

View from the Chair April 2009

“Scientists find out what is; engineers take what is, and create what never was.”

I came across this statement recently, and was struck by its simplicity and how well it reflects some of the excitement of engineering. It’s apparent exclusion, however, is misleading. For a scientist, finding out what *is*, is a form of creation, because new intellectual frameworks must be created to encapsulate the formation of a new idea about how the universe works. Scientists also use engineering principles in their quest for such discovery, as new tools must be conceptualized and developed; witness the extreme complexity of the Large Hadron Collider. Conversely, engineers must be intimately familiar with what *is*, so that they can use it as a starting point and move ahead. This involves using basic scientific methods (observe, hypothesize, measure; iterate) to design and implement their mental and subsequent material constructs. Regardless of how you see yourself, being a scientist or an engineer is filled with wonder, excitement, and discovery. Look carefully at what *is*, and see what you can do with it that no one else has done before. It might even help if folks—including those who are neither scientist nor engineer—put this into practice routinely, regardless of the endeavor.

—Mitch Hobish

Montana Section News

At the 2009 annual Section banquet, Dr. Bill Jameson received the Northeast Area of Region 6 Award for Outstanding Leadership and Professional Services, “...for an engineering career that includes excellence in education, research, and service to the professional and general communities.”

Question: What do you do in Bozeman in the summer?

Answer: If it falls on a Sunday, you have a picnic.

IEEE NEWS

Several Montana Section members may be candidates for Senior Member status. Take a look at <http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/senior-members/index.html> to see if you qualify. If you’re eligible, download the application forms and then contact Don Pierre, Senior Member Committee Chair, at 587-4065. Senior Membership can be a career enhancer!

April Meeting Program

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 pm. Details, over.

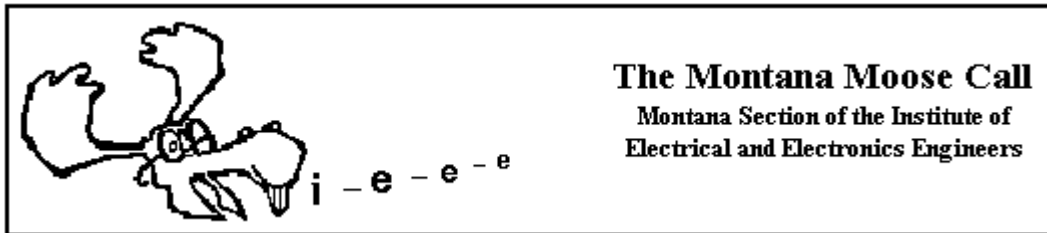
May Meeting Program



Occurrences such as this will be discussed, along with related topics and some current issues. Details to follow.

Section Officers

Chair	Mitch Hobish	mhobish@ieee.org	284-4150
Chair-elect	Richard Wolff	rwolff@ieee.org	994-7172
Secretary	Randy Larimer	randy_larimer@msn.com	994-5970
Treasurer	Ryan Cyr	ryancyrIEEE@gmail.com	
GOLD Chair	Calvin Coopmans	coopmans@gmail.com	
Webmaster & Membership Development	Jon Koon	jon.koon@aedbozeman.com	585-8892 x13
MSU Student Branch Advisor	Brock Lamerer	lamerer@ece.montana.edu	994-5987
Student Branch Chair	Pat Kujawa	pckujawa@montana.edu	
SM Nominating Committee Chair	Don Pierre	pierre_don@ieee.org	587-4065
LM Group Chair	Arlyn Selting	arlyn@ieee.org	522-8118
Moose Call Editor	Bill Jameson	b.jameson@ieee.org	586-0280



APRIL MONTANA SECTION MEETING

The Curious Case of CAIDI and SAIDI

Jim Cole and Randy Sullivan
NorthWestern Energy
Bozeman, MT

We all assume that electric power is going to be available at all times: Just plug something into the wall socket, and all is well. This count-on-it phenomenon is referred to as reliability, and it's very important to NorthWestern Energy. Jim Cole and Randy Sullivan will discuss two common reliability indices—CAIDI and the related SAIDI—and will describe what NorthWestern Energy is doing to ensure that your power service really is there when you need it.

Wednesday, April 22, 2009
Life Members Meeting 6:00 p.m.
General Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Montana State University, 108 EPS
(Near 7th and Grant, South of Cobleigh Hall)

Free pizza!

Please call Richard Wolff at 994-7172 (or e-mail: rwolff@montana.edu) or sign up via the Section website, <http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/montana>, to make reservations by 5:00 p.m., April 21.