
February 2004

Rock River Valley Section

ieee.flask.com

Event

Sense

The **I**nstitute of **E**lectrical and **E**lectronic **E**ngineers, Inc.

Joint ASME & IEEE RRVS Computer/Control Systems, IAS Chapters Meeting
**National Engineer's Week Event: Electricity
Deregulation and the August 14th Blackout**

When February 26, 2004

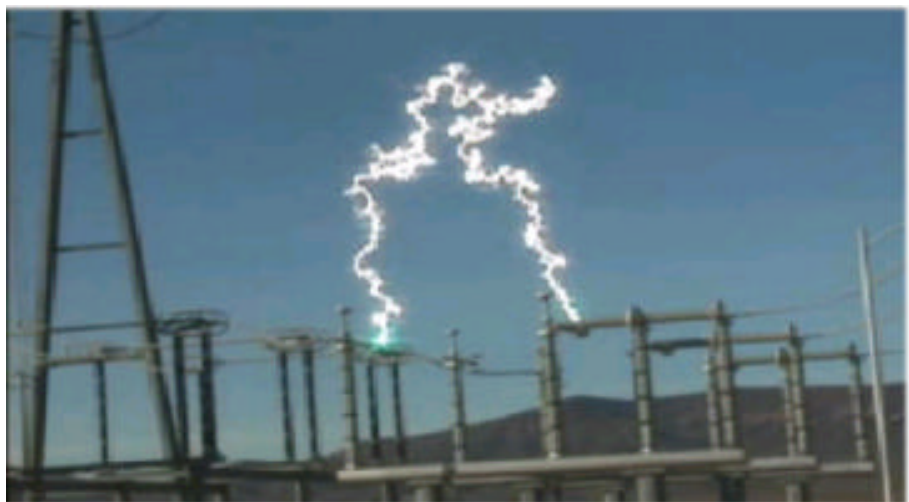
Where Rock Valley College, Woodward Technology Center, **Room 141**. I-90 to Riverside Blvd., exit and go west to Mulford Rd. Go south to first light, turn east into RVC. Follow road to left to last building on right.

Agenda

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

Program Until recently most people gave little thought to the source of the power that comes out of the electric outlet. And why should they? The North American electric power system had been designed as the ultimate in plug-and-play convenience. However, behind the humble wall outlet lurks one of the largest and most complex objects ever build -- a marvel that was named the top engineering accomplishment of the 20th century by the National Academy of Engineering. But then came deregulation, with its astronomical prices, and the August 14th blackout. As the electric grid collides head-on with financial markets, the results have not always been expected or desired. This talk provides an animated look into the realm of electric power grids, looking at the physics of grid operation, how deregulation can both lower and raise prices, the August 14th blackout, and what's in store for Illinois and the Midwest.

Speaker Tom Overbye is a professor of Electrical and Computer



Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1983, 1988 and 1991 respectively. He was employed with Madison Gas and Electric Company from 1983 to 1991 where he worked to help develop their real-time power system analysis software. He was the recipient of the IEEE Power Engineering Society Walter Fee Outstanding Young Engineer Award in 1993 and an IEEE Third Millennium Medal in 2000. He is also the original developer of PowerWorld Simulator, an innovative computer program for power system analysis and visualization, and a co-founder of PowerWorld Corporation. During Fall 2003 he served on the DOE August 14th blackout investigation team, including leading the initial on-site investigations of FirstEnergy

and the Midwest ISO.

Meal/Reservations

There will be a chicken and 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 Tuesday, Feb 24, 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 Ginger to enable us to make appropriate arrangements.



Fact Sheet

What: National Engineers Week

Who: National Engineers Week in Rockford is supported by the IEEE.

When: The event will be celebrated February 22 - 28, 2004. It was first established in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Where: Throughout the U.S. and in Rockford

Why: National Engineers Week is an annual event to bring to public attention the work and contributions of our nation's engineers. (Here add local mission)

How: National Engineers Week is sponsored by hundreds of engineering societies, government agencies, corporations and businesses and universities. In Rockford the program is organized and sponsored by the IEEE Rock River Valley Section. Local events include a National Engineers display and dinner at Giovanni's restaurant on Wednesday, Feb 25.

