

All 5 issues of *Ada-WOW* in black-and-white will be found in the December 1999 issue of SIGAda's newsletter, *Ada LETTERS*



“Ada-WOW”

Ada's Window On the World



Crowne Plaza Redondo Beach & Marina Hotel
Redondo Beach, California, USA
1999 October 17-21

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Welcome to SIGAda '99, about Ada-WOW

By Hal Hart (TRW), SIGAda'99 Conference Chair

Ada-WOW, a daily conference newsletter, is a SIGAda'99 innovation modeled on “WOW” which has been a tradition at SIGSOFT's International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE) for years and is anxiously anticipated by attendees every morning. *Ada-WOW* will bring you late breaking news stories, interviews with speakers, thought pieces, and interesting bits of information about the conference, the location, and the current and next generation of Ada software engineering researchers and practitioners. Bear with us as we get the bugs out of newslettering. (Or, better yet, contribute with articles, reviews, picks and pans of local restaurants, ...) -H² (Hal.Hart@ACM.ORG)



Guess what — we forgot to get out the digital camera Sunday. We are recycling a photo of ICSE 99 Local Arrangements Chair Hal Hart & Meeting Planner Corbin Ball

Where's Ada?

By JC Morrison
(Ada SOLUTIONS, INC.)

A map of the world, entitled **Where's Ada?**, is located near the registration area. Conference attendees are asked to place a pin on the map indicating where they live. We can all get some idea of where Ada is being used around the world. You will note that each pin has a number attached to it. There is no significance to the number – just pick one you like and use it.

Highlights of Tutorial SF2, “Design Patterns in Ada 95”

By Chris Sparks (Boeing)

On Sunday, October 17, 1999, I attended a tutorial presented by Matthew Heaney (email matthew_heaney@acm.org). The room was filled up with a total of 19 participants. Mr. Heaney provided his guests with a plethora of written information, all of which could conceivably take two days to present. He was very thorough and eager to

convey his knowledge to his audience. His web site is at <http://www.acm.org/archives/patterns.html>. He did however made a valiant attempt and provided us with several interesting concepts.

To be specific he discussed the following software patterns: Interpreter, Allocation, Smart Pointers, Observer, Iteration, Factory Method, Singleton, Abstract Factory, Semaphore, and Recursive Semaphores.

I found several topics that either enriched or confirmed my knowledge base.

I found Smart Pointers pattern interesting since the implementation uses a handle to effectively hide an object's data access pointer from public use. He also described an Observer pattern which uses accessed discriminants to help avoid dangling pointers. He also touched on an implementation of multiple inheritance (multiple views) that is implemented as an object publicly derived

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Weather Forecast

Today (Sunny)
High: 26 C (79 F)
Low: 14 C (58 F)

Tomorrow (Sunny)
High: 26 C (78 F)
Low: 14 C (58 F)

from one type and privately derived from another. This concept was thought
(continued on page 3)

You are Here!

By Mike Walsh

Welcome To Redondo Beach.

You have arrived in the beach city of Redondo Beach, California. You are *not* in the city of Los Angeles which some of the local residents consider an advantage. However, you are in the county of Los Angeles and that city is close by. As the conference program says "The weather is always glorious on the beach, the water is warm in October, and the 5-minute walk to the Redondo Pier will reward you with multi-national dining, shopping, and relaxation." In some respects this sentence doesn't do justice to the area as there are far more close-by locations at which to shop and dine than at the Redondo Pier, although that is certainly a good place for a newcomer to start. The people who want to do serious shopping might wish to go a bit further to the very large Del Amo Fashion Center in Torrance. There are many other points of interest and I will encourage you to check on in information brochures that should be available at the hotel.

Talk about "Resources" ...

One of these is the small brochure "Redondo Beach It's Easy!" It is filled with suggestions for things to do in North Redondo, at King Harbor/The Pier, and South Redondo. It should be noted that if you are at this conference you are in the King Harbor/Pier area and that Redondo Beach has some strange boundaries. From here you are closer to Hermosa Beach and Torrance than you are to North Redondo Beach. For more information contact the Redondo Beach Visitors Bureau, the people who produced the brochure either by calling 1-800-282-0333 or at www.visitredondo.com.

Another publication is "Guest Informant los angeles" which is published by Guest Informant, LLC and provides information on points of attraction throughout Los Angeles County. The current issue is for 1998-

1999 and features both a picture of X-Files star David Duchovny on the cover and an article on him within. There is some quite useful information about getting around on the LA freeway system, and it is a generally good guide to many attractions of the area. There is a bit of local puffery in remarks calling L.A.'s downtown area one of the nation's most vibrant civic centers and making favorable remarks about Ventura Boulevard in the San Fernando Valley. Many local citizens have considered both areas a bit run down. However, the down town area has added the new Staples Sports Arena which is too new to make the publication. For more information from Guest Informant go on-line to www.cityspin.com.

