



Contact

Publication of the Cleveland Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

◆ **IEEE Cleveland Section**
◆ **(Region 2 - West)**
◆ **Awards Banquet**
◆ **May 17, 2000**
◆ **At Buca Di Beppo Resturant**

◆ *by Carl J. Dister*

◆ The honor of your presence is requested at the annual IEEE Awards Banquet Dinner, to be held this year on May 17th, at Buca di Beppo Restaurant, Westlake, OH. The IEEE Cleveland Section is delighted to have Sheila Bailey as our guest speaker. Ms. Bailey will present a lively and entertaining talk on "Mars Exploration."

◆ Cost of the dinner will be \$15 per IEEE member, \$15 per IEEE guest and \$5 for IEEE student members.

◆ There will be a socializing at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Bailey will speak from 8:00 to 8:30, followed by presentation of the awards.

◆ Buca di Beppo specializes in Southern Italian Cuisine. (Check out their website at www.bucadibeppo.com.) It is located at 23575 Detroit Road at the southeast corner of the I-90/Clague Road Interchange, slightly east of Clague Road.

◆ Please e-mail Carl Dister at Carldister@ieee.org or phone him at (440) 225-2977, x. 739, for reservations and additional information. It won't be a party without you!

◆ **Thanks from Your Editors**

◆ The "Contact" has come to the end of another great season. Thanks a million to all who participated, either by writing articles, volunteering their time to chair societies or attend meetings or who contributed in a myriad of ways to our IEEE Section.

◆ Give some thought to the upcoming events in the Autumn 2000. Our next edition of the "Contact" will be published in September, 2000. Deadline for submission of articles is August 20th. Just e-mail the editors at mgreene828@aol.com or jgreene327@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from all the members in just two months' time! Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

How Long Does a Patent Last?

by Michael W. Garvey

I used to be able to say simply, "A patent is in force for 17 years from the date of issue." If I wanted to be more explicit, I would add that a patent is in force for 17 years only if each of the three "maintenance fees" is paid at the appropriate time during the life of the patent. The term (as opposed to the validity or the enforceability) of the patent was fairly certain and easy to calculate.

In 1995, things got a little more complicated. Now, in 2000, things are getting a lot more complicated.

Under the 1995 law, patents expire 20 years after the filing date of the application. As before, the patent's enforceability begins at issue. Thus, the term of the patent is between zero and twenty years, depending on how long the application was pending. This term applied to patents issued from applications filed after June 8, 1995. Patents in force and applications on file on June 8, 1995 expire on the later of 17 years from issue or 20 years from filing. Simple, right?

The terms of some patents could be extended for special circumstances. For many years, pharmaceutical patents have been extendable to compensate for time lost during FDA approval. The 1995 law added several other situations in which the term could be extended, such as the time for a successful appeal at the Patent Office, government secrecy orders, or interference (priority of invention) proceedings. These extensions were capped at five years.

Now, the American Inventors' Protection Act (AIPA) has changed the term again. The primary purpose is to guarantee at least a 17-year term from issue for most patents. First, the AIPA removes the five-year cap on the extensions. In addition, the AIPA sets time limits for the Patent Office to take certain actions on applications. If the Patent Office exceeds these limits, the patent owner can obtain an extension compensating for the delay. The AIPA also mandates a three-year limit on application pendency. Applications pending more than three years are entitled to an extension of the patent term.

There are always exceptions and this law is no exception. Generally, the patent owner cannot benefit from his own delay. Thus, the extensions can be limited or unavailable where the patent applicant contributes to exceeding a time limit.

The AIPA patent term provisions apply to patent applications filed on or after May 29, 2000. The Patent Office is still trying to determine how it will handle these changes administratively. Some of the time limits are fairly ambitious, and the Patent Office is concerned that it will be flooded with extension requests.

Fortunately, the Patent Office is planning to indicate the term of each patent on its face. So, the next time someone asks me how long a patent lasts, I can tell him to look on the patent.

Michael Garvey is a patent attorney with Pearne, Gordon, McCoy & Granger LLP. He may be contacted at (216) 579-1700.





May Cleveland Engineering Society Events

9 Cleveland Engineering Society: Leadership Breakfast Series featuring John W. Paxton, chairman and CEO of Telxon Corporation. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Holiday Inn Rockside Road in Independence. COST: \$20 CES members, \$25 affiliate members, \$30 non-members, \$12 student members.

16 Cleveland Engineering Society: "Full System Commissioning," featuring Scott Harmount of Facilities Management Concepts. 7:30. to 9:30 a.m. at Cleveland South Hilton. COST: \$20 CES members, \$30 non-members, \$25 affiliate members, \$12 student members. Sponsored by CES Healthcare Division and Facilities Management Concepts.

18 Cleveland Engineering Society: "Prevention of Significant Deterioration," featuring Eric Tabor, P.E., of August Mack Environmental, and Shane A. Farolino, Esq., of Roetzel & Andress. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Rockside at I-77 and Rockside Road. COST: \$20 CES members, \$25 affiliate members, \$30 non-members, \$12 student members. Sponsored by CES Environmental Division.

22 Cleveland Engineering Society/Cleveland Technical Societies Council: CTSC/CES Annual Meeting. 4:30 to 5 p.m., followed by a brief social, then CTSC/CES banquet all at Executive Caterers at Landerhaven. COST: \$100 for individual tickets. (CES Annual Meeting only is free.)

For more information on any of the above events, contact the Cleveland Engineering Society at (216) 361-3100.

