

SCANNER

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON SECTIONS

January–February 2005

Volume 20, No. 1

National Capital Area Leadership Training Planned



Chris Brantley, IEEE-USA director of government relations, discusses IEEE-USA programs at last year's officer training day.

By Doug Holly
Washington Section Editor (Acting)

Are you aware of the wide breadth of resources available to help run a chapter or section? IEEE provides a wealth of materials, tools and other resources to help organizations be successful. We are planning a half day of presentations, discussion and networking to help get you off to a good start. These are open to all members, but we particularly encourage every chapter to send at least one officer to the session.

Why should you attend?

- Learn about the resources available to you
- Network with other officers to exchange ideas
- Learn how to run more effective meetings
- Explore ways to increase participation
- Interact with section and region leadership

LEADERSHIP TRAINING
continues on page 4

Join Our Local IEEE Virtual Community

The local IEEE Virtual Community located at www.ieee.comunities.org/nca is an excellent forum to exchange ideas and participate in discussions relating to IEEE. The virtual community also serves as a repository for the events of both the Washington and Northern Virginia sections. It contains administrative committee meeting minutes, calendar entries for technical chapter activities, and links to the section websites. The membership process is easy with an IEEE web account. If you do not have an IEEE web account yet, you can obtain one at <http://shop.ieee.org/IEEEStore/signin.aspx>.

Celebrate National Engineers Week, February 20–26

By Murty Polavarapu
Chair, Northern Virginia Section

The annual celebration of National Engineers Week is scheduled for February 20-26. This will be an occasion not only to recognize the contributions of working engineers to the world at large, but also an opportunity to encourage young minds to seek out the challenge of engineering as a career. Please take time out during that week to visit a K-12 classroom and discuss the fun and challenge of engineering as a profession. If you need resource material on classroom exercises, you can contact me at murtyp@ieee.org. Additional details are also available at www.eweek.org.

Locally, the DC Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies (DCCEAS), of which both the Washington and Northern Virginia sections are members, will commemorate the week with a luncheon and a dinner banquet. Celebrate the proclamation of National Engineers Week with other area engineers, architects, and scientists at the Engineers and Architects Day Luncheon on Wednesday, February 23 at the Pier Seven Restaurant. Recognize and congratulate the DC metropolitan area's *Engineer of the Year* and *Architect of the Year* as well as the *Young Engineer* and *Young Architect of the Year* at the DCCEAS Awards Banquet to be held on Saturday, February 26 at the Four Points Sheraton in Washington, DC. Our keynote speaker will be Mr. Allyn Kilsheimer, a dynamic speaker who will talk about the challenges of the Pentagon renovation. For more information or to make reservations for the Proclamation Luncheon or the Awards Banquet, contact Sue Parsons at sue.parsons@swe.org or 202-416-0126 by Sunday, February 20.

Do not miss the ZOOM Into Engineering Family Day at the National Building Museum on Saturday, February 19 (see Calendar of Events for details). It is an annual event featuring volunteers conducting interactive hands-on exhibitions and the cast from the PBS Science Show

ZOOM. This event, becoming more and more popular every year, broke all public attendance records for the Museum in 2004. We also need local IEEE volunteers to help with the demonstrations at the IEEE-USA booth. If you are interested, please contact me at murtyp@ieee.org.

IEEE GOLD Winds Up Second Community Outreach Event

By Kerry Hartman
Northern Virginia Section Editor

On Saturday, November 20, the Northern Virginia Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Affinity Group sponsored a community outreach event at the Parkview Community Center on Otis Place in Washington, DC. The participants included about a dozen students ranging from elementary-school to high-school age. Working from a kit of common and inexpensive household items, each student wound and prepared a coil of magnet wire which was then used as the rotor of a working electric motor. A team of GOLD volunteers assisted the students with the construction of their projects, and several community members were also on hand to

prepare a hot breakfast of bacon, eggs, pancakes, and grits for the attendees.

This event was the second in a series to promote awareness of electrical engineering among community youth. The first event, which was held at Parkview in July 2004, involved breadboard construction of several oscillator-based projects. Many of the participants in the November project had also attended the July event, and the Parkview community emphasized its appreciation of Northern Virginia GOLD's return to conduct the second event.

GOLD is currently planning its next event at Parkview, in which each participant will learn how to create their

IEEE GOLD OUTREACH
continues on page 4



George Mason University's student branch of the IEEE sponsored a November 16 presentation by Fred Seelig titled, "What you look for in a first job." Meeting attendees included (front row, left to right) Dr. William Sutton, associate chair, ECE-GMU; Amarjeet Basra, chair, Northern Virginia Section; Fred Seelig, chair, IEEE Communications Society Chapter (NV); and Shery Salama, president, GMU student branch, with other students.

WASHINGTON SECTION
<http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/washsec>

Chair
 Ron Ticker
 301-286-1360
 rlticker@ieee.org

Vice Chair
 Haik Biglari
 301-228-3538
 hbiglari@fairchildcontrols.com

Treasurer
 Kiki Ikossi
 703-960-0261
 ikossi@ieee.org

Secretary
 Richard Benjamin
 301-228-3471
 rbenjamin@fairchildcontrols.com

Past Chair
 Howard Needham
 240-314-1672
 howardn@ieee.org

Directors
 Doug Holly
 dougholly@ieee.org

Howard Needham
 howardn@ieee.org

Harry Sauberman
 hrs@cdrh.fda.gov

Debi Siering
 siering@ieee.org

Harold Stinger
 hstinger@sgt-inc.com

Steve Weiss
 sweiss@arl.army.mil

NORTHERN VIRGINIA SECTION
http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/no_virginia

Chair
 Murty Polavarapu
 703-367-1497
 murtyp@ieee.org

Chair Elect
 Michael Cardinale
 703-788-7754
 cardinal@ieee.org

Treasurer
 Syed Ahmed
 703-298-5235
 syed.f.ahmed@ieee.org

Secretary
 Chuck Sisung
 703-267-9524
 sisung@ieee.org

Past Chair
 Amarjeet Basra
 703-324-2821
 amarjeet.basra@ieee.org

Directors
 David Booth
 dbooth@ieee.org

Scott Goldstein
 s.goldstein@ieee.org

Kerry Hartman
 hartman_k@computer.org

Rex Klopfenstein
 r.klopfenstein@ieee.org

P. Jeffrey Palermo
 jpalamo@kemaconsulting.com

Fred Seelig
 fseelig@mitre.org

Larry Stotts
 lstotts@darpa.mil

Peter Sypher
 p.sypher@ieee.org

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

Office Manager
 Jackie Hunter
 P.O. Box 220521
 Chantilly, VA 20153
 703-803-8701
 Fax: 703-222-3208
 nca-admin@ieee.org

