

Newsletter of the
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, August 14 at Monti's La Casa Vieja at the southwest corner of Mill Ave and Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. Networking and the social hour begin at 6:30 with dinner starting about 7 PM. Jim Soudriette and John Barnabas will have "A Dialog on New Technologies". This program was originally scheduled for September but was moved to this month due to a scheduling conflict. Jim is a management consultant who has been providing us with his incite full outlook on things general and specific for several years now. He finally fessed-up a while back and became a member of the Network. John is a long time associate of Jim and has attended our meetings on several occasions. This program promises to be both fun and informative. Jim tells us that we should learn something and enjoy ourselves in the process. Don't forget to do something creative with the big paper clip that Jim handed out a couple of months ago. I would not be surprised if there is a prize for the most innovative use of the device. Jim and John's program will start a bit after 8. Come then if you just want to attend (and probably participate in) the program and skip dinner.

Last month Lane Garrett, our resident alternative energy guru, gave a very

interesting talk on the use of wind power to generate electricity. His company, ETA Engineering, that has and is a major mover in the solar energy business in Arizona seems to be looking at the wind business as well. His talk was both very interesting and



informative. I know I learned a lot. There were enough questions to run us up to the 9:30 deadline when we were forced to cut things off and get out so Monti's could clean the tables and close the place for the night. Next month David Douthit will talk on "COTS, Contamination, and Contracts; a Critical Combination". David was originally scheduled to talk this month but graciously agreed to trade slots with Jim and John when Jim found out that he would be out of town on the second Thursday in September. David is a quality engineer who recently started his own consulting practice and joined PACN last year. His talk will center on quality time bombs that are just waiting to go off. After the latest Shuttle disaster this is certainly a timely subject.

Attendance at last month's meeting was 16 up by 2 from June but down from the 22 or so we had been running through the spring. We are in the summer doldrums now when a lot of folks have taken off for cooler surroundings for a bit of a break from Arizona's fine summer warmth. With the schools starting their academic activities over the next couple of weeks and everyone coming back from their excursions, we should be back to normal soon. We are now meeting in the Hacienda Room at the back (south end) of Monti's. The Hacienda Room is larger than the Senator's Room we had been using and will be able to hold our growing group for the foreseeable future. To get to the Hacienda Room go back from the front door around the bar to the back of the building. The Hacienda Room is just to the right when you get to back hallway. Instead of one long table there are several smaller ones that make for a cozier and more informal atmosphere.

Some time ago now I wrote a short article for *The Advisor* on non-contact temperature sensing, an area where I do a lot of work in my consulting and product development business. The hope was that others would do the same thing and write about what they do. The *Advisor* readers will find articles about the various fields of interest of our members interesting and informative. The key is to incorporate enough technical content to make the article interesting to an engineer from a different field but not so technical that only an expert can understand it. Why don't you consider writing a short article about what you do? It will be fun, and there is probably no better networking opportunity around. Who knows, someone may give you a call.

The Board is looking at what the organization can better do to serve the needs of its members. This is the major task in front of us and is an outgrowth from our roundtable discussion last December. Ron Sprague and Mike Jordan have formed a committee to lead this effort. The committee started as an effort to market our members' skills and generate contracts and job assignments. The committee's purview has expanded over the past year or so to a broader mandate. Mike is currently writing a Mission Statement that will more or less define what the organization does. The Mission Statement, of course, is fairly general in nature. When that is completed we will get down to addressing more specific issues. The Board is certainly interested in hearing what you think PACN should do for you. Please send any comments you have to Ron and Mike (copy both – it doesn't cost anything). Their email addresses are: r..sprague@ieee.org and jordan848@earthlink.net.

The programs for the rest of the year are:

- September– David Douthit will talk on "COTS, Contamination, and Contracts; a Critical Combination". David joined the Network last year and is a quality expert.
- October – Chuck Ptascek will talk about "Business Intelligence". Chuck is president of Charles, Charles and Associates and business intelligence is his area of expertise.
- November – New member Praba Kumarakulasingam is going to present a technical talk on his recent work. Praba is a software

engineer. We have decided on the subject matter but don't yet have a title. We will get that sorted out soon.

- December – This is our annual business meeting and roundtable discussion. We will have the elections for the Board. Then we have an open discussion of where the PACN is and where it ought to go. This is where we set the policy that the Board implements over the next year. Make sure you get your two cents worth in.

We will start putting together the programs for next year soon. If you have an interest in presenting one of the programs or would like to suggest someone else, please send me an email at peverett@everettinfrared.com. Also, let us know if you don't have a particular speaker in mind but have a subject area you would like to hear about.

If you haven't yet paid your 2003 dues, it is getting awfully late so please do so now. Send a check to

William D. Morgan
Treasurer, IEEE PACN
23 E. Fairmount Drive
Tempe AZ 85282

The dues are cheap, and think of all of the benefits you get from belonging to this fine organization. The regular membership dues for IEEE members are \$25/yr. If you are not an IEEE member, the cost is \$30/yr. The IEEE requires a difference in the two categories. Associate membership is available to those who are not actively engaged in engineering, and the associate member dues are \$20/yr. When you pay your

dues, Vaughn and Bruce will make a nice laminated name badge with 2003 prominently displayed. The badges are supposed to be worn at all of our meetings so please remember to bring it each time.

If you haven't done so already, please put your resumes together and send them to Vaughn so that he can post them on the web site. His email address is vaughn@nakota-software.com. Our web site is steadily improving, but we need your help. This is a free marketing tool that the Network provides to its members. The more participants we have the more effective it is. So get your resume posted and help everyone, most of all yourself.

We will again have the Board meeting at ETA Engineering prior to the dinner meeting. The Board meeting starts about 5 PM and winds up a little after 6. Any member is welcome to attend, but let me know if you are going to be there so we can make sure there is a place for you to sit. Just send me an email at peverett@everettinfrared.com.

Check out our web site at <http://www.ieeepacn.com>

See you on the second Thursday.

Paul

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

Wow! Here it is August already, and time to be getting another edition of *The Advisor* out! If you're like me, and filed

for the "automatic extension" with the IRS, remember, we only have a few more days to get the paperwork done!

Fortunately, I had my digital camera at last month's meeting, and Lane was gracious enough to allow me to take a couple of shots. I'm hoping that I can make a picture of "last month's speaker" a more-or-less regular feature. I'll try to keep the image files small – for one thing, my link to send this out isn't all that fast, so I do have to watch the file sizes. (Actually I'm toying with the idea of getting a new digital camera – I've been drooling over the Nikon D100. I'd love to hear any comments from anyone who has one.)

I've spent some time on my little project with the clip that Jim handed out a couple of months ago. I suppose I'm about half done with it. I know that I, for one, and definitely looking forward to seeing what folks come up with! I'm even more curious, though, as to what Jim has in mind with this little "assignment". One thing that I've learned in the years that I've known Jim is that it's generally worth while, and always fun, to go along with one of his little "schemes".

See you at Monti's at 6:30 PM on Thursday, August 14!

Clark

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PACN Website: <http://www.ieeepacn.com>

IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network Membership Application Form

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: _____

Company: _____

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Mail completed form with membership fee payable to "IEEE-PACN" to:

William D. Morgan
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Fees: Full member, IEEE Member: \$25
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