



IEEE NEWS FOR FEBRUARY 2015

Jacob Z. Schanker, P.E., Newsletter Chair
The Rochester section web site is at: <http://rochester.ieee.org/>

Rochester Section Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, at Noon

The next monthly Rochester Section business meeting is on Tuesday, February 3, at 12:00 PM, at the **Hibachi Sushi Buffet Restaurant** in South Town Plaza on Jefferson Road (Route 252) just west of West Henrietta Rd. (Route 15). Any IEEE member is invited to attend. Lunch is only \$3 for IEEE members. No reservation or RSVP is needed, just show up.

Doing the Newsletter

I've been editing the Rochester Section IEEE newsletter for a long time. As best I can recall, I started doing it using Wordstar on an Apple II computer. That will give you an idea of how long I've been at it. Many software and hardware changes later, here I still am, but with Microsoft Word and a laptop.

I recently resigned from my position as Newsletter Editor, but I am still here until someone else steps up to the post. So how about it? Volunteer now and you can still be newsletter editor in 2045. If you have questions about what effort this post entails, email me. If you want to volunteer, email or call our Chair, Greg Gdowski. His email is Greg_Gdowski@URMC.Rochester.edu.

IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Chapter Meeting

This meeting promises to be of interest to a wide range of our membership, and also to many outside of IEEE. In fact, anyone who ever read *Byte Magazine* should find something of interest, since the speaker was the founder and editor in chief of Byte.

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Time: 6:00 – 7:00 PM Pizza, Pop, and Networking. 7:00 – 8:00 PM Speaker

Location: Rochester BioVenture Center, 77 Ridegeland Rd., Rochester 14623.

Topic: The Story of Byte Magazine: Its creator and first editor's reflections on how PCs came to be.

Speaker: Carl Helmers, PhD.



Biography: Carl grew up in Florham Park, New Jersey. As a high school senior in December 1965, Carl (with math/science student colleagues) got a chance to take a Fortran course every Wednesday evening at Sandoz Pharmaceuticals in East Hanover. From that point onward Carl knew he wanted his own *personal* computer. Carl worked for Sandoz summers (and vacations) while at the University of Rochester where he earned his 1970 BS physics “with distinction.” In 1973, he began to publish his “quarterly” *Experimenter’s Computer Systems* pamphlets. He published several ECS issues in 1974 through May 1975. He did this before modern word -processing programs – just his ancient film ribbon electric typewriter, hand drawn ink on paper graphics and occasional trips to a quick printer in nearby Boston. *ECS* became **BYTE** magazine in September 1975 in Peterborough, New Hampshire. After leaving **BYTE** at the end of 1980, Carl formed Helmers Publishing Inc. in Peterborough NH. Through Helmers Publishing Inc. Carl founded controlled-circulation trade publications *Bar Code News* (*ID Systems* magazine,) *Sensors* magazine and *Desktop Engineering* magazine. Carl moved to the Rochester NY area in 2006. Carl keeps his Fedora and Mint Linux workstations / distributions up to date. Carl reads the Linux User Group of Rochester e-mail list traffic and usually attends meetings. Carl chose helmers.com as his personal domain name in the 1980s so his e-mail address could be “carl@helmers.com”. Current activities include divers WWW readings, woodworking projects, practicing his piano and travels with his scientist wife Jean Bidlack, PhD, who is the University of Rochester's Paul Stark Professor of Pharmacology.

Abstract: Carl Helmers had a long entrepreneurial career founding and publishing advertising-supported print technical magazines. He was a founder, editor and minority co-owner of the world's first successful personal computer print magazine publication, **BYTE**, from 1975 until 1980. This talk will be his account – 40 years later --- of how the microcomputer hackers of the world in their pursuit of knowledge about a coming technology created the roots of today's ubiquitous personal computing and mobile technology. It all came down to “I want my own personal computer – even if I have to figure out how to make one, then build and program it myself...” As in any market trend, many others were moving in the same direction as Carl. One thing led to another. Carl will summarize the story of how his **BYTE** magazine sprang forth upon the pre-WWW paper magazine world of 1975 – long before the clone friendly IBM PC in 1981.

2015 Joint Chapters Meeting

The IEEE Joint Chapters Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, at the RIT Inn and Conference Center, 5257 West Henrietta Road. Society chapter officers should begin their planning for technical presentations for this, the premier multi-society technical meeting of the year.

IEEE Spring Social Event

IEEE Rochester Section is planning an end of school year social and networking event for members and students. We will attend the Saturday, May 2, 2015 Rochester Red Wings-Norfolk Tides International League AAA baseball game, with first pitch at 1:15pm, in the friendly confines of Frontier Field downtown.

Details are forthcoming in future issues and on our website but hold the date for delicious food, the great American pastime, and an enjoyable afternoon with colleagues and friends at a modest cost with the help of your Section. For further information or to help out, please contact Tom Pian at thomas.pian@outlook.com

Training Young Leaders

Gary Ge, the incoming President of the University of Rochester IEEE Student Branch, reported on his experience at the recent IEEE Region 1 Student Leadership Training Workshop.

Gary reported that, “overall, I had a positive experience at the IEEE R1 SLTW. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with current leaders in IEEE Region 1 as well as student peers. I learned more about leadership and networking skills, which are valuable in the IEEE organization and in our future careers.”

“The keynote speeches were especially helpful and informed me about good leadership practices and opportunities I had no idea about: branch management, retaining membership, volunteering, and online career resources for IEEE members. I had a great time at the workshop, and highly recommend it to anyone interested in developing his or her leadership skills or being involved with IEEE.”

Kudos to Gary, and the UofR student branch. How about our other college student branches? What is happening there? Do we only hear from you when you need money for pizza?