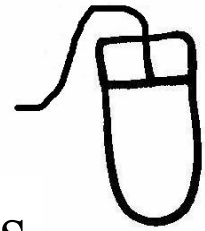




OMUG

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

News



Vol. 14, No. 6

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

June 2006

Super Saturday Coming Up June 17

By Shirley Bellinghausen
OMUG President

It's fun being President of a good organization like OMUG. You meet so many nice people. The newsletter deadline sneaks up on you, though.

Many details are discussed at the Board meeting and acted upon to keep the club running smoothly. One thing any member can help with is setting up the Senior Center for the general meeting. **John Marshall** has been doing this so long that we arrive and don't realize how much time and work it takes for one person to set up the chairs and move the tables.

We decided to ask members arriving early for the meeting to help set up the chairs so that no "chairman" would be needed to be appointed. When you arrive, please help set up things and we also need to put them back in a similar order when we leave. THANKS IN ADVANCE! John will continue to prepare the equipment the presenters will need.

John Webster has volunteered to be our Activities Chairman. He will be calling on us to help with the next event, **Super Sat-**



urday at the Evergreen College on June 17. Plan to join in the festivities and help out for an hour or two at the OMUG information booth. I'm sorry I won't be able to participate this year, as I will be preparing for a Masterworks Choral Society performance at the Washington Center in Olympia. If you haven't attended the Super Saturday Event in the past, it's fun just to sit and watch the activities and people and of course tell as many as possible about OMUG.

Thank you to all who helped staff the IPMA booth. Some exciting and new technology equipment was displayed and lots and lots of Hershey candy kisses to be had at each booth. HA! We were able to tell many visitors and vendors about OMUG's service to the community.

Be sure and attend the next general meeting and hear from Dixie Cattell just how those closed caption words appear on your

TV screen. Her court reporter personnel have added that flexibility to their work. That's June 8th this month. See you then!

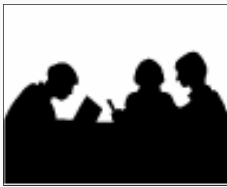
Linux Gets Going

By Conrad Schuler
Linux SIG Leader

The Linux SIG meets in the Computer Room in the Olympia Senior Center (2nd floor behind the boutique) on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. I'll be facilitating with help from others, e.g. Paul Braget.

Neophyte to guru, we want you! Introducing beginners to Linux is fun, and having experts in the room really helps. All Operating Systems have merits and demerits. Our goal is to have fun, learn more about Linux, and in the process, learn to respect all Operating Systems. If you want to dual-boot Windows and Linux, we'll help you!

For those interested in learning more, we will systematically work through a program of self-study to prepare for the SuSE/Novell CLP Exam. We'll also be doing some practical projects to demonstrate the CLP information we are learning.



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Shirley Bellinghausen
president@olymug.org 426-7149

Vice-President: John Acocks
vicepresident@olymug.org

Secretary: Larry Jensen
secretary@olymug.org

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

Newsletter Editor: Sister Dorothy
Robinson, OSB 438-1771
newsletter@olymug.org

Webmaster: Pat Sonnenstuhl
webmaster@olymug.org

Director at Large: John Marshall
director1@olymug.org

Director at Large: Gary Bigger
director2@olymug.org

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

KEY MEMBERS:

APCUG Representative: John Gerecht

Budget Committee Chair: Wim Verhoef

Database Manager: Max Whipps

Elections Chair: Bob Steinberg

Historian: David Belles

Membership Chair: Rich Cunningham

Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:
Dixie Cattell

Nominating Committee Chair:
Arlene Kapner

Public Relations Chair: Vivian Forrester

Scholarship Committee Chair:
Bob Wing

SIG Coordinator: Bob Steinberg

Special Activities Coordinator:
John Webster

Visitors Coordinator: Glenda Reed

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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OMUG at IPMA Forum

By **Gary Bigger**
Director at Large

The IPMA (Information Processing Management Association) was held at St. Martin's University on May 23 & 24. It was an opportunity for OMUG members to participate in the first outside activity of our year.

There were 71 vendor & State booths. For those 14 OMUG members that participated, "Thank you!" The balance of our membership missed an opportunity to interact with some interesting people. As usual, we were able to answer some questions, pass out our brochures and "people-watch."

These events are a good way to find out about the availability of products and services. Most of those are geared for the Washington State employees. However, there are always some things that have a more general appeal.

I am in the market for a new laptop, so I spent time with Gateway, HP, Dell and Lenovo. The quality of the information far exceeds what I have been able to get from our local sources. I now have a better idea of what features I will want in my new machine. Each day that passes will allow me to get more for the same money.

