



The BEACON



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

Chair's Column

By *John Allen*, 2010 IEEE Maine Section Chair

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Greetings fellow IEEE members! Another year is almost complete, and the IEEE has once again been very active in the state of Maine. The IEEE represented the state at the Northeast Industry Day (a very successful event chaired by one of our own, Prof. Ali Abedi). The University of Maine hosted the Fly-By Wireless Conference (again, a very successful event chaired by Ali Abedi, with international participation).

The 2010 summer meeting at Sebago Lake (with a tour at Dielectric) was well received and attended. There was also a tour of Bath Iron Works, a Kibby Wind Farm Project site visit, a Madison Paper site visit, and many different technical conferences and speakers. All of these events made possible because of the IEEE volunteers in the state of Maine.

As a volunteer member of the IEEE, I am proud to have served as the chair during a successful 2010. If I were to thank all of the volunteers individually, I would run out of space on this column. So, I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers in 2010 – you know who you are!

But, even though 2010 has been successful at presenting many new and exciting opportunities for IEEE members in the state, 2011 poses many challenges. One of the biggest challenges is finding volunteers to assist in the Executive Committee. There are many positions that are open each year, and it is often difficult to find members willing to donate their time and effort into fulfilling that particular role. If you or a friend/colleague of yours is interested in volunteering, please drop me an email and I can assist you in finding a role for you and your talents in the Maine Section of the IEEE (my email address is: john.allen@umit.maine.edu).

No matter how much or how little time you have to volunteer, the IEEE could use you!

Volunteering at the state level helps bring many different technical events to fruition. These events allow Maine IEEE members to continue their education, to network with other Maine engineers and technical professionals, and to participate in regional activities as well. But, volunteering is not a one-way street.

Volunteering also helps the individual. According to a 2000 study by the NSGVP, “79% of volunteers said that their volunteer activities helped them with their interpersonal skills, such as understanding people better, motivating others, and dealing with difficult situations”. Also, “68% of volunteers said that volunteering helped them to develop better communication skills” and “63% reported increased knowledge about issues related to their volunteering”. Volunteering benefits everybody – all the IEEE members in the state of Maine and you (as the volunteer) as well .

As 2010 wraps up, please consider attending the Winter Meeting/Gathering. This year it will be held on Saturday, December 18th in Augusta. Specific details will be distributed shortly. And, please feel free to bring a guest (it is not only for IEEE members!). At this event, we will be having a short meeting followed by dinner, music, and dancing. It will be a fun event that will allow you to get to know other members of the Maine Section of the IEEE. Also, there will be many Executive Members of the IEEE attending; so if you're interested in volunteering, this would be a great opportunity to discuss details with past, present, and other future volunteers. I hope to see you in Augusta in December!

Thank you and have a great holiday season!



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IEEE Region-1 Northeast Industry Day 2010 Sponsored by Maine Section

By *Ali Abedi*, Senior Past Chairman

The 2010 Northeast Industry Day was held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on September 24 and was sponsored by the IEEE Boston, Maine and New Hampshire Sections and facilitated by IEEE Region 1.

IEEE Industry Day provided a forum for industry and academic leaders along with technology providers to openly discuss relevant issues and potential solutions using emerging technologies.

The conference provided unique opportunities to develop partnerships to connect solution providers with end-users and funding agencies. Several Maine Section volunteers including Stanley Koski, Dilip Chakravarty, John Allen and Ali Abedi helped in organizing this event.

This conference was attended by over 100 professionals and featured several keynote speakers, world cafe, and workshops. Four tracks in the afternoon sessions were dedicated to broadband, energy, systems engineering, and human computer interface issues.

Exhibitors who contributed to the conference value both technically and financially were BAE Systems, IEEE Women in Engineering, Western New England College, PEM, University of Maine Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Southern Maine Community College, Worcester Polytechnic institute (WPI), IEEE Consultants Network of NH, and ENET.

The first industry day was held in New Jersey area in 2009 and the next one is scheduled to take place in Albany, NY in 2011.

