

## *Editorial*

The call came late one night. "Thank you for volunteering for this position". I responded immediately. "I, I, well, uh, your'e welcome!"

So began my responsibility of chairing the Chapter Communications Committee. The purpose: to provide a channel for Product Safety Professionals to communicate within the Society. The means: the newsletter you are holding in your hand!

Several possible topics and regular features have been proposed:

- A schedule of events to keep members posted on future activities at each Chapter.
- Reports from each Chapter on meetings and other plans and activities.
- Reports on committee activities.
- Articles on interesting product safety topics.
- Guest editorials
- Lists of Chapter and National officers.
- Letters from members.

The possibilities go on, but the bottom line is that we intend to serve the interests of our members. If you have suggestions, or would like to become involved in writing or editing this newsletter, now would be the perfect time to give me a call at 408-942-4020, or write me at the return address on this newsletter.

Roger Volgstadt

## ***Product Safety Society Gets Publicity***

The following article was published in the February, 1988 edition of the *IEEE Grid* (page 13).

### *Call for Participation in New Society*

Product safety engineers from several computer and electronics companies have been meeting regularly for several months, and have now formed a permanent professional organization for product safety. The group is now working towards an affiliation with the IEEE as a member society.

The latest meeting in December featured an enlightening presentation on product liability by Hal Mickelson, an attorney from Hewlett-Packard. Twenty-six persons from 17 companies attended.

The business meeting that followed the presentation adopted the PSS charter, endorsed seeking affiliation with the IEEE, and elected PSS officers. Officers are: chairman--Rich Pescatore (408-447-6607); vice-chairman--Brian Claes (408-725-5173); and secretary-treasurer--John McBain (408-447-0738).

Anyone interested in attending a meeting of this group, or simply finding out more about it, may call one of the officers above.

*CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE*

Congratulations!

You, by having received this newsletter, are among the first to become a member of the **Product Safety Society**. I am very excited about the formation of the **Product Safety Society** and the great amount of enthusiasm the you and your colleagues have demonstrated. As stated in our Charter, **the Product Safety Society** has been formed "to advance the knowledge and awareness of product safety." Product safety professionals throughout the u.s. and Canada have expressed interest in the **Product Safety Society** and are enthusiastically participating in meetings and forming local chapters.

We are in the process of lining up programs for future meetings. Based on your input, we are contacting experts to speak on technical topics (such as electric shock), agency practices, legal aspects of product safety, product safety management, etc.

In addition, our program to petition IEEE for affiliation is well underway. We have approximately 40% of the IEEE member signatures required to formalize our petition. Furthermore, many of you are in the process of joining IEEE. We expect to reach our goal of 125 IEEE member signatures by Summer. If you are not presently an IEEE member, I urge you to join so that you may begin receiving the many benefits associated with membership and providing further support to the **Product Safety Society**.

This is **your** society. **Your** input is required to develop a professional organization that will meet the needs of its members. Please forward any of your comments or ideas to me in care of:

Hewlett Packard  
19447 Pruneridge Ave. M/S 42LS  
Cupertino, CA 95014 U.S.A.

Welcome to the **Product Safety Society**.

Rich Pescatore  
Chairman

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER REPORT**

Our meeting on January 28 at Apple in Cupertino coincided with an IAC meeting for UL478 being hosted by the Underwriters Labs Santa Clara office. Many of the IAC participants were able to accept our invitation and attend the PSS meeting Thursday evening.

The business section of the meeting was quite short since officers and some committee chairs had previously been chosen. A regular meeting time and place was announced: the fourth Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at Apple Computer, 10500 DeAnza Blvd., Cupertino.

The Constitution Committee expected to have a Chapter Constitution based on an IEEE format drafted for the next meeting. The National Society Constitution will take longer. The Membership Committee asked attendees to fill out a member information form. Any interested persons will be added to our mailing list upon request. The Program Committee reported that speakers are being recruited for future meetings. A topic questionnaire will be mailed to help choose programs of most interest to members. Please return it!

