



Photo by Geno Lawrenzi/Independent Newspapers

Bill Johnson, Billie Phillips, Doris Weaver, Pam Burt and Bob Lohse, instructor, discuss what computers have done to make their lives more interesting and meaningful.

COMPUTER CLASS

Retirees take technology classes

By Geno Lawrenzi
Independent Newspapers

Sun Citians are crazy about computers.

That is the only way Bill Johnson, a retired commercial printer, can explain the wild success of the Computer Club of Sun City.

At last count, the club, which meets at Fairway Recreation Center, had over 2,800 members. Mr. Johnson said all indications are that the computer club will add 400 members to its rolls each year for the next several years, with no end in sight.

And while the club presently has facilities large enough to accommodate members' needs, he said as the club grows, "We may need more space in the future."

When Microsoft Corp. came to Sun City to demonstrate its software, the company gave away over \$4,000 worth of equipment to members of the computer club.

"About 425 people showed up for Microsoft's presentation and the draw-

ings," he said. "It was a big success."

Pam Burt of Sun City says she belongs to the club "because it's fun."

She adds, "I use my computer for business and personal reasons. My grandkids are all over the world. With my computer knowledge, I can keep in touch with them in words and pictures, family things.

"There is no limit to what you can do with a computer. You just need the time to do it."

Member Doris Weaver loves computers and says her membership in the club has added a new dimension to her life. She does vacation slide shows using photos and music to illustrate her presentations, and she said the computer helps.

Billie Phillips, who teaches at Rio Solado College, said she does all her financial records and on-line banking on her computer.

Mr. Johnson said the club has a flight simulator program that lets members "fly" planes. They can also

play golf or pool on the computer.

"We show our members how to build computers," he said. "In fact, we built all of our club's 50 computers by ourselves. It saved our club money and we learned a lot by selecting our own software."

It costs \$20 a year to be a member of the club.

Classes range from beginning computers to advanced technology.

Among subjects covered are genealogy, photos, digital photography, digital music, how to invest through the Internet and how to use a flight simulator.

Club hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (623) 933-8953 or visit the club's Web site www.firstsuncity.com. The club's facilities are at Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

Mr. Johnson said the

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Class

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computer lab is open for member use "at all times if there are no classes scheduled."

"Most of our members are advanced enough to have

their own printers," he said. "This isn't the place where you would want to write and print out a novel.

"A lot of our members learn the basics of using a computer and then go on to other clubs and other interests."

Mr. Johnson has served as club president for the past

two years. The nine-member board chooses its president from the people who serve on the board.

The club hosts orientation classes on an average of one to three times per month. Nobody can join the club without attending an orientation class, he added.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9, 2003

Sun Cities computer groups

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

One of the best ways seniors can acquaint themselves with new technology is through joining a computer users group.

Here are a list of Sun Cities computer clubs:

● **Apple MacIntosh Computer Club of Sun City** has classes at 9 a.m., Monday through Friday, at Sundial Recreation Center. For information, contact Ted Olney at 974-6997.

● **Computer Club of Sun City** meets 8 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday, at Fairway Recreation Center. For information, call 933-8953.

● **Sun Macs Computer Club of Sun City** has classes at beginning and intermediate levels, and in the following topics: troubleshooting, word processing, database, photography, Quicken, genealogy, Excel spreadsheets, graphics and more, at Sundial Recreation Center. For a schedule, call 876-1169.

● **Macs West, MacIntosh Users Group of Sun City West** meets at 1 p.m. Tuesdays at Palm Ridge Recreation Center. For information, call Bernie Ginsberg at 546-2346 or Dick Springer at 546-1691.

● **Computers West Computer Club of Sun City West** has various meetings at Palm Ridge Recreation Center. At 10:30 a.m. Mondays, learn Windows XPA. At 8 a.m. Mondays, join a beginners computer discussion group. Join an open discussion of PCs at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays. There are other special events coming up on Oct. 7 and 14. For information, call 214-1546.

Daily News-Sun • Thursday, Oct. 4, 2001

Sun City computer club now 20

STAFF REPORT

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, the Computer Club of Sun City is will be the host of an open house from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

The event, in conjunction with the Fairway Oktoberfest, is free and open to the public, and demonstrations will be held throughout the day.

