

Valentine's Line

In the May Bulletin I concluded with a reminder of the Fall Kickoff Activity which was to be a picnic. The picnic is now on schedule for this month and we're ready to start the Fall/Winter half of the IEEE calendar year. Please see the details on this page and plan to come.

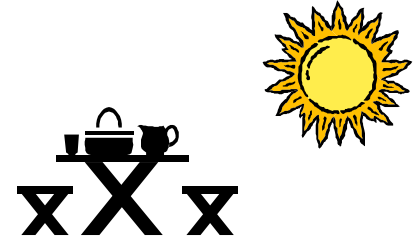
It's time to contact your Chapter Chair or a Section Officer and let him or her know what you are willing to talk about at a Chapter or Section Meeting and when you will be available to make the presentation. We should fill up all the blank blocks on the Program Calendar. (See the last page). The other side of that coin is for you to make known the subjects you would like to hear someone else talk about.

The next Section Program is the IEEE Tutorial on SPICE for Power Electronics and Electric Power. It is now scheduled to start on 10/25. (See details on page 2). Participation will give you an opportunity to earn 1.0 CEU. Section Programs, like this one, are supposed to be of more general interest to membership. Let us know if we're going in the right direction.

Two non-technical subjects that are being discussed by some engineers lately are pension portability and immigration. The "Portman-Cardin Plus" pension reform proposal, H.R. 1102, includes provisions for major pension portability improvements and House Bill H-B1 addresses the obtaining of Green Cards and immigration of engineers with certain specialized skills. Please contact our PACE and / or Engineering Management Chapter Chair(s) to express your interest in programs on either or both of these subjects. We want your input and look forward to your participation.

- Ray Valentine

Fall Picnic Saturday, Sept. 16th



Your entire family is invited to attend our 3rd Annual IEEE Pittsburgh Section Fall Picnic. A pavilion in North Park has been reserved for the day. The section will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, and soft drinks. Each member that is attending is asked to bring a covered dish that will serve 10-12 people.

Activities are planned for children based on age and number of children attending. Also in store is a softball game for the adults. Bring your baseball glove (and bat if you have one) to join the fun. The picnic will start at noon, and food will be served around 1:00pm. Games are scheduled for after lunch.

Reservations are required so the correct amount of food can be purchased. Please contact Carol at the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania at (412) 261-4300 from 8 to 5 or Michelle Antantis (412) 393-2648 before September 14th to RSVP. When you call, please let them know how many will be attending, the number and ages of the children attending, and what covered dish you will bring.

Place: The Cabin, North Park
Date: September 16th, 2000
Start Time: 12:00 Noon
Lunch: 1:00 PM

Directions: From 279 North, take the McKnight Road exit. Follow McKnight Road for approximately 6 1/2 miles to the Yellow Belt. At the end of the exit ramp, make a right onto Ingomar Road. Follow Ingomar Road for about 2 miles. After you enter the park, the Cabin (old Boy Scout Cabin) will be on your right. If you come to an intersection with a traffic light (Ingomar/Wildwood & Babcock), you just passed it.

Section News

Welcome back to another year of The Bulletin. The current publication schedule for the 2000-2001 year is September, October, November, January, February, March, and April. A May bulletin will be published if there are any activities. A December bulletin is never published due to the holidays.

If your group has an announcement for The Bulletin, please forward it to Mike Boccabella at m.boccabella@ieee.org, or call (724) 325-1776. All information has to be in by the 10th of the month before publication. For October, please have all information in by September 10th.

If you would like to receive the bulletin via e-mail, please send your request to m.boccabella@ieee.org. Please consider doing this, e-mail distribution will save postage for the section. Your bulletin will be e-mailed to you earlier, and it will be in Adobe PDF format. This format is used extensively on the World Wide Web. Free readers are available to view and print the bulletin. Check out previous bulletins on our web-site www.literati.com/ieee/bulletin. A link to Adobe Reader is also available at this location.



