETI etc etc.

There is the tremendous fun of exploring the magic Internet that reaches out to the entire world, right from your own computer. And, Roberts urges, "If you haven't seen one or more of these exciting Internet sites or even know how to find them, sign up today for the SeniorNet Internet class. 'You don't get to go home from an Internet class until you are having fun on the Internet.'" Details? Call SeniorNet voicemail at 206-232-5892.

NEW TO COMPUTERS? JOIN BRUSH-UP CLASSES. For anyone who is new to computers or who would just like a brush up on some of the basics, COMPUTER FUNDAMENTALS (CF-4) IS FOR YOU. In this class there will be an overview of Personal

Computer hardware, overview of software and hands-on use of the PC. There will be an emphasis on mouse practice through exercises from the class CD. Also, you will become familiar with the keyboard operation, the Windows operating system, Windows Explorer and then create a document using Word Pad. This class will be offered Wednesday, Mar. 29 and Apr. 5, from 10 am – 12:00. The cost for members is \$20.00. New members must also join SeniorNet National. The national annual membership fee is \$40.00, but the first class is discounted by \$10.00. For more information call the voice mail 206-232-5892 now.

LEARN THE FINE ART OF GOOGLING IN TWO SESSIONS. The increasing ability to find all kinds of useful information online via the famed Google search engine is now part of daily life. But are you taking full advantage of this wondrous searching and exploration tool? An expert operator, KEN CRANDALL, also our Facilities Coordinator for many years, will conduct two classes, March 13, and again on March 20, from 10 am-Noon, on "The Many Faces of Google". This will be similar to the very successful session he conducted at the recent Regional Conference here. The two-class fee is \$20. Call voice mail at 206-232-5892 for more information. One of this writer's favorite programs takes you up in space where you can circle the earth for great sightseeing. But the best is when you punch in a city, or better yet, a complete address, click the OK, or Go, and look down on the spinning globe as it takes you right down to the exact spot. Remember: The class is limited to 14 students, so early registration is recommended.

TRAVEL-PLANNING COMPUTER CLASS MAKES IT EASY: Rather than making airline reservations by phone and subject yourself to an unnecessary charge, learn and practice how to easily navigate the Internet and do it yourself. Hotel reservations, driving routes, etc. are all easily found on the World Wide Web. Learn all the ways and means by enrolling in the SeniorNet Travel Planning Class. **SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR THIS INFORMATIVE THREE-SESSION CLASS BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 THROUGH MAY 9,** from 10 am-Noon. Class fee is \$20 with national membership. To enroll call the voice mail 206-232-5892 or email senior@seniornetps.org

HOW TO GET GOOD COMPUTER SECURITY FREE OR AT LOW COST!

Four of our very experienced team of volunteer instructors all recommend a very interesting and useful article on computer security that can be found on the internet site <http://sunbeltblog.blogspot.com/2005/08/security-on-cheap.html>. The four, HAL MOZER, KEN CRANDALL, BOB BALSLEY and GORDON YOUNG all agree it worthwhile reading for information and tips to keep your computer operating in top fashion. With this kind of a recommendation, it's a "must read."

"BLOGS BECOME HOBBY FOR MORE GEEZER GEEKS" is the headline over an Associated Press story out of Chicago, which appeared in a recent issue of *The Houston Chronicle*. The article was sent to one of our own "geezer geeks," by his daughter in Texas. The article could have been written about any of our own SeniorNetters. It starts off: "Forget shuffleboard, needlepoint and bingo. Web logs are gaining a foothold as a new leisure-time option for senior citizens." The article stresses the viewpoint by seniors of the need to keep busy with challenging activities that exercise the brain. Computers that help them reach out to the world, to stay in regular touch with old friends, relatives around the world—instantly—make all the difference. At the same time many are starting their own web logs dealing with special hobbies. These online journals give seniors a voice, the article notes. Web logs, or blogs, are online journals where people write about anything and everything that interests them. And in line with SeniorNet philosophy of keeping the mind working with new challenges, the article

quotes one of the bloggers, a retired electrician in Vancouver, B.C.: "It keeps the old head working a little bit so you're not just sitting there gawking at TV." Which—really—is what SeniorNet is all about.

LOTS OF GREAT TIPS, INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SENIORNET SITE:

All those with membership in National SeniorNet, required for those taking local classes here, can find many interesting news items on senior activities etc., at its web site at <http://www.seniornet.org/php/default.php?PageID=6880>.

MEMORY PROBLEMS SLOWING YOU DOWN ---COMPUTERWISE? Even if you think you have enough memory in your computer to keep up with modern programs, you might want to check this article in About. Oftentimes, adding a bit more memory can make a big difference in your computer's performance. If interested, go to this web site for more information:

<http://compreviews.about.com/od/memory/bb/aabybmemup.htm?nl=1>

YOUR SENIORNET DATE BOOK FOR MARCH:

Tuesday, Mar. 7, at 11:30 am

No-Host Kaffee Klatch, Meet, Make New Friends
Crossroads-Bellevue Mall Food Circus, 156th Ave. NE, at NE 8th, Bellevue

Tuesday, Mar. 21, at 10 am

Annual Meeting-Election of Officers

New Hope Ministries Church, 15760- NE 4th St., Bellevue
Followed by Kaffee Klatch at Crossroads Mall

Tuesdays, Mar. 14 and Mar. 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

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NOTE: Those submitting news items for consideration are asked to keep them brief, and email them before the 25th of the month. All material is subject to editing. Please send to b26flyer@comcast.net

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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. 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

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