

LEISURE WORLD NEWS

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Mel Dollar has been named Leisure Worlder of the Month for November.

News Photo by Rod Veal

'Dollar' days at November ceremony

Consummate volunteer gets Leisure Worlder nod

By Cheryl Walker
The News

Don't crack open a new book to lay it flat near Mel Dollar.

He'll admonish you that the bindings on most modern books are pathetic and the pages will soon be tumbling out.

Each week at the Leisure World Library Dollar does damage control by repairing tomes already savaged. He also skillfully folds back pages on new acquisitions so a book's very first time in circulation won't be its last.

But books aren't the only thing the former professor lavishes his attention on. He also

repairs and upgrades computers and teaches a series of very popular special interest groups (basic, intermediate, Quicken, genealogy, etc.) at the Computer Center.

He says, he likes volunteering since it's fun and carries with it no obligations except one's one desire to help someone else.

Even so, it takes a lot of work on his part to keep up with the cutting edge of fast-changing technology.

But he enjoys the challenge: "My greatest satisfaction is helping individuals develop a variety of computer related skills."

For the excellence of his volunteerism, Dollar will be honored on Nov. 5 as the Historical Society singles him out as Lei-

United director accused of flouted the by-laws

sure Worlder of the Month.

Former PC Users Club President Joe Schwarz applauds the Society for choosing Dollar. "He's a real 'take charge' type of guy and a very hard worker in every capacity."

Catherine Hammerman, another PC Users group leader, says she "can't say enough good about Mel ... he's very reliable, has a great sense of humor and is a very nice guy as well."

Dollar brushes aside praise and says he is into a lot of different activities because he believes in staying busy. "When you have time on your hands you think about yourself too much."

Background: Dollar, a Canadian native, came to the Golden State as a youth and developed a lifelong passion for science, particularly as it related to food and nutrition.

He picked up his bachelor and master's degrees at the UC Berkeley campus and garnered a doctorate in small animal nutrition from the University of Reading in England.

During World War II he served as a Navy officer in the Pacific Theatre then worked as a microchemist, researcher, assistant professor and eventually a professor at the University of Hawaii. He also worked as a consultant for the United Nations.

He retired to Leisure World in 1986 and got into the PC Users Group in its infancy, Security work (as a gate officer and trainer), the Camera Club, Lawn Bowling and taking Emeritus classes in crochet, sewing and pattern making.

When asked why he got into the latter, Dollar says he enjoys the challenge, creativity

and control of making clothing for his wife and himself.

His pride and joy is a polar fleece robe which he made from scratch. It wasn't any cheaper than a store bought and took a considerable amount of time to cut, assemble and complete but the result is something he is proud of.

"I hate to see people here not doing anything, if they don't keep their minds active they do strange things."

Ceremony facts

Who: Mel Dollar
What: Leisure Worlder of the Month for November
When: 10 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5
Where: Clubhouse 6
Sponsor: Leisure World Historical Society