IEEE Pittsburgh Section Tutorial on Power Electronics with SPICE

Tom McDermott, Electrotek Concepts, Inc.

The IEEE Pittsburgh Section is sponsoring a 4-session tutorial on power electronics with SPICE simulations to be held in late October and November. A tentative schedule for topics is shown below.

- Oct. 25th: Generic Power Converters & Introduction to SPICE with Filter Design
- Nov. 1st: AC to DC Converters, and AC to AC Converters
- Nov. 8th: DC to DC Converters, and DC to AC Converters
- Nov. 15th: Power MOSFET and IGBT Models, Magnetic Device Models

Course materials include hard copies of overheads used in class, and SPICE template files. Please visit the course website (<http://members.bellatlantic.net/~temcdrm/spice.htm>) for more details.

The instructor is Tom McDermott, Electrotek Concepts, Inc. Tom has almost 20 years of experience developing simulation software with Westinghouse, Power Technologies, Ansoft, and Electrotek Concepts. His background in simulations covers power electronics using SPICE, Saber, and EMTP. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, and has Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Students will need access to the Internet, a 486-class computer (Pentium recommended), and they should be comfortable editing text files. The SPICE exercises will be completed using a free, fully functional version of SPICE 3F5 without schematic capture. The course will focus on modeling basic circuits and devices with simple text files. No time will be spent on schematic capture.

Attendees will earn 1.0 Continuing Education Unit (CEU) if they attend 3 of the 4 sessions and submit a completed set of non-graded exercises. The exercises will consist of 7 SPICE simulations. To complete these, the student must modify the example netlist and produce GIF or PNG format plots. Procedures for submitting the exercises will be covered in the first session.

- Place: Adtranz Facility, West Mifflin
- Date: October 25th, November 1st, 8th, and 15th 2000.
- Program: 6:30 to 9:30 PM
- Cost: \$50 for IEEE members, \$75 for others

Course size is limited to 33 students. To register, please send a check payable to "Pittsburgh Section IEEE" to Tom McDermott, 1800 Jefferson Ridge Dr. Jefferson Hills, PA 15025. Please indicate your IEEE member number on your check.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE FUTURE CITY COMPETITION

The Engineer's Society of Western Pa. (ESWP) in conjunction with the Carnegie Science Center will present the 2nd Annual Future City Competition in the Pittsburgh area. The Future City Competition asks middle school students to create -- first on computer and then in large, three-dimensional models -- their visions of the city of tomorrow. The Pittsburgh Regional Competition will be held at the Carnegie Science Center, on Saturday, January 20, 2001. The Future City Competition is a national program sponsored by the engineering community to promote technological literacy and engineering to middle school students. The Future City Competition in the Pittsburgh Region is planned to include school districts from Allegheny and the immediate surrounding counties. Students can experience a fun way to learn about engineering and cities of the future.

Each volunteer engineer mentor works with seventh- and eighth-graders, helping to guide the youngsters through the rigors of building a functioning city. Engineers generally have to devote up to 10 hours per month to the project over the period from October to January. Mentors will work with a team of 3 students and a teacher in developing a city of the future on the SimCity computer program. They will also help as the team builds a section of the city, and consult with them as they prepare a presentation for the regional competition in January.

Volunteers are also needed as judges for the regional competition. As a judge, you will be part of a four-member panel who will evaluate the team's verbal presentation and the models of the cities. The judging will take place during the competition at the Carnegie Science Center on Saturday, January 20, 2001.

For more information on volunteering, please contact Bill Pruss at (412) 273-7100.

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Industry Application Society

Fuse Protection for Medium Voltage Industrial and Commercial Power Systems

John R. Cooper, John Cooper Consulting Services, Inc.

John Cooper's talk will cover the principles of using fuses for protection of medium voltage, 4.16 through 34.5 kV, power systems and connected apparatus. He will also cover the application and operation of that class of power fuses.

