



OMUG

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

NEWS



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Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

November 2005

Magazine makes offer to OMUGers

By Bill Gortz
OMUG President

While trying to figure what to write about this month, I decided to do something different and let you know about a special promotion from *Smart Computing* magazine and provide a brief report on the Raincoast conference I recently attended.

Smart Computing magazine is having a promotion in which user group members who do not have a subscription can get a free three month trial subscription and any member who already has a subscription can get one of *Smart Computing* magazine's Reference Series books, a \$9.95 value.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, contact our Director at Large, James Gunnells, by e-mail at director1@oly mug.org or by phone at 438-7105. He will need your name, mailing address, e-mail address and whether or not you currently have a *Smart Computing* subscription.

We can only send one list to *Smart Computing*, so please send your information to James as soon as possible. Once they receive this list, *Smart Computing* will check its subscriber base and send the magazine subscription or reference book as appropriate.

If you're not familiar with the magazine, check it out at www.smartcomputing.com and decide if you want to take advantage of this offer.



On the 8th and 9th of October I, and other members of OMUG, attended the Raincoast Conference in Tacoma. This is an organization of user groups in the Northwest that is formed to promote user groups and to show some of the newest technologies and programs being offered by computer vendors. There were presentations from Corel, Intel, Microsoft, *Smart Computing*, Comp USA, and others.

This was the first Raincoast Conference I have attended and I found it very interesting and I learned some new things. We also met people from various user groups from Vancouver B.C. to Portland, Ore., and over to Idaho, plus some of the vendor reps who I have talked to on the phone or corresponded with by e-mail. I am hoping that in the future some of these contacts can be beneficial to OMUG.

Several things caught my attention during this conference, the first being that most of the vendor reps I have had contact with are much younger than I thought they were (or is it that I am getting a little older than I think I am – naw, that can't be).

The next was the vendor presentations and how easy they made their product look even though they

seemed fairly complicated to use. I even won one of the products in a drawing, and I sure can't make it work as easy.

The last thing that caught my attention was CompUSA brought in the various components and built a computer, to close the conference.

Except for adding or replacing a component now and then, I have not tried to build a computer for several years. There are more choices for components than I remember and they have made them a lot easier to install. But, you also have to be more careful and ensure that the various components will work together. After the computer was built they had a drawing and gave it away, a \$1,700 value to the lucky winner.

This month we will have two presentations at the general meeting on Nov. 10. There has been quite a debate recently on whether or not you should use refilled cartridges in your printers. The first presentation will be by Jack Baur from Rapid Refill Ink in Lacey. Hopefully he will clear up any confusion about using refilled cartridges and recycling cartridges. If you do much printing, this will be the meeting to attend and find out about the inks to use.

The next presentation will be by OMUG member Sydney Larison who will demonstrate the Microsoft Digital Image Suite; see her review on Page 4 this newsletter.

Don't forget the "Meet and Mix" from 6-7 p.m., before the meeting. Get acquainted and enjoy coffee and cookies before the meeting starts.



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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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Hot Topics has new subject

By John Marshall
OMUG Past President

At the November meeting of the Hot Topics SIG we shall begin a new subject titled "Introduction To Personal Finance Management."

Wim Verhoef will be the leader for this subject.

The first meeting will consist mainly of an organizational discussion in which Wim will give an overview of possible aspects of the subject that might be treated and will try to learn something about the participants' backgrounds and their wishes with regard to subsequent meetings.

This subject holds promise for learning how one can make use of



appropriate software (such as Quicken, Microsoft Money, or others) to facilitate

management of one's personal finance.

Even if you don't anticipate such use of your computer, you might wish to find out what the possibilities are and, if you like, to give input about areas you might wish to pursue.

Day parking passes available

OMUG members attending any OMUG activities during the day at the Olympia Center must now obtain a parking pass. for the Olympia Center parking lot.

The pass is free and you can get them at the parks department front desk for functions at the center. There is one day pass, quarter pass for those who are taking a class. The Internet SIG is listed as a class. Additionally, for people over 70 there is yearly pass.

Thanks For Renewing

Kath Lee

John Lafler

Bob Wing

Wolfgang & Gerda Priebe

William Paynter

Mike Cleland

Luci Phillips

Phyllis Nation

John Tissell

Robert & Lois Powell

Mickey & Wilma Riley

Michael Cobb

Welcome New Members

Paul McNall

Curt & Myrna Rosler

Joyce & Gregg Reynolds

John & Donna Cruse

Jennings Felix

Board asks members to do presentations

By Larry Jensen
OMUG Secretary

The meeting was called to order by president Bill Gortz at 7 p.m. Also in attendance were Shirley Bellinghausen, vice president; Larry Jensen, secretary; Max Whipps, treasurer; Pat Sonnenstuhl, webmaster; Chris McCormick, L. D. McNall and James Gunnels, directors at large; and John Marshall, past president.

Max submitted the treasurer's report, We have \$2,950.63 in the savings account, \$1841.72 in the scholarship account, and \$673.97 in the checking account, for a total of \$5,466.32.

Our membership has decreased by 16 primary members in the last year. Total membership is now 177.

Shirley reported that the next program at the general meeting will be in two parts. The first, a presentation by a representative of Rapid Refill Ink who will discuss its services. Following that will be a review of Microsoft's Digital Imaging program by Sydney Larison.

Max reported that the November Windows SIG is canceled because of Thanksgiving.

There was some discussion of the suggestion that we should charge for SIGs. The general consensus was that this wasn't a good idea.

The problem of heating control during the general meetings was brought up, particularly drafts causing discomfort for some people. It will be looked into. Also discussed were ways to rearrange the room to promote community. It was stated that community with others was a big piece of what OMUG is all about, so we need to enhance that.

