

M.O.T.D.

The OS-9 Users Group Newsletter

Issue #2, 1996

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About the OS-9 Users Group, Inc.

General Information

The OS-9 Users Group, Inc.
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The OS-9 Users Group, Inc. (The OS-9 Users Group) is a non-profit organization, registered and incorporated in the state of Iowa, whose members share an interest in all forms of the OS-9 operating system.

The OS-9 Users Group is governed by the appropriate state and federal laws.

MOTD (Message Of The Day) is the OS-9 Users Group's official newsletter.

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

Please remember that this is a self-help group, and as such depends on the generosity of its members for its existence. The OS-9 Users Group and this newsletter are run by volunteers -- please remember this when you deal with them.

Opinions expressed herein may not reflect those of anyone other than the author, nor do they necessarily reflect the policies of the OS-9 Users Group.

The **MOTD** will be printed a minimum of four times per year, ideally at least every three months.

Membership in the OS-9 Users Group is available to anyone with an interest in the OS-9 operating system.

Annual Dues are \$25.00 in US funds for residents of the United States of America, and Canada.

Annual Dues are \$30.00 in US funds for residents of other countries, to help offset the cost of Airmail delivery of this newsletter.

Dues should be made payable to The OS-9 Users Group, Inc., and sent to the above address.

Memberships run for one year from the date received.

Reprints

Reprints or back issues of the **MOTD** are available to

members in good standing at the cost of \$2.00 each plus \$1.00 shipping (US Funds). Please send a SAE and a list of the issues you wish sent to you.

MOTD Contributions

Articles, editorials, "Letters to the Editor", personal ads, and columns are always welcome.

Submission of material does not guarantee publication. All material may be subject to review and editing by the BOD and the **MOTD** Editor, and must not be in conflict with the stated purpose of the OS-9 Users Group as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Users Group. The BOD may also establish additional guidelines for acceptance before publication.

Suggestions or comments about the **MOTD** are welcome. Letters may be sent to the **MOTD** Editor.

MOTD Advertising

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

Free classified ads are available to individual members on a space-available basis.

Officers

The following individuals make up the current Board of Directors (BOD) of the OS-9 Users Group:

President	Colin McKay
Executive VP	David Graham
Director	Ken Scales
Director	Eddie Kuns
Director	VACANT
Secretary	Howard Luckey
Treasurer	Br. Jeremy

Notices

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From the President

A few changes have been made here that will streamline (and hopefully hasten) the MOTD production cycle once and for all, resulting in more timely delivery of each issue. If it works, you should see the next issue shortly after this one, so cross your fingers!

Ed Gresick

I recently received this letter from Ed Gresick of Delmar Co., and knowing that Ed has many friends in the OS-9 community, I thought I would pass it along.

Colin McKay, President, OS-9 Users Group

Dear Colin,

It is with regret that I must tender my resignation as director-at-large of the OS-9 Users Group.

After my recent sojourn in the hospital and subsequent tests and procedures, my doctor is requiring me to reduce my activities and workload. This necessitates I completely reorganize my life. I will be phasing out many commercial activities which have placed pressure on me as well as ceasing other activities which lengthen my workday. There is a good side to this in that I hope to soon be able to spend some time on 'fun' OS-9 projects which I've had to shelve. I shall continue support of G-WINDOWS, the SYSTEM IV and SYSTEM V computers and OS-9000.

You have my best wishes and hopes for the OS-9 Users Group.

Ed Gresick

Our thanks and best wishes to Ed for a speedy recovery.

Chicago Fest

The Fifth Annual Last Chicago CoCoFest was held the weekend of 13-14 April 1996. The Sixth Annual Last Chicago CoCoFest is scheduled for the first weekend in April, 1997!

Mike Knudsen's Fest report is contained elsewhere in this issue.

Elvis (complete with sideburns and black leather jacket) was sighted by those Fest-goers who closed the bar Saturday night, somewhere around 2am. Elvis (his real name is Patrick) works nights at the Holiday Inn.

