



**Question #1 - Should the Message Board be opened to all members of the other slide rule groups?**

Some 80 % of the respondents favored the Message Board to be opened to international "circle" members too.

A larger audience would improve sharing of ideas, resolving problem and communications in general.

Concern was expressed about the password system, the difficulty of controlling access to the various national circles with membership changes, and the overlap with the ISRG message group.

3	Either anybody collecting, or OS-only (the admin of national groups will be too complex, too many changes)
4	Why not? Let's use our resources to exchange ideas, information, etc.
9	I don't use the message board because I can't remember my password. It feels cumbersome to me. My preference is to have an open forum with a moderator (I am currently moderating the FB site). I think our discussion boards should be open.
19	Currently, this message board is close to useless. It should be merged with the Yahoo slide rule group – the one most of us use regularly.
20	Assuming reciprocity with their equivalents
23	Members only
25	do not use it, have no opinion - has no value added to me
26	Slide rules amateurs is a small group; too small is inefficient.
31	Better check with these groups to learn if they are interested. How many international OS members have posted a message on the MB?
35	No. I think they should join. Fee is not too high and it costs time and money to run the OS including the message board.
39	worldwide I suspect we are small community. The two groups I am a member of (UKSRC and Oughtred) depend on volunteers to run them and create their publications. This would be an opportunity to widen the participation and could lead to collaboration on research and a sharing of information and knowledge
61	the more users, the more likely members' problems can be solved

**Question #2 - Should the Message Board be opened to the International Slide Rule Group (ISRG)?**

Only one third of the respondents said yes to opening the OS Message Board to ISRG members.

Danger of discussions/flaming running out of control if no good board member acceptance and individual message control is exercised.

The question is whether different subjects would be discussed in a public Message Board than in the ISRG.

3	No, we would then be exactly the same as ISRG, competing and losing
14	It would very hard to maintain control and content remove an incentive to join.
19	Only use the far more user friendly and far better used Yahoo group.
20	Assuming reciprocity with their equivalents
23	I favor ISRG access but believe that the public access needs to be restricted otherwise the maintenance and control of the discussion group might become a nightmare. I would suggest a Public Forum open to public and members but that the member forums be restricted to OS Members only and members of the afore mentioned groups.
24	I guess I don't feel real strongly about this. It seems that the ISRG is more of a math discussion group at times. If there is a way to let that discussion continue there and keep the OS message board focused on slide rules then inclusion might not be a bad idea.
31	We would need non-OS member registration procedure.
35	No. I think they should join. Fee is not too high and it costs time and money to run the OS including the message board.
39	Yes if there is nothing on the message board that is totally internal to Oughtred. It could encourage people to join us
50	I think that the Message Board should only be open to paying (or honorary) members of a formal group.
53	It might be best to have people join first – to encourage membership and to keep from having to moderate inappropriate messages
61	open slather to the public might introduce irrelevant flame wars or irrelevant posts if monitoring is dropped or reduced

**Question #3 - Will you or do you use the Message Board?**

Less than 20 % of the respondents have some experience, but usage appears to be minimal. This is probably caused by lack of traffic: chicken/egg problem. Only 2 respondents intend to start using it.

3	done so already, with only 1 reply out of 4 or 5 postings
4	I do not currently use the message board, mainly due to the fact I did not know there was one. I will research and check it out.
9	if it is open and easy to access, I might use it, but I'd be more likely to do so if it was hosted at FB or Linked in
20	Use infrequently
23	Yes I have used the Member board on occasion
24	I lurk on the ISRG through the digest.
26	Risk of too much commercial/business interference ?
31	Tried it. Got no response. How many different members have posted a message since the MB started?
39	As a new collector (and having more time now that I am retired) I suspect that I shall start to use the board more and more in the coming years
47	I haven't used the Message Board yet, but will probably do so in the future.

**Question #4 - How can the Message Board be Improved?**

Only 8 real proposals. Most relate to improving the system used for the MB because currently too rigid password access, fixed categories and no easy sequential view of messages.

Some suggestions would move the MB closer to the ISRG, or even merge it. There were interesting suggestions, like using Facebook, LinkedIn, special topics, topic of the week/month, or stimulate MB postings by OS members with special interests or functions (e.g. Board members).

2	We need to pay more in order to allow attachments to messages, also to have more forums.
3	by allowing the showing of all messages posted in order of time (just like ISRG); the current complicated and rigid categorization is counter-productive; the system of sequential threads of ISRG is much better
9	Move it to FB or linked in. Have online contests?
19	Merge with the Yahoo message group.
23	I have had not experienced any issues with the Member Board. For Sale and Wanted could be a little easier to handle; but, I do not see that as a critical thing right now. Opening up access may raise bigger issues and before we go off and start modifying things right now, I would suggest opening the access first to members only of other orgs and then see what the overall requirements would be.
31	Don't know.
32	I don't think it needs improvement.
36	By opening it up as noted above, by having all board members participate, by making the topics relevant and important so that others check in.....make it a point to check in at least once a week to read the latest messages and add content where applicable.
43	To increase participation have the topic of the month or week which can be questions posed to the group for discussion - such as : If you could have only one slide rule, which would it be? Which slide rule do you think affected other models that came after and why? Is it best to have trig scales on the Stator or on the Slide and why?
44	Would help if it did what it said. When I ask for messages created in the last day, say, I don't expect to see messages created two years ago. I find this infuriating. This may not be possible but when I have read a message I would prefer it to be marked as read immediately (i.e. an immediate colour change) and not for me to have to login again before I can see that I have read it.
61	I have no major suggestion, but perhaps the most recent entries could be brought to the top of the list so that they are more easily recognised. But that would only save a few moments, so is not a vital concern.

**Question #5 - Do you regularly purchase items on eBay, at flea markets, antique stores, or from individuals?**

Three quarter of the respondents appear to be genuine collectors as they do purchase regularly.

Some comments show that collecting activities slow down at a certain point in time (age, illness etc).

