



## MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Denny's Restaurant  
3315 N. Scottsdale Road (at Osborn)  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Meeting times:

Date: Thursday, November 8, 2007  
Networking begins at 6:30 PM  
Dinner begins at 7:00 PM  
Program starts at 8:00 PM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

As usual, it's taken me a while to get the program set for the upcoming meeting. For once, I started asking around a few weeks in advance, but I had difficulty finding someone who was free on that particular date. Jon Adams, who will be speaking to us this month about ZigBee wireless technology, gave his presentation at a recent IEEE Computer Society meeting. I was unable to attend but I heard it was a good one.

As for the following one, December will be our annual business meeting. This is the time when we traditionally elect new officers, or more commonly, re-elect the old ones. I've decided that I've been President long enough. To quote LBJ, "If elected I

will not serve." I hope we can cajole someone to take my place, but I personally don't feel obligated to find my successor.

Several of you have raised the question of whether this group still serves a worthwhile purpose. Those of us that attend, I think, at least enjoy the social and informative aspects of the meetings. The Consultants' Network has also been a valuable networking tool for me. Since I'm no longer an independent consultant, there's less of a rationale for me to be involved, but I will keep attending if we choose to continue the group.

Clark, who is pretty busy with his new post in Mensa, has indicated that he'd like to find someone else to do the newsletter. I'm willing to take that over again if no one else has an urgent desire to do it. If so, my editorials will be brief and I would won't be writing any more political diatribes, because I've found my outlet in that area.

While we're on that topic, I want to say that I've finished my first novel, which I've been working on in my spare time for the past couple of years. It's a mere 500 pages long, and I'm currently halfway through the second revision. It's called *Centrifugal Force*, which is a metaphor for the political events in the story. The short synopsis is that it's a science fiction novel about a

group of computer hackers who overthrow the government – but it's actually a bit more complicated than that. I've shown a few chapters to family and friends and I've gotten a favorable response so far. But we'll see what happens when I attempt to publish it at the beginning of next year.

The novel was one of the motivations for my decision to take a “real” job, because my consulting practice was eating up too much of my spare time. I made a serious effort at writing back in the 1980's and early 90's. I wrote five or six short stories and submitted them to several science fiction magazines, but didn't get anything published. Perhaps they weren't that good, but the market for short stories wasn't what it used to be, even back then. I started a novel, too, but for some reason had difficulty finishing it. But a few years ago I got the idea for *CF*, an idea that just wouldn't leave me alone. It was then that I tried applying software-development methodology to my writing, and that made all the difference. I would think about the plot while doing mundane chores like walking the dogs or driving across town. Once I had a detailed outline and scheduled times to work, I never again suffered writer's block.

Anyway, back to the PACN. It amazes me at how many years some of us have been involved in this organization. I'd like you all to be thinking about the future direction of the group (if any) which we will discuss in December. Until then, we'll keep in touch, and I hope to see you all at Denny's on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Vaughn

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

Unfortunately, I'm going to have to miss this month's meeting, and it's not because of Mensa. I think that many of you know that I'm involved in the ham radio community, especially in the Arizona Repeater Association. I've served on their Board of Directors for several years, but in recent months, they changed the day that they're having Board meetings so that they conflict with PACN meetings. In order to resolve this dilemma, I've applied the Amateur's Code, which states that ham radio is a hobby and therefore should generally not be allowed to interfere with a “job”, and since IEEE is, after all, a “professional society”, PACN usually wins. However, this month something has come up which needs my personal attention.

I'm sure sorry I'm going to have to miss this month's PACN meeting. It sure sounds like an interesting topic. I happened to obtain a copy of *Nuts and Volts* magazine recently (I really need to get a subscription), and there is at least one project in there based on ZigBee wireless technology.

Off on a totally different tangent, I encountered something interesting a few days ago. I was watching a show that I'd TiVoed off Channel 8, and they were talking with a gentleman from the ASU BioDesign Institute by the name of Roy Curtiss III, PhD. The really surprising thing though was that he sounded remarkably like Lane Garrett, both in his voice and his manner of speaking. (He was talking about

developing “vaccine platforms”, where it may be possible to create new vaccines in a matter of weeks rather than the months or years it currently takes.) They don't look much alike, but they sure sound a lot alike – to the point where it might be confusing to have them both in the same room.

As for editing *The Advisor* for the past few years, I'm certainly glad that I've been able to do it. However, having someone else take it over would be a relief. I expect to be traveling more during 2008, and getting it out will sometimes be awkward. Please

remember that the December meeting will be on Dec. 13. I'll be in Florida from Nov. 29 through Dec. 6, but that will get me back in time to do *The Advisor* the weekend before the meeting.

Anyway, enjoy the meeting, and have a Happy Thanksgiving. Please have a thought, or if you are so inclined, a prayer, for our service people who are in Afghanistan and Iraq this holiday season.

Clark

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

## **IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network November Meeting: ZigBee Wireless Technology and the IEEE802.15.4 Protocol**

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### **Abstract:**

The cost of networking sensors has always been an impediment to deploying geographically dense sensor systems. With the advent of IEEE 802.15.4 and mesh networking technologies like ZigBee, the cost and complexity of connecting sensors and control elements is no longer an issue. Find out how IEEE 802.15.4 works, get an overview of the ZigBee wireless networking and the function of the ZigBee Alliance, and hear how the technology is being used in market-leading innovative applications.

About the speaker: Jon Adams is a director of wireless technology and strategy at Freescale Semiconductor Inc., and an authority in wireless including ZigBee, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, WiMax, Ultra Wideband, NFC/RFID and Cellular (2/3/4G) technologies. He is experienced from circuit-level implementation to regulatory policy to market strategy in the handheld, mobile connectivity, multimedia, industrial, residential control and monitoring markets.

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