

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, November 13 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. Praba Kumarakulasingam is going to talk about software architecture. Praba is a software engineer who started his own consulting business a year or two ago and is serving clients around the country. Last month I incorrectly said he was going to talk about operating systems. They say memory is the first thing to go. In any case, Praba assures me that the talk will be of general interest and informative to all. Praba is very well spoken, and I expect that this program will have wide spread appeal. We all use computers, and some of us use them a lot. It will be very interesting to get an idea of how they do what they do. A number of us (certainly not including me, but I do have a son that does that sort of thing) are professionals in the business, and I expect we will see a very lively discussion on the topic. The program will start a bit after 8 so come then if you want to skip dinner, and it won't cost anything. Dinner is still \$20. I think we have settled into the Hacienda Room at the back of the building, but you might want to check when you come in to be sure.

Last month Chuck Ptasek talked about "Business Intelligence". Chuck is president of Charles, Charles and Associates, and business intelligence is his area of expertise. It was very interesting to learn how much non-public information can be obtained legally and ethically by just understanding people. As Chuck put it, he never "lies, cheats or steals". He always tells the truth but perhaps not all of it. Chuck never

goes through trash cans to get information. He just talks to the right people and asks them questions, and they tell him what he wants to know. I think the secret is to know or find out who the right people are and have the personality that makes them want to talk to you. Anyway it was an interesting program.

Next month is our annual business meeting and roundtable discussion. We will elect two members to the Executive Board at the meeting. Board members are elected to three year terms. The Board currently has seven voting members with two people elected every year and an additional member elected every third year. This is a two person year. We encourage everyone who is interested in participating in the PACN leadership to come to the Board meetings. You certainly don't have to be a regular Board member to participate. The more participation we get, the better off we all are. Be careful though. You might find yourself committed to a minimum three year sentence. The Board meetings are held at ETA Engineering starting at 5 PM on the second Thursday of each month preceding the regular dinner meeting. Send me an email if you want directions.

The roundtable discussion is very important. That is where we get a consensus on what our direction should be for the next year. Everyone gets to put in his (or her) two-bits worth. Where do you want the organization to go? What type of programs do you want us to have? Is there something that we should be doing that we are not doing? The roundtable is the time and place to bring these issues up.

Our speaker in January will be Erik Graham. He is the Chief Information Security Officer, General Dynamics Corp. His topic, of course, will be information security. This fits right in

with Chuck Ptascek's talk last month. I would guess that one part of Erick's job is to see to it that the Chuck Ptasceks of the world have a hard time making a living. I would also hazard that Chuck is concerned with internet security, and that is an area of interest to all of us or at least nearly all of us. I wonder if he has any good "spam" solutions. Typically, I get about a hundred spam emails each weekday any a thousand or more over the weekend. Outlook will get rid of 80-90% of them, but that still leaves a bunch for me to deal with manually. My company email address is posted for all to see on my web site, and that is probably the reason I made so many mailing lists. The posted address is [email@everettinfrared.com](mailto:email@everettinfrared.com). It is sort of interesting to get messages that start out "Dear email".

We have more six speakers lined up to follow Erik, but we haven't sorted out who is going to enlighten us at which meeting. We hope to get the dates arranged in the not too distant future. But that leaves us with three open 2004 slots. If you would like to talk about what you are doing or know of someone you would like to hear, please let me know, and we will see when we can fit the presentation into the schedule.

We would really like to get the general membership to contribute to *The Advisor*. We have been trying for more than a year to get some short white papers describing what our members do for a living. The articles, of course, should not be too technical so that they will have fairly broad appeal to those of us who work in another field. It is always interesting to learn a bit about another technical area. We would also like to get "Letters to the Editor". I think we would like the letters to somehow relate to PACN or be of general interest to a bunch of engineers. Otherwise, comment on anything that captures

your interest. *The Advisor* would be a lot more interesting if there were more attention grabbing contributions in addition to the tomes Clark and I put in there each month. If you would like to say something, please send it to the good Mr. Jones, at [jones8@mindspring.com](mailto:jones8@mindspring.com). Clark tells me he prefers rtf [ed: I actually prefer PLAIN TEXT, that is .txt – don't know where Paul got the idea I wanted rtf] format, but I know he also accepts Word 6. Word XP, however, is not good.

The 2004 dues are due January 1, but Bill will be more than happy to collect them early. If you haven't paid your 2003 dues yet, let's get going - time is running out. You can send a check for either or both years 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 dues for 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 or 2004 prominently displayed. The badges are supposed to be worn at all of our meetings so please remember to bring it each time. By the way, I have a briefcase of badges that have not been picked up. If you haven't received yours, check with me at the next meeting. I usually have the briefcase with me.

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 so take advantage of it. 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

Well, so far OpenOffice is working out well for preparing *The Advisor*, and the price is definitely right. The only glitch is when I have it do a PDF file, it leaves it in my home directory, and just adds the “.pdf” extension rather than removing the “.sxw” first.

Paul seems to definitely be having memory problems, especially as they say that memory is the second thing to go, not the first. :-)

I'm not going to be able to make the November meeting. I'll be in Naples, Italy, while you folks are enjoying your steaks at Monti's.

I have a bit of news: I finally took the plunge, and left NPTest after more than 21 years with the company. I'm going to be decompressing for a couple of months (including a month's vacation in Europe). After the first of the year, I'll probably be looking for some consulting work, and have even talked to the folks at NPTest about doing some work for them as a “contractor”. Who knows...

Guess I'll have to get on with getting my resume together and putting it onto the PACN website!

As I recall, our friend Jim Soudriette has requested that we bring our “projects” to the November meeting. (I'm hoping to have a friend bring mine by.) Hopefully someone will bring a digital camera and get some pics that I can put into *The Advisor* for December or maybe January. (However, please, if you do take pictures, I would MUCH prefer that you send me a note and wait for me to ask for them. My mailbox is going to be stuffed while I'm in Europe.)

One of the “projects” that some Board members (especially Mike Jordan) have been working on for several months is preparing a “vision statement” and a “mission statement”. We're coming pretty close to the “final version” -- and it's worth printing the “vision statement” below.

Hope you enjoy Monti's on November 13th! I'll see you again in December.

Clark

### **Vision of the IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network (PACN)**

To provide the PACN members valuable technological and business forums for furthering their career goals as a consultant, utilizing the IEEE “Code of Ethics” as a guideline to conduct their business.

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