



Hudson Mohawk Section

Editor: Ramesh Gambheera
gambheera@research.ge.com

Newsletter

January 2005

ASME Meeting

Topic: The New York State Thruway – Increasing Capacity while Improving Safety

Speaker: Peter Gustafson – Director of Traffic Engineering, NYS Thruway Authority

Date: Thursday, January 27th

Time: 6 PM Social Hour
7 PM Dinner
8 PM Speaker

Place: La Caravelle Ristorante at the Italian-American Community Center, 257 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12205

To reserve your seat, contact Paul Kehoe (paul.kehoe@ge.com or (518) 475-5174) by 5 PM Tuesday January 25th.

Abstract:

Most members of our section might have a tough time associating the New York State Thruway as topic of interest to mechanical engineers. When you think about it, though, trying to increase capacity and improve safety on the Thruway is fundamentally a fluids problem – only that the fluid is automobile and truck traffic.

Pete Gustafson is the Director of Traffic Engineering with the New York State Thruway Authority. He will discuss how the authority is trying to improve the Thruway driving experience through improvements to electronic toll collection (E-Z Pass), variable message signs, signs and pavement markings, shoulder rumble strips, and other improvements made from the outcomes from accident analysis.

Mr. Gustafson holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Clarkson College of Technology (now known as Clarkson University). He worked for the NYS Department of Transportation from 1970 to 1981 working on traffic engineering, maintenance,

planning, and design. In 1981 Pete accepted a position with the NYS Thruway Authority as a Bridge Maintenance Engineer. In 1987 he took over as the Authority's Director of Traffic Engineering, a position he presently holds.

Place:

La Caravelle Ristorante
257 Washington Avenue Extension
Albany, NY 12205

Menu Choices: Oven Baked Scrod
Chicken Sorrento
Penne Siciliano (vegetarian)

Cost:

\$15 - Members
\$20 - Non-Members and Guests of Members
\$10 - Students

Reservations:

To reserve your seat, contact Paul Kehoe at (518) 475-5174, or paul.kehoe@ge.com by 5 PM January 25th.

Directions:

From the West: Take NYS Thruway to Exit 24. After leaving tollbooths, take first exit (Exit 1S) – “Route 20 – Western Ave”. Continue to the Crossgates Mall Road exit; turn right at the end of the ramp onto Crossgates Mall Road. Turn right at the next traffic light, and then turn left onto the westbound entrance ramp to Washington Avenue extension. Follow Washington Avenue Extension for about 1.4 miles, and then turn right into Pine West Plaza.

From the North: Take I-87 to the Crossgates Mall Road exit, turn right at the end of the ramp, and onto Crossgates Mall Road. Turn right at the next traffic light, and then turn left onto the westbound entrance ramp to Washington Avenue extension. Follow Washington Avenue Extension for about 1.4 miles, then turn right into Pine West Plaza.

From the South and East: Take I-90 to the Fuller Road exit (exit 2 towards UAlbany), Turn left onto Fuller Road and follow to Washington Avenue Extension. Turn right onto Washington Avenue Extension and follow for about 2.2 miles, then turn right into Pine West Plaza.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
HUDSON MOHAWK SECTION
PO BOX 206
Schenectady, NY 12301

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SCHENECTADY, NY
PERMIT #334

Message from the Chair

I want to bring you up to date on two items: One, we had a very successful and well-attended meeting in November. Our speaker was an ASME Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Ramesh Shah, who gave a comprehensive presentation on fuel cell technology. Our host for the evening was Dr. Ken Manning of Hudson Valley Community College, who provided an excellent venue for the meeting. Over 35 members, students, and guests attended the meeting.

Two, a task force committee has been formed to help structure our meetings so that members can obtain Professional Development Hour credit. Members Bill Rowen, Holger Loukas, and Neil Krebs have volunteered to advise and assist. This was a major topic on the agenda of our last executive committee meeting. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Fred Willett

A Model Mission: Article in ASME Mechanical Engineering

Union College Professor Frank Wicks (388-6267, wicksf@union.edu) continues to write a variety of articles for Mechanical Engineering. "A Model Mission" in the December 2004 issue tells about how radio control legend Maynard Hill launched a 12-pound airplane on a successful trans Atlantic flight last summer. Other articles by Professor Wicks this year include "Nuclear Navy" in the January 2004 issue which was the 50th anniversary of launching the first nuclear powered submarine SSN 571 Nautilus, and "Picture This" in the July issue to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of George Eastman who popularized photography with his Kodak company and then spent his fortune well.

Distribution of Section Newsletter

The Hudson Mohawk newsletter is posted at:
<http://sections.asme.org/hudson-mohawk/>

Once each newsletter is posted on the Section's web page, an e-mail notification and link to the above website is sent to members who have e-mail addresses in the ASME member database. If you are an active member of ASME and did not receive an e-mail notification, please go to the ASME web site and update your membership information.

<http://members.asme.org/myasme/login/myasme.cfm>