OTHER AREA MAY TECHNICAL EVENTS:

8 NE Ohio Society of Fire Protection Engineers: "Resistance Welding," and "Use of Ice Plugs to Effect repairs on Automatic Sprinkler Systems." Holiday Inn Independence at I-77 and Rockside Road. COST: \$12. (For more information, call Bob Fisher at 216-362-4820.)

9 American Welding Society: "Electrodes for Welding Cast Iron" presentation. Social begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m. and presentation at 7:30 p.m. at Briarwood Golf Course in Broadview Heights. (Call Lisa Rini at 216-383-4191 for details.)

11 OSHA: Ten-hour construction outreach program on workplace safety. 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Construction Employer's Association, 950 Keynote Circle, Suite 10, in Brooklyn Heights. COST: \$ 35 CEA members, \$50 CISP members, \$150 non-members. (Call 216-398-9860 for more information.)

11-13 "Northeast Ohio Sustainable Communities Symposium 2000," sponsored by numerous Cleveland-area organizations (CES, AIA, ASCE, CSU, CWRU, U.S. EPA, Dennis Kucinich, Levin College of Urban Affairs, and more). Programs are May 11, 5 to 9 p.m., May 12, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and May 13, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at CSU Convocation Center. (For more information, log on to 'scs2000.org' or call 216-523-7495.)

13 National Society of Black Engineers NE Ohio: Monthly meeting, begins at 11 a.m. at Maple Heights Regional Library, 5225 Library Lane. (Call Tony Spring at 216-932-1340 for more information.)

15 American Society of Plumbing Engineers: Y2K Annual Golf Outing, beginning at 11 a.m. at Sleepy Hollow golf course in Brecksville. COST: \$95 for full day (includes lunch and dinner), \$35 for lunch only. (For more information, call Greg Trombold at 216-663-8700.)

16-18 American Welding Society (Cleveland Section): "Third Biennial Hardfacing Conference," introducing types of wear, alloy systems, methods of applying alloys, and more. Program features speakers from 12 Ohio organizations. Program will be held at Lincoln Electric's Welding Technology Center in Cleveland. (For more information call Jackie at 216-383-2240.)

17 American Society of Certified Engineers NE Ohio: May meeting to install/instruct delegates for national meeting in summer. 6:30 p.m. at Grinnell Fire Protection, 10100 Brecksville Rd. in Brecksville. (For more information call 440-546-3310.)

17 American Society of Plumbing Engineers: "Code Venting Requirements," featuring Frank Brykalski of the City of Medina. Seminar includes social hour from 5:30 to 6 p.m., dinner from 6 to 6:30 p.m., and seminar from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All events are held at Broglio's Restaurant, 5568 Old Brecksville Rd. in Independence. (For more information call Ron Hegadore of Bacik Karpinski, 216-391-3700.)

18 Edison BioTechnology Center: Northern Ohio breakfast program, "MEMS/BioMEMS: Microsystems with Mega Potential for Ohio." 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Landerhaven, 6111 Landerhaven Dr., in Mayfield Heights. COST: \$25 Edison BioTechnology members, \$35 non-member organizations. (For more information call 216-229-0400, ext. 129.)

19 SkillPath Seminars: "Northern Ohio Conference on Directing, Controlling and Managing Projects." 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the IX Center. COST: \$199 per attendee or \$189 per attendee for groups of four. (Call 800-873-7545 for more information.)

21-24 Institute of Industrial Engineers: "2000 Annual Conference," includes "IE Solutions," and "IE Research," for industrial engineers. Conference will be held in Cleveland. (For more information call 800-494-0460.)

22 Cleveland Society of Professional Engineers: Monthly board meeting, 5:15 p.m. at Neff & Associates, 6405 York Rd. in Parma Heights. (For more information, call 440-884-3100.)

23 The Engineered Wood Association: "Engineered Wood Products in Building Design and Construction." 8:30 a.m. at Four Points Sheraton Hotel on Rockside Road in Independence. COST: \$85 before May 8, \$105 after May 8. (Call 216-524-0700 for more information.)

23-25 American Society for Materials (CES co-sponsoring): "Failure Prevention Conference, 'Preventing Failures through Education: Getting to the Root Cause.'" Program will be held in Strongsville. (For details, log on to 'failureprevention.com,' or call 616-452-1929.)

31 Compumaster: "Northern Ohio Conference on Web Site Development and Design," including seminars and sessions on design, launching a web site, and much more. Conference begins at the IX Center at 8 a.m. and ends at 4:30 p.m. COST: \$199 for full day. (Call 800-867-4340 or log on to compumaster.net for more information.)

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For member address changes, please call the IEEE Hotline, (800) 678-IEEE. Do not call the newsletter editor. For advertising rates, contact Lee Bernasek.

***MIREA:** Engineering in Medicine & Biology/ Instrumentation & Measurement/ Reliability/ Industrial Electronics/Aerospace & Electronic Systems

****MLE:** Microwave Theory & Techniques/Lasers & Optoelectronics/Electron Devices

Please note: if you are trying to contact the IEEE Cleveland Section by FAX, dial 440-473-6557.

The line is open twenty-four hours per day.

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The "Contact" is published eight times per year: September, October, November, January, February, March, April and May. The deadline for electronic Newsletter articles is the 20th of the previous month.

CSU Student Branch IEEE Elections Results

by Robert Bassett

Elections have been held for the IEEE student branch officers of Cleveland State University (CSU). The effective date for the new officers is June 1, 2000. Since they are already active, please include them in all correspondence sent to the Student Branch.

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The CSU IEEE student branch office does not have a phone, but may be contacted through the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department at: 216-687-2589