



SPARKS

Daytona Section Newsletter

April 2012



FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

The IEEE Region 3 SouthEastCon (SECon) 2012 took place at Wyndham Orlando Resort in Orlando, March 15-18. Both Florida Council and Region 3 had meetings during SouthEastCon, and our section had a significant presence at the conference. Two student teams representing ERAU and Bethune-Cookman University participated in the hardware competition. To showcase various ERAU student projects, the university organized a special session on Robotics and Green Energy, with nine papers (or posters) presented. The Electrical, Computer, Software, and Systems Engineering department at ERAU also sponsored an exhibition and promoted the visibility of its undergraduate and graduate programs among other universities, industry representatives and IEEE leadership. Moreover, several members from our section presented technical papers, and Dr. Jing Wang from BCU presented a tutorial as well.

I would like to thank all our members and officers who participated in the SouthEastCon. Although we are a very small section, we have been very active and growing over the past couple of years. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of starting a student branch at Daytona State College.

At our monthly meeting on March 22nd, Ms. Doris Bernal from UCF Business Incubator - Daytona Beach International Airport made an informative presentation about the UCF Business Incubator program. The incubator at Daytona opened on July 27, 2011 with the goal of assisting high growth companies in Volusia County. The 8,000 square-foot facility is located at the US Customs terminal at the airport, and it is able to house approximately 20 companies for operation. The incubator is expected to have a great impact on the local economy and help to create many job opportunities in the years to come. The incubator not only helps aspiring entrepreneurs to start new businesses, it is currently looking for student interns as programmers as well.

At our monthly meeting on April 24th, student teams from ERAU and BCU will present their experiences at the hardware competition during SouthEastCon. We will also invite IEEE special award winners at the science fair and their families to this meeting. You are highly encouraged to attend this meeting and see how much our students benefited from participating in the exciting event.

Thanks to Al Jusko, our section is now offering polo (golf) shirts with an IEEE Daytona Section logo to interested members. You are welcome to order a shirt (with your name and IEEE member grade) by contacting him. Each shirt costs \$28, tax included.

As a reminder, we are always open to suggestions about monthly meeting topics that are of interest to members (from students to life members). Please send your ideas to our Vice Chair Tracy Wichmann.

This is the last Sparks newsletter for the Spring. I hope you all a great summer!

Thomas Yang, Ph.D.

IN PASSING

We are sorry to announce the passing of George McClure, Life Fellow, on March 26th. He served as event co-chair at IEEE SouthEastCon 2012 in Orlando, Fla., one of the many and final volunteer positions he assumed for IEEE. Despite his 79 years, McClure remained a valuable contributor to IEEE and the profession.

Among his many accomplishments, McClure, who lived in Winter Park, Fla., served on the IEEE Board of Directors as Region 3 director in 2006-07. One of his most recent positions was chair of the IEEE Life Members Committee. He served as a chair and resource member for CWPC, as well as a corresponding member of numerous IEEE-USA technology policy committees. He was tech policy editor for *Today's Engineer*, government relations editor for *IEEE-USA in Action* and a longtime member and past chair of the IEEE-USA Communications Committee.

McClure received IEEE-USA's highest honor in 1999, the Robert S. Walleigh Distinguished Contributions to Engineering Professionalism Award. The organization also recognized him with a 1988 regional professional leadership award, and, in 2004 cited him for professional achievement.

George was a friend of the Daytona Section and will be sorely missed. Additional information can be found at <http://www.todaysengineer.org/2012/Apr-Draft/McClure.asp>

APRIL PROGRAM

STUDENT REPORT ON THE ROBOTICS COMPETITION AT SouthEastCon

Students from the student branch's of ERAU and BCU will present their efforts at the robotics hardware competition held at SouthEastCon in Orlando on March 15-18.

TALES FROM THE OLD PROFESSOR TURNING TRASH TO CASH

We, as a society, are prolific generators of trash. We tend to package items such that the packaging weighs more than the item it encloses. Our products are throw-aways. We have throw-away razors, disposable diapers, and even throw-away cameras. People in many parts of the world can't afford to own a camera much less throw it away after it was used only once. Many products are virtually throw-away because the cost of repair rivals the price of a new item. If the item is repaired; in a short time it is obsolete.

In past years, before the age of disposable everything, towns had their own dumps. Those who lived on farms had their own private dump which has become a boon to archaeologists who uncover evidence of early colonial life in private dumps.

