

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, March 11th at Monti's La Casa Vieja at the southwest corner of Mill Ave and Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. This month we will be in the Zane Grey Room. Turn right when you come in the front door and walk about 2/3 of the way to the west side of the building. Then turn left and go down a short hallway to Zane Grey. Networking and the social hour begin at 6:30 with dinner starting about 7 PM. The program will follow at about 8. Our speaker will be our own Frank Garza who will talk about Quality Assurance, his area of expertise. Come at 8 for the program if you would like to pass on Monti's fine cuisine and the twenty dollar bill that comes with it. I think this talk will be well worth your time to say nothing of the fine fellowship you will enjoy by spending an hour or so in our company.

Last month we had LaVern Douglas from the State of Arizona Board of Technical Registration. Ms. Douglas is a certified public manager and serves as the Deputy Director for the Licensing Department. She oversees the licensing and examining functions for Professional Engineer (PE) certification in the State of Arizona. She reviewed the requirements and procedures for obtaining PE certification. Her talk was very well received, and we had the largest attendance we have seen in quite a few years.

We now have our own multimedia projector, and Frank will be the first speaker to use it. The projector is a lease return, and we got it through

the efforts of Jim Soudriette for a fraction of the cost of a new one. I think it will fit our needs very well.

Speaking of Jim, he suggested at our December Roundtable that PACN might want to consider participating in *Christmas in April*. This is a Valley wide event where the houses of needy and worthy families are refurbished by volunteers. The Board considered this and decided it was a great idea but that we were too small an organization to tackle a whole house by ourselves. Ed Mischen then suggested that we team with Philips, Ed's employer, who does a house every year. This was too good an opportunity to pass up so we are going ahead with it. All that is required of us is that we show up and help. We even get a free lunch and a T-shirt. Most of us feel we should give more to those in need, and this is a great opportunity to do just that. The date is Saturday, April 3rd from 8 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers are needed for the whole day or just part of it. We do, however, need to have an accurate list of those who will be there. Please think carefully about it, and if you would like to participate send and email to Ed Mischen at ed.mischen@philips.com. Ed will put you on the list. Also, please copy me on the email at peverett@everettinfrared.com so we can keep track of the PACN contingent. Our house is in the Maryvale area on the West Side. See the announcement below for details on what we will be doing and the address of the home.

The programs for the next several months are:

1. In April, Gary Whitting is going to talk on the legal aspects of intellectual property. Gary is a new member who is just starting his patent law practice. He is both an engineer and a lawyer.
2. May, of course, is the annual family

- picnic, and we will not have a speaker.
3. In June, Bruce Johnson is going to review *The History of Wind Turbines*.
 4. In July, Lane Garrett is going to talk about the *H₂ Economy*.
 5. In August, Christopher Sheen is going to talk about *Analog Gate Arrays*.

Jack Stewart is going to talk in November, and he has offered two topics: *Direct Sattelite Communication* and *Home Automation*. Both topics seem very interesting to me, and I would have a hard time choosing between the two. If you have a preference, send me an email so we can choose the topic with the widest appeal.

I know that someone approached me and offered to prepare a program for later in the year, but for the life of me I can't find the note where I wrote down who it was. To that person I humbly apologize. Please contact me again so that we can get you on the schedule.

The PACN Annual Family Picnic will be held again this year on May 8th at the Garrett place at 8502 E. Cactus Wren Road, Scottsdale – not far from Loop 101 and Indian Bend Road. We always have a lot of fun at the Picnic so put it on your calendar. Since we are having the picnic we will not have a regular dinner meeting in May.

The 2004 dues are due, and Bill has already started collecting them. If you haven't already, please send you contributions to;

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

Or pay them at the meeting. 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 2004 prominently displayed. The badges are supposed to be worn at all of our meetings so please remember to bring it each time.

See you on the second Thursday.

Paul

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

Hey! How about that! Our president has FINALLY not made the same error in his column that he has made the past several months. I think he should be applauded for that.

The *Christmas in April* program gives me pause to think about how truly fortunate I am. As many of you know, I am physically handicapped. I have *osteogenesis imperfecta*, more commonly known as "brittle bone disease". I know of other OI patients who have never worked a day in their lives. I was fortunate enough to make it through engineering school, and have had a good career. We should all be thankful for our good health and good fortune. I don't know how much help I will be in repairing someone's home, but I can at least show up and take some pictures, if I'm in town.

With that segway, I've found out in the past few hours that April may be a good time for me to go to Europe again. I'm not sure, yet, exactly when I will go, or even if I'll actually go, but hopefully I will find out within the next few days. The trip that my friend Steph was planning for "spring break" (the first full week in April) has been canceled, and she's not sure whether one or more of her sisters will show up. I am also considering

it. And just to make things more interesting I found out that a friend who lives in Sydney is planning a trip to Europe in April. (Sometimes I wonder if I'm living in a novel...)

See you Thursday at Monti's!

Clark

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Christmas in April Volunteers Needed

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Saturday, April 3rd - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

PACN is joining the Philips Tempe Site in sponsoring a home in the Christmas in April * Valley of the Sun Corporate Community Volunteer Program.

On Saturday, April 3rd volunteers are needed to help a home owner repair his house. Fifty homes in this small neighborhood will also be refurbished the same day by other groups of volunteers from across the Valley.

All home owners selected for the program are low income, elderly or disabled...each suffering hardships that have not allowed them to maintain their home.

Only Enthusiasm is Required!

We'll be paired with a contractor who will do all the major skilled labor. Our work will be done on April 3rd and will include minor repairs, such as window glazing, tile work, light carpentry as well as patching, painting and trimming. At the end of the day we will all know the satisfaction of having made a significant contribution to someone less fortunate and perhaps as well, we will feel a little better about ourselves

If you can work a full day (8:00 AM to 4:00 - 5:00 PM) that is most helpful. If you can only work a half of a day, we still need you. This year's project will be at 4212 North 50th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85031 in the Maryvale area. Use the following Mapquest link to get a map showing the exact location:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?country=US&countryid=250&addtohistory=&address=4212+N.+50+Avenue&city=Phoenix&state=AZ&zipcode=85031&submit=Get+Map>

Lunch, water, sodas, t-shirts, tools and supplies will be provided. You provide hat, sunscreen, gloves, work clothes, and a good sense of humor.

