



Join OMUG annual picnic Aug. 14

By Bill Gortz
OMUG President

It seems like it was just a short time ago that I was stuck at my house because of the one and only snow storm last winter, and I missed the OMUG General Meeting. Wasn't it only a few days ago that we were going to graduation ceremonies? Now I see the back to school sales, some advertising for the Puyallup Fair, and the football training camps are in session, so it must mean that, despite the recent heat wave, summer is nearly over. How does time go by so fast?

Time hasn't gone by so fast that we've missed one last OMUG summer event – THE OMUG PICNIC. This year it will be on Aug. 14 at Yauger Park. OMUG will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, and eating utensils. Salads, desserts, and other hot dishes are pot luck, so bring your favorites.

Clint Steele will again donate his services as master chef at the barbeque. Just a reminder – alcohol is prohibited



at all city facilities and adjoining parking lots.

This is an opportunity to have a good family event as we have reserved Shelter #1, which has a children's play area on one side and horse shoe pits on the other. Also, there appears to be room to set up a badminton or volleyball net if someone would like to bring the equipment to set those up for the picnic.

Our Webmaster, Pat Sonnulstahl, has maps and information on the OMUG Website at <http://www.oly mug.org/picnic.htm>.

If you are like me, we talk to our computers a lot, usually when something isn't going as we expected or maybe it isn't doing anything at all. The computer just sits there doing whatever it was or

wasn't doing and does not respond to anything we have said, which is probably a good thing since some of the things I say might not be so nice.

Things may be changing a little in this regard as our speaker this month will be Keith Ennis who will be speaking on the Voice Factor PCS family of products, including the newest version of Dragon Naturally Speaking. If I understand right, while using these products we can talk to the computer and have it actually do something in response. It will be very interesting to see just how far the speech technology has come and what good things you might be able to accomplish just by speaking to your computer.

Now if your computer doesn't "talk" nice to you, it may be because it's sick or been assault. In that case, make an appointment on your calendars for the September general meeting, Sept. 9th. Max Whipps will be presenting a special program on computer security and how to keep your computer well and safe from attack.

Cheap software online deals or rip-offs?

By Linda Gonse
Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, California

Probably you, and millions of others, have received e-mail offers with subject lines similar to these:

Unbeatable software deals

Amazing prices on software

Take 95% discounts on Adobe, Microsoft, Corel products from Putnam's Stuff Store

Receive discount ticket on Corel, Adobe, Microsoft

software from Koenig's Stuff Store

Get software at rock bottom prices

What's more you may have seriously considered purchasing the programs described in the e-mails at prices you've only seen in your dreams. Here's an example in one message:

Looking for inexpensive high-quality software?

We might have just what you need.

See CHEAP, Page 5



EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**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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Members are heart of OMUG

By Sandy Pishner
OMUG Newsletter Editor

Summer may almost be over, but
things are just starting to heat up
for OMUG.

Shirley Bellinghausen, our vice presi-
dent, has lined up quite a few interesting
programs for the next couple of months.
Some presentations come from
organizaitions outside of OMUG and
some presentors are in our group.

While the programs cover a wide
range of topics, we hope you all will find
some kernal of useful information in each
and every one of them.

However, we also want to be sure
we are serving the needs of our mem-
bers. So, feel free to offer up sugges-
tions and, if you have it, a point of con-
tact on any topic you think would make
a good program for the general mem-
bership.

The heart of any successful organi-
zation is its membership. hTo ensure
OMUG retains value to its members, we
must all contribute what we can. Every
one is invited put their spoon in the pot
and stir. In this case, too many cooks do
not spoil the pot, it only makes it better.

E-mail your suggestions or ideas to
any board member or better yet, join us
at the monthly board meeting to offer
ideas and suggestions. Members are al-
ways welcome. The OMUG board
meets the third Thursday of each month.

Welcome to our New Members

JOHN WEBSTER
KATHRYN MADSON

Thanks For Renewing

JAMES & SHARON REDDICK

ROBERT MILLER

ANN ANTHONY

AUSTIN &

DORTHEA PAULSON

KERRY GORDER &

STACEY PECK

BOB STEINBERG

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FLOYD & MARY KLOEPFER

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WILLIAM RAYMOND

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JINNY HART

TED PLOCKI

LOREN FREEMAN

JAMES GUNNELLS

BILL & DORA MURRAY

WILLIAM PAYNTER

Software review program guidelines set

By Vivian Forrester
OMUG Secretary



President Bill Gortz opened the July 15th board meeting at 7:15 p.m. in the computer room of the Senior Center in the Olympia Center. Other board members present were Shirley Bellinghausen, vice-president; Vivian Forrester, Secretary; Max Whipps, Treasurer; Christie McCormick, Librarian; James Gunnells and John Marshall, Directors at Large; Sandy Pishner, Newsletter Editor; and Pat Sonnenstuhl, Webmaster.

