



IEEE ALASKA CURRENTS

THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS
ALASKA SECTION NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2006

*Inside this edition of
Currents...*

ACCOMMODATIONS NEEDED FOR STUDENT BRANCH MEMBERS [PAGE 2](#)

IEEE ALASKA SECTION 2006 ACHIEVEMENTS [PAGE 2](#)

BANQUET RSVP FORM [PAGE 3](#)

IEEE CONFERENCES [PAGE 4](#)

PACE [PAGE 5](#)

FAIRBANKS SUBSECTION [PAGE 5](#)

FROM THE EDITOR [PAGE 6](#)

2006 Alaska Section Awards Banquet

Make your reservations today — RSVP form inside

Date: **Saturday, September 23, 2006**

Time: Social hour - 6:00 PM, Dinner and reception - 7:00 PM

Place: Millennium Hotel Anchorage
4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage

Speaker: Chris Rose from Renewable Energy Alaska Project will be discussing renewable energy usage in Alaska.

Special guest: Bob Baldwin, IEEE Region 6 Director

The evening begins at 6:00 pm, warming up with a social hour which includes no-host cocktails. A superb dinner will be served at 7:00, followed by a state-of-the-section address by Chair Jo Ann Neumaier. During the course of the evening, the Section will formally recognize and present its 2006 awards for:

Alaska Section:

•*Engineer of the Year: Kenneth J. Kokjer, Ph.D., P.E.*

•*Community Service: Bogdan Hoanca, Ph.D.*

•*Small Company of the Year: Kotzebue Electric Association*

Menu selections can be made by completing the RSVP form on Page 3 of this edition of Currents. As this is a catered event, we urge you to please complete and return the RSVP prior to September 20th to get an accurate attendance figure and meal count for the venue.

Further information about this year's banquet, our speakers and award winners, will be provided on the Section website www.ieee-alaska.org, as well as in this month's e-News submittal. For more details or assistance, please contact Harry Turtchanow, Section Vice Chair, at 729-4057 or email to: hturtsch@anthc.org. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

This month in history

September 1902 - The New York Times relays a special dispatch from Valdez announcing that "an immense oil gusher was struck at Cotella on the Southern Alaska Coast, at a depth of 200 feet... An important new industry is thus added to Alaska's resources."

The IEEE, the world's largest technical professional society, is devoted to advancing the theory and application of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computing.

ACCOMODATIONS NEEDED FOR STUDENT BRANCH MEMBERS

Harry Turtschanow, Section Vice Chair

Members of the University of Alaska IEEE Student Branch will be traveling down from Fairbanks to attend the Alaska Section Annual Awards Banquet .

Like every year, the Section is in need of several volunteers who can find room in their homes to take in one or more student members for the evening of the banquet. Typically, 3 to 6 students will need to find accommodations for the night. The stay will only be for the evening, as the students will be making their way back to Fairbanks at noon the following day. As we all know, a student's budget is very tight, and having a place to stay for the evening can be the deciding factor as to whether or not one attends the banquet.

The Alaska Section has been quite fortunate over the last decade in having a strong attendance and representation of the Student Branch at the Awards Banquet. The students are an integral part of the banquet; these talented students gain from meeting Section members, and members in turn have the opportunity to meet and converse with their future colleagues. Please help; it is very rewarding, and your hospitality will be very much appreciated by the students and the Section. To make arrangements, or for more information, please call Harry Turtschanow, Section Vice Chair, at 729-4057 or email to: hturtsch@anthc.org.

