

IEEE Berkshire Section Newsletter

Message from the Section Chair



Hello and Happy Holidays.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that have made the Berkshire Section of the IEEE successful in my two years as Chair.

First, I'd like to thank Jim McVeigh, for the fine job he did as our Newsletter Chair and for his patience with me. He also did an outstanding job as editor of our PCTV episodes.

Thanks also to the rest of the PCTV crew, Dave Rueger, Michael Forte, Allan Boschen and Carroll Kane. Allan has served as Chair for Engineers Week for the last 13 years.

Dave also was Chair of the Power Chapter and Michael served as our very competent Section Secretary.

Thank you also to the multi-talented Rich Kolodziejczyk, who chaired our Computer and Control Chapter, our Consultants Network and was our PACE Representative and our Webmaster. He was also often able to ask the "Hard" questions and served as our member's moral compass.

Thanks to our Education Chair George Haus. He and Andy Miller made a tremendous difference in our area schools. Andy also served as Section Vice Chair.

Our Section Treasurers position was very competently filled by Frank Fisher, who kept us fiscally aware. He also served on the Finance Committee with Rich, Michael, Dave, George and Jim. They restructured our finances and showed us the path to a balanced budget.

Thank you to Joe Slocik our Awards Chair for a job well done and for helpful advice when it was needed.

Thanks to Bernie Clairmont for seeing the need for an award and guiding it to fruition.

Thank you to all the members that were able to help me by providing advice and console - Tom Brennen, Rich, Carroll, Frank, George and Andy.

Many thanks to our support staff that gave us their time and effort. We could not have done it without you - Pat, Ardis, Jennifer, Rita, Lori, Cindy, Marilyn, Irene and Bunni.

If I have left anyone out, please accept my apologies and my thanks. It was a pleasure to

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serve as your Chair for these two years. Thank you once more for giving me this opportunity and especially for sharing your friendship along the way.

Berkshire Section Events

The IEEE Berkshire Section officers for 2010 are;

Chair – Bert Pritchard
Vice Chair – Andy Miller
Secretary – Michael Forte
Treasurer – Frank Fisher



Frank Fisher, Michael Forte
and Bert Pritchard

The 2010 Engineering Week dinner was held on February 18 at the Cork 'N Hearth in Lee. Colonel Barry L. Shoop, Deputy Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. Gave a talk on Teaching Innovation: Disruptive and Innovative Technology Ideation Course. The occasion was organized by Allan Boschen and Bert Pritchard.



Colonel Barry L Shoop speaking to the
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George Haus

The IEEE-USA Board of Directors selected George Haus as a 2009 recipient of the Precollege Teacher-Engineer Partnership Award for his work with Richard Sanders “for enhancing the learning experience of precollege students through a wide range of scientific activities.” The presentation of the award took place in Nashville, Tennessee on March 6, 2010.

Watch the award ceremony:

<http://vimeo.com/10338860>



Jacqueline Boino being present
The Outstanding Student Award
by Bernard Clairmont and
Bert Pritchard

Jacqueline Boino received an Outstanding Student Award from the IEEE Berkshire Section at the engineering week dinner meeting. Jacqueline won the MIT top Science & Engineering Fair award last spring with a simple device called the Bottle Catcher. She has a patent pending on the device.

On April 08 the IEEE Berkshire Section Consultants Network had a dinner meeting at Mazzeo’s Ristorante. The speaker was George A. Finn, PE President of Finn & Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc. The topic was what it takes to be a consultant and how to choose the “perfect” consulting field for you. The speaker described what challenges and opportunities he encountered along his path and what fun he had. When consulting, an individual needs to consider adaptation and redirection. The event was organized by Rich Kolodziejczyk.

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On April 10 the IEEE Berkshire Section Power Chapter hosted a plant tour of the CGIT Medway, Massachusetts plant. The Plant produces CGIT Compressed Gas Insulated Bus Systems. The event was organized by Carroll Kane and Dave Rueger.



Members of the Berkshire Section IEEE
Entering the AZZ/CGIT plant for the tour.



