



OMUG



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

News

Vol. 15, No. 11

Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

November 2007

Fundraising: Something Old, Something New

By Shirley Bellinghausen
OMUG President

We had a very productive OMUG business meeting on Thursday October 18. The committee reviewing the By Laws and the Standing Rules has almost finished and plans to present proposed changes at the November business meeting. Then any revisions will be presented at a General Meeting for members' approval.

We discussed mailing the newsletter earlier in the month and decided to have it ready to mail by month's end—so the new plan is to have our work party on the last day of the month. The newsletter will be taken to the Post Office for mailing that same day. In case the last day of the month falls on a weekend or on a holiday, we will have the work party on the last weekday just prior to that.

Director at Large #3 Phil Vogel and Vice President Jim Wiest have been working on a survey to ask you, OMUG members, some questions about your computer use and the kinds of things you'd like to learn. When it is presented to you, please read it thoroughly and take time to give thoughtful answers. We will all profit from an organization that truly belongs to ALL of us.

During the report on the Rest Stop it was announced that we have a date for September 12-15, 2009. We don't have a date for 2008, but we are on the waiting list—in case some other organization cancels.



Gary Bigger took on the brunt of organizing the 2007 project. He stressed that we really need three members to come forward to head the 3 parts of the fund raiser at least two months before the event date. When we begin soliciting help to organize this important fundraiser, please say you'll help! The three areas are:

- Buying and delivering beverages and cookies to the rest stop.
- Picking up the money and depositing it.
- Contacting members (who are always generous with their time!) to sign up for 4-hour shifts

This is very manageable when divided into three areas, there are instructions to help you get going, and you just might find it's a lot of fun! It is also the means to offer our college scholarship. We believe this is a good cause, and apparently so do the people we talked to at the 2007 Rest Stop event—since they gave so generously! Help OMUG continue offering this scholarship to a qualified computer science student at The Evergreen State College by offering to help.

The subject of fund raising came up at the October business meeting,

partly because we have no Rest Stop scheduled in 2008. We came up with several ideas. We are investigating two of them and we are putting a third into action at the November General Meeting. All would need **your** participation.

What started as a fun new way to improve our Door Prizes has become twofold:

—**Cash for you** if you attend the meeting, and some **money for the treasury** also. You may have already read about it on the reflector last week. We were eager for you to know what to expect at the November meeting.

Arlene Kapner will be at the sign-in table to sell you a chance to win half of the money spent to buy tickets.

Tickets will sell at 3 for \$1.00. The more you buy the more chances you have to win, and the more money in the pot! We hope you will enjoy and participate. And we'll be filling you in on other fundraising ideas as they mature.

Start gathering your no-longer-needed computer hardware and software for the December **silent auction**. One user's "ho-hum, just another cable, peripheral or software package" may be exactly what another user has been looking for.

See you at the General Meeting November 8. And remember to bring your dollars for the Door Prize raffle—you might be a winner! 🖨



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Shirley Bellinghausen
 president@olymug.org 426-7149
Vice-President: Jim Wiest
 vicepresident@olymug.org 357-9001
Secretary: Larry Jensen
 secretary@olymug.org 456-3555
Treasurer: Gary Bigger
 treasurer@olymug.org 426-7055
Newsletter Editor: Sr. Dorothy Robinson
 newsletter@olymug.org 438-1771
Webmaster: Pat Sonnenstuhl
 webmaster@olymug.org 943-8933
Director at Large: Arlene Kapner
 Omugdirector1@comcast.net 455-0180
Director at Large: Marilyn Hanna
 director2@olymug.org
Director at Large: Phil Vogel
 director3@olymug.org 480-5383

KEY MEMBERS

APCUG Representative:
 John Gerecht (see page 6 for email)
Audit Committee Chair:
 Wim Verhoef
Database Manager:
 Gary Bigger 426-7055
Elections Chair:
 Bob Steinberg
Historian:
 David Belles
Membership Chair: Open
Newsletter Distribution Coordinator:
 Joanne Homolka
Nominating Committee Chair:
 Arlene Kapner (see page 6 for phone)
Public Relations Chair:
 Vivian Forrester
Scholarship Committee Chair:
 Bob Wing
SIG Coordinator: Open
Special Activities Coordinator:
 Glenda Reed 705-8958
Visitors Coordinator:
 Joanne Homolka

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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Adware, Spyware, Viruses & Worms!

