

IEEE Berkshire Section Newsletter

Message from the Section Chair



Hello Section Members,

There have been some great events so far this year in the Section and many more planned. You can read below and get a sampling. For an up-to-date listing, visit our website at <http://www.ieee.org/berkshire> and select Calendar on the bottom right side of the page. Some of the things to look forward to are a field trip to West Point, a Pittsfield Community Television (PCTV) connection and many community and industry oriented programs. In addition, our program of writing and scholar awards to local schools is gearing up for the academic year. We also have an active awards program that honors our members for their contributions to technology, to industry and to our Section. There has been some interest in creating a Life Member Chapter also. There will be more on that as the year progresses.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Section events. If you are interested in getting involved in any of the events or activities, please email me at bnppritch@msn.com.

Regards,

Bert Pritchard

Berkshire Section Events

The IEEE Berkshire Section officers for 2009 are;

Chair – Bert Pritchard
Vice Chair – Andy Miller
Secretary – Rob Reilly
Treasurer – Frank Fisher



Bert Pritchard, George Haus, Rob Reilly,
Allan Boschen, Carroll Kane, Andy Miller,
Frank Fisher, Dave Rueger, Rich Kolodziejczyk.

The 2009 Engineering Week dinner was held on February 12 at the Bass Water Grill in Cheshire. John P. Hogan of **edm** gave a talk on the restoration of the Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, which his firm **edm** had a critical role. The occasion was organized by Allan Boschen.

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On March 19, 2009 the Berkshire Consultants Network will sponsor a dinner and presentation at the Bass Water Grill in Cheshire. The presentation was by Barbara Hochberg and Robert Desrosiers on the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Berkshire Community College, a membership-led organization committed to the idea of learning as a lifelong experience. The meeting was organized by Andrew Miller.

The Berkshire Section plans a Distinguished Business-Industry Award to honor a business or industry organization within the IEEE Berkshire Section that has made exceptional and distinguished contributions to the Section or within the field of interest of the IEEE. (Note: IEEE Berkshire Section includes Berkshire County in Massachusetts and Bennington County in Vermont)

The 2009 High School Writing Contest is in progress. The rules and other information can be found on the Berkshire Section web site.

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests.htm>

Other Events and Resources

From “The Institute Online”

Marketplace of Ideas: What Will the Future Bring?

Responding to December's question, IEEE members chose dozens of engineering breakthroughs they regarded as the most important since IEEE's birth 125 years ago--including the transistor, electric power, and the Internet. Now let's look to the future. Experts and science-fiction writers have suggested that the next century could see the birth of technology for controlling the weather, unlimited renewable energy, a space elevator, the oft-predicted flying car, and the teleportation of human beings.

What do you think will be the top engineering breakthrough in the next 125 years? Why? Weigh in at [<mailto:institute@ieee.org>](mailto:institute@ieee.org)

And read the responses to December's question regarding the No. 1 breakthrough of the last 125 years at <http://bmsmail3.ieee.org:80/u/14274/05782750>

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The IEEE provides IEEE.tv – an Internet-based television network that features targeted programming on technology and engineering produced by IEEE members. IEEE.tv includes programs available to the general public, and others that can only be viewed by IEEE members.

IEEE.tv Public Access is free of charge to the public, and does not require IEEE membership or log-in. Some of the offerings are:

A Smart Grid for Intelligent Energy Use - According to the leading engineers business leaders and public policy experts interviewed at the 2008 IEEE Energy 2030 Conference significant energy savings will result from the use of communications and computing technology to improve electricity transmission and distribution. The smart grid will involve consumers in reducing energy consumption and will also facilitate the integration of energy from remote and distributed sources.

Care Innovations: Toxics In Electronics - This program takes a look at the challenge of minimizing the environmental and health impacts of toxics in electronics. It explains to what extent toxics are involved in the manufacturing process of various electronic devices and further explains the current practices in controlling and disposing toxics during the manufacturing process.

Charging Ahead: the Case for Plug-in Hybrid Cars - Electric cars are making a comeback. Building on the success of hybrid cars that are powered by both gasoline and electricity, the plug-in hybrid is the next logical step in reducing carbon emissions and dependence on oil.

A full list can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/IEEEtv> or <http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/IEEEtv/about.html>

IEEE.tv Member Basic is an exclusive benefit of IEEE membership, offering exclusive members-only programming. IEEE membership and an IEEE web account is required for viewing. Upon log-in, members have video downloading privileges, and can save their favorites with 'myTV.' Some of the offerings are:

IEEE Risk Management and Professional Liability Program (Member Access) - This commercial serves to educate IEEE members about IEEE Professional Liability Insurance and the new "Risk Management Course for Professional Engineers".

Analog to Digital Traits (Member Access) - Accuracy, efficiency and speed are the three fundamental traits of analog to digital converters. Using electronic cameras and temperature sensor, these basics are explained. The experts are Charles Sodini of MIT and Terri Fiez of Oregon State University, frequent presenters at the VLSI Symposium on Circuits.

Art of the Start: Entrepreneurship (Member Access) - Watch Guy Kawasaki, former Apple Fellow and Managing Director of Garage.Com, share his unique thoughts about what it is to be an entrepreneur and how to raise money. Hear from experienced entrepreneurs, venture capitalists and angels about how to raise money during the startup period and beyond.

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Carl Selinger: Stuff you Don't Learn in Engineering School (Member Access) - In this interview, Carl Selinger discusses his book "Stuff you Don't Learn in Engineering School." This practical book offers young engineers advice on speaking in front of a group, running a meeting effectively, making decisions, setting priorities, working with all sorts of people, learning to negotiate, developing leadership skills, and dealing with stress in the workplace.

A full list can be found at <http://www.ieee.org/IEEEtv>