IEEE REGION 2 SOUTH AREA*

Chair
 Jerry Gibbon
 202-276-2265
 J.T.Gibbon@ieee.org

*Including Washington, Northern Virginia, and Baltimore Sections and Annapolis Subsection

SCANNER STAFF

Editor
 Pete Sypher
 703-216-3203
 p.sypher@ieee.org

Managing Editor
 Elsie Grant
 301-661-5921
 ncac-scanner@ieee.org

Northern Virginia Section Editor
 Kerry Hartman
 703-623-1432
 hartman_k@computer.org

Washington Section Editor (Acting)
 Doug Holly
 240-404-1601
 dougholly@ieee.org

Webmaster
 Rex Klopfenstein
 703-610-1534
 r.klopfenstein@ieee.org

TECHNICAL SOCIETY AND AFFINITY GROUP CHAPTERS

Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society (W/NV)
 Dr. Daniel S. Purdy
 703-588-1920
 Daniel_Purdy@onr.navy.mil

Antennas and Propagation Society (W/NV)
 Dr. Scott Kordella
 703-883-6282
 kordella@mitre.org

Communications Society (W)
 Mr. Doug Holly
 240-404-1601
 dougholly@ieee.org

Communications Society (NV)
 Mr. Dennis Moen
 703-625-2611
 dennis.moen@ieee.org

Computer Society (NV)
 Mr. Shahid Shah
 703-475-6146
 shahid.shah@ieee.org

Control Systems Society (W)
 Mr. Richard Benjamin
 301-228-3471
 rbenjamin@fairchildcontrols.com

Control Systems Society (NV)
 Mr. Seddik Benhamida
 703-414-4082
 sbenhamida@dc.devry.edu

Electromagnetic Compatibility Society (W/NV)
 Mr. Greg Snyder
 301-417-0220
 gregs@wll.com

Electron Devices Society (NV/W)
 Mr. Murty Polavarapu
 703-367-1497
 murtyp@ieee.org
http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/no_virginia/eds

Engineering in Medicine and Biology (W/NV)
 Dr. Robert Munzner
 434-263-8862
 r.munzner@ieee.org
 members.aol.com/EMBDC

Engineering Management Society (W/NV)
 Doug Holly
 240-404-1601
 dougholly@ieee.org
http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/wash_nova/ems/

Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society (W/NV)
 Dr. Shunlin Liang
 301-405-4556
 sliang@geog.umd.edu

Industry Applications Society (W/NV)
 Mr. Amarjeet S. Basra
 703-324-2821
 amarjeet.basra@ieee.org

Information Theory Society (W/NV)
 Mr. Greg Strutt
 301-483-0710
 gstrutt@ieee.org

Lasers and Electro-optics Society (W/NV)
 Dr. Mary S. Tobin
 301-394-2046
 mtobin@arl.army.mil

Magnetics Society (W/NV)
 Dr. Can E. Korman
 202-994-4952
 korman@gwu.edu

Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (W/NV)
 Mr. Amit Asthana
 301-428-2786
 amitasthana@ieee.org

Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (W/NV)
 Mr. Harry Sauberman
 301-443-8879
 HRS@cdrh.fda.gov

Power Engineering Society (NV/W)
 Mr. Chuck Sisung
 703-267-9524
 sisung@ieee.org

Signal Processing Society (W)
 Mr. Ed Neal
 301-428-9066
 enealnrai@aol.com

Signal Processing Society (NV)
 Dr. Timothy Settle
 703-814-8247
 settle@saic.com

Society for Social Implications of Technology (NV/W/Baltimore)
 Mr. Michael Cardinale
 703-788-7754
 cardinal@ieee.org

Vehicular Technology Society, Land Transportation Committee
 Mr. Brad Luse
 703-247-4491
 bradley.luse@wgint.com

Southern Maryland Communication, Computer and EMC Chapter
 Mr. Fred Heather
 301-342-6975
 heatherf@navair.navy.mil

Affinity Group Chapters Consultants Network (W/NV)
 Mr. Sai Chiang
 703-203-0771
 creativesystem@ieee.org
 www.ieee-consultants.org

Graduates of the Last Decade (NV)
 Mr. Chuck Baldi
 703-675-0678
 cbaldi@ieee.org

Life Members (W/NV)
 Mr. John Margosian
 301-365-1257
 jmargo@ieee.org

Women in Engineering (W/NV)
 Dr. Frederica Darema
 703-292-4764
 darema@nsf.gov
<http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/washsec/wie/>

Editorial Policies and Procedures

Calendar Items and Announcements

Please submit calendar items in the format used in the Calendar of Events. You can send email to ncac-scanner@ieee.org. If possible, include a synopsis of the event and a biographical sketch of the presenter including academic background, current position, notable achievements, and IEEE and other professional affiliations.

Other contributions, such as reports on chapter events and other member activities, reviews of books by or of interest to members, are most welcome. Please submit them to the managing editor, electronically if possible, at ncac-scanner@ieee.org.

On the Web

eSCANNER Calendar of Events

The calendar is available at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/capitalarea/eSCANNER> (case sensitive). Check here for events submitted too late for print publication.

IEEE National Capital Area Virtual Community

Exchange ideas and participate in discussions with local IEEE members at www.ieeecommunities.org/nca.

Advertising

Contact the Editor about ad rates and to place advertising orders. Ads must be submitted by the deadline below.

Deadlines

The editor reserves the right to set policies and procedures necessary to provide members with a newsletter that is informative and timely. Deadlines must be strictly adhered to to keep the publication on schedule. If you are planning an event and have insufficient information by the deadline, please contact the managing editor.

The deadline for the upcoming issue will always be published on this page.