Events during the open house include:

- 10 a.m.-noon, the Data Doctor will broadcast his KTAR radio show from the club. Computer questions will be answered.
- 1 p.m., Wizcom Technologies will demonstrate QuickLink, a useful hand-held scanner for students, genealogists and researchers.
- Drawings for software and other prizes will be take place every hour.
- A tent sale will feature ink, supplies, accessories, surplus computer equipment and more.
- Desktop and 35mm film scanners will be demonstrated.
- Photographs printed on different printers will be displayed.

The Fairway center's Fall Oktoberfest also will run from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Fairway club exhibits, craft sales and entertainment will be featured throughout the day, and food and beverages will be served by the Sun City Recreation Centers Food Services. Items for display and sale will include ceramic and porcelain pieces, woodworking, knitting, sterling and stones, finish-ware, jewelry, home decorations, creative wood gifts, a china painting workshop and an open house at the Fairway Library.

The computer club started out in early 1981 when four amateur radio operators in north Sun City had a small social group that met with their wives. One of the members, Marvin Reed, had a TRS-80 Model 1 computer from Radio Shack, and the others soon became interested and bought TRS-80 Model III computers from the Radio Shack store in Camp Verde.

The club recently completed an extensive renovation of its facilities, and club President Bob McColley said it is the best-equipped and perhaps the largest such club in the country.

The club boasts the latest in computer equipment and offers an extensive educational program. With more than 2,000 members, it also offers a dozen special interest groups, has more than 55 computers and a variety of scanners, printers and the latest software.

Popularity of Internet grows in Sun City

'NET GAINS: Local computer club gets about 100 newcomers every month

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Seniors are less likely to use the Internet than other age groups, according to a recent study by the Canadian Economic Observer.

Tell that to one of the fastest-growing clubs in Sun City.

The study showed only 1 percent of all seniors older than 65 use or have access to the Internet. In the 55-64 age group, only 5 percent were logging online.

But the Computer Club of Sun City, club President Robert McColley said, has more than 2,500 members, which he cited as proof that seniors are starting to gain interest in the Internet.

He added that the Internet is

gaining in popularity among Sun City's age group, and the club takes in more than 100 new members a month. The average age of club members is 72, McColley said.

"People who join the club are very interested," he said.

A typical senior, he said, loves the idea of e-mail. McColley said he keeps in touch with his four children through e-mail.

"It's a whole new world," he said. "It's fabulous. The computer through e-mail helps me keep in touch with my daughter."

But adding credence to the study, some Sun Citians have barely heard of the Internet.

"I don't have any computers," Stella Sciarrione of Sun City said. "I don't even know what (the Internet) is."

Some Sun Citians who have heard of the Internet have said it is worthless and have no intention of investing in a computer to surf the World Wide Web.

"I'm 80, and I want to save my

thousands of dollars," Mary Feman said. "I don't need to spend that money. I can use that money on my grave."

"I am not interested in it," Sun City resident Joe Fix said. "I have got enough problems without looking for something else."

Part-time Sun City resident Peter Hrynew disagreed with the views of fellow seniors who avoid technology.

He said he uses the Internet every day to keep tabs on his checking account and to read the newspaper of his other hometown, Calgary.

"I think its great," he said. "I always use it."

Cost should not be a deterrent, McColley said. He said computers can be purchased for as little as \$500, Internet services can be obtained for around \$15 a month, and some e-mail services are free.

While McColley said he believes more and more seniors are logging on to the Internet, he said other seniors are avoiding it because "to some extent, it is something new."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Pat DeRosia logs onto the Internet in one of the Sun City Computer Club's rooms at Fairway Recreation Center. He uses the Internet to get technical advice on computers.

Daily News-Sun • Friday, Sept. 29, 2000

Computer club work begins at Fairway

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY: Officials say expansion should take seven to 10 days

PATRICK O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

With a little prodding from engineering-committee

members, the Computer Club in Sun City will have a new home in about a week.

