



## MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

### PICNIC THIS MONTH!

**Date:** Saturday, May 19, 2007  
**Time:** Picnic starts around 2:00 PM  
Food served around 4:00 PM  
**Place:** Lane Garret's residence  
8502 E. Cactus Wren Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85250  
**Food:** We will provide burgers and hot dogs,  
sodas, plates, utensils, etc. Please  
bring one pot-luck dish such as a  
casserole, salad, or dessert.

**Directions:** From east loop 101, take the  
Indian Bend Road exit and head west. Turn left  
(south) at 86th street, then right (west) on  
Cactus Wren Road. Lane's home is on the NE  
corner of 85th and Cactus Wren.

From Scottsdale Road, turn East on Indian  
Bend Rd. Cross over Hayden Rd., continue east  
on Indian Bend Rd. and turn south on 84th St.  
which dead-ends into Cactus Wren. Go left on  
Cactus Wren one block.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

For some time I've been lukewarm on the  
topic of global warming. Yes, I think that  
the Earth is probably warming up, but I'm  
undecided about the cause. The Earth's

climate has been fluctuating for millions of  
years, long before humans were here.

One of the biggest problems is that it's  
almost impossible to get unbiased  
information on the topic. Much of the  
skeptical opposition to the notion seems to  
come from – or has been blamed upon - oil  
companies, and practically everybody has  
heard that the Bush Administration has tried  
to modify or censor reports on global  
warming by government scientists. On the  
other hand, the proponents of man-caused  
global warming are hardly free from self-  
interest. They include climatologists,  
whose funding increases in proportion to  
their scare-mongering, and manufacturers  
of energy-conserving devices, who  
sometimes try to outlaw their non-green  
competition. Politicians and bureaucrats  
have seen their power increase dramatically  
by using the global warming “crisis” as an  
excuse. In an ironic twist, global warming  
activists are also trying to silence the other  
side, as evidenced by the recent article in  
the Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

[http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/313162\\_global26.htm](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/313162_global26.htm). The article states that  
members of the UK's Royal Academy of  
Sciences are trying to force revisions to the  
recently-aired documentary *The Great  
Global Warming Swindle*, which was  
produced as a response to Al Gore's movie,  
*An Inconvenient Truth*. The documentary's

directory has made some minor corrections, but has called the scientists' demands “tantamount to censorship.”

It's appalling to see this kind of behavior from professionals who should instead be supporting a calm and rational debate. I admit that the majority of climatologists seem to support the anthropogenic theory of climate change. But, contrary to the popular misconception, global warming critics are not all extremist cranks in the employ of the oil industry. It's way too easy for parties who are allegedly “public spirited” to deny their own self-interest while mounting ad hominem attacks on the opposition. (A related example: because tobacco companies have lied to the public, anti-smoking zealots expect us to accept without question their own biased views of the dangers of second-hand smoke.) There are even a few people who break ranks with their own ideological fellows. I saw an interesting article by Alexander Cockburn on counterpunch.org – generally a left-leaning website – called “Is Global Warming a Sin?” which maintains that “the human carbon footprint is of zero consequence” in relation to the forces of nature. (See [www.counterpunch.org/cockburn04282007.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/cockburn04282007.html).)

Personally, I'm not worried about global warming. Over the past thirty years, having seen environmental scare-mongering over crises that never happened – mass extinction of songbirds, starvation in wealthy western countries, and so on – has made me a skeptic. Environmental fanaticism has also given rise to counter-productive policies – for example, the forced replacement of incandescent bulbs

with compact fluorescents containing mercury. That does not mean that I'm denigrating the value of alternate energy and conservation. The world is eventually going to run out of petroleum, probably sooner than we expect, in part because OPEC countries have no incentive to be honest about the true extent of their reserves. As the price of oil rises, alternate energy and efficiency technologies are going to make a lot of people rich. I just don't want the government meddling in this market – just as I don't want our military protecting the interests of oil companies in the Mideast.

Vaughn Treude

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

I was interested to see that Vaughn's column this month is talking about what I call “Global Warming Y2K Over Again”. I haven't had time to look at the websites he cites, but I do find it interesting that the temperature of Mars, Saturn, and Pluto have been increasing. Anybody care to try and tell me just *how* gas-guzzling SUVs are causing *that*?

I got to thinking, though, that I probably should make some small effort to watch *An Inconvenient Truth*, though from what I hear about it, *A Convenient Lie* might be a better title. A couple of days ago, I checked to see if I could get it from the Gilbert Library – the waiting list was 93 long. So

much for that idea. I'll try to get by Bookman's and see if I can get a "used" copy – the publishers/authors don't get any extra money for my buying a "used" copy of something. (If anyone has a copy they'd be willing to lend me, please let me know! The last thing I want to do is to actually encourage Mr. Gore!) Although the doom-sayers take for granted that "global warming" would be a bad thing, I'm not all that convinced. Yes, some islands would disappear if sea level rises, and some coastal regions will also be flooded (this might not be an entirely bad thing). However, detailed climate change prediction is very hard to do – so we don't know for sure which portions of the world will become better for growing crops and which will become worse. Another thing that they tend to gloss over is that a large portion of the dramatic rise in food production over the past hundred or so years is probably due to the increased CO<sub>2</sub> levels. CO<sub>2</sub> starvation is the major limiting factor for most (not all) of the plant species that we use for food.

Mr. Treude also missed a very large group that has a "vested interest" in creating panic: the media. They thrive on making things sound worse than they are, even (and maybe especially) to the point of panic. My experience in working in broadcasting some 30 years ago is that most of those folks only have an interest in the welfare of the person

they see in the mirror. The station or publication they work for is of concern only as far as it helps their individual careers, and as far as the "public interest" goes, it only matters if it "sells newspapers".

Off on a somewhat related tangent, some of you, at least, are aware that I've had one of Lane's companies install some "alternate energy" at my home. I've put together an "Impress" (the Open Office version of "PowerPoint") presentation regarding my system. I've given this presentation 4 times in recent weeks (Mensa, a Rotary Club, *One Planet Magazine's* monthly speaker series, and the Arizona Repeater Association). I'll be giving it again the evening of May 15<sup>th</sup> to MARCA, Inc. (formerly Motorola Amateur Radio Club of Arizona, but too few of the members currently work for Motorola, so they changed the name). The meeting will be at 6:00 PM at the Denny's at 1343 West Broadway, Tempe, AZ. (Down side is that you'll have to sit through the regular "business meeting", but visitors are welcome.)

By the way, I don't really think that my presentation is appropriate for PACN.

Anyway, see you all at the picnic!

Clark Jones

## Contact Info

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### Executive Board

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PACN Website: <http://www.ieeepacn.com>

## Phoenix Area Consultants Network Annual Picnic

In May, the PACN will hold its annual picnic in lieu of our usual Thursday-night meeting. This is a social get-together and non-members are welcome to come for fun and informal networking.

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Please RSVP to [vaughn@nakota-software.com](mailto:vaughn@nakota-software.com)

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For more information, contact Vaughn Treude, [vaughn@nakota-software.com](mailto:vaughn@nakota-software.com), or see the IEEE PACN website, [ieeepacn.com](http://ieeepacn.com).

**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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Web site URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Home telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred mail address: Work\_\_\_\_ Home\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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