

The Drawing Board



A Publication of the PSPE Reading Chapter

April 2009

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2009 Chapter Activities

• April 2, 2009	Math Counts/Reading-Berks Science Engineering Fair Awards Banquet
• May 13, 2009	Safe Harbor Plant Tour
• June 25, 2009	Golf Outing

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michael Hartman, P.E.

I would like to send out congratulations to the participants of this year's Mathcounts competition. The competition was held on February 7 at Alvernia University. I would also like to thank all of the volunteers for their time and efforts in assisting in a very successful Mathcounts competition. If you have not had the opportunity to volunteer or attend either Mathcounts or the Science Fair, you may want to consider attending next year's event as you will be impressed at the abilities of these young students.

As a reminder, the chapter board meetings are held on the every second Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. at the McCarthy Engineering's West Lawn office. Members are encouraged to attend.

If you have any issues, comments, suggestions, or complaints, please don't hesitate to contact a board member so it can be discussed at the board meeting.

MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION WINNERS

The twenty-sixth annual regional MATHCOUNTS competition was held on Saturday February 7th, 2009 at Alvernia University, Reading. MATHCOUNTS is a competitive program designed to improve and encourage the study of mathematics by junior high school students. The program culminates in one day of mathematics exams for both individuals and teams.

You can save the Chapter the cost of a stamp and copying charges by receiving your copy of the Drawing Board by e-mail. You need Adobe Acrobat to be able to view the Drawing Board. Just e-mail Tuan Duong, P.E. at TDuong@trafficmpd.com with your e-mail address to receive your e-mail copy.

A total of 103 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students representing 17 Berks County schools took part in the local competition, which was sponsored and staffed by the Reading Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE). Alvernia University continues to provide the usage of their facilities at no charge.



This year's team championship went to Exeter Township Junior High School, coached by Kathy Topper. Champion team members: Nabil Shaikh, Nathan Kimmel, Brook Bi & Nicholas Mavreles. Wyomissing Area Junior/Senior High School took

second place in the team competition with Muhlenberg Middle School placing third. The individual competition winner was Nabil Shaikh, coached by Kathy Topper, from Exeter Township Junior High School. 2nd Place Individual Winner was Matt Weidner, coached by Ben Tannous, from Brandywine Heights Middle School. 3rd Place Individual Winner was Nicholas Mavreles, coached by Kathy Topper, from Exeter Township Junior High School. 4th Place Individual Winner was Elizabeth Kurtz, coached by Cindy Magliula, from Twin Valley Middle School. The top four finishers in today's competition, along with the members of the winning school team, will represent Berks

County in the Pennsylvania MATHCOUNTS state competition to be held March 20-21 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The Berks County team will also be honored at the regular monthly meeting of the Reading Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers.



“This is the first step in a journey that will include a state level competition and could end at the national competition at Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida May 7th – 10th. Berks County has been well represented at these higher levels over the 25 years we've been doing this,” says James McCarthy, P.E., coordinator of the local MATHCOUNTS program. “More importantly, though,

MATHCOUNTS is really all about enabling ALL the participants to gain a greater exposure to, and appreciation of, mathematics. Over the past twenty-six years MATHCOUNTS has flourished in Berks County.”

SAFE HARBOR PLANT TOUR

Date: May 13, 2009

Time: Meet at McCarthy Engineering's Parking lot a 4:00 PM, Tour will begin 5:30 PM

Location: Lake Clarke, Lancaster County, Pa.

RSVP: Please contact Eric Mountz at Emountz@trafficpd.com or 610-326-3100

**SAFE HARBOR WATER POWER CORPORATION
PLANT TOUR GUIDELINES**

In order to ensure the safety of visitors, the following general tour and safety rules will apply. The Safe Harbor Hydroelectric generating plant is operational 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Running, climbing up on parapet walls or rails, touching any controls or equipment, or smoking in the plant area is strictly prohibited. Visitors must stay with the tour guide.

Cameras and use of cellular phones are prohibited. There are no exceptions to this rule.

Coolers, brief cases or closed containers are not permitted on the tour.

