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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

Volume XXXX No. 1
September 2003

Visit our web site at www.nechps.org.

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TBA

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Affiliate Relations Committee
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Finance Committee
TBA

Public Relations Committee
TBA

News from the President

Margaret McCarthy

Hello and welcome to the 2003-2004 NECHPS year. As you peruse this publication, notice our new officers and board. There is a good mix of new blood and old continuity.

Our short-range goal is to provide you with interesting speakers on relevant topics for our Chapter Year. Good Food & Good Locations & Good HP stuff. Ideas and suggestions or offers of oratory can be made to Chris Martel, Chairman of the Program Committee. He is plotting out the scheme for the year.

Normally our Annual Meeting in June has student participation. Last June the HDER program was substituted so that NECHPS members could be appraised of the current joint Department of Justice and HPS efforts. We could, with enough lead-time, have an evening of student papers. Thus, for spring 2004 please contact Chris about your student numbers, poster needs, etc. The space for accommodation requires an estimate before the contract is signed with the site.

Our long-range goal is to move through the year with ease and interesting meetings. The long, long range goal is a thought toward the Summer School and Annual Meeting here in the Northeast, in Boston or Providence, in the Summer of 2006. Ed Maher is the Ad Hoc Committee Chairman of the Long-Range Planning. The site of the meeting itself is still in negotiations. But there is summer school to think about. A summer school topic of your choice can be proposed for consideration by the board. Any suggestions on summer school location (within the greater Boston/Providence area)? Hint: Newport Mansion.

As the former program chair at the annual meeting in June, I was time-limited and busy flicking lights and rounding up the troops to keep to the schedule. I did not have time to individually thank our Vendors. So, I'd like to salute our affiliates publicly and welcome them to the new chapter year.

Happy New Chapter Year, M.

MIT Prof. Norman Rasmussen Dies at 75

Robert J. Sales

[This article was featured in MIT News on July 25th, 2003, and is reprinted with permission. You can view the article online at <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice>]

MIT Professor Emeritus Norman C. Rasmussen, who made pioneering contributions to the field of nuclear energy risk assessment, died July 18 in the Rivercrest Nursing Home in Concord, Mass. of complications from Parkinson's disease. He was 75.

As author of the 1975 Reactor Safety Study, which studied the public risk of nuclear power plant accidents, Rasmussen made history by applying the probabilistic approach to risk assessment to the nuclear industry for the first time. Prepared for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the report received worldwide attention and later came to be called the Rasmussen Report. It became one of the most influential elements in nuclear safety and licensing internationally. The probabilistic risk assessment methods introduced by that report are used routinely today in nuclear power plant safety assessment and in other industries.

But at that time the report was not without detractors. While proponents of nuclear energy cited it as proof that the risk of a nuclear power plant failure was low, opponents of nuclear power criticized the methodology behind the risk assessment and faulted its conclusions. It was not unusual during the 1970s for Rasmussen to participate in debates over the safety of nuclear power with other MIT faculty members, including the late Henry Kendall of physics, who won the Nobel Prize for physics in 1990. Rasmussen also made his case regarding the safety of nuclear power in a televised debate with Ralph Nader.

Rasmussen was awarded the Enrico Fermi Award in 1985, one of the oldest and most prestigious science and technology awards given by the United States government. The award cited his "pioneering contributions to nuclear energy in the development of probabilistic risk assessment techniques that have provided new insights and led to new developments in nuclear power plant safety."

Rasmussen was a professor of nuclear engineering at MIT from 1958-94, and was head of MIT's Department of Nuclear Engineering from 1975-81. His classes earned excellent student reviews and he received a School of Engineering Spira Award for teaching in 1992. The Department later endowed a faculty chair in his name. He is co-author of the textbook "Modern Physics for Engineers."

Rasmussen was a consultant to industry and adviser to the U.S. government, and was appointed by President Reagan in 1982 to a six-year term on the National Science Board. He received both the Distinguished Service Award from the NRC and the Distinguished Achievement Award of the HPS in 1976.

