



VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

IEEE Region 3, Council 09, Section 65

April 2004

Thursday, April 15, Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport

Photovoltaic Market Trends and Applications

Reagan MacVaugh, General Electric Energy Systems

Speaker Bio and Abstract

Raegan MacVaugh is currently a Product Line manager with the GE Energy business responsible for the growth of Power Conversion for Alternative Energy and Industrial Drives. Raegan holds a BS in Marine Engineering from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and began her General Electric career in 1990 in the Marine & Government Division of GE where she worked as a Services Field Engineer for 5 years. She later transferred to the GE Industrial Systems group as a leader of the On-Site Customer Service Center. Raegan also held a Six Sigma Master Black Belt role where she mentored diverse group of clientele in Six Sigma methodology, training and certification. She also held a vertical marketing manager position for the Drives & Controls business.

The talk will include information on general trends for the photovoltaic market, applications and General Electric's interest in photovoltaics. In addition an overview of the GE development of a photovoltaic inverter will be presented.

Date: Thursday April 15, 2004

Social: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Talk: 8:00 PM

Cost:
Member/ Guest \$15.00
Student \$ 8.00
Reserve by 5 PM **Monday April 12**

Cy Harbourt (540) 387-8941
<mailto:cdharbourt@ieee.org>
Please specify number of attendees.

**Directions to
Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport**
2727 Ferndale Drive NW
I581 Exit 3 Hershberger Rd West
1st Rt. onto Ordway Drive,
¼ mile, Rt. Into Parking Lot.

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday, May 20
Picnic & Astronomical
Observatory visit
at McKethan Park, in
Lexington, VA.**

Report from March Meeting

More than 30 people attended our Spouses Night March program on Digital Photography. In addition to an informative talk by Kevin Hurley, we viewed pictures submitted by members as well as pictures taken at the meeting. A few of these are included below.





**John Steadman,
President's Column
March-April 2004**

Offshoring Presents Serious, Long-term Challenges

Offshoring, or the transfer of high-wage U.S. jobs to lower-cost overseas locations and its effect on U.S. IEEE members is of great importance to IEEE-USA. In March, our Board of Directors passed its first offshoring position statement, which can be found at

www.ieeeusa.org/forum/POSITIONS/offshoring.html.

Sending high-tech work overseas is easy today because increased communication bandwidth makes it possible to transmit huge amounts of data via e-mail. Ironically, many of the people who helped create and expand this technology are now the ones losing their jobs because of it. In 2003, the unemployment rate for electrical and electronics engineers reached an all-time annual high of 6.2 percent, a 47.6 percent increase over the previous year.

U.S. corporations are offshoring work to establish a business presence in potentially lucrative foreign markets and to take advantage of lower labor and production costs. Unfortunately, many U.S. engineers, computer professionals and other technologists are bearing the brunt of this trend through job losses and suppressed wages.

It's more than job security and tax revenue at stake here. Offshoring poses a very serious, long-term challenge to our nation's technological and innovative leadership, its economic prosperity and its military and homeland security. Intellectual property and an individual's private personal information are also at risk. While we can't stop offshoring anymore than we

can shut down the Internet, steps can be taken to ensure that we minimize the negative effects on the United States and its citizens.

IEEE-USA believes that new U.S. workforce assistance programs should be created to help displaced high-tech workers regain productive employment and ensure that employed workers can acquire the knowledge and skills they need to remain competitive. Government procurement rules should favor work done in the United States and should restrict the offshoring of work in any instance where there is no clear long-term economic benefit to the nation, or where the work supports technologies critical to our national economic or military security.

We also think that a coordinated national strategy must be developed to sustain U.S. technological leadership and promote jobs creation in response to the concerted strategies being used by other countries to capture U.S. industries, jobs and markets.

IEEE-USA's Call for Mandatory Electricity Reliability Standards Included in Power System Outage Task Force Recommendations

The U.S.-Canada Power System Outage Task Force's final report on last August's major blackout calling for mandatory and enforceable electricity reliability standards incorporates IEEE-USA's November 2002 position:

<http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/POSITIONS/reliability.html>.

The report (<https://reports.energy.gov/>), identified seven violations of voluntary reliability standards administered by the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) that contributed to the 14 August blackout. The outage - North America's worst blackout ever spread to eight Midwest and northeastern states and Ontario, Canada, and left 50 million people without power.

IEEE Constitution Proposed Changes

Below are proposed revisions to Section 2 of the IEEE Constitution:

Deletions are printed in ***bold italic*** type in parentheses (); and

additions are printed in **bold underscored** type

Sec. 2. Its purposes are: (a) scientific and educational, directed toward the advancement of the theory and practice of electrical (***engineering***), electronics, **communications and computer engineering, as well as computer science, (radio and)** the allied branches of engineering and the related arts and sciences; means to these ends include, but are not limited to, the holding of meetings for the (***reading***) **presentation and discussion of professional papers, (and) the publication and circulation of works of literature, science and art pertaining thereto and any other activities necessary, suitable and proper for the fulfillment of these objectives;** (b) professional, directed toward the advancement of the standing of the members of the professions it serves; means to this end include, but are not limited to, the conduct and publication of surveys and reports on matters of professional concern to the members of such professions, collaboration with public bodies and with other societies for the benefit of the engineering professions as a whole **and the general public, (and the establishment of standards of qualification)** and **the promotion of** ethical conduct. The IEEE shall not engage in collective bargaining on such matters as salaries, wages, benefits, and working conditions, customarily dealt with by labor unions. The IEEE shall strive to enhance the quality of life for all people throughout the world through the constructive application of technology in its fields of competence. It shall endeavor to promote understanding of the influence of such technology on the public welfare.

VMS OFFICERS

Chairman: J. Shawn Addington
<mailto:AddingtonJS@mail.vmi.edu> 464-3961
Vice Chairman: Cy Harbourt
<mailto:cdharbourt@ieee.org> 387-8941
Sec./Treasurer: Jim Squire
<mailto:squirejc@mail.vmi.edu> 464-7548

VMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jan Helge Bohn bohn@vt.edu
Chris Bonadeo cbonadeo@vt.edu
David Geer dgeer@ieee.org
F. Gail Gray fggray@vt.edu
Junior Past Chairman
Mark Shepard Mshepard@ieee.org

VMS Chapter Chairs

Computer, Control Systems, & Industrial Electronics: David Livingston
<mailto:d.livingston@ieee.org> 464-7545

Industrial Applications
David Stocker
[mail to:David.Stocker@indsys.ge.com](mailto:David.Stocker@indsys.ge.com)

MTT and Electron Devices
mailto:dain_miller@ieee.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

VA Council Rep.: David Geer
PACE: Howard Moses
Mmoses@ieee.org
Publicity: Jim Squire
Student Activities: David Livingston
Awards: Open
Membership Development: Open

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Ira Jacobs
<mailto:ijacobs@vt.edu> 231-5620
Contact Newsletter Editor to be added to VMS listserv

WEBSITE (Under renovation)

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/virginia-mountain>
Webmaster: Mark Shepard