John Cooper spent 30 years employed at S&C Electric Company, in Chicago Illinois, and served as Director-Application Services, with responsibility for ensuring that users have proper guidance in the application of fuses rated 4.16 through 138kV. He also was involved with design and application of metal-enclosed switchgear rated 4.16 through 34.5kV using power fuses and interrupter switches. He has made over 100 presentations on the features and applications of medium- and high-voltage fuses. John says that since his retirement from S&C he has fallen in with "bad company", working with lawyers as an electro-forensic engineer.

John received the BSEE degree from Kansas State University in 1949. He is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and a Fellow of IEEE.

Place: George Westinghouse Science & Technology Center
Churchill, Beulah Road, Exit 13 off the Parkway East (Route 376)
Date: September 19, 2000
Program: 7:00PM; Coffee, sodas and fellowship starting at 6:00 PM.

Note: All attendees to this meeting must be listed with the Security Officer located at entrance to the Center. Please call to register your intent to attend. Contact Tony Furfari at (724) 873-0828 or via e-mail at tfurfari@stargate.net.



A Message for Members of the Industry Applications Society

The Pittsburgh Chapter of the IAS was re-established in 1995 after being inactive for several years. Nine persons assembled to establish an Administrative Committee (AdCom) that has planned and staged each year a Technical program of monthly meetings that have been well attended.... 25 to 50 persons at each meeting.

Tutorials have been held on Induction Motors, Transformers, and Drive Systems, with excellent attendance for each. The IEEE grants Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to registrants of these tutorials.

The members of the AdCom have selected the topics for the meetings, the speakers, the meeting places and arranged for fellowship before the meeting.

There is a problem now: The number of AdCom members has diminished, and our invitations of the past to IAS members to join the AdCom have not brought responses. The AdCom work usually involves attending an occasional evening meeting for the activity of planning and review of progress, attending the monthly Technical Meeting to assist in staging it, while also benefiting from the content of the speaker's lecture.

There are benefits to be gained from participating in the AdCom activity. One of the "technical" benefits from AdCom work is getting the opportunity to meet and talk with potential speakers for the meetings. Also, you will develop knowledge about the operation of the IEEE, the IAS and the Pittsburgh Section. Some of the "personal" benefits are networking with engineers outside your workplace, and fellowship that develops in working with the AdCom members. Additionally, you gain "professional" benefits, especially for younger members of the Society, through professional development that enhances your job performance and your resume.

If we do not receive a good response to this call, the result might be that the Technical Program meetings would be discontinued.

Please, seriously consider contributing a little time to your professional society.

The time you spend will accrue dividends. Please call me (724) 873-0828 or contact me via e-mail (tfurfari@stargate.net) to get answers to your questions about the AdCom operation.

-Tony Furfari

2000-2001 Pittsburgh Section IEEE Program Calendar

Group/Society	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
ExecCom Ray Valentine (724) 733-5083	21 Point Park	19 WVU	16 Point Park	21 Point Park	18 Point Park	15 Point Park	15 Point Park	19 Point Park	17 Point Park
Section Mtngs Ray Valentine (724) 733-5083	16 Fall Picnic	25 SPICE Tutorial	1, 8, & 15 SPICE Tutorial			National Engineers Week		History Dinner	
Upper Mon Biswajit Das (304) 293-6371									
Industry Applications Harry Hagerty (412) 487-8235	19 Fuse Protect. Medium Volt. Power Sys.								
Magnetics Miklos Gyimesi (412) 268-2308									
Computer Gerry Kumnik (412) 393-8223									
Communication Sujata Banerjee (412) 624-9470									
Power Eng. Gregory Reed (724) 772-2158									
Membership Jim Karn (412) 732-9000									
Signal Processing Pat Loughlin (412) 624-9685									
PACE Dennis Steward									

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