



## Montana Section News March, 2002

### Chairman's Corner Jim Smith

Our speaker for this month will be Dr. Ross Snider of the MSU ECE Dept. who will be talking about some of his recent research involving novel digital architectures for making high speed neurological measurements. Ross has been very active in research at MSU and in teaching courses in logic, digital signal processing, and computer architecture.

April 15 has passed and the tax season is over for this year but here is some IEEE related tax news that you should keep in mind for the coming year. Last month the IEEE-USA recognized 6 members of congress – including Max Baucus of Montana – by awarding them the 2001 IEEE-USA Award for Distinguished Public Service. They were cited for their leadership role resulting in successful Congressional action to strengthen this country's private pension system and increase individual saving for retirement. The Congressmen were instrumental in passage of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, which raises the contribution limits of IRA's and workplace retirement plans, reduces vesting standards, improves the portability of benefits when workers change jobs, and makes it easier for small businesses to establish retirement savings plans. The IEEE-USA is a unit of the IEEE that promotes the careers and public policy interests of its members.

An important deadline coming up in a few months for some engineers is the June 30th deadline for completing 30 professional development hours (PDH's) required for maintenance of the P.E. License. Our monthly IEEE meetings can be counted towards this requirement. If anyone has any ideas for a seminar or course, which we could do in the next month or so to help people meet the 30 hour requirement, send me an email at [jrsmith@ieee.org](mailto:jrsmith@ieee.org).

### News From IEEE HQ

Piscataway, NJ -- Thomas Edison didn't invent the light bulb, so why does everyone think he did? What was the first computer? How did the patterns in a Utah cornfield lead to the development of TV? What is the "X" in an X-ray? Why are Alvin and the Chipmunks part of a museum about technology? The answers to these questions and more are found in the new IEEE Virtual Museum launched at <http://www.ieee.org/museum>. Designed for educators, pre-college students, and the general public, the virtual museum debuted with two exhibits containing audio and video clips, and interactive features: Socket to Me! How Electricity Came to Be and The Beat Goes On: How Sounds are Recorded and Played. Three more exhibits are in production and are scheduled for release by third quarter 2002. These will explore the different applications of microwaves, the works of Thomas Edison, and contributions women have made to electrical and information technologies.

The IEEE Virtual Museum explores the global social impact of electrical and information sciences and technologies and demonstrates the History Center.

### E-mail Addresses

Give some thought to obtaining an IEEE alias e-mail address. If you don't have an IEEE e-mail alias, here is the way to get one. (On a personal note, my alias has saved me from nasty viruses twice. [ieee.org](http://www.ieee.org) has a great virus checker! B.J.)

First you have to obtain an IEEE Web Account. This is standard since there are increasing number of services that are being offered/provided to IEEE members through the IEEE Web site. In order to be able to restrict these services "only" to IEEE members you need the Web Account.

To open a web account go to the IEEE Home Page. On the top selection bar is "IEEE Web Account" Click on it and it will walk you through setting it up.

Once you have the account established you can set up an IEEE alias: On the IEEE Home page, click on "Services" listed on the side bar. Click on "IEEE Personal Email Alias and Virus Scan Service". The site will then walk you through the steps on creating, updating or deleting an IEEE Email Alias.

### Section Officers and Executive Committee

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