

Upcoming Events

•
May 21 – UT Chiller Plant.

Local Section News

ASME Central Texas Section Calendar

Check the following link

<http://sections.asme.org/centex/bboard.html>

Click on the "Year Planning Calendar" link to access the calendar.

Contact Us!

We really need volunteers to help with the Central Texas Section activities. If you'd like to help, please contact us:

- Chair: Theresa Jones (jonest2@asme.org)
- Vice Chair: Al Carson
- Secretary: Anjon Contractor (anjancontractor@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Mark Stefanov, P.E. (stefanovm@asme.org)
- Newsletter Editor: Anthony Gatica, P.E. (anthony.gatica@gmail.com)
- Education Committee Chair: Cecil Teller
- Membership Committee Chair: Gary Sutorius (tomsdad@att.net)
- Webmaster: Steve Embleton (embleton@gmail.com)

March Brain Teaser by braingle.com

A common three-letter word can be added in the spaces below to create four common English words. What is the three letter word?

C _ _ _ ED

T _ _ _ SIT

ST _ _ _ D

F _ _ _ TIC

Answer appears on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Local Section News**
- 2 **Engineering in the Global Market**
- 2 **ASME Y14.5 Now Available**
- 3 **ASME Launches New Nuclear Series**
- 3 **2009 Human Powered Vehicle Challenge**

ASME Y14.5 -2009 Now Available

ASME has announced that its Geometric Dimensioning and Tolerancing (GD&T) standard, *ASME Y14.5 – 2009*, has been revised and is now available for purchase.

The *ASME Y14.5 – 2009* standard, an essential communications tool for top engineers worldwide, has undergone its first revision in more than 15 years. It includes important changes that better suit the needs of the 21st century engineer. Changes that address the concept of feature design, surface boundaries and axis methods of interpretation are included among others.

The revised standard is now available for purchase on ASME's online catalog. The site also offers discounts on related GD&T standards, personnel certification, handbooks and training courses to aid engineers in understanding the language of GD&T.

For more information on ASME Y14.5, visit:
<http://go.asme.org/gdt>.

ASME E-Library for You!



The ASME E-Library is a members-only benefit that allows you to access online collections of engineering reference books to help you answer questions and find practical solutions to daily on-the-job problems.

As an added bonus, the ASME E-Library is powered by Knovel, whose interactive and user-friendly technology gives you the ability to manipulate and search for content across the entire collection quickly and easily.

To learn more, visit
<http://www.asme.org/Membership/Benefits/Professional/eLibrary.cfm>

Answer to this month's brain teaser:

The three-letter word is "RAN", which yields:

- Craned
- Transit
- Strand
- Frantic

Engineering in the Global Market: Keys for Success

The 2009 ASME Annual Meeting will be held June 13–17, at JW Marriott®, Palm Desert, Calif. The meeting's program consists of plenary sessions, seminars, professional development sessions, and a Career Expo.

Based on the theme “Engineering in the Global Market: Keys for Success,” the meeting will enable engineers to gain insight about managing in global engineering markets. Topics to be covered will include global collaboration and partnerships; effectively managing a global supply chain; development of universally applicable codes and other keys to success in today's global engineering market.

The plenary sessions are titled “Winning Strategies for Global Engineering: Product Processes and Productivity,” Global Partnerships and Collaborations: Best Practices and Lessons Learned” and “Enhancing Your Knowledge of Global Trade: Codes and Standards as a Gateway to Global Markets.” Each plenary session will run for 90 minutes and will feature expert commentary from CEO and vice president-level corporate decision-makers, academic scholars, and business consultants. Andrew W. Reynolds, deputy S&T adviser to the Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, will chair and moderate the plenary sessions. Reynolds has led strategic planning efforts addressing science, engineering and technology issues in foreign policy and within the U.S. government.

Seminars will explore the subjects treated in the plenary sessions, although in greater depth. The 75-minute workshops will provide a forum for questions and answers between speakers and attendees.

The professional development program at the meeting will focus on building career skills that are critical to success in the global marketplace. You can earn up to 14.5 PDHs for attending the meeting.

For information, visit
www.asmeconferences.org/annualmeeting09 or call (866) 519-1299.

Volunteer with ASME



ASME's Online Tool for Volunteering

What if you could go to one Web page to find all the volunteer opportunities available in ASME? One of ASME's most important assets is its volunteers. This group provides countless hours of service in many roles from local section, district and senior leadership. The many individuals that dedicate their time and efforts to ASME as volunteers are eclipsed by the larger number of members that may like to volunteer, but are not sure how to go about it. The Volunteer Opportunity Bulletin Board (VOBB) was created to address this crucial issue.

The VOBB is an online tool that connects would-be volunteers and those with open volunteer positions. It is a one-stop shop for volunteers seeking positions and offering opportunities within ASME. ASME staff and volunteers are encouraged to post their open volunteer opportunities for local section, district and senior leadership positions using this online tool. After a position is posted on the VOBB, any ASME member that visits the [asme.org](http://www.asme.org) site is welcome to review the positions and apply online. All applications are reviewed and passed on to the interested group. Although an applicant may not be selected for a particular position, their application could open the door to other volunteer opportunities.

