



## Montana Section News March, 2002

### Chairman's Corner Jim Smith

Well it's approaching St Patrick's Day, and the weather is getting warmer between snow storms so it must be springtime in Montana. Of course springtime means it's time for IEEE Montana Section Spring Banquet. Our monthly meetings have been very well attended in the last year as we have had a number of interesting local speakers discussing a broad range of technical as well as business topics. This month's Spring Banquet at the Gallatin Gateway Inn will be no exception with a non-technical presentation about paleontology in Montana. Be sure to sign up and bring your spouse for an interesting evening.

### March Meeting

The meeting will be March 21, at the Gallatin Gateway Inn, Baggage Room Pub. The speaker is Les Davis, Curator of Prehistoric Archeology and Ethnology at the Museum of the Rockies, who will talk on: "Paleoindian Lifeways in the Montana Rockies: Where were the women in the archaeological record?"

As always, make your reservations with Sharon at 994-2505 by **noon on the 18<sup>th</sup>**. See the backside for details, menu, etc.

### Section Officers and Executive Committee

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### News From IEEE HQ

On Tuesday, March 5, the IEEE-USA honored six members of Congress for strengthening the U.S. pension and retirement savings system at a ceremony in room HC7 of the Capitol on Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Representatives Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.) and Earl Pomeroy (D-N.D.) join Senators Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), **Max Baucus (D-Mont.)** and James Jeffords (I-Vt.) as recipients of the 2001 IEEE-USA Award for Distinguished Public Service. They are being cited "for untiring efforts and effective leadership in successful Congressional action to strengthen America's private pension system and increase individual savings for retirement."

The award recognizes the Congressmen's leadership in passing the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. The law raises contribution limits for IRAs and workplace retirement plans, reduces vesting standards, improves the portability of earned benefits when workers change jobs, and expands pension coverage by making it easier for small businesses to establish retirement savings plans. These provisions have been a high public-policy priority of IEEE-USA since the organization was established in 1973.

IEEE-USA President LeEarl Bryant will present the awards. "It is a privilege to present these distinguished public-service honors to the members of Congress who have contributed greatly to strengthening all of America's private pension system," Bryant said. "Their leadership efforts will improve retirement quality of life for not only engineers, but all Americans."

### Senior Members

During the past year, 788 Members were upgraded to Senior Member. Of these, 10 were from the Montana Section, i.e. 1.27%! Since our section represents only roughly 0.28% of Region 6 membership, which, in turn, is less than 20% of the IEEE membership, Don Pierre and his Senior Member Committee did a "fair" job! Lets get some more nominations, particularly from the artic portion of the Section! The Committee has four members recommended so far.