George Haus speaking to the Berkshire IEEE Section annual dinner
meeting about the 2010 High School Writing Contest.

The Winners of the 2010 High School Writing Contest are:

Grades 9/10

First - Alandra Lopez, Monument Mountain Regional High School; "Snow Crystals: Can Their Quasi-Liquid Surfaces Reveal a Better Understanding of Ozone Depletion Events?"

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests/910-1.pdf>

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Second - Stephanie Carvalho, Taconic High School; "Cantankerous Cravings"

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests/910-2.pdf>

Third - Sandy Moore, Monument Mountain Regional High School; "Burger Binges and McLots of Calories"

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests/910-3.pdf>

Grades 11/12

First - Sam Levin, Monument Mountain Regional High School; "The Intellectual Bug"

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests/1112-1.pdf>

Second - Kelsey Jenkins, C H McCann Technical School; "Forensic Chemistry, and Forensic Toxicology"

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests/1112-2.pdf>

Third – Anna Peters - Miss Halls' School; "Mantle Cell Lymphoma: My Grandmother's Story"

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/berkshire/contests/1112-3.pdf>

Prizes (1st \$500, 2nd \$400 and 3rd \$300)

The Winners of the 2010 \$500 award for Berkshire Section IEEE members children attending an accredited college were Justin Clairmont, Joshua Clairmont and Jill Carter.



Dave Rueger speaking to IEEE members and guests about thermography.

On August 26th the IEEE Berkshire Section Power Chapter hosted a talk on thermography at the EPRI facility. The speaker and event organizer was Dave Rueger.

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On October 6th and 13th the Computer and Control Chapter hosted a two part luncheon program at the EPRI Lenox High Voltage Laboratory. The program consisted of a description by Frank Fisher of the program Frequency Domain program FreCal – 10 on the 6th and the Time Domain program TranCal – 10 on the 13th. Copies of the programs were made available to those who wanted copies. The meetings were organized by Richard Kolodziejczyk.

Russell T. Harrison the Senior Legislative Representative for Grassroots Activities for IEEE-USA. Spoke to members and guests of the Berkshire Section IEEE at the October Dinner Meeting at Zucchini's Restaurant. The event was organized by Allan Boschen.



Russell T. Harrison speaking to members of the IEEE Berkshire Section

Region One Events



Group photo Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Student Branch of the IEEE and the EPRI tour guide

The IEEE Berkshire Section hosted a visit and tour at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) High-Voltage lab in Lenox MA on April 18th, 2010. The group consisted of 14 members of the Student Branch of the IEEE from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

The members ranged from freshman to graduate students pursuing EE, CSYS and EPOW majors at RPI.

The students were treated to an overview presentation of the lab facility and a walk around tour. The tour was guided by David

Rueger, a research engineer for EPRI who provided a close-up and personal view of the lab. The tour allowed the students to see first hand what high voltage research engineers do. It showed that engineering can be very interesting and exciting career.

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Other Events and Resources

IEEE Spectrum Online has a series of Webinars available at
<http://spectrum.ieee.org/webinar>

This Is Engineering
<http://womens.research.ucf.edu/Engineering/index.html>

On October 11 the IEEE announced the launch of the IEEE eLearning Library. The IEEE eLearning Library is composed of nearly 200 short, online courses in core and emerging technologies. Each course was developed and peer-reviewed by subject experts and awards continuing education units (CEU) or professional development hours (PDH) upon successful completion.

IEEE eLearning Library courses can be viewed in the IEEE Xplore digital library and accessed via the IEEE Learning Management System (LMS). The IEEE LMS allows users to keep track of their courses and progress, then print earned continuing education certificates. Users can choose between introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels for many subjects, learn on their own schedule, and resume a course where they left off at any time. Courses range from one to three hours in length and include notes, a glossary of terms, and a post-test. Topics range from smart grid and biometrics to telecommunications and green engineering.

http://www.ieee.org/education_careers/education/elearning_library/20040405