1. Footwear

Closed toed shoes or sneakers with good soles must be worn. Flip-flops, sandals, high heels, or badly worn shoes/sneakers are not permitted. Shoelaces must be tied so as to eliminate a tripping hazard.

2. Clothing

Trousers, slacks, walking shorts, shirt/blouse, coat is preferred clothing. Beachwear is not acceptable. All visitors participating in a Technical Tour will be required to wear a provided hard hat. Hard hats are not required for all other tours.

3. Visitor Requirements

To comply with general safety precautionary measures the adult to child ratio will be 1 adult for every 7 children. Maximum number of people in one tour group shall be 8. There are no exceptions to this rule. Children under the age of 5 will not be permitted to tour the plant.

4. Visitors Requiring Accommodations

Wheel chair accommodations are available for access to the power plant and Stoplog Bridge. An attendant must accompany a visitor in a wheel chair at all times. Tour guides will not be responsible for these services, however an additional tour guide will be provided to meet the individual's special needs for this tour.

5. Visitors in an Unfit Condition

Anyone detected to be in an "unfit" condition or exhibiting abnormal behavior will not be allowed past the Security Control Center. The tour guide or Security Officer on duty will make this decision.

Any errant behavior by an individual(s) during their tour to the company premises will be just cause to abort the tour. Visitors will be escorted back to Security. The company tour guide will be the one to make this decision.

The power plant is 1011 feet long and the average tour covers about ½ mile and may be as much as 1 to 2 hours in length. Some stairs are normally involved, although accommodations on the tour route can be made for disabled or physically challenged visitors. Elevators are available in the Service Building.

Anyone afraid of heights and elevators are strongly discouraged from taking this tour.

Arrangements for tours should be made in advance with the Jan Duffy at (717) 872-0278 or Claudette Coleman at (717) 872-0250. Weekly tours are generally available Monday through Friday between 8:30 a. m. and 2:00 p.m., providing a tour guide is available.

Upon arrival and departure, each tour group is required to register with the Security Officer on duty. To save time, it is recommended that large groups prepare a roster of visitors attending the tour.

All tour guides must receive a written briefing of all current activities and restricted areas before each tour begins. Jan Duffy or Claudette Coleman will distribute these forms.

OFF THE BOARD

In an effort to get to know some of our members, we have added a new regular feature called Off the Board (OTB). Each month, OTB will interview a member of the chapter.

This month our paparazzi have tracked down a Past President of the Reading Chapter, Karl E. Peterson, P.E. Here are the results:

OTB: What is your name and engineering discipline?

KP: Karl E. Peterson, P.E. – Electronics

OTB: Where do you or did you work?

KP: Western Electric and AT&T

OTB: How long have you worked there or been in business?

KP: 36 years

OTB: What do you do there?

KP: Designed test equipment for solid state products

OTB: Any work accomplishments you would like to speak of?

KP: Worked on semiconductor devices for satellites and undersea cable

OTB: Are there other notable employers in your career?

KP: WE and AT&T were the only local employers for this type of work

OTB: What is your educational background?

KP: Radio & TV tech degree, BSEE electronics, MS engineering science

OTB: What licenses do you have?

KP: Amateur Radio 1952, Commercial FCC 1957, PE 1974

OTB: What historical figure do you admire the most?

KP: Maxwell, Hertz, and Branly

OTB: Tell us about your family.

KP: Wife Anna Mae and daughter Lisa

OTB: What are your hobbies?

KP: Miniature trains and historic preservation

OTB: What is your favorite quote?

KP: Too soon old and too late smart.

OTB: What is your favorite equation?

KP: 2+2=3.999 from old analog calculators

OTB: What is your favorite book?

KP: COSMOS by Carl Sagan

OTB: What cartoon character best describes you?

KP: None

OTB: What trait do you most dislike in others?

KP: A defeatist attitude.

OTB: Name something you'd like to learn to do during your lifetime.

KP: Obtain a private pilot's license and alter my own web site.

OTB: What or who inspired you to get into engineering?

KP: Engineering was an exciting career but my first desire was broadcasting.

OTB: How long have you been a member of PSPE?

KP: More than 20 years.

OTB: Any advice for other PSPE members?

KP: Enjoy the challenges.

**PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, READING CHAPTER
2008-2009 CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

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