



# OMUG

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

## NEWS



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Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

February 2005

# Come to next general meeting to learn more about our Internet SIG

By Bill Gortz  
OMUG President

I know that the general meetings can sometimes be routine and a little boring, as most of the big names in the computer world do not come around very often anymore and we have to keep finding ways to present an interesting program for our members. So far I think that our vice president and program chair, Shirley Bellinghausen, has done a very good job. Several of our recent programs have been excellent and much, much better than I had expected.

This month we are going to try something that, as far as I know, will be a first for OMUG. Most of you who have been OMUG members for awhile have been at meetings where we have the SIG Leaders get up and present information about their SIGs.

At the last executive board meeting, we were discussing doing a modified version of the SIG Leader presentations when someone suggested that instead of having the SIG Leaders talk about their SIG, why not have a SIG meeting as the general meeting program and let the members see what goes on at a SIG meeting. After a little more discussion, it was decided to give it a try.

Bob Elves, our Internet SIG Leader, was contacted and graciously agreed to move his Internet SIG meeting from its normally scheduled night and do it as the program for the general meeting on Feb. 10.



Bob has been the Internet SIG leader for a while and although you may not have been to one of his SIG meetings, if you are on the OMUG reflector or look at the OMUG web site you have seen evidence of some of his work. He regularly publishes lists of interesting Internet sites for members' information and has many times solved someone's problems or answered their questions with reference to an appropriate Internet site. Just talking to him about doing this presentation, I learned things I wasn't aware of and I am sure that anyone attending this Internet SIG / general meeting program will learn much.

If you are at all interested in learning more about the Internet, I encourage you to attend this program and see just what goes on at a SIG meeting and how Bob does what he does. Who knows, you may just end up being a regular at his normal SIG.

In case you have been reading this and are wondering "what the heck is a SIG," let me explain. SIG stands for Special Interest Group and is basically a sub-group within OMUG that mainly deals with one subject - such as the

**Internet, Beginners** for those just learning about computers, **Microsoft Windows, Digital Imaging**, and other subjects. A list of the SIGs within OMUG is on Pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter and a schedule of meetings, times, and locations is on the calendar of events.

The main thing about SIGS is that they are informal meetings, not classroom settings, and everyone attending is encouraged to participate, even if only to ask questions and learn how to do something. If you have any interest in, or have questions about any SIG, you are invited to attend the meetings and see what they are all about. Also, you do not have to be a member of OMUG to attend a SIG meeting.

By the way, in addition to the Internet SIG Program, we do have some regular OMUG business to take care of at the general meeting. One will be the first presentation of the candidates for OMUG offices for the upcoming elections in April. Again I ask all primary members of OMUG to consider becoming an elected officer and if you do decide you would want to run for an elected office, please let the nominating committee know.

The other item of business will be to vote on amendments to the OMUG Bylaws (for more on the bylaws, see Page 5).

I hope to see you at the next general meeting, if not before.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President:** Bill Gortz, 426-2310,  
president@olymug.org

**Vice President:** Shirley  
Bellinghausen, 426-7149,  
vicepresident@olymug.org

**Secretary:** Vivian Forrester, 357-  
5029, secretary@olymug.org

**Treasurer:** Max Whipps, 486-9959  
treasurer@olymug.org

**Newsletter Editor:** Sandy  
Pishner, 459-5726,  
editor@olymug.org

**Webmaster:** Pat Sonnenstuhl,  
webmaster@olymug.org

**Librarian:** Christie McCormick,  
426-9996, 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:** Vacant

**Historian:** David Belles

**Membership Chair:** James Gunnells

**Membership Renewal Coordinator:**  
Max Whipps

**Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:**  
Loren Freeman

**Nominating Committee Chair:**  
Wes Kirkpatrick

**Scholarship Committee Chair:**  
Bob Wing

**SIG Coordinator:** Shirley Bellinghausen

**Visitors Coordinator:** Elizabeth Ross

**Special Activities Committee Chair:**  
Gary Bigger

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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# Ever hear about Bluetooth and wonder what it is?

