

Daytona Section, IEEE

Daytona Beach, Florida



Report to FCIEEE Meeting April 5, 2013

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Introduction

The Daytona Section usually meets on the 4th Thursday, 7 months each year: September, October and November in the Fall and January, February, March and April in the Spring. All are dinner meetings but there is no charge for non eaters and students are subsidized. These meetings are part social: meeting, greeting and networking, followed by dinner and then a talk which may be technical but sometimes is of general interest. They are held at the Halifax River Yacht Club, which was founded in 1896. The section derives most of its strength from the support and proximity of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. This institution, founded by aviation pioneers, has been called the Harvard of the Aviation Industry. The related Student Chapter is very active and has a high attendance at our meetings. The Daytona Beach area, like most of Florida, is a Mecca for retirees and many of our members are senior engineers who use our meetings to keep mentally active. The synergy with the young students is effective and rewarding. We have recently been blessed by a second student chapter from Bethune Cookman College. Both student chapters participate in SoutheastCon.

Recent Changes

In response to dwindling attendance at our Yacht Club meetings we held the 2012 November meeting at Embry Riddle in a class room and served pizza. Professor Lieu gave an interesting lecture on electric vehicle propulsion. It was much better attended.

Meetings in 2013

In January, at the Yacht Club, we had Dr. Susan Allen, an expert on lasers who has recently joined the faculty of Embry Riddle. Naturally she spoke about lasers.

In February we held a meeting at Embry Riddle in conjunction with Engineers Week. Butch Shadwell drove down to be our speaker. This meeting was very well attended.

The Life Member Chapter attended a meeting at Larsen Motor Sports where Elaine Larsen showed us how her jet powered drag racers are made. She has reached speeds of over 360 mph in them. She ran one up for us blasting flame and smoke as much as 30 feet behind the vehicle. They use the GE J85 engine which delivers 5000 pounds of thrust.

In March, back at the Yacht Club, Dr. Remzi Seker, a professor at Embry Riddle was the speaker. Attendance was much better than usual there.

In April, also at the Yacht Club, the students from both Embry Riddle and Bethune Cookman will present their work including any plans they have for SoutheastCon. We also invite the winners which we picked from the local science fair.

Other Activities

We have been having discussions with the Engineering Faculty of Daytona State College where an IEEE Student Chapter is in the process of forming.

In the past we have supported the Embry Riddle Student Chapter in their robot project. Being a small section we have limited funds so the addition of a BCC Student Chapter reduces the level of our support. Fortunately, Embry Riddle already has almost every kind of part one could want for a robot.

As mentioned above, the section gives an award to the student with the best electrical engineering project in both the junior and senior divisions. This includes a plaque and a \$50 check for each.

Sincerely Submitted

Tracy Wichmann
Chairman