



## Upcoming activities include elections

**By Bill Gortz**  
OMUG President

Last month I mentioned some of the activities that OMUG will be doing this year, but I did not have any dates listed. The following is the list of events by date:

February/March – Nominations received for April election of officers

April 13 – Election of officers

May 23-24 – Information Processing Management Association Forum at Saint Martins University – Tentative

June 17 – Super Saturday at The Evergreen State College

July 1-3 – Maytown Rest Stop, from 2 a.m., July 1 to 2 p.m. July 3

Aug. 12 – OMUG Picnic, Priest Point Park, Shelter #3



Oct. 6-8 – Raincoast

Dec. 14 – Potluck and Silent Auction

This list is the best of my knowledge as of this time. There may be some additions, deletions or changes to this list as the year goes by, and I am sure some of you do not know what each event is all about. As the dates draw near explanations will be given and in many cases volunteers will be asked for to help with the event.

Of course our main money-raising event will be the Maytown Rest Stop at

which we will be providing coffee, cookies, etc. to the traveling public. One of the biggest attractions last year was the homemade cookies provided by several OMUG members and associate members. If you are inclined to help with the cookies, please start making and freezing them early so we can have plenty at the reststop. If necessary, we can probably find freezer space to store cookies in.

In addition to the list above, we will also be having our monthly general meetings on the second Thursday of each month, business meeting on the third Thursday of each month, monthly SIG meetings and our newsletter distribution party, as well as various committee meetings as needed or required. Check the monthly OMUG Calendar of Events in the newsletter or on the website ([www.oly mug.org](http://www.oly mug.org)). As you can see, OMUG can be a pretty busy place if you are looking for things to do.

Speaking of things to do, we still need nominations for all of the OMUG Executive Board positions. Please consider running for one of these positions and contact any member of the nominating committee if you are interested in a position.

Don't forget the general meeting Feb. 9 begins with a "Meet & Mix" at 6 p.m., with coffee, cookies and hopefully good fellowship. The general meeting starts at 7 p.m. Beginning this month, we will start with OMUG business and a short question and answer session before the evening's presentation starts. I hope to see you there.



OMUG general meetings are held the second Thursday of each month, with a Meet & Greet at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting at 7 p.m.



## 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,  
dirctor3@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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# Previews, kids and taxes

**By Sue Crane**  
Big Bear Computer Club

## Tech News

year. It was a pipe dream only a few

### Microsoft Previews IE7

Internet Explorer's program manager, Eric Lawrence, recently posted a blog that said IT7 plans to support the Transport Layer Security protocol by default. He also explained how IE7 will behave differently from earlier versions when it encounters potential security problems. From an HTTPS page, users will be forced to access insecure content via the information bar, since only the secure content will be rendered by default. IE7 is also rumored to have tabbed browsing similar to competitor Firefox.

### A Computer for Every Kid

A \$100 laptop? A global effort is under way to make it happen by next

months ago but soon will be reality. An ambitious effort from MIT Media Labs to put a \$100 portable in the hands of every child in the world is picking up big corporate partners, top engineering talent, and interest from several countries. One Laptop Per Child (OLPC), a nonprofit venture, is expected to start distributing machines late next year and to produce 100 to 200 million in 2007.

### Phishers use Phony IRS Tax Refund to Scam Consumers

A spam e-mail message has been sent around the world telling people they are eligible for a \$571.94 tax refund from the IRS. The e-mail offers a link to a fraudulent IRS Web site, but the link actually goes through a legitimate Government Web site. The link in the phishing e-mail goes to a forged IRS Web site that asks for a Social Security number, tax returning filing code and credit card details including security codes and PIN. The government is aware of the issue and is working to fix it.

## Thanks For Renewing

**Karen Clemens**

**Robert & Sara Lyon**

**Ginger Andersen**

**Vincent & Lenora Hughes**

**Bobbie Petraitis**

**Howard Glastetter**

**Gary & Mary Bigger**

**Russell & Betty Nation**

**Dixie Cattell**

**Jim & Chris Bevan**

**May Murrell**

## Welcome New/Rejoined Members

**Fred Day**

**Karl & Marth Hommer**

**Edith Rutel**

**Lisa Bangs**

# Programs set for next four meetings

By Shirley Bellinghausen  
OMUG Vice President

Meeting opened by Bill Gortz, OMUG president, at 7:10 p.m. Attending were Shirley Bellinghausen, vice president; Max Whipps, treasurer; Chris McCormick and James Gunnels, directors at large; and past president John Marshall

Max Whipps asked if ACPUG and donation to Senior Center had been paid. The answer was yes.

John Marshall is still helping out on Senior Center computer problems. Bill announced he had sent a Thank You note to the center also for their help with OMUG meetings.