Work began Monday on remodeling the space left when the Fairway Lapidary and Silvercraft clubs moved, and Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors officials expect to be finished with most of the work within seven to 10 days, said Norman Burt, board member and chairman of the engineering committee.

Computer Club officials, who

have been fighting for more space since their ranks expanded beyond 2,000 members, were pleased with the work so far but still had questions about electrical work needed to be done on the space before they move in.

"It's been a long time, but we are seeing some movement now," said club President Bob McColley, who addressed the board at its Thursday meeting.

The decision to decommission the Lapidary Club and

combine it with the Silvercraft Club to make more space for the Computer Club was not without delays and controversy. Computer-club members said they believe providing space for their expanding need was delayed by speculation they would not continue growing at the same time Silvercraft Club members said they need more space to accommodate the former Lapidary Club's equipment and members.

McColley said club members

were still concerned with getting certain placement of electrical outlets in the room as well as eliminating the smell caused by chemicals used in lapidary work.

The chemicals should be removed by the time the room is remodeled, and the building should not have problems handling the power supply after an electrical plan is returned from county review, Burt said.

"Actually, the power the club will use will be much less than

the equipment the Lapidary Club used," he said.

Computer Club member Harvey Tetmeyer, who previously pleaded the club's case before the board, said he was pleased with the way the room is taking shape and that it would be a good facility once all of the technical issues were resolved.

"We look forward to getting into that area," Tetmeyer said.

Patrick O'Grady can be reached at pogrady@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2522.

SEPTEMBER 6-12, 2000

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

SC Computer Club pleads its case to Rec Centers board

By **JULI NESSETT**
Independent Newspapers

The heat of summer may be fading away but the heat of discussion at the Recreation Centers of the Sun City is just warming up.

The Computer Club was a topic that was hotly debated during the Aug. 31 Rec Centers board meeting.

Norm Burt, Engineering Committee chairman, said his committee, as well as two others, and the rest of the board have done everything they can to get the Computer Club going.

"We will continue, in the next week, to follow up on what we've already told them we are doing. We've issued a directive that the skilled trades are to be put to work on that and to get that done. I want the club to know that we are pulling all the plugs out and we're going to

get that done for you," said Mr. Burt.

A new committee has been formed to study the renovation of the Computer Club facility. They will examine exactly what and how much they can do for the club said Treasurer Harold Boudrie.

A motion to approve budget overruns and unbudgeted expenses, including \$10,760 to pay for the Fairway Lapidary Club's new showroom addition, took place later in the meeting.

Member Doris Weaver explained that the Computer Club was unhappy about this expenditure due to the fact that they have been waiting for quite some time for anything to be resolved about their club's space.

"The thing that I'm opposed to is the showroom addition. The dollar amount is \$10,760. That amount will almost pay for what we need in

the Computer Club. But nothing has been done for the Computer Club. I don't think that we should have additional money for them and we haven't even given us anything. I think it's time to pay attention to what the people of Sun City need. And I'm very opposed to this additional expenditure of money for the Lapidary Club at this time. They can have it but not until we have gotten something," said Mrs. Weaver.

President Bob Briscoe said the board held a meeting Aug. 30 and they are working on the problem.

In other board action:

- The finance and budget committee will meet Sept. 14 and 21 to prepare the budget for next year. According to Mr. Boudrie, the budget will be ready in late October. "Anyone interested in finding out where the money goes and what we're doing, you're welcome

because our meetings are open to the members."

- Mr. Boudrie said the new sound system at the Sun Bowl will be ready for the first show on Sept. 17. "I'm sure that everybody is going to enjoy the new sound system. It's going to be excellent."

- The Food Committee, another new committee, is working with management to try to solve the problems they are having.

As of the end of July, they are \$50,000 in the red, according to the RCSC's statement of operating results. This report later led to a motion to approve discontinuing all RCSC catering services for the rest of this year. However, any events scheduled prior to this meeting will be covered. There was no discussion from the board or from any of the members on this topic.

Sun Citizens get wired into computers

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

Ardelle Schiesel, a 68-year-old Sun Citian, calls being on-line "like being out in the world."

As a three-year member of the Computer Club of Sun City, Schiesel has spent a lot of time sifting through the computer universe.