By Larry Jensen
 OMUG Secretary

President Shirley Bellinghausen opened the OMUG October 11 General Meeting at 7:00 p.m. About 35 people were present.

Shirley reported that the Rest Stop fundraiser was a resounding success; netting over \$1400, a new record. We gave out about **360 dozen** cookies; at the end, we had **6 Oreo** cookies left! This is our biggest fundraiser and its proceeds are used to fund the scholarships awarded to The Evergreen State College students.

Vice president Jim Wiest announced that the November program would be a return of Cheryl Heywood from Timberland Library to update us on their new data bases.

Jim then introduced the evening's speaker, Windows SIG leader Max Whipps, who presented a Power Point program on computer security.

Max discussed various types of **malware**, a word which comes from the combination of 'malicious' and 'software.' It is designed to infiltrate and/or damage a computer without the owner's knowledge or consent.

(You may inadvertently give consent when you accept a program disclaimer).

Adware is relatively innocuous although poorly written programs may cause problems with your computer.

Spyware can secretly monitor the use of the computer, collecting personal information and installing additional software.

A computer **virus** is a program that can be attached to a file and infect the computer without the users knowledge and has the potential of controlling the computer.

A **worm** is a self-replicating computer program that can spread to other computers without attaching itself to an existing program,

A **Trojan** horse is a program that is concealed within another legitimate program.

There are several things that you can do to protect yourself from malware It is important to have a firewall. This can be a piece of hardware or software that screens out malware. (You should have both). It is also necessary to have anti-virus and anti-spyware programs that are kept up to date and that are run frequently. Some programs are better than others but any program is better than none. McAfee and Norton are two of the good ones.

Since Max's presentation contained a tremendous amount of specific information, look for the entire program at <http://www.olymug.org> . ☞

Thanks for Renewing!

William & Mary Swaim
 Elizabeth & Keith Ross
 Shirley & Bob Bellinghausen
 Mary Rose
 Wolfgang & Gerda Priebe
 John & Lillian Johnston
 Darlynn & Kris Wright
 John Tissell
 Dick Bostic

Welcome, New & Returning Members!

Barbara Raymond

Bylaws Review Nearing Completion

By **Larry Jensen**
OMUG Secretary



President Shirley Bellinghausen opened the OMUG business meeting at 7:05. Also present: Vice President Jim Wiest, Secretary Larry Jensen, Treasurer Gary Bigger, Newsletter Editor Sister Dorothy Robinson, Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl, Directors at large Arlene Kapner, Marilyn Hanna, and Phil Vogel.

Jim Wiest reported on programs: the November General Meeting program will be an update on the new Timberland library databases, presented by Cheryl Heywood of Timberland library. In December, the annual Christmas party and silent auction replace the usual meeting.

The Genealogy SIG will begin November 1st at 7:00 p.m. A notice will be posted on the reflector.

Gary advised the board that he will send Noral Baughman a check for \$550 to cover the cost of printing supplies. Joanne will not be available in December for the Newsletter folding party. She will need to find someone to fill in for her. Sister Dorothy is willing to try to have the Newsletter ready by the last day of the month in order to facilitate an earlier mailing.

Marilyn reported the Bylaws committee has finished work on Bylaws recommendations and is partly finished with the Standing Rules. She will e-mail the changes to the board members before the next board meeting. At that meeting, the board will vote on accepting the changes.

Phil and Jim distributed draft copies of the member survey to the board and asked that each member go through the questions and critique them. They were then asked to return them by the next General meeting.

The 2009 Rest Stop fundraiser will be the weekend of September 12 and 13. Gary emphasized that we must have a chairman in place at least two months ahead of the event. It was suggested that there be a three-person committee; one to handle shift assignments, one to handle supplies and one to handle the finances.

Shirley asked for and received approval for the design of the gift certificates for OMUG memberships, to be donated to the Masterworks Choral Ensemble. The memberships will be auctioned off as part of a fund raising effort.

Shirley has reserved Shelter #1, the Rose Garden site at Priest Point Park for Saturday, August 16.

Since we are not sure we will have a 2008 Rest Stop fundraiser, (we are on the waiting list), we discussed other possibilities. Collecting empty ink cartridges and cell phones were two ideas. We also decided to promote OMUG hats and shirts; to order see <http://www.oly mug.org/clothing.htm>

Shirley presented the idea of making cash awards as door prizes. We accepted Arlene's suggestion that we sell 3 tickets for \$1.00 at meetings. The money would be divided; the winner of the drawing receives half; the general fund the other half. It was decided to publicize this on the reflector and in the Newsletter. This will begin at the November General meeting. **Feeling lucky?** Better be there!

