

– TUG MoM Review –

The September 2002 Meeting of Members

By Ron Anderson, Wende Boddy & Léo Lefebvre



Wende Boddy

Ron Anderson writes:

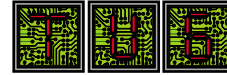
There is always some excitement in the air when it's back to whatever your usual routine is after a long, hot summer – whether it is back to school, back to work or back to TUG. On September 18th we began our 18th year as an organization serving the IBM mid-range user community in the GTA and beyond. While some of our surroundings are familiar, for example meeting at the hotel at the northeast quadrant of highway 401 and Keele Street (the name has changed a few times during our years there) although this meeting saw us congregating in the Fairbanks room. This was the result of a booking error by the hotel which turned out to be a boon to our meeting because the large banquet room was somehow more comfortable.

For those who needed a reminder about our regular meeting night it was promoted in our Labour Day issue of the

TUG Magazine and by e-mail to hundreds of our membership. The result was attendance by nearly a hundred technologists to begin the 5 o'clock session with **Dale Perkins** on Re-Discovering the AS/400, followed by the usual intermission with the not so customary sit-down pasta meal with all the trimmings.

This led to the invaluable networking with our TUG peers, followed by a little TUG business and then it was on to our Rochester IBM speaker, **Jim Fall** on Apache Web server on iSeries.

The meeting concluded with a number of door prizes contributed by TUG, IBM and Coca-Cola (who also donated the Desserts table once again for the umpteenth time). The grand prize finale draw was for the Pioneer top-of-the-line DVD player for which we thank **Peter Alcardo**, Director of IT at Pioneer,



for his contribution. Jim Fall drew the ballot (from Wende's hat box) of **Mark Winkler**, whose photograph appears in this article. As I have often said before, mark the penultimate Wednesday of alternate months beginning September on your calendar for the TUG Meeting of Members. This is a huge benefit of membership of which you will want to take advantage. By the way, of all the members who sat down at the beginning of the evening, most were still present when the meeting came to a close, just shy of 9 o'clock – no doubt a testament to the value that this bi-monthly investment of four hours is to our members. The following reviews cover the presentations by Dale and Jim which were both accompanied by handouts.

Wende Boddy writes:

A big thank you to **Coca-Cola Beverages** for sponsoring the delicious desserts. (You should hear the grumbling if we do not have a dessert sponsor.) Other sponsors of door prizes are:

Panasonic Canada
IBM Canada
Coca-Cola Enterprises
Toronto Users Group

The grand door prize (the Silver Panasonic DVD player) went to **Mark Winkler**. Other winners were: **Hasmukh Mistry**, **Ernesto Salvador**, **Jim Rose**, **John Fellner**, **Jeremy Richards**, and **Jim Hilchey**. We appreciate all the great giveaways we have at these Meetings of Members. If your company would like to participate, please call the TUG office. We can arrange pick-up of any prizes for the draw table.



Léo Lefebvre with Dale Perkins and Jim Fall

Léo Lefebvre writes:

Both speakers for the evening gave us excellent sessions. Many of us, and I include myself, have been working a long time in the IBM Midrange field. We have seen and worked on the IBM System/3, S/32, S/34, S/36, and S/38. Every move from one machine to the next prompted us to learn about new stuff. The AS/400 was introduced in June 1988, and was recently replaced by the eServer iSeries, as we all know. When IBM introduces new machines we usually can migrate to the new environment without too many problems, as long as we do our homework. AS/400 and iSeries technology may be 12+ year old but more has changed besides its name. In fact the system has evolved in more ways than any other system. But, what have we done to keep ourselves up-to-date?

Our first speaker, **Dale Perkins** (IBM *Jim Fall* Toronto), told us what we may have been missing through the years. How many are still programming in RPGIII. Hi! Hi! Hi! Get over it. Move on to the new language and the not-so-new ILE environment! Take advantage of the new field name size, new functions, new connectivity like API's, etc. How many are still using SEU to develop their programs? IBM has not invested a single penny in that tool for over 8 years. How about Operations Navigator?

How about TCP/IP? How about Java? How about HTTP Server? How about Logical Partitioning (read LPAR)? How about...? There are so many improvements, so many new tools and



Mark Winkler receiving prize from Ron Anderson

He did not just talk about it. Jim also showed us how to set it up! Jim covered the History of HTTP Servers and reviewed IBM's strategy. He also described what Apache is all about (beyond the fact that it got its name from "a

patchy server".) Then he went on comparing Apache with the original Web server architecture.

Jim's handout was quite detailed and described very well what he was talking about. If you were not at the meeting and would like a copy of the handout, go to TUG's home page at www.tug.ca. There you will find a link to download the presentation in Adobe format.

Now that you know what you have been missing through the years, are you going to get back on track and try to join the rest of the pack? It's not difficult. You only need to take some time to do it. Take small steps if you need to. Small steps are still better than no steps at all!



Léo, Wende and Ron are all dedicated TUG volunteers, and can be found at any TUG Meeting of Members. Contact them at leo@tug.ca, wende@tug.ca, or ron@tug.ca.

