



## Phil's Quill

The election is over. After debates over correct voting procedures and write-in ballots of questionable authenticity, it appears a decision has been reached. Actually, unlike other elections, this one was uncontested. So, I am your new Pittsburgh Section Chair-elect. I did try to get a write-in campaign going for some one with more experience, but it didn't work. Seriously though, I hope to put forth the best effort I can as your new Chair.

Many of you may not know me, so let me give you some of my background: I have been an IEEE member for about 25 years, and involved in the local section activities for 5 years. I currently am employed as a Software Engineer at Tollgrade Communications Inc., a maker of telecommunications test equipment. Prior to Tollgrade, I worked in a variety of industries such as: aerospace, pollution monitoring, steel producing, and process control. Most of my experience has been embedded systems programming with some supervisory and data acquisition on Windows PCs and minicomputers (PDP-11, VAX). I did a little circuit design too. My education is in Electrical Engineering, with a M.S.E.E. from Carnegie-Mellon University, and a B.S.E.E. from the University of Colorado.

As you can see, my career has been mostly in the computer world. I believe all the previous Chairs of recent history have come from the power industry. I think this reflects a change in the demographics of the Pittsburgh Section. I'll be writing more about what this means to our section, but for now, welcome to a new millennium for Pittsburgh and the IEEE.

- Philip Cox



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Robot Car Race



As part of National Engineer's Week activities held at the Carnegie Science Center, the Pittsburgh Section of the IEEE will conduct its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Robot Car Race on Saturday February 17<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the day is to show students that science and engineering can be fun. Student groups from area middle schools (7 or 8<sup>th</sup> grade) register to compete in the race. Each student group will be given a Lego Mindstorm kit and instructions on building their car. The group must construct the car and write a computer program with the Lego Mindstorm software to have the car successfully navigate the track. The track is a 500-cm long white strip consisting of an 'S' curve and a long straight section. Lights on the front of the car shine down on the strip. Two photo-sensors on the car detect the edges of the white strip and control the drive motors on the car to guide it down the track.

Volunteers are needed to help out at the race. Volunteers will help the students by answering questions, and offering suggestions while they build and program their cars. A working car and program will be available for the volunteers to refer to. Car construction begins at 12:30 PM, and racing and awards presentation will be completed by 4:30 PM. Laptop computers are also needed for the afternoon. If you have a laptop computer that can be used please consider loaning it to us. For more information, please contact Gerry Kummic at (412) 487-1430 or [gerrykum@iee.org](mailto:gerrykum@iee.org).

## Pittsburgh Section Student Activities

Plans are being made for a Pittsburgh Section IEEE Student Branch Leadership training workshop targeted for mid-February. All student members interested in the workshop are encouraged to attend. Details were not available at the time of printing, but you can get more information by contacting John Paserba at [j.paserba@iee.org](mailto:j.paserba@iee.org).

## Section News

**Election Results:** The results of the election are as follows: Phil Cox – Chair, Miklos Gyimesi – Vice Chair, Larry Hornack – Treasurer, and Elena Schreiber – Secretary. Good luck to our new group of officers.

### Bulletin Announcements:

If you or your group has an announcement for The Bulletin, please forward it to Mike Boccabella at [m.boccabella@iee.org](mailto:m.boccabella@iee.org), or call (724) 325-1776. All information has to be in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month before publication. For March, please have all information in by February 10<sup>th</sup>.



## NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

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## 2000-2001 Pittsburgh Section IEEE Program Calendar

Group/Society	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May
ExecCom Phil Cox (412) 820-1302	21 Point Park	19 WVU	16 Point Park	21 Point Park	18 Point Park	15 Point Park	15 Point Park	19 Point Park	17 Point Park
Section Mtngs Phil Cox (412) 820-1302	16 Fall Picnic	25 SPICE Tutorial	1, 8, & 15 SPICE Tutorial			National Engineers Week		History Dinner	
Upper Mon Biswajit Das (304) 293-6371									
Industry Applications Harry Hagerty (412) 487-8235	19 Fuse Protect. Medium Volt. Power Sys.				16 K-Factor Distribution Transformer				
Magnetics Miklos Gyimesi (412) 268-2308									
Computer Gerry Kumnik (412) 487-1430		26 Distributed Architecture							
Communication Sujata Banerjee (412) 624-9470									
Power Eng. Gregory Reed (724) 772-2158									
Membership Jim Karn (412) 732-9000									
Signal Processing Pat Loughlin (412) 624-9685		16 Excising Interference							
PACE Dennis Steward									

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