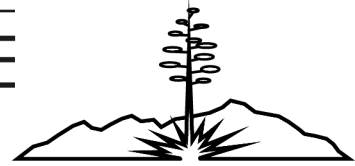




THE BORDER LINE

News from the SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION



September 2001, Volume 6, Number 1

We need you

By Brenda Huettnner,
chapter president

As members of STC, we already know about many of the available benefits — the newsletters, journals, conferences, competitions, etc. And I'm happy to say that many of us are already taking advantage of our local monthly programs, learning about new things, socializing with other technical communicators, and basically networking.

But there is an even greater opportunity available to STC members. By volunteering just a few hours of your time, you'll get a rewarding experience that builds your skill set, helps the technical communication community, and may even help you improve your career. Are you looking for a job? You can prove your skills and talents before even taking an interview. Are you looking to hire more help? You'll know first-hand who has the skills you need if you've headed a committee or participated in an STC project.

We have a lot of great opportunities available; most require only a few hours per month.

Program committee

These are the people who plan the programs and select the speakers. We have a good start on this already, but still need a few more volunteers to coordinate specific months. We also need people to coordinate weekend workshops, which have been quite successful for the chapter.

See Volunteers, page 4 ...

Join us September 20 to network and nibble

Come network with fellow technical communicators and those who hire technical communicators at the first meeting for the 2001-2002 Southern Arizona chapter program year.

Talk with other technical communicators, share your resume, learn about local companies that hire technical communicators, and learn more about STC and how it can help you. Meet representatives of several temporary and employment agencies and managers of technical publication departments. Look over publications from STC and similar professional societies. Find out about useful web pages that are dedicated to technical communication.

If you're new to Tucson or technical communication, someone who knows it all or wondering what it's all about, or you just want to catch up with your peers, please join us.

Meeting details

When	Thursday, September 20
Where	Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 East Broadway
Registration	5:30 - 6 p.m.
Light snack and networking	6 - 8 p.m.
Cost	\$10 members, \$15 nonmembers

To RSVP or to get more information, contact Pat Markey at pat.markey@prodigy.net.

Reserve by 4 p.m. Monday, September 17.

No-shows will be billed, and walk-ins are always welcome!

Congratulations to senior members

Congratulations to Southern Arizona chapter members who have achieved senior member status (they've been STC members for five years):

- Barbara Fraps
- Beth Kane
- Pat Markey
- Judy McCabe
- Barbara Merwald
- Dennis Page

This month, the chapter has 75 members (26 senior members, 46 regular members, and three student members).

The mission of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Society for Technical Communication is to elevate the technical communication professions, increase public awareness of these professions, and serve as a resource to members.



About the newsletter

The Border Line is the official publication of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Society for Technical Communication.

Contributions are welcome. Send mail to SarahBonati@captaris.com, or phone 320-7029. Include your name and telephone number with your submission.

For the publication of your first article, you'll be attending the Southern Arizona STC program of your choice as a guest of the chapter (workshops excluded).

Your submission should be factual, original, not previously published, and relevant to the field of technical communication; for example, describing tools, techniques, or tips for communicators.

The newsletter editor determines the submissions that are appropriate for publication. We reserve the right to edit your text to conform to the style guidelines and space restrictions of the newsletter.

The deadline for time-sensitive submissions is the first Friday of each month.

Electronic version via e-mail

To save paper, printing, and postage costs, *The Border Line* is available via e-mail in PDF format.

To sign up for this service, send a message to Sarah Bonati.

Chapter contacts

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Web site	Dirk J. Arnold dirkarnold@captaris.com

Administrative and program planning meetings for the chapter occur the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Café at Broadway and Rosemont. Members are welcome to participate.

Society contacts

Society for Technical Communication

Designing the future of technical communication

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Local pubs team offers ForeHTML training

Global Atmospherics, Inc. is providing its documentation staff with professional training on ForeHTML Pro v5.0 for online help development. There is room in the class for two attendees.

The class is for beginners with the ForeHTML product and is geared toward producing HTML-based help. Students should have a basic understanding of writing online help.

There are two openings available for \$349.50 each or one opening for \$699. The course will be September 25 and 26, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Global Atmospherics. Availability is first come, first served. Contact Barbara by September 14.

To sign up or get more details, contact Barbara Fraps at Global Atmospherics, Inc. E-mail bfraps@glatmos.com or phone 806-7389.

Tech comm week approaches

By Tom Barnett, Phoenix chapter

From the rocky shores of Lake Powell to the sleepy border town of Nogales, from the sun-drenched waters of Lake Havasu to the tree-covered White Mountains, Arizona recognizes and celebrates the important contribution made by technical communicators and information designers to the understanding and usability of technology.

Arizona governor Jane Hull has honored us again and proclaimed that this recognition and celebration will occur during the week of October 14-20. The 14th annual celebration is sponsored by the STC Phoenix chapter.

Tech Comm Week is a special time of year in which STC members and others not only celebrate the value of technical communications, but also raise the awareness of our profession, our professionalism, and the ethics and creativity we bring to our work.

Companies celebrate Technical Communication Week in different ways. Some have special luncheons. Some put up signs. For many companies, the event allows recognition for a profession that often does not receive the attention it deserves.

Do something in your company to celebrate our field and the good you do in the world. To get a list of ways to celebrate Technical Communication Week, visit www.stc-phoenix.com.

STC 2001-2002 tentative schedule

Events are in Tucson unless noted

September 20	Network and Nibble
October 9	Phoenix chapter Marketing Yourself as a Technical Communicator: Beating Resistance from Inside or Out with Sherry Michaels
October 11-13	STC Region 5 conference in Houston. For information, http://www.stc-houston.org
October 18	Developing Online Help with RoboHELP
November 3	Phoenix chapter eLearning: When, Why, and How, a full-day workshop
November 13	Phoenix chapter Keys to Successful Palm Reading: Designing Information for PDAs with former STC president Lance Gelein, founder of the Gold River Group
November 15	Program TBD
December 20	Holiday party
January 17	Program TBD
February 21	Program TBD
March 21	Whine and Cheese
April 18	Program TBD Chapter election
May 5-8	STC international conference in Nashville
May 16	Program TBD
June 20	End of year party

**For meeting details, go to
<http://www.stc-saz.org>
For Phoenix meetings, go to
<http://www.stc-phoenix.com>**



Volunteers are needed

Continued from page 1

Publicity committee

We need someone to create the flyers for each meeting in time to distribute them before the prior meeting (so the information about November's meeting is available at October's meeting). The publicity people are also responsible for notifying local papers of our activities and getting STC listed in various directories.

Outreach committee

We've had some interest from technical communicators in Sierra Vista and would like to be able to help start either a satellite chapter or occasional "Southern-Southern Arizona" meetings. This is still wide open, so bring your ideas and suggestions if you want to help!

Planning committee

This is the big one! The other committees make reports to the planning committee every month. The planning committee considers new ideas, allocates resources as needed, and generally ensures that everything goes smoothly. All members are invited to attend planning committee meetings. They are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble Café on Broadway and Rosemont.

To volunteer for any of these positions, contact any member of the council listed on page 2. Or send me an e-mail at bphuettner@aol.com. Feel free to send ideas, comments, or suggestions as well. The more input we get, the better the chapter will be able to meet your needs.

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