



MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

July 14, 2005, dinner (or just come to network) at 7:00 PM, presentation at 8:00 PM.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

The PACN seems to be one of the few local IEEE groups that doesn't go on hiatus over the summer. Attendance is usually light, but it's nice to have the opportunity to network and discuss technical topics with like minds. This month's talk will be an interesting one, and is bound to spark some controversy. Geoff Sutton of ETA Engineering will talk about "peak oil", the predicted time when the demand for oil will outstrip the supply. Most articles I've seen on this issue seem oversimplified – either the writer assumes total disaster or assures us that we have at least a 100 year supply of oil. I don't agree with either view, but I do expect the price of oil to continue to rise, and rise, and rise. In any case I expect we'll have a good discussion on this.

I did want to say a few words about something that's really been becoming irritating lately – identity theft. People worry about the web but

most identity crime seems to be low-tech. Most of us no longer put outgoing bills in our mailboxes, but what about incoming mail? This morning while walking the dogs I found a pile of discarded mail on the sidewalk. The credit card bills there were all opened, and I took them back to the house on the address. It surprised me that the bad guy did not keep the mail, shred it, and toss it elsewhere. That way it would have taken longer for the victim to get wise to the theft.

A month ago, my wife and I were victims ourselves. Our American Express number was stolen and used in an attempt to buy \$18000 worth of junk on the Web. We don't know how it happened because we didn't lose any bills, and we used that card at only one place – Costco. It could have been related to the data theft in Tucson. A friend of mine said, "pimplly-faced clerks are photographing peoples' credit cards with their camera phones", though I think it would be difficult to do at a place like Costco, with all the people around. At a restaurant that kind of scam would be ideal.

It's definitely time to apply more security to these transactions, like the use of a PIN or other secret code. (Some gas stations make you enter your zip code. I suppose it's better than nothing.) I'd personally prefer to pay cash for almost everything, but for some things you really need a credit card. And of course the government hates cash because they can't track the sheep that way. Being a software guy, I would certainly like to

work on a solution, but those darned politicians get in the way. And I personally would hate to do anything that made it easy for the cops, the spooks, or the IRS to spy on us.

Oh well, it's something to be aware of. And for people in our business, a problem can become an opportunity. It also sounds like a good topic for a future meeting talk.

See you at Denny's in July!

Vaughn

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

As I write this, I'm also trying to get ready to go to New Orleans for about a week. I've never been there before, so it will be interesting. I'm going there to attend the Mensa "Annual Gathering" -- our national convention. Based on previous AGs, though,

I've scheduled a few extra days to see the city. At past AGs, if I get out of the hotel at all, it's usually only to go to something at the "overflow" hotel. I will be back in time for the PACN meeting, as it sounds like a very interesting topic.

I also want to comment on something in Vaughn's message: the large crowds at places like Costco would actually seem to be more conducive to activities like using a cell phone to "scan" a credit card. How many times have you seen someone yacking on a phone in someplace like Costco? I know that I've even used my cell phone there. Someone using a cell phone is totally unremarkable, and many of them now have cameras in them. Would you even notice of the guy next to you in line were fiddling with his phone? Most of us would not. And there's plenty of light in Costco, so the camera phone won't need to use a flash.

Clark

Contact Info:

Editor:	Clark Jones	(480)641-7801	cjPACNeditor@cox.net
	Executive Board		
President:	Vaughn Treude	(602)750-3662	vaughn@nakota-software.com
Vice President:	C. Bruce Johnson	(480)759-2826	bruce.johnson@ieee.org
Secretary:	Eli Kawam	(480)706-8561	elikawam@mindspring.com
Marketing:	Ron Sprague	(480)966-1380	r.sprague@ieee.org
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Member at Large:	Lane Garrett	(480)966-1380	LaneGarret@aol.com
Member at Large/ Webmaster:	Paul Everett	(480)706-4753	peverett@ieee.org
Program Chair:	Michael Jordan	(480)456-6784	mike.jordan@ieee.org
Member at Large:	Ed Mischen	(480)752-6314	ed.mischen@philips.com
PACN Website:	http://www.ieeepacn.com		



Peak Oil: the Reality and the Aftermath
Geoff Sutton, ETA Engineering

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2005

Time: Networking begins at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.

Place: Denny's Restaurant
3315 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Abstract: This presentation brings an awareness of trends in the fossil fuels industry. The industry is gradually reaching a point where global demand for oil outpaces the supply. At current rates of consumption and drilling, there is no question that an inflection point will take place that will change the way we harness energy for our everyday needs. The main questions are: when will it take place and what can we do now to minimize any repercussions?

Speaker: Geoff Sutton is a sales representative with ETA Engineering. He offers renewable energy solutions and assists customers with their project development. He recently appeared on Fox 10 News to offer his perspective on the fossil fuels industries and renewable energy. He has worked in sundry firms all involved in the fossil fuels industry including banks, construction, automobile firms, and an advertising agency.

Directions: In Scottsdale, go west from Highway 101 and Indian School Road. Turn left on Scottsdale Road to head south. It is at the southeast corner on Scottsdale Road at Osborn Road.

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