To learn more about the VOBB and the volunteer positions available, go to <http://volunteer.asme.org/vobb/>.

ASME To Launch New Nuclear Seminar Series in June

In June, senior level executives from all areas of the nuclear power industry will convene in Atlanta, Ga. to share their expertise and to provide success factors for the nuclear renaissance during ASME's new Nuclear Technical Seminars program.

The new program, entitled, "Blueprint for the Nuclear Renaissance," which will take place from June 22-23 at the J.W. Marriott Buckhead, was developed as a forum for engineers to learn about design, construction, startup and operation for the next group of nuclear power plants from leading expert in the nuclear industry.

The five in-depth seminars will examine the industry's newest trends and will be led by more than 30 nuclear power professionals from organizations such as Areva, Bechtel, Exelon, Sandia National Lab and Westinghouse.

One of the seminars, Nuclear Power Plant Design, will provide an overview of the steps required to produce the design necessary to purchase, fabricate and construct a nuclear power plant. The program will also feature an opening plenary session, "Success Factors for the Nuclear Renaissance," which will offer an overview of the opportunities and challenges facing the next generation of U.S. nuclear power plants.

For more information on the ASME Nuclear Technical Seminars, visit www.asmeconferences.org/nuclear09 or contact Jennifer Delda, program manager, at 212 591 7108 or deldaj@asme.org.

2009 Human Powered Vehicle Challenge

HPVC East Hosted by Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, April 17-19, 2009
HPVC West Hosted by Portland State University, Portland, OR, May 1-3, 2009

The 2009 Human Powered Vehicle Challenge is just around the corner! Spread the word!

Human Powered Vehicles are aerodynamic, highly engineered vehicles that may be for use on land, in the water or the air. The Human Powered Vehicle Challenge (HPVC) encourages students to design and construct an environmentally friendly vehicle that is fast, sleek, and safe and can be used for everyday activities. The point of the competition is to showcase the elegance and ingenuity of design, including presentation, practicality and safety.

To learn more about the HPVC and to register, please visit our website: www.asme.org/hpv.

Editorial – Keeping Vehicles Running

We've all heard about the tailspin the Detroit Three automakers are in. There are numerous reasons and theories, but I'm not going to get into them. What I can say is that I, and others like me, am probably not helping their situation. The reason is that I don't replace my vehicles very often. I tend to get attached to them – and their lack of monthly payments. I think my last car payment was sometime in 2006 for a 2002 car. And that is my newest vehicle. The oldest is a 1999 diesel truck, which I figured would probably last at least 15 years.

I say that I am part of the problem with a bit tongue in cheek. I heard somewhere recently that consumer spending accounts for roughly 60% of the U.S. economy (if I'm wrong, please let me know). For simplicity I'll assume that automobile purchases fit into that consumer spending category even though fleet sales probably make up a good portion of the auto makers' sales. Without trying to figure out how many auto sales would occur each year if everyone kept their vehicles for at least 10 years, I'll go out on a limb and guess that it would be pretty small. Backing up this educated guess is that the economic situation has caused folks to keep their vehicles longer, which has caused more problems for the auto makers (lack of sales), resulting in a downward economic spiral. Even if the United States' economic situation didn't occur I would still hang onto my vehicles for a long time. My mother used to say that she would drive her vehicles "until the wheels fall off". Presumably this is because autos are depreciating assets. You will most always lose money on resale so why not drive them as long as possible? That is why I also believe that leasing is usually not a good idea, unless you prefer to drive new vehicles and make continuous car payments.

Beyond the economic reasons for holding onto a vehicle, I keep them longer because I prefer to do the maintenance myself. The longer I own the vehicle, the more familiar I become with its design (and quirks), and the faster I can complete the maintenance. My newest vehicle has a plastic panel under the engine compartment that needs to be unbolted in order to change the oil. The first time I did this maintenance I was probably out there for two hours. Now I know what wrench sizes I need, exactly how many quarts of oil the engine takes, and that I need a strap wrench to dislodge the oil filter. This entire task can be completed in under 30 minutes.

Like everyone else, I hope we come out of the recession soon. I'm also hopeful that the U.S. auto industry remains intact. However, I will continue to drive my vehicles until the wheels fall off. Sorry, Detroit.

Tony Gatica - Editor

News from the Chair

At our last meeting, we elected new officers for the 2008-2009 year. Al Carson, our current vice-chair, will be chair. Cecil Teller will be vice-chair. Mark Stefanov and Anjan Contractor will continue their roles as treasurer and secretary, respectively. Al already is working on a budget for next year. If you have activities you would like to suggest for our section, please let Al know so he can include funding in the budget.

The Central Texas Section is in a fortunate situation in that we have some financial resources to allow us to engage in activities of interest. For instance, we just awarded \$300 for our first student paper contest winner. Next year we hope to work with the student chapter to increase participation in this event. The winery tour in March was a success. We anticipate holding another Saturday event next year.

Our section has no traditions. We have been trying different things for meetings – some work well. Please support next year's officers by participating in suggesting, and even planning, events that you want to attend. Chances are if you are interested, others will be too.

-Theresa

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