



OMUG



http://www.oly mug.org

News

Vol. 14, No. 12

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

December 2006

Holiday Potluck & Silent Auction

By Shirley Bellinghausen
OMUG President

Thanksgiving is over by now and you who ate too much should have recovered. I hope you had lots of hugs and sloppy kisses from the grandkids.

Now is time for all OMUG members to begin planning for the next fun event—our annual **Silent Auction and Potluck dinner**. It will be held on our regular meeting night, the second Thursday in the month, **December 14**.

How do we do it? First, we rely on YOU—OMUG members—to bring computer-related software or hardware no longer needed but slightly used (or new!) for us to auction off. So start looking and gather it up!

The Senior Center meeting room is set up for displaying auction items, which members so generously have donated for silent auction. What is a silent auction? Auction items are brought by members and displayed with a form on which to write a bid. Someone else who wants the item adds their name and ups the bid. The name with the highest bid is the winner of the item and pays the treasurer. It's a win win situation: OMUG makes a little money to operate on and you get



something you would like. **Forms** will be available on the **reflector** or **website**: download, fill in and bring with you. **NOTE: Plan to bid in whole dollars and pay by check—or have some ones with you, as there'll be no change available.**

But what's a party without food? OMUG has some wonderful cooks and many bring dishes for all to share (see suggestions in box below). **OMUG provides coffee, wine, silverware and plates. If you'd like a different drink, please bring it.**

We will start serving dinner at 6:30 pm. We hope you will arrive by 6 pm or earlier and enjoy a beverage while perusing the items already displayed on the auction tables.

Gary Bigger will again be our auctioneer. After he calls for one of the tables to be closed for bidding, you will have 5 minutes or so to check your bids. Then bidding will be closed. The winner's name will be called; he or she can come to the table and claim the item or we can have someone deliver it to you.

I would urge those bringing beverages to arrive by 6:00 pm or earlier. As with every party there will be much to be done before our guests arrive. Many of you early birds usually come forward to help with room setup, decorations, etc. If you plan to help, please contact Glenda Reed (our chair) by email olyreed@comcast.net or telephone 360-705-8958 so she can plan.

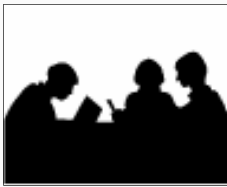
Our silent auction and potluck meeting has been one of our best-attended and most fun times to get to know each other. Please try to attend. If you need a ride contact LDMcNall at director3@oly mug.org You will be hearing more about the party on the reflector. Questions? Contact Glenda (as above) or any of OMUG's officers. ☐



**Holiday Potluck
& Silent Auction!**

Dinner at 6:30—come early to visit and to look over auction items.
Suggestions for food to bring according to your last name:

A-F: Main Dish/Entrée; hot dishes would be good!
G-L: Salads or Vegetables
M-R: Desserts
S-Z: Bread, Rolls or Snacks (chips, etc)



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: Open

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.

OMUG News Published monthly
PMB 225

3430 Pacific Ave SE Suite A6
Olympia, WA 98501-2177

December 2006

Vol. 14, No. 12

Preview of Vista

By Larry Jensen
OMUG Secretary

When Microsoft gave OMUG an evaluation Beta copy of Vista "Ultimate," Gary Bigger volunteered to try it out and give an opinion from the viewpoint of a regular user. He spent about six weeks getting to know it.

Gary demonstrated many of Vista's new features such as "Aero", a system of transparent tabs. (Unfortunately they are only translucent and you can't really read anything through them.) The extensive use of tabs, a more complete control panel, a number of "gadgets," such as a clock, currency converter, a calculator, etc, and a quick search box.

The Media Player now shows all of the information on the contents of a music CD and the Media Center can now record TV. Vista incorpo-

rates IE 7 (with a phishing filter) and RSS (Really Simple Syndication).

All together Vista has many enhancements. On the other hand, at least in this Beta version, some of the programs that Gary uses won't load. This may be fixed when the final version is released.

Gary's overall assessment was that he liked a lot of things about it, but isn't at the moment ready to give up XP Pro for it. Vista uses more computer resources than XP and many older computers may not be able to use it. There are six versions, each of which has different minimum requirements. The Microsoft Website has a program that will allow you to find out whether your computer will run Vista. ☞

Welcome to Our New and Returning Members

Susan Murphy

Jonny & John

Kobylus

John & Lillian

Johnston

Jean Stray

Jim Bellinger

Harlin Baker

Gene Andrews

David, Marcy,

& Nathan Belles

Thanks for Renewing!