No novice to computers — her banking career included database work — she still was "thrilled" to dive into the world of Windows when she retired.

Judging from the bulging ranks of her computer club, she's not alone.

"We're bursting at the seams," she said.

Her group, a chartered club sponsored by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, now boasts close to 1,500 members. That's 1,420 more than it had just five years ago, and those numbers will likely soon change, too.

With members streaming in like nobody's business, the club now offers a multitude of courses aimed at everyone from the "tire kickers" testing out the on-line world to those well versed in the latest Windows wonders.

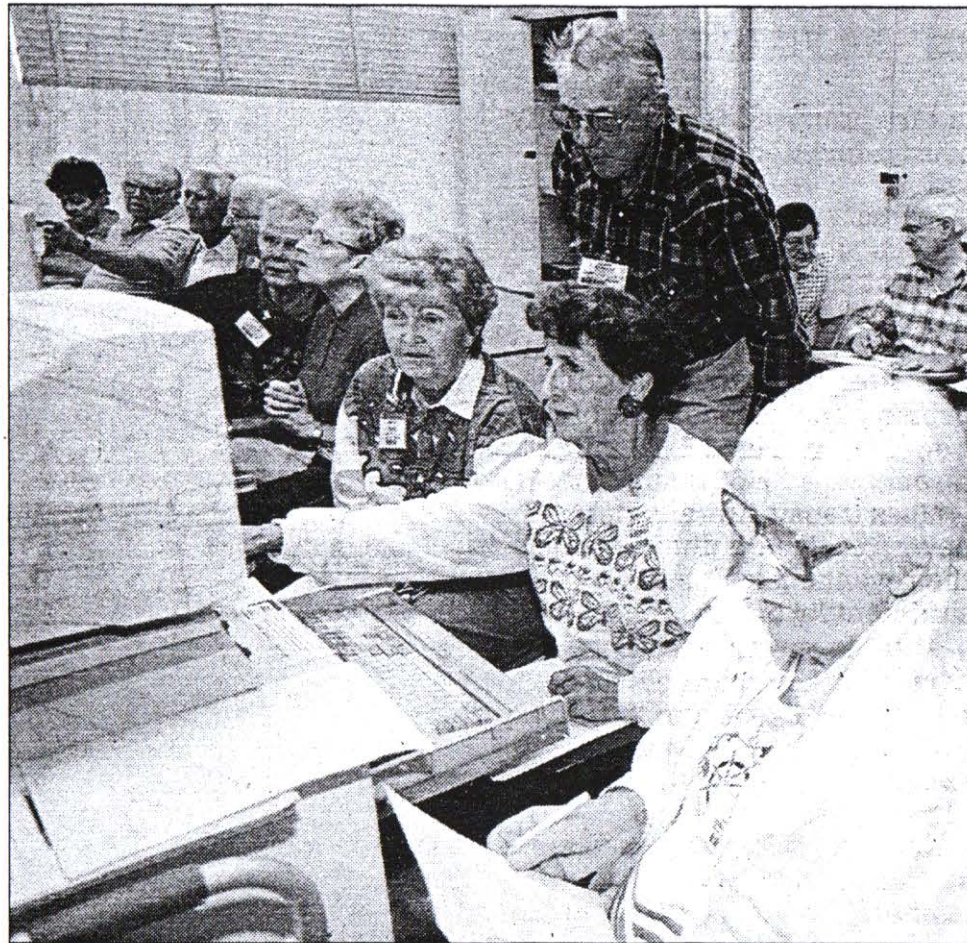
Encouraged by that call-to-arms from their grandkids: "Gee, grandma. If you had a computer I'd send you e-mail," more seniors are picking up PCs.

But while the club has struggled to meet the demand, its resources have become strained. Operating out of Fairway Recreation Center with two rooms and 13 computers, the club can accommodate close to 70 people in a class.

That's not nearly enough space, the club president said. An appeal went out to the Recreation Centers, and board members agreed to examine the problem.

Now, the Recreation Centers president said, a solution may be in the offing.