A new committee was created to facilitate communications within the PSS - the Chapter Communications Committee. Each Chapter will eventually have a corresponding Publicity Committee which will forward news about meetings, members, or special events to the Chapter Communications Committee for inclusion in the PSS Newsletter.

People interested in forming PSS Chapters outside the San Francisco Bay Area were requested to Contact the PSS Chairman, Rich Pescatore. A Pacific Northwest Chapter has already started organizing in the Portland area.

Before the guest speakers, Serge Bousquet and Jim deVries of the CSA Richmond office, began their presentation, two distinguished IAC members from Canada were introduced, Conrad Maheux and Jim Duncan. The two main topics presented were a description of CSA and Richmond office policies, procedures and trends by Serge Bousquet, the Richmond Office Manager, and a comprehensive review of the new Updateable Report format by Jim deVries, Senior Engineer. This was followed by a question and answer session in which some of the audience members were also able to answer questions because of their work with various National or International committees. Very enlightening! One point of interest: an ad hoc technical committee will meet in Canada in March to begin discussing the differences and harmonization of CSA220 and IEC950.

The next meeting will be the fourth Tuesday of February, the 23rd, 7:00 p.m. at Apple Computer, as mentioned above. The guest speaker will be Laszlo Hasenau, the Manager of the San

Ramon office of TUV Rheinland of North America. His topics will include general information about TUV Rheinland, the European Norm and the future of German Standards, and ergonomics requirements and outlooks.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m., but many people socialized for quite a while longer. Our thanks to Mario Gomez of Apple for the refreshments he provided.

- John McBain

PRODUCT SAFETY SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Rich Pescatore - Chairman	Hewlett Packard MS42LS 19447 Pruneridge Ave Cupertino, CA 95014 408-447-6607
Brian Claes - Vice-Chairman -Program Committee	Tandem Computers 19333 Vallco Pkwy Cupertino, CA 95014 408-725-5173
John McBain - Sec./Treasurer	Hewlett Packard MS42LS 19447 Pruneridge Ave Cupertino, CA 95014 408-447-0738
Scott Barrows - Membership Committee	Versatec 2805 Bowers Ave Santa Clara, CA 95051 408-988-2800 X5030
Mike Harris - Constitution Committee	Teccom Co 699 Baffin Street Foster City, CA 94404 415-345-9403
Roger Volgstadt - Chapter Communications Committee	Qume Carp 500 Yasemite Drive Milpitas, CA 95035 408-942-4020

NOTE - NOTE

Please do not confuse our Product Safety Society, which is working towards affiliation with the IEEE, with the Product Safety Association, which is an independent organization. The PSS focuses on product safety of electronic equipment, while the PSA has much wider interests in examining all aspects of product safety. We are *not* competing groups because we have different interests.

NOTE - NOTE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER REPORT

An organizational meeting was held on 2/2/88, 7:30 p.m., at the Vancouver Division of Hewlett Packard, for the formation of a Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Product Safety Society (PSS). Thirty-one people attended and everyone was very enthusiastic about the idea of forming a society concerning product safety.

A general introduction of the attendees was made and a mailing list was produced. Al Van Houdt was chosen Meeting Secretary. Rich Pescatore reflected on the founding of the PSS in the San Francisco Bay Area (Santa Clara Valley Chapter) and described some of the benefits of affiliation with the IEEE. It was agreed by the meeting that the SCV Chapter format be adopted and membership in the IEEE encouraged. The following pro tem officers were elected and will be working on the next meeting.

