



MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING!

Thursday, December 14, 2006, network at 6:30, dinner (optional) at 7:00 PM, presentation at 8:00 PM.

Denny's Restaurant
3315 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

One of the topics we discussed at the last meeting was how to increase both interest in the group and attendance at our meetings. For that reason we decided to try moving the meeting back to Monti's La Casa Vieja in Tempe. The meals are definitely more expensive than at Denny's, but of course the food is quite a bit better there. Also, several people were of the opinion that Monti's would provide a more professional atmosphere. So for our first meeting of 2007 we will be back at Monti's, in the Senators' Room, where we've had many a meeting in the past. This will also coincide with a presentation by a notable speaker,

Alan Korwin, author of several books, including the *Arizona Gun Owner's Guide*. Mr. Korwin will speak on self-publishing, a timely topic that should be quite interesting. For this reason, we plan to make an extra effort to publicize the meeting. We have an additional issue with Monti's – we're expected to have at least 12 in attendance, or our treasury will have to make up the difference. I'm hoping that this will help motivate people who haven't been going. If we don't get close to the requisite number, we might as well go back to Denny's, or some other inexpensive place. The most effective way we can achieve this is to have everyone tell their colleagues, and to bring a friend if possible.

For our December meeting, we will still be at Denny's. This will be our annual business meeting. I'm hoping we can get some new people into the Executive Board. In particular, I don't want to continue as president for another year. I think it's time for someone else to take up the torch. I also think we should amend our bylaws to reduce our rather large and unwieldy executive board from nine to six. And as usual, we'll discuss what sort of activities we want to have for the coming year. So I hope to see you all at Denny's on the 14th of this month.

Vaughn Treude

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

Here we are at the end of another year. It has been an interesting one, and, at least for me, a profitable one in at least some ways.

There have been many recent developments, some good, some not so good. On the good side, we've had an announcement by NASA of a goal of building a base on the Moon. I'm not overly optimistic about actually seeing it happen, but "failing to try is trying to fail". Another good thing out of NASA was the announcement of the discovery of another 15 or so extrasolar planets by the Hubble Space Telescope, using a technique that the Hubble is not very well suited for. (The Kepler Mission is designing a spacecraft that will be suited for this technique, which makes the Kepler Mission look even more promising.)

Amongst the bad things is the announcement of the drastic decrease in coverage by the IEEE health insurance. I'm generally not in favor of government interference in such matters, but frankly, I think that the health insurance business has gotten out of hand. They keep complaining about the rising medical costs, but they have brought a significant portion of it on themselves. They require so much paperwork that the typical doctor's office now has more people shuffling papers than they do seeing patients. I've heard doctors complaining that they spend a quarter of their time trying to figure out what treatments a patient's insurance will pay for. And the insurance companies often take

months to pay their portion, and no patient will pay before the insurance company has done their thing, so the charges have to be adjusted upwards to reflect that (plus the multiple billing costs). Combine all that with the absurd malpractice situation, wherein a quarter of every dollar paid to a doctor goes for the doctor's malpractice insurance, and at least half the tests ordered by a doctor have nothing to do with the treatment of the patient other than to cover the doctor's rear end in case you decide to sue, and we have a real mess. Although I don't expect the Democratic Congress-elect to do anything about containing the latter costs, I would be surprised if they don't do something about the medical insurance system.

Back on the bright side, Lexus started offering the "self parking" system in the U.S. I have yet to get to the Lexus dealer for a demo, but it seems to me that it's a good first step towards the car that will drive itself. When the cars can drive themselves, and not have the intervention of the human passenger, drunk driving, amongst other things, will be a thing of the past. And going to the mall will be different: the car will drop you off at the door, then go find a parking spot on its own, then, when you're ready to leave, you'll "click" the little remote, and the car will come pick you up at the curb, even if you're at a different entrance.

Several years ago, I came up with this: "May the coming year be better than the old, no matter how good the old!"

See you all Thursday!

Clark Jones

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IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network December Meeting: Annual Business Meeting

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2006

Time: Networking begins at 6:30 pm

Dinner begins at 7:00 pm

Program starts at 8:00 pm

Abstract: In December we hold our annual business meetings, in which we elect officers for the following year, and discuss the priorities and future activities of the group. Non-members are welcome, especially those interested in consulting in the technical fields.

IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network January Meeting: Do-It-Yourself Publishing

Date: Thursday, January 11th, 2007

Time: Networking begins at 6:30 pm

Dinner begins at 7:00 pm

Program starts at 8:00 pm

Abstract: Alan Korwin, the author of numerous books, including the popular *Arizona Gun Owner's Guide*, will speak on the ins and outs of self-publishing.

**IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network
Membership Application Form**

Membership is available to anyone who is interested in the goals of the organization. Full membership entitles a member to voting privileges at business meetings, and to a web site listing. Associate members are not listed and do not vote, but receive all mailings. Note that the newsletter is distributed via e-mail.

I hereby apply for (full ____ associate ____) membership in the IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network.

NAME: _____
(Last) (First and initials)

IEEE member? Yes ____ (Membership number _____) No ____

P.E.? Yes ____ (States: _____) No ____

Area(s) of expertise: _____

Title: _____

Company: _____

Company address: _____

Telephone: _____ FAX: _____

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Preferred mail address: Work ____ Home ____ Signature: _____

Mail completed form with membership fee payable to "IEEE-PACN" to:
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