



OMUG



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

News

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Olympia Microcomputer Users Group

June 2008

Scotty, I need more power!

**By Alan Mildwurm, President
Diablo Valley PC Group, California**
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When my kids were young, I bought batteries by the bushel. All of their toys required some batteries. The phrase “**batteries not included**” raised almost as much terror as “**some assembly required.**” I still recall going out one Xmas morning in search of “C” size batteries because we missed the warning on the box. (7-11). One very cool pool toy took 16 batteries - in 3 sizes.

In those days, rechargeable batteries were garbage. Most rechargeables were nickel-cadmium and with a memory that made them useless after a few charges. Shelf life was a joke and power output dismal. For several years, I bought throw away alkaline batteries at Costco because they were cheaper than those clever bunny batteries. Not environmentally friendly, but definitely kid toy friendly. As the kids grew up, their needs for batteries diminished (actually they now buy their own), but my need for batteries is increasing. Wireless keyboards, wireless mice, gps, wireless game controllers (the Wii-mote takes 4 batteries per controller and there are 4 controllers), iPod external power units, camera accessories and on and on. I am going through more batteries now with my toys than I ever did with the kids! Luckily, rechargeable battery technology has come a long way.



OMUG's Prez, Max Whipps, is off gallivanting, or maybe “globetrotting” might be a better term. His column will return in July. —Editor

Sanyo produces the **eneloop** (www.eneloop.info). According to their spec sheet, the AA battery is rated at 1.2 volts and 2000 mAh. Not bad for a rechargeable. (A disposable usually is 1.5 volts.)

There are two sizes of eneloop batteries, AA and AAA. They also produce C and D size cylinders in which you insert AA batteries.



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Welcome, New & Returning Members!

 Joseph & Yolanda Hiss
 Connie Williams
 & Andy Krumins
 Damian & Dusty
 Thompson
 Kathi Collins & Jeff Kinzel
 Franklyn Gallup
 Lloyd Harris
 Paul Braget

Pick A Little, Blog A Little

By Sister Dorothy Robinson
OMUG News Editor

We learned how to blog at the February General Meeting from someone who enjoys blogging. Now OMUG has its own blog at <http://www.blogtext.org/OMUG/>

This “group blog” works a bit differently from an individual’s blog. Rather than every member being able to make “posts” to the blog, we have a number of topics and members can post “comments” to the topic. Only the Webmaster, who maintains the blog, has the login information, so everyone else posts as “anonymous.” It is helpful, when you write your comment, to sign it with your name in the body of the comment—so we’ll all know where credit is due.

On the home page of our blog each topic shows how many comments

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**June 12 Program
General Meeting:
Social Networking**

Kelsey Smith, Adult Services Librarian from the Olympia Timberland Library, will provide an introduction to a variety of social networking sites and free web 2.0 software products, including Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, Flickr, and Del.icio.us.



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 David Belles
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Digital Cameras & Photo Editing

By Larry Jensen
 OMUG Secretary

Vice President Vivian Forrester opened the May 10 OMUG General Meeting at 7:00PM. President Max Whipps was away. There were about twenty members present.

Immediate Past President Shirley Bellinghausen explained to the group that not only was this Vivian's first meeting since being elected, but the program she arranged had to be canceled due to illness in the speaker's family. Vivian was then able, on very short notice, to come up with an excellent replacement program.

Vivian introduced new member Franklyn Gallup.

Vivian asked that the surveys that had been included in the Newsletter be returned and offered to provide copies for anyone who had not received one.

Members were reminded that IPMA (Information Processing Management Association) will be having their annual trade show at St. Martins on May 20th and 21st. OMUG has a table at the show and we need to staff it. People were asked to volunteer for two-hour shifts each of the two days. It is an enjoyable task and is a way of introducing OMUG to the public.

Vivian also mentioned that Super Saturday at The Evergreen State College would be held June 14 and we will need volunteers for that.

John Marshall explained that the Hot Topics SIG is held the 4th Tuesday of the month. Since nobody had suggested any topics, John offered to demonstrate how a computer is built by tearing one down and putting it back together at a future SIG. Several people were interested

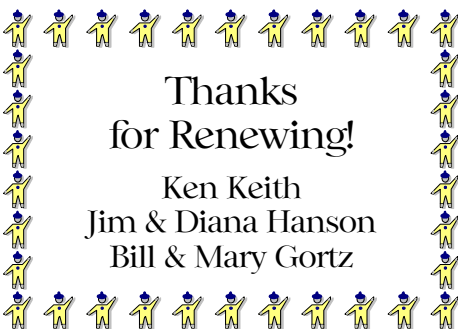
Vivian then introduced the evening's speaker, John Gerecht, long time OMUG member and Digital Imaging SIG Leader.