The deadline for the March-April issue is February 1, 2005

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CALENDAR OF *events*

JANUARY

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Washington Section Administrative Committee Meeting

Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; meeting at 6:30 pm
Place: Allie's American Grill, Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Rd., Bethesda, MD
Directions: From the north, take 270 South to Route 355 and exit at Wisconsin Ave. From the south, take 495 exit 34 (which is Wisconsin Ave.) to Pooks Hill Rd.
More info: All interested IEEE members are welcome to attend.
Contact: Jackie Hunter at 703-803-8701 or nca-admin@ieee.org. Please include the term IEEE in the subject line of your e-mail.

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

◆ Small Business Participation for SeaPort-e

Speaker: Comdr. Jim Hiles, U.S. Navy
Sponsor: Consultants Network, Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter
Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; speaker at 7:00 pm
Place: Corner 7 Café, Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA
Directions: From the east or I-495, take Route 7 West, turn right on Towers Crescent Drive, then immediately right into the Marriott parking lot. From the west on Route 7, turn right onto Old Gallows Road just opposite the Marriott, proceed around to the left until you have completed almost a full circle, and turn left into the Marriott parking lot. Free parking.
More Info: See Diamond story, p. 5.
Contact: Sai Chiang at 703-203-0771 or creativesystem@ieee.org

Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Northern Virginia Section Administrative Committee Meeting

Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Corner 7 Café, Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA
Directions: From the east or I-495, take Route 7 West, turn right on Towers Crescent Drive, then immediately right into the Marriott parking lot. From the west on Route 7, turn right onto Old Gallows Road just opposite the Marriott, proceed around to the left until you have completed almost a full circle, and turn left into the Marriott parking lot. Free parking.
More info: All interested IEEE members are invited to attend.
Contact: Jackie Hunter at 703-803-8701 or nca-admin@ieee.org. Please include the term IEEE in the subject line of your e-mail.

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

Consultants Network Idea Night

Sponsor: Consultants Network, Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter
Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; meeting at 7:00 pm
Place: Dinner at Seven Seas Restaurant, 8503 Baltimore Blvd. (Route 1), College Park, MD. Meeting at University of Maryland, A.V. Williams Building, Room 2460, College Park, MD.
Directions: From the north or I-495, take Route 1 South. The restaurant is approx. 1.5 miles on left. Approx. 0.5 mile beyond that (2 miles total), turn right onto Campus Drive, then immediately take Paint Branch Drive and the A.V. Williams Building will be on the right. Park in Lot G or just beyond the building on the right. See <http://www.parking.umd.edu/themap>.
More Info: Come prepared! We'll discuss ideas for group marketing projects that we can collaborate on in 2005. We'll talk about things that have worked in the past, and what you will need to do to make these projects succeed.
Contact: Sai Chiang at 703-203-0771 or creativesystem@ieee.org

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

◆ Dynamic Spectrum Sharing

Sponsor: Communications Society, Northern Virginia Chapter and Washington Chapter
Speaker: Mark McHenry, Shared Spectrum
Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; speaker at 6:45 pm
Place: Mitre Corporation, Building 2, 7515 Colshire Drive, McLean, VA
Directions: Off Route 123 in Tysons Corner. See http://www.mitre.org/about/locations/mitre2_map.html.
More Info: See Diamond story, p. 5. To learn about Shared Spectrum, go to <http://www.sharedspectrum.com>.
Cost: Free
Contact: Please RSVP to Fred Seelig at fseelig@mitre.org.

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

◆ CATV: Where Has It Been, and Where is It Going?

Sponsor: Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (W/NV)
Cosponsors: Communication Society (W); Optical Society of America (National Capital Section)
Speaker: Dr. Irl Duling, Chief Technologist, C-COR
Time: Light refreshments at 6:00 pm; lecture at 6:30 pm; optional dinner following the lecture with the speaker at a nearby restaurant.
Place: University of Maryland, A.V. Williams Building, Room 2460, College Park, MD
Directions: From the north or I-495, take Route 1 South. Approx. 2 miles south of the Beltway, turn right onto Campus Drive, then immediately take Paint Branch

Drive and the A.V. Williams Building will be on the right. From the south on Route 1, turn left onto Campus Drive, and follow above directions. Ample parking is available after 4:00 pm. See <http://www.parking.umd.edu/themap/>.

More Info: See Diamond story on page 5. For more information about LEOS activities, go to http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/wash_nova/leos.
Contact: Dominique Dagenais at 301-951-7095 or dominique_dagenais@avanex.com; Doug Holly at or 240-404-1601 or doug.holly@acterna.com; or Eric Shettle at 202-404-8152 or shettle@nrl.navy.mil.

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Washington Section Administrative Committee Meeting

Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; meeting at 6:30 pm
Place: Allie's American Grill, Bethesda Marriott, 5151 Pooks Hill Rd., Bethesda, MD
Directions: From the north, take 270 South to Route 355 and exit at Wisconsin Ave. From the south, take 495 exit 34 (which is Wisconsin Ave.) to Pooks Hill Rd.
More info: All interested IEEE members are welcome to attend.
Contact: Jackie Hunter at 703-803-8701 or nca-admin@ieee.org. Please include the term IEEE in the subject line of your e-mail.

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Show Me Your Money

Speaker: Sai Chiang
Sponsor: Consultants Network, Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter
Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; speaker at 7:00 pm
Place: Corner 7 Café, Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA
Directions: From the east or I-495, take Route 7 West, turn right on Towers Crescent Drive, then immediately right into the Marriott parking lot. From the west on Route 7, turn right onto Old Gallows Road just opposite the Marriott, proceed around to the left until you have completed almost a full circle, and turn left into the Marriott parking lot. Free parking.
More Info: Difficulty getting paid by clients for work performed is a problem that most consultants face at one time or another. Mr. Chiang will discuss some warning signs to watch out for, as well as ways to collect your fair share.
Contact: Sai Chiang at 703-203-0771 or creativesystem@ieee.org

CALENDAR
continues on page 4

CALENDAR

continued from page 3

Saturday, February 5, 2005

National Capital Area Leadership Training

Time: 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
Place: Mitre Corporation, Building 2 Conference room 1N100A/B, 7515 Colshire Drive, McLean, VA. Please check in at the main guard desk in Building 2, on the same level as the meeting room.
Directions: Off Route 123 in Tysons Corner. Free parking. See http://www.mitre.org/about/locations/mitre2_map.html.
More Info: IEEE provides a wealth of materials, tools and other resources to help organizations be successful. We are planning a half day of presentations, discussion and networking to help get you off to a good start. The training is open to all members, but we particularly encourage every chapter to send at least one officer to the session. See story, p. 1.
Cost: Free, including lunch.
Contact: To register, please send Jackie Hunter an e-mail at nca-admin@ieee.org with "IEEE Officer Training Registration" in the subject line.

