

April 2010

Rock River Valley Section

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



The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.

IEEE RRVS and Rock Valley College Meeting

SERVING IEEE MEMBERS OF NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS AND EXTREME SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Panel Discussion on Consulting

**WHEN** Thursday, April 29, 2010

**WHERE** Rock Valley College, Woodward Technology Center, Room 142. I-90 to Riverside Blvd., exit and go west to Mulford Rd.

Go south to 2nd light, turn east into RVC. Follow road to left to last building on right.

**AGENDA**

- 5:30 PM Robotics Team Demo
- 6:00 PM Networking
- 6:30 PM Dinner
- 7:30 PM Panel Discussion

**PROGRAM**

The meeting this month will consist of a panel discussion and will feature a number of active consultants in a variety of engineering fields. They will discuss what the life of a consultant is like, how one would go about becoming a consultant and some of the challenges and rewards of being a consultant.

**SPEAKERS**

Consultants Gary Blank, 2010 IEEE-USA Vice President of Career and Member Services



Gary Blank



Joe Auer



Larry Wachowiak



Bob Parro



Benjamin D. Miller, PE



Roy Leventhal

and a member of the IEEE-USA Board of Directors; Joseph Auer, NPI Sourcing Project Manager with Woodward MPC; Larry Wachowiak, Contract Engineer with Ingenium Technologies currently contracted to Hamilton Sundstrand; Bob Parro, VP Business Development with River North Solutions; Benjamin Miller, President & Owner of B. Miller Engineering; and Roy Leventhal, co-owner of Leventhal Design & Communications, will provide insights from their long careers as consultants. Additional biographical information is available on page 2.

**MEAL INFORMATION**

Dinner will feature roast turkey and a vegetarian entrée. The costs are: member: \$5, non-member: \$10, student members: \$2, student non-members: \$5.

Please make dinner reservations online (preferred) at [http://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting\\_view/list\\_meeting/2019](http://meetings.vtools.ieee.org/meeting_view/list_meeting/2019) or by emailing Ginger at ginger.spinasanta@hs.utc.com by Tuesday, April 27, at 5pm. Please include the following: name, phone number, email address, IEEE member number, choice of entree. Unemployed members may call the Treasurer for special arrangements.

**NOTE**

The meeting is open to the general public. You need not be an IEEE member to attend. Guests are welcome. Please email Ginger at ginger.spinasanta@hs.utc.com for questions.



**Gary Blank**

**Gary L. Blank** is the 2010 IEEE-USA Vice President of Career and Member Services and a member of the IEEE-USA Board of Directors. He was also elected by the membership of IEEE-USA to represent the membership as the Member-at-Large on the IEEE-USA Board of Directors 2008-2009. He has served as the chair of the AICN (Alliance of IEEE Consultants Networks) with over 50 Networks in the USA and 7 overseas. He is a member of the IEEE Rock River Valley Section. He is the founding chair of the IEEE Chicago/Rockford Consultants Network. He is a self-employed consultant with many years of practical experience in control systems, brushless DC motor control, power electronics, power/energy, modeling and simulation.

Dr. Blank teaches courses (live and on DVD) for engineers preparing for the FE and PE exams. He conducts workshops on How to Start and Expand a Successful Consulting Practice.

In addition to his experience in industry, he has been a professor of Electrical Engineering at Marquette University, Northern Illinois University, and Illinois Institute of Technology (I.I.T.). He has B.S. from I.I.T., M.S. from the University of Idaho, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, all degrees in Electrical Engineering



**Joe Auer**

**Joseph A. Auer, Jr.** is a Director and current Chair of the IEEE Chicago / Rockford Consultants' Network. He is currently employed by Woodward MPC as a NPI Sourcing Project Manager, and formerly as a Senior Program Manager. He has over 35 years of progressively challenging high technology management roles, with expertise in program and engineering project (including software) management, business planning, systems engineering, proposal development and process improvement. He has extensive experience in industry, military, academic and not-for-profit environments. Joe's sole proprietor consulting practice, JAuer Consulting Enterprises, provides timely, world class solutions for program management, engineering management and business planning requirements. His academic credentials include a Bachelor of Science in Earth and Planetary Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master of Science in Physics from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Joe has taught physics and astronomy at local community colleges and is also serving as Chairman of the Board of the Planetary Studies Foundation, a science education not-for-profit organization.



