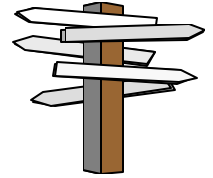


THE MINNESOTA LOGGER



Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter 6 District 6 of the
International Society of Logistics (SOLE)

Minneapolis/St. Paul

Issue No. 254

Date – September 2003

Chairman's Corner

ERP, Logistics Elements and Service Management Systems

Beginning in October I focused the Chairman's Corner series on Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and how those systems relate to the Elements of Logistics. Throughout that series we focused on the new features of best-of-type business applications and the availability of those features that might be found in current shipping versions ERP systems. An element of ERP systems most often missing in popular ERP systems is a full-featured Service Management System (SMS).

We discussed the best-of-breed features of the elements of logistics and their incorporation in available business applications throughout the series.

In addition we touched on some of the emerging technologies such as the handheld computer or PDA and how it might be used in logistics applications.

The attached article is a reprint of an article, "Mobilizing Field Service, Now Is The Time" by David Hakala.

In this application the author discusses the features, deployment and use of an SMS that features a integrated SMS and incorporates handheld computers. The SMS discussed in the article is FieldCentrix (<http://www.fieldcentrix.com>).

This article initially appeared in the July-August 2003 issue of *Mobility*, the magazine of Mobile and Wireless Solutions for Today's Business. It is attached with permission by the editor. For subscription information, please visit www.hhcmag.com.

With this article we conclude the review of ERP and the Elements of Logistics series.

As the SOLE organizational year comes to a close the Chapter looks forward to the beginning of another year. We will set the stage for the coming year with important decisions, including election of officers, at this month's meeting. We hope to see you there!!.

Larry G. DeVries, CPL
Chapter Chairman, Twin Cities 2002-2003
Chapter 6 District 6
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2003 SOLE Conference Recap

by Larry G. DeVries, CPL

The 38th Annual International Logistics Conference & Exhibition 2003 sponsored by SOLE was held on August 12-14 in Huntsville, Alabama, at the Von Braun Convention Center. Hotel accommodations for many guests were in the Hilton Hotel across the street. Our Chapter Chairman, yours truly, representing the Chapter at the Conference, arrived at Sunday noon.

The Conference events actually started on Saturday with pre-conference meetings and more pre-Conference SOLE events got underway with tutorials and workshops on Sunday and Monday. Those were quite well attended as our District 6 Director, Philip Frohne from Boeing, St. Louis, taught a class of thirty on "Quantitative Measures of Logistics". Monday was also a day to open the registration for the Conference and also a chance for the host Chapter to sponsor a golf tourney in which yours truly participated. The exhibit hall, with approximately 35 exhibitors, opened up on Monday evening.

Tuesday was the Keynote address. It was a replaying of the Dr. Werner Von Braun address to the Society's inaugural meeting 37 years ago. The black-and-white videotape was well received. Many attendees felt the words of that address were just as relevant today. The keynote session was followed by panels and technical presentations. The Conference featured a theme of "Melding Defense and Commercial Logistics". The theme focused on leveraging information for logistics advantage to the Department of Defense as a customer. Refer to the SOLE web site for the Convention topics, speakers, and events. The Tuesday lunch was held in the exhibit hall maximizing exposure to exhibitors. After the Conference events Tuesday a reception was held that evening at the Space and Rocket Center Museum. Huntsville was originally the center of the space program beginning with the arrival of the German scientists (Dr. Von Braun, et al) and their work from the late 1940's. This focus continued through the early events of the US space program. The museum was very

interesting as it contained numerous exhibits and a number of historical craft replicas from the early space activities and the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo programs.

Wednesday was a full day of Conference. An interesting exhibit was the demo of MERIT software that reported Corps-wide equipment readiness for the Marine Corps. This system integrates the data from the existing legacy systems for both US- and deployed-USMC units and reports the status of equipment readiness starting with the SMG (Squad Machine Gun on up to aircraft and tanks). MERIT was a very interesting demonstration of leveraging existing information system to consolidate data, to pinpoint repair part shortages and incomplete work orders, and to help automate readiness reporting. At the end of the day Wednesday there was the opportunity to participate in tours and yours truly took the tour of the Port of Huntsville Intermodal Center (road, air and rail shipping container handling center) by bus tour. Over-the-track cranes at the Center were in action moving containers from over-the-road tractor-trailers to make up different container railcar trains. Huntsville is an active center for rail serving the South including the rail hub of Charleston, S. C. Huntsville's airport also hosts direct cargo-only flights from Europe. After the tour ended a reception was held for CPLs, Fellows and Past Presidents at the Hilton that evening. Some of our members remember attendees Prof's Ben Ostrosky, retired from the University of Houston; Prof. Ben Blanchard, retired from Virginia Tech; and Charlie Coogan and Lillian Coogan from Acquisition Logistics Engineering (ALE.com).