For more information contact Dr. Ali Abedi the 2010 Conference chair at abedi@ieee.org or visit: www.ieee.org/go/nid10

International Fly By Wireless Workshop Comes to Maine

By *Ali Abedi*, Senior Past Chairman

The CANEUS Fly-By-Wireless conference held from August 24th to 27th of this year brought together a group of over 60 people from 9 different countries to the University of Maine.

The CANEUS conference is a conglomeration of government, business, and scientists that focus on the advancement of wireless communications with a focus on aerospace applications.

This conference hosted representatives from companies like Bombardier and Boeing, several universities to include McGill University, MIT, the University of Tokyo and government agencies such as NASA, German Space, Japanese Space, and European Space agencies to name a few.

Objectives that were outlined during the CANEUS conference held in Montreal in 2009 were discussed to measure their progress and eight new projects to be implemented in the next two years were outlined. Included in the new set of objectives is a business case-study that will entail using defined metrics to ascertain the cost benefit of using wireless technology, and the second was developing a small scale demonstration of application in an aircraft.

There will be mid-year reviews of these projects at the conference that is scheduled in the January-February time frame in Europe but real success and results will be seen at the next Fly-By-Wireless scheduled for May 17-20 in Montreal.(page 3)



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International Fly By Wireless Workshop Comes to Maine

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Fly by Wireless workshop was sponsored by IEEE Maine and Montreal Sections as well as IEEE Region-1 (8 states in Northeast USA) and Region-7 (Canada). The conference was managed within the budget and the surplus was big enough to return the seed fundings to sponsoring sections and regions. Technical co sponsors were IEEE COMSOC and WiSe-Net lab at UMaine.

This is the first time that international conference on wireless in this caliber comes to Maine. Several IEEE Maine Section volunteers including Dilip Chakravarty, Ron Brown, John Allen, and Ali Abedi helped in organizing this conference. In addition, undergraduate and graduate students at UMaine IEEE Student chapters played an important role in organizing this event as well.

From over 51 papers received, 10 were accepted and published in the conference proceedings and are available online at IEEE Digital Library. For more information on this conference contact Dr. Ali Abedi, conference chair at abedi@ieee.org or visit: www.caneues.org/fbw10

IEEE Region 1 Summer Meeting

By *Stan Koski*, Vice Chairman

The 2010 IEEE Region 1 Summer Meeting was held on August 13-15 at the Holiday Inn in Binghamton, New York. As in years past, this 2 ½ day event commenced with a full day and a half of Training Workshop sessions aimed at introducing new IEEE Officers to the information

and skills needed to carry out their duties within their respective Sections. The training workshops included instruction in Local Section “Nuts and Bolts” topics, Membership Development, GOLD Activities, vTools, and Computer Society Chapter Resources.

Upon conclusion of the Training Workshops, the Region 1 Board of Governors (BoG) Summer Meeting took place with a complex agenda of topics grouped into a variety of categories which included “Administrative Issues”, a “Consent Agenda” and a variety of rather complex “Discussion Items”.

At the beginning of the final day, an “Executive Session” was conducted during which 2012-2013 Region 1 Director-Elect/Delegate-Elect slate was determined. After a prolonged period of deliberation, I am delighted to report that our Dr. Ali Abedi emerged as one of the candidates for the 2012-2013 R1 Director Elect slate of Officers to be voted on next year. The distinct possibility that the holder of this prestigious IEEE position could be an individual from the Maine Section a few years from now is something we can all anticipate with much pride and expectation.

Other topics dealt with during the BoG Meeting included several matters related to next year’s Sections Congress which is scheduled for August 19-22 in San Francisco, CA. Section Congresses are held every three years with the previous one taking place in Quebec City, Canada during August of 2008.

Under standard IEEE policy, travel and other expenses associated with the Chairperson of each Section attending this event is covered in full by IEEE Headquarters via the Region in which the Section is located. Other IEEE Section Officers are also invited to attend but will need to do so at their own personal expense or paid for out of Section funding sources.

