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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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Visit our web site at www.nechps.org.

Program Committee

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Admissions Committee

To Be Announced

Affiliate Relations Committee

To Be Announced

Awards Committees

To Be Announced

Continuing Education Committee

To Be Announced

Finance Committee

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History Committee

To Be Announced

Student Affairs

To Be Announced

Welcome to Chapter Year '04-'05 Margaret McCarthy

Welcome back from the Immediate Past President.

My duties this year include serving on the Executive Council and serving as the Chair of both the Awards and Nominating Committees, which involves nominating NECHPS members for awards within the chapter as well as at the national HPS level. My deadline for a written report and nominations for national awards is February 2005. Please speak to me or send a note about someone you'd like to recommend so that I have lead time to research and compose my thoughts.

As Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, I attended the national meeting in Washington, DC this past summer. One of the events on the horizon for the NECHPS is the 2006 HPS Annual Meeting. Dave Medich is the Academic Dean of the Summer School, and I am the Administrative Dean. Many of you will be contributing to this project. For a hard copy of the proceedings, the material must be submitted to Dave by December 2005. I know that the date seems far off, but if you are contributing, consider starting now.

I will be attending the Summer School at Gonzaga College next year to assist that Administrative Dean and learn the details of the procedures.

More immediate are this chapter year's kick-off meeting on October 27th and DOT training on November 12th. Read about these events elsewhere in the newsletter.

That's all for now. So hello and welcome to the new Chapter Year. See you at the next meeting!

Medical Isotopes More Frequently Denied International Shipment IAEA Staff Report

Doctors and their patients in many countries are facing increasing problems receiving lifesaving isotopes for treating a range of illnesses. The isotopes are used in nuclear medicine for diagnosis and therapy.

A meeting of experts at the IAEA recently reviewed the situation, finding a growing incidence of denials or delays in international shipments of needed radioactive material, including short-lived isotopes used for medical diagnosis and treatment. Security and economic issues are among concerns driving the problems.

Most countries around the world import isotopes commonly used in medicine, such as those used to treat cancer, diagnose heart attacks or sterilize medical equipment. Hospitals and clinics depend on these international shipments to arrive on time, particularly if the isotope has a short half-life and must be sent by air.

Industry representatives have told the IAEA of increasing difficulties in delivering lifesaving isotopes that require urgent international transport. The precise number of denials occurring worldwide is not known.

"If an airline or other transport provider refuses to take a shipment, or is unable to take a shipment, then this increases the prospect of someone missing a cancer treatment," Mr. Michael Wangler, IAEA Unit Head, Safety of Transport of Radioactive Materials Unit, said.

"There is a risk that if more airlines do deny, particularly where few airlines serve key regions, then this does raise a serious issue. It potentially means that medical clinics and hospitals in specific areas are at risk from being denied essential medical supplies," Mr. Wangler said.

Shipments of medical and industrial radioactive material are regulated by countries and the airline industry in accordance with the IAEA's international Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material. "Radioactive material is very safely transported, based on standards developed by the IAEA which have been operating for 43 years. What the current regulatory system lacks are enhanced efforts or separate treatment to facilitate the rapid distribution of medical isotopes when warranted," Mr. Wangler said.

Across the globe, he said that some airlines have policies against carrying any radioactive material. In other instances, a country's regulatory controls may

make it very difficult for the airlines to meet needed requirements, creating bottlenecks that have effectively blocked shipments. In cases involving isotopes with short half lives - such as iodine used to treat and detect thyroid tumours - it is rendered useless, or if it has missed the flight and gets on another one, its use is more limited.

The July meeting at the IAEA is part of international fact-finding to gauge the problem, improve the flow of information, and formulate solutions. Participating were representatives from regulatory authorities, producers of radioactive sources, airlines, shippers and other transport operators, and international organizations. Previous meetings were held in January 2004.

International transports of radioactive sources shipped by sea were also said to be experiencing delays and denials. This involves a wide range of radioactive material used for everyday applications, from pacemakers, medical equipment and electricity generation, to improving the safety of food, checking for hairline fractures in pipelines or controlling disease laden insects. Recommendations and actions stemming from the January and July meetings will go before the IAEA's General Conference in September 2004 for adoption.

[If you'd like to contribute a piece, contact the editor at dlamay@mit.edu or (617) 253-4203.]

Support for Yucca Mountain Grows Las Vegas Review-Journal

A growing share of Nevadans say in a new poll the state should accept a nuclear waste repository and try to deal for benefits in return, although they remain less than a majority.

Asked whether the state should continue to fight or negotiate with the federal government over the Yucca Mountain Project, 50 percent said fight and 46 percent said deal.

"That's tightening; it's a lot more balanced than it has been in previous polls," said Larry Harris, a principal with Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc., the Washington, D.C.-based firm that conducted the

survey for the Review-Journal and reviewjournal.com.

"Maybe there's more of a sense of inevitability about the reality of (a repository) happening," Harris said.

The poll of 625 registered voters was conducted Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday [9/6, 9/7, and 9/8]. The margin of error was 4 percentage points.

Four percent of Nevadans had no opinion on how state leaders should proceed.

Asked the same question in a July poll, 54 percent preferred to continue the battle while 39 percent favored negotiations.

