

ELECTRON

Institute Of Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc.

Volume 14, No. 1

THE IEEE CHARLOTTE SECTION NEWSLETTER

January 1997

IEEE POWER ENGINEERING SOCIETY

THE IMPACT OF OPEN ELECTRIC UTILITY TRANSMISSION ACCESS— THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) SAYS OPEN GRIDS!

Guest Speaker: Mr. William Reinke
Vice President,
System Planning and Operating
Duke Power Company

Date: Monday, January 20, 1997

Location: Duke Power Electric Center
526 South Church Street
O. J. Miller Auditorium

Time: 6:00 p.m. - Snack/Meal
7:00 p.m. - Meeting/Guest Speaker

Tickets: \$2.00 Members and a Guest
\$1.00 Student Members

Reservations for the Snack Meal are required by
Thursday, January 16.

For reservations and information call:

Chris Fallon 704/382-9248
John Tannery 704/382-9867

1996 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



(L-R) Chris Clippinger (Student Activities)
Dale Brittain - Gaston College, Kimberly Crenshaw - CPCC
David Matusik - UNCC, Jerry Brown - York Tech

CHARLOTTE SECTION MEETINGS

Power Engineering Society Meeting
Monday, January 20

National Engineer's Week Celebration
Monday, February 17

Computer Society Meeting
Monday, March 17

UNCC Student Paper Contest
Thursday, April 24

Communications Society Meeting
Tuesday, May 20

Power Engineering Society
Annual Field Trip
Thursday, June 19

Charlotte Section Annual Picnic
Thursday, August 21

CATHY'S CHATS

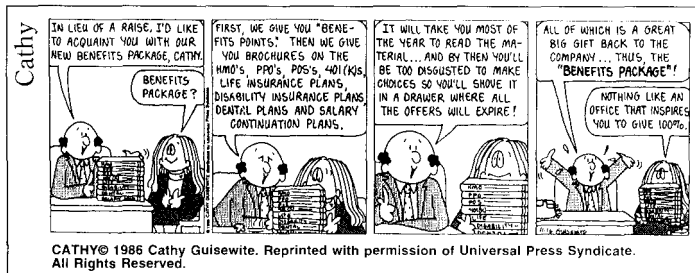
Greetings from the Chair!

Do you remember years that you thought would never end? Or years that were so wonderful you never wanted them to end? No matter what you tried, the year seemed to come and go. Well no matter how much I tried, 1996 suddenly ended. Here I am trying to fill the shoes of our past Chairman, Randy Groves. Granted, I can never literally fill his shoes (size 10 vs. size 5), but I can seek to further develop the Section as he and other past officers have successfully done.

As I said at the November banquet, Randy was our rock in 1996. He kept us organized, on track, and did not deter our energy and enthusiasm. He let me try different ideas from meeting topics to food selection without batting an eye at some of my "off the wall" suggestions. I appreciate his leadership and am thankful he will continue as part of the Executive committee. Thanks for your commitment and hard work Randy!!

The other new officers for 1997 include John Tannery (Vice-Chair), Kale Meade (Secretary), and Natalie Sayles (Treasurer) who are pictured to the right. They each bring a wealth of IEEE experience to these positions. More importantly, they are highly motivated to make the Charlotte Section better than ever!

Together your 1997 officers and standing committees are committed to bringing you the most IEEE has to offer. For this to happen, we need your help. The Executive committee needs volunteers in vital areas such as arrangements, PACE, and attendance. You will see the benefit of your IEEE membership increase as you become more involved in the Section or local Chapters. (Unlike Cathy's Benefit Package!)



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year and look forward to meeting many of you at the Section and Chapter programs.

Please give me or any of the officers a call if you are interested in serving on a committee or just want to become more involved. Remember that the Charlotte Section and Chapters are what you make them!

I wish you prosperity and happiness in the coming

Cathy Hope
Charlotte Section Chair

CHARLOTTE SECTION OFFICERS



(L-R) Back Row - John Tannery, Kale Meade,
Randy Groves (past-chair)
(L-R) Front Row - Natalie Sayles, Cathy Hope

SOUTHCON '97 COMES TO RALEIGH

For the first time ever, the largest and most prestigious electronics show and convention in the southeast U.S. will be hosted in Raleigh, NC. The focus is on Computers and Communications and all indications are we will have one of the best Southcons ever.

Southcon '97 will be held at the Raleigh Civic Center, March, 25-27, 1997. The times are from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 25 and 26 and from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on March 27. Please put these dates and times on your calendar now and plan to attend. WE NEED YOU THERE! Advance registration is free but will be

\$10.00 at the door. Over 7,000 persons are expected to attend, including each of you. We will have the registration forms available to include in future issues of your newsletter.

Highlights of Southcon '97 will include a computer technology showcase with displays of the latest in hardware, software, workstations and networking options available for the engineering, research and manufacturing environments. Contract manufacturers will be strategically located throughout the exhibit floor, and they will demonstrate design and production capabilities. Surface Mount Prototype (SMT) assembly lines will allow Southcon attendees to experience first

hand the latest surface mount equipment and capabilities. Over 22 planned Workshops, Tutorials and Technical Sessions will cover such topics as Purchasing, Solid State Programming, Project Management and many more. The Raleigh Civic Center will have all of the main level, including the main arena, for the placement of approximately 350 booths. The lower level will be used for the tutorials, seminars and other presentations.