James reported a form he prepared to facility communication among OMUG members is up and ready to be used. He asked each board member to fill it out and submit as a test. The form will have multiple uses for communication.

OMUG Picnic: Final organization for the Aug. 14th all membership family picnic was completed.

August Program: "Naturally Speaking" is in the process of being confirmed.

Reststop: Sandy secured July 1, 2, and 3, 2006 at Maytown Reststop. We are also on the books for August 2005 at the Scattercreek Reststop.

Library: One item has been checked out. Usefulness of the library will be evaluated again at the August board meeting.

A little writing + a short presentation = free stuff

By Bill Gortz
OMUG President

JASC Software has given OMUG two related digital imaging software programs for review: JASC Paint Shop Pro 8 and JASC Paint Shop Photo Album 5.

The reviews for these programs will be different from the normal review in that the person who reviews them will have to review both programs, do a written review for the newsletter and the website, and then give a presentation at an upcoming OMUG general meeting, possibly in November.

Each program must be reviewed on its own merits, followed by an evaluation on how well the programs work together. This can be done in one, two, or three written reviews depending on how the reviewer can put it all together.

JASC has given us some CD's for a presentation they recommend for use at the general meeting. In order to keep these CD's from influencing the written reviews, I will give

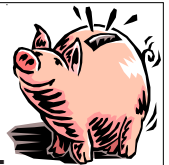
Frankenstein Project: John reported four refurbished computers have been given to qualified recipients in the past month. John is setting up a network at a rest home and another will be set up at the Senior Center in Lacey.

Software Review: The forms and guidelines presented by Bill for our software review program were accepted with a few changes. Paintshop Pro 8 and Photoshop Photo Album 5 are available for membership review. It will be announced in both Reflector and newsletter and the reviewer will be selected at the Aug. 12th general meeting from the members interested reviewing this software. Kerry Gorder will review spyware that was offered at the July general meeting and Gary Bigger is reviewing Backup My PC.

It was agreed to review the OMUG database and its uses at the August Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

OMUG Income & Expenses June 2004



Income: \$500
[Mbr Dues-\$500] **See REVIEWS, Page 5**

Expenses: \$1,013
[Newsletter Copying-\$159, SSSS Donation-\$25, Admin Supplies-\$81, Mailbox Rent-\$119, Membership Committee Supplies/Postage-\$116, PR Committee Supplies-\$13, Scholarship Award-\$500]

Net Deficit: (\$513)

Account Balance:	\$3998	7/25/04
To Be Deposited:	\$60	
Current Treasury:	\$4058 (Incl. Scholarship Fund)	

the CD's to the reviewer after the reviews have been written.

If you are interested in doing this review you must come to the August general meeting to pickup the software. If more than one person is interested in doing the review, we will have a drawing to pick the reviewer.

Computers expanding the use of robots

By Jim Hinwood

Columnist & Program Chair
Monterey Bay Users Group – PC, California

So many articles I've seen lately have been about robotics—it's the newest hot topic. Last month's Technology Review and this month's Wired magazine have articles on robotics.

When I see the Roomba vacuuming a house automatically on TV it reminds me of The Jetsons cartoon series where the home of the future is all automated and housework is a thing of the past.

Many of the cartoons I remember as a kid were about automated houses that went crazy and started to attack the cat or the dog. Robots would come out and start sweeping or vacuuming at the slightest indication of dirt.

As computers become more powerful, who knows what timesaving devices may be invented?

In the Technology Review article, the author makes a prediction that robotics will take off the way computers took off 10 years ago. The more powerful computers we have today will be the brains for this new class of servants.

These robots may not look like the anthropomorphic types we see in movies and TV. Many may just be simple-looking box-shaped machines (like the Roomba) with one specific job. But some will certainly be more complex with a multitude of functions and a human-like shape.