MCNP Request for Interest

The New England Chapter of the Health Physics Society is considering sponsoring a symposium in early 2005 for individuals who use or are interested in learning the Monte Carlo Neutral-Particle (MCNP) version 5.0 computer code. Currently, the plan is to put together a one-day symposium in the Boston or Metrowest area, with invited speakers discussing various topics/problems/solutions. A nominal fee would be charged, with all funds (after expenses) being donated to an account created to subsidize students' attendance at NECHPS meetings.

If you are interested in attending, or being a speaker, please contact Chris Martel at (617) 638-7419 or by e-mail at cbmartel@bu.edu.

DOT Training

DOT Training will be held on 11/12/04 at the Springfield Technical Community College in Springfield, MA. If you are interested, contact either Heidi Voelk at voelkh@mail.amc.edu or John Sowa at sowaj@union.edu.

Holiday Meeting

The annual NECHPS *Vendor Night and Holiday Social* is tentatively scheduled for 12/1/04 at Albert's in Stoughton, MA [*final details in an upcoming newsletter*]. Mark your calendars now!

October Meeting

Joint Meeting with CT Chapter of the HPS

Date: Wednesday, October 27th, 2004

Location: Publick House, 295 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Time: 5:00 PM Registration / Social Hour
6:00 PM Dinner
7:00 PM Speaker

Speaker: *HPS President-Elect Ruth McBurney, CHP*

Menu: New England Clam Chowder and Mixed-Green Salad AND
Orchard Chicken OR Broiled Boston Scrod with Vegetable AND
Warm Apple Pie with Ice Cream for Dessert

Cost: \$30.00 Members, \$40.00 Guests, and \$20.00 Students

Please note, you can make payment up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, please register beforehand.

To Register:

Mail registration to:

Ron Thurlow
21 Myrtle Avenue
Newburyport, MA 01950

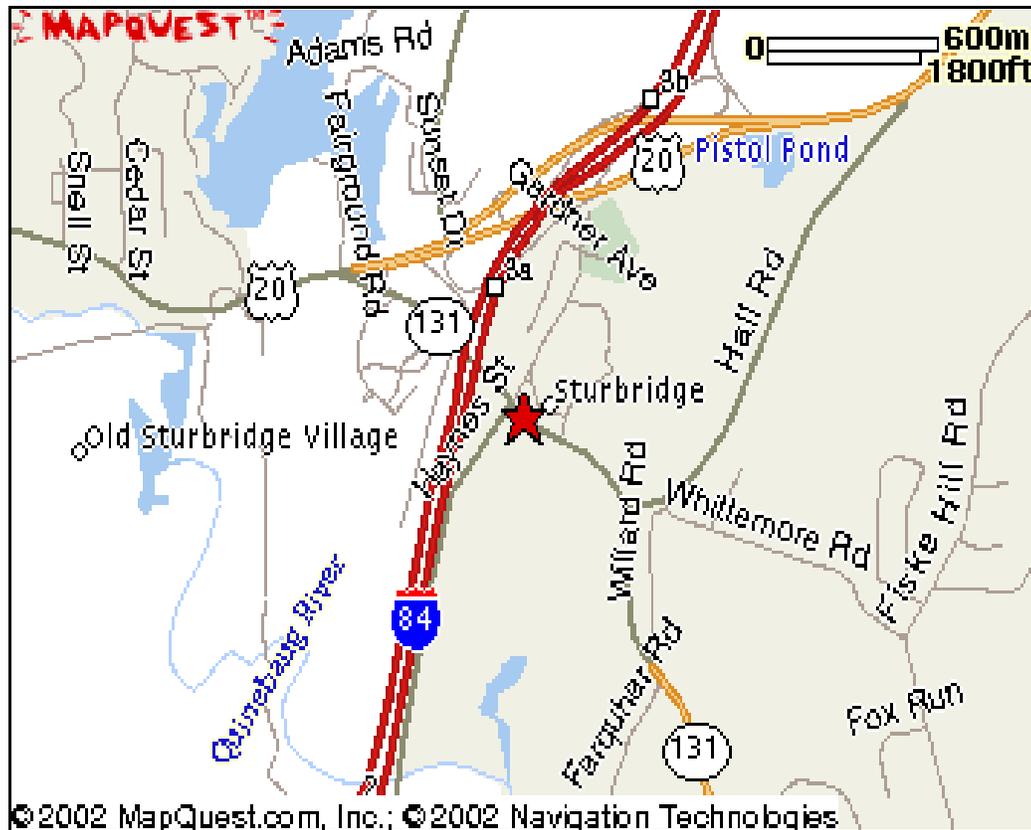
or call to register: **(603) 773-7438**

or e-mail to register: **ronald_thurlow@fpl.com**

Be sure to inform Ron of your choice of entrees when registering for the meeting!

DIRECTIONS TO THE PUBLIC HOUSE

On the Common
Route-131(295 Main Street)



Directions

From the Mass Pike take **exit 9 (I-84/US-20)** towards HARTFORD/NEW YORK CITY. Merge onto I-84 W. From I-84 W take **exit 3B (US-20 W)** towards BRIMFIELD. Merge onto US-20 W, then turn left at lights onto Route-131 S/MAIN ST. The Public House is at 295 MAIN ST.

For additional information please call: (508) 347-3313 or go to

<http://www.publichouse.com>