John is also a devoted Mac user and he began by demonstrating how he was able to have the use of three different operating systems on his computer. He had Kubuntu Linux and Windows XP Home running at the same time on the Mac OSX desktop. John later remarked, "Pretty cool, with a laptop with just 2-gigs of RAM. I wouldn't want to do any heavy computing with any of them, because that's not a lot of RAM, but it did work and shows the capability of the Mac OS."

He then discussed the problems inherent in buying a digital camera. He showed us several sites which have reviews of cameras. He particularly recommended digitalcamerareview.com showed us how they review various cameras on the site.

John covered a number of subjects, including the fact that legally, all photos are copyrighted. He demonstrated Adobe Elements, a photo editing program from Adobe similar to Photoshop but without some of Photoshop's features. John terms it "a very capable program at a very reasonable cost." He used it to show how metadata, information such as time and date, exposure data and much more is embedded with the picture. He also discussed the use of key words.

John spent some time demonstrating some of the uses of layers, a feature available in most editing programs, as



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IPMA & Super Saturday

By Larry Jensen
OMUG Secretary

Vice President Vivian Forrester opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. Also present were Secretary Larry Jensen, Treasurer Gary Bigger, Newsletter Editor Sister Dorothy Robinson, Webmaster Pat Sonnenstuhl, Directors at Large Arlene Kapner and Tonney Yamane. Paul Braget was present as a guest. President Max Whipps, Past President Shirley Bellinghausen and Director at Large Jim Simmons were absent.

Vivian reported that she had e-mailed Kelsey Smith, asking her if she could present the previously postponed program on Social Networking at the June Meeting. She has not yet received an answer. Vivian hopes to have Max Whipps and John Marshall demonstrate the Windows SIG at the July meeting, but is waiting for Max to return to make it definite. Several other program possibilities were discussed.

The April Board Meeting and May General Meeting minutes were accepted.

Sister Dorothy said that Noral had agreed to write an article for the Newsletter and asked that others consider doing so. Newsletter folding party will be May 30, 2 PM at Arlene's.

Pat reported that everybody except Arlene is on the OMUG Board e-mail. Next month, when Max is back we will discuss the Yahoo account. Pat said that use of the blog is evidently not well understood, and she and Sr. Dorothy will collaborate on an explanation.

Gary reported that April income was \$273.79; expenses were \$50.00 for a net income of \$223.79. At the end of April we had 162 Primary members and 71 Associate members. Our total membership is 233. Gary has sent out the 2008 budget, showing where we stand, and will send out a new list of active members.

Arlene did not have at hand the information on members willing to work on committees, gathered in the search for candidates. She also said there will be no Beginner's SIG until fall, probably September or October.

In old business, we decided to wait for Max to return to discuss new member packets.

Shirley is collecting survey results and Vivian said she has some to turn in.

Gary has been in touch with Wim Verhoef about the audit committee. Gary has all of the information ready but the



audit will wait till Max gets back.

No action at this time on Super Saturday.

Gary said that all of the IPMA time slots are covered for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 20 and 21. He and Larry will be there Tuesday morning to set up.

In new business, Paul Braget attended the meeting on behalf of the members of the Linux SIG. They requested the Board to change their meeting night to Friday. After some discussion, it was decided that the board approved, if the Senior Center approves. John Marshall will be asked to discuss it with the people from the Senior Center. Paul also said that the SIG would be going in a somewhat different direction. Whereas in the past, emphasis has been on certification, now it will be aimed more at helping beginners to actually use Linux. The modern Linux interface is very like Windows with Point & Click taking you where you need to go.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. ☞

OMUG Income & Expenses April 2008



Income: \$ 274

(Membership Dues- \$240, Raffle Sales \$30, Bank Interest \$2, Coffee \$2)

Expenses: \$ 50

(Senior Center Donation \$50)

Net Increase: \$ 224

OMUG Treasury as of 05/17/2008

Savings Account Balance:	\$2,122
Scholarship Account Balance:	\$3,535
Checking Account Balance:	\$ 584
To Be Deposited:	\$ 20
Treasury Total:	\$6,261

Our Evolving (GNU)/Linux SIG: An interview with Paul Braget

By **Sr. Dorothy Robinson**
OMUG Newsletter Editor

Does the word “Linux” make your eyes glaze over? Always thought it was just for those “geeky” people who knew how to use a command line to get things done?