3	but less and less over the recent past
9	After having cancer last year, I am actively dedicated to reducing my possessions, so my buying has become quite selective.
20	Frequently from flea markets, occasionally from ebay; infrequently from antique stores or individuals
23	Antique Stores, eBay, and other OS members -- Slide Rules and Pocket Computers of 1980s and 1990s variety, not PPCs
24	Slower than before but I still browse flea markets, antique stores and use eBay on occasion.
39	I've just passed the stage of trying to buy one of everything and have tentatively identified a couple of specialisms to focus on, so I'm still very much in the market
61	I have only tried twice to buy on eBay - and failed. The main reason is that postage and packing to Australia tends to be a significant factor if the price of the rule is low, and if the price is high, concern about receiving a dud and the difficulty of returns to distant recalcitrant vendors is a deterrent. So i prefer to buy from known vendors, though that is a minor source. Flea markets and boot sales have been my major source. Antique shops and gifts from previous owners have been significant sources. I have also made a few acquisitions from swaps.

**Question #6 - Would you be interested in buying and/or selling slide rules or other calculating instruments in a private online auction for OS members**

Two thirds of the respondents were positive towards starting OS auctions.

However, in the 11 comments reservations were expressed with regard to the benefit/cost ratio of a new OS auction system.

Some find eBay and other selling platforms sufficient for their needs.

A possible return of the basic "OS Swap Sheet" was mentioned.

3	Also would like to see the return of the Gary's Swap Sheets
23	No, prefer to just deal with the cost and not an auction setting
32	I buy to keep, since my collection is small and not necessarily of rare items
34	Ebay does this well. I don't see value in bringing OS into this.
36	I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BUYING AND SELLING as noted above but NO because this feels like too much work for too little gain, given all of the other priorities that we have. There are already plenty of forums for buying and selling and serious members who really want to sell will use ebay or fleaglass.com and other sites and this will become another swap sheet that does not get the attention that it needs to survive. Need those resources on other things to increase membership and scope of OS.
39	see Q5, plus the fact I've bought several rules cheaply (when no one else outbid a very low price) with a view to selling them or swapping them. I suspect that like me collectors have slide rules that are surplus to their requirements and also have a wish list - a forum to share what we have spare and what we want, to buy, sell or swap would be very valuable. It would also give an insight into other members interests that might lead to new friendships and collaborations
43	I regularly use ebay when looking for a slide rule, but personally I would find it easier and more reliable to work through group members. In fact, in a number of my purchases, I have gone through other members of the group who are presently posting on ebay.
48	Not sure.
52	Probably not, but depends on easy of use, payment methods, etc.
60	probably would not get as good a deal on some items, but the seller would know what he's selling
61	As values are difficult to establish, I would also be happy to arrange swaps that way as well

**Question #7 -Would you want an OS store on the OS website, offering slide rules, books, and similar related items for sale?**

Almost all respondents said yes to starting an OS Store on our website.

In the comments it became clear that the concept of an OS Store was not properly explained, as there was confusion with the previous question on possible OS auctions.

For example, there was a fear that an OS Store would be a costly and difficult project - although many software packages for flexible web store handling appear to exist.

3	very important, to enable easy & fast buying on the spur
19	Would have to be easier to access than currently.
31	Only to sell a few items.
34	I don't know how to regulate who can sell. Will Dick Rose be allowed to sell things? I'd support selling Oughtred published items only.
36	Too much effort right now, spreading ourselves too thin. This is good down the road; we need to focus on increasing membership and scope.
39	Given that you have already asked Q6, I assume that this would be a more commercial section that members sales and swaps. As long as it doesn't take a vast amount of effort and time for a volunteer to maintain and handle the sales and distribution, since it would be mainly of "interest" in seeing what is available rather than a regular source of purchases (I suspect)
40	I think this would work better than an auction which requires a big pool of buyers with the same time frame.
43	In fact, expanding the idea to interesting or fun mathematical materials that kids or teachers may be interested in could help promote not only sales but also open doors for membership. Items can also be not only the instruments and books, but also of the coffee mug - t-shirt - et al lines where a portion of the sales is for the group or its efforts at scholarship or slide rule loaner programs
61	That would involve somebody in a lot of work, arranging it.



### Question #8 - What can the OS do to attract new members?

This question elicited a gratifying 80 % of comments from the respondents.

The general trend of the suggestions was towards improving public visibility of our field of interest, collecting and research.

OS members should step outside the comfort zone of our Society and turn with interviews, papers, articles, demonstrations, displays etc to the general public, in education (high school to university), teachers and professors, hobby circles, history of science and technology circles, and even general magazines, newspapers.

The need for ongoing improvement of the OS website was emphasized.

Further keywords for improvements are advertisements, internet presence by links to OS and visibility on Google, more visibility on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube movies, ISRG, displays in libraries, schools, member-brings-member bonus program, include OS membership in every signature on emails, eBay and other communications.

1	Improve Website
2	More interaction with other historical technology groups, including magazines.
3	Get articles published in popular science/technology media/papers/periodicals, example the Scientific American article of some 6 years ago: the FC 2/83N prices are still "suffering" from that story!
4	I wish I could help...I have tried getting my daughter-in-law, who is a math teacher, involved.
5	Leverage Google searches
6	Consider contacting university and high school math, science, and engineering groups
8	Improve visibility at Universities.
9	Advertise on FB and google. Have members pin us on Pinterest. Start filming and posting videos on YouTube. Good examples of excellent you tube content include the presentations done at the IM's, Joe Pasquale's lecture, Bob D's school talk. We should rewrite our mission to include documentation by SR users about how the tools were used. I asked Richard Smith Hughes if he would do one for us and he has agreed.
10	Do we use Google AdWords which would offer pay per click access to our website? Our member interests are so diverse that I don't know if there are any vehicles for small print ads.
11	Offer buying/selling features on OS website for members
12	Just Keep doing what you are doing.
15	Approach Science and Engineering Schools at major universities.
16	Make JOS the outstanding journal it used to be.
18	Place ads in college and university publications.
19	Provide an incentive for current members to introduce new members – such as free dues next year if you introduce five new members.
20	I wish I had an idea to offer. We are an aging group of enthusiasts, and short of having Brad Pitt or Eli Manning on TV extolling the joys of slide rule use and collecting I don't know how to attract younger members.

