



Cleveland

Contact

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

Attention IEEE Cleveland Section Members

By Allen Morinec

You should be receiving your ballot for the IEEE annual elections. Please remember to vote, and remember that James Burghart from the Cleveland Section and CSU is running for Region 2 Director Elect. Thank you.

Next IEEE Executive Meeting

The next IEEE executive meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24th, 6:00 p.m at The Flat Iron Cafe in the Flats, 1114 Center St., (216) 696-6968. Parking is free in their lot access the street from the restaurant It is on the East Bank (south end), on the corner of Center Street and Old River Road.

New Officers/Volunteers Needed

The IEEE Cleveland Section will have its officers nomination/election for 2001 at the annual Officers Election Banquet at the end of November. Anyone interested in becoming an officer or assisting the IEEE Cleveland Section should contact Carl Dister at 440-255-2977 ext. 739, or at cardis@tridelta.com

MIREA Chapter Meeting to Be Held at NASA

By Vince Lalli

Our October meeting is scheduled for the 25th, at NASA, B 15, Main Cafeteria. Bruce Bream will give a talk on the GAP Project. Members planning to attend should call Vince Lalli at (216) 433-2354 for reservations.

Engineer of the Year Nominations

By Jerry Lucak

It is time to start thinking about candidates for our Cleveland Section Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year. The window for nominations will close in November, but you can propose someone at any time.

I will need background info (typically a resume or CV) describing the individual's work experience and professional contributions. You can mail this to me or fax it to 509-277-4380 (this is my efax number).

Section membership is a requirement for both awards. In addition, the Young Engineer must be no more than 35 yrs. old. The list of nominees will be reviewed by our officers and Executive Committee. As in prior years, our winners are submitted to the Engineers Week committee for the overall Cleveland area awards covering all engineering disciplines.

Any questions? Call me at 440 -238 -2555 ext.105 (work) or 440 -888 -8476 (home).





IEEE Cleveland Section CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by Allen Morinec

Let's give a big thank you to Jim Sens, our IEEE Cleveland Section Database Manager for as long as I can remember. Jim will be stepping down as he moves south to the Akron/Canton Section. Jim has spent hundreds of hours preparing mailing labels, sending newsletter notices, and creating member reports for our officers. Ray Heintel, our Webmaster, will be picking up the SAMIEEE database duties.

Our Joint meeting with the Akron/Canton Section at GE Lighting's NELA park on September 21, was a great success. We had 14 Cleveland Section members attend, with about 21 from the Akron/Canton Section. The tour was very enlightening about this hidden treasurer in Cleveland. Since many of our members live and work in different sections in the Cleveland/Akron area, we will try to have more joint meetings. The Akron Chairman is Dennis Ledel at POGODENNY@AOL.com

The IEEE Cleveland Section is planning to have its annual Officers Election/Holiday Banquet at the end of November. Anyone interested with helping should contact myself or Carl Dister. The banquet has typically offered a fabulous meal, great networking for our members, and a chance to meet each other's spouses.

Deregulation of the electric & gas industries is happening now, with opportunities to shop for your suppliers. Pay attention to the details. There will charges from your local company that delivers the product as well as the supplier you buy from. Suppliers may be able to drop your contract if the market spikes. Then you would have to shop again or be moved back with the original regulated utility, which may not offer the special rate which you had originally. You can usually break your contract for a fee of around \$25 if a better offer appears. Many communities will have a levy on the November ballot to form an Aggregated Group in their communities to shop for electricity or gas as a larger customer and negotiate better rates. Individuals can always opt out of this aggregation group if they find a better deal. Good luck!

Raymond F. Muzic, Jr. Proposes IEEE Medical Imaging Society Chapter

The following is a letter sent to Cleveland Section Chairman Allen Morinec.

