Worcester County IEEE
Newsletter

February   1997

Worcester Section - Computer Society - Delphi Developers Group
Object Oriented Libraries
Steve Carter, Travelíní Light and Jean Ichbiah, Textware Solutions
Programming 32-bit Delphi
Ian Sharp, Database Programmers Retreat
Monday, February 10, 1996 at 7:00 PM, Pencil Pushers, Burlington

The principles that apply to porting object-oriented libraries into Delphi 2.0, plus upgrading 16 bit Delphi applications to 32 bit applications.

Worcester Section and ASME
Utility Deregulation and its Implications
Lawrence J. Reilly, Massachusetts Electric Company
February 19, 1997, Higgins House, WPI, Worcester

The annual joint dinner meeting of the IEEE Worcester County Section and ASME The optional dinner at 6:30/7 PM in Higgins House will be followed by a presentation on utility deregulation and its implications at 8:00 PM.

Worcester Section/PACE
Dancing Engineers?
Friday February 21 at 7:00 PM, Trinity Church, Northboro

The first ever MPAV. The subject is an introduction to formal dancing. We have a professional dance instructor, Roxana Dumitriu, who will guide us through some basic dance steps for Waltz and Foxtrot.

Worcester Section - PACE - Central Mass Internet Group
Netscape Navigator 4.0
Thursday, February 20, 1997 at 7:00, DEC (SHR3), Shrewsbury

Netscape Navigator 4.0 and an update on the strategy for Communicator and server side products.

Worcester Section - Computer Society - Delphi Developers Group
Object Databases and the World Wide Web
Mark Palmer, Object Design
Monday, March 17, 1997 at 7:00 PM, Pencil Pushers, Burlington

An introduction to object database technology, and why application development is shifting away from the traditional client/server relational database model towards a Web based, distributed computing model.

Worcester Section - PACE - Central Mass Internet Group
Internet/Intranet Application Development - JavaScript
Thursday, March 20, 1997 at 7:00 PM, DEC (SHR3), Shrewsbury

A continuation of our investigation of JavaScript.

Dancing Engineers?

Our first MPAV is scheduled for Friday Feb. 21 at Trinity Church on Main street in Northboro. The subject is an introduction to formal dancing. We have a professional dance instructor, Roxana Dumitriu, that will guide us through some basic dance steps for Waltz and Foxtrot. The cost for this will be $10.00 per couple for IEEE members with guest and $20.00 for non-members. If you are a member but your partner is not the cost is $10.00. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to have fun. The lesson will last for 2 hours from 7 pm to 9 pm. Rumor has it our Region 1 Director Arthur Winston and his wife will be joining us for the evening. The Worcester County section is the first section to attempt an event of this type and we have other events we are working on.

The Trinity Church is located at 23 Main Street in Northbrough, Mass. (in Northbrough, Main Street is also Route 20), one block east from Northbrough Center. Northbrough Center is at the intersections of Main Street, Route 135, and Church Street.

From Northbrough Center, head east for one block and take the first left after the railroad tracks. This left will be between an Exxon gas station on the left and the "Trinity Church" on the right. Take your first right into the parking area of the Trinity Church and enter the church from the back door off the parking lot.

Northboro Center is centrally located: From the north or Worcester: Take Route 290 to the "Church Street" exit and head south, follow Church Street to Northbrough Center. From the east, this is the second set of exits from Route 495 and a left turn at the bottom of the exit ramp. From the west, this is the exit after the Route 140 exits in Shrewsbury and a turn right at the bottom of the exit ramp. **From Marlboro:** Follow Route 20 East to Northbrough Center. **From Westbrough:** Take Route 9 to the "Route 135 North" exit and follow to Northbrough Center. **From Shrewsbury:** Follow Route 20 East to Northbrough Center.

I hope to see many of you there. Registration is not required but I really want to get some idea of how many of you will be attending so we can have sufficient refreshments. I want this to be a great time for all. If you know how to dance please come since there will be something for everyone. This is for anyone at any level of skill, from none to instructor.

If you are interested in attending please contact Larry G. Nelson Sr., L.Nelson@IEEE.ORG, 508-943-1075 voice, 508-949-2914 FAX, PO Box 416, Webster MA 01570.

Engineering Society Contributions to Education

Several engineering societies, the IEEE, and specifically the Worcester County Section have made significant contributions to the education of the nation's youth, recognizing that they are the future citizens, scientists and engineers in an ever more technical society. To that end, several entities have arisen which are supported by engineering societies and universities, all relying on volunteers.

Locally, two developments have been functioning for several years. "RESEED" (Retirees Enhancing Science Education through Experiments and Demonstrations) was originated at Northeastern University and was described at a PACE meeting in March of 1995. "The Transformations Project" is one directly supported by the IEEE Foundation and in which the Worcester County Section has been participating for several years. Both "RESEED" and "The Transformations Project" link engineers and scientists with middle school teachers and students to improve science teaching in the middle school classroom.

