



OMUG

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NEWS



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Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

February 2004

Time to start thinking about OMUG elections

By Dave Wilson
OMUG President

Amazing! Almost a year has gone by since our last election and the next election is just around the corner - in April to be exact.

There are a couple of ways you can participate in this electoral process. We need a nominating committee to help find candidates to fill all the positions. We also need you become a candidate.

I know there are some current officers who will not be running again, so we need your help in running the organization. Check the newsletter for all the positions there are in OMUG.

If nothing else, make sure that you attend our election meeting in a couple of months. We will keep you posted on all the details as the time nears.



For the new members, we also hold a raffle the same night... so come one come all!

As the majority of you know, another nasty virus has recently plagued the computer world again (MyDoom). I just want to give another reminder to keep your anti-virus software current. And NEVER open an attached file from someone you don't know!

I thought I would close with something I got off the "Langa List." It seems Big Bill doesn't have a sense of humor...

"A teenaged Canadian named Michael Rowe has a wry sense of humor, and also wanted to start a software site. His friends know him as Mike, so he named his site "Mike Rowe Soft."

Guess what? Microsoft's lawyers went after the www.mikerowesoft.com site, claiming copyright infringement.

They also went after www.mikerosoft.ca; a personal/hobby site run by another Canadian, Mike Morris."

A personal note - A relative of mine opened a small tanning salon in San Diego and called it "Tans R Us." Sure enough, the lawyers of "Toys R Us" got wind of it and sent a nastygram to him telling him to cease and desist. Yeesh! Happy Valentine's Day!

Archiving genealogy information

By Richard T. Robusto
Las Vegas PC Users' Group

Most of us in the genealogy field find ourselves with large amounts of information on our relatives. It challenges us to find a way to preserve it in a manner that in the future, near and distant, our descendents will be able to access this data in a timely and understandable manner.

When I first started my genealogy project, I had the mistaken idea that I could put away the program and all the data files so that it could be accessed years from now. Boy, was I naive. I was using Windows 98 at the time. Later I upgraded to Windows ME and then to Windows 2000. At this point the program would not work at all with the new system.

Of course, I got the updates and finally got it working, but

it really got me to thinking that there had to be a better way to preserve information so that it can be used in years to come without difficulties.

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is that you should have a printed copy of everything. This I did on good acidfree paper. There are different results that can be achieved. For instance, you can print out a fan type chart. I did that first. It took close to 65 pages of standard letterhead size paper. Then these had to be meticulously trimmed and taped together making a large five foot square.

Another method was to print out a horizontal "format" chart. This involved the same number of sheets and after assembling them together, made a chart that was three-feet

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Dave Wilson

Vice President: Dan Colard

Treasurer: Max Whipps,
treasurer@olymug.org

Librarian: Christie McCormick

Newsletter Editor: Sandy Pishner

Secretary: Vivian Forrester

Webmaster: Clint Steele

Director at Large: Shirley Bellinghausen

Director at Large: Bill Gortz

Past President: John Marshall,

KEY MEMBERS

APCUG Representative: Linda Mae

Budget Committee Chair: Bill Gortz

Database Mgr: Max Whipps

Elections Chair: David A.C. Shephard

Historian: David Belles

Membership Renewal Coordinator:
Max Whipps

Newsltr Distribution Coordinator:
Loren Freeman

Nominating Committee Chair:

Scholarship Committee Chair:

SIG Coordinator: Shirley Bellinghausen

Visitors Coordinator: Elizabeth Ross
SIG Leader names are listed with
their SIG descriptions

The Olympia Microcomputer Users Group is a not for profit organization dedicated to helping computer users improve their skills with computers.

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SE Ste. A6
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Here's your chance!

By Sandra Pishner
OMUG Newsletter Editor

Time flies when you're having fun and now is the time for other OMUG members to get in on the fun. Yep, it's time for elections.

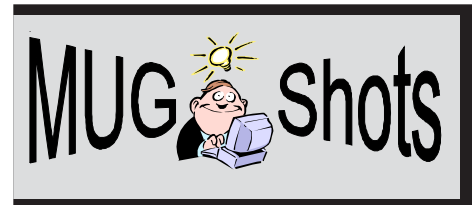
All positions are open for new blood. That's not to say the old blood won't be running again, but hey, that's what makes it an election.

You don't have to be Howard Dean, John Kerry, or George Bush to run for president. You just need to have the time, and desire to lead OMUG through the next 12 months (commencing after the April elections).

Of course, the really challenging position is that of vice president. Or at least that's what our current VP says.

Don't forget newsletter editor. I'd be happy to teach an aspiring journalist how to throw this little gem together at the last minute. Trust me, I'm an expert.

Nominations for board positions will



be solicited and accepted from the floor at the February General Membership meeting.

