



## Scope Notes

### December Houston Section Meeting

**Where:** HESS (Houston Engineering and Scientific Society) 5430 Westheimer @ Yorktown.

**When:**

Thursday, December 7, 2000

Social 6:00-6:30

Dinner 6:30-7:30

Speaker 7:30-8:30

Dinner will cost:

\$15.00 - Members

\$5.00 - Students

**See Page 2 for info about this months meeting!**

**IEEE WEB ADDRESS**

<http://www.ieee-houston.org>

## The Chairman's Message

**Justo Benitez** —



**T**his is my last message as Chairman of the Houston Section and the last message you will receive in printed form. The Pocket Scope will be distributed in electronic format at the beginning of the New Year. It has been a very short and enjoyable year. I want to thank all the members of the Executive Committee for the outstanding support and help they offer to me throughout this year. I do not want to list

any names in particular because most likely I will end up forgetting somebody who made a noticeable contribution to the Section in one way or another. However I do want to mention Donald Dunn for not hesitating in accepting the responsibilities of being our Secretary/Treasurer for this year and executing both jobs with total success. In addition Donald was also the architect of the majordomo list that will allow us to send e-mail notifications to all Houston Section members.

When we started the year our two main goals were to increase the members attendance to our Section meetings and to find a way to reduce the cost of publishing our newsletter without affecting our most important line of communication with our members. To accomplish the first goal we started by trying with different topics and speakers but the results were about the same. For our September meeting we decided to change the time, the location and to make a joint meeting with one of the local Society Chapters. The result of this trial was rewarding we had an attendance of about 50 members. The attendees provided the following feedback: they express preference for the lunchtime schedule, they suggested rotating the Section meetings at different locations throughout the city to facilitate the attendance of different members and finally they enjoy the free lunch. These are good suggestions to find the answer on what is required to increment the attendance to our meetings.

On the second objective, since we are the Electrical/Electronic professional organization our first approach was to take advantage of the resources available from modern technology. We decided to follow what most of the other Sections and groups within IEEE are doing, to publish our newsletter electronically. At this moment we have all the conditions in place and we have tested the system with the September, October and November/December issues with satisfactory results. Any member who has not provide his e-mail address to us is still on time to do it, just fill the form available on our web site [www.ieee-houston.org](http://www.ieee-houston.org). The savings resulting from this change will be used to provide services with a more direct benefit to the members; for example subsidizing a larger portion of the meals at the Section meetings.

Finally I want to say thank you to all the Houston Section members for allowing me to serve you as Chairman this past year. I am looking forward to see many of you in the November/December meeting with Dr. Tom Hudson and his Magical Physics Experiments. Bring your children and spouses they will fully enjoy the show.

## December Section Meeting Speaker Info

### This Months speaker, Dr. Tom Hudson

**D**r. Hudson graduated in 1962 from the University of Virginia, and came to the University of Houston as a member of the physics faculty. He taught physics to Physics majors and engineering students and did research on growing metallic crystals. In 1966 he began going to India and then Bangladesh (East Pakistan) to work in a program to train polytechnic faculty in a variety of technologies. In 1969 he took a two year leave from University of Houston to move to Bangladesh as coordinator of a program to bring American College and University faculty to train local teachers in the polytechnics and the colleges and universities. He then returned to the United States in 1971 and moved his career goals to science education. Before the Nation at Risk and all the other reports discussing the sorry state of science education, Dr. Hudson felt that University faculty had to get more involved in science in the public schools, and the only person he could move toward that goal was himself. He has conducted teacher-training sessions for National Science Foundation, the Eisenhower Higher Education Program of the Texas Education Agency, and Independent school districts.

He also believes that the only way to improve science education is through improved content in teacher training, and all of the fads and methods have failed repeatedly and miserably. His interest in attracting children through demonstration shows grew up by accident, starting with students who asked if he could show them some concept, to single classes and spreading by word of mouth to presenting the show to a school every week. As a part of the efforts at improving science education he has conducted teacher-training sessions in physical science for elementary, middle and high school teachers. He currently have two grants, one for training middle school teachers in physics and chemistry of the new Texas requirements and one for developing a core science course for non-science majors in scientific inquiry. He is presently on the physics for pre-high school committee of the American Association of Physics Teachers, teaching physics at Incarnate Word College and staying in hot water because he continually opposes the dumbing down of teacher training programs. It is his belief that the salvation of American science education hinges on content rich instruction conducted by teachers who know that content. The push toward dumbing down of American Science Education lives much too strongly.

**Dr. Tom Hudson was unfortunately forced to cancel. The new speaker for this month's meeting will be posted on the web. [www.ieee-houston.org](http://www.ieee-houston.org)**

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The Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society's meetings for November and December are:

November 17 Chaos in Biological Systems (Michael Brandt, UT Medical School)

December 1 Image-Guided, Robotically Assisted Surgery (Karolos Grigoriadis and Ioannis Kakadiaris, University of Houston)

All meetings take place in Room 102D-Engineering Building, University of Houston, at 3:00 PM.

For further information, please call (713) 743-4429.

