
March 20, 2003

Rock River Valley Section

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Event

Sense

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

Joint IEEE/ASME Meeting

Space, First Steps...and Beyond

When March 20, 2003

Where Rock Valley College, Stenstrom Center, 4151 Samuelson Road, Rockford, IL 61109 (Next to Jefferson High School)

Agenda

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

Program We are the first generation of humans to know what lies beyond the sky. We have floated weightless in the black emptiness, set foot on the gray surface of the Moon, and sent robot fleets to seven of our eight neighbors. We have peered with our telescopes into the hearts of exploding stars and nearby galaxies, and we've seen almost to the edge of space-time. And yet, we have merely dipped our toes into the ocean of the cosmos. So much remains to be explored and discovered, even within our own neighborhood of the solar system, including liquid oceans on Jupiter's moons, and ancient dry lakes and rivers on Mars. What lies beyond beckons. How soon will we embark on the vision of Carl Sagan: "We have lingered long enough on the shores of the cosmic ocean. We are ready at last to set sail for the stars"?

Speaker Mr. Donald T.

Palac manages NASA John H. Glenn Research Center's Rocket-Based Combined Cycle Program, an effort to combine rocket and jet engine propulsion to enable routine access to space. He joined the NASA staff in 1987.

He has served as a manager of projects and people in developing advanced concepts for space science and exploration. He managed the design of new rocket engines and power systems for the exploration of the Moon and Mars, oversaw development of experiments for the Mars Pathfinder rover, headed a team to develop a science mission to the Moon and a comet using a new electric rocket engine, and has served on NASA-wide committees that developed strategic planning and NASA's vision for the future.

Prior to joining NASA, Don served ten years with the United States Air Force, where he helped design and prepare for launch the early warning satellites that were used against Iraqi Scud missiles in the Persian Gulf War.

A native of Carpentersville, Illinois, Don earned a BS in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering from Purdue University, an MS in Astronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and an MBA from California State University at Dominguez Hills, Carson, California.

Door Prizes

Sponsored by RRVs.

Meal/Reservations

There will be a chicken or vegetarian selection. 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, Mar 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.**

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

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>

February Meeting Recap

Mr. Brian Kluck, an advanced math and physics teacher at Christian Life High School, and an ensemble of high school students and mentors from companies in the community gave an inspiring overview of the US FIRST robot project in which they have been involved, which allows the team only six weeks to design, develop and test a robot capable of stacking bins on top of each other. Brian's team had just shipped the robot to the US FIRST Regional Competition two days before this meeting. Attendees were treated to an interesting and highly diverse presentation format that included video of last year's competition, animated clips showing simulation of this year's competition, posters of pictures of the team during the development of this year's robot, live testimonies from the students on the project as well as from the mentors that provided guidance to the students, and finally, a live demonstration of last year's robot.

March/April Meetings Preview

We have scheduled a tour of Pacific Scientific in Rockford for March 27, only one week after the meeting announced in this newsletter. A separate newsletter will be available to provide more details regarding this tour/dinner.

In addition, we are negotiating with the DaimlerChrysler plant in Belvidere to host a tour for our section for our April meeting.

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.

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.

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2003 IEEE RRVS Executive Committee

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Northern Illinois University Student Branch Officers

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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:***

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Rock River Valley Section
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Calendar

- March 20 Joint Section Meeting with ASME** **March 20**
Space, First Steps...And Beyond featuring the NASA Mgr of Future Propulsion Systems
- March 27 Section Tour** **March 27**
Pacific Scientific in Rockford
- April Section Tour** **April 24**
DaimlerChrysler Tour in Belvidere (tentative)



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