

# *The Advisor*

Newsletter of the IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network

**August 2000, Volume 7, Number 8**

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## **IEEE PHOENIX AREA CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING NOTICE**

### **WHEN:**

Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2000  
Social and check in at 6:30 PM  
Dinner at 7 PM (Choice of six seafood dinners plus filet mignon and char-broiled chicken)  
Business meeting starts about 8 PM

### **WHERE:**

Pier d' Orleans Restaurant, 61 East University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85201  
(On the south side of University, between Country Club and Mesa Drive.)  
Phone: (480) 844 0666

### **COST:**

There are two menu choices. Meal cost will be \$14 or \$17 per person. If you come at 7:30 or so and do not eat, there is no charge. **NOTE:** As of January 2000, each visitor will be allowed three "free" meetings (that is, the same cost as members), after which there will be a \$10.00 surcharge.

### **PROGRAM:**

**HIGH-SPEED INTERNET OPTIONS—PROS, CONS AND COSTS:** We are planning a roundtable discussion on the new high-speed options in Internet access, such as DSL, cable, and microwave dish. Lane Garret has agreed to moderate the discussion. Members with experience with these new technologies (both negative and positive), and those who are thinking about getting on the high-speed bandwagon, are strongly encouraged to attend.

### **RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED:**

We need to make proper arrangements with the management at Pier d'Orleans. Therefore, *please call Bruce Johnson at 480-759-2826* (or e-mail [bruce.johnson@ieee.org](mailto:bruce.johnson@ieee.org)) *if you know you will attend.*  
If you decide to come at the last minute, please do so. Any restaurant can always serve one more meal.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Editor's Note:* At the time of publication, Bruce Johnson, who usually writes this column, was attending a conference in San Diego, so I've filled in for him.

The July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was sparsely attended. The last in the "Entrepreneurial Seminar Series" was shown. (Attendees noted that it was suspiciously reminiscent of the first, and that it *did not* mention anything about "retraining the mature engineer," so perhaps there was a mixup somewhere. In any case there were interesting discussions both before and after the tape.)

Our next networking/dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, August 10th, 2000, starting at 6:30 pm, at **Pier d' Orleans Restaurant, 61 East University Dr., Mesa, AZ 85201**. Lane Garret has agreed to moderate a round-table discussion on the new high-speed Internet options—pros, cons and costs. This is a timely topic that we can probably all benefit from.

Your executive committee works to offer presentations and develop programs of general interest and usefulness to our members. Somehow we also need to find ways to make our practices more successful. With this in mind, please attend our meetings as an active member, whenever possible, and bring your practice improvement ideas and comments with you to share with the network. To advertise our practices we do have a local web page, with individual member listings. Please come to our meetings prepared to discuss new ideas and approaches for improving the consulting activity for our members

As always, all members are encouraged to submit newsworthy items to Vaughn Treude, for inclusion in our newsletter, so please be on the lookout. Humor is welcome as well, especially if it relates to consulting. [Note: Executive Board meetings are usually held at 8:30 am on Saturday mornings 12 days prior to each monthly meeting. These meetings are open to all members. Please contact Bruce Johnson if you wish to attend.]

Our informal meetings are designed for networking, to communicate with each other on a personal and professional level, and to enjoy a program and a meal together as a group with a common interest and dedication to the enterprise of consulting. Summaries of the next few monthly meeting programs are listed separately in this newsletter. Be sure to mark your calendars now for the next regular PACN meeting on **Thursday, August 10th at Pier d' Orleans, in Mesa**

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### Kids and Napsters

It's official: Napster has gotten a stay of execution. I'm glad, for purely selfish reasons. I'd planned to check the site out, to see what all the fuss was about. I downloaded their software, didn't have time to try it out that day. Time passed, and on the Friday morning of what was to be Napster's last day, I tried to log in as a new user. Needless to say, the traffic was enormous and my task was impossible. Now I have another chance. It's not that I can't afford to pay for CD's; I have. But a friend told me there was also a lot of old and obscure music on Napster that you couldn't get anywhere else.

Yes, Napster promotes copyright infringement, even if its owners don't admit it. But I've always had mixed feelings about the concept of intellectual property. On one hand, I personally have produced anything of value that *wasn't* intellectual property of some sort. On the other hand, there's something very contrived about it. It's not like physical property. My car is mine; it has keys and an alarm system and if I catch someone trying to steal it, they may be greeted by Mister Twelve Gauge. But if I put a program on the market, it's like saying, "I've put a million dollars on the sidewalk a thousand miles from where I live. Please don't steal it."

