



VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

IEEE Region 3, Council 09, Section 65

March 2003

March 20, Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport

A Perspective on Technology in the New Century Region **Kenneth D. Ferris, CEO Luna iMonitoring**

Speaker



Ken Ferris, CEO, Luna iMonitoring

Ken Ferris has more than three decades of experience in the design, development, and marketing of data and voice telecommunications equipment for commercial and government applications. Luna iMonitoring is the third start-up he has been involved with in the New Century Region.

He was part of the initial team that joined the founders of FiberCom in early 1983, and developed the company from infancy to its acquisition by Litton Systems in 1994. He left Litton Network Access Systems in 1998 to co-found Millennium Systems of Roanoke, a broadband communications equipment development company. Under his leadership, Millennium Systems achieved planned annual

growth of over 100 percent and profitability and positive cash flow in 2 years. Carrier Access, a Boulder Colorado based company, acquired the privately-owned Millennium Systems in August of 2000.

At Carrier Access, Ferris held the position of Vice President and General Manager of Broadband Terminal Products where he was responsible for the development and delivery of affordable broadband service delivery products. He left Carrier Access in March of 2002 and joined the Luna team in April.

Ken Ferris began his involvement in technology in the Roanoke area in 1980 when he joined ITT's Electro-Optical Products Division (now the "Night Vision Division) where he was a Program Manger for Fiber Optic Systems for three years.

Ferris spent the first 10 years of his career in the Department of Defense as a systems engineer and program manager for a variety of technology projects. He holds a BS in Electronic Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Directions to Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport

2727 Ferndale Drive NW
1581 Exit 3 Hershberger Rd West
1st Rt. onto Ordway Drive,
¼ mile, Rt. Into Parking Lot.

Learn of the history and future direction of technology development in our region:

Abstract

The New Century Region is composed of the New River Valley and the Roanoke Valley. This presentation will trace some of the history of technology in this area over the past 25 years. Some of the roots of high-tech and early drivers will be noted as well as the progression of companies involved in technology development and commercialization. The presentation will conclude with some thoughts on the keys to developing the region into one that is nationally recognized as a premier high-tech area.

Date: Thursday March 20, 2003

Social: 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:00 PM

Talk: 8:00 PM

Cost: Member or guest \$ 15.00

Student \$ 8.00

Reserve by **5 PM Monday** March. 17

Mark Shepard (540) 387-8710
msheward@ieee.org

Please indicate number of attendees.

AWARDS

Congratulations to Ira Jacobs, our Newsletter Editor for receiving the Virginia Mountains Section Outstanding Service Award. You well deserve it, Ira, for your long time service to the section and we much appreciate your taking over the Newsletter.

The Section has two other awards, Outstanding Engineer, and Outstanding Engineering Educator. There must be several engineers out there who are deserving of either of these awards. If you will pass on their names to me we can work together to recognize these folks for their accomplishments. My email is d.jackson@ieee.org.

Dan Jackson, Awards Chair

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2002 there were 1,832 newly elected Senior Members making a total of 27,602 Senior Members. Even at this level, IEEE Senior Members represent only 7% of the total IEEE membership and only about one half of those who are qualified to hold this prestigious grade. The IEEE Membership Development

Committee has established a goal of 2,000 new Senior Members for 2003. In January 320 Senior Member applicants were approved by the Admissions and Advancement Committee; only 1,680 more to go.

If any of you received your bachelor's degree ten or more years ago you are more than likely qualified for Senior Member grade. Contact me at d.jackson@ieee.org or 540-774-0484 and I will help you with your application. Don't delay another day. Each newly elected Senior Member will receive a complimentary membership to a new Society of their choice and an engraved commemorative plaque. Maybe we can elevate fifteen of the Virginia Mountains members to Senior Member this year. Help me do this.

Dan Jackson,
Membership Development Chair

February Meeting

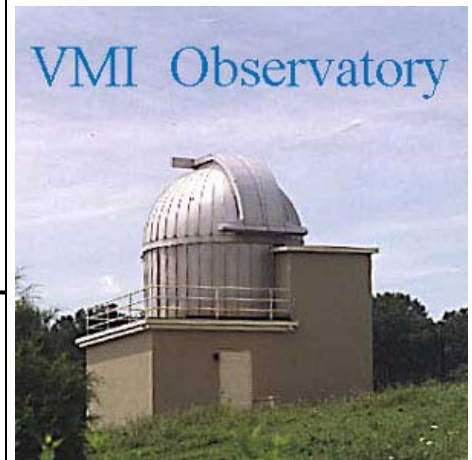
Thanks to Gail & Dave Geer for a delightful and informative slide tour of China at our February meeting. This Spouses Night program was enjoyed by more than 40 members and guests.

April Meeting

Hold the date (April 17). Dr. John Bay, a former member of the VMS Executive Committee, and now a Program Manager at DARPA, will talk on an Overview of DARPA and the Information Exploitation Office.

May Meeting

Another first! Our "Plant Tour" on May 15 to the VMI Observatory, is being combined with a picnic in McKethan Park in Lexington. More details will be provided in the April Newsletter.



DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC	MEETING PLACE
September 19	Brian Lindholm Six Sigma Methods at General Electric	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
October 17	Daniel Stilwell Enabling Technologies for Platoons of Cooperating Autonomous Underwater Vehicles	Best Western, Blacksburg
November 21	David Stocker LIDAR Technology for Fully Automatic Crane Operation	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
January 16 (postponed to January 30 owing to weather)	Undergraduate Student Paper Contest	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
February 20	Spouses' Night, 2003 Dave & Gail Geer China: Expectation & Experience	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
March 20	Kenneth Ferris A Perspective on Technology in the New Century Region	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
April 17	John Bay An Overview of DARPA and the Information Exploitation Office.	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
May 15	Spring Picnic and Tour of VMI Observatory	McKethan Park, Lexington, VA

IEEE Virginia Mountain Section

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NEWSLETTER

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**Contact Newsletter Editor to be
added to VMS listserv**

**Anyone may submit material for the
Newsletter**

Deadline:

Monday following each meeting

Submit To: Editor

Change of Address

US Mail: IEEE Service Center
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mailto:address.change@ieee.org

Tel: 800-678-IEEE

Fax: 732-981-9667

IEEE Web: <http://www.ieee.org>

<http://services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coalintro.htm>

(Changes are forwarded to the
Newsletter)

Visit the VMS WEB page:

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

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- Section/Chapter meeting notices, and reports.
- Past issues of the Newsletter.
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- Articles, organizations, and activities affecting our profession.
- Suggest Meeting Topics and Speakers.
- Links to IEEE, etc.
- Contributions welcomed - make them on-line.

Webmaster: Bill Onesty

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**Note: All phone numbers listed above
are Area Code 540 unless specifically
noted otherwise**