



MARCH 2009 EDITION

View from the Chair

In this 125th anniversary year of the IEEE, it is instructive to look at the historical underpinnings of the organization (see *Background*, next column). With an organization that is now global in membership scope, representing a wide array of technical and societal interests, the IEEE is certainly the world's preeminent electrical and electronics engineering society. Its impact is profound—owing not only to its sheer size and the number of disciplines addressed, but also to its role in setting standards (now numbering over 900), necessary to allow technologies to be used across disciplines and international borders.

Your membership in the IEEE is a vote to continue these activities, and to allow them to grow. It is also a visible commitment to your professionalism and to maintaining the IEEE's myriad roles. Be proud of this commitment, and seek ways to increase your involvement with the Montana Section, Region 6, and national and international activities.

—Mitch Hobish

IEEE Montana Section News

• February Meeting Highlights

Representatives of the MSU Chapter of Engineers Without Borders gave a colorful and in-depth presentation on their activities providing basic infrastructure support to several schools in Kenya. Attendance was high, and interest significant. Everyone—whether engineer (any kind) or not—is invited to join EWB-MSU.

Engineering Humor(?)

Q: How many electrical engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

A: None. They simply redefine darkness as the industry standard.

IEEE NEWS

• IEEE 125th Anniversary - Background

The first meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers met in October 1884. Among other industries, telegraphy was represented by Norvin Green, of Western Union; power, by Thomas Edison; and telephony, by Alexander Graham Bell. The Institute of Radio Engineers was formed in 1912 to address “wireless” engineering. The two societies merged in January 1963 to form the IEEE. For more information on IEEE's history, point your browser to: <http://www.ieee.org/web/aboutus/history/index.html>.



• IEEE Membership Reminder

Have you renewed your membership? You can renew on-line:

<http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/renew/index.html>

• March 2009 Meeting and Annual Banquet

Our March meeting and annual banquet will be held Friday, March 27 at 6:30 PM, in the NW Lounge of the SUB on the MSU Bozeman campus. (See details, over.)

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**MARCH MONTANA SECTION MEETING
and
ANNUAL BANQUET**

Friday, March 27, 2009

Gather at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

**Northwest Lounge
Strand Union Building (SUB)
Montana State University**

**Chicken Marsala and Lasagna Buffet
Wine Provided**

Presentation:

The Night Sky

Dr. Joseph Shaw

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Montana State University

The sky at night has historically played a major role in scientific and cultural development. That it still plays this role is amply supported by the ongoing enthusiastic public reception of images from satellites, including (most notably) the Hubble Space Telescope. Ground-based observations continue to play a major role, and naked-eye views of celestial phenomena are among our area's most popular attractions: A 2001 study by the Royal Astronomical Society in London found that over two-thirds of people in the continental U.S. never see a night sky dark enough to allow them to see the Milky Way.

Professor Shaw's exciting presentation at the Annual Banquet will discuss the night sky, with outstanding photographs of aurora and other phenomena. Joe will also discuss the challenges of light pollution and how we can preserve our view of the heavens.

Tickets:

Members, Spouses, Guests, and Nonmembers \$20

Students \$10

(Pay at the door)

All are welcome!

Please make reservations by 5:00pm, Wednesday, March 25.
Sign up via the Section website, <http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/montana>,
or call Richard Wolff at 994-7172 (e-mail: rwolff@montana.edu).