By Joe Schmitt  
Tampa Bay Computer Society

**W**hat is this "Bluetooth" I keep hearing about and do I need it?

Whenever something like a mouse or keyboard is connected to your computer, there are protocols and standards in place so the computer can talk to the keyboard and it operates properly. The same scenario also applies to anything that connects to a computer or other electronics around your home.

Your TV needs to know how the cable signal is formatted so that you get the sound and video. Bluetooth is a wireless protocol that allows electronics to communicate. Bluetooth goes beyond your computer to integrate electronics across a wide spectrum.

Bluetooth operates on two levels. The first is that all Bluetooth devices operate on the same radio frequency and speak the same language. Secondly they all share the same procedures in exchanging data and verifying the data is received. That is sort of like being able

to speak the language and know the customs so no one misunderstands.

Bluetooth a standard developed and employed by close to 1,000 different companies. This protocol would allow you to take a cell phone, get into a car with a Bluetooth radio and transfer the call to the stereo so your hands are left free. Later you could take that same phone and possibly transfer contact information from the phone to a computer. This is just one example. Bluetooth can be found in phones, keyboards, PDA's, and even stereo headphones. It could potentially show up anywhere you have a wire to connect two devices now.

Is this something you need? Just like anything else with computers, the answer depends on whether or not it meets your needs. Do you need a Bluetooth

See **BLUETOOTH**, Page 4

## Welcome to our New Members

Peter Hansen  
Douglass Henderson,  
Sharon Conboy, &  
Heather Henderson

## Thanks For Renewing

Conrad & Pat Pearson  
Carol Barker  
Bobbie Petraitis  
Karen Clemens  
Betty Barber  
Alfred Williams

# Membership drop threatens mail status

By Vivian Forrester  
OMUG Secretary

**P**resident 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 Gary Bigger substituting for Shirley Bellinghausen, vice president; Vivian Forrester, secretary; Max Whipps, treasurer; Christie McCormick, librarian; John Marshall and James Gunnells, Directors at Large; and Sandy Pishner, news letter editor. Also in attendance were new member Doug Henderson and nominating committee chairman Wes Kirkpatrick

Minutes of the Dec. 16 meeting were accepted as presented.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** In addition to the December 2004 report, Max Whipps presented the 2004 Financial Summary as required by the bylaws. The summary showed a net deficit of \$136.34. Max stated that considering we didn't have either a raffle or a coffee stop fund-raiser, it was a very good year.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Max reported a net loss of 40 primary members during the past 12 months, leaving us a total current membership of 184 primary members. He advised that we are getting close to losing our ability to mail the newsletter at Bulk Mail rates.

**SIGS:** An OMUG member suggested John Moody of JME Computers as a possible leader for the Hardware SIG. John Marshall contacted Mr. Moody, who agreed to lead this SIG for us. He would be available starting the third Tuesday in February beginning at 6:30 p.m. The board accepted the appointment. James Gunnells will continue the Access SIG for another couple months. John Marshall has been interviewing camera shop personnel looking for a leader for a Digital Camera SIG. One shop made a special offer to OMUG members to attend their classes. The board approved participating and details will be posted on the Reflector.

**ELECTION:** Wes reported he, Dave Hertzog and Tonney Yamane have met and will have a slate of officers ready. They expect to have at least two candidates for each position.

**PROGRAMS:** Several interesting possibilities were discussed for future programs. *Smart Computing* magazine has given OMUG some yearly subscriptions for our members. Christy McCormick moved we use them as door prizes throughout the year. The motion was seconded by Max Whipps and passed unanimously. *Smart Computing* also has



a contest for user groups. Bill read the requirements and the contest deadline is the end of March.