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

**Want to respond
to something in your newsletter?
Send your opinion to the Editor—
newsletter@oly mug.org
Responses published as space permits.**

OMUG Income & Expenses September 2007



Income: \$1,925

(Membership Dues- \$340, Scholarship Donation \$18, Rest Stop \$1,563, Bank Interest \$4)

Expenses: \$289

(Senior Center Donation \$50, Membership Committee \$32, Newsletter \$29, Rest Stop Supplies \$173, Treasurer Supplies \$5)

Net Increase \$1,636

OMUG Treasury as of 10/18/07

Savings Account Balance:	\$2,398
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$3,484
Checking Account Balance:	\$235
To Be Deposited:	\$140
Treasury Total:	\$6,257

Holiday Potluck and Silent Auction in December



By Glenda Reed
OMUG Special
Activities Coordinator

On Thursday, December 13, our annual **Holiday Potluck Dinner** and **Silent Auction** will replace our regular meeting. Time for all OMUG members to think about the computer-related items you no longer need and can donate to the auction.

This is a chance for you to take any unused software programs, computer books, monitors, peripherals, etc., that have been taking up space in the

corner of your home office and bring them to the auction. Your donated item(s) just might be “treasure” to someone else, and the money goes into OMUG’s general fund.

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, **December 13**, and start making plans to participate in this event, held at the Olympia Center. Coffee, wine, cutlery and plates will be provided by OMUG.

Feel free to bring your own drink if you would like something besides

coffee or wine. **Be sure to bring your favorite potluck dish, too!**

We will start dinner at 6:30 p.m. If you arrive by 6:00 p.m. or earlier you can enjoy a beverage while perusing the items already displayed on the auction tables.

We always need volunteers to come early to help with room setup, decorations, etc. **If you can help**, please contact me, Glenda Reed, by e-mail: olyreed@comcast.net or telephone 360-705-8958 so we can coordinate our efforts. Thank you! ☺

The New, the Best, and the Worst

Collected by Pim Borman
Webmaster
SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc.
[Swipcug\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:Swipcug(at)gmail.com)

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E-mail Reliability Woes

Banks, mutual funds, credit card companies, utilities, they all want to send me my monthly statements in electronic form over the Internet, “for my convenience,” and incidentally to save on the cost of mailing them out the traditional way. Do I go along with that? No way, José! Just think of all the things that can go wrong.

Security. I already receive regular emails, mostly delegated to spam folders, from fake financial organizations such as PayPal, E-Bay, and banks all over the world. How am I going to distinguish the fishes from the phishes? I do have online access to some of my financial accounts, but I use them strictly one-way: I access them directly by typing in the URL. Some financial institutions have expanded security beyond the usual user name and password check, to let me verify that I’m dealing with the genuine institution. Before I present my user name and password, I am shown a prearranged

word and an image to make sure that I am dealing with the genuine Web site, not some phisher in Nigeria. Such two-way passwords are a good idea, and using an image instead of a word adds additional security.

More security. I still have to worry about key grabber viruses that record what I type. An up-to-date reliable anti-virus program may prevent that, or not. Making payments online can also be hazardous, especially if I can’t be absolutely certain I’m not addressing a phisher. I have a Citibank credit card account that will provide me online with a one-time credit card number to be used for a single transaction. That minimizes the risk of fraud. But how am I going to archive online statements securely for years to come unless I print them out first? If necessary, does my own printout provide the same level of proof as an original bank statement?

Reliability. Because spam now makes up the largest part of email crossing the Internet, Internet Ser-

vice Providers increasingly install spam filters to remove the chaff from the wheat. The problem arises when the spam filter removes legitimate messages without notifying the sender, or even worse, the recipient. It seems to happen all the time and not only because it is easy to misspell an address. Recently I used my local provider, Sigecom.net, to respond to an email from a niece who uses myway.com. Fortunately I was notified by “blackhole.myway.com,” that the response bounced, with an error message indicating that there was a mismatch between sender addresses somewhere along the way. Since Sigecom forwards email via another email provider (Mira-something-or-other), that could have been the problem. I sent the response again, using Google email that time, and all was well.