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Northern Virginia Section Administrative Committee Meeting

Time: 6:30 pm
Place: Corner 7 Café, Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA
Directions: From the east or I-495, take Route 7 West, turn right on Towers Crescent Drive, then immediately right into the Marriott parking lot. From the west on Route 7, turn right onto Old Gallows Road just opposite the Marriott, proceed around to the left until you have completed almost a full circle, and turn left into the Marriott parking lot. Free parking.
More info: All interested IEEE members are invited to attend.
Contact: Jackie Hunter at 703-803-8701 or nca-admin@ieee.org. Please include the term IEEE in the subject line of your e-mail.

Thursday, February 10, 2005

Modular Hydrogen Fuel Cells

Sponsors: Power Engineering Society, Northern Virginia and Washington Chapter; Industry Applications Society, Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter
Speaker: Frank Ignazzitto, ReliOn, Inc.
Place: KEMA Consulting, 4400 Fair Lakes Court, Fairfax
Time: Social hour at 5:45 pm; snacks at 6:00 pm, speaker at 6:30 pm
More info: Refreshments will include assorted sandwiches, potato chips, dessert, coffee, tea and soda.
Cost: Free for members (including student members), \$10 for guests
Contact: Please RSVP by Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 5:00 pm. to Sirak Belayneh at sbelayne@ieee.org.

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

What's Your U.S.P.?

Sponsor: Consultants Network, Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter
Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; meeting at 7:00 pm
Place: Dinner at Seven Seas Restaurant, 8503 Baltimore Blvd. (Route 1), College Park, MD. Meeting at University of Maryland, A.V. Williams Building, Room 2460, College Park, MD.
Directions: From the north or I-495, take Route 1 South. The restaurant is approx. 1.5 miles on left. Approx. 0.5 mile beyond that (2 miles total), turn right onto Campus Drive, then immediately take Paint Branch Drive and the A.V. Williams Building will be on the right. Park in Lot G or just beyond the building on the right. See <http://www.parking.umd.edu/themap>.
More Info: Consulting is a business. In order to succeed, you need to have something to sell: not just marketable skills, but preferably something about your capabilities that makes you unique. We'll discuss your skills, as well as related factors such as facilities or equipment, in terms of something that sales people call a Unique Selling Position (USP).
Contact: Sai Chiang at 703-203-0771 or creativesystem@ieee.org

Thursday, February 17, 2005

◆ Evolution of RF MEMS Switches for Microwave Frequency Applications

Sponsors: Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter) and Electron Devices Society (Northern Virginia and Washington Chapter)
Speaker: Dr. Charles L. Goldsmith, MEMtronics Corp, Plano, TX
Time: Reception at 5:30 pm; dinner at 6:00 pm (optional, reservation required); lecture from 7:00-9:00 pm
Place: American Center for Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD
Directions: Adjacent to the College Park Metro station (Green line)
More Info: See Diamond story, p. 5. Check the MTTTS website (www.ieee.org/mttwnva) for additional information and last minute changes before the meeting.
Cost: Free lecture; \$15 for optional dinner (please bring exact change or a check).
Contact: If you would like to join the speaker, the administrative committee, and other microwave folks for a catered buffet dinner, please RSVP to Roger Kaul at 301-394-4775 or r.kaul@ieee.org by Feb. 11.

Saturday, February 19, 2005

ZOOM Into Engineering Family Day

Sponsor: IEEE-USA
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Place: National Building Museum, 401 F Street NW, Washington, DC
Directions: Use the Judiciary Square Metro station (Red line)
More Info: Bring your whole family for a day of fun activities about engineering. Meet the cast from the PBS Science Show ZOOM.
Contact: Murty Polavarapu at murtyp@ieee.org.

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

◆ Voice Over IP and its Impacts on Regulatory Standards and Regional & Long Distance Telephone Companies

Sponsor: Communications Society, Northern Virginia Chapter
Speaker: David Young, Verizon
Time: Dinner at 6:00 pm; speaker at 6:45 pm
Place: Mitre Corporation, Building 2, 7515 Colshire Drive, McLean, VA
Directions: Off Route 123 in Tysons Corner. See http://www.mitre.org/about/locations/mitre2_map.html.
More Info: See Diamond story, page 5.
Cost: Free
Contact: Please RSVP to Fred Seelig at fseelig@mitre.org.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

continued from page 1

- Contribute your suggestions for improving IEEE in the Capital area
- The detailed agenda is being developed. Following are some of the topics we plan to cover:
 - Officer Roles and Responsibilities
 - Finances
 - Effective meetings
 - Getting the word out – communications options
 - How to easily handle reporting
 - Membership development
 - Awards and recognition
 - Key support personnel at IEEE

This offers you an excellent opportunity to learn more about what IEEE has to help you have a more successful chapter and section. Consider bringing along another officer or member of your organization. If you are a student officer at one of our colleges, you are also welcome and encouraged to come. We look forward to seeing you there. The cost is being picked up by the sections.

Please reserve Saturday, February 5 to meet with other local IEEE leaders. Pre-registration is required for food and materials planning. See Calendar listing on this page for details.

IEEE GOLD OUTREACH

continued from page 1

own webpage, including multimedia and JavaScript enhancements. Principal design architect for this project is GOLD member Senthil Ramiah. Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact chair Chuck Baldi at cbaldi@ieee.org, or vice-chair Kerry Hartman at hartman_k@computer.org. Individuals or organizations who may be interested in introducing any of these projects to other communities are also encouraged to contact either individual.