Program Chairman Shirley announced the programs for the coming months:

February - Bill Gortz, Click Books

March - Officer Jim Dunn, Thurston County Sheriff on Identity Theft

April - Dixie Cattell, member, explaining court reporters and video conferencing

May - Dave Whittle, Webworker Services

A report on the Holiday Auction and Potluck was turned in. We had a great turn out.



John Marshall volunteered to present a program on PC Mover.

James Gunnels gave about 50 OMUG brochures to Max for distribution. He also offered his temporary resignation from the membership chairmanship.

Bill Gortz announced the nominating committee will be staffed by Arlene Kapner, Tonney Yamane and Bill Gortz have begun to contact members to run for executive board member positions.

The reflector was again discussed.

A proposal was made by Bill Gortz to offer new members a small packet containing pertinent information about OMUG when they join.

Suggestions for the gift bag: membership card, copy of bylaws, survey form, Pen or pencil, newsletter, standing rules, brochure.

After some discussion Chris McCormick volunteered to act as a greeter and have guests sign a guest book with name address, phone and e-mail address. They would be sent a "glad to have you; come again" letter after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## In Memory Of . . .

### Betty Barber



Betty Barber, a member of OMUG, passed away Jan. 25. Betty joined OMUG in January 2003. She served many roles in OMUG, to include Audit Committee Chairperson. A retired certified public accountant, Betty used her computer primarily to monitor her investments.

## 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.

### OMUG Income & Expenses December 2005



**Income: \$856**

[Dues-\$220, Interest-\$5, Auction-631]

**Expenses: \$321**

[Newsletter Copying-\$136, Membership Committee Supplies-\$125, SSSS Donation -\$50 (Nov & Dec), Wine License (Christmas Potluck)-\$10]

**Net Deficit: \$96**

<b>Savings Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$3856</b>	<b>1/25/06</b>
<b>Scholarship Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$1845</b>	
<b>Checking Account Balance:</b>	<b>\$136</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts Total:</b>	<b>\$5837</b>	
<b>To Be Deposited:</b>	<b>\$120</b>	
<b>Current Treasury:</b>	<b>\$5957</b>	

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# No-show speaker presents opportunity

**By Shirley Bellinghausen**  
OMUG Vice President

**A**fter our scheduled speaker failed to show, the general meeting in January proved to be one of the most interesting we have had for awhile.

The originally scheduled speaker was to talk about using the telephone through the Internet and our member organizers were about to panic when the speaker didn't show up. The meeting was saved when one of our new members, Arlene Kapner, stepped up to give us information she had received from Vonage, and a guest, Roy Staub, a retiree from Qwest, talked about his experience in recently having Comcast installed at his home.

Instead of hearing only one point of view, we were able to hear about some differences and similarities in two different systems and some of the things to expect when getting them installed.

We did receive an e-mail apology

after some of our members complained to the company about the speaker not showing up.

We had over 40 members and several guests present. In addition to our "on the spot" guest speakers, we were able to hear from several SIG leaders and Pat Sonnenstuhl spoke about what will be presented during her coming three sessions on PowerPoint.

An open discussion gave an opportunity to gather comments from those present on what members would like to have for presentations in the future.

The large companies rarely will send a speaker to a small, isolated user group such as OMUG, as they have in the past. However they will send a "Presentation in a Box" which usually consists of material and a prepared presentation for a member to use. We are hoping to utilize some of these presentations in the future.

To take advantage of these very

good presentations we need to have members who understand and can give a good presentation using the materials provided, usually a prepared script and/or a PowerPoint presentation.

We received several suggestions of things people would like to see happen. Among them is a practice we will start at our next meeting. We will have our OMUG business start at 7 p.m., and after that is finished we will have a question and answer session until approximately 7:30 p.m., where members can bring questions and problems to the floor and knowledgeable fellow members can help. So write down a particular question and receive help. Don't make it too complicated, as time is limited.

After the Question and Answer session there will be a short 5-minute break after which the meeting will be turned over to that evening's presenter. But watch out, that presenter could be you!

## Rules govern use of computer room

**T**o clarify when OMUG members, associate members, and guests can use the Senior Services for South Sound Computer Room (hereafter referred to as Senior Services or the Computer Room, as appropriate) the following has been set forth in agreement with the Senior Services:

OMUG members, associate members and guests may use the computer room only during approved OMUG activities, such as OMUG SIG meetings, OMUG Executive Board meeting, and other OMUG

activities as approved by the Senior Services.

After normal hours, the computer room will be opened only for designated personnel as requested by OMUG and approved by the Senior Services for South Sound.