He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1977 and to the National Academy of Sciences in 1979, was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management and a fellow of the American Nuclear Society. He received honorary doctorates from Gettysburg College and the Catholic University of Leuven.

Born in Harrisburg, Pa., on Nov. 12, 1927, Rasmussen graduated from high school in Gettysburg, and served in the U.S. Navy from June 1945 to August 1946. He earned the B.A. cum laude in 1950 from Gettysburg College and the Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1956.

He married Thalia Tichenor in 1952 and the couple lived in Sudbury, where they raised a son and daughter. Rasmussen was a woodworker and an avid bird-watcher who loved to spend family time at the summer cottage he built himself on Sand Pond in Marlow, N.H.

Rasmussen is survived by a son, Neil E. (a 1976 graduate of MIT), and his wife, Anna, of Concord; a daughter, Arlene R. Soule, and her husband, Jeffrey, of Littleton, N.H.; five brothers and four grandchildren. Mrs. Rasmussen died in 1999.

A memorial service will be scheduled in September. Contributions in Rasmussen's memory may be made to the American Parkinson's Disease Association, Massachusetts Chapter, 720 Harrison Ave., Suite 707, Boston, MA 02118.

On The Job Bob Scott

If lawyers can be disbarred and clergy can be defrocked, doesn't it follow that:

Electricians can be delighted?

Musicians denoted?

Cowboys deranged?

Models deposed?

Dry cleaners decreased, depleted, and depressed?

Supreme Court justices disappointed?

Baseball players debased?

Songwriters decomposed?

Teachers detested?

Ham radio operators decoded?

Podiatrists defeated?

Health Physicists decayed?

Job Announcement

Radiation Safety Specialist Environmental Health and Safety Brown University, Providence, RI

DESCRIPTION

Assist the Radiation Safety Officer in all matters relating to radiation, x-ray, and laser safety in research labs. Responsibilities will include instrument calibrations, managing dosimetry, safety training, laboratory inspections and packaging and shipping of radioactive waste.

REQUIREMENTS

Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Health Physics or related field or equivalent combination of training and experience. Two years experience working in radiation safety operations. Knowledge of state and federal regulations that apply to the safe use of radiation. Must be able to don respiratory protection and respond to and assist with emergency situations during work, and also night, weekends and holidays if necessary. Strong interpersonal skills to deal effectively with wide range of employees.

Note: The job posting should be on the Brown University web-site soon. Applications can be submitted by following the instructions on the web-site listed below.

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Human_Resources/jobs_staff_union.html

Brown University is an Equal Opportunity/ Affirmative Action Employer.

Free Meeting!

If you've got something you'd like to submit for the NECHPS Newsletter, please pass it along. We'll accept HP news updates, editorial pieces, or just about anything of interest to the New England Health Physics community.

If your submission finds its way into the Newsletter, you'll earn free admission for yourself or a guest to one of the chapter meetings (excluding the Annual Meeting).

You can e-mail submissions to Doug LaMay at dlamay@mit.edu. WordPerfect and MS Word submissions are both acceptable. You can also fax short submissions or announcements to (617) 252-1533.

September Meeting

Radiological Accident and Assessment Capabilities and Experiences

Date: Thursday, September 25th, 2003

Location: Newton Marriott, 2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02466

Time: 5:00-6:00 PM Registration/Cash Bar
6:00-7:00 PM Dinner
7:00-9:00 PM Guest Speaker

Speaker: Major Dan Caputo, Chief, Air Force Radiological Assessment Team (AFRAT)

Cost: \$35.00 Members, \$45.00 Guests, and \$25.00 Students

Menu: Swordfish Parmesan OR Herb-Crusted Statler Chicken Breast OR
Vegetarian (Wild Rice and Anaszi Bean Timbale) AND

Choice of Salad; Chef's Selection of Fresh Market Vegetables, Starch Rolls and Butter;
Dessert; Coffee, Herbal Teas, and Decaffeinated Coffee

The registration deadline is September 19th, 2003.