DIAMOND STORIES



Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Small Business Participation for SeaPort-e

(Sponsored by Consultants Network (W/NV))

SeaPort Enhanced (SeaPort-e) made electronic procurement of engineering, technical and programmatic support services at NAVSEA a reality. The Navy Virtual SYSCOM (VS) Commanders (NAVAIR, NAVSEA, NAVSUP and SPAWAR) are leveraging the successes and efficiencies of the SeaPort-e business model by designating SeaPort-e the vehicle of choice for future engineering, financial, and program management contractor support services. This decision emphasizes the Navy Virtual SYSCOM's focus on implementing cost-effective and integrated business practices. SeaPort-e expansion to include all VS activities as ordering offices is being accomplished via rolling admission, a process by which additional primes may be added to this multiple award contract. Additional information on SeaPort-e and the rolling admission is available at www.seaport.navy.mil.

Comdr. Jim Hiles is the chief of the contracting office at NSWC Dahlgren Division, located in Dahlgren, VA. He leads a contracts team responsible for SeaPort-e PCO functions.

Tuesday, January 25, 2004

Dynamic Spectrum Sharing

(Sponsored by the Communications Society chapters (NV and W))

Access to radio frequency spectrum has been in high demand for many years. With the advent of low cost RF devices, the Internet, and low cost computation devices, spectrum demand is growing exponentially. For example, the military is developing robotic vehicles, extensive information management systems, and distributed sensors that will require enormous amounts of spectrum. Microsoft, Intel and others are developing many new consumer wireless devices that will connect people and laptops to the Internet. Vast sums and effort have already been spent to acquire spectrum via auctions and by political/regulatory processes. It would appear that the spectrum shortage is going to be a major roadblock to these types of systems.

However, the actual level of spectrum use is low, and the perceived spectrum "shortage" is caused by 1930's spectrum access technologies that predate the transistor. Newly developed dynamic spectrum sharing technology is poised to correct this problem, and it will make 10 times more spectrum available to users in the near future.

This talk will cover several areas related to dynamic spectrum sharing, including the results of spectrum occupancy conducted at a period of maximum usage (in New York City during the 2004 political convention), examples of spectrum sharing "behaviors," and a review of the regulatory and policy issues.

Dr. Mark McHenry has extensive experience in military and commercial communication system design. In 2000 he founded Shared Spectrum Company, which is developing automated spec-

trum management technology and high dynamic range, multi-band transceivers. He was also a co-founder of San Diego Research Center, Inc., a wireless research and development company currently developing a spectrally efficient, multi-function, range communications system for the DoD Test and Evaluation Ranges. Previously he was at DARPA, and managed multiple programs including the SUO Program, an advanced tactical, broadband, ad-hoc networked, soldier wearable wireless communications system, and the Wolf-Pack Program, a distributed communications and radar-jamming program.

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

CATV: Where Has It Been, and Where is It Going?

Sponsor: Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (W/NV), Communication Society (W), and Optical Society of America (National Capital Section)

The architecture of a cable television network is significantly different than those used in either telecom companies or enterprise networks. Understanding the fundamental differences in both technology and philosophy are crucial for anyone trying to develop systems for that space or trying to sell existing systems into those networks.

Irl Duling is currently a chief technologist at C-COR, where he acts as an expert in system design, product strategy, and business development. Until recently, he was chief scientist and cofounder of Optinel Systems. At Optinel, Dr. Duling was instrumental in driving the vision, design and development of the Optinel PLEXiS optical transport product. Both companies market their products primarily to the Multiple System Operators (MSOs) of the cable television (CATV) industry.

Prior to founding Optinel, Dr. Duling directed work in ultra high-speed data communications and optical networks at the Naval Research Lab. Dr. Duling attended the United States Military Academy at West Point and earned his S.B. from MIT and Ph.D. in optics from the University of Rochester. He has published numerous articles in technical journals and frequently speaks at industry forums. He was named a Fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA) for his contributions to fiber lasers, soliton transmission and communication systems, optical fiber devices and properties and ultrafast phenomena.

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Evolution of RF MEMS Switches for Microwave Frequency Applications

(Sponsored by Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (W/NV) and Electron Devices Society (NV/W))

Micromachining and MEMS (microelectromechanical systems) for RF applications (RF MEMS) is an up and coming device technology. A product of development for high-end military electronics, this revolutionary new technology is working its way through the evolutionary development

cycle. MEMS technology enables the construction of micro-sized mechanical switching devices on the surface of an integrated circuit wafer. Dramatic performance improvements over conventional electronic control devices at frequencies above 1 GHz have been demonstrated. Salient features of RF MEMS switches include very high figures of merit, no quiescent power drain, and extreme linearity. Current challenges in this switch technology include effective packaging and a poor understanding of reliability physics. This presentation offers an overview of the current state of MEMS switching technology, discusses some of the current issues in RF MEMS switch development, and showcases some of the companies and approaches currently under development.

Dr. Charles L. Goldsmith has been involved in the design and development of microwave and millimeter-wave circuits and subsystems since 1982. He has been employed by M/A-COM, Texas Instruments, and most recently was an engineering fellow at Raytheon Company. Dr. Goldsmith recently formed his own company and is currently consulting and pursuing business opportunities in RF MEMS. He holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, is a senior member of the IEEE, and has authored or co-authored more than 40 publications on microwave circuits, photonics, and RF MEMS.

He has been developing RF MEMS devices and circuits since 1993, and is the inventor of the capacitive membrane RF MEMS switch. He has dedicated the last several years to the development and application of these devices. These activities include the innovation of switches, phase shifters, and tuneable antennas for radar and satcomm applications, as well as variable capacitors and tuneable filters for microwave receiver front-ends.

Tuesday, February 22, 2005

Voice Over IP and Its Impacts on Regulatory Standards and Regional & Long Distance Telephone Companies

(Sponsored by Communications Society (NV))

Consumers are using new communications technologies to supplement and replace traditional telephone service. From email and instant messaging to cellular technologies, consumers have more choices than ever before. The emergence of broadband voice over internet protocol (VoIP) promises to bring even more choices and innovation. The effect of these changes, the shift from wireline voice to wireless and broadband have profound implications for consumers, service providers and regulators. These trends and their implications will be identified and discussed.

