



# OMUG

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

## NEWS



Vol. 14, No. 1

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

January 2006

## End of 2005 great, plans for 2006 set

By Bill Gortz  
OMUG President

To start with I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped make the December Potluck and Silent Auction a big success. Of course the biggest thank you goes to Shirley Bellinghausen, OMUG vice president and program chair, and Gary Bigger, OMUG special activities chair, for organizing this event, setting up the auction tables, acting as masters of ceremony, and generally keeping things working.

Thank you's also go to the many other members who helped by doing the various things required to make this a successful event. I am not sure of what all they did or who did them.

### Bottom Line

Thank you  
OMUG mem-  
bers for a  
great 2005.

However, some who come to mind are Vivian Forrester and Mary Helen Gortz who set up the food tables, John Marshall who got the sound system working, Max Whipps who collected the record donations during the auction, the many people who donated the items for the auction and/or brought food and beverages for the potluck, and of course everyone who helped set up the room for this event and who helped restore the room afterwards. Thank



you!

Of course this event, and many other OMUG events are made possible by the help and support we receive from the Senior Services for South Sound and others in the Olympia Center. To all of these people I also extend a special thank you!

The potluck and silent auction pretty well wrapped things up for OMUG in 2005 and we are just starting for 2006 and can look forward to many events such as (in no special order) the Super Saturday, IPMA, Rest Stop Coffee and Cookies, Picnic, SIG's, general meeting presentations and other activities and functions.

Of course the glue that keeps these things working is the OMUG Executive Board and how well it works for and with the members of the Olympia Microcomputer Users Group to make these things happen.

In April, OMUG has its election for officers to the executive board and this will be the main event to determine the course that OMUG will take for the following year. I encourage everyone to consider being running for a board position this election.

The positions are: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer,

newsletter editor, webmaster and three directors at large.

The duties of the positions are set forth in the OMUG Bylaws and Standing Rules which can be viewed on the OMUG Website, <http://www.oly mug.org>.

The nominating committee has met and will be contacting each primary member of OMUG in the next few days or weeks to seek nominations for the various positions on the executive board. I again encourage everyone to look at the duties involved and to accept a nomination for any position for which you may be interested.

The nomination committee members are: Arlene Kapner, chairperson; Tonney Yamane, and myself. If you are interested in any position you can contact one of us to volunteer for nomination to that position.

The general meeting this month on Jan. 12 will feature a presentation from a Comcast representative who will talk about using the Internet to make your phone calls, and how this works.

Our program chair has been assured that they will not be actively trying to sign people up at the meeting and the presentation will be to give information to our members concerning this important subject.

Don't forget the general meeting Jan. 12 begins with a Meet & Mix at 6 p.m., with coffee, cookies and hopefully good fellowship. The general meeting starts at 7 p.m. I hope to see you there.



## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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

**Secretary:** Larry Jensen  
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

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

**Director at Large:** Christie  
McCormick, 426-9996,  
director2@olymug.org

**Director at Large:** L.D. McNall,  
director3@olymug.org

### KEY MEMBERS

**APCUG Representative:** Bill Gortz

**Budget Committee Chair:** Bill Gortz

**Database Manager:** Max Whipps

**Elections Chair:** Bob Steinberg

**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

**Public Relations Chair:** Vivian Forrester

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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# More free spyware on-line

By **Bob Elgines**  
CRCC Editor

(the standard version) sells for the same price.

**T**here is another free spyware program out there like Spybot called SpyBlaster which can be downloaded at :

www.javacoolsoftware.com.

There is a slight catch, you will need to manually update, unless you pay \$10 for an automatically update subscription. This unlike Spybot will prevent installation of spyware.

PCI Express vs AGP-8X Graphic Cards - Are they here to stay? The PCI-Express cards are about the same speed and higher in price. So don't run out and change your Mother Board to accommodate the PCI-Express. The only difference right now is the Bandwidth, but there are not programs out there to use this advantage. It's main use would be used in Gaming.

