

# M.O.T.D.

*The OS-9 Users Group Newsletter*

*Issue #3, 1995*

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# About the MOTD

## MOTD Information

The OS-9 Users Group, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization, registered and incorporated in the state of Iowa, whose members share an interest in the OS-9 operating system in all of its various forms.

**MOTD** is the official newsletter of the OS-9 Users Group, Inc.

The OS-9 Users Group, Inc. has no affiliation with *Microware* or any other organization.

The opinions expressed by the authors of any articles or columns are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor, Publisher, columnist, nor do they reflect the policies of *The OS-9 Users Group, Inc.*

The **MOTD** will be printed a minimum of four times per year.

To receive **MOTD** you must be a member in good standing of *The OS-9 Users Group, Inc.* in accordance with the bylaws.

To become a member in good standing you must pay the yearly dues of \$25.00 US funds (\$30.00 US funds if you live outside the US and Canada) and obey all of the membership rules set forth in the Constitution of The Users Group and the bylaws.

Dues should be made payable to:

The OS-9 Users Group, Inc.  
6158 West 63rd Street  
Suite 109  
Chicago, Il. 60638  
U.S.A.

Memberships run for one year from the date received by the Users Group. Send a SASE for a membership kit which will include a membership form and information about the Users Group.

Please remember that this is a self help organization, and also a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Iowa and as such it is directly governed by the laws of that state as well as all federal laws. Accordingly, dues are non-refundable in accordance with both state and federal law.

Reprints or back issues of the **MOTD** are available to members in good standing at the cost of \$1.50 each plus \$0.50 shipping (US funds). Please send a SASE and a list of the issues you wish sent to you.

Here is a list of the current OS-9 Users Group officers:

Position	Name
President	Colin McKay
Executive Vice Pres.	David Graham
Director	Ed Gresick
Director	Eddie Kuns
Director	Ken Scales
Vice Pres. (Comm.)	Paul Jerkatis
Vice Pres. (OS-9)	Brian Goers
Vice Pres. (OS-9/6809)	Mike Rowen
Secretary	Howard Luckey
Treasurer	Br. Jeremy
Librarian	Dave Kelly
MOTD Editor	Joel Mathew Hegberg

## MOTD Contributions

Articles, editorials, "letters to the Editor/Board of Directors", personal ads, graphics, or columns may be submitted by using the following means:

E-mail to JoelHegberg@delphi.com, E-mail to 'Sysop' of SandV BBS [(708) 352-0948], E-mail to the OS-9 Users Group at os9ug@sandv.chi.il.us or by mail to *The OS-9 Users Group* address in Chicago. All submissions should be in pure ASCII format.

The submission of material does not guarantee publication. All publication of material is subject to review by the Board of Directors and the **MOTD** Editor, and must not be in conflict with the stated purposes of the Users Group as defined by the constitution and bylaws of the Users Group. The Board of Directors may also establish additional guidelines for acceptance to publication. Submission deadlines are four weeks before actual printing of the **MOTD** issue. *All printed material is subject to nominal editing by the MOTD Editor for clarity.*

Suggestions for making **MOTD** a better publication are welcome. Letters may be addressed to the **MOTD** Editor and mailed to the Users Group address or sent directly to JoelHegberg@delphi.com. E-Mail can also be sent to the following Delphi members: NIMITZ, MITHELEN, LUCKYONE, BRIANGOERS, EDDIEKUNS, EDELMAR, MROWEN, REVWCP, and KSCALES. You may also sent E-mail to os9ug@sandv.chi.il.us.

## MOTD Advertising

Commercial advertising is available in **MOTD**. Please send a SASE for current rates. All ads should be submitted as a camera-ready copy. We reserve the right to limit the size and quantity of ads.

## SandV BBS (708) 352-0948

The SandV BBS is a BBS being maintained by Paul Jerkatis to provide Internet access.

# From the President

Getting close to the middle of June now, and winter is definitely gone! This issue, like the last one, is being sent out to as many industrial users as we can find in order to make them aware of the group (and perhaps join), and to encourage them to place ads to reach new customers. If your mailing label has the word SAMPLE on it, we encourage you to fill in the membership application and join the Users Group.

The Chicago Fest is over for another year, along with our Annual General Meeting. Elsewhere in this issue are the minutes from that meeting, along with a financial report.

Special thanks also to Ken Scales for taking over as Editor for this issue. Joel is moving and starting a new job, and will resume wielding the Editor's pen for the next issue.