IEEE ALASKA SECTION 2006 ACHIEVEMENTS

Jo Neumaier, Alaska Section Chair

Hello, my name is Jo Neumaier, and I am the 2006 IEEE Alaska Section Chair. I would like to thank all the people who have contributed to the Alaska Section in the past year. I would also like to thank the wonderful speakers who have volunteered their time to contribute to our general membership meetings. Additionally, I would like to thank our members' employers for supporting their activity in the IEEE Alaska Section. As I review the year's accomplishments, I will list each volunteer's employer in parenthesis after their name. Each year the IEEE Alaska Section sets goals to achieve during that year. Our goals for 2006 included:

- Increase membership, corporate support, and membership networking,
- Finalize the 2006 budget based on the new accounting system,
- Conduct at least one videoconference-linked monthly meeting with the Fairbanks Subsection,
- Actively coordinate with the Anchorage Convention and Visitor Bureau, ACVB, to bring IEEE conferences to Alaska.
- Start an Anchorage Student Branch,
- Encourage and enable past chairs to mentor present chairs,
- Sponsor the 2007 NESC Update course,
- Conduct an in-depth survey of members about their educational and other needs,
- Develop a five-year educational plan based on that survey,

Accomplishing these goals is dependent not only on the work of volunteers during the current year but also on the ground work laid by the volunteers in previous years. Four of our goals were met as a result of the work of volunteers over more than one year.

John Lynn (SOA ALRM) and Andy Rzeszut (GCI) laid the ground work that brought about not just one but three videoconference links of speakers meetings. Mike Willmon (GCI) has successfully converted the Anchorage Section finances to electronic accounting using a Quicken program that was recommended by the Fairbanks Subsection Chair (2005) and Treasurer (2006), Stephen Gemmell. This is the first year we were able to electronically import our financial records into the IEEE L50 Report directly from our local accounting program.

Bob Baldwin serves on the Advisory Committee of the Dean of Engineering at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). His dedication and tireless effort have made possible the new Bachelor of Science and Engineering Program, BSE, at UAA. Bogdan Hoanca (UAA), immediate past chair of the Section, has also worked with UAA to support the development of the program. The UAA Chair of the BSE Program, Grant Baker, had offered to pay the students first year's dues in their professional organizations. As a result, 56 electrical engineering students have petitioned to join IEEE. IEEE requires 30 students to start a local student branch. As soon as the check is sent to IEEE USA, we will have a UAA Student Branch.

(Continued on page 4)

2006 IEEE Alaska Section Annual Awards Banquet

The 2006 Alaska Section Awards Banquet will be held at the Millennium Hotel on Saturday, September 23, starting at 6:00 p.m. Following a cocktail hour and dinner, presentation of awards, special recognitions, and scholarships will take place. We are very fortunate this year to have a guest speaker whom will be discussing renewable energy in Alaska.

Please join us on September 23rd for the banquet. The cost is \$30 person, \$15 for full time University of Alaska engineering students. Please complete and return this form to RSVP and ensure your reservations. If you have any questions, please call Harry Turtschanow, Section Vice-Chair, at 729-4057 or email to: hturtsch@anthc.org.

Location: Millennium Hotel
4800 Spenard Road
Anchorage, Alaska

Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour (*no-host*)
7:00 p.m. Dinner
8:15 p.m. Awards and Scholarship Presentations
9:00 p.m. Guest Speakers: Chris Rose, REAP

2006 ALASKA SECTION AWARDS BANQUET R.S.V.P.

Names in Party (first/last):

Member [] Student or Student Branch Member []

Number in your Party: _____ members and guests _____ students*

Please indicate quantities of each of the following menu choices:

Halibut Olympia _____ Chef's Featured Beef _____
Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Chef's Vegetarian Entrée _____

The cost is \$30 per person, \$15 for students.
Please make checks payable to **IEEE Alaska Section**.

Please submit form to be received with your payment no later than September 20th to:

IEEE Alaska Section
P.O. Box 230367
Anchorage, Alaska 99523-0367

(Continued from page 2)

Bob Baldwin, Ocie Mitchell (State of Alaska ALMR), and Mike Willmon (GCI) have taken Bogdan (UAA), Bill Schneider (USKH), and myself (Municipal Light & Power, ML&P) to three IEEE conference and planning meetings with the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) and IEEE societies (ICRA, IEEE USA OPCOM, and the Vehicular Society) to discuss plans for scheduled conferences in Anchorage. See Bob Baldwin's article in this newsletter.

