

# The Beacon

**Make Plans Now  
to Participate in  
National  
Engineers Week!**

The Monthly Publication of the Maine Section, IEEE [www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/)

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## Maine Section PACE Meeting *What Every Engineer Needs to Know about Patents* Tuesday, February 15, 2000

In 1998 Maine achieved the dubious distinction of being 43 in the nation in numbers of patents per capita. Only 10.17 patents were granted per 100,000 people. This is made more inexcusable in light of Vermont's standing nationally in second place at 64.6, New Hampshire sixth in the nation at 55.6 and Massachusetts and Connecticut at fifth and fourth places, respectively. Part of Maine's poor showing must lie, at least to some extent, with the lack of education regarding the process and the value of patenting. The focus of this talk will be to increase awareness in the industry and educate electronics engineers and software developers about the issues and processes of patenting. The critical step to protecting intellectual property is to identify the material that can and should be patented. All engineers who value their work need to know what a patent can do for them and how to go about applying for a patent. This talk should provide that information.

### Speaker: **Shalom Wertsberger**

Shalom is the founder of Saltamar Innovations. He is a system software engineer by training with an extensive background in electronics research and development, control and data acquisition systems design. After 18 years of experience as a practicing engineer developing distributed computer systems and security software, he began a new career as a patent agent. For him, this was a natural progression resulting from experience in pursuing patents for both his professional interests and hobbies. He is currently a US registered patent agent certified to practice in the United States Patent and Trademark office. He has published several white papers on his company's web page at [www.saltamar.com](http://www.saltamar.com).

Shalom has given many talks on patents to engineers. Since he is also an engineer, he knows the kind of information they need. You don't want to miss this opportunity to learn about an important topic to engineers!

### Meeting Agenda:

**Schedule:** 5:30 PM - **Social**  
6:00 PM - **Dinner**  
7:15 PM - **Presentation**

**Cost:** \$20.00 per person for dinner. (Full-time students \$5.00)

No cost for talk **only**, but you must still register to ensure a chair is saved for you.

**Location:** **Embassy Suites**, South Portland, ME

### To Make Reservations:

You may register at the Section website at [www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/](http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/) or you may contact Carrie O'Rourke @ (207) 775-8242 or e-mail at [corourke@spf.fairchildsemi.com](mailto:corourke@spf.fairchildsemi.com) to reserve your slot. Please inform Carrie if you will attend the dinner or just the meeting. Cancellations for dinner within 10 days of the start of the meeting will still be charged unless you are able to fill your vacated slot. As always, non-IEEE members are welcome and encouraged to attend! For information **only** about this talk, contact George Elliott at (207) 581-2350 or [gelliott@eece.maine.edu](mailto:gelliott@eece.maine.edu). From Maine Turnpike exit 7 follow the signs for about two miles to the Portland Jetport. Embassy Suites is located 500 feet beyond the Portland Jetport Main Terminal.

# Computer and Electron Device Society Meeting

## *Innovation in a Structured Environment*

### Dr. Gordon Raisbeck



Gordon Raisbeck when he was Vice President of Arthur D. Little Co. (and he says he would like to look like today!).

Change is an essential and unavoidable quality of innovation. But in modern industry, economy, seed and quality control are achieved with orderly and unchanging methodology. Inevitably there is tension between the need to do what we already know how to do in a way that is economically competitive and the need to learn how to do things differently or do things we have never done before. The speaker will review some of his experiences of the last 50 years to illustrate the pro's and con's of some of the compromises and palliative measures that can be used to achieve a competitive level of change with order and order with change. He will touch on issues such as what environments encourage or discourage innovation, what people are likely to innovate, what factors stimulate innovation, whether there are different kinds of innovation that can be selectively stimulated, how long it takes to bring an innovation to fruition and how much it costs.

#### **About the Speaker:**

During the 1950's a consent decree, reflecting a change in the regulatory environment, caused the Bell System to grant free and unrestricted license to use all of their existing patents to any who asked. The decree did not, however limit Bell's property rights to any patents to be granted in the future. For the purpose of negotiating cross-licensing agreements it became necessary to evaluate the future patent potential of prospective cross-licensees. Gordon Raisbeck was one of about twenty professional staff members each assigned temporarily to make visits to the research, development and new product development laboratories and personnel of several such companies, and report to Bell's Patent Department whatever he could find out that would help them form a rational and realistic estimate of the likely number and usefulness to Bell of patents that each such company might be awarded in the future.

