

Newsletter of the
Area Consultants
March 2003
Volume 10

The Advisor A

IEEE Phoenix
Network

Number 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Everett

The meeting this month is on March 13. As usual festivities start at 6:30 PM with networking (which is what we call social discourse). Dinner follows about 7 with the program at 8. We try to get out before 9:30 to keep the Monti's crowd from giving us dirty looks. I am away from all of my notes and the like so I am doing this from memory, and those of you who know me know that it is not too good. Anyway, Vaughn Treude and his partner are going to talk about "Fab5 Linux, A New Paradigm" or something very close to it. It sounds really interesting, and we seem to have developed quite a Linux contingent in the Network. Dinner is still cheap, but if you don't want to eat come around 8 for the program.

This month's message is going to be a bit short due to the extreme abuse to which I have been subjected over the past two days. I started by installing a new motherboard with a 2.4 GHz Pentium 4 with 1 GB of RAM in my primary computer. I was really looking forward to that, and it should have been a straightforward task to carry out. Unfortunately, the new motherboard was defective, and I had to send it back. Then I had to reinstall the old motherboard. By the time I got through with this, I was not a happy camper. Then I turned the old standby on, and

flames and
smoke shot out

of the upper right rear corner of the case. It seems that one of the electrolytic capacitors in the power supply failed as they have a tendency to do. And it didn't just fail; it exploded. The net result was that it took out that motherboard with it. My secondary computer is used for a lot of things and is sort of inaccessible at the moment. The net result is that I am using my wife's computer. This is the one she complains about all the time, because I put it together out of the left over junk I have laying around. The reason I got into this mess was so that I would have better stuff to use for her computer. Actually, my main computer has needed an upgrade for some time. I just needed to get around to it. I am also going to install two identical 60 GB hard drives and use one as a mirror of the second. Then when the hard drive fails I won't spend an entire week putting everything back together like I did a couple of years ago. Does anyone know of any good software that can be used to automatically do the backup? I think I can use some old software I used to use with my tape drive before it died, but there is probably better stuff out there by now.

Well, enough of my travails. Bruce Johnson, Ron Sprague, Mike Jordan and I attended a meeting of the engineering societies in the Phoenix area. The purpose of the meeting was to get cooperation going among the

various groups. There are a bunch of them, forty-some I think. There was even one group of military engineers. It turns out that there is a local chapter of an association of consulting engineering companies called American Council of Engineering Companies or ACEC. These are the guys that take on mostly government contracts, and each shop may have a dozen or perhaps fewer engineers. They don't fit our model very well, but they are consulting engineering types. Our customer bases, for example, are completely different. But I think there is enough common interest that we should probably try to get something going between the two groups. We will be looking into that. At our business meeting in December, the dominant idea that came out of the roundtable discussion was that we should reach out to other types of engineers and encourage them to join us. Ron and Mike are leading that effort, and this meeting was one step along that path. Mike printed a stack of our posters and had them there as a handout.

The Board really has to decide when and where to have the picnic at the Board meeting that will precede our March 13 dinner meeting. Scottsdale and Flagstaff are the two locations under consideration. If you have a preference, please let a Board member know before the 13th.

In April we will have the second installment from Ed Mischen on intellectual property. This one will include patents. Ed talked about copyrights and trademarks in February. May is traditionally the time for our picnic. However, if we go to Flagstaff, we may delay it until June. Bruce is

going to talk on Electric Windmills in whichever month is free. We still have a slot or two open during the second half of the year. If you or someone you know would be interested in giving a talk, please let one of us know.

Well, this is enough from me. I have to get back to solving my problems.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

If you remember my column from last month's issue of *The Advisor*, you may recall that I put together a new machine. I can sympathize a bit with Paul, though my problems were caused mainly by the credit card company fouling up my account.

Another item mentioned in last month's column was the Mensa party. It was successful, with about 18 people attending, including Mike Jordan from PACN. Everyone seemed to enjoy the party.

I've put together a "digital photo album" CD-ROM with the pictures and appropriate commentary from my recent trip to Australia. As an "added attraction" for this month's meeting, I'll bring several copies and give them to anyone who wants a copy. (It's set up so that you just open a file in your favorite browser, and then it looks just like an ordinary web site.)

Speaking of ICITA, I got an e-mail a few days ago from the gentleman who organized it. I'm including it later in this news letter.

I also notice that our illustrious leader forgot to mention that if you want to assure a space at Monti's, you might like to send him an e-mail at peverett@everettinfrared.com or call Paul at 480-706-4753.

Our web page is at <http://www.ieeepacn.com>. We really do need your input. Please send it to Vaughn at vaughn@nakota-software.com.

>>>>> E-mail received from Dr. David Tien <dtien@csu.edu.au>

Dear Clark,

I am sending this email try to find one project for my students. I have a group of top students (grades: Distinction and above) who would like to complete a software project in collaborations with an overseas university of company. Please let me know if there is a possibility in your institution, then I'll send you details.

I sent you a call for paper yesterday, but the date was wrong. It would be appreciated if you can add a comment and publish it in your institute or local ieee.

Many thanks in advance,

David Tien

----- Please cut here and forward:

Call for papers: Second International Conference on Information Technology & Applications (ICITA2004) www.icita.org

Details:

1. Conference location: Harbin, China (the place was formally known as Manchuria)
2. Date: 7 - 10 January 2004
3. Web site: www.icita.org
4. email: icita@ieee.org

We are looking for people to organise new tracks (topics) for this conference. Besides computer science and EE, we would like to see more people from the social science areas to attend. If there are more than 4 people interested in a new topic (see list on www.icita.org) and you are interested in heading it, please email icita@ieee.org

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Contact Info:

Editor: Clark Jones (480)641-7801

Executive Board

President: Paul Everett (480)706-4753

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

Secretary/Membership Chair: Eli Kawam (480)706-8561

Treasurer: Bill Morgan (480)921-4094

Member at Large: Lane Garrett (480)966-1380

Member at Large: Vaughn Treude (602)750-3662

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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. Please 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: _____

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