Currently this includes the OMUG SIG Leaders, OMUG President, and others performing various functions for or with the Senior Services.

The room can be opened 30 minutes prior to the designated activity.

The only OMUG activity that is approved for daytime

use of the computer room is the Internet SIG, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.

If OMUG members or associate members would like to use the computer room at other times, they must become members of the Senior Services for South Sound and comply will all of the rules and operating hours established by the Senior Services.

Current membership for the Senior Center is \$25 per year.

OMUG is authorized to use the lobby in the Senior Center one day a month for

the OMUG General Meeting.

If there should be a need to use these facilities for other OMUG activities not specified above, please submit requests to the OMUG President. If the president feels the request is justified he will forward the request to the Senior Services for appropriate action. Depending on the request, this may require approval by the OMUG Executive Board prior to forwarding it to the Senior Services.

The above is not all inclusive and may be modified as circumstances require.

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# McKenna, Microsoft announce landmark spyware lawsuit

**SEATTLE** — Attorney General Rob McKenna recently announced the filing of Washington's first lawsuit under the state's new computer spyware act.

The suit in U.S. District Court in Seattle, accuses New York-based Secure Computer, as well as associates in the United States and India, of marketing software that falsely claims computers are infected with spyware and selling consumers a program that claims to remove it. In fact, the software renders computers more susceptible to attacks.

The lawsuit and a similar suit brought by Microsoft are the result of parallel investigations by experts at Microsoft and the Attorney General's recently expanded High-Tech Fraud Unit.

"Spyware has overtaken computer viruses as the number-one threat to personal computer users," McKenna said. "This lawsuit will make it clear to those who prey on consumers' fears about spyware that we are no longer going to tolerate their heinous activities."

The state's suit alleges violations under Washington's 2005 Computer Spyware Act, as well as the federal "CAN-SPAM" Act, the state Commercial Electronic Mail Act and the state Consumer Protection Act.

"Our investigations revealed that Secure Computer, its principals and associates advertised and distributed a product called Spyware Cleaner through spam, pop-up ads and deceptive hyperlinks," McKenna explained. "However, not only did this product fail to detect and remove spyware on the consumer's computer, it actually tampered with security settings to make the machine even more vulnerable."

The lawsuit brings charges against Secure Computer LLC, company president Paul E. Burke, and Gary T. Preston, who owns and manages Web domains for Secure Computer. Both men live in New York. In addition, three other individuals are charged in connection with advertising Spyware Cleaner for Secure Company: Zhijian Chen, of Portland, Ore.; Seth Traub, of Portsmouth, N.H., and Manoj Kumar, of Maharashtra, India.

According to the state's complaint, Secure Computer, based in White Plains, N.Y., has marketed and sold Spyware Cleaner since at least 2004. Secure Computer owns several Web sites, including [myspywarecleaner.com](http://myspywarecleaner.com), [myerrorfixer.com](http://myerrorfixer.com), and [checkforspyware.com](http://checkforspyware.com).

Spyware Cleaner

advertises through pop-up ads that display warnings that a consumer's personal computer may be infected with harmful spyware and offer a "free scan" of the computer. If a user elects to have the free scan performed, a software program downloads, installs, and immediately executes on the user's computer.

"Our investigation found that this so-called 'free scan' always detected spyware on a user's computer, even if none existed," McKenna said. "In order to remove this falsely detected spyware, users are instructed to purchase the full software product."

Yet, when tested on a computer that was deliberately infected with spyware, the state's investigation showed Spyware Cleaner detected virtually none of the actual spyware on the computer. The software also erased a computer's Hosts file, which can be used to store Web addresses that a user wants to block.

The state alleges that Chen, Traub and Kumar advertised Spyware Cleaner through a variety of deceptive means, including spam e-mails, hyperlink ads, and Net Send messages. The men were paid commissions equal to 75 percent of the \$49.95 purchase price of Spyware

Cleaner each time someone purchased the product.

"When spyware is downloaded on your computer, it can enable a remote computer to redirect you to Web sites you don't want to visit, monitor your computer usage, and even record your keystrokes - including your passwords and bank account numbers," said McKenna. "Unfortunately, until last year, we didn't even have a statute in Washington that specifically prohibited these activities."

Washington's new spyware act prohibits inducing a computer user to download software by making false claims that the software is necessary for security purposes. It further prohibits software from surreptitiously modifying a computer's security settings.

If found liable, defendants can also be fined up to \$250 per violation under the federal CAN-SPAM act, \$500 per violation under Washington's spam act, \$2,000 per violation under the Consumer Protection Act, as well as other restitution to be determined by the court.

Consumers who purchased Spyware Cleaner are encouraged to file a complaint with the Attorney General's Office online at [www.atg.wa.gov](http://www.atg.wa.gov) or call 1-800-551-4636 to request a complaint form.

