



# OMUG



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

## News

Vol. 14, No. 10

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

October 2006

## New Members = Some Free Dues for You

**By Shirley Bellinghausen**  
OMUG President

Another month has whizzed by and with it has gone our beautiful summer sun. We'd get tired of sunny weather if we had it all the time, so they say. Be fun to try!

The members were so interested in what our speaker, Officer Jim Dunn, had to say about protecting our checks, credit and debit cards during the last general meeting that we have asked him to return for another presentation early next year. Try not to miss his next program. You would be astonished how and what crooks can do to steal our money. Here's a tip we can all use: Immediately sign your cards on the back. If they are stolen and are **signed** the card provider **MUST** reimburse you. However if your card is stolen and **NOT** signed they are not obligated to do so.

Remember a few months back we were to hear from Comcast about their (then) new phone service over the Internet? They didn't show but we had a very interesting meeting handled by some of our members who had looked into the service. Since then I have been interested in that phone option, and even tried Vonage. I really liked it but my personal timing was bad so



I stopped using it. But I plan to use one of the Internet phone services soon.

Did you notice the ad in Best Buy on Sunday for Vonage? It says you can turn your high-speed connection to a Vonage phone through a Vonage V-Phone Flashdrive. WOW! There are two other options also. I haven't called them as yet to see how or if this will work on my Qwest DSL. If you get time or are interested in finding out more, let us on the reflector know what you find out.

Are you using your new OMUG Business Cards? Are you having any luck getting new members? Send a short story of your success to Sister Dorothy at [newsletter@oly mug.org](mailto:newsletter@oly mug.org). Let us all know how you did it. Another incentive: if you bring in a new member; **YOU** will receive 3 extra months of paid dues. We on the Board want to know if our idea is going to work. We have a great new Visitors Chair, Glenda Reed, who is sending a 'welcome/come again' letter to your prospects who attend a meeting.

I apologize for not having the Newcomers welcome packets ready. Compiling them has taken much longer than I expected. I'm still working on it!

Since our new deadline for Newsletter articles is the 20th of October, I will be gone for our usual "my birthday" celebration (even if it was on the usual 25th I'd still be gone!) and won't be here to write a President's article. No weeping or crying "Hooray!" I'll get someone else to write it. Be assured I'll be thinking of you in the Caribbean. But I will probably see you at the General meeting.

### Dream Job

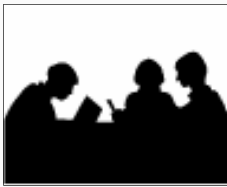
Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Person asked the young programmer, "And what starting salary were you looking for?"

The programmer said, "In the neighborhood of \$75,000 a year, depending on the benefits package."

The HR Person said, "Well, what would you say to a package of 5 weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every 2 years—say, a red Corvette?"

The programmer sat up straight and said, "Wow!!! Are you kidding?"

And the HR Person said, "Certainly, ...but you started it." ☺



## 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 Gerech

**Budget Committee Chair:** Wim Verhoef

**Database Manager:** Max Whipps

**Elections Chair:** Bob Steinberg

**Historian:** David Belles

**Membership Chair:** Rich Cunningham

**Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:**  
Joanne Homolka

**Nominating Committee Chair:**

Arlene Kapner

**Public Relations Chair:** Vivian Forrester

**Scholarship Committee Chair:**

Bob Wing

**SIG Coordinator:** Bob Steinberg

**Special Activities Coordinator:** Open

**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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# BLOGGING (say what?)

By Sister Dorothy Robinson  
OMUG Newsletter Editor

Blogging?! Weird word, easy concept. Blog is short for Web Log, and it's basically a refinement of the personal web page idea. A blog is an online journal which can have pictures as well as text which you write yourself, as often as you like. Some bloggers choose a theme and write about aspects of that theme or their own experience with it, for example, knitting, baseball, technology or any subject you can think of. Bloggers add links on their blog to their favorite websites or blogs. Most blogs are written in an informal, personal style and many invite others to comment on their entries. It is possible with some blogging websites to limit those who comment to your "friends," i.e. those

who also have a blog on that site and are approved by you. Some blogs are very basic, but many are much more sophisticated.

