
April 2001

Rock River Valley Section
www.ieee.org/regional/section/rock_river/

Event

Sense

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

Computer/Control Systems, IAS, PELS Chapters Mtg GM Truck & Bus Assembly Plant Tour

When

WEDNESDAY, April 25, 2001

Where

General Motors Truck and Bus Assembly Plant In Janesville, WI: Go North on I-90 to Janesville. Take Exit 177A (the one after Exit 177B). Go West to Prairie Ave (1st stoplight) and turn North (right). Turn left on Delavan Drive. Go two blocks to Industrial Drive where the main entrance is. Tours start at the second entrance (building with American flag on top).

Agenda

6:00 PM Tour Begins

Program

The tour is limited to 70 people. It consists of a 17 minute movie providing an overview of what will be seen and then a tram ride through the assembly areas. We will see everything except the paint areas: all the 600 robot assembly lines, the body line, the frame lines, and final assembly and test.

This is a tour of a highly automated assembly plant that makes the Suburban, Blazer, and Yukon models. Extensive use of robotics allows complete assembly of the vehicle from parts delivered to the plant. This plant also assembles medium duty trucks which are about the size of garbage trucks. 4,725 people are employed in a plant that covers 3.5

million square feet on 127 acres.

Meal

No arranged dinner. Members will be on their own for dinner.

Reservations

Please reserve your space by calling Gloria at 815-226-2513 by Monday April 23 at noon. (Please include email address and phone number in the information you provide Gloria - thanks).

Note

The meeting is open to the general public. You need not be an IEEE member. Guests are welcome. However, please call to enable us to make appropriate arrangements.

Bonus Section Meeting: DSP-Based Closed-Loop Loudspeaker System

When

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Where

Rock Valley College Technology Center, Room 117.

Agenda

6:00 PM

Program

The speaker will present an overview of his MSEE thesis project. Following a brief de-

scription of loudspeaker theory - especially as it relates to low-frequency sound waves, and using some well-established techniques, the speaker will show that a loudspeaker can be described as a high-pass filter and its characteristics can be described using familiar filter terminology - that is the loudspeaker response can be described as "Butterworth" or "Bessel".

Feedback control theory was used to modify the response of the loudspeaker system. For example, if the loudspeaker demonstrates a

resonance at a particular frequency, it is possible to smooth out this resonance via the correct use of feedback. My control system is based on state-variable feedback.

Speaker

Linden Griesbach received his BSEE degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1979. Mr. Griesbach spent four years as a controls engineer in industry. He has been an instructor in the Technology Division of Rock Valley College since then, aside from a sabbatical to pursue a Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Notice of Change to RRVS Newsletter Delivery

Beginning with the September '01 RRVS Newsletter, the delivery will change from hard copy to purely electronic. Email notification of availability of the newsletter at the section website will be sent to all members with whom we have an email address on file. So please make sure we have your email address. For those members without an email address and who would like assistance on obtaining one, please contact one of the RRVS Officers for assistance.

Chicago/Rockford IEEE Consultants Network Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 14, 2001. The optional informal dinner is at 6:15 PM at Bakers' Square (270 E. Northwest Highway and North Court), and the meeting at 7:30 PM at the Palatine Public Library (700 North Court, Palatine, IL 847-358-1216).

There will be a brief introduction to the more than 24 insurance programs available to all IEEE members (consultants, self-employed, employed, unemployed, retired). There will be special emphasis on Professional Liability Insurance, In-Home Business Insurance, Small Employer Group Insurance, Auto & Homeowners Insurance, Long-Term Care, and many more. The no-fee IEEE Financial Advantage Program will also be explained. It provides portable non-technical benefits to all members and their families such as investment and planning, mutual funds, annuities, credit cards, computer hardware and software purchasing programs, business services, home services (mortgages, moving, real estate), global travel services, and more.

Members and non-members are invited to both the meeting and the optional dinner.

