

April 2006

IEEE New Hampshire Section Newsletter

http://ewh.ieee.org/r1/new_hampshire/

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1. Chairman's Thoughts

Spring is here! The last several weeks of my fledgling term of office have been encouraging in that several opportunities to meet with students and educators have occurred. We met with Dr. Kun, IEEE Student Advisor at UNH, and three students at our ExCom meeting in March. They are seeking a greater involvement with our section as well as funds for items for the new IEEE lounge at Kingsbury Hall. I'll be visiting the UNH student chapter and giving a talk on April 13 at their noontime meeting. Also Dr. Fishbein from Daniel Webster College informed us about an effort to get a technical charter school formed in southern NH. It passed a critical milestone with our state government the following week.

Opportunities are blossoming all over to assist in science project judging and develop closer ties with technical educators. This is very important in order to grow our organization and gain an edge in a growing competitive world. If you want to ponder a challenge, I suggest reading *The World is Flat - A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century* by Thomas L. Friedman.

We are still working towards making it easier for members to upgrade. The biggest obstacle seems to be that members have contact with Senior Members and Fellows in their areas of expertise. Realistically it may take a few more months to get helpful "kits" together and makes names available.

Please feel free to contact Tom Perkins at tomperkins@ieee.org or NHIEEE@aol.org . I would enjoy hearing from you.

2. Name the Newsletter Contest

The ExCom is sponsoring a contest to name our newsletter. The member sending in the best name will be able to choose a prize from several items from the IEEE catalog. See last month's newsletter on the website for a list of newsletter names from other sections. We have received 17 entries so far. Any one of them would be a good choice. The winner will be chosen at the April ExCom meeting. You can submit as many entries as you desire. To be considered in the judging, please send your entries to the newsletter editor at james-w-anderson@ieee.org no later than April 12.

3. Summer Cruise



Don't Miss the Boat!

Back by popular demand, the IEEE New Hampshire Section is currently planning the 2006 Summer Cruise.

Keep your eye on future newsletters for more details.

If you have any comments on anything you liked, or didn't like, about our previous cruises on Lake Sunapee and Lake Winnepesaukee, or if you have a suggestion for this year's cruise, please email us at: NHIEEE@aol.org

4. Call for IT Volunteers

One of the actions from last year's IT Career Summit, held at SNHU, was the formation of an informal group of local schools, organizations, and professionals who started the assessment of why enrollments in IT programs are low. As a deliverable of this activity, a survey was conducted at SWANH InfoXchange 2005.

While this activity continues to evolve, there is a proposal to establish an official NH IEEE Computer Society Chapter program for IT related careers and education. We are seeking volunteers to help us with this project. For more information, please contact either Nischal Chandra at nchandra@uminstitute.com or Jim Isaak at j.isaak@snhu.edu.

5. Chapter News

Computer Society Chapter

The Chapter will hold a meeting on **Tuesday April 11**, at 5 to 8 PM. **Neat Gadgets Show. Tell and Touch!**

The chapter will also hold a meeting on **Tuesday May 2**, at 5 to 6 PM. Dr. Shahriar Movafaghi will give a presentation on Business Process Outsourcing.

The chapter holds its meetings in the Walker Auditorium of Robert Frost Hall at the SNHU. For more information contact Jim Isaak at snhu2004alt@JimIsaak.com.

Microwave Theory and Techniques Society Chapter

We anticipate holding two meetings in the spring. The meetings are usually held in the evening at the BAE Systems headquarters in Nashua. Look for future meeting announcements here, on the NH IEEE web site, e-mailings, the IEEE Reflector, and the e-Reflector.

If you have any suggestions for meeting topics or speakers; or if you would like to become more active in the Chapter please feel free to contact me, Tom Perkins, at tomperkins@ieee.org or NHIEEE@aol.org . I would enjoy hearing from you.

Power Electronics Society Chapter

If you have any suggestions for meeting topics or speakers; or if you would like to become more active in the Chapter please contact Chuck Button at NHIEEE@aol.org

Power Engineering Society Chapter

If you have any suggestions for meeting topics or speakers; or if you would like to become more active in the Chapter please contact Paul Krell at krell@unitil.com

6. Young Inventors' Competition

A notable PACE activity of your Section is the sponsorship, for some ten years now, of the Electricity and Electronics Awards at the annual New Hampshire Young Inventors' Competition. Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 are awarded to the school children (K - 8) for the top three inventions with the best use of electricity or electronics. The competition is the annual statewide runoff of the winners from the competitions at local schools and typically comprises around 200 hundred inventions.

Along with the prizes the Section provides the judges for the Electricity and Electronics Awards. If you'd like to see all the wild contraptions school kids can come up with, and have an interesting and entertaining Saturday morning, we could use a couple of volunteers for our team of judges for this year's competition: Saturday, April 8, 8AM to 2 PM at Winnisquam High School, 435 West Main Street, Tilton, NH 03276. Contact Dean Bacon bacondl@NU.com if you would like to be one of the judges. Free coffee, juices, donuts and other goodies are provided for the judges.