AGM and Elections

Our Annual General Meeting was held at the Chicago Fest on Saturday, 13 April. Ken Scales was elected by acclamation to the Director position. Further details about the meeting are contained in the AGM minutes in this issue.

Survey Time?

Not yet, but next issue will include a brief survey. We want to find out what you like and dislike about the Users Group and the MOTD, and what changes we can make, as well as your opinions about certain matters.

Submissions

A few articles of note this month, along with our usual material:

First is a comparison between OS-9 and OS-9000. This marks our first real OS-9000 article outside of SFTHM, and will hopefully be the first of many more.

The second is a report from the San Diego OS-9 Users Group about a demonstration they put on at the San Diego Computer Expo.

Sincere thanks to all the contributors for this issue -- it makes things much easier when we put an issue together and have material!

Submissions for the next issue, as always, are welcome. Just send it by email or snail mail to the MOTD Editor at the Users Group address.

Colin McKay
President

< EOF >

Minutes for BOD Meeting March 6, 1996

A regular meeting of the OS-9 Users Group Board of Directors (BOD) was called to order on March 6, 1996 on Delphi. Present: Colin McKay, president and chairman of the Board; David Graham, executive vice president and member of the Board; and directors-at-large Ed Gresick, Ken Scales, and Eddie Kuns.

Item 1. Approval of the minutes:

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the January 3, 1996 meeting. The minutes were approved as amended.

Item 2. Financial report:

Submitted as more of a bank balance rather than a financial statement with a promise of more details for 1995 at a later date.

OS-9 Users Group Account 1-01-96 to 1-31-96				
Date	Activity	CR	DR	Balance
960101	Beginning Balance			\$ 1,828.35
960131	Service Fee		5.89	1,822.46
960131	Ending Balance			1,822.46

(The following is unofficial pending receipt of the February 1996 statement.)

960201	Beginning Balance			1,822.46
960212	Membership Renewals	175.00		1,997.46

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Jeremy, CSJW, Treasurer

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3. Scholarship:

The UG still needs a financial report so no action was taken.

Item 4. UG mail:

Arrangements have been made to cover the expenses of the mail service and to have the mail picked up and forwarded on a more

regular basis including reports to keep the President and Board up to date.

Item 5. Chicago Fest:

Final arrangements were discussed. The UG will have a booth with extra copies of the MOTD to pass out, a time slot at the end of the Fest day on Saturday for the annual general meeting, and will probably rerun the Glenside Fest ad one more time.

Item 6. The MOTD:

The President reported that issue 1-1996 is about two thirds done and that it should be finished soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 7. Nomination/Elections:

Only one position is open and that is for one of the director's slots. This will be announced in the MOTD and will be a part of the general meeting in April.

Item 8. Review of Appointed Positions:

The BOD discussed the need to review appointed positions for the purpose of injecting new blood into the leadership or for situations where some individual have taken on new responsibilities in their lives.

Item 9. Special Meeting:

The President called for an executive session of the BOD on Wednesday 3 April 1996 at 8PM EST for the purpose reviewing the various positions and for any final preparations for the Chicago Fest.

The meeting adjourned.

Howard Luckey, Secretary
Saturday April 20, 1996

These minutes were approved at the May 1, 1996 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Annual General Meeting April 13, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 4:06PM at the Holiday Inn, Elgin, IL.

Minutes of the last AGM approved as published by the members present.

Elections

The only nominee was Ken Scales, and he was declared elected by acclamation.

Reports

President, Colin McKay

Our Group has been around for about four years and considering some of the division within the community and the fact that the group and its officers are apart by wide distances we have done fairly well. The Executive meets online every two months.

One problem is a need for a better division of labour. At present the President is doing the great majority of the work such as processing requests for information and memberships (as well as editing the MOTD). It was suggested that the Secretary take on more of this work. Over the last year there have been no major problems running the group, however there have been several small ones. Various projects and initiatives by the Executive are being done to help ensure the continued success of the Group. The primary need is for people who volunteer for a position to follow through and do that job.

