

the Beacon

*Hope to see
you at the An-
nual Meeting!*

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Chair's Column

by *Ali Abedi*, Section Chairman

Greetings IEEE Maine Section Members:

I hope that you have started a great spring and have an even better summer coming ahead. This year we organized a fantastic annual outing in May, thanks to Ted Brit our new junior member-at-large, who joined IEEE Maine Executive committee in January 2008. I encourage you all to attend this exciting, once-in-a-lifetime event to network with your fellow IEEE members in Maine. (See the next page.)

This past March, I joined 250 other scientists and engineers in an annual Congressional Visits Day," sponsored by the Science-Engineering-Technology Working Group (SETWG). The purpose of the 13th annual event was to communicate to Members of Congress the critical nature of R&D funding and the impact that decreases in funding have on America's ability to compete globally. I expressed concern to members about the FY08 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, which flat-funds or cuts funding for key science agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy Office of Science. Federal expenditure in R&D is an investment, not an expense. It is only because of this investment that we have the quality of life we enjoy today and it is only through long-term, steady federal investment in America's research enterprise that we will continue to be successful as a nation. One example is the University of Maine's recent initiative called BWISE (Broadband Wireless Access and Sensing) that relies on National Science Foundation funds in FY 09 to help spread the wireless internet

throughout Maine and benefit people and local businesses. The federal government supports a unique research and education enterprise that fuels the American economy. This enterprise provides the underpinning of high-technology industries and expands the frontiers of knowledge in every field of science. Much of this research is carried out at academic institutions across the country ensuring knowledge transfer to future generations of scientists, engineers, mathematicians, physicians and teachers. Additionally, technology transfer from academic research adds billions of dollars to the economy each year and supports tens of thousands of jobs. In my meetings with the members of the congress, I pointed out the dangers in decreased funding. "If funding continues to flatten and decline, the U.S. will lose out on innovations that can improve quality of life and bring quality jobs. Solutions to our nation's greatest challenges will remain undiscovered. In addition, our status as the world's most innovative nation and our ability to compete globally will be imperiled in an atmosphere of reduced research and development funding."

New Senior Member

The IEEE Maine Section extends its congratulations to its newest senior member:

Clare Bates Congdon

Congratulations!

IEEE Maine Section
Annual Meeting
Friday, May 16, 2008
Bar Harbor Region, Maine

This year's Annual Meeting for the Maine IEEE Section will take place in the Bar Harbor region of Mt. Desert Island. An interesting program which should appeal to Section members and their families has been planned. The program starts with an orientation of the Jackson Laboratory followed by a tour of the labs. The Jackson Laboratory is a world famous genetics research facility whose mission is to discover the genetic basis for preventing, treating and curing human disease and enable research education for the global biomedical community. The Jackson Laboratory mouse models and genetics research lead the world to solutions for cancer and other complex and intractable diseases. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the Jackson Laboratory and have a tour of the facilities.



Following the lab tour there will be two interesting presentations by guest speakers on energy related topics. Jim Tolan, of Industry & Energy Associates, Portland, ME will discuss a Galapagos Islands wind energy project which is the subject of an article in the March issue of the IEEE Spectrum magazine. Chris Straka, Ascendant Energy Company, Rockland, ME will talk about solar energy solutions to a broad range of market areas.

Other planned activities include a Bar Harbor nature Cruise aboard the Acadian and dinner at the Fish House Grille.

Meeting Schedule

11:45AM	Meet at Jackson Labs-Security Office
12:00 noon - 1:00 PM	Jackson Lab orientation and discussion
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Jackson Lab tour
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Guest speaker: <i>Jim Tolan</i> - Project Engineer, Industry & Energy Assoc., Portland, ME
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Guest speaker: <i>Chris Straka</i> - CEO, Ascendant Energy Company, Rockland, ME
3:00 - 3:00 PM	Questions and general discussion
3:45 PM	Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company - Board the Acadian
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Bar Harbor Nature Cruise
6:00 PM	Dinner at the Fish House Grille

Cost and registration

Dinner & Boat Trip:	\$25 for IEEE members/guests, \$45 for non-members, and \$15 for children under 18
Boat Trip only:	\$10 for IEEE members/guests, \$20 for non-members, and \$5 for children under 18

To register or to ask questions, please contact Ted Britt at 207.623.7500 or TBritt@MaineIndustrial.com. **Please register before May 9, 2008** and please indicate your dinner choice of the Downeaster, Maine Lobster Dinner, or the Acadian.

(Continued on next page)

Information

Boat Tour:

The Acadian is a 149 passenger tour boat. The tour we will take is a 1 1/2 or 2 hour cruise in the protected water of Frenchman Bay, off Bar Harbor, ME. We'll cruise past some of the most breathtaking scenery in New England. From the sheer granite cliffs of Schooner Head to the smooth rock beaches behind Ironbound Island, you'll see a rugged maritime landscape etched by glaciers and battered by sea & wind. Yet, despite the harsh environment, seals still haul out on the ledges of Flanders Bay to warm up and raise their pups. Eagles still build nests along the shores of the Porcupine Islands and porpoises still surface unexpectedly in the bay for a few breaths of air before continuing their search for food. Frenchman Bay is teeming with life and our naturalists are eager to point it out and interpret it for you.



Fish House Grill - Sea Grill & Oyster Bar:

Group Menu Options:

The Downeaster – Tossed Baby Greens with our House Dressing, Cup of Homemade New England Clam Chowder, Steamed Whole Maine Lobster, Corn on the Cob, Parsley And Butter New Potatoes, Drawn Butter and Maine Blueberry Cake.

Maine Lobster Dinner – Same as the Downeaster, minus the clam chowder.

Acadian – Cup of Clam Chowder, Lobster Roll, Parsley and Butter New Potatoes and Maine Blueberry Cake.



All menu options include soft drinks, coffee or tea. Other choices include Chicken Cordon Bleu or Broiled Haddock

Directions

Jackson Lab: Take Rt. 3 to Bar Harbor and follow Rt. 3 through town. Once you turn onto Main St. from Mt. Desert St. (both part of Rt.3), Jackson Labs is about 1.6 miles distance, on the left. Be sure to stay on Rt.3!

Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company: The Acadian is docked at the Town Pier at the beginning of Main St. in Bar Harbor.

The Fish House Grill: Also located on the town pier.