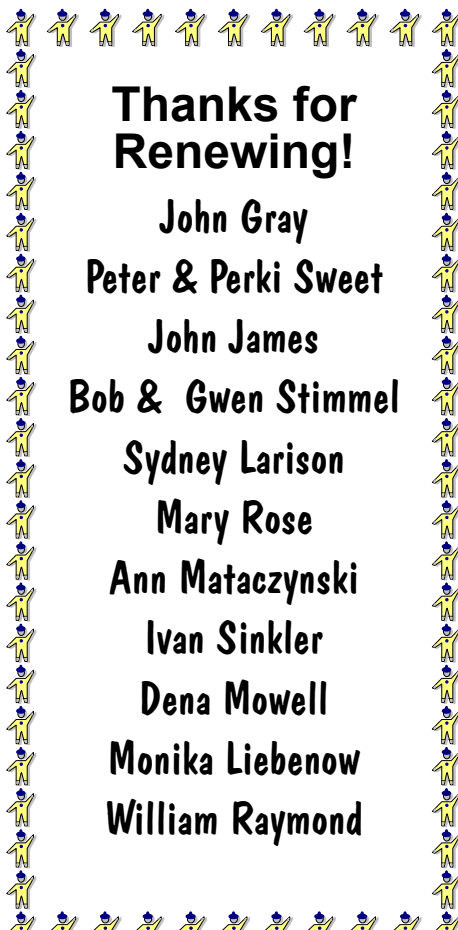
The free handouts were not as good as last year (my opinion). It is possible that I did not spend enough time looking or asking.

There were still lots of pens, paper and candy, and as always, free coffee. The hosts provided a portfolio to all those people who registered upon entry to the Pavilion.

Thank you for all your support!




**Welcome to our
New Member**
Gary Lucas


**Thanks for
Renewing!**
John Gray
Peter & Perki Sweet
John James
Bob & Gwen Stimmel
Sydney Larison
Mary Rose
Ann Mataczynski
Ivan Sinkler
Dena Mowell
Monika Liebenow
William Raymond

Outside Events in June & July

By Pat Sonnenstuhl
Acting OMUG Secretary



The business meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Shirley Bellinghausen. Also in attendance were Max Whipps, Pat Sonnenstuhl (acting secretary), Sister Dorothy Robinson, Gary Bigger and John Marshall. Minutes from the April meeting were accepted with one clarification about newsletter deadlines (copy due on the 25th, mailed on the 5th of the month).

Treasurer Max Whipps reported income of \$284, expenses of \$147, with net income of \$137. We now have 182 primary and 78 associate members.

Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl has reviewed the Reflector and added a spam filter, concluding that reflector use seems appropriate.

Newsletter Editor Dorothy Robinson reported that the May issue went okay and she is comfortable with the publication date.

Director at Large John Marshall asked for someone to back him up in setting up for the general meeting, someone who would know where everything is stored. We also need clearer communication about what equipment is needed by the presenter, e.g. is a computer needed? John also said the new Linux SIG is progressing, although it is time-consuming to install Linux on each computer—but once it is done it will be a good setup for learning Linux.

Director at Large Gary Bigger said we have most of the IPMA table staffing done, but a few more volunteers would help.

In old business, the topic of buying pens or pencils to give away was brought forward. Shirley had samples of pens and pencils, and it was decided that we would buy 150 pens for new membership packets, but not for giving away at events. Gary moved and Max seconded that we move \$125 from emergency reserve to the membership fund to pay for the pens, and the membership committee can decide which pen to buy. Motion carried.

Shirley will call Wim Verhoef to set up an audit of OMUG.

Super Saturday June 17 is coming up, as is the Rest Stop fundraiser July 3-4, so our new Activities chair John Webster will be recruiting help.

President Shirley Bellinghausen receives software for review, and we would like to encourage members to use and write a review of some of it. We will do this at a general meeting. Shirley was encouraged to continue ordering software for review.

Shirley also has left several tee shirts and other items; suggestions were made to raffle them off or save them for the auction.

Member contact was discussed. Membership chair Rich Cunningham plans to call members who are late with their dues, since personal contact is helpful. This would be followed up with a letter and a return envelope.

In new business, Pat offered to do a presentation on how to use Outlook based on "Take Charge of Your Life with Outlook." She would also do a demonstration of "One Note."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

OMUG Income & Expenses April 2006

Income: \$284

[Membership Dues—\$280, Interest—\$4]

Expenses: \$147

[Senior Center Donation—\$50, WA Corporation Renewal—\$10, Newsletter Copying—\$87]

Net Income: \$137

OMUG Treasury as of 5/25/06

Savings Account Balance:	\$3026
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$1852
Checking Account Balance:	\$181
Bank Accounts Total:	\$5059
To Be Deposited:	\$240
Treasury Total:	\$5299



Online Librarians Never Say Shhh!

By Gabriel Goldberg
APCUG Advisor; Columnist,
AARP Computer & Technology Website, www.aarp.org

Libraries have improved since baby boomers attended grade school. Research assistance once only available in person or by telephone is blossoming into diverse online "ask a librarian" services, handling questions ranging from general curiosity and homework-related to business research.

Friendly Online Librarians Never Say Shhh!