Thanks For Renewing

Joe Strain

Chuck Cole

Robert Hallgren

Peggy Kormondy

Larry Jensen

Kathleen Gray

Jim Bevan

Tony White

Bobbie Petraitis

Howard Glastetter

John Acocks

Russell Rose

Robert Euliss

Alfred Williams

Betty Barber

Modie Madison

Ray Jordan

**We have no new
members this
month and only
one last month.
Remember, you
get an 3 month
extension for
every new
member you've
referred.
GET BUSY!**

New SIG success, needs of Frankenstein project subjects of board meeting

By Vivian Forrester
OMUG Secretary

President Dave Wilson opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. in the lobby of the Senior Center in the Olympia Center.

Nine Board members, including the president, attended: Dave Colard, vice-president; Vivian Forrester, secretary; Max Whipps, treasurer; John Marshall, past-president; Sandra Pishner, newsletter editor; Bill Gortz, director at large; Christie McCormick, librarian; and Clint Steele, Webmaster. Associate member Diane Steele was also in attendance.

It was reported Don Hertzog has given all Scholarship Committee materials to the new Chairman, Bob Wing.

John Marshall reported the Frankenstein Project is completing a system for one recipient. There is a dire need for operating systems. It was suggested the need be featured in the February Newsletter to alert members who may have Windows 98 or better that they are no longer using in their computers.

The new Hardware SIG led by Brian Claeys was reported



to have been well organized and a great success with 15 in attendance.

Nominations for a new slate of officers will be accepted from the floor at the Feb. 12 meeting. Dave will appoint a nominating committee.

The treasurer reported income of \$1021.50, with expenses of \$318.98 for total net income of \$692.52. Bill distributed copies of the final yearly budget as passed at the Dec. 18, 2003 board meeting.

The following issues were discussed: Holding a Silent Auction at the picnic and ideas relating to OMUG publicity.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

OMUG Supporters

We are thankful for the many people, organizations, and businesses who support OMUG.

Below is a list of a few who have given back to the community by assisting OMUG in its mission to help computer users help computer users and their community.

Supporters provide services and discounts, give of their time, provide space for OMUG activities, introduce OMUG members to new products, share knowledge and expertise, provide OMUG with software and hardware, or provide educational opportunities. All of them are appreciated.

Senior Services for South Sound
Olympia Computer Central
IPMA
Thunderbird Computer Services
Adobe
Microsoft
PowerQuest
Jasc Software
Cartridge Care, Inc

OMUG Income & Expenses December 2003



Income: \$1021.50

[Mbr Dues-\$280.00, Auction-\$738.50, Snack Fund
Donations-\$3.00]

Expenses: \$328.98

[Newsletter Copying-\$147.97, TESC Scholarship
Luncheon-\$75.00, SSSS Donation-\$25.00, Membership
Committee Postage-\$74.00, Christmas Potluck Supplies-
\$7.01]

Net Income: \$692.52

Accounts Balance: \$4882.66

1/25/04

Donate your unused
operating system to a new life
with the Frankenstein project.
Contact John Marshall for
more information.

Technology

Wave of the future is not on single layer CDs, but double layer DVDs

By Linda Gonse
Orange County IBM PC Users' Group

DVD writers and recordable DVDs are a fairly new entry into Personal Computerland. Consequently, most of us still need to know what to look for in a DVD writer and how to record DVDs.

Almost everyone knows that a DVD is a type of optical disc that looks like a CD, but has a significantly larger storage capacity.

What you might not know is that the capacity of a DVD may vary depending on different physical formats technology, ranging from 4.7 GB to 17.1 GB. And, while CDs are recorded only on one side, some DVDs such as DVD-RAM, support two layers per side and are rewritable up to 100,000 times. (This type of DVD is enclosed in a plastic case similar to a floppy disk which protects its surfaces and provides a label area.)

Another reason DVD drives are growing in popularity is that they can read most CD media as well. With such impressive features, it isn't surprising that DVDs are expected to become the next CD-ROM. In many cases, manufacturers are even building new PCs with DVD drives instead of CD drives.

The DVD "started in 1994 as two competing formats, Super Disc (SD) and Multimedia CD (MMCD). DVD now is the result of an agreement by both camps on a single standard to meet the requirements of all the various industries involved," according to Deluxe Global Media Services (formerly Discronics). But, media formats still split into two groups: + (plus), or - (known commonly as minus; manufacturers may refer to it as dash). The quality comparison is close, and some DVD players will recognize both, while other models will only accept + or -.



Although there are many aspects of DVDs that we still need to learn, one of the basic questions people inevitably ask is, "What do the letters in DVD mean?"

The letters originally stood for Digital VideoDisc. As the technology gained in importance to the computer

world, the word "video" was dropped, and the media and the technology was simply D-V-D. Later, it was given the name Digital Versatile Disc by the DVD Forum, which sets DVD standards. Most people just say D-V-D.