**BYLAWS:** The proposed amendments to the bylaws were presented to the board. James Gunnells moved we accept the proposal. The motion was seconded by Christie McCormick and passed unanimously. Max Whipps will make a PDF file for on-line viewing and Bill Gortz will write an article for the newsletter. The bylaws will be voted upon by the membership at the next general membership meeting.

**APCUG:** Linda Mae is no longer the OMUG representative to APCUG. Bill Gortz will assume the function.

**REST STOP:** We are scheduled to serve at the Scattercreek Rest Stop beginning 2 a. m. Aug., 6 to 2 p.m. Aug. 8. Anyone interested in helping organize this project is welcomed!

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

## OMUG Income & Expenses December 2004



**Income: \$963**

[Dues-\$340, Auction-\$612 Interest-\$3, Reimbursed-\$7]

**Expenses: \$429**

[SSSS Donation-\$25, Newsletter-\$192, Membership Committee-\$187, Special Activities Committee-\$25 ]

**Net Income: \$534**

**Account Balance: \$4660**

1/25/05

**To Be Deposited: \$80**

**Current Treasury: \$4740 (Incl. Scholarship Fund)**

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# Keep our group fresh with new blood

By James Gunnells  
OMUG Director At-Large

I belong to several types of “clubs” or groups, probably too many for a man who still works. But one common theme among all these organizations is that membership is down.

This is true both on a local and national level. And it is true of OMUG. I have been rather inactive as membership chair for OMUG, partly because I’m not really inventive enough to get things going. I do, however, work very well in a group and can then run with the best in terms of fostering and nurturing new ideas and plans of action.

Yes, OMUG membership is down, and that worries me.

Some of the things that happen to a group such as ours when the number of members gets too low, are that things generally go “stale” and the organization is perceived to be “cliquish.”

The monthly meetings get boring, the excitement level is almost nonexistent, and it becomes harder and harder

for the group as a whole to function due to a lack of willing members to hold elected offices and help out in things.

Don’t get me wrong – this has not been the case with OMUG in the three or four years I’ve been a member. But with our membership continuing to drop gradually, we’re naturally running out of fresh blood; the same people hold the elected offices (for the most part).

But I do worry that this might start happening. I really do not want this to happen to OMUG. It means a lot to me, I can show off my knowledge of whatever it is I know, and not feel like a fool when I have to admit “I didn’t know that”. I learn all kinds of little things that really make a difference in my level of enjoyment using my computer, and I get a good feeling when I can give someone else a tidbit of information that “makes their day”.

It only took two or three meetings to get over my shyness and feelings of alienation when I started in

OMUG, and I was able to be comfortable with everyone before I knew what was happening. I can’t think of a friendlier group of folks to be with, and the variety of people that make up OMUG is tremendous.

This is the top reason I continue to be in OMUG. I need a way to meet and be with a group of friends and acquaintances I can be comfortable with, and not be way above everyone’s head or too far out in left field. In short, it is a fun group of people and an important part of my life now.

OK, dry those tears out of your eyes, and ask “why are you saying all this?” I am saying this because we need to get back into the habit of bringing in new people and enlarging our membership base. I don’t want OMUG to lose that special something that we have now. I’m not real good at membership drives and that sort of thing, so I am asking for your help to come up with ideas and help.

One thing even I can think

of is that we need to put out flyers or brochures on all the bulletin boards you see in grocery stores, etc., make them available to all of the computer-related businesses and so on. You can help by:

(1) Giving me the information on places you know we could put brochures out. I want to make up a list of all the places we can find where we can put brochures.

(2) If you feel so inclined, “adopt” one or two of these places and pledge to keep a brochure on their bulletin board. Always carry one or two brochures with you and a push pin to hang it up.

Number 1 is more important than 2, but not by much.

Please feel free to write, e-mail or phone me concerning any of this. Max Whipps and I both have plenty of brochures and would be thrilled to give you some to use. It would be really great if we could totally run out! We could make more, but running out would be a good sign that we’re making ourselves known.