Windows 2000 Info! - Microsoft released an update containing a collection of previous patches. The final service pack for Windows 2000 is SP4, which was released in March, 2003. Support for Windows 2000 will end in 2010.

What is "Windows XP N"? - Windows XP N is a version without the MS Media Player. Windows XP Home

What is "Windows XP Media"? - Basically the standard home version with all of the latest photo, music, and movie enhancement pack. This includes such things as Plus!Photo Story, Media player, Movie Maker, etc. These items can be download from Microsoft for free in most cases.

New Microsoft Windows Software - Microsoft's new operating system called "Longhorn" has been officially named "Windows Vista", and is set to be released to the public in 2006. The three new goals are summarized as Clear (new methods), Confident (better security) and Connected (seamless) by Microsoft developers.

New WD Hard Drive - Western Digital released a new high-class series of Caviar drives and announced a new

**See SPYWARE, Page 3**

## Thanks For Renewing

**Glenda Reed**

**John & Carol Ann**

**Acocks**

**Phyllis Nation**

**Kathleen & Tom Gray**

**Sheila & James Snoozy**

**Bill Larson**

**Chuck Cole**

**Robert Hallgren**

## Welcome New/Rejoined Members

**Ann Berry**

**Richie &**

**Virginina Cunningham**

# Nominating committee begins work

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; Max Whipps, treasurer; Larry Jensen, secretary; Chris McCormick, director at large; Pat Sonnenstuhl, webmaster; and John Marshall, past president.

Minutes from the last board meeting, Nov. 17 were accepted as presented.

Max presented the financial report. We have \$3,855.57 in the savings account; \$1,844.81 in the scholarship fund; \$186.02 in the checking account and \$100 to be deposited, for a total of \$5,986.40

Our membership has decreased by 19 in the last year. We have 176 primary members and 76 associate members for a total of 252.

The potluck and auction was discussed. Everyone thought it was very successful. Somewhere between 50 and 80 people attended and we made \$631. For next year it was felt that maybe we should have more tables; that we should make sure there are enough soft drinks and that we should stipulate more definitely the time that we will eat.

Max presented the results of the work of the budget

committee. After some discussion, Max moved that it be accepted as presented. Shirley seconded and it was passed unanimously.

Shirley had talked to Comcast about presenting a program in January but as yet has not been able to make final arrangements. Bill may have something as an alternative.

Pat will be presenting a short SIG: You too can learn PowerPoint! on the evenings of Jan. 25, Feb. 15 and 22.

Bill talked to Reachone Services. They have changed their mind and will not give us discounted or free service. Pat will explore other possibilities.

## NEW BUSINESS

The nominating committee will meet next week The members are: Bill Gortz, (acting chair); Tonney Yamane; Don Hertzog (temporary) and Arlene Kepner who will become chairperson later.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## SPYWARE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

high capacity drive of 400 GB SATA (Serial). This drive has a speed of 7200 rpm, 16 MB of cache, and a transfer rate of 150 MBps. The WD Caviar SE16 400 GB is priced at approximately \$280 with a three year warranty.

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### You too can learn PowerPoint !!

Pat Sonnenstuhl will present a three-part special SIG teaching how to use PowerPoint and do presentations.

Pat will provide handouts, so please let her know by e-mail if you plan to attend. Her e-mail is:

[creationsunltd@comcast.net](mailto:creationsunltd@comcast.net).

The dates are Jan. 25, and Feb.15 & 22 at 7 p.m.

### OMUG Income & Expenses November 2005



**Income: \$144**

[Dues-\$140, Interest-\$4]

**Expenses: \$240**

[Newsletter Copying-\$108, Membership Committee Supplies-\$132]

**Net Deficit: \$96**

Savings Account Balance:	\$3856	12/21/05
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$1845	
Checking Account Balance:	\$136	
Bank Accounts Total:	\$5837	
To Be Deposited:	\$120	
Current Treasury:	<u>\$5957</u>	

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# Ram & Reason: A Virus and Incident Checklist

By Rob Rice

Computer Club of Oklahoma City

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**M**uch has been said about virus and malicious software prevention, but what if all of your precautions fail?