One of the ventures which the Worcester County Section has supported through a grant and classroom volunteers is the "Junior Solar Sprint". This year we have expanded that support from one to three schools. The "Junior Solar Sprint" is an annual competition in which 7th and 8th grade students design, build and race model cars powered by solar energy. Volunteers, which include engineers and scientists, work with the teachers and students developing a creative environment. The students are only provided with a motor and a solar panel. They must develop the vehicle using their own creativity under specific racing and construction guidelines. They are also encouraged to use mathematics and scientific principles. A Regional competition is held at Beverly high school in May. More information about this project can be obtained by contacting David Chamberlain at the U.S. Department of Energy(617-565-9700).

IEEE/ASME Annual Dinner - Update

The annual joint dinner meeting of the IEEE Worcester County Section and ASME will be held on February 19, 1997 on the campus of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. The optional dinner and the after dinner talk, **Utility Deregulation and its Implications,** will be held at the Higgins House on the campus of Worcester Polytecnic Institute. **Note that the after dinner talk will not be held at Perreault Hall as previously indicated.** A social period will precede dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and the speaker will begin at 8 p.m. For those who do not attend the dinner, there will be a limited number of seats available. For further information and reservations call: Annette Aubertine (508) 831-5425.

The presentation this year will relate to utility deregulation and its implications and will be given by Lawrence J. Reilly, president and C.E.O. of Massachusetts Electric Company, Nantucket Electric Company and recently appointed president and C.E.O. of Granite State Electric Company.

Higgins House is located on the northwest part of the campus, off Salisbury street. There is no parking at Higgins House, please park on West street or in the area.

From I-290 northbound, take the Belmont St./Lincoln Square exit (Exit 17), and turn left, follow through WPI campus. At intersection with Salisbury, turn left, the first left is the entrance into Higgins House.

From I-290 southbound, take Exit 18, bear right at the end of the ramp, then take the next right, proceed straight, merging with Salisbury Street. Continue west on Salisbury until the WPI campus is on the left, parking may be found on Salisbury street or West street. The entrance to Higgins House is the first left after West street.

Renewal of Membership

Anyone who has not renewed needs to do so before February 21. This is the magic date that your membership will be placed in Arrears. All member benefits including publications will be suspended on that date. If you are currently unemployed you can qualify for reduced dues. You need to contact member services at 1-800-678-4333 for more information. If you have not renewed please do so now.

Netscape Navigator 4.0

The Central Mass Internet Group's monthly meetings focus on Internet technologies and investigates topics of interest to Internet/intranet site managers and application developers. We investigate recently released Web site and Internet application development tools. This months meeting will review Netscape is Navigator 4.0 and provide an update on their strategy for Communicator and server side products.

Meeting is at 7:00 on Thursday, February 20, 1997 in Digital Equipment Corporation (SHR3), Shrewsbury, MA. For more information call Al Reinhart, DisCom Systems at 508/869-6417 or visit http:/cmig@bicnet.com.

Object Oriented Libraries, and Programming 32-bit Delphi

The January meeting will start with Steve Carter, Travelini Light and Jean Ichbiah, Textware Solutions presenting the principles that apply to porting object-oriented libraries into Delphi 2.0. The topics they will discuss include inheritance and information-hiding; design-time visual forms vs. dynamic forms; utilizing units to organize a large project; the Windows API and message handling. The presentation will deal with their experiences and insights gained moving OWL to Delphi 2.0.

The second presentation this month will focus on programming 32-bit Delphi. Ian Sharp, our seminar instructor from Database Programmers Retreat, will discuss upgrading 16 bit Delphi applications to 32 bit applications, maintaining 16 and 32 bit code, and identify the major Win32 differences Delphi developers need to be aware of. Ian Sharp, a computer consultant in the UK, will also provide insights on Delphi application development in the international market.

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 10, 1997, and is held at Pencil Pushers Tax Software, 10 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA. For more information call Al Reinhart, DisCom Systems at 508/869-6417.

Object Databases and the World Wide Web
Mark Palmer, Object Design

Mark Palmer, will present an introduction to object database technology and explain why application development is shifting away from the traditional client/server relational database model towards a Web based, distributed computing model. He will discuss the capabilities of object-oriented databases to manage, store, query and retrieve extended data types and demonstrate their abilities to store and serve network or hierarchies of related business objects.

Meeting starts at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 17, 1997, and is held at Pencil Pushers Tax Software, 10 New England Executive Park, Burlington, MA. For more information contact Al Reinhart, DisCom Systems at 508/869-6417 or Reinhart@DisCom.com.

Internet/Intranet Application Development - JavaScript

The Central Mass Internet Groupís monthly meetings focus on Internet technologies and investigates topics of interest to Internet/intranet site managers and application developers. We investigate recently released Web site and Internet application development tools. This months meeting will continue our investigation of Java Script. Check the Web site for the latest meeting information and subscribe to the listserv for meeting announcements.

Beginner and advanced, hands-on Internet workshops are held between 6:30 and 7:00.

Meeting is at 7:00 on Thursday, March 20, 1997 in Digital Equipment Corporation (SHR3), Shrewsbury, MA. For more information call Al Reinhart, DisCom Systems at 508/869-6417 or visit http://cmig@bicnet.com.