

The Advisor

Newsletter of the IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network

September 2000, Volume 7, Number 9

IEEE PHOENIX AREA CONSULTANTS NETWORK MEETING NOTICE

WHEN:

Thursday, September 14th, 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:

CONSULTING OPPORTUNITIES IN LINUX The speaker is Jean L. Francois of Magusnet and Opnix, a successful Linux consultant and computer security expert.

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) *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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had twelve people at our August 10th PACN scheduled monthly meeting at Pier d' Orleans Restaurant. The topic of discussion, led by Lane Garrett, was Internet Connection Options. No one service is best for all users, and there is much development in this field now, so "stay tuned."

Our September 14th meeting will feature security consultant Jean Francois, who has offered to give us an update on Linux. This dinner meeting will be held, starting at 6:30 PM, at **Pier d' Orleans Restaurant in Mesa**. (See the meeting announcement on the previous page.)

During the Labor Day Weekend I attended the IEEE 2000 Professional Development Conference held in Scottsdale. There was a mixture of both good news and disturbing news discussed at this conference. I'll have more on this meeting in a later report.

Have any of you registered with Teltech's "expert marketplace?" It is partly a way to obtain a free listing for your practice, and it facilitates selling your consulting expertise. If you haven't looked into what Teltech has to offer, more information is available on their website at www.teltech.com/expertmarket/default.asp. Teltech is a well-regarded and relatively old expert consultant organization that is now making use of the web to a greater extent.

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. Our member listings in *the IEEE USA Directory of Electrotechnology and Information Technology Consultants* were not continued this year, primarily because this has not generated any consulting work for our members. However, members are encouraged to consider this listing service on an individual basis. Please come to our meetings prepared to discuss 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 monthly PACN meeting on **Thursday, September 14, 2000, at Pier d' Orleans, in Mesa.**

URLs Of Possible Interest

The home of the IEEE's Consultant's Networks, plus resources for entrepreneurs, researchers, and others seeking information on grant and business opportunities: www.ieeeusa.org/business/

A web page for consultants is located at www.consultme.com. Services are listed by skill, specialty, name company name or professional title, and by location and availability. There is a fee for this service.

IEEE-USA's Web Employment Services Offered Worldwide: IEEE-USA's benchmark Web-based employment services are being made available and promoted to IEEE members worldwide. A new global employment services Web page describes how job seekers and employers outside the United States can avail themselves of the organization's Job Listing Service, Resume Referral service and consultants database. The site, located at www.ieeeusa.org/employment/global, also contains an invitation for non-U.S. regions and sections to contact IEEE-USA for assistance in promoting these services to their members.

A good general website for all of us in the PACN is www.ieeeusa.org. All IEEE PACN members, who are IEEE members, are strongly encouraged to obtain an IEEE email address, i.e. SMTL. You may do this quickly by starting at this URL.

EDITOR'S NOTES

I Feel the Need ...

I'd like to do an informal poll—how many of you have “fat pipes” to the Internet? If so, what type? It's an appropriate question, because last month's meeting topic was “high-speed Internet options.” I regret that I had to miss that meeting, although it was good to be away from the Phoenix blast-furnace. I've been trying to decide whether to get rid of my own 50k (or slower) bottleneck. In mid-July, I got a sales call from US West, and the guy said they had a “free installation” special on their DSL. It looked like a good deal, not much more than I'm paying for my two lines now. I was busy at the time, so I asked the guy to call back, but he never did. I missed their special, but I'm sure there'll be others.

Surfing the Airwaves

While we're on that topic, there's been a lot of hoopla lately about Internet radio. I think it was Ford that was talking about planning to put an Internet device in every car. (Now, where do we get the broadband connection for *that*?) There are definitely some cool products coming into the marketplace. The hardware guys are finally “getting it”; instead of trying to centralize everything and force everyone to buy more and more powerful computers, we need to decentralize and put intelligence into smaller, embedded devices. For Internet radio, you need streaming audio, which is pretty resource intensive. Doing the audio in a separate device frees up cycles in the computer, and more importantly, frees us from the computer itself.

There are at least two of these products on their way to the marketplace: Kerbango, which has recently been bought by 3Com, and Penguin Radio. It's interesting to note that the software in both are based on Linux. For now, they say that a dialup connection is tolerable, but for CD-quality sound you need broadband. In the future, they may be providing coverage by satellite. This is something that is sorely needed. I was reminded of this on my recent visit back to my home town in North Dakota. Not only are there few options for Internet connections in the rural areas, but most of the radio stations there are pretty awful.

