
February 2003

Rock River Valley Section

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Event

Sense

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

Joint IEEE/ASME Meeting 2003 National Engineering Week Celebration Robots in the Rock River Valley

When February 20, 2003

Where Rock Valley College, Technology Center, Room 142. I90 to Riverside Blvd., exit and go west to Mulford Rd. Go south to first light, turn east into RVC. Follow road to left to last building.

Agenda

6:00 PM Networking
6:30 PM Dinner
7:30 PM Presentation

Program The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition challenges teams of students and their mentors to solve a common problem in a six-week timeframe using a standard "kit of parts" and a common set of rules. Teams build robots from the parts and enter them in a series of competitions. The Competition has grown to more than 800 teams competing in 23 Regional Events, and The Championship Event held at Reliant Park in Houston where more than 20,000 students participate.

FIRST redefines winning for these students. Teams are rewarded for excellence in design, demonstrated team spirit, gracious professionalism and maturity, and ability to overcome obstacles. Scoring the most points is a secondary goal. Winning means building partnerships that last.

A functioning robot will be shown along with videos and pictures of the team

and robot during development. You will learn how students were changed as a result of their participation. Pictured is last year's robot with a goal in tow, and the Leadership in Controls Award that the team won. (www.usfirst.org)

FIRST).

Speaker Mr. Brian Kluck, advanced mathematics and science teacher at Christian Life High School, is for the second year leading the school's team to compete in the FIRST competition.

Door Prizes

Sponsored by RRVS.

Meal/Reservations

There will be meat and vegetarian choices for dinner. Please reserve your space and/or dinner selection by **calling Ginger at 815-394-5696 or sending an email (ginger.spinasanta@hs.utc.com) by Monday, Feb 17, at noon**. Please include your name, phone number, email address, IEEE member number and meat or vegetarian selection. The cost of the dinner is **\$5 for members, \$13 for non-members, and \$2 for students. US FIRST team members FREE.**

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.

(See Page 2 for more on US

Chicago/Rockford IEEE Consultants' Network Meeting

The Chicago/Rockford IEEE Consultants' Network will be meeting on Monday, March 31, 2003, 7:30 - 9:00 PM at the Palatine Public Library, 700 North Court, Palatine, IL 847-358-1216. At 6:15 PM, we meet for an optional dinner at Bakers Square. It is located at 270 E. Northwest Highway and North Court, just south of the library.

In addition to networking and sharing leads and referrals, on March 31, instead of a speaker, we plan to continue our January 21st open discussion on "Considerations in Setting Consulting Fees (PART II)". Members will share ideas and methods they have used successfully for setting client fees and will discuss the reference material provided at the January 21st meeting. We will delve further into the issues of reasonableness and competitiveness in developing a fee structure, as well as look at fixed price vs. time-and-materials contracts vs. retainers.

Non-members are welcome to either activity. Information about the network can be obtained by e-mail: g.l.blank@ieee.org or visit our web site at <http://www.drblank.com/coaction.htm>

Robots in the Rock River Valley

Yes the same Dean Kamen that invented Segway, the personal transportation device that he is riding on in the picture below, is the same person that is responsible for organizing and promoting the US FIRST Robotics Competition.

March Meeting Preview

We have scheduled a tour of Pacific Scientific in Rockford for March 27.

All Electronic Delivery of the RRVS Newsletter

The RRVS Newsletter is now available online. Members who would like to have a copy emailed to them, please send an email request to b.parro@ieee.org. Email notification of availability of the newsletter at the section website (see page 1, upper right corner) will be sent to all members with whom we have a valid email address on file. Please check for your valid email address.

January Meeting Recap

NIU's Dr. Michael Haji-Sheikh from the university's Microelectronics Research and Development Laboratory and Laboratory for NanoScale Science and Engineering Technology have an interesting talk on the Role of Engineering in Nanotechnology. He gave a status of the industry, talked about the companies who are developing product being used in industry and what the prospects are for the industry looking forward. Many thanks Prof. Haji-Sheikh.

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

2003 IEEE RRVS Executive Committee

Jitendra Solanki Chair j.solanki@ieee.org 815-394-5675	Alkesh Patel Vice Chair, alkesh.patel@ieee. org 815-394-2487	Chris Wrate Secretary and Past Chair, cwrate@ieee.org 815-633-7400	Larry Wachowiak Treasurer l.wachowiak@ieee. org 815-397-9090	Mark Eldredge Awards Chair Mark_Eldredge @ieee.org 815-394-4905
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Northern Illinois University Student Branch Officers

David Roberts Chair	James Bailey Vice Chair	Mohammed Irfan Secretary	Will Worth Treasurer
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*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 • BP Technologies



Rock River Valley Section
Established 1947

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Calendar

February Section Meeting February 20
Robots in the Rock River Valley at Rock Valley College

March Section Tour March 27
Pacific Scientific in Rockford



Joint Computer/
Control Systems
Society Chapter
Established 1995



Industry
Applications
Society Chapter
Established 1992



Power
Electronics
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Chapter
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