... You are not in the city of *Los Angeles* which some of the local residents consider an advantage....

I would comment about any brochure material that recommendations should be regarded as influenced by advertising, and there are many good restaurants and points of interest that may not be mentioned. Also, people frequently have varied tastes. I read an article by someone who moved from New York to the area of Los Angeles where I live, and who was very enthusiastic about its good points. I recognized the names of the restaurants and stores that he described, but I did not care for any of them although I also have a favorable opinion of the area. I suppose this may be true in many large cities, but I believe Los Angeles is a prime example of a place where life styles can be over-laid over the same geographical areas without interacting.

Weather, Earthquakes, & Other Rumors

Since we know the conference program is always right, then any beaches that are a bit cool under a cloudy morning sky must be an optical illusion. Well, it really could happen but the chances are very good that the weather will be excellent. The beach areas quite

frequently are smog free compared to the more inland areas and to date temperatures that are a bit cooler have been an advantage over the very hot conditions occurring inland. Apart from the weather, we have that occasional earthquake. Saturday Morning the entire Southern California area was awakened at 2:46 A.M. by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake. Fortunately it was located over 100 miles from Los Angeles. An earthquake expert said that if you had to have a quake of that magnitude, out in that isolated desert region was the place to have one. We can't guarantee anything about earthquakes, but if that one was intended for the SIGAda conference it came early.

All work and no play ...

One deterrent to participating in outdoor activities is the fine set of programs scheduled for SIGAda '99 that should take up much of your time during the conference period. All I can say is "Go For It", try to tack on a few days' vacation after the conference and see the area and its attractions. You may not want to live here (although many of us do) but it's a great place to visit.

LA Picks

The Getty museum is definitely worthwhile. In fact, it may be the only thing in LA county worth seeing :-). The beaches are nice: either go north (Malibu) or to Orange County (Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Crystal Cove). D. T.

LA Pans

The LAX area is the pits. Riverside and San Bernardino are the smog capital of the world. "The Valley" is not what you think of when people praise the glories of "Southern California." There really is no major "central downtown" area of LA like other large U.S. cities. Wall-to-wall cities with postage

A Student's Perspective on Ada

By Haiping Xu (Univ. of IL at Chicago)

As a beginner for Ada 95, I took three steps to learn what Ada really is. My first surprise was, when in my software engineering course, the professor handed us a big program as a simulator for vending machine, which was written in Ada 95. All the features used in that program were only things like packages, procedures and generics. So many people had told me that Ada was a huge language, which had made me hesitate to learn it. I couldn't believe that using the fundamental features in Ada 95, we could really write big programs!

After two years, when I began to have my interests in the area of concurrent and distributed computing, I took my advisor Prof. Shatz's course – distributed software engineering. Then I met Ada again! I had known that we had concurrent features like threads in C and Java, but I had not realized that Ada had already had all those concurrent features as tasks since Ada 83!

Now I am doing formal modeling for Ada programs. I begin to learn more features about Ada 95, such as protected type, ATC and requeue statement. Only at this time, I begin to realize that Ada is a big language, and it could be used to solve all those problems that C and Java could, while it's the most reliable language among those I had used. Although this language is still new to me, I learn from my lesson that Ada could be learned step by step, and I really did not need to worry that Ada was such a big language.

As a student author (*my paper is in Wednesday's 3:30pm Track-2 session*), it's a great chance for me to meet so many Ada people. SIGAda'99 also provides me the student work grant, by working on Ada's Window On the World, I just see the splendid future of Ada.

SIGAda'99 Technical Stuff Underway!

Tutorial SF2 (continued from page 1)

provoking since I hadn't seen this style used before. Another interesting topic was his discussion on Semaphores. He discussed the use of a controlled type to facilitate the reservation/ release of a semaphore. He alluded to the fact that this method would be beneficial to the development of thread-safe software. He further went on to talk about avoiding deadlocks through the use of a controlled type with a protected object.

All in all, Mr. Heaney did a wonderful job and showed a lot of enthusiasm in his field of study.