21	Advertise through publications and websites likely to be read by potential members, such as Scientific American. (In publications, very small ads should suffice.)
22	Continue to have an informative website
23	Possibly place OS links in my own Website Pages and create a page for Sliderules.
25	greater visibility outside of your closed circle - do something that is note worthy to gain general news status - you always aim toward the
27	Interesting question...possibly relatively young people interested in computing archaeology. The risk is in that the existing population, possibly mainly having known the age of slide rules, becomes too old.
30	If you are interested I would add a promotion for OS on my website (more than 100 visits a day). Produce a single special issue with shortened articles that can be downloaded by those or given to those who are interested in membership.
31	Find a way to explain the OS to the thousands of slide rule enthusiasts that are not members. Walter says that, according to his sales, there are tens of thousands of these. Many of them have the mistaken idea that the OS is a bunch of old curmudgeons that all are very advanced collectors, and that the OS is an exclusive group.
32	Perhaps by advertising briefly in such magazines as Sky & Telescope, Popular Science, and once in specialty journals (such as the Compendium of the North American Sundial Society).
34	Based on the last survey, it's an older demographic. That said, most antique collectors are older.
35	Anything that appeals to younger generations. Including the historical aspect of vintage calculators. I have found History students are more attracted to vintage calculators than Science or Math students.
36	Need to spend directed energy at increasing the scope of the OS from collecting to also focus on: (1) Tying slide rule use to math agility and math performance, college entrance exam scores. (2) Targeting those who value historical importance and educational potential of slide rules, (3) Driving historical slide rule and mechanical calculator displays at schools, universities, museums. (4) Targeting introduction sessions at junior/senior high, universities. (5) Additional quality web presence, Facebook presence with active discussions to attract younger Facebook users and get them interested to do some research into this area; generate interest outside the collector base.
38	I am not sure where to advertise, but I doubt many people know it exists.
39	Perhaps we could say that we are members of the society in any auctions we put on sales sites like eBay (Logo and "Member of The Oughtred Society") sort of thing
43	1) Having the items for sale ( Q7 ) might be one way to generate interest 2) Expanding the educational roads through small booklets, pamphlets for educators plus using math and science teacher gatherings to set up a table to have hand outs and items for sale 3) Having ceremony dates promoted through the web site and have some means to make public announcements about historical dates - these might be connected to competitions, not just slide rule, but can be other math tools
44	Begin to use Facebook and Twitter.
45	TRY TO INVOLVE MORE HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

46	That's difficult since sliderules are no longer used. We need young members.
47	I think that the ISRG ought to be made more aware of the existence of the benefits of the OS. Mention of the OS is made there occasionally, but I suspect it would be possible to be a member of the ISRG without really understanding the OS.
48	Publicize in Universities and schools.
49	Have more smaller regional meetings sililar to the wihter meeting. Forexample a New England meeting.
51	Play an active role on the ISRG
60	Advertise on Facebook, Yahoo! and Google
61	Continue exhorting youngsters to get an interest in slide rules, and extolling the advantages of OS membership to existing collectors

**Question #9 - What can the OS do to retain more existing members?**

Almost half of the respondents gave comments on this question, but with less original ideas than from the previous question. Most common answer was: continue the good work.

Some specific ideas: return to the "stapled" Journal as it will allow comfortable reading without breaking the spine, be careful with a too glossy and popular appearance of Journal, exit interview with every leaving member, optimal communication to members by email announcement and website.

1	Make JOS more Contemporary
2	Find the Fountain of Youth!
3	of course maintain/improve quality of Journal and OS website
6	Continue e-mail and web site communications.
9	It's all about fun intellectual stimulation and engagement.
12	Just Keep doing what you are doing.
16	Do away with the glitzy color inserts and go back to the sharp b/w or sepia graphs. Go back to b/w photos without the distracting "graded" color backgrounds. Go back to a center stapled publication that you can lay flat without breaking the spine.
18	Get rid of the perfect binding.. Very hard to read the journal.
20	No idea, other than encouraging members to take better care of themselves to increase their lifespans
22	Continue with an excellent JOS
23	I cannot influence fleeting members who are tied to the state of the economy or express little interest in the organization. You are dedicated or you are not and those that are, like myself, have extremely limited time (until I retire :-)
25	It seems that the organization is aimed at and managed by an elite few.
27	What are the statistics of renewal ? Seems relatively stable.
30	Sorry, I don't know, I'm satisfied
31	To learn this answer, the OS needs exit polls of non-renewing members .
34	The newsletter is awesome! I've never been to one of the meetings, but really wish I could. I really think the leadership has done a great job in the years I've been a member, 6 or 7 I guess.
35	fulfill the wants of our members.
36	Continue publishing the high quality Journal on time, get more members to write quality articles on personal interest, research, and collecting in the area of slide rules and mechanical calculators. Insure all relationships are mended from past misunderstandings so that some of our European members who have written quality articles and have felt slighted in the past are 100% back in the fold and feel completely welcome to contribute again.
37	Not sure on this. I feel the bulletin and being affiliated is well worth the dues.

39	I can't say without knowing what the retention rate is at present. If a member doesn't renew, do we ask why?. This year I was tardy in renewing ( I joined in Spring 2011) - perhaps a reminder a month ahead of the renewal date might help; if someone hasn't renewed by February, when I received my reminder, they might decide not to bother - a late reminder is a negative; whereas an earlier reminder (which has a more positive connotation) with a mention of the benefits of being a member could prompt a positive response
44	I don't know why they're leaving. Find out?
47	You've attracted me with what you are doing now. I've renewed late a couple of times because the OS is the only group of which I am a member that doesn't alert me to the need for renewal. I need to pay more attention to that.
49	it is always more fun and helps to raise enthusiasm by meeting face to face.
51	Little, most people will be leaving for natural causes...
52	We should call every member who drops membership to: be sure it wasn't just oversight or procrastination, and receive feedback about why people let membership lapse
53	I think most everything that can be done is being done
60	Provide more useful, frequent info, such as maybe a regular feature on the website - maybe an abbreviated version of articles seen in the Journal

**Question #10 - Do you prefer electronic or paper mail, e.g., for announcements, the annual directory?**

Over half of the respondents favored electronic communications, while 20 % voted for paper.

Of the 17 comments however, 11 wanted specifically the Directory on paper.

The preprinted Survey answers did not allow ticking "Paper AND Electronic", but the comments showed that both, or at least a choice, would be appreciated.

