

The GPMATE Gazette

Ankeny, Iowa Training Schedule

December 6-8(3 days).... **GP MATE**
 December 9-10(2 days).... Crystal Reports

January 17-19(3 days).... **GP MATE**
 January 20-21(2 days).... Crystal Reports

February 21-23(3 days).... **GP MATE**
 February 24-25(2 days).... Crystal Reports

March 21-23(3 days).... **GP MATE**
 March 24-25(2 days).... Crystal Reports

Pricing:

GP MATE User Training... \$1,695.00 (3 days)
 Crystal Reports Training \$ 895.00 (2 days)
 Combined (above) \$2,590.00 (5 days)

Two attendees from the same company:
 15% discount.
 Three or more from same company:
 25% discount.

A minimum of three students is required to hold a training class. We can accommodate a maximum of 6 students without sharing PCs. Classes fill up quickly! For registration forms, hotel information, and directions to the Ankeny office, contact:

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 Ankeny, IA 50021
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 Fax: (801)-705-1355
support@gpmate.net

Or go to www.gpmate.net and sign up on-line.

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From all of us at GP Solutions to all of you:

*Happy
Holidays*



GP Solutions will be closed for the following holidays:

Thanksgiving: November 25 and 26
 Christmas: December 24
 New Years: December 31

...From the Prez...

Welcome to our 2004 Winter edition Newsletter.

As the year comes to a close, we all want to thank our customers for their business, and hope that we have been successful at supporting your use of **GP MATE**. Feedback from the User Group has been driving our priorities as we continue to enhance our products and services. Business has been growing this year and we have implemented many new **GP MATE** systems in the US and abroad. I want to personally thank those customers who have acted as references for us and in some cases steered new customers our way.

On the development side, we have been busy adding new features and functions into the **GP MATE** product. One of the more exciting directions is the support for portable devices. In this edition we explain new capabilities for supporting operator tours. However, this capability is only the beginning as we target many new functions for PDA devices using Microsoft's PocketPC operating system. Previously we had been providing support for portable bar code devices, which are very useful for inventory control applications. But with the move to PDA devices, we will be able to provide expanded capabilities that can be operated on less costly hardware.

On the support side, we are introducing our Internet Message Board to improve communications with our customers. This facility will enable users to post questions or comments about the product, as well as look up information to help our users make better use of the system and share information.

In closing, I want to point out that we are being forced to reevaluate older computer operating systems that we will be able to support as we roll out new releases of the product. We have included a message from Loftware, Inc., who provides the Bar-Code labeling software used by many of our customers. They are dropping support for many older Microsoft operating systems. So for our customers that are still using Windows 95, 98 or NT operating systems, the writing is on the wall and you should consider budgeting for upgrades to these systems in 2005.

User's Conference Enhancements and Suggestion Summary

GP Solutions would like to extend a special thanks to all who attended the 2004 User's conference in Chicago. We also enjoyed hearing about the many changes you would like to see in **GP MATE**. Below is a preliminary list that we would like to share with everyone.

Alerts

- Create a report or query window with a definable filter to show Alert history.
- Add print buttons to Alert window.
- Add reply and forward buttons to Alerts.

Batch Processes

- Users would like to see a sweep routine to clean up old personnel names in the database.
- Users want a sweep for Vendor Codes.

Inventory

- Cycle counting issues with Portable devices. Scrolling back in the list, the results entered are gone. Need to be able to close a list accepting the "accepted items" and create a new list with only the exceptions.
- Users want to be able to receive a repairable item with a different serial number.
- Have the ability to create an inventory item from an NS item on the PO.
- Users would like to be able to create or add to an MPL based upon usage. Desire is for a report based approach so they can review what would be added and accept or reject specific items.
- Add a balance to Pick Ticket window. Users feel they could manage inventory better.

Maintenance

- Users want a way to trap repeats on Work Requests. Suggest a pop-up message if an open Work Order or Request is already open for specified Equipment.
- When creating a new CM type work order, users want to see a pop-up of open PM's with same equipment.
- Users want to halt creating of PM's if equipment is flagged as Inactive.
- Need the ability to identify PM's due during an outage and force the PM's to generate without going to each PM definition.
- It was requested that permits be added to the PM definition and transferred to the work order.
- Users want to print a PM task form. It was an option in the DOS system.
- Users want an option to print required procedures on PM definitions. They don't want to have to change Work Order Print Settings. Not all PM work orders need to print procedures.
- Work Order print. Users would like to see the lines in Work Performed feedback to print.
- Problem to be addressed. Work Order print is only picking up the first Tasks scheduled dates. It needs to look at all dates when selecting WO's for printing.

Purchasing

- Users would like the ability to generate a release against a blanket PO.
- PCARD purchases without having to create a PO. To reduce paper work, it would stop at PR for a PCARD order.
- Need to have a checkbox to stop displaying PO complete messages.
- Users would like to be able to split funds across multiple account codes by amounts as well as percentages.
- Users would like to see totals added to each of the three tabs on the Costs window; i.e. Expenses, Committed and Budget.

- Users want Receipt Cancel capability. If a receipt is made incorrectly against a PO line item, the only way to correct it is to set the quantity to zero.
- Need the ability to make it easier to change account codes on a PR when creating a PO.