Quote of the Day

*Not everything that counts can
be counted,*

*Not everything that is counted
counts.*

A. Einstein

Your "reviews" of the technical sessions you attend are welcomed. Indicate whether you want them printed anonymously or signed. Submission

Ada's Window on the World

Editor - In-Chief (acting):

Hal Hart (TRW)

Production Editors:

Hal Hart (TRW) – *acting*

Your Name Could Go Here

Reporters:

Michael Walsh (TRW retired)

Haiping Xu (U. Illinois at Chicago)

JC Morrison (Ada SOLUTIONS)

Chris Sparks (Boeing)

Or here

Birds of a Feather Sessions — Less Formal Technical Exchanges

By JC Morrison
(Ada SOLUTIONS)

Birds of a Feather (BOF) sessions will meet on Wednesday night from 7-9 PM, 9-11 PM, and 7-11 PM. You may sign up to attend a session or to lead a session. (See page 9 of the Final Program.)

If you have a topic that you would like to discuss with your colleagues, fill out the form on the main bulletin board. List the BOF TITLE, the COORDINATOR (your name), and a brief DESCRIPTION of the topic. You may check back after 1:30 PM on Wednesday to get the room assignment.

A BOF might be regarded as a *Workshop in the Small*, with similar objectives for people with shared interest in a focused topic to get together and work on a product, debate issues, or draw up blueprints for advances. These complement the value of the conference's prepared technical program. As such, they have always been an asset at SIGAda conferences to round out and fulfill attendees' reasons for the investment of time and travel. (*Stay tuned for descriptions of scheduled workshops starting Tuesday.*)

LA PICKS

There is a great fountain next to the Academy of Music in downtown LA. It comes right out of the ground. Great for kids to run through on a hot day. At certain times it is programmed to dance to music. We've never managed to find a schedule but often took our kids there to cool off. They loved it even though it wasn't dancing. L. D.

Ada-WOW asked a few people "WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES, OBJECTIVES, or EXPECTATIONS FOR SIGAda'99?"

My minimum hopes have already been met - that we would manage to successfully "downsize" our conference, and at least break even on the smaller format. Thanks and congratulations to you, Hal, for your efforts in achieving this VERY IMPORTANT goal. Now, I'm sure, the typical quality we have had in past Ada conferences will continue, and the conference will be a TRUE success!

—
S. Ron Oliver (*The Oliver Academy, nemesis of sucky software*), SIGAda Vice Chair for Liaison

(a modest editor would have cleaned that one up. :-)

I expect SIGAda'99 will be a succe\$\$ful conference.

—
David F. Harrison, *Tri-Ada'97 Conf. Chair, SIGAda'98/99/2000 Publicity Chair & Webmaster*

LA PICKS

Great peasant food:

Tito's Tacos - Sepulveda and Washington Place

Apple Pan - great hickory burgers - Westwood Blvd and Pico Blvd

Tommy's - worlds greatest chili dogs and burgers - Alvarado and Beverly Blvds (off the Hollywood freeway between Hollywood and Downtown).

P.S. There are local Tommy's located nearer the conference but these are all inferior to the original.

D. P

I hope to learn about new areas of application with Ada, specifically the patterns seminar. I am hoping that I can make new contacts and visit with current peers to get an idea of what is being done in the Ada community. I am expecting great vendor exhibits and in-depth seminar/workshop presentations. My objective is attend as many session possible to get the full benefit of going.

—
Chris "Mr. Ada" Sparks, Boeing

To make SIGAda'99 not only real-time, but also distributed to the whole world!

—
Haiping Xu, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago (*student author, Ada-WOW writer*)

HOPES: Not to come down with the flu before my Wednesday morning talk.

OBJECTIVES: To show others how much fun Ada is in the classroom.

EXPECTATIONS: To bring home new and better ideas from those many wonderful people who attend SIGAda conferences.

—
John McCormick, SIGAda Secretary

By focusing on a (somewhat) narrower domain (real-time & distributed), I hope the whole conference can feel more like an interactive workshop than a series of lectures on "random fun things to do with Ada."

—
Tuck (S. Tucker Taft), SIGAda'99 Program Committee Co-Chair (*and chief designer of a popular, rising PL*)

LA PICKS

For a great night time view of the sprawling San Fernando Valley go to Mulholland Drive and head along the winding two-lane road that runs the ridgetop separating the Los Angeles basin from the San Fernando Valley. On a clear night it provides a spectacular sight of millions of lights twinkling in the darkness. Drive carefully at moderate speeds and stop periodically for a leisurely view.

M. W.

Wanted

COBOL programmer to help solve Y2K problem on small 10M SLOC program.

Contact WOW for more information.

PS: Guess whom Ada-WOW just heard blamed for this whole Y2K thing?? She's a big name!