**Larry Wachowiak**

**Larry Wachowiak** works for Ingenium Technologies at Hamilton Sundstrand, a division of United Technologies Corporation, as a contract engineer. He retired in 1999 from Hamilton Sundstrand and returned in 2000 to work as contract engineer. He has been working steadily for 10 years, except for a two month layoff, at HS. His area of expertise is analog and power electronics circuit design. Larry has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Marquette U., an MS in Electrical Engineering from Marquette, and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. He worked for Sundstrand Corp for 25 years before retiring in circuit design, project engineering, and engineering management.



**Benjamin D. Miller, PE**

**Mr. Miller** is President & Owner of B. Miller Engineering. He provides electrical consulting services in industrial power and controls, automation, product controls, forensic investigation, and electrical safety training. He has



**Bob Parro**

**Bob Parro** is VP of Business Development at River North Solutions, a consulting company that specializes in product development process best practices and associated design tool expertise in the areas of requirements management, and change and configuration management. Bob has a BS in Electrical Engineering from Notre Dame and an MS in Engineering from Purdue. Bob performed design and development in automotive for 5 years at Delco Electronics, 18 years in aerospace at Sundstrand Aerospace, 3 years with a design tool vendor, Telelogic, 3 years in healthcare at GE Healthcare, and 6 years in consulting.

Bob is a Senior IEEE member, the 2010 IEEE MGA Vice Chair of Information Management, Candidate for 2011-2012 IEEE Region 4 Director-Elect, IEEE Region 4 Central Area Chair, and IEEE Rock River Valley Section Power Electronics Chapter Chair and Communications Chair. Bob is also the Communications Chair for the INCOSE Chicagoland Chapter.

results in semiconductor modeling and simulation in IBIS, SPICE and Scattering-Parameters, signal integrity, power integrity, and EMC (electromagnetic control).

**Roy Leventhal** is co-owner of Leventhal Design & Communications, where he con-



### March RRV Section Meeting Recap

On March 18, IEEE RRV Section hosted Zhong Chen of ETS-Lindgren in Austin, TX. The meeting was held at the Technology Center of Rock Valley College in Rockford. About 28 people attended the meeting. He has chaired and spoken at the Antennas and Field Probes workshops at the IEEE-EMC symposiums during the past several years. He discussed two topics of importance for EMC testing: antennas and fields probes.

EMC antennas are mainly used for:

- Radiated Emissions measurement
- Radiated Immunity testing
- Site qualification test (Normalized site attenuation)
- Other applications, such as exciting a reverberation chamber

Field probes are broadband devices similar to RF power sensors. isotropic probes consist of three orthogonal axes. Probes are designed to interact minimally with the environment.

The full presentations are posted at <http://www.ieee.org/rivs>.



### May RRV Section Meeting Preview

Please join us May 27 for the next RRV section meeting which will feature our annual steak barbeque and 2011 RRVS Officer elections.



# 2010 IEEE RRVS Executive Committee



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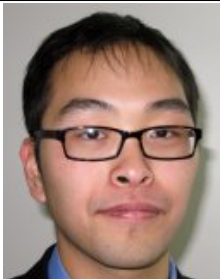


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The Rock River Valley Section gratefully acknowledges the following companies and colleges for supporting Section Officers:

[Hamilton Sundstrand](#) • [Northern Illinois University](#) • [Rock Valley College](#) • [River North Solutions](#)



**Mark Harris**  
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**RRVS Calendar**

- April RRVS Meeting** ..... **April 29**  
Consultants Network Panel Discussion, Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL
- May RRVS 2011 Officer Election and Annual Picnic Meeting** ..... **May 27**  
Steak barbeque, Hamilton Sundstrand Park, Belvidere, IL

**Rock River Valley Section Chapters**

Industry Applications Society Chapter  
*Established 1992*

Joint Computer/Control Systems Society Chapter  
*Established 1995*

Power Electronics Society Chapter  
*Established 1996*

Electromagnetic Compatibility Society Chapter  
*Established 2007*

Time-Sensitive Material

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