The town dump was a social gathering place. On the weekends, fathers would drive the station wagon to the dump and meet friends and neighbors and unload worn out or unneeded items from their house. It was actually one of the very earliest forms of recycling as often what was one man's trash was another's treasure.

The dump was a particular pleasure to young boys as a source of components for projects. Items such as baby carriage wheels, bicycle parts, and scrap lumber were readily available at the dump.

Most town dumps are closed now, having filled in the depression in the ground that attracted the dump to the site in the first place. Some depressions were turned into mountains. Traveling along the New Jersey Turnpike, just south of New York City one can see mountains of trash that rise from the swamps of Secaucus. These mountains are so high that there has been talk of constructing downhill ski trails for New

Yorkers who live just across the Hudson River.

This absence of suitable dumping sites has affected densely-populated areas that have resorted to transporting trash to less-populated areas where there are still suitable places to dump trash. Recycling has reduced the tonnage that must be discarded in a dump. However, not everything can be recycled. There is still a need for a dump.

Years ago when I lived in densely populated Northern New Jersey, my trash collection fee more than doubled within a few years. Being unhappy about this increase I called the trash hauler to find the reason for such a huge increase. I was informed that because of the lack of dumping sites in New Jersey and neighboring states, my trash was being trucked to Ohio. The cost increase was due to the burden of hauling my trash to Ohio.

I have always been good about not generating a lot of trash and I weighed my trash bag and calculated the postage to send my trash to Ohio by U.S. mail. It would be cheaper to take my trash to the Post Office and send it to Ohio by mail!

Now, this got me thinking. I could buy some cheap property in some mid western state where I could get land for even less than in Ohio. Using this inexpensive property I will operate a mail-order dump.

Just think how convenient that would be! No longer would a home owner have to remember that it is trash day. When you have a box full of trash just take it to the post office and off it goes to the dump. When you have a lot of trash, just go a couple of extra days that week.

Being a mail-order dump operator will be a snap too. No longer will smelly trash trucks arrive and dump litter all over the place. The mail truck will arrive and the dump operator will only have to instruct the driver to stack the newly-arrived boxes neatly next to the other boxes. Accounting and billing would be easy too. Since the Post Office weighed each package to determine the postage, the mail order dump doesn't have to own a scale; just use the postage on the box for accounting purposes.

Certainly this idea will attract copy-cats and therefore a U.S. Patent has been applied for. Dump sites will be available by franchise from the newly-incorporated company; "Eternal-Rest Mail-Order Dumps, Inc." Anyone interested in a franchise may contact the author.
Al Helfrick, Ph.D.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

SouthEastCon- Jacksonville 2013

EDITORS NOTES

The **SPARKS** newsletter is also available on our website.

Region 3 website

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

Melbourne Section website

www.ieeemelbourne.org

Orlando Section website

www.ieee.org/orlando

Website address for the Daytona Section

<http://www.ieee.org/go/daytona>

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The dates for the fall session are Sept 27, Oct 25 and Nov 29.

DAYTONA SECTION SHIRTS

We are pleased to offer Daytona Section polo shirts for our Section members. Shirts are embroidered with the IEEE logo and DAYTONA SECTION on the left and your name and grade, if desired, on the right.

The shirt is a high quality 5 oz, 65/35 poly/cotton pique in Royal Blue with white embroidery. Available in S - 2XL in men's as well as ladies sizes.

Price is \$28, including tax for S-XL sizes, 2XL size is \$4 additional.

For more information or to order shirts contact

Allan Jusko
3706 Longford Circle
Ormond Beach, FL 32174
386-671-3706 or a.jusko@ieee.org

Indicate shirt size and name and grade if desired. Shirts must be paid for before ordering, typical turn around time is 2 weeks. Shirts can be picked up or shipped to you at an additional charge.



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APRIL 2012 MEETING

Tuesday April 24th 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 SPEAKERS– ERAU and BCU Student
Robotics Team members

TOPIC– Student Reports on the Robotics
Competition at SouthEastCon

April Dinner Menu

Italian Buffet
Salad Bar, 3 Pastas, Red/White sauces
Rolls, Parmesan Cheese, Grilled Chicken/Sausage
Coffee/Tea

Unless noted, dinner entrées are \$15.00 each. Students \$8.00 each

Dinner reservations must be in by Monday the 23rd at noon so the club has time to order and prepare

For the April meeting, please contact Charlie Husbands with your dinner selections or for program information.

Charlie Husbands Treasurer 386-760-7163 chusbands@ieee.org

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.