Communication is crucial for the health of the section. Fortunately, Jason Reed (Teck Cominco, Red Dog Mine) contacted us and volunteered his skills in electronic communications and web maintenance. IEEE assigns new members to local sections based on the address given by the member. The Alaska Section must maintain its own list of members for electronic communication. Since the section did not have a Communications Chair for a number of years, the section's Listserv was sorely out of date. Jason's efforts as Media and Communications Chair have resulted in the following accomplishments:

- Adding 269 members registered as Alaska IEEE members with IEEE to the AK Section Listserv so that they will receive the monthly announcements,
- Designing a reader friendly format to send our monthly announcements, the e-News.
- Editing this AK Section newsletter.

Other behind the scene work has been quietly done. Steven Kaleta (Chugach Electric Association, CEA) attended the membership meetings at the IEEE USA OPCOM meeting here in Anchorage. Bill Schneider (USKH) attended the IEEE USA OPCOM meeting out East. Harry Turtschanow (AK Native Tribal Health Consortium) has tirelessly worked to get monthly speakers and coordinated the September Banquet. Gene Strid has researched and developed the list of nominations for our yearly awards to be formally announced at the September Banquet on September 23, 2006.

In April, we brought Erna Gras to Anchorage to lead our first Mentor Training Workshop. We had eleven attendees. There is considerable interest from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company and the Prince William Sound RCAC to continue to develop mentor

training in Anchorage. We would like to see the Alaska Section develop a strong mentoring program.

On August 5, we had our first annual picnic at Kincaid Park. We hope to continue this next year with the date being earlier in the summer.

Finally, Lou Mass (CEA) and Dee Fultz (CEA) have made the arrangements for Allen Clapp to teach the 2007 National Electric Safety Code course in November 2006. Lou has volunteered to work with me on an educational needs survey to be sent out in the spring of 2007. With the results of that survey, we plan to develop a Five Year Educational Plan to help members meet their CE requirements.

Dee Fultz is the Region 6 Secretary, but continues to help the Section with advice and keeping track of the Architects, Landscape, Engineers and Scientists Licensing Board as they develop the new continuing education regulations.

Many of these goals are on going, and we are always looking for additional volunteers. We welcome anyone who has an interest in helping in any of these areas. Even the smallest assistance is greatly appreciated. You can volunteer to assist an officer or a committee chair. Of course we don't discourage anyone who would like to volunteer for a committee chair or officer position. We will have our yearly elections in November/December. Please contact me through email at joneumaier@ieee.org or at 907-263-5234, and let me know your interests.

THE ALASKA SECTION AND IEEE CONFERENCES

Bob Baldwin, Conferences Chair

The Alaska Section has worked closely with the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau for a number of years, to bring IEEE conferences to Alaska. These conferences have been highly successful. A new, larger convention center, located in a world-class travel destination, offers great potential to attract future conferences. The Section will continue working to insure a regular progression of IEEE conferences.

Our Institute now includes 39 technical Societies, which conduct nearly 400 annual international confer-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ences. Bringing technical conferences here provides important professional networking opportunities for members, and enhances the development of technology within Alaska. Additionally, large public economic benefits are generated.

As a result of ongoing activities, both Alaska and the Alaska Section have gained an international reputation for interest and participation in contemporary and developing technology. We are on the map. Technical conferences present opportunities for the Section to participate operationally, and also as a financial sponsor, sharing in the conference surplus. It is the Section's option to become involved, and likely that many future conferences will be capable of functioning without assistance.

A parallel effort is underway to better acquaint influential national and international leaders with Alaska. As a first measure, the IEEE-USA Operations Committee was invited to meet here May 12-13 this year. The Section served as a red-carpet host, with outstanding feedback received from attendees. Further, we are working to attract a meeting of the weeklong IEEE Board Series, during which international meetings of all major boards are convened.

As to purely technical conferences, the Communications Society's prestigious INFOCOM 2007 will be held in Anchorage May 6-12. The Alaska Section is heavily involved, with B. Baldwin serving as General Chair and Ocie Mitchell as Local Activities Chair. The Section has also committed to support the Robotics & Automation Society's International Conference on Robotics & Automation 2010, with Mike Willmon serving as Local Activities Chair.

