



# SPARKS

## Daytona Section Newsletter

### October 2012



#### FROM THE HIGH CHAIR

In September, three lectures were held at Daytona's Museum of Arts and Science (MOSA) on Astronomy. On Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, during the lecture on radio astronomy, Charles Husbands from IEEE Daytona Section described and demonstrated our section's the Small Radio Telescope System.

Daytona section is currently working towards establishing a new student branch at Daytona State College (DSC). Dr. Bob Mertens is leading the effort to recruit student members and promote IEEE's visibility among DSC faculty/students. On Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, we will have a promotional meeting at DSC, and presentations on the benefit of IEEE membership will be made.

Dr. Jing Wang from Bethune-Cookman University expressed interest in establishing an IEEE Control Systems Society Chapter under our section. Initially, we will need signatures of 12 IEEE Control Systems Society members. If you are a member, please contact Dr. Wang at [wangj@cookman.edu](mailto:wangj@cookman.edu), and your support of this endeavor will be much appreciated.

IEEE Florida Council had a meeting on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> in Orlando. At the meeting, Florida Council Awards & Recognition Chair encouraged sections to nominate their worthy members for three annual Florida Council awards: Outstanding Engineering Educator Award, Outstanding Engineer Award, and Outstanding Service Award. Each Section has the opportunity to nominate one candidate for each award category. If you are interested in making a nomination, please contact our section's Awards Chairman Dr. Jianhua Liu at [liu620@erau.edu](mailto:liu620@erau.edu).

Once again, I would like to encourage our members to volunteer to serve Daytona Section as a section officer. Most positions require less than a few hours per month of your time. If you are interested or have any questions about serving as a section officer, please contact our nominating committee members Roger Grubic ([roger\\_grubic@ieee.org](mailto:roger_grubic@ieee.org)) and Ron Gedney ([r.gedney@ieee.org](mailto:r.gedney@ieee.org)). We really hope to have new officers serving this vibrant section next year and bring new ideas to help take our section to the next level.

It is not too early to renew your IEEE membership. You may renew on IEEE website and it only takes a couple of minutes.

Finally, just a reminder that IEEE SouthEastCon 2013 will be held April 4-7, 2013 in Jacksonville, Florida, which is not very far from us. As before, the conference features a broad technical program and a host of student programs, including student competitions in hardware, software, paper, website, T-shirt, and ethics. You are highly encouraged to attend this important annual Region 3 event. If you plan to submit a paper to SouthEastCon, the submission deadline is Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.

Thomas Yang, Ph.D.

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

### BIRDS OF PREY



Our October speaker is Gina Holt who is dedicated to a special kind of bird called a "Raptor" - a bird of prey. Raptors include hawks, owls, kestrels, osprey and eagles. They are an integral part of our ecology, particularly here in central Florida. In addition to giving us insights into how they live, mate, nest and hunt she will bring two of her specimens: a barred Owl and a red shouldered hawk. She will also cover their adaptations, food chain, habitats, conservation and the environment.

### OUR SPEAKER

Ms. Gina Holt, a raptor rehabilitator and environmental educator. She has been involved in bird rescue and rehabilitation for over ten years and providing environmental education classes with live birds for the last five. The rescue of her first raptor was a life-changing event for her. She decided she wanted to work closely with raptors. She first volunteered and then became a staff member at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland. About five years ago, she started her company, Wild About Birds, Inc., dedicated to environmental education, conservation and preservation of habitats for the benefit of Florida's birds and other wildlife.

## TALES FROM THE OLD PROFESSOR

### YOU WANT IT WHEN? (Part 2)



When we left off, I was about to embark on a tour of the Kennedy Space Center in a 1971 Citroen Deux Chevaux. We rattled and smoked down the road and folks were pointing, waving and giving thumbs up. I waved back and felt like some sort of minor celebrity at the Space Center.

After a quick lunch we clattered off in the Citroen to the building where Space Shuttle Discovery was being decommissioned. My tour guide was extremely knowledgeable and provided me with a wealth of information about the Shuttle Program. He also seemed to know everyone and was able to get me into areas reserved for real VIPs.