7. Have You Tried myIEEE

Have you tried myIEEE? Or perhaps I should say your IEEE? myIEEE is your personalized gateway to membership. It is tied to your web account; the common log-in mechanism for IEEE

hosted services. You can get a web account at: <http://www.ieee.org/web/web/accounts/index.html>

Once you have logged in, you have access to your individual Society memberships and subscriptions; local IEEE Sections and volunteer leadership; upcoming conferences; individual benefits and news from various IEEE wide sources.

My myIEEE knows about my location, with a link to the NH Section's home page. My societies, with pointers to current events for the Computer Society, Communications Society, Society for Social Implications of Technology and IEEE Standards Association. Also online copies of the general publications (Spectrum, Institute, ...)

There is a Knowledge section that has pointers to all of my subscriptions. Also available here is a search of the IEEE online Digital Library (Xplore). All members can get abstracts and citations of documents in the library. Downloads are available for subscribers, or on a fee per copy basis.

The volunteer desktop knows about my various roles as an IEEE volunteer, from chapter chair to member of various committees and boards throughout IEEE. This also is a link to SAMIEEE, where volunteer leaders can get lists of the members within their domain of activities. Finally, there is a resource list of things useful for "chapter leadership", "student branches", "technical societies" etc.

The Community desktop has information relevant to chapter, section and regional activities. This also has a link to advanced member grade elevations. If you are not already a Senior member, this is a spot where you can initiate this process, and also identify recent senior or fellow elevations that you can find as potential references for your membership elevation.

Finally, the Professional Desktop provides a link to job search, consults, scholarships, awards and other elements related to your career.

Over time there are plans to connect more of the services you find useful as an individual into this 'portal'. This includes "IEEE.tv", and other continuing education tools. You can alter your "technical interest profile" from the main page. Over time this, as well as other indications of your interests, should guide the selection of articles, conferences, tutorials, events, and related information presented to you via myIEEE.

I hope you find your IEEE as useful as I find myIEEE.

Best wishes

Prof. Jim Isaak
So. New Hampshire University
IEEE Board of Directors 2003/4
Computer Society Board of Governors
<http://IEEE.JimIsaak.com>

8. Teacher In-Service Program Training for Engineers

Three Section members were among those attending the day and a half workshop on 3/24-25, at the Museum of Science Boston. They were Donald Sherwood, Jennifer Ng, and Jim Anderson. The program was paid for by IEEE-USA and presentations were made by Ralph Painter of the Florida

West Coast Section, the IEEE Educational Activities Board, the Museum staff, and the Engineering Is Fundamental Project.

It was noted that we can have the biggest effect by training the teachers, rather than by going into the classrooms and teaching the students. It also takes a lot less time and people.

Ralph Painter and his section have already prepared 15 low cost presentations for teachers, complete with lesson plans in both English and Spanish which can be downloaded for free. We had a lot of fun doing a couple of the projects. Because of the lack of funds in the school budgets these projects cost less than a maximum of \$100 for a class of 30 students and many of them cost less than \$50.

A lot of time was spent on learning how to prepare lesson plans for new presentations and how to approach the schools. As in all things in life, it helps to know somebody in the school system who can steer you to the proper people in that particular school system. There was a panel discussion with six people representing Massachusetts schools which gave many insights to this process.

9. Annual CNEC Meeting

The annual meeting of the Central New England Council was held on 3/15 and the section was represented by Jim Anderson. Each of the sections and Region 1 presented reports of the previous year's activities and plans for the current year. During the meeting Ron Tabroff, the Region 1 Membership Development Chair, gave a presentation on the membership status of the CNEC sections. All of the sections have declined in membership over the past year. Ron stressed the importance of a personal contact with members who have not renewed their membership, to find out why they did not renew and to ask them to consider renewing their membership in IEEE.

10. Meeting with Russell T. Harrison

There was only one response about the proposed meeting with Russ, the IEEE-USA's Legislative Representative for Grassroots Activities in Washington DC. Unless there is a lot more interest in the meeting there is no point in asking Russ to visit the section. For more information in the proposed meeting, see last month's newsletter on our website or contact Duncan Morrill, the Chairman of our PACE Committee, at d.morrill@ieee.org.

11. ExCom Meetings

For 2006 the ExCom will be meeting at 6:00 PM on the second Thursday of the month. The meetings will be held at C. R. Sparks Restaurant, 18 Kilton Rd., Bedford for the foreseeable future. It is located across the street from the Bedford Mall.

For a list of the ExCom members and their contact information please go to:

http://ewh.ieee.org/r1/new_hampshire/Officers.html.

12. Housekeeping

If you have any suggestions for improving this newsletter please contact the Editor, Jim Anderson, at james-w-anderson@ieee.org.

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list or change your email address, please send an email to the NH Section Administrator, Donna Davis, at NHIEEE@aol.com.