David E. Young is director of internet & technology policy in Verizon's Public Policy and External Affairs department. Before joining PP&EA, he spent six years in research and development, working on many advanced technologies including Internet telephony, data network architectures, and audio, video and image compression, and he holds ten U.S. patents. Mr. Young began his career in telecommunications with New Jersey Bell where he worked in a variety of operations, IT and staff positions. He received a degree in electrical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Report from the Outgoing Northern Virginia Chair: Gaining Momentum

This will be my last report as the 2004 Northern Virginia section chair since the chair-elect becomes the chair effective January 1, 2005. I want to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for your trust and confidence throughout my tenure as I have strived to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the statement for my election. If I have been successful in generating enthusiasm during the monthly section meetings, it has been due to your full support.



Amarjeet Basra

The Northern Virginia Section remains the largest in Region 2 and we have fostered a great relationship with the Washington Section, enabling IEEE in the National Capital Area to achieve excellence. I am pleased to report that we have worked with the Washington Section in many endeavors including officer training and orientation, publishing the Scanner (paper and electronic versions), the annual awards banquet, and general administration.

Under the leadership of Danielle Obuchon, the Student Branch at George Mason University (GMU) continued to grow during 2003-04. They had a strong program that included a Maglev presentation, a spring student picnic, a Student Professional Awareness Conference (SPAC), a robotics demonstration project meeting, and many other activities. The student branch's contributions to the monthly section meetings are also gratefully acknowledged. The incoming 2004-05 president, Shery Salama, kept up the momentum by starting with a fall student picnic, providing a GMU student branch presence at the Baltimore Section Student Branch Leadership Training Workshop, and arranging the first technical meeting of the fall semester, titled "What you look for in a first job" and presented by Fred Seelig, chair of our Communications Society Chapter and a section director. I wish her continued success in carrying forward the goals and objectives of the student branch.

Professor Seddik Benhamida, student branch counselor at DeVry University, has demonstrated personal interest in guiding and coaching first year officers, starting with a spring 2004 student picnic with a membership drive and the formation of the Women in Engineering (WIE) affinity group. The incoming president, Myles Rodgers, started the 2004-05 year with a fall picnic and made contributions at the section's monthly meetings. A SPAC is planned for the spring semester. I predict continued growth of the student branch at DeVry University as the new officers gain more exposure to the section's activities by their

continued presence at the monthly section meetings.

I am delighted to report that after obtaining approval from Marc Apter, the IEEE vice president for regional activities, the Northern Virginia Section Thomas Jefferson High School Club of the IEEE is being formed. David Booth, Shery Salama and Myles Rodgers joined me in making a successful presentation to the students and the science faculty of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology on October 27. This will be the first high school club at the section level as a pilot project.

The Northern Virginia Section has continued its presence at the Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair and the Prince William County Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This year we extended our presence to the Arlington County Northern Virginia Regional Science & Engineering Fair. We have been awarding three prizes at each of the fairs and inviting the first prize winners (accompanied by a parent or guardian) to our annual awards banquet to receive their award and present the project. We have also provided volunteer science fair judges to the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

We reactivated the Industry Applications Society Chapter (a joint chapter with the Washington Section) this year. Twenty-four people attended the first meeting held on September 9 at the Alexandria Research Institute (ARI) in Old Town Alexandria. The second meeting on November 4 was also held at ARI and was followed by the election of new officers for 2005.

The Power Engineering Society Chapter became a joint chapter with the Washington Section this year. We have had strong technical programs throughout the year including a site visit to a new 500KV substation of Virginia Electric Power.

The Control Systems Society Chapter concluded another productive year with a presentation meeting by Richard Chen, chapter chair, that was attended by DeVry students taking a controls systems course. The meeting was followed by the election of new officers for 2005.

The chapters of Communications Society, Computer Society, Electron Devices Society, Signal Processing Society and the Society for Social Implications of Technology have all continued to provide excellent technical programs throughout the year for our members to attend and learn. Our members also continue to take an active role in the joint technical chapters led by the Washington Section.

The Graduates of the Last Decade

(GOLD) Affinity Group is thriving with its multi-faceted programs that include exposing young minds to electronics and computers. Our members are also actively involved with the other affinity groups (Consultants Network, Life Members, and Women in Engineering) led by the Washington Section.

We have continued to participate in the activities of our affiliated organizations, namely the District of Columbia Council of Engineering and Architectural Societies (DCCEAS),

the Washington Academy of Sciences (WAS), the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), and the Virginia Coordinating Council (VCC).

I am honored and grateful to have served as the section chair for the past year. I am looking forward to the continuation of the momentum that has been generated this year and wish the new leadership team led by Murty Polavarapu success in becoming a premier section of the IEEE.

Amarjeet Basra

Remarks by the Northern Virginia Incoming Chair: 2005 Goals

It is my honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve the IEEE membership of the Northern Virginia Section as the chair for 2005. I am grateful for the efforts of my illustrious predecessors who have placed our section on a solid footing with a broad range of programs and activities that serve the membership and reach out to the public. I look forward to continue to build on that foundation while seeking out ways to extend our reach. I am pleased to have the support of an able and experienced leadership team for this coming year with Mike Cardinale as vice chair, Syed Ahmed as treasurer and Chuck Sisung as secretary. All the directors will also take prominent roles in developing and implementing section activities. But we also need more participation and involvement from our members to ensure a steady inflow of new ideas and innovation. Our priorities for 2005 are as follows:



Murty Polavarapu

- Offer a wide range of professional development activities for the members.
- Build on the established pre-college and college level activities.
- Support the activities of our technical chapters.
- Increase involvement in public outreach and policy activities.

I am always open to any suggestions for improvement. Please feel free to contact me at murtyp@ieee.org. All members of the Northern Virginia section are invited to attend any of the section's monthly administrative committee meetings, held on the second Wednesday of every month (see the Calendar of Events for details).

I am confident that with all your support, the Northern Virginia Section will be recognized as the premier section not only in Region 2 but across all of IEEE.

Murty Polavarapu



The IEEE student branch at DeVry University's Arlington campus began the academic year with a picnic, which had to be moved from the terrace to a classroom due to inclement weather. Attendees included (left to right) Amarjeet Basra, chair, Northern Virginia section; Crystal Joyce, DeVry IEEE coordinator; Prof. Seddik Benhamida, student branch counselor; Myles Rodgers, branch president; Jonathan Knautz, vice president; and Jason Raczkowski, secretary.

