

8/15/2011

WNC Section Report

This report covers activities of the Western North Carolina Section from January 2011 to August 2011

General activity descriptions:

- Monthly EXCOM meetings were held each month, usually on the first Friday of the month.
- Monthly meetings held for the general membership.
- Supported a first Robotics team with a grant and a mentor.
- Supported college students by attending various design reviews, usually in a proposal and a final stage.
- Held social events including brewery tours and baseball games.
- Plant tours
- Local branch of the Power and Energy Society has been very active and sponsored several meeting with great topics
- The public is always invited to monthly meetings and when the topic and venue warrants it, advertisements are placed in local newspapers.
- In September we plan to hold our annual all day "Strategic Planning Retreat". We invite professors and administrator from colleges to discuss how the section can support their engineering programs.
- Maintain a local consultants group. Its main focus this year has been employment postings by our section employment liaison.

Some Meeting Highlights:

January: Toured Appalachian tech, an electronic production facility.

February: Hosted join engineering society meeting for all engineers. Topic was "Cardiac Electronics"

March: Cloud computing with the director of Google's Lenoir facility.

April: Lasers and Photonics retreat.

May: Learning from the stars of the WNC - several short topic presentations by technical leaders.

June: Use of phase change materials for temperature control and tour of Pisgah Astronomical Research Facility.

August: Electric Car Chargers "The Gas Pumps of the Future". Presented by The WNC chapter of the IEEE Power and Energy Society . Speaker: Matt Guth, Engineering Manager, Eaton Corporation

Barriers:

- In general, the same people attend events, it would be good to see new faces.
- Have not obtained any senior member promotions this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Kowald

WNC Section chair