

Report on Virginia Mountain Section Activities to IEEE Region 3

Submitted by David Livingston, Acting Chair

Meetings Held:

Thursday, April 16:

The Role of Space Science in the New Millennium

Wayne A. Scales

Director, Center for Space Science and Engineering Research Professor, Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

Comments: Very good presentation, moderate attendance.

Thursday, May 21

Synchrony Inc., Salem, Virginia

Tour of magnetic bearings facilities.

Comments: Excellent tour, good attendance.

Thursday, September 17

Accessibility and Software Engineering

Jason Grieves

Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington

Thursday, October 22

Networking Meeting

Comments: Poor attendance, turned into a social.

Thursday, November 19

Robotic Building Blocks for Unmanned & Autonomous Systems

Michael R. Fleming

CEO of TORC Technology LLC

Comments: Very good presentation, good attendance.

Thursday, May 25, 2010 in Roanoke

Opportunities and Challenges for ECE

Dr. Scott F. Midkiff

Professor and Head of the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech

Comments: First meeting in attempt to reinvigorate section.

Major Concerns:

Attendance has been moderately good, but it's typically the "usual suspects." Little membership development has led to a dearth of candidates for officers, standing members, and committee assignments. A plea has been sent out to the section to try and find a sufficient

number of volunteers to hold elections and get things going again. The response to the plea was not insignificant. The next meeting will give some indication of how much work will have to be done to get things kick-started.