



OMUG

<http://www.oly mug.org>

NEWS



Vol. 12, No. 6

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

June 2004

Mark your calendars for OMUG events

By Bill Gortz
OMUG President

It seems that being retired, a person would have lots of free time on his hands to accomplish many thing - but it isn't always so.

If it wasn't for the calendar in Microsoft Outlook, I wouldn't know about half of the things I am supposed to do, and of course, as our Newsletter Editor is finding out, it helps if you look at the calendar once in awhile to make sure you don't miss any deadlines.

There are a few OMUG activities coming up this year that you may want to mark on your own calendar as a reminder. Reading the calendars, however, is up to you!

Super Saturday is June 12 at The Evergreen State College from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. OMUG will have a booth set up in the same location (hopefully) as the last few years. Just look for the OMUG banner to find us.

The booth will be manned by OMUG volunteers throughout the event and you



are all invited to stop by and say hello, and maybe give a little of your time if needed. The Evergreen State College states that this should be the best Super Saturday in years.

The OMUG picnic is Aug. 14 at Yauger Park in West Olympia from 10 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. More details will be provided as the time approaches, but OMUG will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, plates and plastic ware. Salads, deserts, etc. will be potluck.

We are planning to start eating lunch around noon. We would like to make this a family picnic and there is a children's play area on one side of the shelter we have reserved. There are also horse shoe courts on the other side. I believe there is also room for volleyball or badminton if someone has the equipment

and wants to bring it. All OMUG members and their families are invited and encouraged to attend.

A little further off in the future is the annual Potluck & Silent Auction. This event is held during our December General Meeting, which will be Dec. 9.

It is not too early to start thinking about, and setting aside, things you may want to bring to the silent auction. They do not have to be computer-related items! If you have questions about what may be appropriate, please contact our vice president, Shirley Bellinghausen.

Also, if you would like to volunteer to help I am sure Shirley would welcome the assistance.

For our June General Meeting we will have Bill Marin of Marin Computers in Tenino with us. Bill will present his program *Smaller is Sometimes Better* on the new "Small Form Factor" computers which are supposed to be smaller, faster, cooler and quieter. Who knows, one of these computers may be in your future and this is the time to find out about them.

Nik Sharpener Pro may become indispensable

By John Gerecht
OMUG member

This review is for a very interesting product which is a bit limited in interest to many people, but which might end up indispensable for many. It simply sharpens images before they are printed. Simple? Nope. Not even close.

Getting the right kind and amount of sharpening has been a real problem for digital imagers for a long time.

Most people who work digitally have found out that getting an image into a computer can, all by itself, cause that image to become a bit softer. For most people, this means putting a bit of sharpening back into the image. If you're familiar with the process, there are lots of methods of doing this, but all are compromises. Some are crude "devices" that do too much and leave the print looking "jittery" while others just don't

See REVIEW, Page 5



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Bill Gortz,
president@olymug.org

Vice President: Shirley Bellinghausen,
vicepresident@olymug.org

Secretary: Vivian Forrester,
secretary@olymug.org

Treasurer: Max Whipps,
treasurer@olymug.org

Newsletter Editor: Sandy Pishner, editor@olymug.org

Webmaster: Pat Sonnenstuhl,
webmaster@olymug.org

Librarian: Christie McCormick,
librarian@olymug.org

Director at Large: James Gunnells, director1@olymug.org

Director at Large: John Marshall,
director2@olymug.org

KEY MEMBERS

APCUG Representative: Linda Mae

Budget Committee Chair: Bill Gortz

Database Manager: Max Whipps

Elections Chair: David A.C. Shephard

Historian: David Belles

Membership Chair: James Gunnells

Membership Renewal Coordinator:

Max Whipps

Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:

Loren Freeman

Nominating Committee Chair: Vacant

Scholarship Committee Chair:

Bob Wing

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.

OMUG News
Vol. 12, No. 6
June 2004
Published
monthly

PMB 225
3430 Pacific Ave
SE Ste. A6
Olympia, WA
98501-2177

Many hands make light work

By Sandy Pishner
OMUG Newsletter

Two issues in a row, I must be dreaming! Two OMUG News issues in a row that are filled with locally produced articles, no fill ins!

