



Montana Section News
March, 2004
Chair's Message
Jon Koon

Spring has arrived! As you wait for the Easter snow, consider a part time position with the IEEE. We need nominations for officer positions. The main position up for grabs is the Vice Chair who also serves as the chair-elect. The pay is low, but so is the time commitment. Send us an e-mail if you are interested or know of someone who might be. We will look forward to hearing from you.

Were you excited when the robotic rovers Spirit and Opportunity landed on Mars this year? Then our upcoming April meeting will be for you. The speaker will be Dr. William Hiscock, Professor of Physics at MSU-Bozeman. Dr. Hiscock is the director of the Montana Space Grant Consortium and is excited about sharing some of his insights concerning the Mars exploration program. His presentation will be geared toward all audiences (technical and non-technical), so please invite spouses or other interested guests.

The dinner meeting will be held at the Gallatin Gateway Inn. The dinner starts at 6:30PM with a cocktail hour beforehand. The cost will be \$30 per person (\$15 for students) and will feature both Prime Rib and Orange Glazed Pork Loin. Please bring your \$\$ to the meeting. Checks can be made payable to the IEEE Montana Section. Please sign up by April 8th.

In other news, we have had 4 applications for Senior Design project funding. We will have an update on the program at the meeting. Also, don't miss out on this month's exciting door prize!

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting! **Please call Sharon at 994-2505 (or e-mail: sharona@ece.montana.edu), or via <http://ewh.ieee.org/r6/montana> , to make reservations by Thursday, April 8.**

Did You Know

That the highest spot in the State is nearly 13,000' AMSL? What is it? Actually, that's too easy. What's the second highest spot in the State? Answer to last month's "Did You Know?" – Lincoln County, Troy, Libby & 56.

IEEE-USA Today's Engineer Online Alert

<http://www.todaysengineer.org>

IEEE-USA Pulse: Engineering Equality as Important as Job Availability - While much talk surrounds the question of whether or not an engineering shortage actually exists, many believe an issue just as worthy of debate and action is engineering equality. What is IEEE-USA doing to encourage young women, minorities, people with disabilities and the

disadvantaged to consider engineering a viable career choice?

<http://www.todaysengineer.org/mar04/equality.asp>

Reader Poll: The Virtual Workforce: A Concept Unfulfilled? Some years ago, industry leaders predicted that computers would help create a paperless office environment. Others forecast that most workers would work in virtual offices as members of virtual teams. The reality has been quite different.

<http://www.todaysengineer.org/mar04/poll.asp>

Blackout 101 Forum Educates Hill Staff:

The 2003 "Northeast Blackout" left more than 50 million people in the dark last August. What happened? The IEEE Power Engineering Society and IEEE-USA sponsored a "Blackout 101" forum for members of Congress and their staffs, to educate them on how North America's electric power system works; what can go wrong; and how we can prevent future large-scale power blackouts.

<http://www.todaysengineer.org/mar04/blackout101.asp>

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