No more! The latest versions of Linux distributions like Ubuntu and SuSe (only two of many) are looking and acting much like the Windows interface you may be used to. “Point & click” will get you just about everything you need in these operating systems.

Paul Braget, who with David Thompson will be leading the recently redesignated “GNU/Linux” SIG, agreed to answer some questions. These are questions anyone might have who is interested in what all the talk is about Linux, but like most of us wants to know more before jumping in.

There was one question I forgot to ask Paul: “How do you pronounce ‘GNU’?” Seems it’s ‘guh-noo,’ but the explanation for that goes back to the quirky humor of Richard Stallman. The story is at: <http://www.gnu.org/events/rms-nyu-2001-transcript.txt> —which is a transcript of a 2001 speech by Stallman. His New York University talk was called “Free Software: Freedom and Cooperation.” If you like reading about how things “tech” got started, you’ll enjoy this funny piece. For more on **why should we call it GNU/Linux?** See <http://www.gnu.org/gnu/linux-and-gnu.html>

The Interview

Sr. D: So, Paul—if I came to the Linux SIG once or maybe a few times and I didn’t understand anything, why should I try it again?

Paul: I’m having difficulty answering this question that actually refers

to a Linux SIG that was being presented for a self-study program to prepare one for the SUSE/Novell CLP (Certified Linux Professional) Exam. The **GNU/Linux SIG** will be a more personal look into the “point and click” (GUI or graphical user interface) aspect of the GNU/Linux Desktop. We will be looking into what can be considered General Computer Usage. MS Outlook and Access, for example, are not considered general computer usage. But if the group wants to look at more advanced usage of the GNU/Linux and more advanced programs, it will always be considered.

Sr. D: Why would I even want to know about the GNU/Linux Operating System?

Paul: Actually this is an appropriate question. No one really uses the operating system. People use the programs on their computers. The only mission in the life of the operating system is to help those programs run. An operating system never does anything on its own. It’s only waiting for the programs to ask for certain resources or files, or to connect to the outside world.

There are more than 29 million users and an ever-increasing interest in GNU/Linux. It gives better access to Open Source which allows an addition and/or alternative to Windows:

*Developed by hundreds of programmers worldwide on the internet

*An ever-growing challenge to Microsoft Windows

*Very popular because of its speed —This is what the craze is all about.

Sr. D: What will I have a chance to learn at the GNU/Linux SIG?

Paul: Running and/or installing Ubuntu GNU/Linux distributions. A visit to all the program resources included, such as an Office suite, Graphic programs, terminals, text editors, and so on. Ubuntu Repositories and how to download and in-

stall many Open Source applications [programs]. It will be a chance to ask questions and seek answers. If at any time you don’t understand what is going on, please ask. Without questions, we are without answers.

Sr. D: I have programs that I use all the time in Windows and I can’t do without them. I’d never be able to change to GNU/Linux. What about that?

Paul: Many Windows programs already work under the GNU/Linux platform, and there are Open Source applications existing that fill many common and uncommon program needs. Some are demonstrably better than their Windows counterparts. There is an ongoing process to adapt popular Windows applications and programs to run under Linux. Engineers are working to increase the ability to run an ever-growing number of Windows programs and third-party applications.

Sr. D: How could I try Linux without getting rid of my Windows system?

Paul: This is a very good reason to attend the GNU/Linux SIG. We’ve already done demonstrations of the Ubuntu Live CD—and are always ready to do more. A Live CD is an operating system that runs from a compact disk (in a CD-ROM) without the need for a hard drive. This disk also includes the option to install and set up Dual Boot or Multi Boot using the GRUB (Grand Unified Boot loader). With this option you could have two or more operating systems, e.g. Windows and Ubuntu, on your hard drive and the choice of booting either one. All OSs have their pros and cons. Our goal is to have fun, learn more about GNU/Linux, and in the process learn to respect all Operating Systems.

Sr. D: I heard that beginning in June GNU/Linux will meet every Friday evening. Why every week? Do I have to come every time?

Paul: Weekly meetings are to pro-

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Continued from page 4: ...**GNU/Linux**

vide a continuous forum for the increasing interest in the GNU/Linux platform. It's perfectly fine to attend when you can. But you may find you want to attend more frequently than you thought you would! ☞

Continued from page 1: ...**Power**

From their site: eneloop is a totally new type of battery, which satisfies in a unique way the needs and expectations of the consumers.