There was a lengthy discussion concerning presenters; the difficulty of getting them and the need for them. Since companies that provide presenters are doing it to increase their sales, (essentially advertising), we should not consider paying any of the presenters' expenses. However, when a private individual makes a presentation at a general meeting, we should consider paying expenses. Pay expenses should be pre-approved by the executive board.

Shirley suggested we look to our own members as presenters at general meetings. In particular, SIG leaders should be looked to. Also, companies such as Microsoft often



have prepackaged programs we could obtain and could be presented by members.

As a result of this discussion, it was decided that:

◆ Pat will lead a three part introduction to the use of Power Point on the evenings of Jan. 25, Feb. 15 and 22. "You Too can learn Power Point!"

◆ James Gunnells volunteered to give one of the "out of the box" presentations at a future general meeting.

OMUG members can get a free three month subscription to *Smart Computing* magazine. *Smart Computing* would like to have a list of members and addresses. However, because of privacy concerns, it is necessary that this information be passed on only for those members who give permission for its use. Therefore, it is necessary to have a method for people to "opt in." This will be done through the newsletter. James Gunnells will gather the information.

Shirley made a motion, seconded by Max, that OMUG reimburse the three Scholarship Committee members who plan to attend The Evergreen State College awards recognition dinner \$25 each.

The meeting was adjourned.

OMUG Income & Expenses September 2005



Income: \$304

[Dues-\$300, Interest-\$4]

Expenses: \$156

[SSSS Donation-\$25, Newsletter Copying & Supplies-\$103, Treasurer Supplies-\$4, Membership Committee Supplies-\$24]

Net Income: \$148

Savings Account Balance:	\$2951	10/25/05
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$1842	
Checking Account Balance:	\$674	
Bank Accounts Total:	\$5467	
To Be Deposited:	\$80	
Current Treasury:	\$5547	



Happy Thanksgiving

Auction, potluck just a month away

By Gary Bigger
Special Activities Chairman

The annual auction and Christmas potluck meeting is just over a month away (Dec. 8. to be specific).

It will be held at the Olympia Senior Center. This event gives everyone the opportunity to clean out all the “good stuff” that they no longer use or want. Any good

modems, video cards, cables, computers, monitors, printers, etc., are more than welcome.

As in the past, items donated to the auction do not have to be computer related. The only criteria is the items be in good shape (work and/or not broken) and still have a useful life in a better home.

The proceeds from this event helps to defray some of OMUG’s ongoing expenses.

So, start going through

your drawers and cupboards to see how many items you can set aside for this fun and profitable event.

We will be sending out an Auction Description form via the Reflector, that you can download to bring with each item. You will also find it printed on Page 5 of this issue of OMUG News.

We will also try to get the form posted on the OMUG Website (olymug.org).

We also will have our potluck dinner on the same evening. This is a time to eat, add to all your good stuff and rekindle old acquaintances. All this should make for an outstanding evening.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 426-7055 or Shirley Bellinghausen at 426-1749.

See you Dec. 8. Meet and greet is at 6 p.m.

Internet SIG now meets on Tuesdays

Same SIG, but on a different day. The Internet SIG has changed and now meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

The meeting is held in the Senior Center’s computer room, upstairs at the Olympia Center. The meeting starts at 1 p.m., and is over at 3 p.m. We cover the

Internet, Internet browser, e-mail, and answer what ever questions you have.

I will also handout CD’s that have on them Internet addresses and tips from the Web I think may be of interest.

You must have a pass to park in Olympia Center parking lot in the day time.

Review of Digital Imaging Suite 10

By Sidney Larson
OMUG member

This is an overview of Micorsoft’s Digital Imaging Suite 10. I spent quite a bit of time going through the program. Its strengths are in the “quick-fix” department.

It has the best “red-eye” fix I have seen. It allows you to circle the eye you don’t need to be precise—and the program picks out only the iris area and darkens it.

Even for blue eyes, the dark correction is better than the gray eye correction that I’ve worked with before.

The second feature that sets this program apart is the “Smart Erase” tool.

If you’ve got something you don’t want in the photo, just circle that object

with your mouse and the program intelligently analyzes the surrounding area and fills the “erase” area with what logically would have shown if that object weren’t there in the first place.

The more homogeneous the surrounding area, the better, but even with a mixed background, the result is still acceptable. You could do better with an hour of cloning, but for a two-minute fix, this is remarkable.

It has a pretty good “edge finder” tool for ease in marking the edge of an object that you want to edit.

There’s also a “panoramic stitching” feature I haven’t tried out yet, but will to let you know how well it works. It is supposed to allow you to create wide panoramic prints from several photos taken of the same scene, at a variety of

different angles.

There are a lot of exposure correction tools, color, saturation and color cast tools available.

The program’s weakness is a lot of little things. Like changing the zoom level of the photo you are working on back to Microsoft’s default setting each time you make a correction. It won’t let you open into your working screen more than one picture at a time for comparison.

The program also puts all additional images to the side, postage stamp size. And I can’t compare a postage stamp size image to a 6-inch image on the screen, no matter how recently I’ve gotten new bifocals.

Come to the Nov. 10 OMUG general membership meeting to hear more about what I think of this program.



Silent Auction Bidding Form

Description of item: _____

Estimated Fair Market Value: \$ _____ Minimum Bid: \$ _____

System Requirements for software:

All PROCEEDS BENEFIT OMUG. Thank you very much!!

Bidders - Please PRINT IN BLOCK LETTERS your name, and Bid amount:

	NAME OF BIDDER	AMOUNT BID
1		\$
2		\$
3		\$
4		\$
5		\$
6		\$
7		\$
8		\$
9		\$
10		\$
11		\$
12		\$
13		\$
14		\$
15		\$
16		\$