"What we're planning to do is get the presidents of the two groups together and discuss our options," said President Don Pritchett. "We'll



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Don Schulz looks over the shoulders of a beginning IBM computer class at Fairway Recreation Center. The Sun City Computer Club, bursting at the seams with 1,500 members, is looking for more room.

probably do it next week."

The other group, a former faction of the club now dedicated to Macintosh — the Computer Club sticks to IBMs — isn't feeling as much strain.

Still, with roughly 275 "Sun Mac" people using 10 computers, and more than 1,000 crowding around the IBMs, something somewhere seems likely to give.

It's all a testament to a craze that, while intimidating at first for seniors, quickly becomes engrossing, said a computer user.

Marjorie Simons, president of the Sun Macs — formally known as the

Apple Macintosh Computer Club — said she knew nothing of C-drives and modems before joining the club seven years ago.

Now she's so well-versed in computing that she defies the senior norm: she's donated her old model to her Internet-hungry grandkids, instead of the reverse.

But she's seen other seniors adopt a computer from their families and, after a little trepidation, eagerly launch into the Web.

"Once they get in, they find there's so much more they can do," Simons said.

Members use computers to pen

their autobiographies, balance their checkbooks, monitor investments, and so on. Of course, grandkids also get their electronic missives.

But cruising the Internet holds the most allure, said Gary Howard, president of the Computer Club of Sun City.

"That's one of our main requests," he said. The club also plays host to many "tire kickers" — potential buyers out to test drive a computer before making the investment.

Of those, many get hooked and return for the club's classes that run six days a week.

A recent Times Mirror poll showed that about 10 percent of people 65 or older use a personal computer at home, an increase of 2 percent over an 18-month period.

Computer firms are now targeting seniors through print and TV ads.

Of course, there are other options for Sun Citians without a computer, or a club to go to.

The Sun City Library, for instance, recently brought in several computers — one hooked up to the Internet and the others for database research.

Now, a few months into the effort, they're pulling the plug on the research models.

"We're deleting the databases. The demand is for Internet," said Ann Kinzer, assistant director. "We have people coming in looking for their long-lost friends — even their kids. They want all sorts of information."

For those seeking help in booting up, colleges run reams of computer courses. And demand continues to rise, says an Arizona State University official.

Ellie Mulkern, Program Coordinator for ASU's Computer Training Program, says courses offered in Sun City West typically thin out each summer. This year they didn't.

But with greater demand must come an increase in resources, said Howard, president of Sun City's largest recreational club. "The physical constraints are going to make people discouraged."

NETWORK

of older computer owners is growing

By Mike Padgett
Staff writer

From their Wall Street brokers to their Main Street relatives, more people over the age of 50 are using home computers to communicate.

In Sun City West, many are traveling the electronic highways to monitor their investments and correspond with relatives and friends in other states and countries.

Members of a Sun City West computer club called Computers West are active in the electronic world.

Robert Oesterlin, a research and development retiree from IBM, uses his IBM-compatible computer to learn more about radio-controlled airplanes.

On the Internet, Oesterlin communicates "with people all over the world, in most of the English-speaking countries," who share his interest.

"We ask questions, make comments, talk about vendors," he said.

The Sun City West club has about 2,000 members and several special-interest groups, such as investments, technology and community service.

Club president Bob Walther said he and other computer users regularly hold training classes in the Palm Ridge Recreation Center to teach other retirees how to use computers.

