



OMUG

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NEWS



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Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

March 2005

Upcoming events need volunteers

By **Bill Gortz**
OMUG President

First off, I would like to thank Bob Elves for moving the February Internet SIG meeting to the general meeting date and having it as our presentation for the evening. I thought it was a very interesting meeting and I am sure that all who attended learned some things they didn't know about getting information from the internet.

The regular Internet SIG meeting is on the first Wednesday of each month from 7 to 9 p.m. in the computer room of the Senior Center, located just above where we hold the monthly general meeting. More information is contained in the Special Interest Groups section of this newsletter and anyone who has an interest is invited to attend.

As you know the general meetings



and SIG meetings are not the only things OMUG does. Throughout the year there are various activities OMUG participates in that help provide services to the community, help the User Group organizations as a whole, and/or benefits OMUG and OMUG members in some way. Many of these activities require volunteers to participate to make the activity successful. From my observations, most of our members who volunteer enjoy themselves while doing it.

Below is a list of the activities coming up this year that I know of at this time. If you are interested in volunteering, where appropriate, please mark your calendars and when it comes time let the chairperson for that event know.

April 14 – Election of Officers.

May 24-25 – Information Processing Management Association, at St. Martins College, Lacey (tentative) .

June 11 – Super Saturday at The Evergreen State College – a good event for more reasons than one.

Aug. 6-8 – Scattercreek Rest Stop, serving coffee and cookies to the traveling public. Meet many people and have a good time.

Aug. 20 – OMUG Picnic. This year at Priest Point Park. A chance to relax and enjoy the company of other OMUG members.

Oct. 7-9 – Raincoast. Representatives from many User Groups gather in Tacoma to help promote User Groups programs and activities.

Dec. 8 – General meeting will be a Potluck and Silent Auction.

More information for each activity will be given when available and as the time draws near to the event.

This month our general meeting presenter, Mike Michel, will talk about how the computer has revolutionized the hearing aid industry. I have recently, and reluctantly, had to admit I have a hearing problem and have gotten hearing instruments (they are now instruments, not aids). I found the whole process fascinating, especially when the company that made the hearing aids had come out with an update to their computer program and I was the person they used to demonstrate the new changes. Even if you do not have a hearing problem, this will be an interesting program to show just one aspect of how the computer is changing the way things are done.

It is really getting to the point you can no longer claim you are doing it “because this is the way its always been done”; the computer is constantly changing how things get done!



Bob Elves gives a tour of the Internet to OMUG members at the February general membership meeting.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Bill Gortz, 426-2310,
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Vice President: Shirley
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Secretary: Vivian Forrester, 357-
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Director at Large: James
Gunnells, director1@olymug.org

Director at Large: John Marshall,
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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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Consumer Electronics Show January 2005

By **Bonnie Home**
San Jose IBM Club PC Club

The Consumer Electronics Show
keynote speeches give industry
executives a chance to tell us
about their visions of the future.

The theme of this year's keynotes
was "Get Everything, Everywhere."
Wherever you are, get your phone calls,
e-mail, Internet access, music, photos,
television shows or radio programs on
whatever device you are using at that
moment.

Bill Gates of Microsoft spiced up his
presentation by turning it into a talk show
interview, with Conan O'Brien as the
host. Conan did his usual monologue,
making jokes at Bill's expense.

Bill demonstrated the I-River H10
MP3 player, using Microsoft's
"Windows PlaysForSure" which offers

an infinite library of music. He showed
us a Nikon D-12 camera that sends
pictures wirelessly to the computer.
Microsoft's Media Center Extender
allows a TV watcher to leave home in
the middle of a television program and
pick up the show on another device, right
where it left off. Samsung makes a
portable version of the Media Center.