Unlike all recent R1 BoG meetings, next year’s summer meeting will not be held at a location within Region 1 but will take place in San Francisco in conjunction with the Sections Congress described above. For this reason, Workshop Training Sessions for new Section officers will not be offered in 2011. Alternative means of providing this training is under consideration but has not yet been finalized.



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IEEE Region 1 Summer Meeting

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It is anticipated that this issue will be revisited and hopefully resolved during the 2011 Winter BoG meeting in Newark, NJ this coming March.

One other interesting topic discussed at the meeting had to do with a new provision contained in the MGA Operations Manual related to Section Officer and Affinity Group Chair term limits.

The policy basically states that officers in these positions cannot serve consecutive terms in the same office although Sections may seek amnesty for 2011 officer elections through their Area Chairs on a case-by-case basis.

Although this new restriction is unlikely to affect officer selection here in Maine in the foreseeable future, several other Sections voiced concern about their ability to fill some officer slots when no one willing to accept such positions could be located.

- Provided judges to the State Robotic Competition
- Provided speakers at the Women in STEM Night event
- Facilitate the mentoring program

We feel we could do a lot more if more people were joining our team. We would love to see the following groups on board. : Faculties, students, teachers, parents, Organizations, and anyone willing to promote Math and Science in the State of Maine.

One of the limitations we have is the lack of volunteers (members). Our group just lost more than 50% of its officers due to relocation.

The membership to join Maine WIE is free for student members of IEEE and only \$25 for non-student IEEE members .

You can visit our site and follow us on facebook and twitter: <http://www.mainewomeninscience.com/>

Our group is also on LinkedIn. Please join to show your support.

Maine WIE 2010 Updates

By *Lucie Hutchins*, Chair WIE-Maine

Maine WIE is dedicated to facilitating the development of programs and activities that promote the entry into and the retention of Maine girls in engineering, science and mathematics related programs .

Since its creation in 2009, Maine WIE has :

- Organized many meetings
- Facilitated one field trip
- Organized one fundraiser
- Sponsored one national Robotic competition

Career Opportunities

Date Posted	Job Title	Company Link
11-10-2010	Engineer, Dispatch & ECC	Central Maine Power Company

A new section on jobs listing has been added to the IEEE Maine section main page.

(http://ewh.ieee.org/r1/maine/me_ieee.html)



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IEEE Maine Section Annual Holiday Event

By *John Allen*, 2010 IEEE Maine Section Chair

Dear IEEE Maine Section Members,

You are cordially invited to attend IEEE Maine Section Annual Holiday Event which is schedule for Saturday December 18th, 2010 at the Augusta Civic Center.

Program:

1. Social Hour/Hearty Appetizers (5:00pm-6:00pm)
2. IEEE Maine Section Officers Election (6:00pm-6:30pm)
3. Catered Holiday Dinner (6:30pm-7:30pm)
4. Live Music and Dance (7:30pm-9:00pm)

The cost will be: \$20 for IEEE members, \$25 for non-members, and \$15 for IEEE student members. Dinner menu options will be sent out soon.

Song requests are accepted online now! Please enter your favorite songs online at this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PLY666W>

Any suggestions or comments on the program are welcome. Please contact John Allen, Maine Section Chair (john.allen@umit.maine.edu) if you have any questions, if you are interested in helping out with this event, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer member of the IEEE Maine Section. Thanks!

Maine WIE End Of The Year Event

By *Lucie Hutchins*, Chair WIE-Maine

One of the limitations of Maine WIE is the lack of volunteers (members). Our group just lost more than 50% of its officers due to relocation.

We are organizing our end of the year event at the University of Maine at Orono this December 10th .

Anyone interested in Science /Math/Engineering is welcome. We would love to see the following groups on board. : Faculties, students, teachers, parents, Organizations, and anyone willing to promote Math and Science in the State of Maine.

The membership to join Maine WIE is free for student members of IEEE and only \$25 for non-student IEE members . **Free lunch!!!**

Date to remember: December 10th

Location : University of Maine Orono

Time : 12:00pm , Room #: TBA

Event : Maine WIE End of the Year gathering

You can visit our site and follow us on facebook and twitter: <http://www.mainewomeninscience.com/>