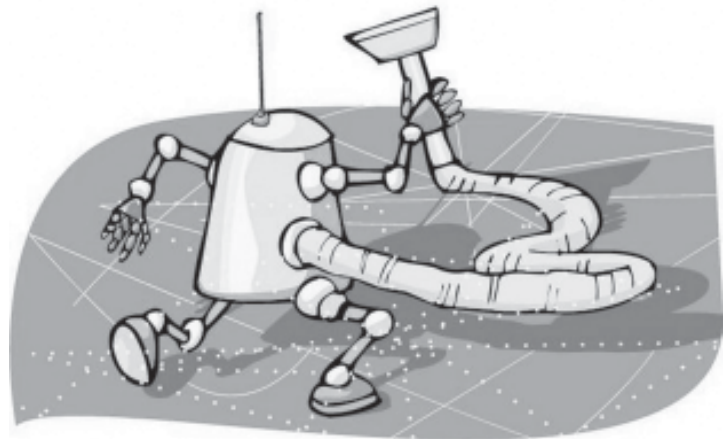
Honda has recently been advertising a robot that is complex and can do many things.

Robots have been used in manufacturing for quite a while now. One of the reasons we Americans fell behind the Japanese in the auto industry is because they had the largest number of automobile plant robots in the world.

Part of the future mechanization of our manufacturing plants will be heavily dependent on robots.

The computing power of the latest CPU chips is in the trillions of operations per second. In 10 years we will no doubt have plenty of chip-powered intelligence to drive robots to unprecedented capabilities.

Isaac Asimov wrote *I, Robot* in the 1950s and there is a current film with the same name starring Will Smith. With these stories always comes the fear of artificial intelligence



and whether it may someday have the ability to take control from humans.

This is a recurrent theme in everything from *2001: A Space Odyssey* with the computer Hal, to the current *I, Robot*. This fear of our inventions taking over may not be as important as how we feel about the egos of those who use the technology.


I recently read about some robotic legs which could give the wearer the ability to carry a much larger load in battle, similar to a pair of bionic legs from *The Six-Million Dollar Man* TV show. How long will it be before robots fight it out as seen in the movie *The Terminator*? There are probably many battlefield applications for robots and many are probably already in the making.

The real problem is not the artificial intelligence but the human intelligence behind it, directing robots to do good or evil. I hope that like the computer, robots will become powerful tools for the benefit of all mankind.

My first thought after reading many of these articles is that this would be a great time to invest in this fledgling science. In the movie *Frequency*, Dennis Quaid plays a character who goes back in time to change his past. While he is there he mentions one word to his friend. When he gets back to the present he runs into this friend who remembered the word and is now rich and has the word, Yahoo, on the license plate of his Mercedes. How many of us would like to know what the next big investment is going to be?

Maybe in the future, one of us will be driving that Mercedes around with "robots" written on our license plate!

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


As computers become more powerful, who knows what timesaving devices may be invented?

CHEAP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Windows XP Pro 2002- \$50

Adobe Photoshop 7.9-\$60

Microsoft Office XP Pro 2002-\$60

Corel Draw Graphics Suite 11-\$60

These amazing prices are not legitimate. They represent the work of software pirates who are trolling for customers, or illegal sales.

Do not take the offers at face value. Stop and ask yourself how it is possible for programs that sell for hundred of dollars to be discounted for a fraction of their usual retail cost.

Certainly, these products are not even selling at wholesale, much less for these unbelievable prices. And, if the companies did offer programs at these prices, you would be reading about it in your newspaper, or hearing about it on television or radio, or in your user group.

A Washington Post article said, "The U.S. software industry loses at least \$13 billion a year to piracy, according to the Business Software Alliance estimates. The group, which represents some of the world's largest software companies, including Microsoft, Adobe and Autodesk, does not know how much money the industry has lost to online piracy."

Still, user confusion about piracy prevails. Microsoft, attempting to educate software buyers, has posted a document that points out warning signs of counterfeit or illegal software. (Unfortunately, most of the warning signs apply to software already purchased.)

Microsoft's warning signs of counterfeit or illegal software:

Prices that are "too good to be true."

Products that are missing key elements such as user manuals, Certificates of Authenticity, or end-user license agreements. Pirates often sell only the CD-ROM and jewel case without retail packaging. Look for the Certificate of Authenticity on the retail box.

On all new machines, with the release of Windows 2000, the COA label is found on the tower of the computer. If you acquire a new computer and it doesn't have the COA label on the tower, you should question whether the software loaded on the machine is genuine.