Reporting

- Users want to see record counts again on reports.
- Modification to Open Line Item report. They only want to see the line items that are open not all items on PO.

Selection processes

- Add print button to Look-up results window.
- Option to have Print Screen or Definable field buttons added to all **GP MAE** windows.

Touring and Inspections

- If equipment is found out-of-spec, the supervisor should be alerted and be responsible for creating a work order. There should also be a switch in the tour definition that would allow the operator to generate a work order if deemed necessary.
- Trending reports to analyze data collected on tours.
- Previous work order should be available for review during a tour.
- Need to have data collections for "As Found", "As Left", "Out of service", and "Lock-Out Tag-Out."
- Free text area for the operator to enter comments.
- Ask question "Can the item be corrected immediately?"
- Allow alert levels to be set by operator for High, Medium, Low.

Introducing TourMate

TourMate is a new optional module for **GP MATE**. With this module, you can automate the collection of information often performed by operators and maintenance staff using inexpensive PDA devices.

With TourMate, you can eliminate all the paperwork associated with operator tours and reduce analysis time. In addition, problems found during the tour will automatically generate alerts or corrective actions in **GP MATE**, insuring proper follow-up actions are initiated.

A Tour is setup in **GP MATE** identifying the reading points by either an Equipment ID or a non-equipment location in your facility. For each reading point, you can identify the type of reading being performed as well as actions to be taken depending upon the entered value. The system supports four types of reading and trigger sets.

- Range of Values – you define an acceptable range of values and what action should occur if the reading is below or above this range.
- List of Values – you setup a list of possible values and actions that should occur for each value.
- Target Value – you identify the expected value and what action to occur if that value is not entered.
- Binary Value – a yes / no response with actions to occur based upon this entry.

When a value is entered that triggers an action, the system can generate an alert to the responsible party or create a corrective work order in **GP MATE**.

For applications that require significant accountability, the system can be setup to require the scanning of bar codes at the reading points to insure that the reading was taken at the correct point and the date and time accurately logged.

TourMate can be used on most PDA devices that support the Microsoft PocketPC operating system. There are a wide range of low cost units available for less than \$400, as well as more expensive intrinsically safe units and units fitted with bar code readers.

If this is of interest to you, please give Jim Lane a call at 515-964-9599.

GPMATE Support Message Forum

We now offer a place for **GP MATE** users to go and ask questions of us and of other users. You can also research problems you may be having by using the search function of the forum. We also have, on-line, all the **GP MATE** release notes for viewing and searching. There is a FAQ section we plan on filling with as much information as we can.

Additionally we would like your help with ideas of other things we need for the site. You can access the message center from the SUPPORT tab of the GPMATE.NET website or short cut it directly by going to www.gpmate.net/MessageCenter. It is important you use the proper capitalization in the name or it will not be found.

If you have anything you would like to share with everyone like a neat report or shortcuts please send them to admin@gpmate.net. We will test them and post to a protected area of the site. Yes, except for the general section of the site all other areas are protected and information there can only come from us so you are guaranteed it is correct or we approve of its use.

Please send your comments to admin@gpmate.net or feel free to post them in the public forum of the message board so we know you have visited.

Supported Windows Operating Systems for Loftware Products

In their continuing effort to deliver excellent software solutions and industry-leading technical support, Loftware must focus on platforms that are important to the future of our customers. In order to concentrate on the benefits of current technology Loftware must discontinue work on obsolete operating systems. Loftware considers the following operating systems to be obsolete:

- Windows 98
- Windows 98 SE
- Windows ME (Millennium Edition)
- Windows NT 4.0 (Workstation or Server)

These operating systems are at the end of their life as defined by Microsoft Corporation (see <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=fh;%5BIn%5D;LifeWin>).

Customers running Loftware solutions on these operating systems are encouraged to upgrade to a supported operating system.

Note that older Microsoft operating systems - including MS DOS, 16 bit Windows, and Windows 95 (all releases) - have all been through the end of life process and are not supported by Loftware Software Releases.

It is Loftware's intention to run on all current workstation and server class Windows operating systems. New releases of Loftware should not be installed on operating systems determined by Loftware to be obsolete. Loftware will no longer test new products on these operating systems.

Beginning with version 8.1, Loftware will run on the following operating systems:

- Windows 2003
- Windows XP
- Windows 2000 (Professional and Server)

As new operating systems become available Loftware will evaluate them and retest Loftware products on them as necessary.

Work Requests

Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers lack a sense of humor.

Here are some actual logged maintenance complaints by QANTAS pilots and the corrective action recorded by mechanics.

By the way, Qantas is the only major airline that has never had an accident.

(P stands for the Problem the pilots entered in the log, and S stands for the Corrective Action taken by the mechanics.)

P: Left inside main tire almost needs replacement.
S: Almost replaced left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.
S: Autoland not installed on this aircraft.

P: Something loose in cockpit.
S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.
S: Live bugs on backorder.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-fpm descent.
S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.
S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
S: That's what they're there for!

P: IFF inoperative.
S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspected crack in windscreen.
S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.
S: Engine found on right wing after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.
S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Radar hums.
S: Reprogrammed radar with words.

P: Mouse in cockpit.
S: Cat installed.