DSN 2008, the Computer Society's International Conference on Dependable Systems & Networks is scheduled June 24-27, without direct Section involvement. Pending conferences with good potential include: Computer Society's Computer Vision & Pattern Recognition 2008; Vehicular Technology Society's VTC 2009; and Systems, Man & Cybernetics Society's SMC 2011.

PACE

Ocie Mitchell, Alaska Section PACE Chair

PACE is the Professional Activities Committee for Engineering. The mission of PACE is to foster the

professional activities that engineers participate in. These are not the technical activities that engineers pursue in their daily work, but rather their non-work pursuits. These are often thought of as the "soft side" of engineering.

An example of the kind of things that PACE supports is the Mentoring Workshop sponsored by the Alaska Section this past April. Mentoring is an important element in engineering careers. A recent shift in corporate culture has somewhat undermined mentoring. This workshop was presented to increase awareness of mentoring as a professional activity, and to provide a framework for practicing engineers to mentor newcomers to the field of engineering.

PACE also supports training and leadership workshops. Again, non-technical training designed to make the engineers more effective at their work by improving their interpersonal skills. The workshops also provide career planning to assist engineers in making life and career choices.

For more information, contact the Alaska PACE co-chairs:

Ocie Mitchell, Ocie_mitchell@admin.state.ak.us or
Charlie Mayer, c.mayer@ieee.org.

FAIRBANKS SUBSECTION

Gary Donofrio, Subsection Secretary

The first meeting for the Fairbanks IEEE Subsection was an audio/video conference with the Alaska section of the IEEE. The Alaska section of the IEEE meets monthly in Anchorage, Alaska. The technology used during the audio/video conference was an application called Web-ex. Web-ex allows video conferencing of data (video, images, text, etc.) over the internet while transmitting voice over conventional phone lines. This technology worked well for both sections. The meeting guest speaker was Mike Harper from AIDEA who presented the Rural Energy Action Council's Findings and Action Recommendation Report which was presented to the Governor. The meeting was hosted by Design Alaska, Inc. in their conference room. This meeting had a record breaking attendance level of IEEE member (eleven) for the Fairbanks subsection.

It is worth noting that the first conference meeting

(Continued on page 6)

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between the two Alaska sections was made possible by the hard work of Dee Fultz, John Lynn, Andy Rzeszut, and Bob Gras who worked out the logistics of using Web-ex during their personal time.

The second Fairbanks IEEE Subsection meeting was held on March 15th. This meeting also used the Web-ex audio/video conferencing technology to conference with the Alaska section. Guest speaker Alan Peabody spoke about adding dampers to transmission lines to reduce shock loads.

Fairbanks planned to host a meeting and present the guest speaker Bill Sackinger, Member-at-Large, in July. Unfortunately, the intense construction season came on strong and shows no signs of letting up until the end of the season. The presentation of Bill Sackinger is being postponed to a winter meeting.

FROM THE EDITOR

Jason Reed, Media Chair

The year thus far has been a personal challenge, but a very rewarding one. My involvement in the Alaska

Section came mid-year when I was directed via the myIEEE web portal to our Section website. Interested in finding out more about what the activities of the group entailed, I was soon pleased to see what was before me in opportunity. I had worked in the state of Alaska for nearly 5 years, and within a matter of weeks of meeting members of the Section for the first time, I found myself in contact with them professionally. I encountered two members at a training course in Anchorage, and was working on a project at work that another member was also involved in, representing their company.

Surprised just how quickly I found myself fitting into a puzzle so to speak, I began to get accustomed to the Section processes and tools. I soon realized I was a member of a group with all of the responsibilities of a business, relations with other major organizations, and ties to government entities; a group with very distinct challenges in state-wide internal relations and communications; and finally, a group in the need of volunteer help, but which welcomed any level of support that I may have time to offer. My experience thus far has been very positive, and I look forward to assisting in the development of our section and its long term goals.