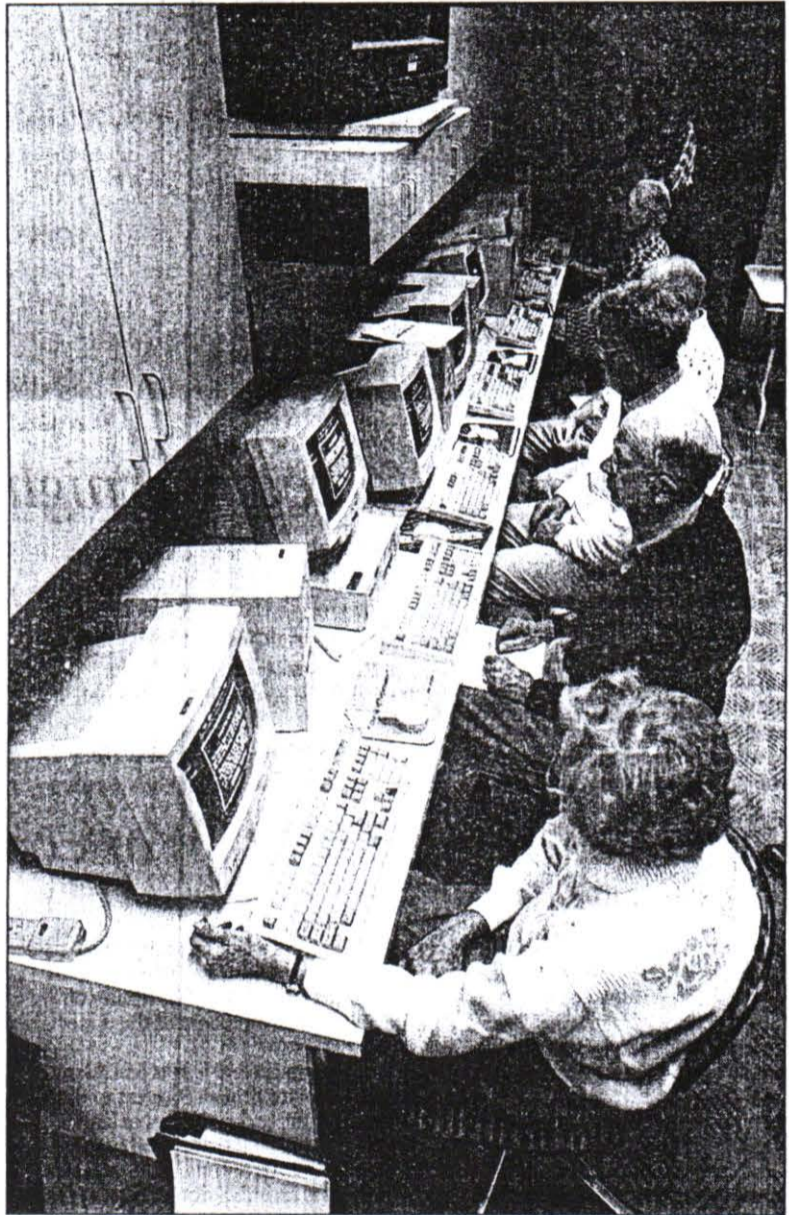
Walther said members of the investment group meet twice weekly to download the latest investment numbers, such as stock prices and interest rates.

"They don't make any recommendations but they track stocks and they make forecasts and so on," Walther said.

Using computers instead of newspapers to study stock prices enables investors to quickly study the history of a stock's prices, over several years.

"You can go way back in time and track (a stock) all the way up to right now," Walther said.

Computers have become a part of life today for many seniors. According to the 1995 *Scarborough Report*, one of



David Petkiewicz/Staff photographer

every four computer owners in the metropolitan Phoenix area is in the 50-and-older age group.

Among those 50 or older, 31 percent own a computer and 18 percent subscribe to an online service.

Command central for the Computers West club is Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West.

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Computer age captures imaginations of retirees

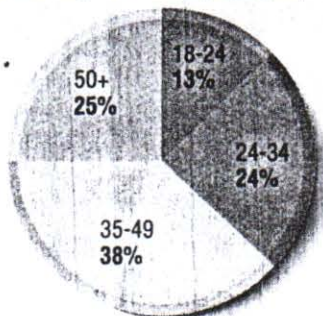
VALLEY COMPUTER OWNERS

Adults 18 years and older.

Adults that have a computer at home

Age group	Number of persons
18-24	99,800
24-34	187,500
35-49	290,700
50+	196,800
Total	774,800

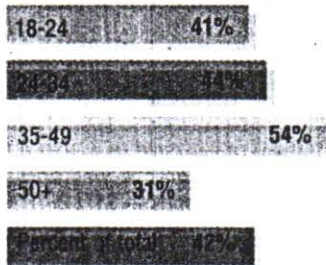
Percentages of total by age group



Computer owners by age group

Age group	Number of persons
18-24	245,400
24-34	422,700
35-49	543,300
50+	636,200
Total	1,847,600

Percent of each age group that owns a computer



Source: 1995 Scarborough Report

Staff artist

— COMPUTER, from page NW10

The Scarborough statistics are based on a total population of 636,200 adults age 50 or older. Of that number, 196,800 own a computer, and 25,500 subscribe to an online service.

