



Puget Sound Computer Learning Center

Where skilled volunteer seniors teach seniors to use, enjoy computers

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

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

PHIL SCHEIER, Editor

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Savvy group of members help in team effort

KEEPING THOSE CLASS COMPUTERS WORKING: YOUNG SUCCEEDS CRANDALL IN TOUGH JOB

SeniorNet's wide assortment of members with varying and distinguished backgrounds has come full circle with the appointment of *Gordon Young*, a retired Boeing engineer, as the new Facilities Coordinator to make sure the 18 classroom computers and programs operate properly.

He succeeds *Ken Crandall*, also a retired Boeing engineer, who has, with the help of other savvy members, made the computers run on time for the past 10 years. This, plus three recent big wrenching location moves of equipment, wiring etc. When the Phantom Lake Elementary School in Bellevue, which hosts the classroom, was torn down to make way for a new structure, now completed, Crandall and his team met the challenges in professional style. And plenty of hard work, long hours and some frustrations. Typical of SeniorNet volunteers.

The SeniorNet Computer Learning Center of Puget Sound is widely-hailed for its hands-on teaching techniques. Here seniors learn how to operate computers and master various programs, hands-on. Hence the stress on keeping computers and programs working. This is a major reason why the all-volunteer center has become the leading SeniorNet organization in the nation for its large number of students and wide variety of classes.

BOEING BACKGROUND

Young joined SeniorNet a few years ago and quickly took on many volunteer chores, including teaching, and more recently as Instructor/Assistant Coordinator. He has long been part of the Crandall's facilities maintenance team. After spending four years in the Air Force and graduating from the University of Washington, Young joined Boeing where he spent the next 37 years before retiring. Much of that time he was involved in some kind of computing or computing support functions. His first 14 years were in Industrial Engineering, conducting time and motion studies, plus managing workloads of various manufacturing shops. He also worked in the Military

Division, Transport and Helicopter Divisions, the latter in Pennsylvania, along with other programs. Currently, Young teaches Introduction to Microsoft Word, and Introduction to Photo Editing. Note: Young is now looking for someone to replace him as the Instructor/Assistant Coordinator.

Crandall started in 1996 as Facilities Coordinator, with another member, *Jerry Farrel*, for the then vacant post, with the plan to split the duties. Crandall asked Farrell to take over the post. However, because of severe health problems, Farrell agreed to share duties only. When Farrell's health problems grew more acute, Crandall took on the full load, with the help of other members.

Facilities Coordinator is a fancy name for the challenge of keeping the computers in top operating condition, removing viruses, checking and adjusting programs under the daily onslaught of hundreds of students.

EARLY COMPUTER WOES

Earlier, the group's first Facilities Coordinator was *Joe Pontecorvo*, a former FAA official and later consultant on airline safety to a foreign airline. Pontecorvo during his own lengthy tenure maintaining the computers, was working primarily with a collection of cast-off computers of every make and model. Some described these early computers as rubber-band powered. A tough, very difficult job, when a malfunctioning computer meant a student was unable to take part in the hands-on class program.

Recalls Crandall of his mentor, Farrell: "Jerry was a great teacher. I always had lots of help whenever there was a large job to do. Initially we had a mixture of many makes of computers and it was difficult to keep track of what made each make of computer run properly."

Some years later, under the then *Pres. Lyle Hernandez*, SeniorNet decided to go for broke (virtually) and buy all new computers. Another computer upgrade took place some two years ago, he noted, when some Dell representatives visiting the SeniorNet operation here. A short time later, the Dell company graciously presented SeniorNet with 18 new computers to further help seniors learn computer operations.

In looking back on his years as Facilities Coordinator, Crandall had high praise for a lengthy list of members who worked with such dedication on a regular basis, and particularly during moves during the construction of the new school, and the later move from the first to the second floor.