The Research Triangle area was chosen for very obvious reasons. With approximately 34,000 scientists, technicians and support personnel in RTP alone, the potential for a large turnout is obvi-

SOUTHCON '97 (CONT.)

ous. The many manufacturing and technical companies nearby in the Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Fayetteville and Wilmington areas, give an additional large base for an excellent attendance. With the new, higher speed limits, Asheville is now only four hours away, and we know that a number of high tech firms and manufacturers will want to attend and will certainly be encouraged and welcome to do so.

Southcon '97 is a concerted effort of Region 3 and the Florida and North Carolina Councils of the IEEE, the Sunshine (Florida) and Carolinas Chapters of ERA (Electronic Representatives Association), and the Southcon Board of Directors. A Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted and signed by the Chairs of each of these organizations. The main thrust which is to come from the North Carolina Council and its five sections is to get the attendance there, and to get the word to anyone who may wish to have one of the 350 booths. If anyone desires to have a booth at Southcon '97 or knows anyone who does, you or they can phone (954)782-6804, send a FAX to (954)782-3248 or e-mail to southcon@ieee.org and arrangements can be made for them to purchase a booth. As of October 4, contracts and checks for 95 booths have been received by the Southcon Board. At least three mailings have been made to previous and other potential exhibitors. Arrangements have already been made for several programs.

The measure of success of this event will depend on the attendance we gener-

ate and the number of exhibition booths filled. If we have a good to very good showing, in my opinion we will have this event in Raleigh at least once every three years, and it could eventually be every other year. That occurrence will be a big boost to the area in many ways. Please pass the word to all of your friends and co-workers who are not IEEE members. Remind those who are IEEE members to place this event on their calendars. We will have additional information on Southcon '97 in future issues.

Ronald C. Harrell, P. E., Past Chair,
North Carolina Council, IEEE

ENERGY POLICY AND R&D POLICY COMMITTEES WEB SITE

Two key committees of IEEE-USA's Technology Policy Council have established new Web sites. IEEE-USA's Energy Policy Committee launched its web page on Nov. 12 to keep members up to date on IEEE-USA's efforts to promote sound energy-related policies, laws, and regulations at the national, state, and local level.

The IEEE-USA Research and Development Policy Committee's new Web presence aims to keep members informed of the committee's efforts to promote a strong national investment in research and development. The committee has also compiled on-line a comprehensive reference to R&D policy reports and resources, including science and technology documents from the United Kingdom, Euro-

pean Commission and Japan, as well as the U.S. government.

The Energy Policy Committee web page is located at URL <www.ieee.org/usab/DOCUMENTS/FORUM/COMMITTEE/epc.html>, while the R&D Policy Committee's site resides at <www.ieee.org/usab/DOCUMENTS/FORUM/COMMITTEE/rdc.html>.

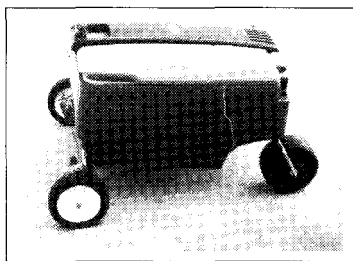
WANTED: IEEE CONSULTANTS

Anyone wishing to be included in the 1997 IEEE-USA DIRECTORY OF ELECTROTECHNOLOGY CONSULTANTS should contact IEEE-USA's Bill Anderson at 202-785-0017, ext. 330, or <w.anderson@ieee.org>, for more information on how to register for the directory and the Web database.

IEEE-USA PUBLISHES EMPLOYMENT GUIDELINES

IEEE-USA's Career Maintenance and Development Committee has published IEEE-USA GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT, a guide designed to help employers and technical professionals foster mutually satisfactory working relationships. Included are such topics as recruitment, career outlook, ethics, intellectual property and professional development. Call 1-800-678-IEEE and ask for product no. UH 2967-0-0-1-0 (\$6.95 for members, \$8.95 for non-members).

SAY HELLO TO DOLLI!



What is rectangular, green, and moves around by itself on four wheels? It's DOLLI! DOLLI is short for Distance Operated Linear Logic Instrument. DOLLI is the latest project of the York Technical College members of the IEEE in conjunction with the Technicians and Engineers Club (TEC).

The IEEE and TEC are under the direction of the Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology Department Manager, Joe Avampato. The members have worked together to convert an ordinary 40-gallon Rubbermaid cooler on wheels into a state-of-the-art, remote-controlled robot that will eventually be operated at an outside distance of approximately two miles. DOLLI has two microcomputers and two motors. Joysticks connected to these microcomputers are

used to control DOLLI's speed, direction, and ability to turn.

Chris Hilton, president of the TEC, states, "Since participating in the robot project, my understanding of electronics has increased dramatically. Also, the processes we are using in developing DOLLI will give any student some real life experiences that can help in his or her engineering technology career. To my knowl-

edge, York Technical College is the only technical college that has undertaken a robotic project of this caliber. I would encourage all electronic engineering students, as well as other engineering technology students to get involved in a project of this nature."

By the way, if you happen to visit York Technical College and see DOLLI rolling along the campus and halls, give her a wave. But don't get offended if she does not wave back—remember, she is busy making history!

—Cornelia M. Crawford,
Electronic Technology Major
Treasurer of York Technical College
IEEE Student Branch
Rock Hill, SC

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Funding for publication of the *ELECTRON* is provided by Duke Power.



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Send articles for publication and newsletter comments and corrections to me at Duke Power Co.-EC12R, P.O. Box 1006, Charlotte NC 28201-1006, p.colaianni@ieee.org or 704/382-5632/-0368 Fax. —R.Paul Colaianni, *ELECTRON* Editor

IEEE-UNITED STATES ACTIVITIES

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