Please note, you can make payment after 9/19, up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, you *must register* by September 19th.

If you register then decide to cancel, you must do so before September 19th, or you are responsible for payment.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mail registration (with check to NECHPS) to: Chris Martel
306 Hayden Rowe
Hopkinton, MA 01748

OR E-mail to register: **chris.martel@aeat-qa.com**

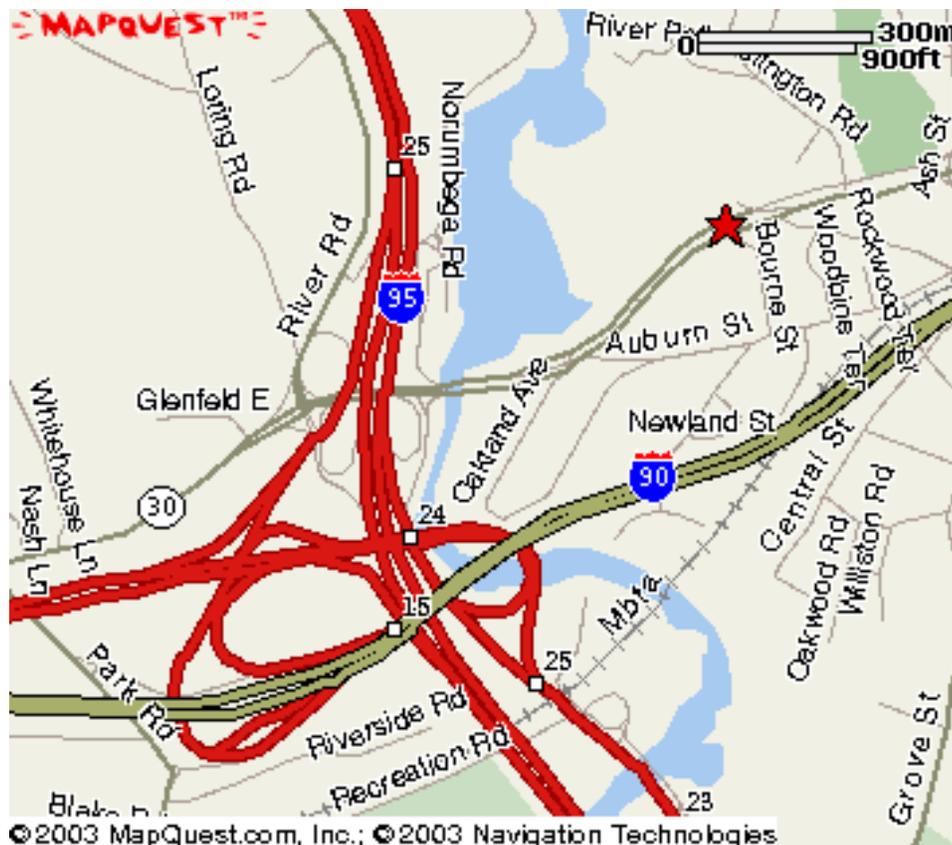
OR Register online at: **www.nechps.org**

OR Call (781) 505-8298

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

DIRECTIONS TO THE NEWTON MARRIOTT

2345 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02466



Directions

Heading South on 128:

Take RT 128 / I-95 SOUTH to EXIT 24 (RT 30 Newton/Wayland). Turn right at the top of the ramp onto RT 30 EAST. The hotel is .4 mile on the left.

Heading North on 128:

Take RT 128 / I-95 NORTH to EXIT 24 (immediately after the MBTA Exit). The exit sign will read "EXITS 23, 24, 25."

After EXIT 25, take EXIT 24 (RT 30 Newton/Wayland). Turn right at the top of the ramp onto Route 30 East. The hotel is .3 mile on the left.