Software or components that appear to be of poor quality including:

Back-up disks or CD-ROMs with handwritten labels.

Poor imitations of security features such as edge-to-edge hologram etched into Windows 2000 and Office 2000 (first service release) CDs, or poor imitations of the hologram found on the hub of the Windows 98 CD that shows the word "genuine" when tilted in the light

Low quality print, letters that aren't evenly spaced, etc.

Products marked with phrases that do not describe the transaction, including:

"For distribution with a new PC only"

"Special CD for licensed customers only"

"Not for retail or OEM distribution" or "Academic price – not for use in a commercial environment"

Note that counterfeiters often use these types of phrases to fool consumers into believing that they are getting genuine product that was over-stocked or otherwise deserves to be discounted.

Consumers dealing with software vendors over the Internet should also beware of:

**Companies or individuals unwilling to verify their identity or full business name or provide a physical street address and telephone number for follow-up after the transaction has occurred.

**Online distributors unwilling or unable to provide adequate or satisfactory descriptions of their return, service or warranty policies.

**Online distributors that offer unusual inventory explanations (e.g., special deals with the software publisher, liquidated inventories or acquisition through bankruptcy sales).

**Vendors offering software products at prices and in packaging inconsistent with offerings through legitimate retail channels.

**For Microsoft software, software components being sold solely as a CD housed in a jewel case or as a loose or individual end-user license agreement, because these items are not distributed in this form through legitimate channels.

Save your money and your time when you receive "rock bottom" software offers. There are no unbelievable "deals" out there on name-brand software.

Let this be your guiding mantra: If it sounds too good to be true—on this you can rely—just walk away and say no, you can't buy!

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



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Beginners

Leader: Bob Stimmel, stimmel@reachone.com

This Beginners SIG is the place to get answers. Experienced users are usually on hand to help answer questions or demonstrate solutions to problems. No question is too basic. We'll even take on the not so basic questions, although it's not a substitute for our specialized SIGs. We meet the fourth Monday of each month at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St., Olympia.

Linux

Leader: Chuck West, angelspc@comcast.net

This Linux SIG is dedicated to Linux operating system users. The monthly meeting is free-form based on members' needs and interests. Everyone can have fun and obtain helpful information regarding installation, networking, multimedia and games.

The group will convert almost any PC to Linux at no charge and include software. We meet on the third Monday of the month at the Olympia Senior Center from 7 to 9 p.m.

Digital Imaging

Leader: John Gerech, jgerech@olywa.net

Digital Imaging is the creation, manipulation, and output of any form of image using a computer. We don't care how it gets into the computer: digital camera, PhotoCD, Scanner, drawing, or any other form.

Our main focus has been Adobe PhotoShop, but we'll look at any other programs that interest you. We meet at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of the month in Capital High School's Graphic Computer Lab at 2707 Conger Ave. NW in Olympia.

MS Office

Leader: Shirley Stirling, stirlsa@comcast.net

This Office SIG provides you an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the special integrative features of Microsoft Office programs. These programs are intended to work together, so learning one feature on one program can carry over to features in other programs. See <http://home.comcast.net/~creationsunltd/office.htm> for information

We meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St., Olympia.

Hot Topics

Leader: John Marshall, omugmarshall@comcast.net

Beginning at the April meeting of the Hot Topics SIG, we discussed the use of the computer program *Cakewalk Express* to compose, perform, edit, and print musical compositions. This program can produce and edit files that can be played by any application, such as Windows Media Player, which can play MIDI files.

The discussion continues this month with some more background information, including hardware issues, and a brief introduction to the essentials of MIDI, and will then move on to an introduction to *Cakewalk Express*. It is anticipated that there will be three or four meetings on this subject.

This SIG meets the second Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St., Olympia.

OMUG Lunch Bunch

Facilitator: Loren Freeman, loren0060@comcast.net

This social interest group, formerly known as the Kingfishers, is a gathering of fellow OMUGers who just want to spend some quality time getting to know each other. They also enjoy the freedom to discuss the world of personal computing, OMUG, world politics and the current plight of the stock market. As Loren says, we're at the picket fence of OMUG.

The OMUG Lunch Bunch meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m., at El Sarape restaurant, 1200 Cooper Point Road in West Olympia. The El Sarape is located in the new section of the mall near the Gateway Computer Store and the new Post Office.