Consumers would like to have a battery, which

- *can be used right after the purchase
- *has a high performance
- *has a long shelf life with no loss of energy
- *can be used everywhere
- *is cheap in purchase and usage
- *is environmentally friendly
- *is easy to use

So far these requirements could not be satisfied by a single type of battery. The consumer had the choice between disposable batteries or rechargeable batteries.

Disposable batteries have several advantages:

- *they can be used immediately
- *they have a long shelf life with low loss of energy
- *they are rather cheap in purchase
- *they are easy to use and no charger is required

These advantages of disposable batteries however, had to be seen alongside several clear disadvantages:

- *can be used only once and therefore mean substantial waste and risk for the environment
- *have to be purchased over and over again and are therefore expensive considering the life-time of your equipment.
- *are not quite powerful enough in certain applications (like digital cameras)
- *are being offered in many varieties and special application-specific

types, which confuses the consumer. The classical advantages of rechargeable batteries are:

- *high performance, especially if high discharge currents are required (like in digital cameras)
- *cheap in use, because they can be recharged many times.
- *environmental friendly, because one rechargeable battery replaces 1000 disposable batteries.
- *good performance at low temperatures.

Given these advantages, rechargeable batteries also have some disadvantages, which made consumers reluctant to exchange disposable batteries by rechargeable batteries:

- *after purchase, rechargeable batteries have to be charged before they can be used
- *rechargeable batteries lose the stored energy rather fast
- *the state of charge is hard to determine
- *continuous charging or frequent charge (without complete discharge) can destroy the battery.
- *proper charging is complicated for an average consumer
- *the charging takes quite long and rapid chargers are expensive.

All these negative attributes have one root-cause: **self-discharge**.

Self-discharge means that a charged battery slowly discharges itself without any equipment consuming any current. This is the reason for rechargeable batteries being sold in discharged state. And this is the reason for that keeping charged batteries for some time did not make any sense. When you needed them, the energy was gone.

How was the self-discharge reduced? (For you techy folks!)

Modern Ni-MH batteries consist of two metal stripes (anode and cathode), which are separated by a non-conductive porous plastic foil (separator). These three stripes are laid on top of each other and are wound

to a coil. This coil is put in a metal can and immersed with a liquid (electrolyte). Then the metal can is closed with a cap.

The self discharge of Ni-MH batteries is caused by three main reasons:

- *the chemical decomposition of the cathode
- *the natural disaggregation of the anode
- *impurities of the anode

Now, how has the self-discharge in the eneloop been reduced?

The chemical decomposition of the cathode has been reduced substantially by the use of a new superlattice alloy. As an additional benefit the superlattice alloy increases the electrical capacity of the battery and reduces the internal resistance, which allows higher discharge currents. Another advantage of the reduced decomposition of this alloy is the fact that less Cobalt is needed to stabilize the alloy. The anode has been strengthened by another new material, which reduces the natural disaggregation. Additionally the separator and the used electrolyte have been optimized for low self discharge of the eneloop.

They really are good batteries!

I have been using eneloops for several months. They work fine. I have both a wall charger and two-battery (AA or AAA) USB charger. Both chargers work very well. I like the USB charger and I love the fact that they come charged and ready to go.

The kit shown below lists for \$50.00 but is available at Amazon for \$32.00 It comes with 4 AA, 2 AAA, and 2 spacers each for C and D plus a charger. I have found even better deals with more batteries at Costco!! ☞

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Continued from page 2: ...Digital

well as the use of histograms. Finally, he showed how a graphics tablet could be used in photo editing, using his Wacom tablet.

Vince Hughes passed on some information regarding digital TV programming in relation to VCRs. New VCRs will play old tapes, but will not record unless you have a digital box. Old VCR's on the other hand will record directly. If you need an old type recorder, they are available at thrift stores and pawnshops.

Tonney Yamane won the drawing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM. 🖨

Continued from page 1: ...Blog

have been posted. Click on Comments to read them, and then you can comment too by clicking Post a Comment on that same page. Be sure to sign your name.

There is also text inviting one to Subscribe to Comments for a particular topic...but it looks like only the webmaster can do this—since it requires a login.

Take a few minutes and investigate the OMUGGERS BLOG; you might learn something there. For example, how many of you knew that Ferrari makes not only cars but computers?? Check out the Operating Systems topic and find out **who** in OMUG owns one! Just mosey on over to <http://www.blogtext.org/OMUG/> and check it 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.

The Olympia Library:
313 8th Ave SE, corner of 8th and Franklin.

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