An SBC representative was a guest
presenter, with programming for the

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Thanks For Renewing

Dixie Cattell
Shirley Stirling
Tony & Karen White
Robert Euliss
Dick Engh
Howard Glastetter
Robert & Sara Lyon
Vincent & Lenora
Hughes
Shirley &
Bob Bellinghausen
Hazel Wakefield
Mary Ellen
Trowbridge
Regenia Butler

Welcome New/Returning Members

Ginger Andersen
Roy & Louise Adams
Albert Beardsley
Gary Siefert
Dorothy Vonhof
John Moody,
Suzelle Morton,
& Michael Langbehn

President appoints new PR chair

By Vivian Forrester
OMUG Secretary



President Bill Gortz opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the computer room of the Senior Center in the Olympia Center. Other board members present were Vivian Forrester, secretary; Max Whipps, treasurer; Directors at Large Christie McCormick and John Marshall; Sandy Pishner, newsletter editor; and Pat Sonnenstuhl, webmaster. OMUG member Doug Henderson also attended.

A correction was made to the minutes of the Jan. 17 meeting changing “Dave” Hertzog to “Don” Hertzog. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

Max reported a total income for the month of \$280, expenses of \$169.63, for a net income of \$110.37. The account balance of \$4,517.55 on Feb. 17, plus \$140 to be deposited, brings the treasury total to \$4,657.55.

The secretary was instructed to give Sandy Pishner the nominee list submitted by the nominating committee for publication in the newsletter.

In accordance with the provision for a third director at large in the Amended By-laws, Max Whipps moved to appoint Christie McCormick to fill that position. Motion was seconded by Pat Sonnenstuhl and passed unanimously.

Shirley Bellingenhansen e-mailed us a list of ideas and

suggestions since she was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Her input was discussed, but it was decided not to take any action on them until she was present.

Vivian Forrester was appointed public relations chair. Much enthusiasm, ideas, and support were expressed in helping with the work.

John Marshall attended the new Hardware SIG and felt it went very well. It is helpful for SIG leaders to turn attendance sheets to the SIG coordinator.

Bill Gortz presented proposed changes for OMUG Standing Rules. It was agreed to make the following addition to Section V: b) after the words “Scholarship Account” “until a balance of \$1,000 is in the Scholarship account.” John Marshall moved we accept the proposed changes to the Standing Rules. Christie McCormick seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

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Media Center. She said her company has perfected an instant channel change for digital television, improving on the lag time between when the button is pushed and the channel actually changes. Shows available from SBC’s service include not only movies, but news programs and sitcoms as well. The screen can be cut into four parts to show four sporting events at once, with statistics at the bottom of each.

The Microsoft rep brought out the X-Box car racing simulation, and helped Bill and Conan customize “real” cars with parts that can actually be purchased in real life – a 1987 Buick Regal for Conan and a sports car for Bill. As they raced them on the X-Box, Conan ran his off the road.

Bill said, “I create these things because I want them for myself.” Conan replied, “If you only had the money . . .”

Dr. Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel, envisions a time when the digital lifestyle will be world-wide, with information passing seamlessly from country to country in our digital universe.

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OMUG Board Member Nominees

President: Bill Gortz	positions)
Vice-President: NONE	1. John Marshall
Secretary: Emily Brooks	2. Christie McCormick
Treasurer: Max Whipps	3. Tom Johnson
Editor: Sandy Pishner	4. L. D. McNall
Webmaster: Pat Sonnenstuhl	5. James Gunnells
Director at Large (Three	6. May Murrell

OMUG Income & Expenses January 2005



Income: \$284

[Dues-\$280, Interest-\$4]

Expenses: \$170

[SSSS Donation-\$25, Newsletter-\$125, Special Activities Committee-\$20]

Net Income: \$114

Account Balance: \$4508

1/25/05

To Be Deposited: \$200

Current Treasury: \$4708 (Incl. Scholarship Fund)

To introduce that theme, his presentation began with a gorgeous show, reminiscent of Cirque du Soleil, with drummers and dancers from all over the world.

An Intel employee demonstrated a “visible” software called “My Media Collection” that may be ready next year. He waved his hand in front of the TV screen, and a globe covered with a grid of little pictures appeared. By waving, he spun the globe to the left or right. When he pointed at the picture he wanted, it filled the screen. Craig threw the remote control across the stage, saying, “You’ll never have to use the remote again.”