I really didn't think a plea to the general membership and board members for contributions to the newsletter would be heard. Sure, everyone would nod their heads in agreement that we should produce our own articles and that software reviews and the like would be welcomed. But I didn't really expect results. Shows you how wrong I was.

A big thank you to those who have contributed articles and a warm welcome to anyone who would like to submit an article.

Prospective journalists can write about their computing experience, or give an opinion of some software used. There are just a few guidelines to follow when submitting for this newsletter.



The "rules" are simple. Keep your article to one and one-half pages or less, double spaced at about 11 point type. If you have art work to accompany your article, please make sure it is not copyrighted and send it in a jpeg format.

Keep in mind that space is limited and your article might cut to fit the space. Of course, cuts are done with care so as to not alter the meaning of your article. Pride in authorship should be put aside, as all good articles are made better with editing (yes, even mine!).

Of course, editing computer-related articles requires an understanding of the subject. So if I have any questions about something I'm editing, and I don't quite get it, I'll double check my edits through the writer.

In this month's issue we have not only the normal article submissions, such as the President's Post, but an article from James Gunnells on shortcut keys and a software review from John Gerecht.

Thanks for the inputs and keep them coming. I'm also hoping to add photos from time to time, so feel free to submit OMUG-related pictures anytime!

Thanks For Renewing

Rick & Kathy Stacy

Dena Mowell

Bob & Gwen Stimmel

Ivan Sinkler

Sydney Larison

Merlin Pinson

Jim & Kathleen Wiest

Stuart & Janice Ferester

Welcome to our New Member

JOHN GRAY

Future of OMUG library up for discussion

By Vivian Forrester
OMUG Secretary

President Bill Gortz opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. in the computer room of the Senior Center in the Olympia Center. Other board members present were Secretary Vivian Forrester, Treasurer Max Whipps; Librarian Christie McCormick; Directors at Large James Gunnells and John Marshall; Newsletter Editor Sandy Pishner, and Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl. Bob Wing, Scholarship Committee Chairman, was also present.

Minutes of the April 15 meeting were accepted as presented. Max reported a total income for the month of \$288, expenses of \$277.57, for a net income of \$10.43. The account balance of \$4,772.53 on May 20, plus \$181.20 to be deposited, brings the treasury total to \$4,953.73.

Max gave each board member a list of functions and related procedures in his duties as Treasurer, Database Manager, Member Renewal Coordinator and OMUG Permit Mail for reference. It was suggested each member prepare a similar synopsis of what they do. We discussed the importance of each officer having a backup person to fill in for them if needed.

Bill developed a list upcoming OMUG activities for 2004-2005. Pat will post it on OMUG web site.

Relevance of continuing the library was discussed. Much of the outdated materials have been removed and the rest are on shelves in the computer room, clearly marked as OMUG. This is temporary. It was decided to consider options and possibilities and bring our ideas to the June board meeting.

Super Saturday is June 12 at The Evergreen State College. Some people have signed up to serve in the OMUG booth, but more are needed. Shifts are for two hours each and a sign-up sheet will be posted on the web site.

A volunteer is needed to organize activities at the picnic Aug. 14 at Yauger Park.

Bill read offers through APCUG for OMUG to test computer programs and review them. We agreed to participate.

The board agreed to James' proposal on form preparation for the web site. He and Pat will work together on this. Pat reported the Reflector is working very well. The Board



reviewed the standing rules regarding the Reflector and decided to keep them as published.

Bob Wing reported the Scholarship Committee made its selection. It will be forwarded the selection to The Evergreen State College for their approval.

Sandy presented a new brochure idea she had prepared. Because of Shirley Bellinghausen's absence, the board made no decision and will reconsider it at the next meeting. James suggested having separate flyers for special programs.

Bill contacted the OMUG clothing vendor, Custom Shirt Factory, who had moved to a new site in Lakewood. Sweat shirts, golf shirts, T-shirts, and caps are available. A web page will give information. Members can order directly and pay postage or pick their order up at the general meeting and save mailing costs. The board agreed this would not be a fund-raiser. Christie made a motion that we order 10 caps to have available at our general meetings. The motion was seconded by John and passed unanimously.

John reported three computers assembled through the Frankenstein Project are ready to be picked up by recipients.