Thursday the Conference continued with the program of both panels and papers. A number of presentation topics centered on "Performance Based Logistics". The noon event was the President's Luncheon where both group and individual awards were presented. On Thursday evening the Society held its Annual Banquet at the Hilton. The banquet featured the societies' awards of a prestigious nature given to deserving individuals. Mr. Charlie Coogan, CPL, was awarded Fellow status. The banquet ended the Conference events. There were over 300 Conference attendees.

The trip back from Huntsville was completed by air on Friday morning ending an eventful and rewarding 2003 SOLE Conference.

JUNE MEETING RECAP

Jackson Street Roundhouse Railway
June Meeting Tour 6-28-2003

by Larry G. DeVries, CPL

The Saturday tour of the Jackson Street Roundhouse (Minnesota Transportation Museum) in St. Paul (just off Pennsylvania and I--35E) started at 10:00 am at the entrance to the Roundhouse. There we were met by the staff coordinator and introduced to our tour guide for the morning - John Wickre. He started the tour by giving us a short history of railroads in Minneapolis and St. Paul since their serious introduction in the 1870's. The Roundhouse was built by the Great Northern Railroad in 1907 to service their passenger-service steam locomotives. Several expansions on the site followed. He explained the features of this maintenance site one of many such sites once in the area. The peak railroad track miles in the USA occurred about 1914. Track mileage has been lower each year since that time. Approximately 25 percent of any railroad company's employees were involved in equipment and track maintenance. Steam engine locomotives were high maintenance and 40 percent of the time they had downtime due to maintenance. Steam engines powered with coal carried the country through World War II, however. Diesel engine locomotives were introduced after WW II when diesel fuel was made more widely available. Diesel locomotives reduced that downtime to 5 pct for maintenance and had other advantages in that they could be coupled for pulling larger loads and operated by one crew unlike steam engines which could not be coupled. Over 1,000 workers labored at this maintenance site where both locomotives and cars were maintained and repaired.

John took our group on a Roundhouse walking tour next where we saw an all-wood car that once was split and served as a house in Coon Rapids but has now been restored in the museum. Restored it now provides meeting rooms in the Roundhouse. The former family owner of Win Stephens Buick had a special car, now on display, which was used to visit Detroit from Minneapolis in the era of the introduction of the automobile. Next was the first diesel engine built in 1913 which is now named the "Dan Patch engine" because it was used to transport Minnesota's famous trotter of that name. Just outside the Roundhouse we saw a narrow gauge track being used by a children's train. Next to view on display was the fixed-V snowplow car useful for Minnesota snowfalls. Our group had a short ride on the recently restored and completely rebuilt 120-foot turntable. This necessary feature of any roundhouse

was rebuilt and is now operated with electric power. The reconstruction cost on this project alone was over \$2 million. Back inside the Roundhouse at a different level there was a restored former USN switcher diesel engine used for work in the yards. Next to it was the current restoration project and a work-in-progress. This is the complete restoration of Northern Pacific #2156 a Class Q-3 4-6-2 steam engine locomotive. It was made famous in Minnesota by Casey Jones when it was used as a backdrop for the children's TV program of the late 1950's and early 1960's. This restoration project will cost over \$250,000 even using the no-cost labor of restoration volunteers. The grounds had other buildings and features as separate buildings other than the roundhouse were once used for car maintenance. The museum is next to an operating track used by modern trains that provides a current authentic backdrop to the museum property. We finished the tour at 11:21 with a visit to the gift shop and "art car". We saw several impressive prints circa 1983 by railroad artist T. Fisher on display in the art car (prints are available at Bandana Square). Our lunch followed and was hosted by the Chapter at 'Buon Giorno Express' on Mississippi Avenue to end the meeting.