3	the directory should be available in paper; reduce costs by shipping it with each Spring issue
10	I prefer that the annual directory remain a print publication. Otherwise, email would be fine and cost effective for general announcements.
14	The Journal and directory should remain paper other communicatio electronic.
19	Only electronic makes sense these days.
23	I prefer to eliminate costly paper publications
32	No preference; both are useful to me.
35	Paper for the directory. Electronic for announcements.
37	I have found having a hard copy of the Annual Directory very useful and have used it on many an occasion.
39	Easier to store, harder to lose, cheaper for the society, especially to its international members. At least make it an option, so the IT-lite have the option of keeping paper, but the IT-comfortable can have electronic.
43	Actually both are very effective - the electronic acts as a reminder whereas the other is a great early announcement
44	Paper and electronic for the annual directory; electronic for everything else.
50	It depends. For one pagers of short term validity (local meeting announcements, I'd say that e-mail is fine. Something of more importance: IM announcements, the directory, etc, I would prefer on paper.
51	I like the directory and any reference publication on paper, announcements are faster, simpler and cheaper by e-mail
52	Paper, for the directory, at least. For some other things, electronic is OK.
54	To the extent possible, both should be used. Some of us old-timers prefer the old media, but, I suspect, younger members might like the electronic option.
58	Annual directory in PDF
61	Although electronic means of communication are fast and low cost, the are ephemeral, so I still like to have a hard copy of things in case the originals dissappear

**Question #11 - Do you want to contact other OS members regarding your collection, interests, other?**

Almost two third of the respondents would like contact with fellow-members which still leaves a surprising one third of lone collectors. Of the 13 comments, most reported past contacts, some expressed an intention. The directory was mentioned as a good pointer to contacts in the OS while also the Message Board and individual websites were mentioned.

3	this is the essential aspect of a club even if we call it a Society
14	I sometimes have questions about a new rule, etc
16	Sometimes and I can do that by email.
20	Not now; but at some future point I may want to sell my collection as a lot.
22	Email addresses are already in the directory, so contact is easy now!
23	I may at sometime; but, have only done so with a few of our members. I figure that if they do not have posted email addresses in the OS membership directory, they have no interest in being contacted. Those that have email addresses are free game!
35	Yes, I do at times. Get their email from the paper directory.
36	Question of time comes up for me, but yes, I do want to contact others about things that interest me.
38	Maybe on this, depends.
39	At the moment I don't know whether my collection or knowledge is good enough to be of interest - I would get a benchmark by reading other (established enthusiasts or just enthusiastic newbies) peoples contributions
44	The message board may be utilized for this in some creative ways, perhaps
54	Not only is that useful, it also can encourage involvement in the OS
61	I'd like to set up a website of my collection someday, but time and commitments

**Question #12 - Have you communicated with other OS members?**

A vast majority of the respondents reported past contacts, which remarkably is more than the wishes for contacts reported in the previous question.

Of the 41 comments almost all mentioned email as contact medium, only a few used Message Board or phone, and one even Facebook.

3	direct email, Gary's swap page while it lasted, message board with the least success
4	email
5	Message board
6	email
9	E-mail and phone. International e-mail is trickier
11	Telephone and/or letters
12	Telephone
14	email (address obtained from the directory.)
16	email
19	email
20	Message board
21	email
22	email
23	email
24	email
27	email
30	email
31	email
35	email
36	Email, ISRG site followed by email, Facebook
37	email
38	email
39	email - I responded to a request for information in a Journal article - several emails were profitably exchanged
40	I seem to recall going through our web site
41	email
42	Email or phone
43	Through email for many reasons - looking for materials, slide rules, answers to questions and everyone has been quite responsive ( thanks )



44	e-mail and, very occasionally, the telephone
45	email
46	email
49	email
50	email
51	Phone, e-mail, personal contacts
52	Telephone, email, snail mail
54	Meetings. The online SR group. Direct email. Sometimes telephone.
56	email
57	electronic
58	email
59	Email and Facebook
60	Yahoo! groups
61	Internet - using the OS directory for addresses, etc. Arranging meetings

**Question #13 - Do you discuss slide rules or other calculating instruments or methods with others?**

A vast majority of the respondents claim to talk with others about historical calculating instruments.

The 16 comments mostly give information or examples about conversations or presentations and where, to whom.

3	see my article in JOS: & Yes, reinstall Gary's Swap sheet
4	Anyone who will listen!
6	In addition to gifting slide rules, I encourage people to access the web site. There might be an opportunity to include a YouTube video or presentation to orient interested viewers.
9	Yes, but must accept that most people think I'm weird. I think the website is a bit stale and we should explore other ways of communicating.
10	I let friends and associates know of my unusual hobby and try to drum up interest. At minimum, it has caused some of them to dig out the slide rules that were put in a draw 35 years ago. I also hang a 7 ft. Pickett 1010-ES in my office suite as a conversation piece.
19	Use the Yahoo slide rule group. Support the Yahoo group,
22	It already does with website and publications
23	Yes I have in the past especially if they have been interested in learning something about my hobby.
25	I discuss them with friends, associates, schools, colleges etc
35	I do mention the OS and several seemed interested.
41	Definitely, put authors' email addresses right under their name at the top of their article..
43	Typically more than they can stand - I have even written a book ( yet to be published ) on slide rules, another promoting their use in math & science activities, along with my web site devoted to these same ideas. I talk to friends, neighbors, parents, other teachers, and most anyone.
51	Most people don't even know they once existed. A flyer describing slide rules briefly with a few examples.
58	The Membership Directory is fine
59	I lecture extensively on the subject. An electronic version of the member directory (with member emails and addresses) would be very useful!
61	I frequently chat up vendors about slide rules, to persuade them to include them in their searches for wares. I also talk about slide rules to family, friends, and strangers

**Question #14 - Are you interested in obtaining past copies of JOS in electronic format (PDF files on CD or DVD)?**

Almost two third of the respondents are interested in past Journals in digital format.

The 16 comments were largely from members who already have many (or all) paper copies, but do want electronic copies too.