The thing that bothers me the most about intellectual property is that there's no way the individual can protect it, like a house or a car. You need to depend on The Government, the same wonderful entity that insists on meddling in our lives and punishing the hard-working with punitive taxes. I don't like asking for *their* help if I can avoid it. Arguably, you can justify government protection of copyrighted material even from a libertarian perspective. The creator does deserve to be rewarded for his work. But there's no way the Government can protect this "property" without a systematic invasion of privacy that would make the Big Brother regime of Orwell's *1984* look like the Wild West.

It's got other flaws as well. The history of intellectual property law has a long list of abuses, where it has been used to punish competitors, silence critics, or just plain rob people. DC Comics sued its competitor Marvel Comics, saying its flagship series, Captain Marvel, was a rip-off of Superman—and they *won*. Disney sued the small left-wing journal *Ramparts* for publishing a satirical cartoon called "Disneyland after Dark," putting it out of business. Sal Zantz, the record exec who allegedly swindled the band Credence Clearwater Revival out of ownership of their music, sued ex-client John Fogerty for plagiarizing *his own music*. (I'm glad to say that he lost.)

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**Editor's Notes - Continued from page 2**

This problem has kept pace with changing technology. The motion picture industry tried to get Congress to outlaw the VCR—luckily, it failed. (As a testimony to their short-sightedness, they made far more money from selling videotapes than they lost from home recording.) The recording industry delayed digital audio tape technology so long that it became obsolete before American consumers had a chance to enjoy it. More recently, “investors” have bought up obscure, vague, patents and tried to extort money from entire industries—a man named John Katz claimed to hold the patent on all forms of computer-telephone integration. And encyclopedia publisher Compton’s claimed it had a patent on the concept of multimedia.

Am I suggesting doing away with patents and copyrights? I’m not willing to go that far (not yet), but I do believe that the concept of patenting software, and Internet business innovations such as “single click purchasing of books” (sorry, Amazon), should be abolished. Software and the Web are both pure information; patenting these are too restrictive of the free flow of ideas. Copyright has its place, for the time being. But it’s my fervent hope that some day we won’t even *think* of depending on this kind of protection, because governments’ budgets will be tiny and their power very limited. Maybe then everything will be shareware, or open-source, or protected by encryption. Maybe the artists or developers that create a public demand (Stephen King, Metallica, Microsoft) will need to keep their work top-secret until enough people and companies bribe them to release their work to the world. An unlikely scenario, but I believe it would be workable.

It’s true (and unfortunate) that Napster’s existence deprives artists of some income, but I don’t think it can possibly kill the music business. What is encouraging to me is that the government, despite the pressure from the RIAA, has allowed Napster to exist as long as it has. The freedom (that is, the relative lack of government intrusion, compared to many other countries) that allows “music sharing” to exist is one of the qualities that has made America great. Long live Napster!

*Vaughn L. Treude, Editor*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The July 29<sup>th</sup> Executive Board was cancelled for lack of a quorum. The next regularly scheduled is slated for 8:30 AM on Saturday, September 2, 2000, at Bruce Johnson’s residence in Ahwatukee. **Note:** These meetings are open to all members. Please contact Bruce Johnson if you wish to attend.

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**MEETING NOTICES**

**AUGUST 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

We have tentatively scheduled a roundtable discussion on the new high-speed options in Internet access, their pros, cons, and costs. Lane Garret has agreed to moderate the discussion.

**SEPTEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

The topic is consulting opportunities in Linux. The speaker is Jean L. Francois of Magusnet and Opnix, a successful Linux consultant and computer security expert. (I’ve heard him speak twice, and he’s a knowledgeable and interesting speaker . -Editor)

**OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

Consultants’ Network member (and alternative energy expert) Lane Garret will speak on exciting new opportunities for consultants due to utility deregulation.

**NOVEMBER 9<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

The topic for this meeting will be the Palm Pilot and other Personal Digital Assistants. No speaker has yet been assigned; a round table discussion is a possibility.

**DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

As always, we will have our annual business meeting in December. Members will vote to select executive committee members for the following years, and accept or reject changes to the by-laws (if any.) There will be other program or guest speaker, but non-members are still welcome to attend.

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**OTHER MEETINGS OF INTEREST**

We will gladly list other meetings of interest in this space. Contact the editor of this newsletter. We only ask that the meetings be of professional interest to our members. They do not have to be IEEE meetings.

*The IEEE Phoenix Section Executive Committee* usually meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 PM, and all IEEE members are welcome to attend. These meetings are currently being held at the SRP facility on Priest Road, between Washington and Van Buren.

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### ***Other Meetings of Interest - Continued from page 3***

The Phoenix Chapter of the **Independent Computer Consultants Association (ICCA)** meets the second Tuesday of each month with programs of interest to computer consultants, programming contractors, and others in the computer industry. Meetings are held at the West Coast Executive Park Hotel, 1100 North Central Avenue (just south of the Deck Park over I-10.) Meetings start at 6 PM for cocktails, 6:45 for dinner and 7:15 for the program (usually a guest speaker.) The cost of dinner is \$20 for members and \$25 for guests. Attending the meeting only is free for members and \$5 for guests. Call the ICCA hotline at 942-0667 for more information.

**Tempe Tech Oasis “Techie Tuesday”** – What is a Techie Tuesday? It's a chance to get together with friends and colleagues, talk business, talk shop, whatever you like... They are held at 6 PM on the second Tuesday of each and every month at different locations throughout Downtown Tempe. **Editor's Note:** The next scheduled meeting is August 8<sup>th</sup>. The last several have been held at The Owl's Nest Saloon at 501 S. Mill Avenue, Ste. 301 (the S.E. corner of Fifth and Mill - right above Hooters.) If you're interested, please verify the location by checking the web sites of the founding members of the event's sponsor, the Tempe Tech Oasis Alliance: The Arizona Internet Professionals Association ([www.azipa.org](http://www.azipa.org)), the Arizona Software & Internet Association ([www.azsoft.net](http://www.azsoft.net)) or the City of Tempe ([www.tempe.gov](http://www.tempe.gov).)

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### **INTERNET TOPICS**

The IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network maintains a web site with resumes of all members who wish to post one. It is a member benefit that is paid for in your membership fees. In addition there is a national directory of consultants and a national web site maintained by IEEE. The Phoenix network web site is:

[www.amug.org/~lanegarr/ieeephx.html](http://www.amug.org/~lanegarr/ieeephx.html)

[www.etaengineering.com/ieeephx.html](http://www.etaengineering.com/ieeephx.html)

[www.accessarizona.com](http://www.accessarizona.com) (select from groups menu)

### **MEMBER WEB SITES**

Several members have given us their URL's. If we have omitted anyone, please let us know. The “http://” prefix is implied for all addresses below. For non-standard URL's (those not beginning with “www”) this may need to be entered explicitly.

Paul M. Everett

[www.everettinfrared.com](http://www.everettinfrared.com)

Lane S. Garret

[www.etaengineering.com](http://www.etaengineering.com)

Daryl Gerke

[www.emiguru.com](http://www.emiguru.com)

Mark A. Goldstein

[www.researchedge.com](http://www.researchedge.com)

C. Bruce Johnson

[ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/CBJOHNSON](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/CBJOHNSON)

Andrew J. Maltenfort

[www.arowave.com](http://www.arowave.com)

William D. Morgan

[www.amug.org/~bmorgan](http://www.amug.org/~bmorgan)

Robert C. Rose

[www.gshelp4u.com](http://www.gshelp4u.com)

Arthur H. M. Ross

[www.cdg.org/tech/a\\_ross](http://www.cdg.org/tech/a_ross)

Richard L. Tannehill

[members.firstinter.net/rickw7rt](http://members.firstinter.net/rickw7rt)

Vaughn L. Treude

[www.nakota-software.com](http://www.nakota-software.com)

Stan Vollertsen

[www.stantronix.com](http://www.stantronix.com)

Walt White

[www.southwestsoftware.com](http://www.southwestsoftware.com)

