

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

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A little bit curious about your family history?

USE COMPUTER PROGRAMS TO FIND YOUR ROOTS AT TUESDAY CLASSES STARTING MAY 16 ---JUNE 6

By LOUISE FLORA
(Registrar)

What do you know, or would like to know about your family history?

The Winter-Spring 2006 session of SeniorNet of Puget Sound has classes in May and part of June. However, they are all full except for the *Genealogy Class*. *Gen-1* will be offered May 16th through June 6, from 1:15 – 3:15 pm. If you are interested in learning how to trace your family history, this class is for you. With earlier announced classes filling up quickly, those interested in their family roots, are urged to call the voice mail 206-232-5892 to register.

It has been a very busy session with many classes filled, and with wait lists. The three classes put into the schedule late in the session - *Many Faces of Google*, *Utilities* and *Digital Camera* all filled within two weeks. With such a demonstrated interest in these subjects, they will be on the regular schedule in Fall 2006.

Remember that in-person registration is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18 at New Hope Ministries Church beginning at 10:00. The same successful procedure to streamline registration, which worked so well in the past, will be repeated.. Numbers and an estimated time to return will be distributed around 8:30 am. No need to stand in line outside. Catalogs for Fall 2006 will be mailed in late June. It will also appear on the SeniorNet Web Site www.seniornetps.org

Schlechter, Nelson created program here

LOCAL WEB DESIGN CLASS WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION; OFFERED TO ALL CENTERS

A unique web design program at the SeniorNet Computer Learning Center of Puget Sound, created and taught by *Jay Schlechter* and *Patty Nelson*, has been honored by National SeniorNet which has made it available nationwide to other centers, through the national web site. The local teaching program was submitted earlier this year at the request of National which was looking for a suitable Web Design Class model to be made available to other SeniorNet centers.

In addition, National was so impressed with the online presentation they received from Schlechter and Nelson, each of the local instructors was presented with USB Drives for their submissions.

When National SeniorNet received the submission by the local team, they were impressed with the manner in which Schlechter originally designed the class. Schlechter and Nelson then organized the class information to appear on one web address. National then posted the address on their web page to assist instructors wanting to teach a Web Design Class.

In submitting the class program to National for a greater exchange of teaching techniques and programs among the nationwide chain of similar centers, the two local instructors wrote, in part:

"We now have posted an introductory page at <http://www.7levelcounseling.com/WebDesign>. It leads to two sets of master slides, one in PDF and one in Powerpoint (derived html). You can choose either. Each page on the master slide is linked to a subset of our class slides which help the student master each topic." The class is not currently available with our local center due to lack of classroom time and participant demand.

Jiggs Clark's dream now a national leader

IT WAS JUST 20 YEARS AGO THAT SENIORNET BEGAN TEACHING COMPUTERS TO SENIORS

It was 20 years ago this month, when computers were starting to emerge from the cloak of mystery and curiosity, that *Jiggs Clark* finally made his big decision. He had become curious with an announcement that a new group, calling itself, SeniorNet, was planning to open volunteer chapters around the country to help seniors learn how to operate the new contraptions.

Clark a business consultant, in his fast-moving style, contacted SeniorNet in California, and ordered a start-up computer to launch a Seattle learning center to be located on the Eastside. Near his office. He'd figure out the all-volunteer organizational setup later, he figured. First, he had to learn how to install all those mystery wires in the machine, study the manual to operate the computer. So the equipment which arrived on May 18, 1986, sat for a while until he felt comfortable in hooking it up, and then starting to operate it. And the day the computer arrived, May 18, 1986, he later said, is the actual day the SeniorNet Center here actually began. Ironically, the first computer was an Apple. In the following years, as the Personal Computer using the Microsoft programs became more prominent with more programs, SeniorNet concentrated on teaching only the PC programs, discontinuing any affiliation with Apple.

"It was exactly May 18, 1986 when the Apple computer arrived," Clark recalls, according to past writings. This was the time that computers were just starting to emerge on the public conscious. There were such interesting stories about the mysterious and wonderful things that could be done with this electronic marvel. A methodical person, he went to work. After much studying and carefully and patiently reading the manuals, "I learned how to operate the

equipment." Along with the computer were instructions for starting up a SeniorNet Computer Learning Center. Little did Jiggs realize he was about to start up the national group's third such center in the entire country, and which was also later to be named the No. 1 site in the nation, with some 900 members.

"It was an Apple2c, one of the first so-called laptops available. But, after you put the darned thing on your lap-- along with the adapter and the plug-in converter, and the cable connection to the printer, you were literally locked in place," Jiggs said. "Those guys in the ads who looked so casual holding the alleged laptop computer in their lap, with their feet up on the desk, really were as uncomfortable as anyone could be." Happy birthday, SeniorNet Computer Learning Center of Puget Sound!! And our thanks and appreciation to you, Jiggs Clark, still one of our biggest boosters. Clark continues to closely follow the activities, from his home in Seattle.