**Curt & Myrna
Rosler**

Dick Bostic

**William & Mary
Swaim**

Dorothy Kelly

**Mickey & Wilma
Riley**

Peggy Wilson

Glenda Reed

**Wolfgang & Gerda
Priebe**

Don Rogers

Auction & Potluck Planning

By Larry Jensen
OMUG Secretary



President Shirley Bellinghausen opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also present were Treasurer Max Whipps, Secretary Larry Jensen, Webmaster Pat Sonnenstahl, Newsletter Editor Sister Dorothy Robinson and Directors at Large John Marshall and Gary Bigger.

Motion carried to approve previous minutes that had been tabled due to absence of the secretary at prior meetings.

The Treasurers report shows that we have \$2,581.24 in the savings account, \$3,023.97 in the Scholarship account, \$300.00 in the checking account and \$180 to be deposited, for a total of \$6,085.21.

As of November 16, we had 186 primary members (plus 11) and 73 associate members (minus 3), for a total of 259, eight more than at this time last year.

The Newsletter folding party was at Pat's house last month and will be there again in December but she will not be home in January and we need to find another place. Dixie has moved her office to a different location and it will not be available. It was suggested that we might use the Priory and Sister Dorothy said that would work.

Webmaster Pat reported that things are going very well and we have had some good questions and interesting answers on the Reflector.

Director at Large John Marshall reported that printers are available in the computer lab. The person that had offered to contribute chips to upgrade the computers in the lab has not followed through and we haven't heard anything from him. John also said that he would prepare a list of equipment needed for general meetings.


Director at Large Gary Bigger said that he was pleased with the way things went at the Vista presentation at the General Meeting. One problem was that with the lights all out, he couldn't read his notes. The use of a small lamp at the speakers' table was discussed.

The Christmas potluck/auction was discussed. Gary kept notes last year on problems and they will be addressed in the planning for this year. In particular the schedule must be definite and well publicized. We need to have notices in both the newsletter and on the reflector advising people of the event and urging them to bring their spouses and

friends. Also, they are asked to bring contributions to the auction. The proceeds go into the Scholarship Fund. We need some volunteers to come early, about 5 PM, to help set up. The rest of the schedule would be: arrive at 6PM, eat at 6:30, and start the auction at 7:30PM. Shirley will talk to Glenda Reed about coordinating the food. Gary will make table signs and handle the auction. Max will buy glasses, etc.

The 2008 Rest Stop event was discussed. It was decided to ask Sandy to find out exactly how the rest stop scheduling is done. She is also asked to attempt to apply for a weekend in April.

Pat requested the board consider buying new software to replace "Front Page." Max said that it will need to go to the budget committee. That committee needs to be in place by December.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30. 

OMUG Income & Expenses October 2006



Income: \$225

[Membership Dues-\$220, Interest-\$5]

Expenses: \$236

[Senior Center Donation-\$100, Newsletter Copying-\$136]

Net Debit: (\$11)

OMUG Treasury as of 11/20/06

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Savings Account Balance: | \$2,581 |
| Scholarship Account Balance: | \$3,024 |
| Checking Account Balance: | \$300 |
| Bank Accounts Total: | 5,905 |
| To Be Deposited: | \$233 |
| Treasury Total: | \$6,138 |

Familiar Faces:

Noral Baughman

A profile of someone you've seen around OMUG meetings but may not know much about. —Editor

By Noral Baughman

A Founding Member of OMUG

I have been a member of OMUG since April of 1986. I had just bought my first computer a few months before; a "Leading Edge Model D" IBM compatible. It was one of the first "clones" that came at a price much less than the "real thing." I drove to Ballard Computer in Ballard and picked it up. It used an Intel 8088 CPU, ran at 4.7 Megahertz, had 640 Kilobytes of RAM, two 5 1/4" floppy drives and a green monitor which would probably have measured twelve or thirteen inches. I was in hog heaven even though I had not a clue what I was going to do with a computer or just what all it might be good for.

The only software that my new computer came with was the standard operating system package. The store threw in a copy of Nutshell, a database management system. I had a general idea of what a database program might be good for, but that was all I knew. I struggled along for a few months, exploring what I could with the limited knowledge and software I had. I scoured the bookstores for books and magazines but found almost nothing.

In early 1986, my wife happened to see a notice in the Olympian that someone wanted to get together with others who had MS_DOS computers; the idea being that there might be some collective knowl-



Barbara and Noral Baughman

edge that would benefit all concerned. I went to the first meeting, which if my memory serves correctly, was held at the Senior Center. I don't remember exactly how many showed up, but it must have been somewhere between six and twelve. The meeting was organized by Brian Geppert, who was not yet old enough to drive and his mother had to bring him to the meeting. It was a good start and we continued to meet at various places throughout the years and help each other in the new world of computing.