The number of industrial members has increased. Coverage of OS-9/68000 and OS-9000, as well as OS-9/6809 will continue to increase and members are encouraged to submit material. It is hoped that the majority of industrial members will renew their membership, and to do this, the MOTD must increase relevant material.

Treasurer, Br. Jeremy

The UG is doing okay financially. We

are paying our bills and have a positive balance. There are still some administrative items to be sorted out, but these will be dealt with by the Exec. (BOD Minutes May 1, 1996.)

Librarian, Dave Kelly

The merging of the UG and OS-9 Community Networks library is in progress. Some volunteer help for this job has been found. The Internet RTSI OS-9 library site was also mentioned.

Discussion

Ken Scales, Director, mentioned getting information about an OS-9 conference being presented in Europe by EFFO the European OS-9 group. He also expressed concern about fragmentation in the OS-9 community and the need for people to help out. He added that the UG seems to be over most of the rough spots.

There was a discussion about support for OS-9/6809, and Eddie Kuns mentioned that it would not be coming from Microware which officially dropped support for OS-9/6809 several years ago. Br. Jeremy mentioned his efforts to obtain some sources from Tandy, and from that there has been only some preliminary discussion.

Boisy Pitre discussed the proposed UG scholarship. The best possible world would be for the UG to have non-tax status so that donations by corporations and individuals could count as tax deductions. However, since the group has not reached that status yet (at the Federal level), Boisy proposed going ahead with the scholarship program anyhow. The membership agreed. There was a question about the qualifications for the scholarship. This matter is still under study.

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 PM.

Howard Luckey, Secretary

Subject to approval at 1997 Annual General Meeting.

Minutes for BOD Meeting May 1, 1996

A regular meeting of the OS-9 Users Group Board of Directors (BOD) was called to order at 8:05 PM CT on May 1, 1996 on Delphi. Present: Colin McKay, president and chairman of the Board; David Graham, executive vice president and member of the Board; and directors-at-large Ken Scales and Eddie Kuns.

Item 1. Minutes: The minutes from meeting on March 6, 1996 approved as amended.

Item 2. Financial report:

OS-9 Users Group Account 3-01-96 to 3-31-96

Date	Activity	CR	DR	Balance
960301	Opening Balance			1,990.94
960325	Mail Deposit	25.00		2,015.94
960329	Service Fee		5.63	2,010.31
960331	Ending Balance			2,010.31

OS-9 Users Group Account 4-01-96 to 4-30-96 (Prelim)

Date	Activity	CR	DR	Balance
960401	Opening Balance			2,010.31
960414	115 H Luckey (postage)		15.68	1,994.63
960414	116 J. Hegberg (MOTD)		605.36	1,389.27
960414	117 C. Boll (post fund)		50.00	1,339.27
960414	118 C. Boll (PO Box)		120.00	1,219.27
960414	119 Glenside (Booth)		30.00	1,189.27
960414	Memberships	550.00		1,739.27

The service fee will be approx \$8.00 +/- . I will post a corrected statement when I receive the statement from the Bank. I believe that I have mentioned that as we no longer receive the Deposit Slips with the Monthly statement, it is vital that I receive email following any deposits to the account.

Respectfully submitted,

Brother Jeremy, CSJW, Treasurer

Report approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 3. Election results:

The Board congratulated Ken for his reelection as Director, and Ken expressed his thanks.

Item 4. Scholarship:

Member Boisy Pitre has the paperwork and will be handling the project as a separate entity in association with the UG. No further discussion.

Item 5. Chicago Fest:

The Board expressed appreciation for the good work done by the Glenside Club for putting on the Fest.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 6. MOTD:

The next issue of the MOTD is in the process of being completed. So far there has been little or no suggestions or feedback about articles appearing in the MOTD. The Board and editor encourage contributions from members.

Item 7. Volunteers: The Board asks that all of us be on the lookout for new volunteers to help with articles and other activities necessary to make the UG successful.

