

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Paul Everett

Our meeting this month will be held on Thursday, April 8th at Monti's La Casa Vieja at the southwest corner of Mill Ave and Rio Salado Parkway in Tempe. At this point I don't know what room we will be in. Check at the podium when you come in. As usual, 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 Gary Witting. Gary recently joined PACN and is both an engineer and a lawyer – no, that's not really an oxymoron. Gary is a practicing patent attorney which is good reason why he has dual training. He will tell us about the legal aspects of intellectual property. 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 Frank Garza talked about his work in Quality Assurance. Frank's talk was very interesting, and I for one learned a lot. I now understand what this ISO stuff is all about. It is a very involved subject, and there just wasn't enough time for Frank to get through all of it. Maybe we will be able to get him to come back for installment #2.

By the time this gets out, a number of us from PACN will have done our bit for *Christmas in April*. We teamed up with Philips Semiconductor to fix up a house in the Maryvale area on April 3. I think we are going to have a

good time and get a good feeling from doing some good for those less fortunate. Thanks go to Ed Mischen who organized the partnership with Philips. Philips is underwriting the entire cost, and that is a good deal for us.

Next month is going to be our annual family picnic. It 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.

In June, we are planning to have our meeting at the Chandler Fashion Center. For those of you who are not familiar with it, it is the large upscale mall at the southwest corner of Loop 101 and Chandler Blvd. The southern leg of Loop 202 is just south of it. They have a very nice conference room that we can use for free since we are non-profit. Others pay \$200. The only requirement is that we get our food from the Food Court which by the way has some very good choices. We are trying this since many of our members really don't want the complete dinner we get at Monti's. This way you can get as much or as little food as you want, and it will probably cost a lot less. We will try it in June and see how it goes. Let us know your opinion. Send me or someone else on the Board an email.

Except for the picnic (which is on a Saturday in May) our meetings are always on the second Thursday of the month. Our programs for the next few months are:

1. May, of course, is the annual family picnic, and we will not have a speaker.
2. In June, Bruce Johnson is going to review *The History of Wind Turbines*. This is the

Chandler Fashion Center meeting.

3. In July, Lane Garrett is going to talk about the *H₂ Economy*.
4. 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.

The June meeting will be at the Chandler Fashion Center. We may stay there for future meetings or go back to Monti's depending on everyone's response. CFC is a bit on the south side of things, but it is easy to get there. Come south on Loop101 and get off at Chandler Blvd. If you are coming along I10 go past Chandler Blvd and take Loop 202 East to Chandler Village Drive which runs right into the place.

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 2004 dues are due, and Bill is 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

Hmm... I could pick a few nits with our President again this month (such as a "podium" actually being something to put one's feet on, rather than being a synonym for "lectern"), but I'll let it pass. Nobody said anything about the fact that I said "segway" rather than "segue" -- the former is a wheeled transportation device (and probably trademarked at that) whereas the latter is a transition from one subject to another.

I'll use that as a segue into Segways. I happened to need something from a store called Bronco One, which is on 31st Street a mile or so south of the 101 (I suggest you look up their address prior to going up there). They are one of the largest retail dealers, if not the largest retail dealer of Garmin GPS equipment. The owner also has several

Segways, and certainly enjoyed demonstrating one of them by riding it around the parking lot. (With my bone problem, I wasn't about to climb onto one.)

Last month I had mentioned that I might go to Europe again in April. Well, that trip is still up in the air, so to speak. It depends on whether I can get airline tickets at a reasonable price. If I do go, there's a strong possibility that I'll have to miss the picnic – so some of you should go and enjoy it for me!

I did have occasion to run over to the Chandler Fashion Center a few days ago. I got the

opportunity to glance into the room, and it does look nice. I'll admit, however, that I am fond of Monti's. I'll at least include directions for finding the room within the mall in the June issue.

Since April Fool's day was a few days ago, I've decided to include a little bit of humor that a friend of mine sent to me. Although I've seen some of them before, others are new, and they all seem amusing.

See you Thursday at Monti's!

Clark

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Some humor...
Sent by Sherry Pennell

These are helpful Engineering terms and conversions to help you get through your day.

1. Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter = Eskimo Pi
2. 2000 pounds of Chinese soup = won ton
3. 1 millionth of a mouthwash = 1 microscope
4. Time between slipping on a peel and smacking the pavement = 1 bananosecond
5. Weight an evangelist carries with God = 1 billigram
6. Time it takes to sail 220 yards at 1 nautical mile per hour = knotfurlong
7. 16.5 feet in the Twilight Zone = 1 Rod Serling
8. Half of a large intestine = 1 semicolon
9. 1,000,000 aches = 1 megahertz
10. Basic unit of laryngitis = 1 hoarsepower
11. Shortest distance between two jokes = a straight line
12. 453.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
13. 1 million-million microphones = 1 megaphone
14. 1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
15. 365.25 days = 1 unicycle
16. 2000 mockingbirds = 2 kilomockingbirds
17. 10 cards = 1 decacards
18. 1 kilogram of falling figs = 1 Fig Newton
19. 1000 milliliters of wet socks = 1 literhosen
20. 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
21. 1 trillion pins = 1 terrapin
22. 10 rations = 1 decoration
23. 100 rations = 1 C-ration
24. 2 monograms = 1 diagram
25. 8 nickels = 2 paradigms
26. 2.4 statute miles of intravenous surgical tubing at Yale University Hospital = 1 I.V. League

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