A week later I sent a SWIPCUG e-mail message to 49 addressees using my Google e-mail account. Two of the mailings, both addressed to members @att.com, were blocked because “it was sent by a system that we have reason to think has sent high levels of spam to our customers in the past.” Maybe other members did not receive the message either

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but I wasn't notified. Again using Google Mail, I resent the message without trouble to just the two blocked recipients. Maybe att.com balked at the fairly long list (49) of addressees?

One of our members, associate director at the local Public Library that hosts our meetings, was unwittingly deprived of messages sent to him and about 10 other members who informally constitute our planning committee. The Library has its own email system, guarded by a properly-named "barracuda" to swallow anything smelling of spam. The system administrator managed to retrieve the messages, belatedly, once he was aware of the problem, and loosened the rules to get our member back in the loop.

It goes to show that even if you are not personally plagued by spam woes, your email communications are still affected. Its security and reliability must be paramount if we are to trust it to replace snail mail in delivering important notices. At the least the sender should be notified, and blocked email should be made available to the recipient in a special folder to allow quick verification of its status. Yahoo and Google mail deposit at least some suspected spam in a separate folder. It takes only seconds to check that folder and remove all the spam while being able to save a genuine message.

More Reliability Issues. When an email address is changed, it is difficult to let all the correspondents know, and chances are that some of them will forget to change all their email address folders. Contrary to good old snail mail, there is no friendly post office that forwards email. Also, the slightest typo will make email undeliverable. Add to that the times that the Internet is inaccessible because of hardware, software or network problems and it is clear that email can not be

counted on for the timely and secure delivery of financial and billing statements.

Once Upon A Time...

in a far away land, when I was still a young lad, clocks sat on mantel pieces and had to be wound every so often. They didn't keep very accurate time, and we kept them running at least five minutes fast so we wouldn't miss the train. You see, trains left the station on the exact second in the schedule and the best place in town to find the accurate time was from the big clock at the railroad station.

Now we have clocks and watches that listen at night to the shortwave radio and adjust their time to the nearest second by synchronizing

with an atomic clock in Colorado. As a good nerd, I regularly compare the time shown by the atomic clock on the wall with my atomic watch to make sure they agree to the second. And now we travel by planes that sometimes manage to leave the gate within an hour of the scheduled departure time. Or not at all, as the case may be. Progress... ☞

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Free Photo Programs for Working with Your Pictures

By Pat Sonnenstuhl
OMUG Webmaster

Picasa, Picasaweb and JAlbum are free photo programs for your computer and your pictures.

Picassa: <http://picasa.google.com/>

Picassa Web:

<http://www.picasaweb.google.com>

J Album: <http://jalbum.net/>

Earlier this year, when Sharon Love did a Hot Topic series on Web Design, she demonstrated the various aspects of Picasa and Picasaweb. We also talked about another nifty program called J Album. All of these programs are free!! They are also very easy to use.

Picasa will take all of the photos on your computer, and allow you to view them as thumbnails. It's a handy thing, and once installed will ask you about new pictures that you want to bring into your computer. You can create albums to put onto a CD for others, or gather your pictures together to then upload to web space.

Picasaweb is incredibly easy to use. Get your pictures cropped and ready for upload, and then create the album to put them in. You can send that link to friends, so they can view your pictures. Couldn't be much easier, and doesn't require a login or password like many programs do. You share your photos on Picasaweb's web space at no cost.

Here are some pictures uploaded through Picasaweb:

http://picasaweb.google.com/cnmpat/Mr_and_Mrs_Sonnenstuhl

JAlbum is another nifty program to creatively combine your pictures into one album, and then be able to share by sending that link to folks. You need your own web space, but you can easily upload the pictures in an album format to your web space. Here are pictures from our OMUG picnic, using JAlbum for the format: <http://www.olybug.org/OMUG07Picnic/>

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Continued from page 5, Free Photo Programs...

You pick the background you like, take a look and then upload the pictures. The program creates the thumbnails, and also links them to the larger photo. Try them out! 🖨

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.

Our 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
IPMA
Adobe
Microsoft
PowerQuest
Jasc Software
Cartridge Care, Inc

Idea for a new SIG?
Tell any OMUG board member!



MEETING LOCATIONS

Capital High School:
2707 Conger Ave 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 Staples and the Post Office.

The Olympia Center:
222 Columbia Street NW in Olympia.

Note: The computer lab at the Olympia Senior Center is on the second floor behind the boutique.