Outgoing Washington Chair's Message: Where Did the Year Go?

This article marks the end of my tenure as chair of the Washington Section of the IEEE. It seems appropriate to look back and report on the progress that was made on the priorities outlined in my first article at the beginning of 2004 and on the status of our local organization.



Howard Needham

My goals for the year were to assure that our current member services, mainly the Scanner newsletter, chapter activities and our website, didn't suffer as a result of the dissolution of the National Capital Area Council, and to forge a new relationship not only with the Northern Virginia Section but also the Baltimore Section. Many of our society chapters are jointly supported with the other sections and we need to ensure that we can still rely on each other to serve the membership of the entire region. We had also been asked to support efforts explaining the value of IEEE membership to industry, so that membership fees and time spent attending IEEE meetings would be seen as an investment creating stronger employees.

I believe by now all local members should be very familiar with the online eScanner and, in combination with our mailed hardcopy newsletter, I feel that this has become a better service to our membership. The eScanner allows a quicker response time to changing chapter meeting schedules while still allowing longer articles to be printed in hardcopy form for more leisurely reading. During the year we lost our managing editor and Washington Section editor, but due to the efforts of many of our volunteers we welcomed a new managing editor and service has not suffered.

I also want to note that working with Amarjeet Basra, Northern Virginia Chair, and Jeffrey Friedhoffer, Baltimore Chair, was a real pleasure for me this year, and I can report that I'm confident that our sections should be able to work together on larger issues benefiting more of our local membership.

Unfortunately, due to many reasons, I was not able to accomplish all that I had hoped to do this year. We still need a volunteer to support our section website. We have also lost several valuable volunteers this year. To continue to support our local membership I've worked to remerge the Power Engineering and Industry Applications chapters as joint chapters with Northern Virginia, due to the loss of the chairs of these groups. We are still looking for a volunteer to lead our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) affin-

ity group or this will also have to merge into a joint chapter with Northern Virginia. There are still major issues supporting our student chapters in the area and we need to contact the student chapters assigned to our section to reconnect with them next year. These moves are part of a larger issue, the lack of volunteers to lead our local organizations, to grow as individuals and to serve other members. This seems to be more of an issue for the Washington Section than Northern Virginia. I cannot overstress the value of serving the IEEE as a volunteer or officer. It allows you to network in the profession and to maintain contacts at local firms. You can exercise your leadership and managerial talents if you are contemplating a move into technical leader-

Incoming Washington Chair's View: Let's Build on Past Achievements

I am honored and proud to serve as chair of the Washington Section for 2005. The section has been serving engineers in the Washington area for just over 100 years, providing members with opportunities to network, maintain existing or gain new technical skills through continuing education and technical society participation, and serve the greater Washington community through activities such as judging science fairs. I hope to build on the achievements of the long line of section chairs who have held this position before me.

I would like to thank my predecessor Howard Needham for his inspirational leadership during the past year. Howard led the section's reconstitution following the disestablishment of the National Capital Area Council (NCAC), building a good and solid working relationship with our sister section in Northern Virginia. He presided over the section during the modernization of the Scanner newsletter, taking it into the electronic publication age. Howard's leadership skills proved useful in holding the section meetings to their prescribed agendas, reducing the time for routine business and allowing for speakers and special activities. I hope to wield the gavel with as much distinction.

The section is built on the efforts of volunteers. Due to term limitations, there are currently two vacancies on the section's Board of Directors. There are also several openings for committee chairs. We need your support. Over the coming year, the section will be looking at developing

ship at your workplace. It offers the opportunity to keep up on technical issues at a national level. I highly encourage you to come to a technical chapter meeting of interest, and all members of the Washington Section are welcome to attend the section's administrative committee meetings held the first Tuesday of every month (see the Calendar of Events for details).

I'm turning the gavel over to our 2005 chair, Ron Ticker. I would expect that Ron will be outlining his thoughts for the year soon and I congratulate him as well as Vice Chair Haik Biglari, Treasurer Kiki Ikossi, and Secretary Richard Benjamin on their new roles. There are vacancies for directors of the section, and these positions allow new volunteers to see what being a section officer is all about.

Traditionally, the previous year's

new and exciting strategic initiatives to increase both the level of participation and the quality of services to its members. We will be unveiling a new website providing an up-to-date face to our members and the general public.

Among the open committee chair positions are the education chairs, for K-12 and collegiate education liaisons. Gideon Kantor, who filled both roles and served with eminence for many years, has retired. On behalf of the section, we wish him all the best. These are personally rewarding key posts. The K-12 chair works closely with local school systems to promote science and engineering in the classroom, and provide practitioner support with speakers and science fair judging (each year the Washington Section sponsors awards for outstanding engineering related projects in the Prince George's County and Montgomery County science fairs). The collegiate liaison works with IEEE student chapters at several local institutions of higher education, providing guidance and support for special projects and issues of concern to budding young engineers.

I welcome your input on how we can improve the section and better serve the interests and needs of IEEE members in Washington and suburban Maryland. Of course, we would love your active participation as a volunteer helping the section better serve its members. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and suggestions.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Ron Ticker

chair serves as the next year's section awards banquet committee chair. I will be working with the Northern Virginia Section, which is the host this year, to plan the 2005 Awards Banquet, tentatively set for Saturday, April 16 at the Tyson's Corner Marriott. There will be more information on the time, date and location as the arrangements are made firmer.

Finally, I want to thank the many local IEEE members that I had a chance to meet this year as well as those I worked with. The highlight of volunteering for me was the chance to meet and make friends with people who share my professional interests and therefore already have something in common with me. I was able to give something back to my profession and to gain a different perspective on some of the major issues that our profession has encountered over the last few years such as globalization and outsourcing, continuing education, and the decline in students choosing engineering as a career. My tenure as chair was more hectic than I expected but I step down satisfied that I did what I could to help other local engineers, and I am still looking forward to addressing the issues I've discussed, as a volunteer of the IEEE next year.

Howard Needham



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Thomas Curry is Remembered as 'Father' of NoVa Subsection

By Pete Sypher,
Scanner Editor

Thomas Fortson Curry, 77, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for command, control and communications from 1980 to 1983, died October 19, 2004.