Some sites charge for blog space:  
<http://www.typepad.com>

A few sites where you can set up your own blog free (or for a price get more options):

<http://www.blogger.com>

<http://www.blogstream.com>

Here's a Google blog on computers:

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2006/01/make-your-computer-just-work.html>

And another called PCHelp:

<http://pchelp.blog.com/>

One on PC security:

<http://www.schneier.com/blog/>

And if you want to know how blogs work, try this one:

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/blog.htm>

Then go out and try it yourself! ☐



## Thanks for Renewing!

**George & Arleen  
Cruz**

**Bob Steinberg**

**Loren Freeman**

**Jim Simmons**

**Sister Dorothy**

**Robinson, OSB**

**Phyllis & Don**

**Batten**

**David & Cris**

**Campbell**

**Kay & John**

**Sanders**



## Welcome to Our New and Returning Members

**Charles Wieland**

**Wallace Music**

**Eileen, Bob, & Noah**

**McKenzie Sullivan**

**Marla Barton**

**Teresa Joseph**



# Need a Ride to Meetings?

By Sister Dorothy Robinson  
For Larry Jensen  
OMUG Secretary



The September business meeting was called to order by President Shirley Bellinghausen at 7:00 PM. Also present were Directors at Large John Marshall, Gary Bigger, and L.D. McNall, Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl, Treasurer Max Whipps, and Newsletter Editor Sister Dorothy Robinson.

Sister Dorothy agreed to record minutes for this meeting, in Secretary Larry Jensen's absence.

Minutes from the last business meeting and the last general meeting were tabled until Secretary Larry Jensen can be present.

Max reported that total income (from membership dues and interest) was \$284.98. At the present time we have \$2,576.89 in the savings account, \$3,018.91 in the Scholarship account, \$436.98 in the checking account and \$120.00 to be deposited for a total of \$6,152.78.

We have 193 primary members and 80 Associate members for a total of 273, 19 more than at this time last year.

Max reported for Program Chairman John Acocks that at the October general meeting we will have a presentation by Terry Nelson, Historical Records Project Coordinator from the Secretary of State's office. Pat has an idea for a program she'd like to do, and also says she will demonstrate the movie-maker software sometime next year. Gary is doing the November program on Vista (Beta), using a "canned" presentation plus narrative and Powerpoint.

Pat reported that all is well with the website, and Sister Dorothy reported no problems with the newsletter. Shirley said she has a form to use for profiles for the newsletter, and she will give it to several people with a request that they fill it out to be used in the newsletter.

L.D. is working on getting rides to the general meeting for people who need them. Gary and Pat gave

him names of two people who need rides.

Shirley recommended we purchase a large (60-80 cup) coffeemaker rather than borrowing each year from members. After discussion, consensus was that we should look into buying a pot, new or used.

Shirley said we have a picnic date for next year: Saturday, August 11, 2007 at 10:00 AM at Kitchen #3. Max will send a check to pay for it.

Board members read the audit letter from Wim Verhoef. Wim is willing to be Audit Chair and Budget Chair. We have a pressing need for an Assistant Treasurer to step in when Max needs to be away. We will continue to work on this.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. ☞

Let L.D. McNall know if you need a ride to the General Meeting! L.D.'s email is: [director3@olymug.org](mailto:director3@olymug.org)

## OMUG Income & Expenses August 2006



### Income: \$285

[Membership Dues-\$280, Interest-\$5]

### Expenses: \$485

[Senior Center Donation-\$50, Newsletter Copying-\$75, Newsletter Prepaid Postage-\$240, Picnic Supplies-\$106, Bank Charges-\$14]

**Net Debit: (\$200)**

### OMUG Treasury as of 9/20/06

<b>Savings Account Balance:</b>	\$2,757
<b>Scholarship Account Balance:</b>	\$3,019
<b>Checking Account Balance:</b>	\$437
<b>Bank Accounts Total:</b>	\$6,213
<b>To Be Deposited:</b>	\$120
<b>Treasury Total:</b>	\$6,333

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## NTI CD & DVD MAKER 7: Titanium Suite

By Pat Sonnenstuhl  
OMUG Webmaster

This software has been offered to OMUG for review, and I am the lucky one chosen to review it. Most of us have CD and DVD burners and software, and this program has all of the basics. It actually has 9 integrated products in it, so it does just about anything you might want to do to create DVDs and CDs.