8	Are you interested in obtaining past copies of JOS in <u>electronic</u> format (PDF files on CD or DVD)?
9	while I like paper, the world us going digital. I think we should make both available.
12	I have purchased all back issues
14	I have all JOS issus, but PDF on DVD would be very handy. The ARRL (amareur radio club) offers a CD each year containing cover to cover of all of its periodicals. I find them useful.
19	Already have a complete run!!!
20	Have them all.
21	Would be interested in obtaining back copies on line, perhaps behind a members-only paywall.
23	ABSOLUTELY. I do have the hardcopies of all issues but I am more infavor of Electronic publications not only with the JOS, but all of my magazines and other journals as well.
33	I already have the complete run (to date) in hard copy.
37	It would be great if the complete back catalogue of all JOS articles could be made available in DVD.
39	I've just started collecting (14 months) and recently joined the society. I thoroughly enjoy what I have seen - I would like a (reasonably proced) chance to buy the complete set; at present there are so many to buy that the total cost is too much for sight unseen.
43	I will start with paper but it would be nice to have opportunities for these others. I am still working on obtaining the whole of the collection
44	I have all the Journals in paper format. My site has all the Journalsin jpeg format. I think that there could well be an interest in pdf format.
52	I can't imagine any advantage to that, and certainly, I want to be able to read paper format.
58	I have all JOS in paper format
61	I have all back copies, but it would be convenient to have them in electronic form to read when traveling

**Question #15 - Would you want a searchable index of JOS articles and contents provided in the CD or DVD?**

Over two third of the respondents do want a searchable index in digital format.

The 13 comments pointed out that especially an index would better be placed online on the OS website, maintainable and up-to-date.

Comments noted that Rod Lovett's website already provides this function today.

9	Can.t we just do this electronically so it is real time. The problem with CD's is that you have to keep making new ones as we develop new content.
19	Standard these days – searchable data base!
21	On line
22	Since this is already available on line - it is not needed on the CD
23	That should be a part of the initial offering of the entire collection
25	I want a copy on the website so I can search it for free
30	for me online is good enough
41	why an index, search the whole thing
43	Definitely. There are many times I am searching for ideas, answers to questions and the like and this would be very helpful. In fact this could be a means to increase membership through on-line access for those who have questions and want to research articles for a fee.
53	I currently use lovetts site on the OS website – it works very well
56	Rod Lovett's web site, plus your own yellow index sheet, already meet most of my needs in this area.
58	I would appreciate an online searchable index on the OS site
61	There are now so many articles available in back issues that it can be time consuming finding some items.

**Question #16 - Would you like to write an article for JOS?**

Over half of the respondents are potential Journal authors. However, the 33 comments are mostly filled with reasons not to do so soon, one reason being supposed lack of knowledge. Nevertheless, some respondents however are regulars and promise to keep writing.

4	Although I am interested and love reading other articles, I do not consider myself enough of an expert to write an article.
9	I haven't written for the JOS since I started doing admin work, I feel that my content needs to be more thoroughly researched and that it's hard to prioritize the research.
10	I lack the expertise. I am so mathematically inept that I work as a tax accountant where basic arithmetic suffices and thank the gods (and HP) for algebra solving calculators!
13	Not that knowledgeable on the subject.
14	I would have very little to add.
16	I'VE ALREADY WRITTEN 4-5 AND I WOULDN'T WANT ANOTHER ON PUBLISHED IN THE "NEW" FORMAT.
19	Time availability
20	Do not have time; if I ever retire, I might have time to do the needed research for an article.
21	I use a slide rule in my daily work (telecommunications lawyer) and don't have any knowledge or information likely to be of interest to other members.
23	Limited time, the knowledge of a novice, other hobbies that take a lot of time (Astronomy)
24	Not sure I have anything to contribute that other members would find useful. Difficult to find the time to do the research required.
25	I belong to the procrastinators society also
29	Lack of time and knowledge
30	already done, new ones in preparation.
35	I may write in the future when I have more time.
36	Always a question of time for me and my personal issue of having any subject 100% accurate and polished before publishing. I like to publish complete answers to all questions about collecting in a particular subject.
37	I have just submitted my first article and await feedback for the Editor.
38	Not at this time, however I am likely to retire soon and would love to participate in that way.
39	I'm still finding my feet and getting a feel for what would be a reasonable level and standard of writing and what constitute acceptable articles. Obviously having all the past issues would help and would avoid repeating articles that have already been written
40	I am not qualified to meet the standards of the Journal
41	Quality required would take a lot of time. I have published about 50 articles, it takes a great amount of time and effort to do one of the quality usually seen in JOS.

43	I have several in publication presently, have some on the shelf ready to go, and am always looking for the next idea
44	My first priority is to the UKSRC.
45	My interests are not focused enough
47	Good question: I'm presently writing a series of articles on GNU Octave, a math utility, for QEX, an amateur radio magazine, I've written for three different telecom magazines some years ago, and have authored and edited several national standards for telecommunications, so I have some experience as an author. I probably need to go back to previous issues of OS to see what's been done and what hasn't been covered that I might be able to handle, given my limited experience with the history of the slide rule.
50	I have two in the pipe-line!
51	Have done and will do again
52	I have a couple in mind, but I'm a procrastinator!
53	I think I have two in the waiting line to be in the next two journals and just submitted another for consideration last week and I have another in the idea stage
56	I have written one article so far. But, unlike some of your authors, I am not a great writer. I have an idea for a short communication, and will get round to doing it sometime.
58	Limited knowledge
59	Have done it before and will continue to do it as time permits.
61	Mea culpa. I have been preparing one for some time, but each time it gets near completion I get another clue or other commitments intervene and I need to redraft, or update.

**Question #17 - Are you interested in helping operate the OS?**

Only one third of the respondents are potential OS volunteers.

The 11 comments give reasons either not to help, or come from current and some potential volunteers.

23	To be honest, I really do not have time due to my work situation, but maybe when I retire in 6 yrs.
27	one of the rare OS members in my country. Very limited influence :-)
35	Yes depending on time committment.
37	Not living in North America makes assiting in such things very dificult.
39	Although I am noe recognising the veracity of the comments that retired people make to the effect that they have bnever been so busy (!) I am retired and would value the opportunity to put something into the organisation I get a lot out of.
40	possibly, if it can fit my schedule and I can be useful
43	In the matters of Q17, 18, and 19 I am always interested to assist in ways I can. Admittedly I still consider myself quite novice not only at the slide rule but definitely in matters of orchestrating groups, meetings, publications and the like where I have zero experience.
44	As an assistant, assistant editor I already do. I would be quite happy to help in other areas.
53	my age is beginnning to have an effect on my activities
54	I don't know how much I should be involved since my interest is mainly commercial; in other organizations I've been a member of I've found that having people with commercial interests too involved can lead to conflict of interests, or at least the appearance of such. Also, I am a bit overloaded with other "obligations" and try to avoid committing time on any but an ad hoc basis. I'm always glad to help when I can, but prefer to do so on an ad hoc basis.
57	I'm a member of the Award Committee

**Question #18 - Are you interested in helping with the Journal?**

Over one third of the respondents might be willing to help with the Journal.