The Sun City West club includes those who volunteer their time to work with students in computer classes in nearby schools.

"I'm so involved in them here that just about everybody I know has a computer," Walther said.

Some retirees use their computers to correspond with relatives via e-mail.

Oesterlin said the immediacy of computer correspondence is a great advantage over letters.

"Sometimes my (two) sons in Minnesota and I will e-mail back and forth three or four times in a morning," he said.

Oesterlin also uses his computer to communicate with a friend in Alaska, and he's waiting to make contact with a relative who recently moved to Saudi Arabia for a job.

The club's previous president, Charles South of Sun City West, uses a VTech computer, an IBM clone, in his investment work.

"Primarily, we're trying to learn to use our computers to support our investing techniques."

Special computer software allows the members to monitor stock and bond prices and interest rates in an effort to maximize investment profit.

"We decide what to buy and when to buy it, or to decide when an investment is languishing," South said.

South said he pays little attention to stock tips from newspaper and magazine articles because he sees them as one-sided.

"They try to get you to buy and sell their product," South said. "What we try to become is as independent as we can so we make our own judgments."

"That's the objective of our group, to kind of bootstrap ourselves. Some of us like to trade stocks frequently and others like to buy them and sit on them and hold them. Each of us works to our own drumbeat."

High-tech age comes to Sun City

Computer room among most popular facilities in community

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD
Sun Cities Independent

The computer age has arrived and Americans are coming to grips with fax machines, ATMs and voice messaging.

But never fear, help is just around the corner for those who are unable to discern a bit from a baud, a disk from a diskette.

The Sun City Computer Club, which formed in 1981, not only offers classes to computer experts but also to computer novices, says Charlie Cattone, president of the club.

"A lot of people buy computers and they don't even know how to turn them on," he says. "We try to make people more familiar with

computers."

Other computer clubs operate under the auspices of the Sun City Computer Club, including the SunMacs, a group for Macintosh users which debuted in 1986, an IBM group and an Apple group.

"We also have a genealogy group. That's pretty big. A lot of people want to get into their background," Mr. Cattone says.

Both the IBM group and the SunMacs, with about 80 members, offer classes for beginners. The SunMacs hold regular workshops conducted by members with expertise in particular computer programs, says Geri Van Horn, publicity chairwoman for the SunMacs.

Learning is often made easier when those interested in mastering



Ray Kucharski learns the latest in computer gadgetry at Fairway Recreation Center while looking on are Stu Mason, standing, and Jim Kelly, sitting.

a particular program can watch a demonstration rather than read a book, Ms. Van Horn says.

Ms. Van Horn and Mr. Cattone say members also assist one another when it comes to learning different programs.

"Originally when (the SunMacs) set up, everyone signed in and wrote down what programs they had so members could help each other," Ms. Van Horn says.

The Sun City Computer Club, now with 400 members, started with 20 people who met in one another's homes to discuss computer problems. The majority of early members used IBM computers, Mr. Cattone says, meeting in a room at Marinette Recreation Center on Saturdays.

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■ COMPUTER

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"In 1988, anybody who wanted to show a program had to bring his computer to the room."

Like the IBM users, the SunMacs formed with about six members who met in a member's home, says Marjorie Simons, SunMacs chairwoman.

Ms. Van Horn says members of the SunMacs understand many people fear new technology. Their aim, she says, "is to make everyone accomplished with computers. This is the age of computers. Older people need to learn to use them."

She thinks the Sun City

Computer Club will continue to grow.

"There's no doubt about it in my mind. People in other areas like Westbrook Village and so on have asked if they could join," she says.

Recently, the club was provided with a permanent room at Fairway

Recreation Center which is home to six IBM computers, one Macintosh and one Apple, Mr. Cattone says.

"Eventually the room (at Fairway) will get too small," he says. "In fact, (the club's) going to grow too big."