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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Everett

Our January meeting is on the 9th. Lane Garrett will talk about applications of solar power. Lane was originally going to talk in November, but he was called out of town on business. So this is your chance to learn something about renewable energy. Originally, Lane was going to tell us about the all solar powered building ETA designed for the Tempe lake front. In the end, bureaucratic problems kept the building from being all solar, but I expect that Lane will discuss the technical issues related to that project as well as a more general overview of solar power.

As usual, the meeting will be held at Monti's at Mill Ave and Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. Festivities will start at 6:30 PM with networking and general discussion of world events. Dinner will be around 7 with the talk about 8. At least that's the plan.

The 2002 Consultants Workshop was held November 9 at the Hilton Phoenix East in Mesa. The event was very successful with excellent speakers from all over the country. The only disappointment was the lower than expected attendance. If I remember correctly we had about 26 attendees, and we were hoping for about twice that many. It was really worthwhile for those who did attend. The speakers were

really good. We
picked up very

good tips from those who have been there and done it. We learned a lot about marketing and how to do it. Gary Blank, from suburban Chicago, and Irwin Weitman, from Long Island, made presentations at the workshop we sponsored three years ago and made excellent presentations at this workshop as well. Gary had a very interesting way to show us how to network. Our local speakers included Jim Soudriette, Glen Madland and Lane Garrett. We learned a lot about the entrepreneurial side of things from Glen who is involved in the development of a blood flow sensor that looks like a revolutionary approach for the detection of blocked arteries, something of interest to everyone but especially those of us who have had more time to generate the blocking material. All in all the 2002 Workshop was well worth attending. Thanks to underwriting from the IEEE-USA that was arranged by Bruce we will come out financially neutral on the project except for the cost of providing one of the door prizes.

Some comments on the state of the Network and where we go from here are probably in order. Our attendance at the monthly meetings has been in the 12-15 range for the past several months which is about twice what it was a year ago. That is good, but it is only about half what it was five or six years ago. Our membership has been in the mid twenties but is probably pushing thirty

now since we picked up a number of new members as a result of the Workshop. Our primary task over the next year will be to continue grow both our membership and meeting attendance. We got some really good ideas from the roundtable discussion at our December business meeting, one of which is to reach out to the other engineering professional societies. We even had a volunteer raise his hand – needless to say that is a dangerous thing to do. In any case, we intend to take full advantage of the opportunity presented to us. A couple of years ago Bruce started a marketing function on the Board to address the membership issue and generally promote the Network. One of the agenda items for our next Board meeting will be to address this issue in a real and effective way and get things going. We have things going in a positive direction. Now we need to make sure that the bit of momentum we have is nurtured and increased.

We will have the Executive Board meeting at ETA prior to the Thursday dinner meeting. This seems to be a very effective way to handle things, and we will probably continue this way indefinitely, at least as long as the landlord continues to offer us these advantageous terms. ETA is located 2010 E. University, and the Board meeting will start at 5 PM. As always, any member is welcome to attend, but please let me know in advance if you are coming so we can make sure we have a seat for you. You can send an email to peverett@everettinfrared.com or call me at 480-706-4753. The board is setting up the programs for next year. We have programs tentatively identified that will carry us through October or so

but are still working out the details. We should be ready to announce the speakers in next month's *Advisor*. If you have any suggestions for speakers please forward them to me or any other board member. All input will be appreciated.

Check out our web site at <http://www.ieeepacn.com>. We really need to get your resume put on the web site. Vaughn Treude is our web master. Please put a resume together if you haven't already and send it to Vaughn at vaughn@nakota-software.com. Also include a list of your areas of expertise. If you already have your resume posted on the web (say at your own web site), we can put a link to it in place of your resume. A couple of our members requested this so that they don't have duplicate resumes out there to keep up to date.

See you next week.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

First, I would like to give my sincere thanks to Vaughn Treude for "pinch hitting" as editor while I was in Australia. It's always entertaining to read Vaughn's comments!

I had a really good time in Australia, starting with 9 days of vacation time in the Melbourne area, then ended up in Bathurst for four days for the IEEE-sponsored International Conference on Information Technology and

Applications (ICITA), and then another week's vacation in Sydney. The only bad point was that I pulled a muscle in my thigh while getting onto a "tram" (what we would call a street car) in Melbourne.

The ICITA had an amazing range of papers, mostly by people in academia. They ranged from a couple of papers on doing optical character recognition of hand-written Japanese text, to one on using 3-D laser scanning to map an archeological site (a burial chamber), to a suggestion of what chip architecture is going to be like in the near future (the author pointed out that with the shrinking feature size, we're rapidly approaching the point where the propagation delay across the chip will exceed the cycle time), and several on cell phone communications. The conference was really very well organized and was quite enjoyable.

At the New Year's Eve party that I went to I was chatting with an interesting lady, and we came to the conclusion that 2002 was full of "blessings in disguise" and "other things masquerading as blessings". Hopefully 2003 will have more of the former than of the latter!

I would like to mention that I'm going to host a Mensa party at my home on Feb. 15, and all PACN members are invited. I'll give you a URL next month with some more info.

Hmm... I recall that there may be some changes to the officer's list below, but I can't get ahold of our "illustrious" leader tonight, and don't want to delay sending this out any more, so my apologies of it's in error.

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