Internet

Facilitator: Bob Elves, bob_elves@yahoo.com

The purpose of the Internet SIG is to learn more about using your browser, e-mail, and surfing the Internet. We start the meeting with an informal question and answer session. If you have a question about where to find something or want to show us some new, wonderful site, bring it along. If we run out of things to share and talk about, I will bring up an Internet topic that may be of interest to the group.

Internet novices are most welcome. We meet the first Wednesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia.

Windows

Co-Leaders: Max Whipps, max.whipps@comcast.net & John T. Marshall, omugmarshall@comcast.net

Collective wisdom is the key. This SIG will discuss any aspect of the various Microsoft Windows operating systems. Share your Windows problems and solutions with the group and we all gain!

Normally meets on the month's fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. in the computer room (2nd floor) of The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St, Olympia.

Hardware

Leader: Vacant

The Hardware SIG is currently not meeting. If you are interested in leading this group, please contact Shirley Bellinghausen at vicepresident@olymug.org.



**OMUG
Annual
Picnic
Aug.
14.
Eat at
noon!**

Directions to Yauger Park:

Exit US Highway 101 at Black Lake Blvd.

Drive toward town on Black Lake Blvd (Northwest) and get into left lane.

Turn Left at Cooper Point road and stay in left lane.

Turn left at Capitol Mall Drive.

Watch for large sign on the right reading City of Olympia Yauger Park. Turn right onto Alta Ave and follow it into the parking lot. Look for people really enjoying themselves and the OMUG banner.

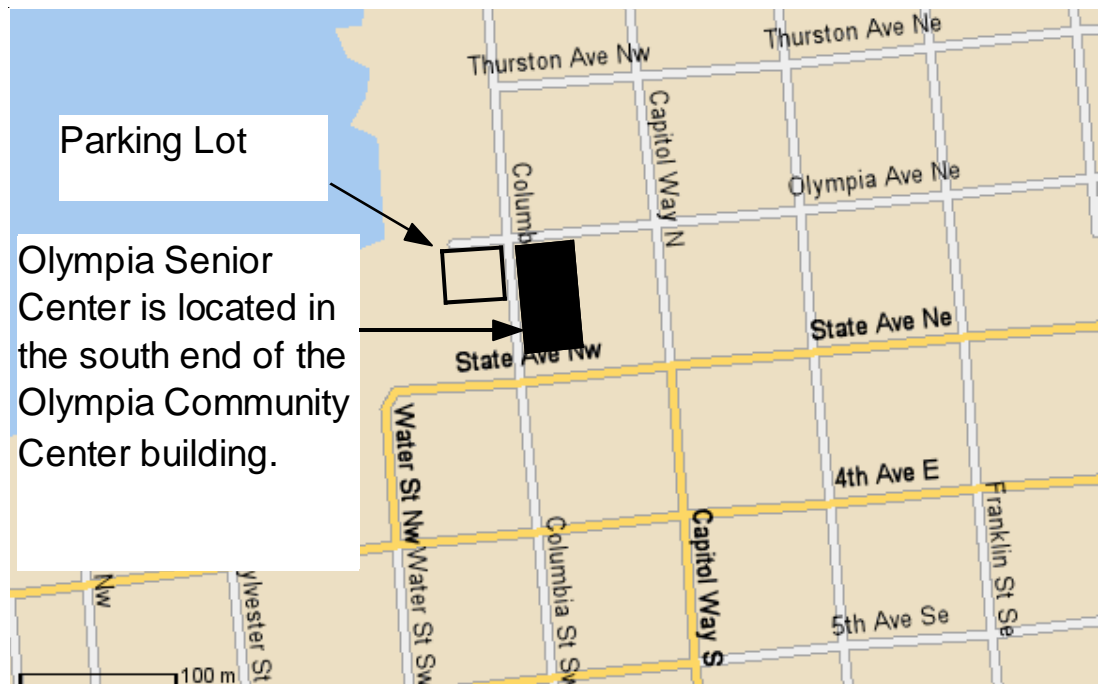
MEETING LOCATIONS

Capital High School:
2707 Conger Avenue NW
in Olympia. Follow the
signs to the computer lab
from the lower parking lot.

El Sarape Restaurant:
1200 Cooper Point Road in
West Olympia near the
Gateway Computer Store.

The Olympia Center:
222 Columbia Street NW in
Olympia.

The Lacey Senior Center:
1147 Willow Street SE in
Lacey.



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