Dr. Curry was born in Thomasville, Georgia. He enlisted in the Army in 1944, and was recalled during the Korean War. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech in 1949,

a master's from Penn State in 1954, and a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon in 1959. He was active in the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society during his undergraduate years.

Prior to his government service, he worked at the Syracuse University Research Corp.; then served as chairman of the board of Curry, McLaughlin and Len, Inc.; then became chief engineer at Melpar. I was acquainted with Tom Curry during his Melpar years, and wrote proposal sections under his direction. I can report without fear of contradiction that he was one of the most personable,



Dr. Thomas F. Curry

cheerful, graceful and pleasant engineering executives I encountered during my career. After Melpar, before his government service, he was vice president of Microwave Systems.

Dr. Curry was an IEEE Fellow and was awarded the IEEE Centennial Medal during the 1984 Awards Banquet. He was the

first chair of the Northern Virginia Subsection, assuming office July 1, 1973. He was the George Washington of this subsection, according to "Veg" Gardner, who was chair for the year beginning July 1, 1978, in that he was the one person most responsible for its establishment. The Northern Virginia Subsection became a section on July 1, 1979.

He was a member of several engineering honor societies, and was listed in Who's Who.

His wife, Mary Ann Curry of Vienna, six children, 17 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren survive him.

Amarjeet Basra Receives RAB Award

By Murty Polavarapu
Northern Virginia Section Chair

Amarjeet Basra, 2004 chair of the Northern Virginia Section, is a recipient of the 2004 IEEE Regional Activities Board (RAB) Achievement Award. Mr. Basra was cited for "outstanding contributions in promoting IEEE to college and pre-college students within the IEEE Northern Virginia Section." He was instrumental in the formation of the student branch at DeVry University, mentoring and helping sustain the branch at George Mason University, and initiating the formation of an IEEE club at Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology.

The purpose of the RAB Achieve-

ment Award is to recognize individuals involved with RAB and/or the regional network, for singular achievement in the development and completion of projects or activities directed to the fulfillment of RAB goals and objectives. The award is designed to recognize substantive projects or achievements of a relatively short nature, usually one to three years, that leave an undeniable imprint on the fabric of regional operations.

Six individuals across all of IEEE were recognized with the 2004 RAB Achievement Awards. For details and other RAB Awards, see http://www.ieee.org/organizations/rab/rab/Awards/2004_RAB_recipients.html.

Science Fair Judges Needed

A number of high schools in the Washington metropolitan region hold science fairs each spring and need IEEE members to volunteer as judges. If you are interested, please contact Northern Virginia Chair Murty Polavarapu at murtyp@ieee.org or

Washington Chair Ron Ticker at rticker@ieee.org.

The Washington Academy of Sciences, an IEEE affiliate, is also seeking volunteer judges. Contact Paul Hazan at pnhazan@comcast.net.

PE License Renewal Blues?

It is time for some of us to renew our PE licenses. The majority of states now require Professional Engineers to maintain their engineering knowledge, typically by taking professional engineering courses or attending technical seminars, which can be an expensive endeavor. However, there is an easier way to fulfill this requirement. IEEE

has access to video tapes approved for earning PDH credits in most states. If you are interested in earning PDH credits for your PE renewal, please contact Dr. Haik Biglari, P.E. at 240-626-9205 or send him an email at hbiglari@fairchildcontrols.com. The course, time and place will depend on the responses to this announcement.

Northern Virginia Section Sponsors FIRST Robotics Team at Chantilly

The Northern Virginia Section will be providing financial support to the Chantilly High School / Chantilly Academy FIRST Robotics Team. FIRST, or For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology, is a multinational non-profit organization that aspires to transform culture, making science, math, engineering, and technology as cool for kids as sports are today (see www.usfirst.org). FIRST operates the FIRST Robotics Competition in which teams of high school students, sponsored and

assisted by local companies and volunteers, design, assemble, and test a robot capable of performing a specified task in competition with other teams. The Chantilly team has been an active participant in this competition in the past and can use help from IEEE volunteers in mentoring different aspects of the project as the team prepares for the regional meet in Richmond in March 2005. If you are interested, please contact Murty Polavarapu at murtyp@ieee.org.

Chapters Announce Officers for 2005

The National Capital Area sponsors more than two dozen chapters of IEEE technical societies and affinity groups, which provide opportunities for members to get involved in professional and volunteer activities. The following chapters have selected their 2005 officers, or, in some cases, have unfilled positions. For contact information, see page 2.

Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (W/NV)

Co-Chair, Fall 05	Amit Asthana
Co-Chair, Spring 05	Eric Adler
Vice Chair	Joe Qiu
Treasurer	Bruce Levine
Secretary	Cole Howard

Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society (W/NV)

Chair	Harry Sauberman
Vice Chair	(Open)
Secretary	(Open)

Signal Processing Society (NV)

Chair	Timothy Settle
Co-Chair	Kathleen Wage
Secretary	Danielle Obuchon
Treasurer	Eric Dohrman

Graduates of the Last Decade (NV)

Chair	Chuck Baldi
Vice Chair	Kerry Hartman
Treasurer	Van Le
Secretary & Webmaster	Lowell Turner
Membership Officer	Syed Ahmed

Online eSCANNER

Current information and calendar listings for IEEE meetings and activities in the National Capital Area are available on the Internet at <http://ewh.ieee.org/r2/capitalarea/eSCANNER>.

The web pages contain additional information that was not available at press time.

Antennas and Propagation Society (W/NV)

Chair	Scott Kordella
Vice-Chair	Vince Karasack
Treasurer	(Open)
Secretary	Todd Rork

Communications Society (W)

Chair	Doug Holly
Vice Chair	Graciela Piedras
Treasurer	Roger Hardwicke
Secretary	(Open)
Program Chair	(Open)

Engineering Management Society (W/NV)

Chair	Doug Holly
Vice Chair	Sam Ghosh
Society Liaison	Richard Leshuk
Program Chair	(Open)
Secretary	(Open)

Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (W/NV)

Chair	Mary S. Tobin
Vice-Chair	Lucy Zheng
Treasurer	George J. Simonis
Secretary	Dominique Dagenais
Educational Outreach Past Chair	Harshad P. Sardesai
	Saurabh F. Dalal