## Elections

All three positions that were up for election were filled by acclamation. The current BOD consists of the following:

Position	Held by
President	Colin McKay *
Executive VP	David Graham *
Director	Ken Scales *
Director	Eddie Kuns
Director	Ed Gresick

\* Chicago Election Results

Congratulations to David Graham (Blackhawk Enterprises) as the new Executive Vice President, and Ken Scales who returns as a Director. I have returned as President.

## Chicago Fest

Thanks to the Glenside Color Computer Club and its members for putting on the Chicago fest once again. As always, a fine job.

Thanks also to those UG members who manned the UG booth during the Fest. Volunteering (or being volunteered!) wasn't that painful, was it?

Kurt Johnson, from the KD Consulting Group, gave a presentation on the Sculptor 4GL+SQL package. The first part of the presentation was a general overview of Sculptor, the philosophy behind it, and a demonstration

of a simple application written under Sculptor. Second part of the presentation covered a system running under Sculptor on an OS-9 system at NASA. This system is used to collect information from the Space shuttle. Our sincere thanks to Kurt for fitting a side trip to the Fest into his schedule and doing the presentation.

## Upcoming Fests

Atlanta Fest: 29/30 September 1995 (See the ad in this issue)

Chicago Fest: TBA 1996

## Feedback

Received a thank-you from Joel Hegberg for the GU award in Chicago (see the minutes from the Annual General Meeting. He was caught completely by surprise and very embarrassed, much to the amusement of those watching.

We also received some positive feedback about the two new columns that premiered last issue -- "Entry Level C", and "The Toolbox". There will be some interesting columns and articles making their debut in the next issue as well, in addition to "A Basic09 Tutorial" by Bob Devries from Australia and "What's New" in this issue.

## Membership Renewals

We received a good number of renewals (and new applications) at the Chicago Fest, along with several membership applications from Industrial users in the mail.

Finally got all the paperwork into the appropriate files, so please check your membership expiry date on the mailing label! They are all up to date as of 15 May, so if anything needs correcting, please let us know.

Also a reminder to send in your OS-9 Sourcebook form from last month. This project can benefit all of us.

## Library

In Chicago, some discussions were held with Dave Kelly from the OS-9 Community Network (OCN). The results from this discussion are covered in the article on the OCN library elsewhere in this issue. The end result should be of benefit to both members of the UG and OCN. Dave Kelly will be serving as UG Librarian. UG members will get access to both the OCN and UG libraries, which are now combined and distributed with the OCN library. See the article in this issue for more details.

**Colin McKay**  
President

# Annual General Meeting Minutes

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the OS-9 Users Group, Inc. Held at Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL April 29, 1995

At 5:14 PM the President Colin McKay called the meeting to order following the presentation on Sculptor by Kurt Johnson of KD Consulting.

The first order of business was the election of officers to the positions of President, Executive Vice-President, and Director at Large. Three candidates had agreed to serve in these positions. They were:

Colin McKay, incumbent, for President;  
David Graham for Exec VP; and  
Ken Scales, incumbent, for Director at Large.

The President opened the floor for any nominations from the members attending, and after none were presented, declared the candidates elected by acclamation. Later in the meeting David Graham gave a short acceptance speech expressing his willingness to serve as Exec VP.

The next order of business was a report on the State of the UG. Colin reported that the Group is healthy. The treasury is in good shape and the MOTD is being printed on a regular basis. Later in the meeting Br. Jeremy, the UG Treasurer, gave a brief financial report.

The President reported on the need for a UG Librarian since Zack Sessions had resigned. The hope is to get someone who has connections to OCN (OS-9 Community Network) because our present library is relatively small and probably dated whereas OCN has a rather extensive collection of software. An association between the UG and OCN will be investigated. There was some discussion with Dave Kelly, one of the OCN Librarians, who was at the meeting.

There was some discussion of the purchase of a Fax/Modem for the UG to help develop Fax software for both OSK and OS-9/6809. Some other software also needs to be found and ported or developed for OSK. No decision was made because this is something for the BOD (Board of Directors) to handle.

The members present were reminded that the UG does support OS-9 in all its forms. As such, efforts are being made to expand coverage of different areas in the MOTD.

The President noted that for the first time there were ads in the MOTD, and that this allowed the UG to print extra copies so we could send samples to industrial users in order to let more people know we exist and to attract new

members. Joel Hegberg, editor of the MOTD, mentioned the importance of feedback so that the newsletter can better serve the members. Also, there was a call for submission of articles.