Pontecorvo recalls Belgium adventure

HIS MODEL PLANE CROSSED EUROPEAN BORDER AS TIMING CONTROL FAILED

(Veteran SeniorNet volunteer instructor, and our original facilities coordinator way back when we operated with aged, cast-off computers, Joe Pontecorvo, has a lengthy and interesting background working with the Federal Aeronautics Authority (FAA), in various parts of the world. He also for a while served as an Air Marshall, among his other duties. Since his retirement, he also has worked as a consultant to the Philippines airlines. Your editor recently learned from another SeniorNet member of the remarkable unexpected cross-border European flight of a model plane being flown by Pontecorvo in a local competition there. and asked Joe for details. Below is his reply:)

"I have built model aircraft all my life. I also flew them in competition. I spent a little over 10 years of my career in Europe and while I was stationed in Brussels with the FAA I had joined a local model airplane club named ICARUS. We competed against each other and members of other clubs in Belgium and neighboring countries. One of the contests that I entered was held at a military base in the north Belgium countryside. I was flying in an event called A2, which were gliders of approximately two- meters wingspan. This is a duration event requiring five flights. The models are equipped with a timer to bring the model down after a MAX flight is achieved. On one of my flights the timing device malfunctioned and the model was in a very strong thermal. My son and I chased the model on foot and with the car until it went OOS (out of sight).

"About a week later I received a call from someone in Germany. I asked my neighbor to interpret for me. They had found my model. The models always carry identification on them. That weekend my wife and son and I drove to Germany to retrieve my model plane. Some teenage children had found my model in a field while walking the dog. The model was undamaged and had flown from Belgium across the tip of the Netherlands and into Germany, a distance of about 100 Kilometers.

"One of the young children spoke some school English and we were greeted with a lot of questions and curiosity about the model and ourselves. We also experienced great hospitality.

We were treated to coffee and homemade apple strudel and a tour of their small farm. It was one of our great experiences."

RUNNING TEACHING CENTER A COMPLEX TASK: It's only when you become president of our all-volunteer SeniorNet Learning Center that one fully appreciates what goes into running one of the top such centers in the country. Newly-elected *Pres. Lois Farris* had her eyes opened, as she acknowledged, when she was sworn into her new responsibilities, succeeding *Pres. Delores Davis*. She had nothing but praise "for all the capable volunteers who take a task and carry it forward. The brainstorming sessions for goals and objectives at our April meeting will help direct the future of our chapter as we continue to grow and improve. Many fine ideas were brought forward and they will be refined at our May meeting. The committee is beginning to plan our annual fun Brown Bag luncheon in August, at a date to be announced later."

ANYONE SEE A HOT BULLHORN? One of the very helpful pieces of equipment at our annual summertime fun-filled Brown Bag Luncheon at the Phantom Lake Elementary School, Bellevue, which provides a hospitable home for our computer classroom, is--yes—the bullhorn. Now, with the big day approaching for the soon-to-be-announced August date, the portable electric loudspeaker to announce various events in the outdoor setting, is missing from our classroom. *Facilities Coordinator Ken Crandall* and other volunteers continue to search for the missing item. Otherwise, there may be some hoarse throats trying to make announcements, winners etc at the event. If anyone has any information, deep insights, good guesses or hallucinations where it may have been misplaced, please call and leave a message at our voice mail, 206-232-5892.

THE 'BOYS' OF SUMMER PLAYS SOFTBALL: With the crack of the bat, SeniorNet instructor and computer fixer *Ross Roberts* is back on the field playing softball in the Senior Softball League. He and his fellow team player *Sandra Roberts*, who also happens to be his spouse, know how to run the bases when a hit occurs. This very active couple are now in their umpteenth season, banging away at the softball with hopes of---some day—making the playoffs. The schedule calls for two games weekly, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Which is why Ross was unable to report for instructor and helper duty last Tuesday at the Free Computer Lab.

FREE COMPUTER HELP—PLUS COFFEE AND-: That is the great operational style of learning at the regularly scheduled Free Computer Labs at the SeniorNet classroom, with all computers available to work out problems. *Past Pres. Adella Granger* who presides at the labs, with lots of skilled volunteer help available, also likes to bake. Makes a great combination, especially when Adella brings in her latest batch of goodies for instructors and those seeking help on computer problems. Plus, the coffee is fresh and hot (25-Cent donation per cup is suggested/required/urged/demanded). At the most recent session, Adella unloaded a big array of muffins on the theory it helps the learning process. One of the interesting sights at these free labs, open to members and non-members alike, are people with

problems bringing in their computers, whether laptops or desktops, to have the experts come up with possible answers to problems. One such visitor last Tuesday had purchased a new Dell computer, and eager to really, really get into operations. Within 10 minutes of sitting down at a computer with one of the volunteers, she was moving through Windows XP, and also creating to her great delight, her first document in Word.

WHITE TEXT ON BLUE BACKGROUND? That is the suggested color combination to switch to if you spend lots of time working in Word, and want to ease eye strain, according to the online column, *About*. To try this, About suggests:
Changing the display color If you spend a lot of time working in Word, it is a good idea to change your settings so your document is displayed as white text on a blue background. Many people find this color combination more soothing on the eyes, as it reduces eye strain. It will also help prevent the headaches that result from eye strain.

To change the display to white text on a blue back ground, follow these easy steps:

- "1. Select Options... from the Tools menu
- "2. On the General tab, select the check box beside Blue background, White text
- "3. Click OK . Note: These settings will only affect the way your document is displayed on the screen – your printed documents will not be affected."

YOUR SENIORNET DATE BOOK FOR MAY:

Tuesday, ,May 2nd 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, May 16th , at 10 am

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

Three Tuesdays, May 9, 23 and 30, ,from 9:30 -12 Noon

Free Computer Help Lab-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 subject to editing. Please send to b26flyer@comcast.net

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