

the Beacon

Look for a Coming Announcement of the Annual Meeting

The Newsletter of the Maine Section, IEEE www.ieee.org/maine

Chair's Column

by *John Roberts*, Section Chairman

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Dear Colleague,

Welcome to another Maine Spring or should I say Mud Season? This year looks promising for the IEEE Maine Section and I am excited to be part of the leadership team. Please watch for upcoming announcements on chapter events especially the Annual Outing. Our Section website is in great shape thanks in large part to one of our fellow members, Bruce Jagolinzer. Please visit the website at http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/me_ieee.html to keep up to date on the latest events.

Our organization continues to grow with more than 374,000 members worldwide. The numbers in the US however, are not growing. The organization needs more members and more involvement from those who are already members, at all levels. Please feel free to contact any of the Executive Committee members to find out how you can become more involved. Encourage your colleagues to join the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology.

While the snow continues to melt and the seemingly never ending supply of frost heaves make their way to the surface, please be cautious during your travels. Road and bridge conditions continue to deteriorate in the State leading to higher upkeep costs for vehicles and more accident fatalities. Be safe and drive to the road conditions.

It is with much sorrow that I inform you of the passing of one of our past Maine Section Chairs. **Allison (AI) Whitney**, Chair

during 1974-1975, passed away on Saturday, March 10. I had the pleasure of being one of AI's students while attending UMaine. He was a great man who was deeply committed to his students, community and family and will be missed dearly by all who knew him. A fund has been established in AI's name whose purpose is to support the purchasing of equipment for the undergraduate laboratories at the University of Maine that are used by students seeking a degree in Electrical or Computer Engineering. Those who wish to contribute can send a donation to the Allison I Whitney Electrical Engineering Fund, care of the University of Maine, 2 Alumni Place, Orono, ME 04469.

It seems like I receive several phishing scam e-mails a day now and each one appears more convincing than the last. Here is some helpful information from www.updatexp.com about phishing and some ways to protect yourself. Phishing is a type of deception designed to steal your identity. In a phishing scam, a malicious person tries to get information like credit card numbers, passwords, account information, or other personal information from you by convincing you to give it to them under false pre-

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New Senior Members

The Maine Section congratulates our two newest Senior Members:

Steven Adler
Mustafa Guvench

Chair's Column

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tences. Phishing schemes usually come via spam e-mail or pop-up windows. A phishing scam begins with a malicious user who sends out millions of fraudulent e-mail messages that appear to come from popular Web sites or from sites that you trust, like your bank or credit card company. The e-mail messages, and the Web sites they often send you to, look official enough that they deceive many people into believing that they're legitimate. Believing that these e-mails are legitimate, unsuspecting people too often respond to the e-mail's requests for their credit card numbers, passwords, account information, or other personal information.

A scam artist might put a link in a fake e-mail that appears to go to the legitimate Web site, but actually takes you to a scam site or even a pop-up window that looks exactly like the official site. These copies are often called spoofed Web sites. Once you're at one of these spoofed sites or pop-up windows you might unwittingly enter even more personal information that will be transmitted directly to the person who created the spoofed site. That person can then use this information to purchase goods, apply for a new credit card, or steal your identity. Just as they do in the physi-

cal world, scam artists will continue to develop new and more sinister ways to trick you online. But following these five steps can help you protect your personal information.

1. Never respond to requests for personal information via e-mail or in a pop-up window. If in doubt, call the institution that claims to be the sender of the e-mail or pop-up window.
2. Visit Web sites by typing the URL into your address bar.
3. Check to make sure the Web site is using encryption.
4. Routinely review your credit card and bank statements.
5. Report suspected abuses of your personal information to the proper authorities.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions for the Section at jcroberts@ieee.org. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Outing this spring.

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Joint PES/IAS and COM/CS Chapter Meeting

Shively Labs Tour

Sat April 7, 2007 at 10:00AM

Shively Labs, Bridgton, ME

Join us for a technical talk at Shively labs followed by a tour

Technical Talk: FM antenna Elevation and Azimuth pattern development Basic principal of how elevation pattern are developed will be discussed. First, by looking at a series of isotropic point sources that make up the array factor of an elevation pattern equation. The measured unit pattern which will result in a particle elevation pattern of an FM array will be introduced. Time will be spent on the optimization of the bay spacing to maximize antenna gain and reduce downward radiation. The second section will cover a series of measured azimuth patterns and how tower size distorts patterns. Lastly, a brief review of how FM analog and digital transmitters interact to produce inter-modulation product that cause interference to other FM stations.

Speaker: Robert A. Surette

Director of Sales Engineering with Shively Labs, a Division of Howell Laboratories, from 1981 to the present. Mr. Surette was graduated from Lowell Technological Institute, Lowell, Massachusetts in 1973 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He has been directly involved with design and development of broadcast antennas, filter systems and RF transmission components since 1974, as an RF Engineer for six years with the original Shively Labs in Raymond, ME and for a short period of time with Dielectric Communications. He is currently an Associate Member of the AFCCE and a Senior Member of IEEE. He has authored a chapter on filters and combining systems for the latest edition of the CRC Electronics Handbook and for the 9th and future 10th Edition of the NAB Handbook.

