

Newsletter of the  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Clark Jones has officially taken over as Editor of The Advisor with this issue. Publishing our newsletter is one of the most critical and important functions of the Network. Thank you very much, Clark, for agreeing to lead this effort. We know that The Advisor is in very good hands. Also, a special thanks to Vaughn Truede for the many years he was our editor and for his exceptional effort and the high quality newsletter that he put out.

At our last meeting at Monti's I suggested that it might be interesting if in each issue of The Advisor one of our members wrote a short article describing some of the work that he does. We all have an interest in technology and would probably like to know what our friends and colleagues are doing. This gives you, our members, an opportunity to tell the rest of us something of the "nuts and bolts" of what you are doing and what it's good for. Aside from anything else, this gives you a good networking opportunity. You never know when someone out there just might be reading The Advisor and realize that he or she knows someone who needs done just what you do. Never pass up an opportunity to generate business. You can take the "30 second commercial" you give at our monthly meetings and expand a bit by putting in the technical details. How often do you actually get an opportunity to address an audience that is actually interested in the technology behind what you do and in understanding how things work? After all, this is an engineering group.

In any event, Clark suggested that since I suggested the whole thing in the first place that I write the first article. It seemed that I was trapped with no way out so I agreed to do it, and a short article on remote or non-contact temperature sensors is in this issue someplace. [ed- There were "production problems", so it will hopefully appear next month.] I am sure that most if not all of you are more than a little tired of reading what I have to say. A very good way to keep this to a minimum is to keep Clark supplied with a backlog of articles. He can then insert one into each issue. If he runs out, I might feel inclined to write another one just to fill the gap, and you really don't want that to happen. Email your articles to [jones8@mindspring.com](mailto:jones8@mindspring.com). The article should be in a format that Clark can cut and paste into the newsletter. Retyping services are not provided. Also, any figures should be embedded into the article. Email Clark with any you have questions you might have. [ed - Please wait until I have resolved the problems if you want to include graphics see my editorial]

Our web site is up and running. The URL is <http://www.ieeepacn.com>. Visit the site and tell us what you think. I am acting as the temporary webmaster until we get a permanent one. Hopefully, that will happen soon. So for the time being send your comments to me at [peverett@ieee.org](mailto:peverett@ieee.org). Your comments will help us improve the site and make it more effective. So far we have only three resumes on the site, but we do have several members who are actively putting their resumes together. Each PACN member has an individual page on the web site for his or her resume. Most of the pages have only the person's name at the top, because no resume has yet been submitted. We really need resumes from everyone to make the whole site effective. Please take the time (and it shouldn't take very long) to take your resume and put it in the format appropriate for the web site. Use the same organization, section headings, bullet structure etc. as the resumes that are already posted on the site. Consistency will give our web site some class and instill confidence in our organizational ability and competence. You don't have to use all of the sections someone else does. And if you need a new section heading, add it. But we need to keep the sections in the same order and generally follow the same format. Send your resume in a format that we can cut and paste into the HTML editor. Any standard word processor such as Word or WordPerfect will work. Again, typing services are not provided. Everyone should always have his resume up to date at all times. If on the off chance yours is not, here is a very good opportunity to correct this oversight. Anyway, we really need everyone's resume to get the web site rolling. Until we get our webmaster, email your resumes to me.

### *President's Message, Continued*

Our April meeting was held as usual on the second Thursday at Monti's. Roy McAllister returned to talk to us about hydrogen fuel cell technology. We had the best turnout we've seen in some time. We also had some visitors who have recently located to the Valley and hopefully will become regular members of our group. We could use another physicist or two.