There was a question from the floor about when the UG might begin to hold its own national meetings. The President stated that there had been a lot of discussion about such meetings over the weekend and that indications from industry reps he had talked with had been positive.

Another question was about our efforts to get our name better known. Brian Goers, VP-OSK, reported on his efforts to make contact with APCUG (Association of PC Users Groups) so that the BOD could consider joining the Association.

Ken Scales, Director at Large, mentioned that the BOD meets online on Delphi the first Wednesday of every odd month and noted that UG members could pass on their suggestions and concerns to any BOD representative prior to these meetings for discussion. Email addresses of the Board members and officers are printed in the MOTD. At the moment the use of email seems to be the least expensive way to contact people.

Brother Jeremy, Treasurer, reported on the release of Ver. 3 of OS-9 Level II. For the most part, the working patches have already been released to the public, and the small number of remaining changes would require extensive work before release.

He also mentioned that ports of other Radio Shack code are coming and that he is in the process of searching for software developers who have left our community and who might be willing to release their work to the public or to vendors for continued development and use. He asked that anyone who knows of such people to submit their names to him.

The last order of business was the presentation of a RU award to Boisy Pitre, to accompany the GU award he received in Atlanta. GU awards were also presented to Joel and Tim.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02PM

Howard Luckey  
Secretary

# Report: 4th Annual Last Chicago CoCoFEST

by Colin McKay

Four of us, Alan DeKok, Ken Scales, Jim Pottage and I made the trek from Canada to this show for OS-9 and Color Computer users. As always, the trip down and back by car (and travelling through US Customs with a pile of computer equipment) is almost as interesting a story as the show itself, though I won't go into that here.

The show was held in Elgin, Illinois, just west of Chicago, at the Holiday Inn. This particular hotel has all the rooms arranged around an indoor swimming pool! However, there are far too many activities going on to go swimming. Friday night was spent in the bar, catching up with old friends, and meeting people who we had only known by email. Saturday night was spent doing the same thing, although some people went into Chicago to visit the Hard Rock Cafe, or to play Laser Tag (or catching up on sleep). Sunday night's dinner is traditionally held at the Mongolian Barbecue, but due to prior commitments, we left directly from the Fest.

For those who have been to prior fests, not much has changed. There were about 25 vendors, all hawking various wares. Many familiar faces, and a few new ones. Some new products, some old ones, and some people selling gently (and not so gently) used equipment.

Biggest single shortcoming (IMO) was the large number of junk dealers. Far too many tables dedicated to selling used equipment. So many in fact that some of them decided that they didn't want to haul their leftovers back

with them, so they ended up giving them away!

Running throughout the day were various lectures. Topics this year included MIDI, Philips CD-i (Compact Disk Interactive), The KD Consulting Group's 4GL+SQL Sculptor Database, and a souped up version of OS-9 for the Hitachi 6309 processor called NitrOS-9.

New products included a 68306-based AT-bus computer which will be sold through a couple of vendors, an AT keyboard adapter for Color Computer users, and assorted software packages (games, applications and tools).

The Sculptor lecture was quite interesting (and one of the few I managed to attend). Sculptor is a fourth-generation language database with SQL which has been ported to over 140 different hardware and operating system platforms. Any applications written using Sculptor on one platform can be moved without modification to any other machine running Sculptor.

One example given of this was an application that runs at NASA to collect data from the Space Shuttle. The application is developed on MSDOS-based machines, tested using UNIX machines, and is run on an OS-9 platform for its superior ability to handle the large amounts of data which come from the shuttle near launch time.

Kudos to the Glenside Color Computer Club for sponsoring the fest.

## OCN (OS-9 Community Network) BBS Sites by Tim Jones

Sysop	BBS Name	Location	Phone Number
Terry Goode	Golden Coco	Houston, TX	713-941-1542
Dennis Mott	The Data Warehouse	Spokane, WA	509-325-6787
Ed Jones	Coco Plus	Mobile, AL	334-341-1616
	House of Fire	ON	416-601-0085
Newton White	ACS BBS Inc	Atlanta, GA	404-636-2991
Michele Dalene	The Pink Rose	CT	203-429-6338
Kerry Kowalski	The Data Stash	Whitelaw, WI	414-684-4115
Tim Jones	The Trial Run	Austin, TX	512-280-6578
John Reece	The Coco Exchange	San Diego, CA	619-272-3643
Ken Flanagan	Pot O' Gold	Prince George, BC	604-564-8869
	The Coco Library	HI	808-545-8368