Rich Nute - Chairman

Hewlett Packard  
P.O. Box C-006  
Vancouver, WA 98668  
206-254-8110 X2691

Gary McInturff - Vice-Chairman  
- Program Committee

ISC Systems Corp.  
E. 22425 Appleway  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019  
509-927-5105

Al Van Houdt - Sec./Treasurer

SpaceLabs  
4200 150th Ave.  
N.E P.O. Box 97013  
Redmond, WA 98073

Walt Hart - Membership Committee  
(Seattle area)

John Fluke Mfg Co Ltd  
P.O. Box C9090  
Everett, WA 98206  
206-356-5177

Art Henderson - Membership Committee  
(Portland area)

Western Transformers  
6701 S.E. Alberta St.  
Portland, OR 97206  
503-777-5636

It was proposed that the initial organizational meetings be called every other month until membership stabilizes and plans for interesting guest speakers and workshops are produced. Time and days proposed for the meetings were from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and either on Tuesday or Thursday. Walt Hart suggested that the officers hold business meetings each month and that the general technical meetings be held quarterly.

Since the membership is so diverse in both discipline and location, the meeting finally decided that the officers would meet and decide general technical meeting location, time, day,

technical content, and other issues. The next meeting will be called by the Chairman as soon as feasible with advance notice to members.

Proposed technical topics included shock hazard, fire hazard, product liability, UL/CSA/TUV/VDE certification, X-radiation, transformer isolation, and products used outside design criteria. Among the speakers suggested were Don Mader of UL, and representatives of CSA, V DE, TUV, and BSI. It was also mentioned that the HP attorney, Hal Mickelson, spoke about product liability at the SCV Chapter meeting and was well received. Other technical experts will be asked to speak about various topics at the upcoming meetings.

The meeting ended with a presentation by Don Boyer of HP concerning their acoustic chamber, and with an informal discussion between members.

Walt Hart has notified the Seattle Section of the IEEE of the formation of the PSS and its intention to apply for affiliation with the IEEE. Membership is expected to double by the next meeting, since many people were unable to attend this meeting because of short notice. Also, many of those attending said that other individuals who would be interested were yet to be notified.

- Al Van Houdt

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You probably already realize that the Product Safety Society is a good idea, an excellent cause, and altogether the greatest thing since sliced bread! But it's time for you to put your input online and let us know what you would like to see happening. There are three main ways you can help.

First, we need signatures of IEEE members on the petition returned to the address written on the petition. If you are not already a member of IEEE you may be surprised how easy it is to join and how many benefits you receive. There are no obligations incurred by signing the petition, so other IEEE members in your company may help us by signing. However, anyone who would like to be included on our mailing list must send us their name, address, and phone number.

Second, we need responses on the Meeting Topics Questionnaire to be able to continue to recruit speakers who will address the topics in which you are interested. Please return your choices and comments to the address written on the questionnaire.

Third, we certainly want to hear any general comments, technical questions, or inquiries on any topic relating to product safety or the Product Safety Society. These letters could be addressed to any officer, but letters that may be of general interest will possibly be responded to in the future Letters Column of this Newsletter.

Keep those cards and letters coming, folks! And we thank you for your support.

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PETITION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IEEE SOCIETY

Date \_\_\_\_\_

We, the undersigned, who are currently members of the **IEEE**, hereby petition for approval to form a **Product Safety Society** affiliated with the **IEEE**. The proposed field of interest, scope and objectives of the **Product Safety Society** are shown on the back of this form in the Charter and Strategy statements.

	<u>Signature of Petitioner</u>	<u>Membership Grade and Number</u>	<u>Printed Name</u>
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			
8)			
9)			
10)			
11)			
12)			
13)			
14)			
15)			
16)			

The following individual is serving as Organizer for the Society.

Richard L. Pescatore, P.E. (tel. 408-447-6607)  
 M/S 42LS  
 19447 Pruneridge Avenue  
 Cupertino, CA 95014 U.S.A.

**PRODUCT SAFETY SOCIETY****CHARTER**

The Product Safety Society is an organization concerned with the safety of electronic products. Its members strive to advance the knowledge and awareness of product safety through:

- \* Study of product safety engineering principles and applications.
- \* Promotion of a consistent understanding and interpretation of applicable product safety standards.
- \* Understanding of the contribution of test houses and certification processes.
- \* Study of product safety management principles and applications.