The web site <http://www.mtmuseum.org> has details on the museum and a complete Railroad Equipment Inventory. Listed there are locomotives, passenger equipment, freight cars, cabooses, and other equipment on the site. Money to support the museum comes from federal transportation fund grants from funds set aside for preservation of the history of transportation in the United States. And contributions are put to prompt use from visitors in the form of individual donations.

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETINGS - -

Next: September 18, Thursday

Chapter members are encouraged to attend the September Chapter meeting and participate in the election of chapter officers for the coming year, October 2003 – September 2004.

In addition to election of officers we will present Chapter awards for the year just past.

We will also discuss the program for the coming year. A draft program follows.

Chapter members are encouraged to participate in any way in chapter operations for the coming year.

PRELIMINARY 2003-2004 MEETING TOPICS

Date	Event	Remarks
Thurs., 18 Sept 2003	Fort Snelling Officers Club	Organizational Meeting
Thursday, October 9	System Test, Medtronic	Joint Meeting with INCOSE
Tuesday Nov. 11	Baldrige Quality Award	Joint Meeting with ASQ
December TBD	Christmas Party	Location TBD
Thursday Jan 15, 2004	"How Six Sigma and Supply Chain Integrate"	Dinner Meeting and Case Study with CLM
Tuesday Feb. 10	"Supplier Qualification"	Joint meeting with ASQ
March TBD	"Tour of SuperValu, Distribution Center"	Hopkins Plant
Tuesday, April 13	"QS9000/TS16 949/DOE maybe FMEA"	Joint meeting with ASQ
TBD May 2004	Technical Meeting TBD	
TBD June 2004	Tour TBD	

The above achieves a minimum of five technical meetings each with a technical presentation related to SOLE disciplines.

A tour is possible where indicated since we are aware that CLM is taking a tour of SuperValu in Hopkins this fall. So, SuperValu does give tours.

The above does shift a bit away from the "always the third Thursday" concept as we match up with the other group's dates as indicated above.

It does leave two more meetings to complete – May and June. We have penciled in a technical meeting and a tour.

If you cannot attend please e-mail comments or call by 20 September. ***Your comments are requested!!***

Larry G. DeVries, CPL – Chapter Chairman

CHAPTER WEB PAGE SITE UPDATED

The Chapter web page has now been updated to reflect the revisions. To view it go to <http://www.sole.org> > Member Services > SOLE Web Pages > C6D6

Once you are at the web page there are several links that are present on the page.”

- The “Chapter 6 District 6 History” link is very descriptive with the Chapter Chairman list complete, all Chapter Awards listed, and a complete list of CPL & Fellow names added.
- A hyperlink to the St. Thomas brief now allows a download of the presentation given in April in .ppt format. It is in the lower right hand column “C6D6 Logistics Engineering and ILS (.ppt)”

An additional improvement will be to add scanned photos-to-digital file images. Members are encouraged to submit scanned images of prior Chapter members and events to Larry DeVries by e-mail.

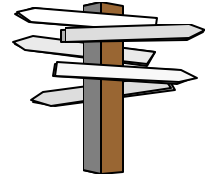
2003 SOLE Conference Proceedings

The CD-ROM of the 2003 SOLE Conference will be available shortly. On it will be copies of those presentations and papers from the conference.

Any chapter member who desires a copy of the proceedings should contact any chapter officer listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

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MINNEAPOLIS/St. PAUL CHAPTER

MEETING DATE: Thursday **September 18, 2003**

LOCATION: Ft. Snelling Officers Club, Post Road

TIME: 5:30 pm, Social Hour

6:00 pm, Dinner Ordered From The Menu

7:00 pm, Meeting

COST: Menu Item Price

MEETING TOPIC: **Organizational Meeting for the 2003-2004 Chapter Year**

Our organizational meeting will focus on the following tasks:

- Election of officers for 2003-2004 Chapter year,
- Awards for the 2002-2003 Chapter year, and
- Discussion and approval of the program for the 2003-2004 Chapter year.

Now is the time for all Chapter members to voice their opinions and recommendations on our program for the coming year.

RESERVATIONS: Call one of the following for reservations not later than 15 September 03:

Honeywell

Lockheed Martin

United Defense

Other

Jack Povlock

Joe O'Brien

Ken Dacas

(763) 954-6263

(651) 456-3977

(952) 887-3855

PLEASE POST

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