

the Beacon

Have a Great
Holiday Season!

The Newsletter of the Maine Section, IEEE www.ieee.org/maine

Chair's Column

by John Roberts, Section Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

It has been a pleasure serving as the Maine Chair this year. I cannot believe that the year end is upon us and with that the end of my term. We will be holding our election during the Annual Holiday Gala, which will be held on December 4th in Orono. The ballot of Officers is the following. If you are interested in running for a position, please e-mail me at jcroberts@ieee.org.

Chair: Ali Abedi
Vice-Chair: Paul Villeneuve
Secretary: John Allen
Treasurer: David Kotecki
Senior Member-at-Large: Open
Junior Member-at-Large: Open

My wife and I are in the process of building our first house. Needless to say, it has been a busy year. This adventure has been exciting at times, stressful at others and a learning experience at every step. We have been trying to make the house efficient and affordable. With heating costs at record levels, there are several things we can all do to save our pockets this winter. Here are some tips on how to cut down on heating cost this winter.

From *Efficiencymaine.com*:

1. Seal any leaks in your heating or cooling system ducts. Also fix leaks in water/steam heat pipes. Savings: 5-25 percent of heating/cooling costs.
2. Insulate attic access and basement trap doors with R-19 insulation. Savings: 1-3 percent of heating/cooling

costs.

3. You can cut your heating costs up to 25% simply by installing proper ceiling insulation to at least R-30 standards. Insulate walls, floors and heating ducts, too. This insulation will not only keep heat from escaping, but will also make your home more comfortable.

4. By caulking and weather-stripping, you can cut your heating bills up to 10%.

Weather-strip doors and windows, and caulk air leaks around windows, door-frames, pipes and ducts.

5. Use clear plastic sheets to insulate windows during the heating season. Savings: 2-7 percent of heating/cooling costs.

6. Repair any holes in your roof, walls, doors, ceilings, windows and floors. Savings: Up to 10 percent of heating/cooling costs.

7. Seal off electric receptacles and switch boxes with foam gaskets or fiberglass insulation. Savings: 1-3 percent of heating/cooling costs.

8. Install storm or thermal (replacement) windows. These tightly fitting windows give the benefit of double-pane glass. Air trapped between the two panes acts as a thermal insulator, keeping your heated air inside where it belongs. Be sure to get windows that have the new super-efficient low-emissivity glazing.

And from *Howstuffworks.com*:

1. Protect the thermostat for your heating or cooling system from anything that would cause it to give a false reading. If the thermostat is in a draft, misplaced on a cold

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Officers

Chair:
John Roberts

Vice Chair:
Ali Abedi

Treasurer:
David Kotecki

Secretary:
Paul Villeneuve

Chair, EDS Chapter:
Steven Leibiger

**Chair, PES/IAS
Chapter:**
David Conroy

**Chair, CS/COM
Chapter:**
Ali Abedi

Chair's Column

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outside wall, or too close to a heat-producing register, its accuracy will be compromised

2. If you won't be home for a few days, turn the thermostat to its lowest setting. If there's no danger of pipes freezing or other household items being damaged, turn the heating system off completely.
3. Install a thermostat timer to save fuel and money. The timer can be set to automatically raise and lower the temperature during peak and off-hours.
4. Close the draperies over large windows and glass doors to form a barrier against heat loss during the winter and heat gain during the summer.
5. If your home has rooms that are seldom or never used, close the vents in these rooms and shut the doors most of the time. Make sure the rooms get enough heat to prevent mildew from growing or contents being damaged.
6. Avoid constant thermostat adjustments, as they can waste fuel. When coming into the house after the thermostat has been turned down, don't set it higher than the desired temperature. Setting the thermostat up very high generally will not cause the temperature to reach the desired level any faster.
7. One heating adjustment you should make, however, is a reduction in the thermostat setting before you go to bed every night. Cutting back for several hours can make a big difference in fuel consumption.
8. Reduce the thermostat setting when you have a large group of people in your home. People generate heat, and a party can quickly raise the temperature.
9. Keep the fireplace damper closed except when you have a fire going. Otherwise, updrafts will suck heated air out through the chimney.
10. Maintain proper humidity. A house that's too dry can feel uncomfortably cold even when the temperature setting is correct.
11. Aim the vents of room air conditioners upward for better air circulation; cold air naturally settles downward. On central air conditioning systems, adjust the registers so the air is blowing up. Make sure the outside portion of an air conditioning system is not in direct sunlight or blocked from free airflow.
12. If you have room air conditioners, close all heating system vents so the cool air isn't wasted.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Holiday Gala in Orono on December 4.