Included on the list, he recalled, with apologies for those inadvertently missed, are: *Bob Balsley, Chuck Goldstein, Dale Steen, Dennis Jacobsen, Gordon Young, Hal Mozer, Jerry Farrell (his teacher), Joe Pontecorvo, Harry Schedd, Harry Sully, John Wise, Laura Wise, Ray French, Ron Crum and Ross Roberts.*

SENIORNET RECORD: ALL CLASSES FILLED! When *Instructor John Wise* began his new genealogy class Tuesday afternoon, May 16, it also marked the continuing attendance growth at SeniorNet classes, and more important, a new record. According to a message from *Registrar Louise Flora* who could not be present, read aloud at the monthly

meeting that morning by *Vice Pres. Merrilee George*. Flora wrote in part: "I want you to know that after John Wise begins his Genealogy class this afternoon, there will be no openings in any classes this session. Still to start are Burn-2 and Digital Camera classes, both of which are full.....Not so long as I have been Registrar, have we had such participation in classes with students. We must be doing something right." Flora also reminded all that registration for Fall 2006 classes will be held Tuesday morning, July 18, at 10 am, at the New Hope Ministries Church, 15760- NE 4th st., Bellevue. However, as in the past, to ease the registration process, numbers will be handed out to those arriving as early as 8:30 am, who wish to duck out for breakfast at nearby restaurants.

OUR FOUNDER, JIGGS CLARK, RECOVERING: The man who started the SeniorNet Computer Learning Center of Puget Sound to encourage seniors to learn those new-fangled computers, is slowly recovering from two hip injuries suffered in falls this past year. *Jiggs Clark* suffered his first hip injury in a fall last October. A second fall injured his other hip, according to *Mary Jane*. She told this writer Jiggs has returned to his home at Horizon House in Seattle, but is in the special-care unit. He is still unable to get back to his beloved computer, but hopes to be back online in the near future. Mary Jane herself underwent gall bladder surgery during this period, but says things are starting to shape up. In the meanwhile, she says, the computer remains unused since some special connections are needed to be installed by the building owner, in the special care unit where Jiggs is. Mary Jane is a former long-time reporter for *The Seattle P-I*. She said as soon as the computer link is installed, Jiggs will send out the word he is back in business—online. The Horizon House address is: 200 University st., Seattle, WA 98101.

VIA COMPUTER, INSTRUCTOR HELPS STUDENT HELP FRIEND: It really had nothing to do with any SeniorNet Class, but when a student in a Word class learned a woman friend was in the early stages of losing her memory because of Alzheimer's, she helped her friend move into an assisted living facility. The SeniorNet student also volunteered to help her friend sell her rowing shell. With some basic knowledge of online sales, she decided to try and sell the shell on Craig's List. And as *Instructor Harry Shedd* recounted the incident: "The student did not have a digital camera but asked a 10- year old boy to take a picture of the boat and email it to her. He did so. She then had to figure out how to get the picture from the email onto Craig's List. Her instructor, on the telephone, talked her through getting the picture to her Desktop and re-naming the picture (asked for by the web site). Craig's List outlined what size the picture should be and how it should be presented. She did not have a photo editor and had no knowledge of what to do next. She was instructed to 'send the picture just the way it is'. Excitedly, she reported the next day that the picture did get onto the site. But more surprisingly, she received two offers to buy the boat, the first one just five minutes after it was posted. The person drove down from Everett that same night, wrote out a check and took the shell away."

WHEN COMPUTER SKILLS PAY OFF: What do you do with some of the computer skills you have learned at SeniorNet? When *Bill* and *Marilyn Bumpas* traveled to Europe last fall to pick up their new Volvo in Sweden, they promptly loaded their new vehicle with 3,500 miles touring Belgium and France. And with traveling, there are photographs, lots of them. All digital shots that work so well with computers. Bumpas recalls: "As is the wont of

SeniorNetters in this digital age, I brought about 700 digital photos back. I used Adobe Photoshop Album to sort and delete and then Adobe Photoshop Elements to do any necessary editing. Photoshop Album will also generate a slideshow presentation and so I took my laptop and gave the presentation to another group of seniors at our church when we returned. Many had traveled there, or served in the war, and so it was a lively discussion." Since the car lacked pontoons, it was shipped back to the states via old-fashioned boat.

