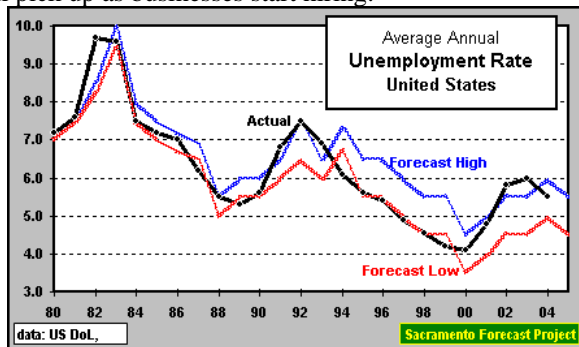


Montana Section News

November, 2004
Chair's Message
Ross Snider

A recent report from IEEE-USA says that U.S. Technical Employment has fallen by 221,000 workers from 2000 to 2004.

The jobs hardest hit have been computer programmers and electrical engineers. "The drop in computer programmers and rise in managers reflects the trend toward offshoring of programming jobs and the resulting need for professionals to manage outsourced projects," IEEE-USA President Gerard A. Alphonse said. The drop in EEs, as well as employment in general, has been affected by the dot-com crash that lasted from 2000 till 2002. During that time the Nasdaq Composite lost 78% of its value as it fell from 5046.86 to 1114.11. However, business is turning around and the unemployment rate is falling (see graph below) and hopefully jobs for EEs will pick up as businesses start hiring.



(http://www.csus.edu/indiv/j/jensena/sfp/us/rec_unem.htm)

Our speaker for the March 24 meeting will be Bill Jameson. Tsunamis 101: A brief review of tsunamis - what they are and what they aren't, how they're caused, how they propagate and some of the big ones in the past.

Ross Snider

Did You Know

That the Montana Section now has a Life Members Chapter? So, if you're a Life Member, join the group at 6 p.m. just before the Section meeting on the 24th.

Humor of the Month – (Some thoughts on Montana by Jeff Foxworthy.) If you consider it a sport to gather your food by drilling through 18 inches of ice and sitting there all day hoping that the food will swim by, you might live in Montana. If you're proud that your region makes the national news 96 nights each year because Cutbank is the coldest spot in the nation, you might live in Montana. You *know* you are a true Montanan when:

1. "Vacation" means going east or west on I-90 or Highway 2 for the weekend.

2. You measure distance in hours.

Stepping Up to Senior Member

What does it mean to be a senior member of the IEEE? At the very least it means you've met some basic requirements: working 10 years in the profession, including five demonstrating significant professional performance, and you've received three supporting references from other IEEE senior members or fellows. But this tells only part of the story. Senior members often find their status to be an asset in their careers. Learn more at

<http://boldfish.ieee.org/u/senior7f/05067939>

Officer Election

You will be receiving your ballot in the next 10 days. Candidates are:

Jason Daugenbaugh, Section Chair
Doug Galarus, Section Vice-Chair/Chair-elect
Brett Swimley, Secretary
Arlyn Selting, Treasurer

Section Officers and Executive Committee

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Chair-elect ???

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