Slamming the Board(s)

I hope that some of you got a chance to follow the recent series in the *Republic* about the troubles with the Board of Medical Examiners (BOMEX.) It lends support what I've been saying: government agencies are not competent to determine professional competence. (They can't even decide what skills to require for high school graduation!) In the final article of the series, they published a list of “reform ideas” that have been tried in other states. The best idea was to have the Board delegate billing issues to someone else (the Better Business Bureau?) and only handle serious cases. Of course, lawmakers have a way of forcing licensing boards to deal with trivial issues (like unpaid parking tickets) whether it's a good idea or not. The strangest idea they mentioned was to have all the examiners be “full time state employees.” Perhaps they'd be motivated by the low pay. Of course, the free-market option of privatizing the board (and allowing competition) wasn't in that list.

It's That Darned Penguin Again...

Our next meeting promises to be a good one. We've lined up Jean Francois, a local network consultant, to speak on consulting opportunities with the Linux operating system. Although we've had some interesting talks on Linux before, I thought it would be good to get the perspective of someone who is currently making money from Linux-related consulting. I've heard him speak twice, and he always gives a fascinating talk. Hope to see you there!

Vaughn L. Treude, Editor

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

This month's regularly scheduled executive board meeting was formerly slated for Saturday, September 2. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the meeting will be replaced by a Internet-based conference sometime this week. (This is an experiement for us, we'll let you know how it goes!) **Note:** Regularly scheduled meetings are held (almost) monthly at 8:30 AM on Saturdays, at Bruce Johnson's residence in Ahwatukee. These meetings are open to all members. Please contact Bruce Johnson if you wish to attend.

MEETING NOTICES

SEPTEMBER 14th 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.

OCTOBER 12th MEETING

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

NOVEMBER 9th 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 14th 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.

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.

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 602-942-0667 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. The next scheduled meeting is September 12th, at The Owl's Nest Saloon at 501 S. Mill Avenue, Ste. 301 (the S.E. corner of Fifth and Mill - right above Hooters.) The sponsor of this event is the Tempe Tech Oasis Alliance. Founding members: The Arizona Internet Professionals Association (www.azipa.org), the Arizona Software & Internet Association (www.azsoft.net) and the City of Tempe (www.tempe.gov.)

The next meeting of the **Institute of Management Consultants** is scheduled for September 8th, 2000, from 7:00 to 9:00 AM, at the the University Club (39 E. Monte Vista Road.) The speaker will be the organization's chairman, Jerald M. Savin, CMC, CPA, who is a recognized author, speaker and teacher on information technology, automated business information systems and management consulting. Cost is \$20 for members with reservations, \$25 at the door. Cost for visitors is \$5 extra. RSVP: Please call Julie at (480) 423-0263 by Tuesday, September 5th to make a reservation. **Editor's Note:** Sorry, I meant to get this newsletter out a littler earlier...

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

www.etaengineering.com/ieeephx.html

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
Lane S. Garret	www.etaengineering.com
Daryl Gerke	www.emiguru.com
Mark A. Goldstein	www.researchedge.com
C. Bruce Johnson	ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/CBJOHNSON
Andrew J. Maltenfort	www.arowave.com
William D. Morgan	www.amug.org/~bmorgan
Robert C. Rose	www.gshelp4u.com
Arthur H. M. Ross	www.cdg.org/tech/a_ross
Richard L. Tannehill	members.firstinter.net/rickw7rt
Vaughn L. Treude	www.nakota-software.com
Stan Vollertsen	www.stantronix.com
Walt White	www.southwestsoftware.com

The Advisor

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Treasurer:	Gene Baxter	(480) 832-7744
Member:	Paul Everett	(480) 706-4753
Member:	Vaughn Treude	(602) 750-3662

ADVISOR MEMBER LIST**August 2000**

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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
Craig, Howard	480-964-7996		howardCraig@earthlink.net	Labview programming, test engineering
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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
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Johnson, Dr. C. Bruce	480-759-2826	480-759-2826	bruce.johnson@ieee.org	New product development, night vision, optical sensors
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Koch, Edward, Jr.	602-953-2111	602-953-2111	ekochjr@worldnet.att.net	SW Project / program mgmt, embedded systems
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Narud, Dr. J. A.	480-949-1748			Computer hardware, semiconductor technology
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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	