—>

March Meeting Recap

Mr. Bob Campbell, Chief Information Officer of Rock Valley College pictured below, reviewed the comprehensive plan for upgrading Rock Valley College's information network including its satellite facilities. He discussed the challenges they are overcoming in implementing the plan including designing a network

to handle 100 channels of video while still containing costs, interfacing between different phone companies that have control over different satellite facilities of RVC, implementing voice over IP and phone company issues, and connecting to other educational information networks in order to maximize the capabilities of the system. He also discussed potential benefits to not only RVC but area educational facilities.

Information about the network can be obtained by e-mail: g.l.blank@ieee.org and at our web site <http://www.drblank.com/coaction.htm>.

ASME April Meeting

ASME Fox Valley and ASME Rock River valley are offering another chance to hear William Siegfriedt talk on Gas-Fired Power Plants Technical, Business And Community Issues. The meeting is on April 18, 2001, at Rock Valley College in Rockford, just seconds off the Tollway. Be sure to visit <http://www.asme.rockford.org> for the details of the joint ASME Fox Valley and Rock River Valley section meeting. Reservations can be made by E-mail asme@flask.com

May Meeting Preview

The RRVS will hold our annual picnic/elections meeting at Hamilton Sundstrand Park. Hope for good weather and bring your appetite.

Submissions to *Event Sense*

Send articles and job ads to the *Event Sense* editor, Bob Parro, via e-mail (preferred), or fax. Job ads will run for two consecutive months. Contact the *Event Sense* editor if the ad needs to run longer. Please make submissions by the twenty-fifth of the month. All submissions are subject to editing for style, clarity, and space considerations.

e-mail: b.parro@ieee.org
fax: (815) 425-6919

2001 IEEE RRVS Executive Committee

Chris Wrate
Chair,
cwrate@ieee.org
815-633-7400

Prof. Don Zinger
Vice Chair,
NIU St Br Counselor
d.zinger@ieee.org
815-753-0540

Alkesh Patel
Secretary,
alkesh.patel@ieee.org
815-394-2487

Larry Wachowiak
Treasurer
l.wachowiak@ieee.org
815-397-9090

Bob Parro
Joint Computer/Control
Systems Chapter Chair,
Newsletter Editor
b.parro@ieee.org
815-877-6670

Vietson Nguyen
PELS Chapter Chair
vnguyen@ieee.org
815-394-3230

Jitendra Solanki
IAS Chapter Chair
J.Solanki@hs.utc.com
815-394-5675

Joe Etminan
Educational Activities Chair
joe@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us
815-654-5514

Northern Illinois University Student Branch Officers

Shireen Allauddin
Chair

Ami Patel
Vice Chair

Joe Dowsett
Secretary

John Thomas
Treasurer

*Messages for student officers can be left at the NIU Dept of
Electrical Engineering,
(815) 753-9974 or e-mail at sb.niu@ieee.org*

***The Rock River Valley Section gratefully acknowledges the following
companies and university for supporting Section Officers:***

Hamilton Sundstrand • Northern Illinois University • Telelogic



Rock River Valley Section
Established 1947

Electronic IEEE Membership Application
 An electronic online application is available at:
www.ieee.org/join.html

Update Your Own IEEE Member Contact Info Online
 Go to IEEE Web Registration at:
services1.ieee.org/membersvc/registration/intro.htm

Calendar

- April Section Meeting/Tour** **WEDNESDAY, April 25**
 Janesville GM Bus and Truck Assembly Plant, Janesville, WI
- May Section Meeting/Elections/Picnic** **May 17**
 DSP-Based Closed-Loop Loudspeaker System at Rock Valley College
- May Section Picnic/Elections** **May 31**
 Hamilton Sundstrand Park



Joint Computer/
Control Systems
Society Chapter
Established 1995



Industry
Applications
Society Chapter
Established 1992



Power
Electronics
Society
Chapter
Established 1996

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No.496

Time-Sensitive Material

Inside This Issue

- April Section Meeting Notice 1
- Bonus Section Meeting May 17 1
- Notice of Change to RRVS Newsletter Delivery 2
- Chicago/Rockford Consultants Network Meeting 2
- March RRVS Meeting Recap 2
- ASME April Meeting Announcement 2
- May RRVS Meeting Preview 2
- RRVS Website & Officer Contact Information 3
- Calendar 4