

NCCHPS

Northern California Chapter-Health Physics Society

Celebrating Our 50th Year of Service to the Health Physics Profession

May 2011



NCCHPS Affiliate's Night

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Scott's Seafood Grille, Oakland

6:00 - 7:00 PM	Social hour
7:00 - 8:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 - 9:00 PM	Speaker's Presentation and Affiliate Presentations

Affiliate representatives will demonstrate their products and present their many services. Check this issue of the Newsletter to find out more. We will also present the following technical speaker:



Speaker: Bill Vermeere, Director of Global Radiation Services, NeoVista



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About the Speaker: Bill Vermeere has served as Assistant Professor - Radiological Physics and Radiation Biology, Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU), Lecturer - Medical Physics University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), Vice President and Director of IH and HP (RSO) Eckert and Zeigler (IPL), Staff Engineer - Lockheed Missiles and Space, Radiation Safety Officer - NASA Ames, Vice President and Program Manager - PAI NASA Contract, Corporate Radiation Safety Officer - NeoVista, Director of Global Radiation Services - NeoVista

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President's Message

Dear NCCHPS members,

It seems like yesterday when I took over from President Dawn Banghart. The Chapter was in great shape then. I am happy to report that the Chapter is still in great shape today. We continue to hold 5 regular meetings per year where technical topics are discussed and networks are formed and strengthened. We consistently issue a periodic newsletter and maintain an active email information distribution. We continue to contribute to the Burton J. Moyer Fellowship which was established by our own Chapter. This Fellowship awards money annually, with matching from the national HPS, to a student who pursues graduate studies in health physics. We also continue to hold, jointly with the ANS, an annual Science Teacher Workshop. We have over 198 active members, 12 of whom just joined our Chapter this past year. We also have 15 affiliate members, 3 of whom are new. The number of active members is a good indicator of the Chapter's health. I am confident the Chapter will be in good hands with incoming president Jack Topper who was responsible for attracting many new members to our Chapter this past year. He was also instrumental in assuring we continue to provide the support and services that our members and the public need.

We are fortunate to have many members who are willing to contribute to make us a strong Chapter. There are people willing to serve on the board and there are those working tirelessly behind the scene to help with the many activities I listed above. While I am sure I will inadvertently leave out someone, I want to thank Warren Tenbrook, Dave Taylor, Kathleen Dinnel & Greg Jones, Joel Cehn, Jesse Hendricks, Soheil Damavandi, Elsa Nimmo, Bev DeOcampo, Radoslav Radev, and Charlie Schmidt. These are some of the people working behind the scene to help keep the Chapter strong.

We honored past board members at the commemorative 50th anniversary meeting in March. I am still awe-struck thinking about how far the Chapter has come. When researching for the past-board-member list, I was surprised to see that Al Baeitti was the first president of the NCCHPS. I had the pleasure of meeting Al at ICN in Irvine over 20 years ago. Al was near the end of his career then, while I was about to start as an inexperienced health physics technician. Thinking about all this makes me realize how important it is to ensure there is continuity in our profession. If recent events overseas and current needs at home are any indicator, there will be no shortage of needs for continuing, competent, expertise. That is one of the things the Chapter can and should foster. I started some initiative this year aimed at attracting new members and at encouraging students to consider the health physics profession. Much remains to be done in these areas but I hope to continue these efforts even after my days on the board. I know I can count on Chapter members to help me make progress.

The anniversary meeting was a unique and refreshing opportunity to see some of the Chapter's founders coming together with young faces. I truly hope that such interactions can help inspire the younger members to get involved and to serve, for it is this younger group of professionals that will need to carry the Chapter forward.

Sincerely,

Quang Le, President
NCCHPS

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MOYER FELLOWSHIP UPDATE **from Charles Schmidt**

Each year since 1985 our chapter has provided financial support for graduate study in health physics. The Society's Academic and Education Committee is now selecting those applicants who will receive fellowships this year. The student who shows the highest academic achievement and potential for a meaningful health physics career will receive the Burton J. Moyer fellowship. This award presents a stipend of \$8000 to the student, half comes from our chapter and half from the national Society.

You will need to wait for the fall newsletter to find out about this year's Moyer fellow.

Our investment portfolio has recovered significantly from the market lows of two years ago. From a value of about \$60,000 in February 2009, the account is now at \$88,000 in early April 2011. However donations from our chapter members has declined quite a bit recently. So the solvency of this fellowship is dependent on the whims of Wall Street - a rather uncertain future. Consider making a donation to the Moyer fund to show your support for this endeavor. Even a small donation is a vote of approval for this chapter's accomplishment in support of health physics education. Checks payable to NCCCHPS, with a notation "Moyer Fund" may be given/sent to our treasurer.

For any of our readers who are unfamiliar with Burton Moyer or the Moyer Fellowship, check out the "B. Moyer Scholarship" link on the chapter web page.



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Fukushima Daiichi at the Berkeley Marina - The Case of the Missing Haikus - Michael P. Grissom, MPG—HP, Inc.

On Thursday night (4/14/11) at H's Lordships Restaurant at the Berkeley Marina, I gave the presentation "The Japanese Radiological Event at Fukushima Plant 1 (Daiichi)" to an audience of over 80 Medical Physicists and Health Physicists. This was a joint meeting of the SFBAC AAPM and NCC HPS and I am thankful in particular to Scott Dube and the officers of the SFBAC AAPM for supporting my travel to the meeting. I must say, after having served as a President-Elect for both of these Chapters, it was almost restful to merely be the presenter and not the organizer!