I had been interested in CADD software for some time and soon after getting my computer, I saw an add for a low cost version that I could afford. I purchased it and then discovered that I would need a mouse. This was, of course, after having to buy a printer to see the results of my computing activities. Things sort of snowballed from there, leaving my bank account in continual jeopardy.

It's hard to imagine a world without personal computers, even though they have been around little more than twenty years. It's just as difficult to imagine a world without the Internet, Email and the World Wide Web. The amount of information available on the Internet is truly mind-boggling. True, some of it is of questionable value or accuracy, but still one can sort through most of it and find things that would have taken hours or days to find just a few years ago. I continue to be amazed.

During the first several years of OMUG existence, I held several offices—mostly by default—as there would otherwise be no one to assume the office. The offices in those days were pretty casual and they usually fell to the people who moved the slowest.

The advent of digital photography has renewed my interest in that hobby. The advantage of being able to immediately see the results of my photography efforts is very gratifying and encourages me to take photos I would not be likely to take otherwise. It also saves a bunch of money by not having to print unusable prints.

I have one wife, as allowed by law and custom. Between us, we have a dog (and a puppy which we hope will become a dog real soon), a cat, seven chickens and a number of gold fish in a small pond in the yard. Unless, of course, the raccoons pay us a surprise visit.

My wife and I moved to the Olympia area in 1977. We looked for employment and she was fortunate enough to find a job with the State of Washington. I started a very small business of electronic repair, design, and fabrication as well as custom woodworking and whatever else came up. We both consider ourselves retired but if something interesting came along.....

I enjoy photography, woodworking and various other do-it-yourself projects, gardening, a little genealogy, and of course I spend a lot of time on the computer exchanging email and browsing the web. I also publish an annual newsletter for my old high school in Indiana. There never seems to be enough time in the day, although I cannot actually account for where it all goes. Perhaps that is one of the mysteries of the Universe, along with what happens to socks and screwdrivers. ☐

Free Up Megabytes of Disk Space

By Viny La Bash

Member of the Sarasota PCUG, FL
vlabash(at)comcast.net
<http://www.spcug.org>

Look in your Windows folder and count how many folders you have that start with "\$NtUninstall." They are all related to various patches, updates and service packs for XP. Those \$NtUninstall folders are created when you install a Microsoft Service Pack, a hot fix, or certain security updates. Some of these folders could date back almost to the day you first installed your computer.

Their names are in blue, and they are all marked as hidden and read only. If you don't see them in the Windows folder, open the Tools menu, and select Folder Options from the drop down menu. After the Folder Options dialog box appears, activate the View tab, then left-click the Show hidden files and folders radio button. Click OK to close the dialog box and the hidden folders should appear. If nothing happens close down Windows Explorer and restart it. You don't need to restart your computer; simply open Windows Explorer again.

Why should you do this? If you're getting low on disk space and the usual remedies haven't freed up enough space, these folders could be the culprits that are chewing up valuable storage area. If you have had Windows installed for more than a year and you are conscientious about keeping your system up-to-date, these useless folders are probably tying up gigabytes of data. Enough of them can have the unfortunate side effect of noticeably slowing down virus and spyware scans. It also takes longer to defrag your disk drive. An accumulation of unnecessary or extraneous data on your system will eventually affect system performance and in extreme cases cause drive errors.

The files within the \$NtUninstall folder provide instructions on how your computer uninstalls a Windows update. Each folder has a specific name ending in the name of a particular Windows modification. If you were to go to add/remove programs and select a Windows update to uninstall, the information on how to run this process would come from the corresponding \$Ntuninstall folder.

You can safely delete all these folders if you have no plans to uninstall any of the related patches. As updates and patches accumulate,

these types of folders will continue to grow and take more disk space. One solution is to delete only those folders older than three months. Chances are, if you haven't uninstalled a Windows update after three months, you won't ever do it.

Alternatively, once you've made a backup or disk image of any "\$NtUninstall" files, you can delete the files from the hard drive immediately, because you can always restore them from backups, if you need them. Microsoft should have tucked these folders in a sub-folder out of the way. Then again, you could always mark them as hidden. ☞

Bring good stuff for the auction!

**Remember Our
OMUG Annual Auction
and Potluck**

December 14, 2006

6 p.m.

**at the Olympia Center
222 Columbia Street NW**

To download the Auction Form, go to:
[http://www.oly mug.org/
Silent Auction Bidding Form.pdf](http://www.oly mug.org/Silent Auction Bidding Form.pdf)

**Please call contact Glenda Reed at 360-705-8958
or email [olyreed\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:olyreed(at)comcast.net)**

Sponsored by OMUG

Bring good food for the potluck!

**Bring yourself and a friend—
for a lot of fun!**