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## BLUETOOTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

keyboard or mouse? Not if the wires don’t bother you. Could you use it to link your PDA or Pocket PC to the computer? Yes and that might be the most likely scenario that Bluetooth would aid you in. If you are the type of

person that likes portable gadgets as much as your computer, Bluetooth may be something to take a serious look into. For more information on the standard itself and some of the products that use it, check out the following sites: [www.bluetooth.com](http://www.bluetooth.com) and

[www.bluetooth.org](http://www.bluetooth.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.*



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# Amendments to OMUG Bylaws proposed

**R**ecently a committee was formed to review the OMUG Bylaws and suggest possible amendments where appropriate. Primarily they were to look at the position of OMUG Librarian to determine if it was still a viable position and whether or not it should be eliminated or changed; also they were to look at the rest of the Bylaws to see if other changes should be made.

The question about the library was brought about by the fact that in the last several months there had been very little, or no activity with the OMUG Library.

The bylaws committee determined that as it stood, the librarian position was no longer viable and looked at the possibility of converting it to a digital library consisting of information entirely on CDs, or other digital media. At first this appeared to be a good idea, but after looking into it further and realizing that there was the possibility of digital media being contaminated with viruses, spyware and/or other unwanted material it was decided not to pursue this idea as

they did not want to put OMUG into the position of passing these infections on to our members.

Next was to decide what to do with the Librarian position, did we want to eliminate it and do nothing else, or did we want to convert it to some other position. After reviewing the structure of the Executive Board it was decided that it would be best to leave the total number of elected officers (nine) to remain as it was and convert the Librarian position to a third Director at Large.

As a result of the committees recommendations the following amendments to the Bylaws are proposed:

Article IV (Officers), Section 1. Delete the position of Librarian and change the number of Directors At Large from two to three.

Article VI (Duties of Officers) Section 6. Librarian: Delete this section.

Section 7. Webmaster: Renumber as Section 6.

Section 8. Director At Large (2): Renumber as Section 7 and change the number to (3).

Article VII (Key Members), Section 5. Committee Chairs. Reworded this section to clarify who appoints the committee chairs and gives the chairs responsibility to select the committee members.

Article XI (Amendments of Bylaws), subparagraph a. Changes to wording within the paragraph.

The complete text of the Bylaws with the Proposed Amendments can be found on the OMUG web site: <http://olymug.org> with links on the home page and at [http://www.olymug.org/Bylaws\\_Proposed\\_Amendments.pdf](http://www.olymug.org/Bylaws_Proposed_Amendments.pdf). Hard copies of the Proposed Amendments will be available at the General Meeting.

The Proposed Amendments will be voted on at the General Meeting on February 10, 2005. They must be approved by two thirds of the Primary Members present to be final. Ballots

## SIG resumes meeting

By John Marshall  
OMUG Director At Large

**I**t is a pleasure for me to announce that the Hardware SIG will resume on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m, starting in February.

It will be led by John Moody in the conference room of JME Computers, located at 4305 Lacey Blvd SE, Suite 8 (at the corner of Lacey Blvd. and Willow Street, just a couple of blocks east of the intersection of

Lacey Boulevard. and Slater Kinney Road).

This SIG deals with computer hardware issues, including questions and comments about new and upcoming computer devices, hardware reviews, techniques for building computers and installing components, etc.

Since John is a professional actively working in this area, he is especially well qualified to provide reliable knowledge and instruction.

## Free Geeks will take your old computers

By John Marshall  
OMUG Director At Large

**I**f you wish to donate computer hardware or software to be used to provide computers to low-income people or to non-profit organizations, contact the Free Geek project at 352-4165 or its director, Jacob Rosenblum, at 259-6549. This project is operating at the Free School building located at 808 Jefferson St. SE Olympia, where donations are accepted on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To use such donations as a federal income-tax deduction, you may request a 501-C3 receipt from Free Geek.