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

## Beginners

**Leader: Bob Stimmel, [stimmel@reachone.com](mailto: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.

## Windows

**Co-Leaders: Max Whipps, [max.whipps@comcast.net](mailto:max.whipps@comcast.net)  
& John T. Marshall, [omugmarshall@comcast.net](mailto: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.

## Digital Imaging

**Leader: John Gerech, [jgerech@olywa.net](mailto: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.

## Paintshop

**Leader: Bill Gortz**

This SIG works with the Jasc Paint Shop products and is for the beginner and intermediate learners. Programs covered will be Paint Shop Pro, Paint Shop Pro Studio (a new program) and Paint Shop Photo Album. There is no set structure and subjects will be covered as determined by persons attending. Hopefully we can all learn together.

This SIG will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Computer Room of the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St., Olympia.

## Hot Topics

**Leader: John Marshall, [omugmarshall@comcast.net](mailto:omugmarshall@comcast.net)**

The newest Hot Topic is personal finance software programs, led by Wim Verhoef.

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 finances. From budget building, to check book balancing, to investing, there is a software program to help.

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](mailto: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**

**NEW TIME!** 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 Tuesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m., at The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia.

## Hardware

**Leader: John Moody**

The Hardware SIG meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Meeting takes place at JME Computers, located at 4305 Lacey Blvd SE, Suite 8.

## OMUG Supporters

We are thankful for the many people, organizations, and businesses who support OMUG.

Below is a list of a few who have given back to the community by assisting OMUG in its mission to help computer users help computer users and their community.

Supporters provide services and discounts, give of their time, provide space for OMUG activities, introduce OMUG members to new products, share knowledge and expertise, provide OMUG with software and hardware, or provide educational opportunities. All of them are appreciated.

Senior Services for South Sound  
Olympia Computer Central  
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Cartridge Care, Inc

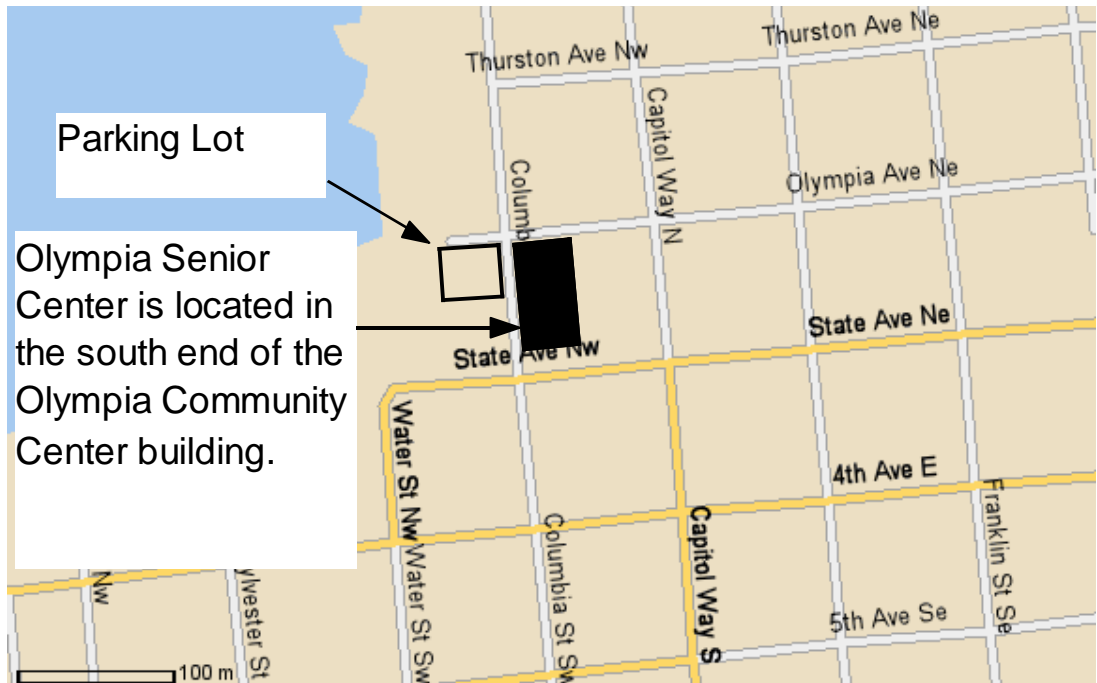
## MEETING LOCATIONS

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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**PMB 225**  
**3430 Pacific Ave SE Ste A6**  
**Olympia, WA 98501-2177**

# OMUG NEWS



Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

**OMUG Newsletter Editor**

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