



# IEEE *Piedmont Potential*

A publication of the IEEE Piedmont Section - February 2004

Section Web page: <http://ewh.ieee.org/r3/piedmont/>

Council Web page: [http://www.ieee.org/sc\\_council](http://www.ieee.org/sc_council)

Today's Engineer: <http://www.todaysengineer.org>

## NEW IEEE-USA PRESIDENT GREET'S U.S. MEMBERS

IEEE-USA News & Views E-Mail Alert

In his first message as 2004 IEEE-USA President, John Steadman stresses the importance of communicating effectively with the IEEE's U.S. members. To read the message, go to:

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/newspubs/presidentscolumn/steadman/steadmanjan04.html>

## NEXT MEETING

### FIRST

Mark Stokes

This month we will hear from two of the upstate FIRST teams for pre-college "young engineers". The FIRST Foundation (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to interest and inspire students in mathematics and science. Their mission: FIRST designs accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering. For over ten years FIRST has been sponsoring a robotics competition that tasks students from high schools with designing, building, and competing robots. Today, there are more than 600 teams participating nationwide and internationally, in 17 Regional events and a Championship event.

The presentation will have the following:

- Introduction
- Overview of FIRST Robotics Competition
  - Video
- EduBot Curriculum
- 2004 FIRST Competition Specifications
- Overview of 2004 Robot Design
  - Team 845
  - Team 343
- Question and Answer
- Segway

Yup, that's right, they are bringing a Segway. They will be bringing their robots for us to admire. Please come out and support these young engineers in training. Learn more about FIRST here: <http://www.usfirst.org>.

**Where:** La Quinta Inn at Pelham Road and Haywood Road, Greenville

**When:** Thursday, February 19, 2004

**Agenda:**

- 6:30pm Social 1/2 Hour
- 7:00pm Dinner Served
- 7:30pm Meeting begins

Dinner is \$5 for all IEEE members and guests. Student dinners will be \$3. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 17, 2004 to Rob Scruggs if you plan to attend and especially if you plan to eat. Rob's email address is [scruggsr@squared.com](mailto:scruggsr@squared.com). For directions to the Inn, please call 864-233-8018. I will provide a carpool leaving from my house

in Clemson (please contact me ([m.stokes@ieee.org](mailto:m.stokes@ieee.org)) if you want to ride). I plan to leave at or around 5:45pm (I should have a late model green Toyota Sienna).

## EWeek REMINDER

The Scoop

The IEEE is serving as lead society for National Engineers Week (EWeek) this year, 22-28 February, and is helping to pave the way for expanding the celebration around the world. For more information on how you can get involved in EWeek, visit <http://www.ieee.org> or [www.ieeeusa.org/eweek](http://www.ieeeusa.org/eweek). An EWeek engineer volunteer kit is available at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/kit.shtml>.

## SUPPORT

### ENGINEERING: VISIT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

IEEE-USA News & Views E-Mail Alert

3-4 MARCH: IEEE-USA's ninth annual Science, Engineering & Technology Congressional Visits Day has been scheduled for 3-4 March. Registration deadline is 17 February. We invite all U.S. IEEE members to participate in this annual visit to Capitol Hill. Help raise visibility and support in Congress for science, engineering and technology.

To register, go to: <http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/cvd/>.

**National Engineers Week Family Day**  
**Event Set for 21 February in Washington**

Chris McManes

The IEEE, which is serving as lead society for National Engineers Week (EWeek) 2004, invites you to the National Building Museum in Washington for EWeek’s Zoom into Engineering Family Festival on 21 February. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and admission is free.

The Family Festival is designed to kick off EWeek activities in the nation’s capital. It brings together multiple societies to provide hands-on engineering activities and expose children and adults to the ways engineers improve our standard of living. Youngsters can build bridges, solve design challenges and create skyscrapers in a LEGO construction zone; cast members from the popular children’s television show Zoom will perform a couple short skits and sign autographs.

Members of the U.S. military will demonstrate the key role engineering plays in our nation’s defense, and a FIRST Robotics competition will display children using their brainpower. NASA

representatives will be on hand to discuss how its engineers successfully landed two rovers on Mars – more than 100 million miles from earth.

IEEE members will be on-hand to demonstrate how small electric motors operate and answer questions about careers in engineering and other high-tech professions. Giveaways will include a calendar highlighting the 12 2004 nominees for EWeek’s New Faces of Engineering recognition program.

The IEEE helped to launch the first Family Festival when the organization last served as lead society (1993). Without the financial support of the IEEE and international design-build firm BE&K, this year’s event would not take place. Two years ago, the festival attracted a National Building Museum-record 5,000 people.

*Chris McManes is IEEE-USA’s senior marketing communications / public relations coordinator.*

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