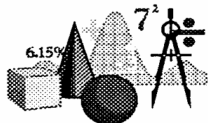




IEEE

SPARKS

IEEE Daytona Section Newsletter
September 2011



FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

Welcome back, and hope you all had a relaxing summer! It is time to talk about what our section has been up to during the summer months.

Before the summer break, we had the last spring meeting in April. It was the first time that we had two teams from ERAU and Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) talking about their experiences at robotics competition during SouthEastCon 2011. Also, we recognized two winners of IEEE Special Awards for Tomoka Regional Science Fair.

The B-CU currently has 13 IEEE student members, and the new student branch has been officially established. Special thanks to Dr. Xiaohe Wu for his diligent work in making this a reality! This year, we are going to support both robotics teams from B-CU and ERAU for their participation in 2012 SouthEastCon hardware competition in Orlando.

Dr. Keith Garfield from ERAU has started to serve as our section's Computer Society Chair. He is currently working to establish a student branch technical chapter of computer society on artificial intelligence at ERAU.

Al Jusko, Ron Gedney, and Dr. Jianhua Liu have formed the nominating committee for officers in 2012. They are accepting nominations and will prepare a slate of candidates. Please contact one of them if you are interested or wish to place a name in nomination. The officer election will be conducted during the December meeting.

Jeanette Barott organized a one-day workshop on Small Radio Telescope for K-12 teachers in July, with the help of Charlie Husbands. The workshop was part of the NSF-sponsored Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program at ERAU. During the workshop, the teachers learned much about our section's SRT project, and participated in a hands-on project on building a motor-controller for small antennas. I applaud this great outreach effort that has good potential to impact K-12 classrooms and inspire young students to choose a career in the STEM fields.

Over the summer, our section also participated in several IEEE events. On June 30th, Roger Grubic represented our section at the IEEE membership development special webcast on Region 1-6 strategy. From August 18 to 22, Dr. Billy Barott attended IEEE Section Congress in San Francisco. In addition, he presented a poster titled "Providing K-12 STEM Education through Radio Astronomy Using the Small Radio Telescope", which describes our section's current effort in developing educational materials aiming at enhancing existing K-12 science curricula.

Last but not least, our section's executive committee has decided to discontinue sending out SPARKS newsletters by snail mail to members who have email addresses. Please pay special attention to the announcement section of this newsletter.

Thomas Yang, Ph.D.

Our PACE representatives Dr. Billy Barott and

CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE

SPARKS NEWSLETTER

As a section we believe it is an important for us to support student chapters and have actively supported the formation of new ones. Bethune - Cookman University has recently applied for student chapter status and we hope Daytona State College may do the same. We want to support these chapters financially in the annual IEEE Region 3 robotics competition.

Over the past few years' club officers have managed several issues:

1. Our annual budget is much smaller (about \$3400/ yr) than many other chapters.
2. The cost of postage to mail the Sparks newsletter is a significant portion of our annual budget (\$1183 per year) and the Postmaster is enforcing new regulations for bulk mail.
3. Contributions to the local ERAU student chapter for the annual robotics competition (\$1500) and Engineer's Week activities (~\$150) fulfill several of our basic missions.
4. Our officers support Daytona Executive Committee meetings, annual IEEE activities and the Florida Council (costs dependent on the activity).
5. We provide meals and transportation (if necessary) for our section and Computer Society speakers (about \$200/yr).
6. We provide miscellaneous funds to support the Small Radio Telescope (SRT) at the Daytona Museum of Arts and Science (~\$100/yr).

As you can see, if we wish to support the new student chapters and continue other activities, we must find savings elsewhere in our budget.

Postage is the obvious choice and distributing the Sparks newsletter by email and posting it on our website is a preferred solution. Recognizing that you already receive multiple emails from IEEE, we are concerned about proliferating another email, but ask you to be tolerant. We will continue to send out separate meeting notices by email as well.

To be as current as possible, we are now emailing our newsletter and notices through the IEEE email system. Some of you do not provide the IEEE with an email address, but most of you do so it's

important to update your email addresses with the IEEE. Please go to www.ieee.org and update your profile. We expect to mail copies to those that do not have email addresses on file, but ask that you remedy this to help the section finances.

October 2011 will be the last Sparks mailed to everyone.

MARCH PROGRAM

THE ACCURACY OF WEATHER FORCASTS

Weather forecasting, which historically has been notoriously inaccurate, has substantially improved over the last 50 years. Computers and the mathematical modeling of weather patterns is a substantial factor in this improvement. Satellites have also provided a global view of cloud cover and moisture content. Doppler radar gives current data on wind and rain activity. The net result is that the accuracy of the forecasts has dramatically improved. Moreover the precision of warning time, strength and place, of these predictions is strongly related to the size of the meteorological event. Thus hurricanes can be precisely tracked, but tornados are predictable only within a general area. Small squalls, thunder storms and supercells can only be predicted within less than an hour. Fortunately we have doppler radar to give some form of warning about such events.

OUR SPEAKER

Dr. Christopher Herbster
Professor of Meteorology,
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

The IEEE Power & Energy Society will be holding a series of Power Industry Education courses in Orlando in October.

These courses are called "Plain Talk About the Electric Power Industry," and are a 3-day series of courses targeted to professionals who work in or with the industry. Although we do have engineers attending the courses, they are designed to be accessible to those without technical backgrounds.

You can read more details about the courses here:
<http://www.ieee-pes.org/plain-talk-at-2011-ias-annual-meeting>

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CALENDER OF EVENTS

Jan. 30th to Feb. 3rd of 2012- the IEEE Industry Application Society (IAS) will hold its annual Electrical Safety Workshop in Daytona Beach
Southeast Con- Orlando 2012, Jacksonville 2013

EDITORS NOTES

The **SPARKS** newsletter is also available on our website. The website address is shown in the Section information box to the right.
Our neighboring Sections in Melbourne and Orlando also sponsor activities and meetings that also may be of interest to our members. We encourage you to visit their websites.

Region 3 website
<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/reg/3/>

Melbourne Section website
www.ieeemelbourne.org

Orlando Section website
www.ieee.org/orlando

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The meeting dates for the 2011 fall session are:
Thursday October 27th, and Tuesday November 29th

2011 SECTION OFFICERS

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The website address for the Daytona Section is:
<http://www.ieee.org/go/daytona>

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SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING

Thursday September 22nd at the Halifax River Yacht Club
331 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach, Florida 32114
Just south of the Fire Station at the corner of Beach and Orange

AGENDA

6:30 PM Cocktails
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Program

OUR SPEAKER – Dr. Christopher Herbster

TOPIC– The Accuracy of Weather Forecasts

September Dinner Menu Selections – It's BBQ night

BBQ Beef Ribs
BBQ Chicken
BBQ Shrimp

[All entrees served with roasted potatoes,
[Seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter,
[garden salad, coffee/tea

Unless noted, dinner entrées are \$18.00 each. Students \$10.00 each
A Veggie plate is available on request for \$10

Please contact Tracy Wichmann with your dinner selections or for program information. Dinner selections must be in by Wednesday the 21st at noon so the club has time to order and prepare

Tracy Wichmann

Vice Chairman

386-673-2753 tracy@alum.mit.edu

IMPORTANT: If you make dinner reservations and are unable to attend, call at least 12 hours prior to the meeting to cancel. The Daytona Section is charged for all dinners ordered.