I had a specific purpose in mind that I was hoping this software would accomplish for me. I have a DVD that was made from a 16 mm movie that was done of our wedding in 1965. It has no music, and is just a nice movie, with nothing extra. I put the movie on DVD last year with the hope of being able to spice it up a bit, and add some personal photos.

Home Video-Maker is one of the Suite programs. First of all, it let me import the whole movie into the program, and then created individual scenes with the movie. I learned how to add transitions between the scenes, which allowed for some special effects. John Acocks send me great background music which I likewise imported into the DVD I created. I am still playing around with some of the special effects within the program, but so far it has been easy to use. I was able to lighten up some of the darker slides, and improve on the color. The slides from the clip end up on a Storyboard and then you can see the progress you've made.

This project has been a lot of fun for me. Walt and I were married over 40 years ago, and many of the folks in this movie are dead now. It has been nice to see those faces again, and remember a very important event this way. The whole suite was very easy to install, and a lot of fun to use.

The documentation with the software was pretty basic, especially for the Home Video-Maker. I went onto the web and found an upgrade to the program, and a few other tips for using the it, and managed to accomplish quite a bit. You can utilize videos, clips from video cameras, clips from DVDs, and just about any other source you wish to use. I plan to demonstrate this program at a future OMUG meeting, and I think you will appreciate how easy it is to use.

### System Requirements:

Windows XP Home or Professional  
2.0 GHz Intel Pentium 4 or better  
Available USB 2.0 port  
AGP Graphics Card  
Sound Card for audio playback  
CD-ROM for software installation  
CD or DVD writer for VCD, SVCD  
or DVD creation  
Internet access to [www.TitanTV.com](http://www.TitanTV.com)  
4 GB for approximately every 2  
hours of video recording time  
[http://www.ntius.com/  
cd\\_dvd\\_maker.asp](http://www.ntius.com/cd_dvd_maker.asp)  
Cost: Buy CD-ROM \$79.99 

**OMUG MEMBERS**—Pat not only had the fun of playing with and reviewing this program...she also gets to keep it for her own! Come to General Meetings and volunteer to review software for a chance to do the same!

## Quality Freeware

By Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Member, Sarasota PCUG, Florida

**Part II** of Brian Lewis's article on free software, cont'd from Sept. A recap of Brian's introduction to the article:

'I found the article in the July Monitor on "Cost Efficient" software by Joseph Moran to be quite interesting, but noticed that much of the software had a price associated with it. So I thought I'd let you in on the absolutely free software I have been using for the past 2-5 years. In every case I have used it as my standard application for the purpose and, in many cases, totally removed any commercial software that carried out the same function. I have also upgraded the free software when the upgrades became available. All of the software in this article can be obtained without charge by downloading from the various Internet sites I have listed. In every case there is no "trial" period involved.'

As for anti-parasite software, I have to agree with Mr. Moran. Ad-Aware SE and Spybot S&D are two that I keep on both my computers. But that isn't enough. You have to run them regularly to insure you are not infected. I run mine a minimum of once each week. Both of these can be downloaded from [download.com](http://download.com). Spybot also has an immunization function that can prevent some parasites from installing themselves on your system. Another immunization application that I use is Spyware Blaster. It makes changes to your registry that prevents parasites from installing. At the present their database lists more than 5,000 items. Using these three anti-parasite/anti-trojan products will certainly upgrade your security and they are all free. Spyware Blaster can be downloaded from [download.com](http://download.com) or from [www.java.coolsoftware.com](http://www.java.coolsoftware.com).