Discovery flew its first mission, STS-41D in August 1984 and has spent 365 days, one entire year, in space racking up 148 million miles. Discovery made its last landing at the Kennedy Space Center on March 9<sup>th</sup> 2011 and has undergone a year-long decommissioning in preparation for its new home at the Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Institution at Dulles Airport in Virginia. Discovery made the piggy-back trip atop the Boeing 747 SCA, Shuttle Carrier Aircraft, and is now at the Udvar-Hazy museum.

My host and I clambered all over the scaffolding surrounding the spacecraft; peered into hatches, ports, and holes and finally, got to go inside the vehicle. This required emptying everything from my pockets tying a string on to my glasses and wearing "booties" to prevent tracking dirt into the shuttle or stuff falling out of

pockets as I climbed the narrow ladders between the different decks of the orbiter.

During my stay in the orbiter I was able to see some of the avionics that I did preliminary radiation hardening studies back in the early 1970's. Wow! That was a long time ago! There it was; still working after all those years; now going to a museum. Sometimes I wonder if that is where the Old Professor should be; in a museum. Banish that thought!

Then came the big moment; I was invited to sit in the commander's seat and grasp the controls. I felt like I was 10 years old again sitting behind the wheel of my father's car, making motor noises and pretending to drive. Thank goodness Space Shuttles arrive without motors or I would have felt foolish adding motor noises to my fantasy.

Being a pilot and an avionics guru, I was familiar with all the instruments and controls and felt at home in the Commander's seat and really could imagine what it was like to land that air/space craft. But alas, it was time to leave the orbiter and sit in a more down-to-earth seat in the Deux Chevaux and rattle and smoke our way back to the parking lot where I welcomed the silence and clean exhaust of my car and made my way back home.

Some readers have suggested the Old Professor's tales may be embellished. Preposterous! But this time I left something behind. There was an entranceway to the door of Discovery, which involved a stairway and some benches where you would don the booties and empty your pockets. I was told the plan was to take that entranceway to the Smithsonian and use it as a platform for visitors to be able to see the orbiter's flight deck. I was invited to sign my name on the wall of the entranceway along with others who had the privilege of this tour. If you go to the Smithsonian to see Discovery, look just inside the door at the top of the stairs on the right; you will see my name.

Al Helfrick, Ph.D.

## DAYTONA SECTION SHIRTS



We are pleased to offer Daytona Section polo shirts for our Section members. The 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 size's, 2XL size is \$4 additional.

For more information or to order shirts contact  
Allan Jusko  
3706 Longford Circle  
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386-671-3706 or [a.jusko@ieee.org](mailto: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.

## DAYTONA SECTION COFFEE MUGS



The Daytona Section has available coffee mugs with the IEEE Daytona Section Logo and are available for \$7.00. Purchase one or more to show you support and pride in our Section. Contact Roger Grubic at 386-441-8958 or [roger\\_grubic@ieee.org](mailto:roger_grubic@ieee.org) for more information.

## CALENDER OF EVENTS

SouthEastCon- Jacksonville 2013

## EDITORS NOTES

The **SPARKS** newsletter is also available on our website. The website address is shown below.

### Region 3 website

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

### Melbourne Section website

[www.ieeemelbourne.org](http://www.ieeemelbourne.org)

### Orlando Section website

[www.ieee.org/orlando](http://www.ieee.org/orlando)

### Website address for the Daytona Section

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

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

The date for the fall session is Dec 1 at ERAU. The 2013 spring session begins Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at the HRYC

## NOTE - DINNER PRICE CHANGE

We have held our dinner price at \$18 for over 5 years. Unfortunately, cost increases now make it necessary for us to raise the entrée price to \$20 and the Veggie plate to \$12. The student price will remain at \$10.

## 2012 SECTION OFFICERS

**Chair – Dr. Thomas Yang**

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# OCTOBER 2012 MEETING

**Thursday October 25th** 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** - Gina Holt

**TOPIC** – Birds of Prey

## **September Dinner Menu**

It's Italian Night

Pasta Bar

Dinner includes House Salad, Rolls & Butter, Coffee/Tea

**Unless noted, dinner entrées are \$20.00 each. Students \$10.00 each  
A Veggie plate is available on request for \$12**

Dinner reservations must be in by Wednesday the 24th at noon so the club has time to order and prepare

**Please contact Allan Jusko with your dinner selections or for program information.**

Allan Jusko

Editor

386-671-3706

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**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.**

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