

SEQUIM PC USERS GROUP (SPCUG)

**P.O. BOX 1994
SEQUIM, WA 98382**

ABOUT SPCUG

PURPOSE: - As described in our Constitution

The purpose of the Sequim PC User's Group shall be to promote the understanding and use of personal computers, to disseminate information about developments in the field of computers and the application of the technology to business, education and the home, to enhance interchange of knowledge and skills among users, and to assist the Sequim School District faculty and student body in gaining computer knowledge and applicable, timely and real-world skills.

The meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, except July and August, at 10:00am in the Sequim High School Computer Lab.

Dues are \$20 per calendar year, starting in January, for each individual. Payment covers membership for the member and the member's family. For members joining after July 1, the dues will be reduced to \$10 for the remainder of the year.

Meetings usually include a training program or a presentation of one or more topics of current interest to members of the group, followed by a business meeting. Time is set aside at the onset of the meeting to address concerns of members. A question and answer format is used to answer questions directed to those that volunteer to answer the questions by the group moderator.

Special Projects are developed to help improve some area of computer or technical training in the Sequim High School or the SPCUG, or both.

SOME OF THE SPCUG's ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- An electronic course was set up by an SPCUG member who helped teach the course for the first year until a teacher was trained and the course established. Required funds were provided from the group's treasury.
- A CAD (Computer Assisted Design) course was developed and taught for the first year by an SPCUG member. This required the CAD software (AutoCAD) and a more powerful computer which were provided by the SPCUG through donations from members and membership dues. The course started with three students. The following semester, 25 students signed up for the course. There is a large demand in industry for students trained in this discipline.
- Since the CAD course required more capable computers and special software than were available in the computer lab, funds were generated by the SPCUG members and matching funds were supplied by the school to purchase components for 24 new computers. These computers were built as a class project and the old computers were assigned to other areas where they were needed. This course is now being taught by a full time instructor. The school has an effective program in computer training, offering three courses that provide college credits among the available courses. Also, all of the school computers are maintained by the advanced high school students.
- The teaching tools available for typical school courses were inadequate for computer training. It is important in a training environment to show what is being done on a computer on a large screen in color. We investigated the available projectors and found the InFocus 580 color projector would do an excellent job for the size of the computer lab, and would be useful in other

areas of the school environment. SPCUG proposed that the school provide half the funds needed to purchase the projector and other equipment needed to make full use of the projector, and the SPCUG would provide the remaining half. The proposal was accepted by the school and the projector has been purchased. Now many school departments have such projectors. We have since purchased a large 8 ft. x 8 ft. projection screen and an effective public address system to enhance our presentations. In 2002 SPCUG purchased the Altiris Vision software that allows control of all computers in the lab and showing on all the computers whatever is on the controlling computer. This is an excellent training tool and has been since purchased and used by other school departments.

- SPCUG is established as a Non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization with donations deductible for tax purposes.

RECOMMENDED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

In order to improve the effectiveness of the SPCUG in carrying out the stated purpose, the following Projects and Programs are recommended:

- Offer Computer Education courses for commonly used software and computer maintenance and upgrades. These would be conducted in the computer lab either as a part of the meeting, or after regular school hours as a special session.
 - 1) These could be taught by a combination of club members and high school students, as well as outside resources.
 - 2) Video films and subscribed training programs should be a major part of the training.
 - 3) Establish work groups to determine priorities and procedures for training programs and what would be included in the courses.
- Recommend that when individuals purchase new software they consider getting the ones that are supported by training programs that are offered by SPCUG.
- Meetings will include time for discussion of individual problems and solutions.
- Meetings will include demonstrations and examples of applications using commonly used software.
- Use available video films and subscription training programs extensively in meeting subjects, taking advantage of the new projector and Altiris Vision software.
- Organize Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to meet separately to discuss and develop skills in their special interest, such as: Novice PC Users, Internet, MS Works, MS Word for Windows, Investing, Graphics, etc.
- Provide a list of individuals who are willing to help SPCUG members with hardware or software problems.
- Provide more social interaction of group members to get to know each other - Group activities.

SPCUG officers for 2007:

		<u>e-mail address</u>
Steve Solberg	President	spcug1@gmail.com
Tom Pitre	Vice President and Technical Consultant	“
James Anderson	Treasurer	“
Jessica Burroughs	Secretary	“

Revised, 1-23-2007