So there you are, happily clicking along the Internet when suddenly a pop-up ad obstructs your view. You start to close it and then another and then another pops up so that in just a few seconds there are so many pop-up ads that you cannot possibly close them all as they just keep coming.

So what do you? Delete them as fast as you can in hopes that they will stop? Turn off the computer? Suddenly a program appears from nowhere and informs you that you have been infected with a trojan virus and the program needs to scan your system so that the trojan can be removed. The problem is that you do not remember ever having installed this program. Do you trust it?

There are some industry-accepted procedures for dealing with this type of incident and any virus or trojan infection. Just follow these five simple steps in the following order to minimize damage:

1. Do not turn off your computer unless you are certain that your files are being actively deleted!
2. Disconnect the network cable from your computer and/or turn off your wireless connection.
3. Write down any error messages and the names of any programs or software that was running at the time the infection occurred.
4. Mark the computer "Do Not Use".
5. Run any of your applications that you are certain are yours and that might have opened identifying a virus attack. Next, run your antivirus, anti-trojan tools.

## Step One:

Do not turn off your computer. Not every trojan and virus is the same so this rule will have exceptions, but generally you do not want to turn off the computer unless you can see that the virus is deleting your files. If you think that it can be stopped from deleting your files without turning off the computer, then this is a better option than turning off the computer. The reason is that while turning the computer off will temporarily stop the damage more harm can come when you turn the computer back on. System files can be infected when loading, boot sectors contaminated, hard drive partitions erased, registries corrupted. For example, on a Windows system every time you make a major system change one of the first things that it wants you to do is reboot, "To allow the changes to take affect". In the case of a virus or trojan, the last thing we want to do is to allow the changes to take affect.

## Step Two:

Disconnect the network cable from your computer and/or turn off your wireless connection. Trojans are designed to open a door and let other trojans, spyware and viruses in. Physically disconnecting its link to the Internet stops this behavior, prevents your personnel information from going out and prevents other machines from being infected. Many checklists have this action rated number one and for good reasons. I rate it here as step two because step one is simply a quick decision that can have a significant impact on the recovery outcome.

## Step Three:

Write down any error messages that appear and the names of any programs or software that was running at the time the infection occurred. This is important not only for repairing the system but also

for identifying which alerts are real and which ones are bogus. Error messages that contain misspellings and poor grammar are likely bogus and generated by the virus.

## Step Four:

Mark the computer "Do Not Use". This is in case you get called away and have to leave the system alone for any length of time.

## Step Five:

Run any of your applications that you are certain are yours and that might have opened to identify a virus attack. Next, run your antivirus anti-trojan tools.

It's possible that your antivirus or anti-trojan software may have detected the attack and started running a system scan or is prompting you and waiting for instructions. If you are certain that it is your software then let it do what it wants to do and let it clean the system. If you have any doubts as to whether the program is in fact one of your programs then **DO NOT RUN THE SOFTWARE!**

Some trojans actually install and run a program pretending to be antivirus/anti-trojan software and scan your system all the while claiming to be cleaning your computer. In reality it is part of the trojan. Some of these programs look very commercial and very polished so be careful!

*Rob Rice is a computer specialist working in Anchorage, Alaska. Rob can be contacted at [articles@isp.com](mailto:articles@isp.com)*

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# 2005 ends with successful OMUG silent auction

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those members who donated items to our annual auction. Without those donations we could not have had the opportunity to peruse and buy “new” fun stuff.

As usual there was an outstanding turnout. OMUG members and non members pitched in to assist setting up

tables, arranging the food, making sure the bid forms were filled out and with the correct items. Without all the help, Shirley and I would still be waiting to eat.

The food, conversation and lively bidding made for a nice year ending OMUG meeting. For those who were unable to attend, we missed you!



**Max Whipps collects as members pay up for items they successfully bid on at the December Silent Auction and Potluck. OMUG earned \$631 for its scholarship fund.**



**OMUG members enjoy some good food, good fellowship, and good fun at the December general membership meeting, which featured a silent auction fund-raiser.**