My Media Collection will combine cable TV and satellite TV, along with amateur videos and purchased videos. The status of your eBay bid, or a picture from the camcorder by your front door, can be displayed in the corner of the screen.

Intel will employ “hyper threading” (using two processing cores at once) for more realistic facial expressions in video games. Multithreading will use multicore devices for fantastic realism.

A couple of young musicians helped Craig demonstrate the “UmixIt” software, using a specially recorded CD. Separate out the tracks, and play along with the band using your own instrument. Eliminate the vocals, and it’s a karaoke machine with printed lyrics so you can sing along. Sony recorded one of the special CD’s of Aerosmith’s new song, “You Gotta Move,” with this technology. Aerosmith’s lead singer Steve Tyler came onstage to sing “Walk This Way” with his arm around Craig, trying to get him to sing along.

China is the biggest market for cell phones now, and the department stores there have free cell phone chargers for their shoppers. India and Latin America

are also big markets. In Malaysia, the GPS global positioning devices point to Mecca. There is a device for people who do not own computers, prompting them to go to an Internet café to read their e-mail. These e-mailers have never turned on a PC, because the café PC’s are always turned on when they arrive.

An eight-year-old child demonstrated a program designed to teach her to write a Kanji character for her Chinese language class. As the girl traced it, it changed color, and then graded her on her skill.

Intel is interested in the “digital home,” and especially in ways to help the elderly continue to live in their own homes. RFID reminders prompt them to take their medication. A touch screen of faces of family and friends keeps track of who visited or phoned last, and what happened during those contacts. Sensors in the bed monitor the person’s heart rate. The newest Intel products use much less power, generating less heat and costing less to operate.

Intel’s guests included Meg Whitman of eBay, who told about eBay’s efforts to recycle old computer equipment, and Robert Redford who talked about digital movies made by independent film makers for his Sundance Festival.

Edward Whitacre of SBC told us that there are 5,000 SBC wireless hot spots in the U.S. at Avis offices, Barnes & Noble, and in the state parks. SBC is investigating WiMax, which has a longer range than WiFi does.

A new SBC service called U-verse will be available the end of this year, so that all of your digital information will be everywhere at once, simply and seamlessly. With a single address, you can access your PC, PDA, phone, and TV. You can route your personal calls from your wired phone to one of your other devices, and can change the settings on your VCR while you are away from home.

The talk by Michael Powell, Chair of

the Federal Communications Commission and son of Colin Powell, could not begin until the Secret Service had swept the auditorium. Then audience members had their badges put through the reader so that there would be a record of who was in the room. Two bomb-sniffing dogs gave us the once-over, and our bags were searched.

The challenge for the FCC is to figure out what is in the public’s best interest. President Hoover was the first to seize the air waves, and wanted to protect consumers against harm. Businesses hope that the FCC will save and protect them, and hobble their competitors. But Michael warns that they should be careful, as the government’s help and protection always come with strings attached.

These days it’s hard to categorize a business. The FCC rules are very specific by category. But now the cable company Comcast looks much like the telephone company SBC. Michael thinks that the FCC should guard against the worst offenses, such as ad ware, viruses, and spam – anything that will damage the Internet experience – but otherwise not over-regulate.

Michael says that the current hard cutoff date for analog TV is 2006, but only if 85% of the people have HDTV-ready sets. But the question is whether this should be 85% of the homes of TV watchers, or 85% of all of the TV’s in operation. Some homes have several television sets. When people buy brand new television sets that are cheaper because they are not HDTV-ready, they postpone the changeover to HDTV.

President Bush wants broadband in every home by 2007. Michael would aim for 2010. In Japan, for example, most people live in the two largest cities in multifamily dwellings which are easily outfitted with broadband, and the government subsidizes it. Here, that is not the case. Some foreign countries have adopted only one form of

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broadband. Michael is in favor of using every form of broadband available. He says there are miles and miles of unused, idle fiber optic lines in our country that were laid but never made operational. They should be put to use.

Motorola Vice President Ron Garriques touted Motorola's very thin Razr cell phone as simple to use, beautiful to look at, and convenient because it fits in the top shirt pocket. (Colin Powell's wife gave him one for Christmas.)