For general photo editing I use Google's Picasa. It is not just a

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photo organizer. I use it to download photos from my camera and organize them into folders. It can also be used to edit photos, print photos and e-mail them. You can make CDs, add captions or post photos on web sites. The advantage of Picasa over other photo software is that it is free. It can be downloaded from [download.com](http://download.com) or <http://picasa.google.com>. It does not have all the bells and whistles of applications like Photoshop or ULEAD's PhotoImpact, but it is more than adequate for most nonprofessional purposes.

You may not need screen capture software very often, but when you do, you really need it. I use MWSnap. It allows you to capture an entire screen or part of it. What you capture can be saved to a file, printed, or edited. It may take you a little time to get accustomed to the interface. But you can't damage anything by playing with it. Once you are familiar with all the controls, it really does copy any part of your screen. Again, this is freeware and can be downloaded from [www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/index.html](http://www.mirekw.com/winfreeware/index.html)

Have you ever considered that you might need an inventory of the items in your home for the purposes of making an insurance claim? Considering that we live in Florida where there are many electrical storms, to say nothing of hurricanes, damage to your home could occur at any time. Can you list the contents of every room and the value of each item? Well, the Insurance Information Institute provides free software to assist you in making an inventory and a photographic record of the contents of your house. This software is very easy to use and very important to any homeowner. The software also includes typical lists of things in each type of room. You don't have to use these as you can enter anything you have. You can include place of purchase, date and price, if you have


that info. Pictures of items or general pictures of a room can also be added. This software can be downloaded from [www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org).

There is one more significant software package that I use that is freeware. That is NVu, web-authoring software. Linspire, the company that produces the Linspire Linux software, publishes it. It has a WYSIWYG editor (What You See Is What You Get) as well as direct editing of the HTML language. It includes the tools for publishing the pages to a web site. You can test the pages against a browser on your computer to insure that everything works properly. It also allows you to add Javascript either directly or in a separate file to your pages. There is a complete tutorial for NVu included on the web that can be downloaded and printed. There is also an NVu users forum which can be quite helpful. If you have never created a web page before, I think you would find NVu to be just what you need. If you want to see a web site created with NVu, check out [www.sandpiperchorus.org](http://www.sandpiperchorus.org). NVu can be downloaded from [download.com](http://download.com).

There is one other specialized software package that I have used that some may be interested in trying. This is the Personal Ancestral File (PAF). This is free genealogy recording software provided by the LDS Church (Church of Latter-day Saints). Their website also allows users to search on-line files from the family history archives in Salt Lake City. Although I am not currently using PAF I did use it for a few years before switching to a commercial package. PAF is certainly quite useful for beginning family historians and it can be expanded by purchasing the PAF Companion. If you are interested in trying PAF, download it from [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

Now that you have all this downloaded freeware, you should

make backup copies on either a CD or DVD. Well, for that we have another freeware package, CDBurnerXP Pro. This software will burn CD-R, CD-RW, DVD+R/RW and DVD-R/RW. It will burn and create ISO files. It will burn audio discs from mp3, wav, ogg and wma files. It will convert (rip) files on audio discs to wav, mp3, ogg or wma files. It also works with most IDE, USB, Firewire and SCSI burners. It can be downloaded from [download.com](http://download.com) or [www.cdburnerxp.se/download.php](http://www.cdburnerxp.se/download.php). This software does not have a trial period. It is yours for however long you wish to use it. I have been using mine for over two years and have obtained several updates, one of which added the DVD burner capability.

As you can see from this there is a lot of quality freeware available. If you are interested in finding more, check out the listings at [download.com](http://download.com). Just be cautious because many of their listings are trial packages only. You are expected to purchase the total package before the end of your trial period. But there are many "nuggets" on their very extensive web site. So if you are interested in saving money, try some of these quality freeware items. 

**[OMUG News editor's note:** I've been using CDBurnerXP Pro for a few months and I'm finding it fast and easy to use, with an interface much like Nero.]

Dr. Lewis is a former university & medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than thirty years. He can be reached via e-mail: [bwsail@yahoo.com](mailto:bwsail@yahoo.com).

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