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## ***The Advisor***

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### **Executive Board**

**President:** C. Bruce Johnson (480) 759-2826

**Vice President:** Lane Garrett (480) 966-1380

**Secretary:** Russell Johnson (480) 991-3787

**Treasurer:** Gene Baxter (480) 832-7744

**Member:** Paul Everett (480) 706-4753

**Member:** Vaughn Treude (602) 750-3662

**ADVISOR MEMBER LIST****August 2000**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>email</b>	<b>Area of Expertise</b>
Baxter, Dr. Gene K., PE	480-832-7744	480-832-7744	baxter@forensicgroup.com	Forensic mech. eng., stress, dynamics, kinematics
Beyeler, Bruce	623-876-2076	623-876-9463	bruceb@appliedminds.com	
Brown, Dr. Alexander C. Jr	602-866-9333		abrownj@hotmail.com	Electromagnetics, Reflector antennas, Tensegric struct.
Caplan, Regina R., CPA	480-838-7629		gina@ben-david.com	Accounting, income taxes
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Dwight, Robert H.	480-563-0605		dwightdesigns@compuserve.com	Software, embedded systems
Everett, Paul M.	480-706-4753	480-706-4753	peverett@everettinfrared.com	Electro-optics / Infrared technology
Fry, George	623-825-1645	623-825-6624	gfry@primenet.com	Semiconductor process, facilities, market research
Garrett, Lane S., PE, CEM	480-966-1380	480-966-1516	lanegarret@aol.com	New product development, alternative energy
Gerke, Daryl, PE	888-364-4878	480-838-9605	dgerke@emiguru.com	Electromagnetic interference and compatibility
Glenner, Edward J.	623-580-9380	602-943-8448	rhodesjen@aol.com	Stds. comm. TI-telecom, manufacturer's rep
Goldstein, Mark A.	602-470-0389	602-470-0389	markg@xroads.com	Information brokering, market research
Ingle, Arthur J.	480-899-9384		art_ingle@hotmail.com	
Johnson, Dr. C. Bruce	480-759-2826	480-759-2826	bruce.johnson@ieee.org	New product development, night vision, optical sensors
Johnson, Russell R.	480-991-3787		rjohnkozar@aol.com	Program / project and quality management
Jones, Clark	480-345-3638	480-345-8793	jones@tempe.tt.slb.com	
Kilcullen, William J., PE	480-969-7606	480-969-7612	kokali@primenet.com	Industrial facilities design
Koch, Edward, Jr.	602-953-2111	602-953-2111	ekochjr@worldnet.att.net	SW Project / program mgmt, embedded systems
Leverance, Neil C.	480-981-8883	480-981-5117	nLever@ieee.org	Control sys., meas. & test, automation, PLC's
Maloney, Chris	480-283-0025		cmaloney@stpaz.com	
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Mischen, Edward J.	480-897-9405		emission@worldnet.att.net	
Morgan, William D.	480-921-4094	480-921-4094	bmorgan@amug.org	Software design and development- Macintosh
Narud, Dr. J. A.	480-949-1748			Computer hardware, semiconductor technology
Polischuk, Andre	602-482-0890	602-482-3979	apolischuk@aol.com	
Pyska, Michael S.	480-283-6286		m.pyska@ieee.org	Microelectronics and embedded systems
Ritchey, Robert R.	480-460-2652	480-460-2653	rritchey@acm.org	FPGA devel., Mac/PC specialty cards, networking
Rose, Robert C.	480-595-1187		bob.rose@ieee.org	
Ross, Dr. Arthur H. M.	602-371-9708	602-336-7174	a.ross@ieee.org	CDMA, wireless communications
Sprague, Ronald L., PE	480-962-8183	480-962-8183	r.sprague@ieee.org	Power Engineer
Sullivan, Robert M.	480-948-3242	480-948-3242	sully@goodnet.com	Product development: high perform. tech. computer pkg
Tannehill, Richard L., PE	623-435-9584	623-435-9584	rickw7rt@firstinter.net	Telecommunications
Trask, Chris	480-966-7395		ctrask@primenet.com	
Trelewicz, Jennifer Q.	480-832-7422		trelewicz@asu.edu	Embedded systems, DSP, Unix device drivers & nets
Treude, Vaughn L.	602-750-3662	623-412-0916	v.treude@ieee.org	Software design & develop., SECS/GEM, industrial
Vollertsen, Stanley A.	480-774-0803	480-774-0809	stan@stantronix.com	Power conversion and prototyping
White, Walt	602-791-8029	602-494-3585	walt_white@southwestsoftware.com	

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