**STRATEGY**

The Product Safety society intends to meet the Charter statement. through enhanced communications and education. The following methods may be used to this end:

- \* Host presentations by technical experts.
- \* Provide a forum for presentations to and from test houses.
- \* Host panel discussions on selected topics.
- \* Provide information that is predicated on principles of product safety engineering to standards writing groups and other professional organizations.
- \* Provide information based on Industry practices to third party certification agencies.

PRODUCT SAFETY SOCIETY---MEETING TOPICS

(Response Requested)

One of the main goals of the Society is to provide information on topics of interest to the members. In order to identify these needs, a questionnaire was distributed last fall asking members to rank areas of interest. Based of the replies received, the most requested topics were:

- Presentation by UL: IEC 950 Harmonization
- Presentation by CSA: Form reports, legal status, IEC 950
- Safety Engineering: Leakage Current and Shock
- System Safety Analysis Techniques: Overview
- System Safety Techniques: Fault Tree Analysis
- Quantitative Risk Analysis/Hazard Assessment Techniques
- Presentation by TUV: IEC 950 adoption, TUV acceptance in Europe, testing to various standards
- Safety Engineering:
  - operator versus serviceman protection
  - human factors overview
  - "reasonably safe" product design factors
  - warning labels
  - toxicity
  - single versus multiple failure considerations
  - electrically-caused fires
- Software Safety
- Products Liability
- Product Safety Management: Organization, function
- (Other:specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- (Other:specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- (Other:specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Since that survey, we have added many new members and this follow-up survey is needed. Using the above list, on a scale of 1 to 10 ("10" indicates the most interest, "1" the least} please indicate your level of interest in each topic. A blank will be considered a "1".

Please bring your completed survey to the February meeting or send it to:

Tandem Computers Inc.  
19333 Vallco Parkway  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Attention: Brian Claes M/S 1-03

Qume Corporation  
500 Yosemite Drive  
Milpitas, CA 95035

*IN THIS ISSUE...*

\* *Chairman's Message*

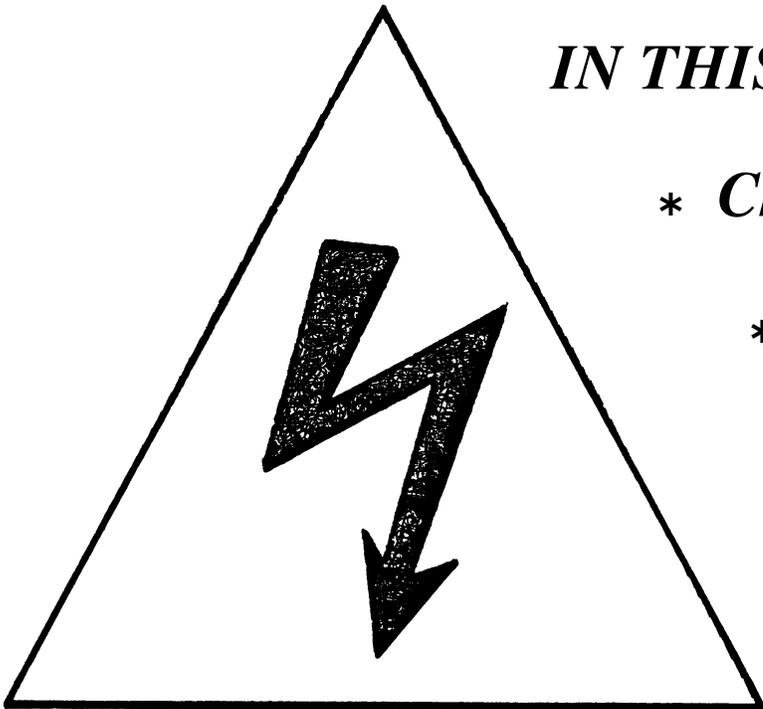
\* *Chapter Reports*

\* *Editorial*

\* *AND MORE !*

February, 1988

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