For more information about National Engineers Week in Rockford, contact Paul Hofmann at 815-226-3876 or via email at paul.hofmann@hs.utc.com.



January Meeting Recap

Jack Kozik, Director of the Network Services Architecture Department in the Mobility Solutions Group of Lucent Technologies in Naperville, Illinois, gave an excellent talk on the technology behind high speed mobile data services, and related the technology and services to our own cell phones and cell phone service.



March Meeting Preview

Mitra Dutta, a Professor and the Head of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago will discuss recommended high-payoff technologies to help the Army fulfill its mission in countering terrorism and anti-terrorism in support of Homeland Security.

Keep PACE

The Professional Activities Committees for Engineers (PACE) is a grassroots network of IEEE volunteers and committees organized at the section and chapter level in the United States with support from their respective regions and the IEEE-USA. The PACE Network promotes the professional interests of IEEE's U.S. members and provides a mechanism for communication of members' views on their professional needs.

The Rock River Valley Section PACE chair, Paul Hofmann, is coordinating a number of PACE activities in the next couple of months. They include **National Engineers Week** (beginning Feb 23), **US First Robotics Competition** (Jan 10 thru Feb 26).

Please consider participating at these events. Contact Paul Hofmann at 815-226-3876, Larry Wachowiak at 815-226-5147 or Neal Clements at 815-226-6182.

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: (443) 339-2606

2004 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



Mark Eldredge
Secretary
Mark_Eldredge@ieee.org
815-633-7400



Larry Wachowiak
Treasurer
l.wachowiak@ieee.org



Chris Wrate
Awards Chair
cwrate@ieee.org
815-394-4905



Bob Parro
Newsletter Editor
b.parro@ieee.org
815-877-6670



Vi-etsou Nguyen
IAS Chapter Chair
vnguyen@ieee.org
815-394-3230



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



Joe Etminan
Educational Activities
Chair
joe@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us



Neal Clements
PELS Chapter
Chair
n.clements@ieee.org
815-226-6182

Northern Illinois University Student Branch Officers



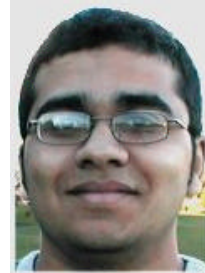
Lucky Islam



Anish Matthew
Vice Chair



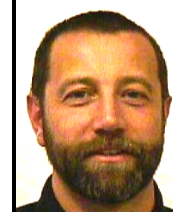
Anthony Padovano
Secretary



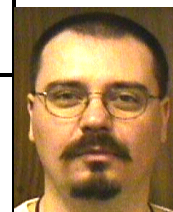
Ashish Ekbote
Treasurer



Paul Hofmann
PACE Chair
paul.hofmann@hs.utc.com
815-226-3876



Nolan Wanner
Computer/
Control Sys
Chapter Ch.
n.wanner@ieee.org
815-394-5922



Adrian Vandergrift
Gold Chair
adrian.vandergrift@hs.utc.com
815-226-2518

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

**IEEE Personal E-Mail Alias Service
with Free Virus Scanning**

The IEEE now offers an **Alias Service** in which all IEEE **members** can register a **personal alias** of their choice, which will forward E-Mail to their real internet e-mail address. Go to:

elecomm.ieee.org/personal-aliases.shtml

Update Your Own IEEE Member Contact Info Online

services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coa/intro.htm

Electronic IEEE Membership Application

www.ieee.org/join.html

Calendar

February Section Meeting February 26

'What Lurks Behind the Outlet: Electricity Deregulation and the August 14th Blackout' at Rock Valley College

March Section Meeting March 30

'Homeland Security'

April Section Meeting April 29

Tour of Minarik, a leading manufacturer in the high-tech motion control and automation industry

May Section Elections/Picnic Meeting May 27

Annual RRVS Section Elections and Picnic at Hamilton-Sundstrand Park



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

Time-Sensitive Material

Inside This Issue

- February Section Meeting Notice 1
- National Engineers Week2
- March RRVS Meeting Preview 2
- January RRVS Meeting Recap 2
- Keep PACE 2
- 2004 Officer Contact Information 3
- Calendar4