THIS SHRINKING WORLD: When this writer received an IM (Immediate Message), which popped on his computer last month from *Hal Mozer*, the assumption was he and his wife *Sue* had returned from their lengthy overseas trek. After a few words of 'conversation,' via typed real time messages back and forth, Hal corrected this writer, noting he was still in Turkey, with another week of traveling to go. It was late at night and he was preparing to hit the sack, when he checked his computer again, and saw this writer's name had appeared as "online" on his desktop IM icon. And that is how SeniorNetters stay in touch, even half a world away, and with just a click of the mouse or keypad. And also while in Turkey, Hal received the May Online Newsletter to process for installation on the SeniorNet Web Site...and properly installed it on the site. Hey, what's half a world away among friends? How easy is it to use computer in Turkey? Hal reports: " In my recent month-long tour of Turkey I was surprised to learn that Turkey is a well wired, and wireless, country. I used some of this technology to post the May 1 SNPS Newsletter to the SeniorNet of Puget Sound web site. In my month in Turkey I stayed in 17 different hotels. All but three of these hotels had wireless internet (wi-fi) available and of the 14 with wi-fi, in all but one of them the wi-fi was free! I had my small Fujitsu laptop with built in wi-fi with me, so I was able to keep in contact with email and Internet news as I traveled. The night I found the May 1 Newsletter from Phil in my email, I did just what I do at home - downloaded the file, converted the Newsletter to PDF format, and posted it to the seniornetps.org we site. I could do all of this because I have the needed software installed on my laptop and, most importantly, I had a reasonable fast wi-fi connection. The world keeps getting virtually smaller!"

HELPFUL TIPS ON WINDOWS XP HOME EDITION: The respected *About* online newsletter, offers lots of help and information on the most commonly used program, Windows XP Home Edition, most often loaded in with new computers. A suggestion: Why not store all your helpful URLs, (Uniform Resource Locators), also known as Internet addresses, in a special document for easy access. Just create the document, give it a name you will easily recognize, then copy and paste the URLs, along with a descriptive line or two. To make finding the right URL even easier, go to Windows Explorer, find the name of that document with the URLs, right-click to bring up the sub-menu,, then left-click on Send To-, and, finally, click on Desktop Icon. Always there waiting and ready when you need it. The following is the URL for the *About* newsletter tips on Windows XP Home Edition:

http://windows.about.com/od/updatingupgrading/p/windows_xp_home.htm

WHAT? YOU HAVEN'T TRIED NEW INTERNET EXPLORER 7?

Many of you have probably already downloaded and are experimenting with the Beta 2 version of the upcoming Microsoft Internet Explorer 7 due for formal release later this year. It has lots of new improvements, safety features and advances over the current Internet Explorer 6. That figures, since 7 is a higher number than 6, and should represent some gains. But with a new layout, it may take some practice and studying to take advantage of the pluses. Which is where the

fun and frustration often shows up, except for always curious and adventurous SeniorNet members. More mature computer users may want to wait for the official release. The online feature, *About*, has produced a helpful learning guide. It was written by Michelle Castle of *Focus on Windows*. Just click on, or paste the below URL (Internet address) in your current browser : http://windows.about.com/od/networking/ig/Internet-Explorer-7--Beta-2/index_t.htm and hit Enter key. Hint: Yes, there are pop-ads which pay for this free service. When you click on a link to get some information, a detour pop-up ad will show for a few seconds. To get rid of it, just look for the tiny type, "Skip this ad" and click on it. Not fair, but faster.

HOW TO TAKE SCREEN SHOTS IN WINDOWS XP: In Windows XP, you can easily take a screen shot. Just press the Print Screen key on your keyboard, and the screen will be copied to your clipboard. Now, you just need to paste the screen shot into another program. To save the screen shot, open Paint, press CTRL+V to paste the screen shot, and save the file.

YOUR SENIORNET DATE BOOK FOR JUNE:

Tuesday, June 6th 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, June 20th at 10 am

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

Tuesday, 13th, 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**

Last Free Lab Until the Fall

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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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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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President: Lois Farris; Vice Pres. Merrilee George; Treasurer: Joe Hesketh; Secretary: Martha Simon; Registrar: Louise Flora; Curriculum Coordinator: Bob Balsley; Facilities Coordinator: Gordon Young; Public Relations Coordinator: Helen Hesketh; Immediate Past President: Adella Granger; Member-at-

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Online Newsletter Editor: Phil Scheier**

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