Growing up, I was lucky to live just a few blocks from a great neighborhood library. I fondly remember the children's librarian encouraging my love of reading and books. The library was rebuilt while I was in elementary school; I was recently shocked that the "new" library was undergoing renovation and improvement. Then I realized that what seems like yesterday was five decades ago!

The good news for us all—near libraries or not—is that libraries have greatly improved in that 50 years. Research assistance once only available in person or by telephone is blossoming into diverse online "ask a librarian" services. These handle all sorts of questions: general curiosity, homework-related, business research, etc. Just don't expect medical or legal advice.

E-mail assistance has been available for some time. Librarians sometimes like it be-

cause they can answer questions as they have time, and it avoids people waiting on line or holding on the phone. But it can be slow if a question must be clarified—that's important, since people often don't ask what they really want answered! And online interaction lacks face-to-face intimacy, voice tone, or body language, which all help communication.

In addition to accepting e-mail, libraries use Web forms for submitting queries, take questions via instant messaging, and offer interactive Web chats. Highly interactive instant messaging and Web chats allow quick conversations, often providing answers within a few minutes. Newer technologies such as VoIP (Voice over IP, Internet telephony) and MS (cell phone text messaging) may soon increase research availability.

Library policies vary regarding answering non-resident questions; some specialized queries (local history, obituaries, newspaper clippings, etc.) must be handled by a library near the area of interest. That brings genealogy questions from far away as people research their ancestors.

Most queries are handled at no cost, though some searches incur charges. A library card usually isn't needed. Some libraries currently mail printed research results; e-mailing images will provide faster service and reduce costs.

Behind-the-scenes technology helps librarians manage queries, ensuring that all questions are an-

swered and eliminating duplicate responses. Shortcuts fill in frequently used answers.

The same sorts of questions are asked online as are posed by phone or in person, with addition of sensitive areas such as sexual issues. Queries often deal with homework—math, science fair challenges, etc.—and country reports. Librarians enjoy the occasional obscure gem, such as being asked about "modeling the economic infrastructure of railroads in Great Britain."

The geek expression "24x7" means that something is available all day, every day. Since people expect this full-time access to e-mail, the Web, shopping, banking, and other online services, they're enthusiastic about being able to ask questions whenever they occur.

But it's hard for libraries to provide this never-anticipated level of service, especially when off-hours demand may be limited. So they support each other locally/nationally/internationally by sharing round-the-clock assistance chores. Questions are entered locally and routed to on-duty librarians—who sometimes work from home in pajamas, answering off-hours long-distance queries.

Even librarians sometimes need help—so their world-wide Stumpers mailing list lets them share baffling questions.

Librarians and the public are learning together to use elec-

tronic tools. New technologies facilitate supporting diverse clientele by—for example—facilitating non-English services.

Here are a few tips regarding online queries: provide your name/e-mail/phone for answering and clarification; use plain text (not formatted) for easy reading; don't nag, allow time for an answer—but follow up in a week or so. Finally, contact the correct library. A library in Plymouth, Michigan has received queries about Plymouths in Massachusetts and England!

Using online library services is easy once you have an Internet connection. Some libraries favor PCs with Windows and the Internet Explorer Web browser, but Linux and Macintosh systems are increasingly supported. There's generally no software download or install. Browser pop-up blockers or firewalls sometimes get in the way but they're easily customized.

Start by finding your library's Web site. For example, I locate my library by submitting

"fairfax county" library

to Google [www.google.com]. Or I could click from my county government Web site to the library pages. Or Googling library questions yields many library sites offering answers. Then look for links like Ask-A-Librarian! or "Homework Help!. Links and services will vary; when I click Ask-A-Librarian, I can choose between chatting, e-mailing, or (of course) actually visiting a library.

In researching this article I challenged my library with two questions. I was delighted that they quickly named the obscure British TV show whose name I couldn't remember (The Duchess of Duke Street) and found a science fiction book containing a short story I wanted to reread.

No matter how they evolve, whether as buildings or online, libraries' core mission is everlasting: providing timely information in a customer-friendly format.



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Some Timely Tips

Do you wish you had a bigger monitor? You can make more efficient use of the screen space you have while browsing the internet by getting rid of most tool bars. In Windows, just press F-11. To bring them back, press F-11 again.

You can scroll without your mouse when viewing a web page. Press the space bar to go down one page...and of course Page Down works too. Not to mention Page Up!

To open a link in a new window, press Ctrl-Shift while clicking on it. To close the window, press Ctrl-w.

Familiar Faces

By Sister Dorothy
OMUG Newsletter Editor

Our president recently noticed that there is a lot she doesn't know about her fellow OMUG members. She was in conversation with someone and discovered some interesting things about him. She thought it might be fun to do an occasional profile of one of our members in the newsletter.

Since I don't have much time to run around town and interview members, I'm hoping that anyone who would be interested in being profiled would let me know.

I have a form you can fill out, and then we can talk if I have any questions. To get the form, email newsletter@olymug.org and I'll send you one.

I'm hoping someone will volunteer for July. Wouldn't you like your few column inches of fame? Here's your big chance!

