



MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

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

Meeting times:

Date: Thursday, September 13, 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 you know if you've read my column last month, I'm slowly readjusting to the rigors of a "normal" job. It's not bad, though, because my employer is reasonably flexible about working hours. They let me work a 9-6 day, while my wife works at the University of Phoenix from 6-3. (Her group deals with students on the East Coast, so that shift works well for her.) That way I can get our son ready for school in the morning, and she gets home about the time his school lets out. I'm an early riser, so this schedule also gives me time to work on my writing projects in the early morning.

Speaking of work, this month's topic is one I'm pretty familiar with. Shields Fair will speak about his company Alter-Air, which

makes an innovative high-tech air conditioner that saves energy. At present they're only doing commercial installations but the system should also work well for new residential construction. I've done some work on this project and have found it both interesting and challenging. Shields is also familiar with a number of other energy-saving technologies so I think he could answer many of your questions in this area.

Another "plug" for Linux: As people upgrade to new computers, many people end up trashing the old ones. (I've collected many of my PC's this way!) But if you have the space and the inclination, an older system can provide a good opportunity to set up a Linux system. Installation media is available over the web. Installs are quite easy now, and Linux recognizes most hardware automatically. I've recently been playing with video and audio capture, and I believe that the free tools you can download for Linux are often better than commercial products costing hundreds of dollars. (There are also Windows versions for some of these products, but I believe that the Linux versions have better support.) In the past, Linux tools were almost all the "command line" versions; now there are GUI alternatives for almost everything. But I prefer the old-fashioned command line,

because you can write scripts to automate your process.

For example, it's easy to write a script to automate the “ripping” of a CD to MP3 files, using tools such as “cdparanoia” (which loads tracks as WAV files) and “lame” (a free MP3 encoder.) You can also write the MP3 files' informational tags – artist, album, title - with “mp3info”. The track information gets downloaded automatically from the web when you play the CD on your computer; it's saved in a specific directory, usually “.cddb” or “.cddbslave.” From the CDDB file, you can extract the pertinent text using tools like “grep” and “sed.” The MP3 files can then be loaded into an i-Pod or other device – my Nokia web tablet can also play them. Another option these days is to simply buy a large-capacity memory stick. I recently spent \$69 for an 8-GB stick, which has room for about 2000 average-sized audio tracks. Invest in some good headphones (I personally despise earbuds), and you can play them on any PC with audio capability. I should note that despite the fact that over the years, I've spent many thousands of dollars on music, the RIAA would probably prefer me to re-buy all these songs that I've already purchased. So I won't say whether I've actually done any of this. But I won't shed a single tear when – as I expect to happen over the next few years – the record companies go bankrupt one by one. In the end, the artists will benefit, because they can now sell their music directly online, bypassing the middleman.

See you on the 13th!

Vaughn

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

If you're alert, you'll have noted that this month's issue of *The Advisor* is actually showed up early. The reason is that I'm going to be out of town for several days due to my duties as “Regional Vice Chairman” in Mensa. I expect to be back the afternoon of the 13th, so should be able to attend the meeting that evening.

This month's issue is also different in another way. Gene Baxter sent me a “want ad”, and asked that I run it in *The Advisor*. This is a first, at least in the time that I've been editor.

Being “RVC” is certainly interesting. You might be interested in knowing that I got over 900 e-mails related to that position in the month of August. I also spent a few hours on the phone, and a few hours revising a web page that hadn't been updated in about 5 years. And I even had to stand in line at the post office to mail some packages. I also have to write a monthly column that goes to 12 newsletters, with a total circulation of over 5000.

Off on a different tangent, I don't know about you, but it seems to me that this setting of new weather records is getting to be like the proverbial “broken record” itself!

This month's meeting sure sounds like an interesting one. See you then!

Clark

Contact Info

Editor: Clark Jones (480)641-7801 cjPACNeditor@cox.net

Executive Board

Position	Name	Phone	e-mail	Board term thru
President:	Vaughn Treude	(602)750-3662	vaughn@nakota-software.com	07
Vice President:	C. Bruce Johnson	(480)759-2826	bruce.johnson@ieee.org	09
Secretary:	Ron Sprague	(480)962-8183	r.sprague@ieee.org	07
Treasurer:	Bill Morgan	(480)921-4094	bill.morgan@cox.net	09
Member at Large:	Lane Garrett	(480)966-1380	LaneGarret@aol.com	07
Member at Large/ Webmaster:	Paul Everett	(480)706-4753	peverett@ieee.org	08
Member at Large:	Bob Bianca		Bob@BiancaForensics.com	08
Member at Large:	Ed Mischen	(602)717-9285	23putter@cox.net	08
Member at Large:	Ed Bawolek	(602)376-1755	bawolek@ieee.org	09

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

IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network September Meeting: The World's First Solar-Powered Air Conditioning System

Date: Thursday, September 13, 2007

Time: Networking begins at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.

Program starts at 8:00 p.m.

Place: Denny's Restaurant

3315 N. Scottsdale Rd. (at Osborn)

Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Abstract: Shields Fair, President / CEO of Alter-Air Corporation, (www.alter-air.com), will speak about his company's new, environmentally friendly and energy efficient cooling system, which utilizes a unique and proprietary heat exchange system. This system, which uses less electricity than most hand held hair dryers, is also capable of running on solar power, while conventional Air Conditioning cannot.

Alter-Air system is now in production for new commercial only.

For more information, contact Vaughn Treude, vaughn@nakota-software.com, or see the IEEE PACN website, ieeepacn.com.



“Classified Ads”

(Submitted by Gene Baxter on behalf of his son, Aaron.)

Information can be emailed to Robert Alcalá (ralcala@alcala-assoc.com). Mr. Alcalá can also be reached by phone at 520-623-7773 or they may fax resumes to 520-623-6918.

Electrical Engineer:

3 or more years experience as a designing electrical engineer for a consulting engineering firm. The experience needs to be for building application so the person needs to be capable of designing power systems, lighting systems, fire alarm systems related to a building. Also the person should be able to design lighting systems for parking lots, walkways, circulation drives, plaza areas, etc. Pay will be dependent on experience level.

Electrical Designer:

3 or more years experience as an electrical designer. This would mean the person may have over 5 years work experience with a consulting firm as most designers start out as drafters and move into the design side of the work. Must be able to design the same types of systems listed for the electrical engineer. Must have AutoCad drafting experience. It would be ideal to also be familiar with Microstation (Bentley) CAD software. Pay will be dependent on experience level.



**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: _____

E-mail: _____

Web site URL: _____

Home address: _____

Home telephone: _____

Preferred mail address: Work____ Home____ Signature: _____

Mail completed form with membership fee payable to "IEEE-PACN" to:
William D. Morgan Fees: Full member, IEEE Member: \$25
Treasurer, IEEE PACN Full member, non-IEEE Member \$30
23 E. Fairmount Drive Associate member: \$20
Tempe AZ 85282