The question was put so general that many of the 12 comments contained questions on how.

8	Depends on the kind of activities
16	POSSIBLY, DEPENDS ON "HOW".
25	I used to write book reviews for other journals in the past
27	for me, possible possible after retirement
30	for me there is a difficulty. I speak or write English, but not fluently
35	Yes depending on time committment.
38	Maybe, but depends very much on the direction you wish to take the journal.
39	I am a trained scientist, taught science for 30 years, am a scientist by natural inclination and got into slide rule collecting after an ultimatum (well a query really) from my wife about why I wouldn't get rid of the slide rule I had studying physics in high school. Articulating the pleasure I received just handing it, the fascination it has in terms of elegance of design and simplicity made me realise that collection (and concomitant research) was an obvious step forward
40	I am not sufficiently qualified
41	willing to edit and critique
50	I am already an editor.
52	Several months ago, we were asked to indicate whether we had interest in helping edit articles. I never heard anything back.





**Question #20 - Where would you like OS meetings to take place?**

The 37 comments are as diverse as the respondents are scattered geographically.

Many unrelated preferences. Some ideas: stimulate local activities, rotate/vary locations of official meetings, connect with international/EU IM-meetings, combine OS meetings with tourist attractiveness.

2	Las Vegas or Reno at least once a year. I have limited travel capabilities.
3	Calculate the coordinates of places where more than X (>5?) members or collectors live within Y (<100?) miles, and suggest them to meet at least one time, and more on own initiative if successful
5	Locations? Southeast, midwest - How often? semiannual?
6	Locations? Regional, South east, west coast, east coast, southwest - How often? Possibly move from region to region each year
9	I think we have an adequate number of meetings. New locations are good
10	Boston area. Annually. IM 2011 is the first meeting I was able to attend and would like to continue attending meetings in my geographic region when possible
11	Phoenix is too geographically isolated for general OS meetings, but Phoenix might support an annual meeting.
12	Ohio, Michigan, or Indiana. Every four or five years.
14	Some where in the midwest. Once or twice a year. Living in the midwest it is difficult to attend meetings on the coasts.
16	WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE (300 +/-) OF WHERE I LIVE: CINCINNATI, ATLANTA, RALEIGH/DURHAM, KNOXVILLE, CHARLOTTE. ONCE MIGHT BE ENOUGH.
18	PACIFIC NORTH WEST
19	World wide. Two per year
20	NY/NJ area. Annually or semiannually
22	Mountain View, Las Vegas, LA, Seattle, Denver, New Orleans, Portland, Honolulu. Quarterly
23	Midwest as well as coastal meetings Coastal meetings are cost prohibitive to some of us. Rotate ... East Coast, Midwest, West Coast, and back thru again on annual basis.
25	Connecticut. Every two to three years.
26	East coast, 1-2 times per year, depending on interest
28	SF Bay area. Once each year
30	you could join other international meetings in Europe, for example Napier 2014 in Edinburgh
31	Central part of the country. Annual. Have you considered local area meetings organized and hosted by OS members. Like Michigan-Minnesota-Wisconsin (26 OS members) or Texas (21 OS members).
32	Major cities, rotated around the country and, possibly, Canada. They cannot be frequent, however grand that would be.
34	think the current locations are good. Repeating the location makes it easy to repeat the planning and logistics. Sorry, they are a little too far for me to travel to. Twice a year.

35	Not important. Maybe Midwest, but most members are in CA.
36	I personally like Mountain View, NJ/East Coast, and Las Vegas. Each of the above once per year
37	coast of the US for me is a lot easier to get to than the west coast.
43	It might be fun to have a vote each year where in the first round say 4 places are chosen and from these the top one or two is picked for the next year, if possible. This would be so that each year there is one new place to visit. The current schedule is quite good.
44	Presumably in locations within a "reasonable" travelling distance of groups of members.
45	Chicago, St. Louis. Every other year
47	West Coast USA. My somewhat early retirement due to the condition of the economy has put a crimp in my travel budget.
48	Los Angeles area
49	New England. Every other year.
51	EUROPE!!!! Minimally advertize the European IM's to the US members
52	(K.C.) would be great. But we tried that a few years ago, and it became a lot of work very a very few people.
53	I like mt view
54	If I have to travel, I prefer locations that allow combining the meeting trip with other activities – especially visiting family and friends. Big cities are usually the best for that. Vegas is not helpful in that regard. Probably only two meetings per year would be enough for me. time and expense of attending meetings make it unlikely that I would attend more.
59	Jerusalem, Israel. The current twice a year schedule works for me - I can try and time US trips to coincide with one or the other.
60	Somewhere more central. Every two years

**Question #21 - What can the OS do to encourage you to attend meetings?**

Of the 31 comments, most give prohibitive reasons not to come, but offer few solutions.

Some ideas: combine meeting with other attraction(s) like antique/flea market, museum/exposition; electronic meetings/"webinars"; timely announcements; program with attractions/free gifts/lotteries/auctions; low pricing.

2	meetings longer than 1 day (as long as close by); have OS business meetings in conjunction.
3	Choose cheap locations; offer specials .. free school rule for every attendee ... lottery with nice SR prizes ... auction for attendees ...
5	Location closer to me...south carolina
6	No excuses. I would like to attend a meeting in the next year.
9	Dick Rose has suggested that we tie the meetings to another event that is of interest to members. I think it's a good idea, but am not sure what we could tie it to. Maybe Brimfield or that big swap meet in Arkansas?
10	Just make them available in my area. Now that I have attended a meeting the desire exists.
12	Since the OS has become a world wide organization, attending meetings is impractical. Try Webinars
16	DO "CLOSER"
19	The bigger the meeting, the more likely I will attend!! Tail and dog situation, I suppose!
20	Unfortunately, timing has not been good. In the last several years, my plans to attend east coast meetings were killed by late added out-of-town travel requirements. Keep scheduling them to encompass weekend days and probability is that I will eventually not have a conflict.
21	I don't travel much, but would gladly attend a meeting near where I live (Washington DC area).
22	Nothing - already attend most west coast meetings
23	Add Midwestern meetings once every three years
25	as a consultant I am always on the road, in my avocations I prefer not to leave ct,if I have to travel more than 60 minutes it is no longer recreation and enjoyable
26	I am almost always there.
31	Travel time and cost are prohibitive.
32	Have on in Portland or Seattle.
35	They seem good now.
36	High quality and rare items for display (or sale!) will always insure my attendance.
41	nothing. members are just too far apart
43	I come as often as I can and the electronic means used and the like are a good effort at this.
44	Hold more of them in England!
45	I almost always travel to New Jersey for Thanksgiving and would attend the Eastern meeting if it were the weekend before Thanksgiving. I rarely get to California.