The board was reminded it is not too early to start collecting items for the December auction.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



OMUG Income & Expenses April 2004



Income: \$290.75

[Mbr Dues-\$280.00, Interest-\$2.75, Misc. Donation-8:00]

Expenses: \$277.57

[Newsletter Copying-147.97, SSSS Donation-\$50.00, Membership Committee Supplies-\$59.60, Park Site Reservation for Picnic-\$20.00]

Net Income: \$13.18

Account Balance: \$4772.53

5/25/04

To Be Deposited: \$181.20

Current Treasury: \$4953.73 (Incl. Scholarship Fund)

Shortcut keys are numerous, useful

By James Gunnels
OMUG Director at Large

There is a listing of several hundred (well, seems like) shortcut keys and such on the OMUG web site at http://www.oly mug.org/window_shortcuts.pdf. Do you know them all by heart? I certainly don't, but there are a few that have been a lot of use to me.

These shortcuts are standard in most Windows programs. Creating shortcuts is one of the things that Windows does or attempts to do is to make these things universal so everybody knows the same things. Your own particular shortcut favorites and mileage may vary.

Incidentally, when you click on this link from the OMUG home page, it actually opens the Adobe Acrobat PDF file in your browser.

This might be OK, but what if you'd like to have it handy when you're not on-line? Use your browser to go to the OMUG home page, and toward the bottom you'll see the link for "Shortcuts: Computer Tip of the Month." If you right-click on this link, you'll get a shortcut menu, and one of the options is "Save Target As...".



Choose this, tell your browser where you want to keep it, and then you'll initiate a download of the file that you'll have on your hard disk, and can open anytime. A legal word or two – make sure anything you "grab" off the internet is OK to grab!

Anyway, a few of my favorite shortcuts are:

<ctrl>-c (control-c) for Copy, <ctrl>-v for Paste, and <ctrl>-a for select all. Using these keyboard commands and judicious clicking of your mouse can move mountains if you're pushing files around in My Computer or Windows Explorer, and pretty much the same for word-processing.

First, let's take a look at some word-processing tricks. I'll assume you're using Microsoft Word or another word processor that uses the same shortcut keys. You know that in your word processor, one way to select a line or paragraph is to move the mouse to the left edge of the screen until the insertion point turns into an arrow, then click and drag down to select the whole line, lines,



or paragraph(s).

If you select text in this way, copy and then paste somewhere else, you'll get the whole amount of stuff you highlighted, and the insertion point will be on the next line, just like you had hit the enter key at the end of the last line you pasted.

Let's say that you have a line of text that you need to have three or four consecutive copies of, such as

#465a Item1a \$4.75

You might want to make several copies of this line and then change the parts that are different, say "#465b" or "466a", and "Item1b" or "Item2a", and the price stays the same for the sake of the example.

#465a Item1a \$4.75

#466a Item2a \$4.75

You could certainly type out these four lines of text with the correct numbers and prices, but you'd need to make sure you hit the proper number of tabs so that things would line up. Try this:

Highlight the line by using the method outlined above, then use the "Copy" shortcut, <ctrl>-c. Then, while the line is still highlighted, use the "Paste" shortcut, <ctrl>-v. That sounds and looks kind of dumb because if you're following me here, you are now at the same point you started from. You pasted the line to replace the same line. But, now do the "Paste" command three more times, <ctrl>-v, <ctrl>-v, <ctrl>-v. You should now have 4 identical lines which you can now modify to what you need.

To recap,

- (1) Highlight the line
- (2) Do the "Copy" command
- (3) Do the "Paste" command 4 times.

Of course you could have highlighted the line and copied, then clicked the mouse to get the insertion point to the next line and do only 3 pastes. But having to use the mouse for that in-between step is a little more tedious than an extra <ctrl>-v, when you're doing 3 of them anyway.

And now for <ctrl>-a. This is the "Select All" command. Let's say you have begun a new document and had typed 3 or 4 pages, and realized that you started off with the wrong font. You can simply hit <ctrl>-a (or choose "select all" from the Edit Menu) and the whole document is selected, then simply go to the Format menu or wherever and change the font.

As an aside, what would happen if you now accidentally hit the spacebar? You'd wipe out your whole document, because you're replacing what you

See SHORTCUTS, Page 5

REVIEW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seem to really do enough.