Item 8. Old software: The Board suggested that Brother Jeremy get together with Bob Swoger of the Glenside Club to combine efforts to collect old software.

The meeting adjourned at 20:35

Howard Luckey, Secretary
Sunday June 16, 1996

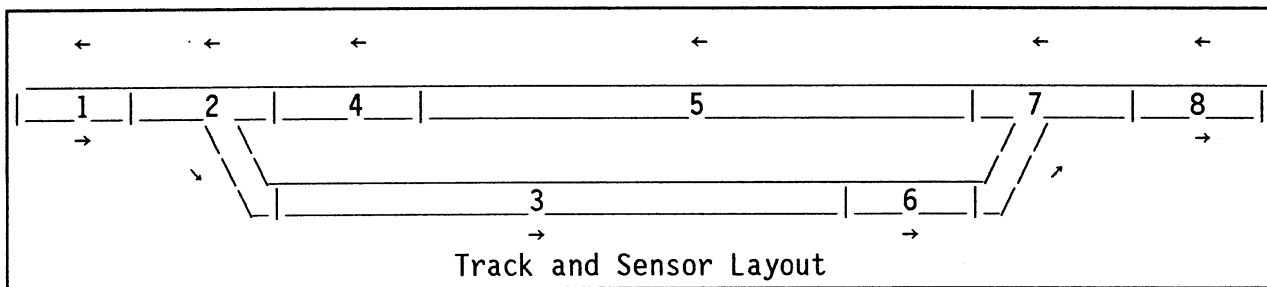
These minutes were approved as read at the July 3, 1996 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Every year our club, The San Diego OS-9 Users Group, puts together a booth for display at the San Diego Computer Expo to illustrate the capabilities of OS-9. We would try our best to make OS-9 known to the general public. Our exhibit usually consisted of various computers running OS-9 of some kind. The visitors would look around a bit and then keep on walking because they saw nothing of interest to them. We looked like yet another booth with computers running some software.

For this year's Expo John Reece came up with the idea of hooking up a simple train layout to one of our CoCos (Tandy Color Computer 3) and have the computer control a couple trolley cars on it. With the system running OS-9 we could also have the CoCo running other

plugged into the Multi-Pak Interface. The card was addressed for the \$FF70-FF76 area of memory on the CoCo 3. With Basic09 we could make POKEs and PEEKs to these addresses to control trolley direction, change switch-track positions, alter power voltages, and detect where the two trolley cars were on the tracks. The trolley layout for our booth exhibit is shown in the diagram on this page.

The numbers 1-8 represent the track blocks that have sensors connected to them. A trolley would travel from block 1 to block 2 and then on to block 3 and 6 then 7 and finally 8. The trolley would then travel in the opposite direction from block 8 to block 7 and then on to block 5 and 4 then 2 and finally 1, thus completing the route. This was all



programs at the same time and that would definitely attract some attention at our booth, we thought. Our group voted that the project was a great idea. John was to build the trolley layout and the hardware necessary to connect the CoCo to it and I was elected to write the software to control the two trolley cars.

Since my background is not in electronics I thought the trolley project was going to be rather tough. But luckily John had gotten his idea from a book called "Build Your Own Universal Computer Interface", by Dr. Bruce A. Chubb (ISBN 0-8306-3122-4, Publisher: TAB). The author explains in detail how to assemble the hardware for controlling various devices from just about any home computer. John used the schematic for the CoCo controller board to build an interface card that

controlled by the CoCo which was detecting through the sensors where the trolley was and what it should do about it. John wrote up a program in DECB to control just one trolley car. This was done to test the hardware and wiring for every component. The computer was programmed to stop the trolley when it reached blocks 1 and 8 so that passengers would have time to get on and off.

I was impressed with what I saw that day when I showed up to help out with the programming. Wow! John told me he was satisfied with how the trolley project was progressing and now it was up to me to write the OS-9 software to control two trolley cars.

It's one thing to have the computer control just one trolley. But to have it control two!