A number of years later, in the late 1960's, a policy change in the Department of Defense transferred the responsibility for administering and funding exploratory research and applied development contracts from agencies dedicated to R&D to the development commands responsible for bringing new systems and technology to fruition. One of the Navy Systems Commands, for whom Raisbeck was working at the time as a member of a team at Arthur D. Little, Inc. (by whom he was then at the time) asked for assistance in setting up a program of exploratory research and applied development to meet this new responsibility. He and his colleagues closely co-operated with the client in every phase from formulating a statement of R&D objectives to writing work statements and Requests for Proposals and evaluating the proposals responding to those RFP's.

These two events were the beginning of a conscious interest the processes of technological innovation per se and of a series of investigations into many aspects of technological innovation that continued until his retirement.

Dr. Raisbeck is a Fellow of the IEEE and a Fellow of the Acoustical Society of America; a member of INFORMS, the Mathematical Association of America, the IEEE Oceanic Engineering Society, and the New York Academy of Sciences. He is the author of about thirty technical publications and twenty-two U.S. patents.

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7:15 PM - **Presentation**

*Cost:* \$20.00 per person for dinner. (Full-time students \$5.00)

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*Location:* **Embassy Suites**, South Portland, ME

For dinner reservations call Carrie O'Rouke at (207) 775-8242 by noon, **Friday, March 10**. Non-IEEE members are always welcome. For program information only send e-mail to JAndrews@GWI.Net (John Andrews)



**Introduction to Visual Basic Short Course**  
*presented by*  
**Computer and Electron Device Society**  
*at the*  
**University of Southern Maine**  
*Saturday, April 1, 2000*  
*8:30 AM to 4:30 PM*



Since the late eighties “event-driven” programming has all but replaced the traditional procedural approach to applications development. The use and implementation of “objects” has made the task of coding easier and greatly reduced the software development life cycle. Recently, the n-tier model of distributed applications design has introduced new challenges in software design.

This one-day tutorial will introduce you to perhaps the most popular object-oriented /object-based visual programming tool on the market today, Microsoft® Visual Basic. VB is more than a programming language; it is a programming environment. Using version “Introduction to Visual Basic Programming” will familiarize you with the environment, the language, its strengths and weaknesses, tips and tricks, and GUI design fundamentals, and will include an introduction to how VB can create more efficient and scalable n-tier design and new component object models (COM).

Due to the demand to repeat our original Visual Basic Tutorial, Maine’s Computer & Electron Devices Chapter is pleased to provide you with this updated opportunity.

**INSTRUCTOR**

Stephen Wallace is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer and Microsoft Certified Trainer with over 9 years classroom experience. He holds certifications in Microsoft products including Visual Basic, Exchange Server, Internet Information Server, Site Server, SQL Server, NT Workstation, NT Server and Windows 95. Prior to becoming a trainer, he worked as an architectural designer having studied architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design and Maine College of Art. He is currently employed as a full-time programmer for Forum Financial Group in Portland, Maine where he designs and develops Internet solutions using Java script, SQL and Visual Basic using following the model of n-tier COM distributed

**TUITION**

	Early Registration	After March 1st
Full-time students & faculty	\$100	\$150
IEEE Members	\$195	\$245
Non-IEEE members	\$225	\$275

Lunch and coffee breaks are included in the price. Each attendee will be provided a personal copy of all foils in a bound volume as well as VB demonstration programs on floppy disk.

**REGISTRATION**

Mail checks to Maine IEEE CS/EDS: to:  
 Maine CS/EDS VB Tutorial  
 C/O David Potts M/S 10-26  
 Fairchild Semiconductor  
 333 Western Avenue  
 South Portland, ME 04106

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Phone:			
Cred. Card:			
Exp. Date:		Type	

On-site, cash-only registration will be accepted on a space-available basis. Registration will be acknowledged by mail and will include a USM parking permit.

**CONTACT**

For additional information, send e-mail to: J. Andrews@IEEE.Org or see:

# Beacon Publishing

The Beacon is published on a monthly schedule based upon the need to advertise upcoming meetings. All material submitted for the Beacon must be received by the editor no later than the 15th of the month preceding the issue in which it should be included. Sorry, NO EXCEPTIONS!!

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