Free admission for IEEE members

Registration is required

Please send an e-mail to Paul.Lerley@cmpco.com to reserve your seat. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. A light lunch will be provided.

Directions:

Please visit shively.com for directions and more information

University of Maine Selected as a Recipient of the 2006 Supporting Friend of IEEE Regional Activities Award

The Maine Section is pleased to announce that the IEEE Regional Activities Board has selected the University of Maine as a recipient of the 2006 Supporting Friend of IEEE Regional Activities Award. The Supporting Friend of IEEE Regional Activities award was established to recognize those organizations that encourage/support IEEE activities through its practices. Specifically, the award recognizes the University of Maine for its support hosting the 2006 IEEE Region 1 Student Conference. This conference was organized

by the UMaine IEEE Student Branch under the leadership of Dr. Ali Abedi, the Vice Chair of the Maine Section and the Chair of the COM/CS Chapter. Dr. Abedi will receive the plaque from Dr. Babak Beheshti, Region 1 Chair for Student Activities, on a date to be determined. Previous years winners of this important award have been General Electric Company, Oracle Corporation, Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, and the Boeing Corporation.

Dr. Abedi, student members of the IEEE Student Branch, and the staff of the University of Maine are to be congratulated for the fine effort they put forth to host a major student activity that brings important recognition to the Section, the UMaine Student Branch and the State of Maine.

CONGRATULATIONS!

IEEE-USA Commends Sen. Collins for Seeking Answers on Flawed H-1B Program

Editors note: The following news release was sent out by IEEE-USA on 12 December 2006.

IEEE-USA commends Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), outgoing chairman of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, for her recent letter questioning the effectiveness of workplace safeguards in the H-1B temporary guest worker program.

“The H-1B visa program was created to address the scarcity of qualified professionals and technical workers in the United States, but with safeguards to mitigate the potential harms to American workers and to protect foreign workers from exploitation,” Collins wrote to U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Emilio Gonzalez on 4 December. “The effectiveness of these safeguards, however, is in question.”

“We applaud Sen. Collins for highlighting the abuse and misuse of H-1B visas, particularly in smaller states like Maine, and for seeking answers from leaders who oversee the program,” IEEE-USA President Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr. said. “We’re pleased that someone of her stature realizes that flaws in the H-1B program harm U.S. and H-1B workers, as well as the U.S. economy.”

Wyndrum added, “While many of the H-1B problems must be fixed by Congress, the Labor Department has simply not done enough to address these concerns. We hope Sen. Collins’ letter will spur the department to improve the integrity of a flawed and broken program. It has much more discretion than it has exercised to investigate obvious program misuse and abuse.”

Collins’ letter cited an in-depth investigative series by the Portland (Maine) Press Herald into the H-1B program’s “problems and loopholes.” One of the abuses the newspaper found was “some companies appear to file through Maine to receive its lower prevailing wage, and then ship the foreign worker off to a higher-wage areas, like New Jersey and Silicon Valley.” The series is available at <http://ressherald.maintoday.com/news/immigration/>.

IEEE-USA highlighted prevailing wage abuses with a Sept. 2006 news release, “Reports, Studies Shatter Myth that H-1B Visa Holders are Paid Same Wages as U.S. Citizens.” See <http://www.ieeeusa.org/ommunications/releases/2006/090606.asp>.

In an Aug. 2006 release, “Government Reports Show Significant H-1B Wage Violations, Enforcement

Mechanism Broken,” IEEE-USA demonstrated how the Labor Department’s limited investigative authority helps enable companies to pay H-1B holders below-market wages. See <http://www.ieeeusa.org/communications/releases/2006/082306pr.asp>.

“While some American businesses need access to foreign skilled laborers, we should not allow unscrupulous companies to circumvent the system,” Collins wrote in her letter. “Their subversion of the law harms American technology workers, as well as legitimate firms whose high standards prevents them from exploiting the system’s flaws. We must protect these workers and employers.”

See Collins’ letter to Secretary Chao at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/issues/H1bvisa/>

Attention Maine Section Members: Why not upgrade your membership to Senior Grade?

IEEE membership enhances every stage of your career. Whether you are an established professional or just starting out, IEEE membership identifies you as superior talent. Advancing your member grade can bring added peer recognition to your accomplishments. Grade advancement is encouraged because it is required, in most cases, for key volunteer positions at the IEEE. The grade of **Senior Member** is the highest for which application may be made and shall require experience reflecting professional maturity. For admission or transfer to the grade of Senior Member, a candidate shall be an engineer, scientist, educator, technical executive, or originator in IEEE-designated fields for a total of 10 years. Individuals may apply for Senior Member Grade online:

<http://www.ieee.org/web/membership/senior-members/guide.html>

An applicant for the Senior Member Grade must identify three references who will support your application for Senior Member Grade. References must hold the grade of IEEE Senior Member or Fellow. It is generally preferable that your references know you personally or professionally, however, this is not required. Do not worry about getting the three Senior Member references. Your Maine Section officers can help you locate Senior Members who will serve as a reference. Please see the list of Section officers and contact information on page 2. Alternatively, you can contact your Section Chair and ask if he can nominate you. A nomination serves as one of the required three references - two other references are still required.