

Originally sent: November 7, 2008

To: OLLI Colleagues
RE: Computer Club Progress (Club Letter #2)

I've been considering for several weeks how to best get the OLLI Computer Club off the ground. I've concluded that the easiest way to ensure high quality meeting programs, right from the start, is to hold joint monthly sessions on the OLLI campus with the Washington Area Computer User Group (also known as WACUG or WAC.) <http://www.wacug.org/meetings.html>

WACUG has a dedicated core of volunteers, and typically holds ten meetings a year featuring one or more computer, or computer-related technology topics, and two meetings for troubleshooting computers. WAC has about 45 members, including 9 OLLI colleagues, so it seems a natural fit on that score. Many of WAC's members are retired, but about 20% are still in the workforce, which enhances its programs because the still-working contingent brings the knowledge of current trends in computers and related tech topics to the group.

As most of you are probably aware, OLLI's calendar for the typical week is full, with blocks of time sufficient for a meaningful computer club meeting consistently non-existent. So, we'll jump outside the box, and hold our meetings in TA1 on Saturday afternoons, typically on the third Saturday of the month, and scheduled for 12:30 - 3:30 PM. This avoids the problems of getting into rush hour traffic, or dealing with driving during dark hours, which expanding the OLLI calendar block during normal weekdays would entail.

We'll hold our first joint meeting on January 17th. Based on your responses regarding what you wanted to learn about, we'll have a "Show Me, Help Me" session about electronic mail, including AOL, web mail, Outlook/Outlook Express, Thunderbird, and others. Our primary program will feature OLLI & WAC member Lorrin Garson, discussing and demonstrating the Amazon Kindle Electronic Book Reader. More details will follow as planning proceeds.

Twenty-eight OLLI folks have indicated their interest in a computer club. I've also included OLLI colleagues belonging to WACUG in this email distribution.

Regards,
Paul

PS: If you'd like to get a feeling for what current WACUG meetings are like, here's the schedule for the remainder of the year. Visitors are always welcome at WAC meetings!

November 22nd - Microsoft's Virtual Earth;
and Selling on Ebay: What's Involved?

December 13th - PC Clinic; Microsoft's Live OneCare Security Suite

Details: <http://www.wacug.org/meetings.html#next>