Our meeting this month is the annual picnic. As usual, it will be held at the Garrett home near Indian Bend and Pima (Loop 101) in Scottsdale. The address is 8502 E. Cactus Wren Road, Scottsdale 85250. If you go to <http://maps.yahoo.com>, you can get a map that shows you how to get there. Festivities will start about 3 PM on May 11 with the consumption of edible products a couple hours later. Bring your families and any prospective PACN members you know. We always have a good time at the picnic. The Network will provide hamburgers, bratwurst and soft drinks. The rest is potluck. Bring a side dish, salad, baked beans, whatever. Also, if you want beer or wine, you have to bring it with you. Please RSVP to me at [peverett@ieee.org](mailto:peverett@ieee.org) or Vaughn Truede at [vaughn@nakota-software.com](mailto:vaughn@nakota-software.com) with the number of people who will come. We need a reasonably accurate headcount to get the food. We will be sure to get some extra to cover folks who come at the last minute. Lane has a large backyard but not enough chairs for everyone. Please bring lawn chairs if you have them. If not, bring a blanket. There is grass.

The Network is going to put on its third Consultant's Workshop in the Fall. As in the past the workshop will be co-sponsored by AICN, our national organization. Our two previous attempts were very successful, and we expect that this one will be even better. Bruce Johnson is heading up the organizing effort, and things are moving right along. The tentative date for the workshop is November 2 so mark it on your calendars.

We have lined up the programs for the rest of the year. Ed Koch is going to talk to us at the September meeting. He used to do a lot of consulting for Ford (at least I think it was Ford), and he spent a lot of time living out of a suitcase in Detroit. He got tired of that and is spending most of his time at home now. Anyway, his experiences will be both interesting and useful to the rest of us. Jim Soudriette is going to talk to us in October. Jim is a very successful management consultant. He talked to us a couple of years ago, and his talks are always good. Lane Garrett is going to tell us in November just how easy it was to get all of the regulatory approval needed for the "First Stand Alone Solar Building in the Valley" which is also the title of his talk. I think he is also going to tell us something about the technical side of the thing. In December, of course, we will have our annual business meeting and roundtable discussion on the state of the Network.

The upcoming meetings and programs are:

May 11	This is our annual picnic. Come and have a good time.
June 14	Bill Morgan will tell us about flight simulation technology, which is what he does to put bread on the table.
July 11	Russ Johnson will talk about the practical applications of solar energy.
August 8	We are planning to have a presentation on using job shop assignments effectively.
September 12	Ed Koch will talk to us about his very successful consulting practice.
October 10	Jim Soudriette will talk about management consulting.
November 14	Lane Garrett will talk about the all solar powered building ETA Engineering is doing in Tempe.
December 12	Annual business meeting and roundtable discussion

See you at the picnic..

### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

I have a few things to apologize for this month. First is that I didn't get The Advisor out a bit earlier. The second is that the quality of the newsletter is not up to what I really want to do. And finally, Paul's promised article didn't make it into The Advisor this month.

All three have the same root causes: the fact that I'm trying to do things that I've never done with the software I'm using, and not having a lot of time to "tinker" with it.

The files that Paul sent me have taken a rather circuitous route to make it into the final product. Paul sent Word ".doc" files. Since I don't have Word, and Word isn't even available for the machines that I have available, I had to figure a way to import them. Unfortunately, I think that Paul's Word is more recent than my WordPerfect, as the

***Editor's Notes, Continued***

latter gives a nasty-gram about "unrecognized file format" when I try to import them directly. I happened to think to try StarOffice, and was able to get it to import the documents, however, SO has a problem in that it can't write PDF files directly. (Besides, SO's word processing capabilities really use a lot of CPU "horsepower", and I'm doing this on a 233 MHz MMX, so it's, shall we say, not very responsive.) I was able to get SO to save the files to RTF (Rich Text Format), which WP was very happy to read. However, there was a problem in importing the graphics images in Paul's article on temperature sensors. My choice boiled down to either getting The Advisor out today without the article, or putting it off until next week and including the article. Since most of us like to have time to plan for the meetings, I decided that getting something out was more important. I'll tinker with getting Paul's article to load nicely into WP, including the graphics, and with a small modicum of luck, will be able to include in next month's edition.

Meanwhile, let's enjoy the picnic!

[Webmaster's note: I converted Clark's text files to PDF files retroactively. – VT]

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