This “program” is actually a Plug-in, that is it works within another program. For many professionals that program is Photoshop, but there are many other programs that can use this plug-in standard (PaintShop Pro, Corel PhotoPaint, and ProCreate Painter are three that pop into my mind). Because of this requirement, I won’t waste your time giving details of the minimum requirements, but will say that the plug-in is perfectly happy with any computer that can easily run any program that is compatible with Sharpener Pro.

OK, that’s a lot of words to read and I haven’t really talked about the plug-in yet. OK, this is a really interesting package. Unlike many programs these days Nik provides a nice book in the box. Wow, this is great. It’s a very detailed treatise on the theory and practice of sharpening. If you read through this, you’ll get a real education.

However, if you’re primarily interested in getting into the mud and wrestling with the program you’ll find that it’s very user friendly with only a minimum of reading. After the easy installation routine, you’ll find a new filter in your program: Nik Sharpener Pro! and you’ve got several choices from that depending on your printer (laser, inkjet, internet, and offset; with some giving you an autoscan option as well). Frankly, being a control freak when it comes to printing photos, I’ve always chosen the more complicated “inkjet...” which brings up the actual plug-in. You get a window with a tiny, inadequate preview window (OK, it’s got the ability to zoom in and out as well) and 8 different scales to work with. From top to bottom:

- 1) Image width (already populated with your current settings, but you could certainly change this if you wanted).
- 2) Image height (see above).
- 3) Image Source is probably one of the most difficult to understand. You’ve got to be brutally honest with this one. If you’ve got what you think is a good scanner or camera, think again. If you get this one wrong, you’re completely wasting

SHORTCUTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

highlighted with what you’re typing. But not to worry, another handy shortcut to know is <ctrl>-z, which is the “Undo” command. Try it, I dare you!

Now let’s say that you want your document to have a new font, except for one paragraph which should stay the same. You could select the whole

document, change the font, and then change the one paragraph back to what it was, if you remember what it was...

There is a related shortcut in Windows Explorer that would also be nice in the word-processor. This command is “Invert Selection.”

To see how this works, open Windows Explorer and click on a file in your “My Documents” folder or any

your time and effort. Think about it carefully and experiment a bit. You might decide that the camera that you paid a lot of money for isn’t really as good as you thought it was.

4) Image Quality is another factor that requires serious honesty. Is this really a great image? Now remember, we’re not talking about art here, but the actual image quality. Is it really sharp? Have you played with it and made it a really nice, dreamy, soft image? Or is it a tack sharp photo?

5) Printer is easy, what is your output dpi?

6) Printer quality is pretty easy as well, though I finally decided that my old Epson 1270 was only above average, not a “good” printer as I really thought it was.

7) Eye Distance is very interesting. Not the typical ruler kind of thing, it is thought provoking: Book, Small Box, Large Box, Small Poster, and Large Poster. You might not know how many inches away you read a small box, but you can certainly know that’s what you’re interested in.

Finally, you can choose a personal profile. At the bottom of the box is a way to save your profile, load a profile, or get help. There’s also a little icon of what looks like a little speeding car. What the heck is that? Well, it’s got some higher math that will accelerate the process.

What do I think of this plug-in? I use it a lot (not all the time I’ve got to admit). It’s very easy and works well. In addition, if you’ve got a sophisticated editing program, you can additionally control the sharpening with the filter fade control (at least in Photoshop) and this gives some really outstanding control over the sharpening process.

There are also controls that allows you to protect areas of the image from being sharpened and has selective sharpening so you can choose with great care just what you’re doing.

This is an incredibly powerful program that is easy to use. While the complexity is available to those who can use it, without muss or fuss you can simply sharpen with precision.

For those who would like to see this in action, come to my Digital Imaging Workshop. It’s installed on my laptop and I’d love to show you just how easy it is to get really versatile, professional sharpening with this easy plug-in.

other folder you want. Then go to the Edit menu and choose “Invert Selection,” and you’ll see that every file except the one you highlighted is now selected. This is a handy feature when you want to do some serious and picky file-pushing.

Next, make sure you close Windows Explorer without doing anything or you might wind up with some missing stuff.