47	I am interested now, but time and money are inhibiting factors.
48	Have more meetings in southern California
49	Have them closer so I do not have to stay overnight.
51	I come to most IM's but US meetings are too far and costly in time and money
52	Send a limo to pick me up!! Seriously the main blockage for me is the cost and hassle of flying.
54	Since I really enjoy being with other members and getting to know them personally, the more people that attend, the more likely I am to
56	Very little I suspect.
60	announce the time and location sooner; make it somewhere that's easy to reach

**Question #22 - Are you willing to help the OS promote slide rules to young people and other non-OS audiences?**

Most of the 25 comments give examples of how respondents do promote slide rules to the young, like class or family presentations or displays in public places.

Still there is also a need to be shown (by OS?) what is the best way to do that.

One interesting idea is "embedded" slide rule presentations, for example present the history of the Hoover Dam and make an inner detour to the slide rule for its design calculations.

6	I often give a slide rule to new engineers or interns and encourage them to learn the history and use. I also want to donate slide rules to museums and exhibits to highlight their importance.
16	DEPENDS. NOT NECESSARILY FOR COLLECTING PURPOSES, BUT TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY AND UTILITY. THAT WOULD LEAD TO COLLECTING "URGE".
19	If close to where I live.
20	Willing in the future; currently not able due to time restrictions
21	Problem: When we old-timers were in school, everybody learned to how to read linear scales on meters, balances, and other equipment. Learning to use slide rules was an easy next step. But now, with all instrumentation having become digital, learning to set and read slide rule scales is much more difficult for today's young people. My 25-year-old son runs a nuclear research reactor with a slide rule, but he had me as an example and likes to learn arcane skills. I don't know how we can make the admittedly difficult learning process more attractive to more people.
25	One of the three hats I wear is with the workforce committee of the New Haven manufacturers and I interface with the commissioner of higher ed and commissioner of ed of CT.
30	because I have only basic knowledge in slide rules, I'm digital instrument oriented.
31	How will you do this?
32	But I'd like to see them as active members of OS, as well. Also, see my response to #23.
35	Yes. I do this quite a bit.
39	I already do - At school for selected groups, I brought my slide rule in to show them how life worked before electronics. I still show anyone interested a simple and a complicated slide rule to give them perspective on what is available today in terms of electronic equipment
40	YES, but I am a layman. I am no expert/scientist type as are most of the members.
41	Might be useful too show how lucky young people are to have calculators

43	The keys are to find ways to connect the slide rule to history, to science, to other not-considered areas such as language arts and even art itself. Take for examples two things : Hoover Dam and a sci-fi author Isaac Asimov. We can find ways to help create historical summaries of key things like Hoover Dam, but in the process make note of the slide rule as used in its creation ( where, how, why, by whom ) so that we are, in essence, putting back into the low-resolution picture of the dam from long ago the missing details, such as the slide rule. This promotes science, math, and history all at once. In the latter case, we can find ways to promote even fiction, such as Asimov ( amongst many others ) who have slide rules mentioned in their stories. We could create or help to promote where these stories can be used in a language arts class and analyzed where the notion of the slide rule comes into focus.
46	I give a presentation every year to interested students here at the U of Utah
47	This is an issue also for those of us interested in older amateur radio equipment.
50	I am giving an SR lecture to a Mensa group in the summer.
51	I do so occasionally on a small scale
53	I put on many displays at libraries and museums and I offer to give a slide rule to any math or science student I come in contact with.
54	I do so already, working with teachers and providing them with slide rules. I know that the OS has its own program, but I enjoy working directly with teachers. I would be glad to introduce such teachers to the OS. Maybe the OS could provide teachers with teaching plans.
57	but I don't know how
58	Unlikely, although I support the goal - depends on what you have in mind.
59	Being in Israel, this may not be an option for me - though I do lecture on history of computing to highschool kids over here independent of the OS.
60	need more info on where when
61	I have had no success trying to interest my grandchildren's Maths teachers in slide rules. However, a science extension officer at CSIRO - the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation - who lectures to school audiences, was enthusiastic when I supplied her with two dozen rules. But I have yet to have a report from her about her activities with them. remoteness of Australia, and the small number of Australian enthusiasts appear to preclude active participation in OS meetings or activities, or the establishment of a viable Australian branch.

**Question #23 - With what activities should the OS become more involved?**

Each realistic proposal in the 23 comments should be considered for creation of an action point.

2	Interaction with other societies/magazines where the knowledge level of OS members could be referenced.
3	Publish about <i>historical calculating instruments</i> toward the general public; don't limit to SR's only; don't fixate too much towards students as older people (>40) have more interest in things historical
6	Consider donating or helping with displays or exhibits at museums, sites, etc. where slide rules contributed to their sites.
9	We should create resources for teachers who want to teach about slide rules in the classroom.
10	Educational outreach. I know we do support classroom learning. I recently purchased a contemporary ThinkGeek slide rule but found it so poorly made as to be useless. Can we contact the people who produce this and see if the quality control can be improved (at least so the body and slide align and it can properly slide). If so, could we buy these in bulk to enable greater distribution? How about seeking member donations just for this project? Can we publish a highly abbreviated, and possibly entertaining, basic operational/historical guide to go along with this project?
11	Schools (all levels) math-class hands-on lessons on slide rules.
19	Reprint rare and out of print early books and leaflets not currently available as reprints.
20	If possible, try an outreach to educational groups trying to increase the quality of math/science education and sell the idea that learning to use a slide rule provides a foundation for understanding mathematical principals akin to the teaching of Latin as a foundation for logical thinking. If there are JHS and HS teachers among the membership, get their opinions on establishing Slide Rule Clubs in schools.
23	Develop Educational Materials to be used by volunteers in an education presentation situation that volunteers could use. I would really like to see an honest to God true museum for slide rules and calculating devices in science museums like the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry where collections of individuals could be loaned for presentation. Even at minimum, it would be cool if collections on loan could be rotated around science museums like art and other natural history museums do. I think that is a great way to generate interest in slide rules.
25	Publish a book of slide rule magic for kids
27	- No so bad as it is -
31	Help members to dispose of their collections. Help first time JOS authors to prepare an article
32	Advertising our existence, offering inexpensive rules and instruction materials to high-school &/or college students. Offering materials and support to inquisitive young people. Advertising to community college students, especially those in automotive and mechanical courses. "Elmers," of current OS members: they that have used SRs and appreciate them can demonstrate and support new members on a local, individual basis. This has been a wonderful practice in ham radio, for instance, and is readily adapted to the OS. Nothing works as well as activity in sharing a common interest. It needn't be very time-consuming, just friendly and convenient for both.



