The Beacon

The Newsletter of the IEEE Maine Section

April 19, 2018

www.ieee.org/maine

Welcome to the first Beacon of the year! Your Maine Section has been busy over the past few months. Section Chair Walter Rawle has instituted monthly ExCom meetings which are helping us stay on track. The meetings are the first Tuesday of the month at 5PM. They are not a secret, so if you would like to attend, we would like your input. Just email Walter (wrawle@hotmail.com) to receive the agenda, meeting location, and call-in instructions if you cannot attend in person. Currently, we are having our meetings at RLC Engineering in Hallowell. Importantly, since Walter is a GE alumni, he keeps the meetings short and to the point.

Maine Engineering Expo

The section had a booth adjacent to the UMaine ECE booth at the annual Maine Engineering Expo held this year at the University of Maine's New Balance Field House on February 24th. Booth traffic and interest was high.

The theme for our booth this year was the evolution of communications from Morse Code to high-frequency radio, to internet-connected remote communications, to software-defined radio. Display items includes a hand hey with Heathkit code practice oscillator, a Yaesu HF-transceiver, an Echolink connected laptop with headset, and a laptop connected to the WebSDR server at the University of Twente, The Netherlands.

Walter Rawle, Section Chair, and Ron Brown, Outreach Committee Chair, represented the Section.

University of Maine Student Research Symposium Sponsorship

As part of our ongoing effort to increase our community presence and that of our profession, the Maine Section again this year was a sponsor of the University of Maine Student Research Symposium. The symposium was held on April 17th at the Cross Center in Bangor. Our booth had a good location - next to a break area, interest, and the IEEE received much recognition through signage and multiple mentions from the podium. The booth was staffed by David Klein and Ron Brown. Ron was also a judge.

Com/CS Chapter Meeting

On March 27th the Maine Com/CS Chapter had a technical meeting at Husson University in Bangor. Approximately 30 persons attended a presentation by the Maine Turnpike Authority on their E-ZPass system. The turnpike team included Peter Mills, MTA Executive Director, Bill Yates, MTA IS Manager, and engineers Eric Barnes and Andrew Constantine.

Aside from presenting the technologies that make E-ZPass a success, they also demonstrated the so-called soft issues that must be addressed. For example, how to read a mud-covered license plate and fraud prevention. Judging by the many questions, the attendees found it very educational.

WLBZ2 Bangor conducted interviews at the meeting too! The press release about the presentation is at: http://bangordailynews.com/bdn-maine/event/2018/03/27/e-zpass-presentation-at-husson-university/

Educational Activities

Curt Beverage is working with IEEE MGA to develop activities and to give PDHs for them. Current ideas include WebEx, Six-Sigma training, and a wind farm tour. Do you have a suggestions? Please contact Curt at: curtbeveridge@roadrunner.com.

31st Annual MTUG IT Summit and Trade Show

The 31st Annual MTUG IT Summit and Trade Show will be held at the Holiday Inn in Portland on May 31st. If you're interested in Networking, Computers, and Information Management it's the place to be! The show features approximately a dozen workshops for which PDH's are given, 50 vendor booths, and a keynote speaker. When finalized, the full program will be posted at: https://www.mtug.org/summit/2018-summit. In the meantime, if you wish additional information contact Ron Brown (ron@ronaldobrownconsulting.com or 781-665-6269).

Section Officers Slate Is Filled

We've done it again this year! With the addition of Rich Hilliard in Professional Activities and Curt Beverage in Educational Activities we have a full slate of officers. Our thanks to Rich and Curt.

Financial Reports

It's boring, but since our funding from Piscataway depends on it, filing accurate financial reports is critical. Thanks to Stan Koski, Jesse Shank, and Alister Young the section's filings were submitted on time.

Walter Rawle is also encouraging the YP group to establish an account so they can receive funding and he is working on the financial structure of the UMaine Student Chapter and UMaine Eta Kappa Nu.

At this time the section has just over $42K in its checking account and is awaiting the annual rebate, so we are in sound financial condition.

Harold Belson, Region 1 Northeastern Area Chair, Visit

Harold Belson, Region 1 Northeastern Area Chair, attended the April 3rd ExCom meeting. Much of Harold's presentation was about strengthening governance to improve our members' experience and improve operations.

Now all activities in a section are under the umbrella of the section and it is the section's responsibility is to support the activities of chapters, including student chapters and affinity groups. As a section we have been working toward integrating our activities over the past few years and this adds impetus to our work. Harold also made the point that where a unit is no longer performing, they will no longer be carried on the books.

Also discussed was the importance of student chapters, the IEEE's future life blood. We are looking to establish student CS branches at Husson, Thomas, and Colby. Each of these schools have small, but thriving computer science programs. And they are a break from our usual tradition of being associated with engineering schools.

Awards and Recognition

Do you know an IEEE member who has brought distinction to the IEEE and our profession? By distinction, we mean just good hard work that's obviously above the norm.. If so, let's give them a pat on the back! The IEEE has many awards *so if you know someone you think is deserving, please pass their name on to Rosemary Smith (rosemary.smith@maine.edu with a brief (50 words or so) description of why you think they are deserving.*

Member Interest Survey

This winter Section Chair Walter Rawle conducted a member survey to better understand our members' needs and interests. Our thanks to all who participated. The link to the survey is: http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/docs/2018_IEEE_Maine_Section_Member_Survey_Report.pdf

Of course, if you have any additional ideas for meetings or activities, please contact any section ExCom member.

IEEE History Projects

The IEEE has a program that recognizes ECE accomplishments. Do you know of a project in Maine or elsewhere in Region 1 that is worthy of recognition? It does not need to be a recent project.

For example, this fall the IEEE will recognize with a plaque the French Cable Office in Orleans MA -- decades after it ceased operations! The cable began operation in the late 1800s and at the cable head in Orleans it was where news from Europe was first known in the United States -- such as when

Lindbergh landed in Paris. Much of the original equipment from operational days is still there.

Do you have an idea for a history somewhere in Maine or elsewhere in Region 1? Contact Ron Brown, Region 1 Historian, at ron@ronaldobrownconsutlting.com or 781-665-6269.