Dear Fellow IEEE Member,

I'm writing this to assess interest and support for establishing and maintaining a local Society Chapter of IEEE focused on medical imaging. Most likely, the local chapter would be associated with the societies that publish IEEE transactions on medical Imaging: Signal Processing Society Engr. in Medicine and Biology Society Nuclear and Plasma Sciences Society Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control Society

If there is sufficient interest, there would be many details to work out, including meeting frequency, location and speakers to be provided for the meetings. Membership ideally would represent local academia and industry.

Presently, Medical Imaging in Cleveland is represented in the MIREA combined Societies Chapter (MIREA = Medicine and Biology, Instrumentation and Measurement, Reliability, Industrial Electronics, Aerospace and Electronic Systems). Because of its wide scope, these meetings are not as focused on medical imaging as some might like. This is why I am inquiring about interest in establishing a new Cleveland chapter.

Please respond to me via email (muzic@ieee.org or muzic@uhrad.com or r2m@po.cwru.edu) indicating if you would be interested in joining and attending meetings and/or interested in taking a leadership role in establishing and maintaining a Cleveland medical imaging chapter.

RAY MUZIC

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P.S. The Cleveland IEEE website is
<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/cleveland/>.



The End Is Near. Or Is It?

By Michael Garvey

Napster is a “dating” service. It connects people who want music with people who have music. If you have music on your computer, you can register with Napster to make that music available to all other Napster users. In exchange, you get access to the music on the computers of all the other Napster users.

Nearly all of this music is protected by copyright, and very few of the copyright owners have granted permission for this exchange of music. This means that lots of recording artists and record companies are not being paid for these copies.

People who would never think of shoplifting a CD from a record store are downloading music without paying for it. Because it is so easy to download music, most people don’t know or don’t care that it is usually illegal. There are many rationalizations for illicit copying.

The record industry is making dire predictions. One industry spokesman called this the apocalypse, comparing the effect of Napster on the recording industry to the effect of the big meteor on the dinosaurs. While it’s probably true that the record industry needs to adapt to new technology, it is probably not the end of the world. Software piracy is common but has not prevented software companies from succeeding. In fact, I recently heard that the government considers one software company to be a little too successful.

Napster’s legal defense relies largely on a Supreme Court case concerning VCRs. In the 1980s, Sony was sued as a contributory copyright infringer because its VCRs could be used to illegally record movies. The Court determined that Sony was not violating the law because the VCRs had substantial legitimate uses. In particular, they could be used for “time-shifting”: recording a show that is on at an inconvenient time and watching it later.

Napster says it also has legitimate uses, such as permitting wider dissemination of music by new artists who permit free distribution to increase their fan base and recognition. It is no secret, however, that this is a very small percentage of the music exchanged.

There are two ironic twists. First, Sony is one of the plaintiffs in the Napster case. Therefore, its VCR victory is now being used against it. Second, the dire predictions of Sony and the rest of the music industry echo those of the movie industry at the time of the VCR dispute. As we know now, VCRs have become a boon to the movie industry. Many movies make more money from video

sales than they do in the theater. Granted, this is because of the playing capability of the VCR, not the recording capability, but surely fewer people would own VCRs if they did not record.

What does all this mean? Certainly, Napster’s primary purpose is to facilitate the illegal copying of music. Probably, Napster will be required by the court to prevent unauthorized exchanges of copyrighted music. Possibly, it is the end of commercial music, but I doubt it.

Even if the music industry stops Napster, there are numerous similar outfits ready to take its place. Thus, the music industry will have to adapt. As we have seen with movies, software and the like, people will continue to make music and continue to make money while others will continue to copy.

In the next few years, we can expect to see less expensive and more readily available music through authorized channels. Will you do what’s free and easy or will you do what’s right?

Mike Garvey is a patent attorney with the Cleveland firm of Pearne & Gordon LLP.

We Need Your Articles By the 20th!

In order to get the “Contact” to all our members at the beginning of each month so that you don’t miss a single event, we need your help. Send your articles via e-mail to the editors at jgreene327@aol.com or m.greene828@aol.com. by the 20th of the preceding month. Let us know about meetings, tours and events coming up the following month. Publicize your happenings to get greater attendance. Your fellow members want to hear from you.

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ment/ 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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