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### Electronic Distribution of the Pocket Scope

During the past year, I have had the opportunity to attend the 1999 IEEE Sections Congress and the Region 5 Conference. Each had a wealth of information, training and working groups focusing on ways to improve the products and services that IEEE provides its members. During these sessions we learned how IEEE Sections have lowered the cost of mailing their newsletters and other best practices that bring value to the membership. In that regards, we (Houston Section Executive Committee) have tried to improve the services offered to you the IEEE Section member.

What have we accomplished in 2000? We currently have our majordomo mailing list up and running. With some initial growing pains we have implemented this e-mail mailing list to allow us to eliminate the hardcopy mailing of the Pocket Scope. Each Pocket Scope starting in January 2001 will be posted on the Houston Section Website, <http://www.ieee-houston.org> and an e-mail notice will be distributed to the ieeehoustonsession mailing list notifying you that it has been posted.

You may wonder why this is being done? The Houston Section is beginning to utilize electronic means to distribute the Pocket Scope, meeting notices and other pertinent information to its members. We currently spend the majority of our budget each year in publishing and mailing cost to distribute a hard copy of the Pocket Scope. The Houston Section has 4003 members of which 3496 have included e-mail addresses. (*cont. on page 3*)

## IEEE/IAS MEETING

## ELECTRICAL LOAD TABULATION SOFTWARE

Mr. Mark Leyton, Principal Electrical Engineer from Air Liquide Process & Construction Inc will present a seminar on electrical load tabulation software.

Mark will be introducing a software package, written by him, that will assist the Electrical Engineer to rapidly develop a load tabulation list. The software package is called TESS. By moving to TESS the electrical engineer will gain time to work on the more important aspects of his work.

From Mark's experience most engineering companies do not have a specific software to use for load tabulations. So most electrical engineers use a spreadsheet to do this work. TESS, on the other hand, is specifically written for rapid load tabulation using default data that can be changed once final data comes in.

TESS comes with over ten different reports that range from a simple 'load tabulation' to 'how many cables are in tray'. And since the program is created locally, requests for new or slightly modified reports can be handled quickly.

**WHERE: 3000, South Post Oak Blvd.  
Bechtel Bldg. 4<sup>TH</sup> Floor  
Room 4A**

**WHEN: Thursday November 16, 2000  
5:30 - 6:00 PM, Refreshments  
6:00 - 7:30 PM, Seminar**

**RESERVATIONS:**

Call Sunita Kulkarni @ 713 235 2833

or

e-mail: [skulkarn@bechtel.com](mailto:skulkarn@bechtel.com)

## IEEE CED Seminars

## AFD Theory and Application (501)

Charles Spiller, Siemens Energy and Automation, Inc.

Nov. 14/15, 2000 6:00-8:50PM

Reviews theory and application of LV and MV adjustable frequency drives.

[0.5 CEU]

## Harmonic Filters (503)

David Rice, General Electric Company and

Dick Harlow, Phaseco, Inc.

Feb. 6/7, 2001 6:00-8:50PM

Reviews theory and application of harmonic filter design.

[0.5 CEU]

## Unit Substation Transfer Control Strategies (111)

Jim Bowen, Powell Electrical Mfg. Co.

Feb. 20/21, 2001 6:00-8:50PM

Reviews secondary selective and spot network switchgear transfer control

strategies. [0.5 CEU]

(electronic distribution of pocket scope con.t from page 2) Of the 3496 we have found a small percentage that are bad. I would like to encourage each member to utilize the IEEE e-mail aliases. This service is provided as part of your IEEE membership and can be accessed at <http://eleccomm.ieee.org/>. By utilizing an IEEE e-mail aliases your e-mail address will not change when you change jobs or Internet providers. Furthermore, if you are interested in joining the mailing list or know of individuals that would be interested send an email from the address that you would like included in the mailing list. The email should have "subscribe ieeehoustonsection" in the text and sent to [majordomo@majordomo.ieee.org](mailto:majordomo@majordomo.ieee.org). One last note, this mailing list is to be utilized to further the objectives of the IEEE Houston Section and its members. It will be utilized by Section Executive Committee members, Society members and others to promote meetings, training, seminars, conferences and other activities of our members. The mailing list is currently a monitored or closed list with the Section majordomo administrator retaining the distribution access.

What will we be doing with the savings? The Houston Section plans on using the savings to promote the section and society meetings, seminars, conferences and other activities within the section and technical societies. We currently have several Technical Societies in the Houston Section that are very active. We will be working in the coming years on making all societies within the Houston Section active in supporting the membership.

We are looking forward to a rewarding year in 2001 and beyond. As always these services and activities do not operate on their own. The IEEE Houston Section is always in search of Volunteers. We currently have several positions open and are seeking individuals with a desire in making a contribution. These activities are beneficial to both your professional development and the engineering profession. If you have an interest please contact any of the Section Executive Committee Members for further information. The Houston Section Website has contact information for each of the Executive Committee members.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming Section Meetings or Seminars.

Donald G. Dunn

IEEE Houston Section

Secretary/Treasurer

E-mail: [donald.dunn@ieee.org](mailto:donald.dunn@ieee.org)

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**The Pocket Scope** is the newsletter of the Houston Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). The Houston Section address is: IEEE Houston Section, P.O. Box 460014, Houston, TX 77056-8014

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IEEE members send **change or address** notices to: IEEE, PO Box 460014 Houston, TX 77056-8014 or call (800) 678-IEEE.

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