My planned 50 minute talk ballooned to over 2 hours thanks to the multitude of questions and discussion that took place during the session. I was grateful for this, and it will help me improve the presentation whose revision I will be giving to the Cascade Chapter of the HPS on May 13, 2011 in Corvallis, Oregon. It was, however, a long night for those poor souls who had to hit the airport or go back to work early the next morning – I was most impressed that nearly 60 stayed to the end.

All that said, the presentation went very well except for the haikus (a font issue on someone else's computer) that I had added to reflect the emotional and at times fearful spirit of the Japanese people during these most trying times following the Tohoku Earthquake, subsequent tsunami and ongoing radiological event at the Fukushima Plant 1 (Daiichi) Nuclear Power Generating Station. I had gleaned these haikus from a Los Angeles Times front page article by Julie Makinen (reporting from Tokyo) on March 26, 2011 titled "Capturing Japan's pain in 17 syllables." I believe Julie's gleaning of Japanese media, particularly the major newspaper Asahi Shimbun, was directly in line with my thoughts on the situation. Often when we give technical presentations on the details of an event, we do not invest ourselves in the emotional and physical stress encountered by the participants. In this case, I do not believe it would have been responsible to describe the actions taken by Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) management and their workers without the context of the greater difficulties presented throughout Northeast Honshu Island after the earthquake and tsunami. It is easy to criticize actions taken or not taken as they stand alone, as was the case at Three Mile Island in 1979 and Chernobyl in 1986, but in this case the tremendous natural disasters inevitably made things much worse at Daiichi.

Here then are the missing haikus with reference to the presentation slides on which they appeared. For the "More Than 140,000 Still Displaced 4/13/11" and the point that disastrous earthquakes are a part of Japan's history:

*It's cold and wet
camping outdoors
aftershocks multiplying
the misery*

(Yosuharu Yo, Buddhist Monk of Shin Sect after Nigata earthquake October 2004)

*Day of disaster
I can never forget
the cold and wet*

(Yosuharu Yo, Buddhist Monk of Shin Sect this disaster)

For "Principal Cause of Loss of Life: The Tsunamis" with nearly 30,000 now known to be dead and thousands more still missing:

*The big tsunami
scattering as far as here
a cloud of seabirds
Boats cars
houses and people in the flow*

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For “Situation Muddled Due to Road, Rail and Shipping Disruptions”:

*Mother’s pain
into the spring sea
her last sleep*

(Murasaki Sagano whose mother died 5 days post tsunami)

For “Debris at Sea”:

*Basho’s road
throughout Tohoku
hope remains*

(Stephan DeGuire trek in post-disaster region)

For “Fires, Flooding and Aftershocks Added to the Misery”:

*About the nuclear power
plant
too much detail I hear
such unhappiness*

(Yoshikatsu Kurota in Asahi 3/24/11)

For “Sequence of Events at Units 1-6 at Daiichi”:

*It’s safe, but
they say over and over
that’s worrisome*

(Tadashi Nishimura’s lament from the Asahi)

For “Q & A”:

*We earnestly make
donations
but the bank says
don’t use our system*

(Kunio Kataoka re Japanese ATM network failures post disaster)

*“Daddy I’m fine”
time stopping and
restarting email from Tokyo*

(Raj Bose in Honolulu upon hearing from son in Japan)

Again, for those who attended, please accept my apology regarding this font problem. I hope it is clear to all, though, what my goal was in providing the haikus. It is said a picture is worth a thousand words, but a haiku as a picture to the soul can be worth countless words. And this from a not very poetic, very technically oriented person!

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56th Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society

West Palm Beach, Florida, 26-30 June 2011.

Breaking News – HPS is planning a Special Session on the status of the Fukushima-Daiichi reactors for the Annual Meeting.

The Health Physics Society invites members of the Society, other scientists, and students to participate in the 56th Annual Meeting of the Health Physics Society, HPS Annual Meeting 2011 registration will be available online approximately the first of April. Member registration for the Palm Beach meeting is \$430 for early registration and \$525 for late/on-site registration.

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NCCHPS Meetings 2011

May 19, 2011

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<http://hpschapters.org/ncchps/>

Direct input for our next newsletter to:

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Menu:

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Grilled Salmon Alla Bella – dipped in egg and parmesan cheese batter with a lemon-caper butter sauce. Herbed rice and fresh seasonal vegetables

Wild Mushroom Chicken Piccata – shiitake mushroom, wine, garlic, capers, and demi-glace. Garlic mashed potatoes and fresh seasonal vegetables

Hazelnut Crusted Chicken with Grilled Prawns – Chicken breast stuffed with spinach, goat cheese, and served with a roasted red pepper sauce. Herbed rice and fresh seasonal vegetables

Roasted Vegetable Ravioli – roasted red pepper cream sauce

Raspberry Sorbet

Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea.

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Only online registrations will be accepted:

<http://hpschapters.org/ncchps/dinner.php3>

Please contact Eric Packard (Eric.D.Packard@nasa.gov) ONLY if there are difficulties encountered with online registrations