The snowboarder came in from his snow-covered ski jump in the convention center parking lot to show us his wired jacket that had a remote for his telephone built into his jacket sleeve, and a stereo helmet.

Motorola's iTunes-enabled cell phone works just like the iPod and uses the same menus, so there is nothing new for an iPod user to learn. Another Motorola iTune product with speakers, rather than ear phones, is coming out soon, but Ron won't show it until it's ready to be sold to avoid instant copying by competitors.

Carly Fiorina represented Hewlett Packard. She said we used to be entertained by what other people made. Now we create our own entertainment such as our own music play lists, the photos we enhance for our collections, and home videos we make for anniversary or farewell parties.

Jeff Katzenberg of Dreamworks received a surprise invitation to show the animated movie, "Shark Tale," at the Venice Film Festival. To finish the movie in time for the festival, Hewlett Packard put 250 more servers onto 27 trucks and two jets within three days of his emergency request. The movie was shown with a Texas Instruments Digital Light Projector on a huge inflatable screen in the Piazza San Marco in Venice to an audience of 6,000. He showed us a preview of Dreamworks' newest animated movie, "Madagascar," which

comes out in May. It is full of humor!

HP's Digital Entertainment Center has an HDTV media hub. The device will find your recorded movies, TV shows, and amateur videos by date, by event, by person, or by recording device. It has a removable hard drive, and will label your CD's and DVD's with "light scribe" labeling.

HP is working on ideas for the future, such as a table for the family room with a surface that is a touch screen map . . . or touch screen jig saw puzzle . . . or a touch screen Chinese checker game.

Mike Ramsay, co-founder of TiVo, said that the newest TiVo incarnation is currently code named "Tahiti." It will increase the TiVo storage to 275 hours. Not everything will be recorded, but will be ordered and downloaded from the Internet – a combination of broadcast and broadband. Mike thinks Internet TV will replace broadcast TV anyway. People don't want a lot of channels to choose from. They just want a lot of programs to choose from.

You'll be able to find every movie ever made. If the movie is still in the theaters and not yet available for download, TiVo will show a preview of it, and tell you in which theater it is playing.

You'll be able to share your photos and videos through TiVo. "TiVo to Go" will transfer your TiVo to your PC, so you can watch it there.

Rich Templeton of Texas Instruments had as his guest Howie Long, who played for 13 seasons with the Oakland Raiders. He is now an announcer for Fox Sports, and he talked about the broadcast trailers for this year's Super Bowl being outfitted for both High Definition and regular transmission.

Rich told us about the Digital Light Processing front and rear projection television sets that use tiny mirrors to project the colors. The TV sets are thin – not the profile you would expect from a projection set. RCA and Thomson

make 61" screens. The 35 trillion colors are as good in bright daylight as they are at night.

Jeffrey Katzenberg of Dreamworks spoke at both the Hewlett Packard talk and the Texas Instruments talk, and told about the advantages of making digital movies. Digital movie cameras are much lighter in weight and, with no film to change, they can record long scenes all in one take. The depth of field for shooting inside automobiles or at night is better. The next Star Wars movie, "Revenge of the Sith," premieres on May 19th and was recorded with digital cameras. For animated movies, the number of colors is unlimited.

With the Slingbox Personal Broadcaster any TV signal in (such as satellite, cable, or TiVo) can be played on other devices. It can connect from your house, let's say, to a hotel room in Singapore. It turns your laptop or other Internet-connected device into a personal T.V. The Motorola future phone will show your program from one of your devices at home. Pay \$249 for the box, and there is no additional service fee – but you do continue to pay for your cable or satellite or TiVo service, if that is what you have.

Texas Instruments research hopes to produce a portable MRI machine, a driverless vehicle for the military, and neural implants to help the blind see.

Final note: Of the keynote speakers who spoke the first week of January, 2005, four are leaving their posts. Carly Fiorina is gone from Hewlett Packard. TiVo's Mike Ramsay has resigned as CEO, but will continue as board chair. Michael Powell is resigning as head of the FCC. Craig Barrett is 65 years old, and will retire from Intel.

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.