IEEE Maine Section Annual Holiday Gala scheduled for Tuesday, December 4

The IEEE Maine Section, in conjunction with the COM/CS Chapter, is pleased to sponsor a Holiday Gala to be held on December 4 in Orono. The event will start with a distinguished lecture to be held on the UMaine Orono campus, followed by a social time and dinner at the Penobscot Valley Country Club. The admission is free for IEEE members who register before November 27 (\$20 at the door). The dinner will be followed by the election of IEEE Maine Section offices for 2008. (See slate in the Chair's Column) There will also be a raffle with great prizes such as iPods and mugs.

Schedule details of the Annual Holiday Gala are as follows:

4:30—5:30 PM

Distinguished Lecture: Broadband Wireless IP
Dr. Abas Jamaliour, University of Sydney, Australia
Place: Arthur St John Hill Auditorium, Barrows Hall
UMaine, Orono

6:00—8:00 PM

Social and Dinner at Penobscot Valley Country Club
Directions: Take I-95 north to exit 191 (Kelly Rd.). Take a right off the exit and continue until for approximately 1/2 mile to the intersection of Route 2 and Kelly Rd. Turn right. The club is located 1/10th of a mile on the left side of the road.

Registration deadline: Tue. November 27, 2007
Please register online at http://ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/com_c

New IEEE Senior Members

The Maine Section congratulates our latest
new Senior Members :

Scott Valcourt
Ali Abedi
Terry Vogel
Jiankang Bu
John Wayne Allen



Floor scene from the Engineering Job fair held at the University of Maine

University of Maine IEEE Student Branch Engineering Job Fair a great success

by Allan Small, Chair, UMaine IEEE Student Branch

The UMaine IEEE Student Branch got off to great start this year with the annual Engineering Job Fair on October 18th. The job fair was held in the new Recreation Center at the University of Maine. This year's fair was the largest to date. We had 63 employers, up from 30 in 2005 and 48 in 2006, and over 500 students attended the fair. An event of this magnitude could not be done without the help of Patty Counihan and the entire staff at the University of Maine Career Center. In addition, many thanks go out to all of the student

members that helped make the fair such a success.

Our goal is to take all the proceeds from the fair and put it towards the UMaine IEEE Student Branch Scholarship. \$6,000 dollars has been put towards the scholarship in just the first two years of the scholarships existence! The scholarship awards \$500 annually to a deserving IEEE undergraduate student member. For more information about the scholarship you can contact the University of Maine Foundation.

Maine IEEE Computer society/Communications society chapter receives the IEEE Communications society (ComSoc) Chapter Achievement Award for 2007

The IEEE Maine Section is pleased to announce that its joint Computer/Communications society Chapter has been selected by the IEEE Communications society to receive the North America Chapter Achievement Award for 2007. This award is one of only four Chapter Achievement Awards given each year by the IEEE Communications society. The other awards go to chapters in the Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Euro and Middle East regions of the world.

This award is given to chapters that provide their members with a the highest quality of service in areas

of technical activities, public relations, educational services, membership development, job placement support, and services geared toward student members. The award includes a plaque and \$1000 honorariums which will be presented to the chapter chairs on November 27 at IEEE GLOBECOM Conference in Washington.

The Maine Section congratulates CS/Com chapter chair Dr. Ali Abedi for his outstanding leadership in achieving this award!