In addition, "The Burning Question," by Don Labriola, a detailed, comprehensive look at DVD recording with reviews on 23 products, is in the October 28, 2003 issue of PC magazine; it's also online at <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1306042,00.asp>. For an excellent overview of DVD technology and disks, history, specifications, formats, DVD-5, -10, -9, -18, hybrid formats, file systems, copy protection, and DVD Forum, go to http://www.disctronics.co.uk/technology/dvdintro/dvd_intro.htm.

Note: This is the manufacturers' description of the Jackrabbit DVD writer/player.

The DVD writer is a Philips Jackrabbit JR32RWDVK — "Smart, Mobile, Multi Purpose, DVD Player, CD Rewriter / DVD Read Combo, Audio MP3 CD Player. The first 'All-in-One' device that converges your Home and PC environments."

Linda is the editor and webmaster for Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, in Southern California. You can contact her at editor@orcopug.org. Or, visit the user group's website at <http://www.orcopug.org>.

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

In many cases, manufacturers are even building new PCs with DVD drives instead of CD drives.

ARCHIVING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

wide by 12-feet long. This requires an empty wall in order to display it. As far as preserving them, it poses quite a problem. How long would something of this nature last rolled up and packaged? As we all realize, time is our enemy.

In 1999, my wife and I took a trip to Italy with my son and his wife. We went to the mountain top village that my parents came from in the early 1900s. We went into the commune (town hall) to get information about the family, birth and death dates, etc. It turned out to be quite interesting in the information that we were able to acquire.

When we went into the commune and asked, they took down a ledger about 10 by 18 inches with about 20 pages of paper inside. When they opened the book and turned the yellowed pages, you could hear the sheets crinkling, almost as if they were leaves from a tree. The thought that went through my mind is that we didn't get there any too soon. I am sure that in a few more years, those sheets will deteriorate and be unreadable.

On top of it all, I was not able to find any digital or photographic record of the information that was in that ledger. Coming away from this experience left me with the resolve that records need to be digitized and photographed as much as possible. I know that this is happening in some parts of Italy, but in this rural area, it is a long ways away.

So the problem of archiving has to be faced. Sure, we could leave all the information on an individual hard drive with the program itself. But the future holds many uncertainties. Will this drive be able to be accessed with Windows 4000 or Linux Extradense 4500?

Sure, everyone says that it can always be brought up to date with current technology. But what if this item were to be put in a safe place where no one

saw it for a long time. It would become a relic and probably unusable.

In trying to solve this dilemma, I have tried one or two things which I would like to discuss. The first is the FlipAlbum which can be used to produce what is called an "E" book. This can be any number of pages and can be put in the order desired.

To set this up, I captured the pages out of my genealogy database converting them into bitmaps. I also added all the necessary photos, being able to superimpose descriptions over any part of the photos. When they were finalized and put in the proper order, then the FlipAlbum can be shown on any computer.

The program puts a small file in the beginning of the book so that it can be shown on any computer without the necessity of having the program installed. The pages can be set and automatically timed to be seen as a slide show or can be turned manually as desired. The advantages are that it can be viewed on any computer and there is no limit to the number of pages that can be inserted.

There is also a provision to add MP3 music play list, plus it will accept most standard images and multimedia formats. The pages can be viewed in centerfold and double page mode to view photos better. Included also is the ability to print the entire album or individual pages or photos.

I have constructed a couple of FlipAlbums with the first and second generation of my genealogy. Next I intend to revisit the project and add every page from the genealogy that I have and make a complete FlipAlbum. When this is complete, then it is an easy matter to copy the discs so that the members of the family can have their own copy, assuring the permanence of availability of the information.

The second idea that I had was to take the same sheets that I had used in

the FlipAlbum and use them as individual files. Then, using a program such as Ulead DVD Picture Show, set them up as a slide show which can be shown on any TV using a DVD player.

The files are big enough to fill the TV screen and, that allows you to read the text on the data sheets. The photos come out well as they fill the screen also. The only drawback with this is that the timing of the files has to be set for approximately 15 seconds so as to have enough time to read the data.

Unlike the FlipAlbum, the timing cannot be changed once the disc is made. This program will also allow audio tracks to be added. I have an idea of narrating all the information as it is shown, but I haven't got that far yet. I found out that I do have to sleep somewhat at night.

For the first ones I made I added a music background. I also made a cover sheet that is shown first with the name of the families and the author's name. The only disadvantage to this is you are limited to the capacity of the disc which is 700 MB. But as soon as I acquire a DVD writer, then I will be able to incorporate the whole genealogy section into one disc.

I like the idea of making my own slide show with this DVD program. This can be shown a lot more universally without having the use of a computer. Plus the viewing is much more pleasant on a TV. And with the advent of HDTV, the views can only get better. And lets face it, the DVD image will be with us a lot longer than the current operating systems.

So hopefully, many years in the future, our descendents will be able to see all this information and will appreciate the efforts that went into making these things as permanent as we could in this day and age.

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