



The Open Channel

Newsletter for the Hampton Roads Section

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

September 2000

September Meeting

Mobile Satellite Communications

Speaker: Don Rickerson
President

Personal Satellite Network, Inc.

Date: Thursday, September 29, 2000

Location: Sammy & Nikons

2718 Mercury Blvd.

Hampton, Virginia

Directions: Take I-64 to Mercury Blvd. (from the south side, go through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel), Exit westbound on to Mercury Blvd., and travel approximately 1.5 miles. Sammy and Nick's is on the right.

Schedule: 6:30 p.m. - Social

7:00 p.m. - Dinner

7:30 p.m. - Speaker

Price: Members - \$15.00

Students - \$7.50

Guests - \$15.00

Meeting Highlights: The field of narrow-band satellite communications is changing fast. While many of the explosions that were predicted for the industry none have occurred, however great progress has been made in getting full systems into orbit and operational. ORBCOMM, Iridium and Globalstar have full constellations, several other systems are nearing the launch stage. This talk will look how the various systems have matured and what services they are bringing to the market. We will also look at a comparison of service costs and capabilities. There will also be demonstrations of a few of the commercial systems.

Mr. Rickerson is a Senior Member of the IEEE and has held a number of leadership and technical assignments. He was awarded the 1999 IEEE Professional Achievement Award and IEEE Third Millennium Medal.

From the Chair

I want to welcome everyone back for the fall season. This month's meeting is the first for the fall season. We are attempting to vary the topics presented and are also rotating the meetings between the Peninsula and the South side to see what will motivate people to attend. We received several interesting and thought provoking emails from members who, though not attending meetings, are interested in the speakers and IEEE activities.

Therefore, I am seeking a few people who can donate some time to accomplish the following:

- Locate an easily accessible restaurant with meeting rooms on the South side so we can rotate meetings again.
- Work with officers over the summer to obtain the equipment necessary to video each speaker and provide access to videos through our Web page.

Other ideas will be considered, also. Thank you for your interest in the Hampton Roads IEEE.

Sam Simmons

OOPS! We goofed with last issues request to mail back your address labels if you wanted to continue receiving a hard copy of The Open Channel. Apparently, use of our bulk mail permit for this purpose is a violation of Federal law, so all responses were held and destroyed at the post office. We're continuing the mass mailing for another two months, through the November issue. Members who want the hard copy should send us a note with your name and preferred mailing address, but you will need to provide your own stamps. Sorry for the snafu. Instructions for subscribing to the electronic version of *The Open Channel* can be found on the opposite side of this newsletter under *Hampton Roads Distribution List*. If you haven't already done so, please subscribe now.

2000 Section Officers

Chair: Sam Simmons [ssimmons\(at\)ieee.org](mailto:ssimmons(at)ieee.org)

Vice Chair: Wilfredo Avila-Perez
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Treasurer: Sonja Ebron [sebron\(at\)ieee.org](mailto:sebron(at)ieee.org)

Secretary: Greg Gallagher gallaghj@eustis.army.mil

Election of Officers

Next year's slate of officers will be elected at the November meeting and will begin serving in January. To facilitate this effort, we will be accepting nominations at the September and October meetings. The nominating committee will present its recommendation at the October meeting to allow the membership time for evaluating candidates before voting in November.

Region 3 Addresses

R3 Web Site: <http://sandbox.ieee.org/r03/>

Hampton Roads Web Site: http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/hampton_roads/

ETI Web Site: <http://sandbox.ieee.org/r03/eti/eti.html>

ETI Authorization: eti-info@eng.uab.edu

Tell Us About Your

Local Engineering Events

Are you organizing or sponsoring a local event of interest to the engineering community? Let us know! Contact chapter president Sam Simmons ([ssimmons\(at\)ieee.org](mailto:ssimmons(at)ieee.org)) or newsletter editor Sonja Ebron ([sebron\(at\)ieee.org](mailto:sebron(at)ieee.org)) to have your event announced in upcoming editions of *Open Channel*. With distribution to over 1000 local IEEE members each month, you cannot afford to ignore this free resource.

Symposia and Conferences

This is the time of year for back-to-school sales and gearing up for a new academic year. At IEEE this means a new flock of Student members. For Student Branch news, Branch Calendar, awards, scholarships and contact information, check out the Student Concourse home page at <http://www.ieee.org/students> or contact [student-services\(at\)ieee.org](mailto:student-services(at)ieee.org).

You've probably heard many references to IEEE Web Accounts but still may be asking "What is it, and why do I need one?" IEEE Web Accounts provide IEEE members and customers with access to a growing number of online services, many of them free. Web Accounts provide access to Bibliographies Online, BooksPlus, and Spectrum Online; renewing membership; shopping in the IEEE Online Catalog & Store; and soon, access to IEEE Xplore. According to IEEE Executive Director Dan Senese, "Upcoming areas of planned migration to Web Accounts are e-mail alias services, IEEE OPeRA (through Xplore), and other to-be-announced Society-oriented services and publications." To register for an IEEE Web Account or for more information, visit <http://www.ieee.org/web/accounts/>.

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in the body of the message. You may leave the subject line blank.

We are working to phase out hard copies of the newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving the Open Channel by US Mail, please send a note with your name and mailing address to IEEE Hampton Roads Section, PO Box 7437, Hampton, VA23666-0437.

IEEE Hampton Roads Section

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