36	I believe that the web and Facebook provide interesting opportunities for improving the OS and getting the word out that we exist; more focus in these areas will improve the OS. Educational initiatives; the US is sorely falling behind in math and science graduates, tie jobs to math and science, tie numeracy and interest in gadgets early (late elementary, junior high) to nurturing or spurring new math and science interest.
41	electronic communication
43	Slide Rule loaner program, Publication of materials for differing age groups on the slide rule and other mathematical connections to everyday life for various age groups, other numeracy goals
44	A five minute slot on a TV program might work wonders. A lot of thought required for this one.
45	If I had more "prepackaged" presentations on slide rules, especially ones aimed at high school students, I would be more willing to organize presentations locally
47	I'd like to see someone make available a simple linear slide rule that could purchased relatively inexpensively for one's grandchildren or for a whole class. The loan programs are a good step in that direction, but I think that production of a "standard" shiny, new, rule with the scale set of, say, a K&E 4053-3 would be a good idea. It doesn't have to be fancy, but it has to be accurate.
54	High school and university math and engineering programs – providing student memberships, teaching plans, speakers (where easily available), web site information, etc.
59	Publication of low-cost facsimile editions (or PDFs) of historically important books relevant to our passion (e.g. Napiers original book). An online library of such books would be a feather in the OS site's cap.
60	facebook; advertising in select schools such as MIT, CALTECH, MISSOURI S&T (Formerly Rolla)
61	I cannot suggest any new activities, but would like to emphatically endorse the continued publication of the Journal, which is a lifeline for remotely located collectors and other enthusiasts.

**Question #24 - Please list your suggestions for improving the OS.**

Each realistic proposal in the 26 comments should be considered for creation of an action point.

2	More interaction with other historical groups
3	Set up a team for writing and pushing publications to the general public
10	I applaud the volunteers. After meeting many of the key people last year in Cambridge I think we are doing a very good job.
12	I like the OS but I will not be able to participate in projects. All of my free time has been and will be my 6 grandkids and their projects. I am 65 but will continue to work as long as I can. I am a bridge engineer, surveyor, and farmer. With the few minutes that is left I will try to organize my slide rule collection. I started collecting in the early 1970's when universities were dumping slide rules in dumpsters. My wife stopped complaining after we built a bigger house. Guess I got a few.
18	THE JOURNAL IS VERY WELL DONE, BUT THE BINDING MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO READ UNLESS YOU OPEN IT, THEN WEIGHT IT DOWN WITH A BRICK OR USE BINDER CLIPS TO KEEP IT OPEN. PLEASE RETURN TO PREVIOUS BINDING!!!
19	Support the Yahoo discussion group – knowledgeable members should be adding points for discussion.
22	More website content, more meetings, more biographical information about our members - we have some very interesting members.
28	I find the JOS's current editorial policies a bit too rigid. I resent some of the changes in grammar and style that are being imposed. I suspect that other authors feel the same.
30	keep your high level
31	Provide members more for their money. How? Don't know. Add more basic info about slide rules to the website.
34	I really do think that OS has flourished over the last few years. Thank you to all who have given of their time to make this happen.
36	Large back up set of editors and authors using a well-established SW tool (Word, PDF) for publishing the Journal so that there is concern regarding Journal continuity
37	Please consider further improving your journal which is a fabulous resource. As a suggestion I would consider dividing articles which appear in the journal between full length articles and short notes. Full length articles should have an abstract and a listing of keywords. A stronger presence of all articles published in JOS on the web is needed. If each article was available as a PDF and all articles centrally located and readily available somewhere (maybe those articles published in the last 3 to 5 years would be restricted to members only), they would be more readily picked up and discovered on the Internet by search engines thereby becoming available to a wider audience outside the slide rule community.
38	Having a list of manuals, slide rule databases, etc available.

39	I don't know enough about our activities at present to comment. I do suggest that given the low cost and high storage capacity of DVD media that new members are given the opportunity to buy the complete set of back issues of the Journal at a reasonable cost during their first year of membership. I would have jumped at the opportunity. The Society would make a small profit and the new member (likely to be a newbie I would have thought) would have a great resource to get them grounded. At the moment I chose to spend my limited cash on creating a slide rule collection rather than in having access to materials about slide rules
41	Put email addresses under authors' names. Perhaps have a live chat forum once a week or so.
43	Most are noted as ideas in other questions, but overall the group is doing great things.
44	Being rather negative in a positive way, I think that you are doing pretty well.
45	We have, in Indianapolis, an organization of retired engineers, scientists and physicians called the Indianapolis Sciencetech Club ( <a href="http://www.sciencetechclub.org/">http://www.sciencetechclub.org/</a> ) that holds weekly meetings with invited speakers. This group has been in existence since 1917 and is a group that I gave a presentation on the history of slide rules. There must be similar groups throughout the country that could be a source of new members as well as outreach programs.
47	I'm enjoying it as it is.
50	Have you considered using a web-based Survey system for surveys such as this? <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com">www.surveymonkey.com</a> is one which is heavily used in the UK. Although it is UK-based, I don't believe it cannot be used from the USA.
53	I think it's pretty good now
54	The journal is great and the meetings are fine. Just getting more people to the meetings would be most helpful. Again, the personal contact can be very rewarding to interested people.
56	I like it the way it is. No further comments.
57	Reducing the mechanical calculator articles in the JOS
59	I'm quite happy with it as it is, actually!