Pittsburgh Section

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Harry's Happenings

Many years ago, I got involved with the Pittsburgh Section IAS Chapter after meeting Tony Furfari at one of the IEEE Annual Meetings. That eventually led to the IAS Chapter Chair position and then to the Pittsburgh Section where I was vice-chair last year. Fortunately, Miklos did such a great job as the Chair of the Pittsburgh Section that I never had to fill in for him in 2002. Now I've been elected as the Section Chair for 2003 and have some big shoes to fill! I look forward to serving this year and working with the section officers to continue to encourage member participation in the IEEE.

Currently, I work at Benshaw, Inc. as the Vice President and General Manager of the Medium Voltage Division. Prior to Benshaw, I worked at Leybold Vacuum Systems as the electrical engineering manager for the company. I began my career in engineering at Westinghouse Power Circuit Breaker Division in Trafford as an assistant engineer. After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh (BSEE 1973), I worked for Robicon in Murrysville as a DC drives engineer.

I look forward to the opportunity and challenge as the Pittsburgh Section Chair and to working with Miklos Gyimesi, Elena Schreiber and the other section officers. I hope that we can continue to get the membership support in the form of opinions, suggestions and voluntary hours to help run the business of the IEEE Pittsburgh Section.

- Harry Hagerty

IEEE Distinguished Lecturer Series
Dr. Kal Sen

Dr. Kal Sen, an IEEE Distinguished Lecturer of the Power Engineering Society (PES), is a Fellow Engineer at Westinghouse Electro-Mechanical Division Technology Center. He recently presented a series of lectures on "Voltage-Sourced Converter (VSC)-Based Flexible Alternating Current Transmission Systems (FACTS) Controllers: Modeling and Applications" in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Madras, Calcutta, and New Delhi. He was a member of the Power Electronics Department at the Westinghouse Science and Technology Center.

That department conceptualized the Unified Power Flow Controller (UPFC). A ±160 MVA-rated UPFC was built in 1998 and was the first power electronics-based power flow controller of its kind. This UPFC demonstrated for the first time that active and reactive power flow in a transmission line could independently be regulated while maintaining a fixed line voltage at the point of coupling. Although the UPFC is the most versatile power flow controller that has ever been built, its high installation and operating costs must be reduced before it can be successful commercially in utility applications. A promising future development in this area was initiated with the introduction of the 'Sen' Transformer that offers the same independent active and reactive power flow control as the UPFC, but at a fractional cost of the Voltage-Sourced Converter-based UPFC. The proposed low-cost 'Sen' Transformer is adequate and economically attractive to meet most of today's utility's needs.

Congratulations to one of our Section members who did a wonderful job on this tour.

Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society

The Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society (AESS) is interested in serving its members through the formation of Chapters at the section level as well as by organizing various Aerospace and Systems related conferences and symposia. Membership distribution of the Pittsburgh Section indicates that we are eligible to form an AESS chapter to extend society opportunities to AESS members. A new chapter for the Pittsburgh Section will need a petition from at least 12 AESS members. An existing society chapter can also easily be changed to a joint chapter status to include AESS, if there is sufficient interest.

For more information on the AESS and forming a chapter, please contact Zafar Taqvi. Mr. Taqvi is the IEEE AESS Chapter Coordinator, and he can be reached at (281) 244-4436 or via e-mail at z.taqvi@ieee.org. If you would like to express your interest in forming a chapter in our section, please contact the Pittsburgh Section Chair, Harry Hagerty at (412) 492-0943 or by e-mail at hhagerty@benshaw.com.

Pittsburgh Section News

We have a new web site thanks to a great deal of work from Stacey Shogan and Phil Cox. The new site went online in September and new information is added as it becomes available. The site address is listed at the top of every bulletin (www.ewh.ieee.org/r2/pittsburgh). Add this to your favorites link. Any meetings that miss the deadline for the bulletin will be posted on the website. Past copies of the bulletin are also available on the web. If you have information you would like to post on the web site, please forward the information to Phil Cox at p.e.cox@ieee.org.

If you would like to begin receiving your copy of the bulletin via e-mail, please forward a message to Mike Boccabella at m.boccabella@ieee.org and include your membership number (if available). Electronic distribution saves money for the section and eliminates the paper copy that would be sent to you in the mail.

2002-2003 Pittsburgh Section IEEE Program Calendar

Group/Society	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
ExecCom **Harry Hagerty** **(412) 492-0943**	**21 Boyce Park**	**17 WVU**	**21 Pitt Greensburg**	**18 Point Park**	**16 Point Park**	**20 Point Park**	**20 Point Park**	**17 Point Park**	**15 Point Park**
Section Mtngs **Harry Hagerty** **(412) 492-0943**	**21 Annual Fall Picnic**								
Upper Mon **Stephanie Caswell** **(304) 293-0405**		**17 COTS Visualization**							
Industry Applications **Harry Hagerty** **(412) 492-0943**		**12-17 37th Annual IAS Meeting**							
Magnetics **Miklos Gyimesi** **(412) 268-2308**	**18 Adv. Magnetic Materials**								
Computer **Gerry Kumnik** **(412) 487-1430**		**17 COTS Visualization**							
Communication **Prashant Krishnamurthy** **(412) 624-5144**			**22 Precision Alignment using GPS**						
Power Eng. **Gregory Reed** **(724) 772-2158**									
Robotics **Guy Nicoletti** **(724) 836-9922**			**21 Virtual Surgery**						
Signal Processing **Pat Loughlin** **(412) 624-9685**									
EMBS **Bob Brooks** **rbrooks@medrad.com**									

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