

May 2004

See us on the WEB at: www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/susquehanna

May 2004 Section Meeting

Tour of Electron Energy

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2004
Time: Dinner 5:45 PM
Presentation 7:00 PM
Dinner: Bob Evans
3000 Hempland Rd
Lancaster, PA
South of Route 30 at Centerville Exit
Dinner Cost: Please ask for a separate check
Tour Hosts: Michael Walmer (President)
Jin-Fang Liu (Senior Engineer)
Location: Special Events Room
Landisville, PA
Contact: (by email if possible)
Stan Telson
717-569-6579
E-mail: st@qspp.com

RSVP to Stan Telson, st@qspp.com, by 5/10/04 so we can get the catering count right for our hosts.

Note: Please ask for a separate check for dinner. There is no charge for attending the talk. Students please RSVP and ensure you attend. To handle the flow, please arrive as early as 5:45 PM, no later than 6:00 PM, and feel free to start ordering/eating asynchronously in small groups. Please ask for "separate checks."

May's Program

The May Section Meeting will be a tour of Electron Energy Corp, a manufacturer of custom-engineered rare-earth magnets for wide variety of industries, both commercial and military. The tour will start with a brief presentation covering the company's history and key applications. That will be followed by a tour of the manufacturing facility, including powder blending, sintering, sizing and finishing, and magnetizing.

April Section Meeting

Over 50 members and guests enjoyed a superb presentation by Jim Robinson of PPL Electric Utilities on the massive blackout in the northeast last year. Jim is Transmission Asset Manager for PPL and was on special assignment to investigate the August 14, 2003 event.

Jim served as Team Leader - Sequence of Events Investigation

for the North American Electrical Reliability Council based in Princeton, and lived up to his special title. We were treated to a very detailed, step-by-step sequence of the entire event. Root causes were fully explained, including overgrown trees, faulty computer servers and inadequately designed software. Jim also described the operation of Zone 3 protective relays in the cascading process. Proposed remedies were outlined, including those for this summer season.



Thanks again to Jim for a terrific presentation and to Mike O'Neill for inviting this fine speaker.

We also welcomed about 20 students and professors from Elizabethtown College at the meeting. The group also got a view of the new food service area at Penn State Harrisburg, and enjoyed a very nice buffet dinner prepared by the Penn State people. Thanks to member AB Shafaye for making the arrangements.

We look forward to much larger participation from the members in the future.

Upcoming Events

Dates for future events are listed below. Details will be posted as soon as possible.

- September 14
- October 12
- November 9
- December 14

Directions to Electron Energy

Electron Energy is located at 924 Links Ave, Landisville, PA. From Route 30/Centerville Rd, go North on Centerville (from Bob Evans you will turn left onto Centerville then cross back over 30). Take the left at the light at Marietta Pike (Route 23) then the right at the light at Stony Battery Rd and a right onto Links Ave (no light). Total distance from the restaurant is about 2.4 miles.

Summer Interns/Externs Available for Your Company

Did you know that there is a Computer Engineering program at Elizabethtown College? The computer engineering students must take a strong base of physics and math courses, before taking a wide array of computer and electronics courses such as computer architecture, digital circuits, interfacing, signal processing, control systems, and various programming courses. In addition the students are generally well-rounded coming from a small liberal arts college and close-knit department. Many of the students are especially versed in robotics and are members of the Robotics and Machine Intelligence Club at the college. If you are interested in hiring students for part-time employment or summer internships, or hosting students for a one-week non-paid extern experience, please contact Assistant Professor Troy McBride by email at mcbridet@etown.edu or by phone at 717-361-3755. To find about more about the computer engineering program at Elizabethtown College, you may visit their website at:

<http://www.etown.edu/physics&engineering>

Section Chair's Corner

I was privileged to attend an IEEE Region 2 Meeting this past February, which was held over a weekend in Baltimore. Chairs from many of the R2 Sections were present; along with R2 volunteer leaders and IEEE staff personnel. The agenda included training for Section volunteers, adoption of some changes to R2 bylaws, and voting for nominees for upcoming Region Director Elections. There was plenty of time for "networking" with peers and staff members. The overriding topic for the entire meeting, however, was the future of IEEE Membership. All the numbers are down, especially in the U.S. Contributing factors are not totally understood, but are being studied further. Why is this important? The IEEE Vision is to

advance global prosperity by fostering technical innovation, enabling members' careers and promoting community world-wide. IEEE is a member-driven organization for the public good. What's next? IEEE is looking at membership models over a wide spectrum. Should we be more "open"? All these and many more questions will be looked at in the next issue.

Useful Information Column

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Q/A-C Column

Do you have any questions or comments? Call, email or FAX it to our Co-Chairs at the above addresses.

Newsletter Mailing or WEB Page Notification

If you do not receive your Newsletter, please notify AB Shafaye mes121@psu.edu or Vittal Balasubramanian b.vittal@ieee.org. If you would like to convert from paper copy mailing of the Newsletter to WEB page delivery, please notify AB Shafaye, who serves as our Publisher.

Address Changes and Updates

There are several ways to correct member information with IEEE. They update their directory from the information you provide, and pass the changes to us monthly. Keeping your address information up to date will ensure accurate mailings.

- There is a WEB based interactive "change of address" form at: <http://services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coa/intro.htm>
- You can send an email to: address-changes@ieee.org
- Call IEEE Member Services at 1-800-678-IEEE
- Mail changes to
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445 Hoes Lane
P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331
- FAX changes to 1-732-981-9667

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