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Newsletter



NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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Visit our web site at www.nechps.org.

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NECHPS Hosts HPS Annual in '06

Margaret McCarthy

The NECHPS governing board has undertaken the long-term goal of preparing for the Summer 2006 Providence, RI Annual HPS Meeting hosted by us, the NECHPS. There are positions, large and small, available for your consideration. Then there is the more pressing need for addressing the preparation for the summer school to be held immediately preceding the annual meeting. A progress report on the status of the annual meeting and the summer school will be published in the last newsletter of the fiscal year [*due out in late June or early July- ed.*]. So watch for the latest news on the 2006 meetings and volunteer for at least a small bit.

New Members

Margaret McCarthy

Several members have been admitted to NECHPS in recent months. Please welcome:

Emeritus Member: Robert A. Scott, CHP

Member: Barbara Reider, CHP

Associate Members: Eric Barbour, Fred Barker, Greg Blute, J Thomas Coulombe, Frank Krasin, James Scott

Student Member: Lisa McAuley

Each of these new members has been sent a personal welcoming letter. Contact information will be published in the 2004 NECHPS Directory, which will be available at the next meeting and at the Annual Meeting in June.

Meeting Announcement

The NELRAD Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 28th, at Northeastern University's Henderson House in Weston, MA. Check the NECHPS website (www.nechps.org) for more details.

A list of all upcoming NECHPS meetings, as well as a selected list of other professional society meetings, is maintained on the website.

NRC Historian Marks 25th Anniversary of TMI Accident NRC Press Release

J. Samuel Walker, historian for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), has written the fourth volume of the agency's history, *Three Mile Island: A Nuclear Crisis in Historical Perspective*.

The book, published by the University of California Press, is available for purchase at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

The book considers the issues surrounding nuclear power in the 1970s as a prelude to focusing on the days when the event unfolded, March 28 - April 1, 1979. During that time, a combination of equipment failures and operator error led to a partial melting of the fuel in Unit 2 of the Three Mile Island complex. Of particular interest are sections covering the evacuation recommendation for pregnant women and preschool-age children, as well as concerns over a buildup of hydrogen in the damaged reactor.

This was the most serious accident in the history of commercial nuclear power in the United States. Walker also covers both the immediate aftermath of the accident and the investigations into possible long-term effects.

Three Mile Island's results suggested that nuclear proponents had underestimated the risks of a major accident at a nuclear plant in the United States, Walker writes, and nuclear critics had overstated the likely consequences. The accident prompted wide-ranging reforms that increased safety at U.S. nuclear plants, but TMI also significantly eroded public confidence in plants abilities to operate safely, Walker concludes.

Other volumes on the history of the NRC, also written by Walker, include *Controlling the Atom*, *Containing the Atom*, and *Permissible Dose*.

[If you'd like to contribute a piece, contact the editor at dlamay@mit.edu or (617) 253-4203.]

**Don't forget to mark June 8th, 2004 on your
calendars for the NECHPS Annual Meeting**

NECHPS MAY MEETING

- Date:** Tuesday, May 4th, 2004
- Location:** Papa Razzi Trattoria, 16 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02481
- Topics:** *Radiological Challenges of the CY Decommissioning Project*
- Speakers:** Mr. Jay Tarzia, CHP
- Time:** 4:30-5:45 PM Registration / Cash Bar
5:45-6:45 PM Dinner
6:45-7:30 PM Guest Speaker
- Cost:** \$30.00 Members, \$20.00 Student Members, \$40.00 Guests
- Menu:** Buffet Dinner
- To Register:** *Mail registration to:*
- Chris Martel
306 Hayden Rowe
Hopkinton, MA 01748
- or call to register: **(617) 638-7419**
or e-mail to register: **cbmartel@bu.edu**

Please note, you can make payment up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, please register beforehand.

Directions:

Heading South on 128:

Take exit 22-21B off of 128, then exit 21B (RT-16 W) toward Newton Lower Falls / Wellesley. Turn right onto Washington St / MA-16. Papa Razzi will be on your left less than a mile after you turn onto Washington Street.

Heading North on 128:

Take exit 21 (RT-16) off of 128 toward Newton/Wellesley. Turn left onto Washington St / MA-16. Papa Razzi will be on your left less than a mile after you turn onto Washington Street.

For additional information call the Papa Razzi at: (781) 235-4747.

NECHPS Nominations

In accordance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Chapter Bylaws, the following candidates are submitted for Chapter Offices during the 2004-2005 Chapter Year (election to be held 6/8/04).

President-Elect: Ronald Thurlow

Secretary: John E. Sumares

Directors: Tara Medich
Victor Evdokimoff
Doug LaMay

In accordance with Article VI, Section 3 of the Chapter Bylaws, additional nominations may be made to this committee by May 9, 2003, which is 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

“Nominations shall be in the form of a petition naming a nominee or nominees for any or all prospective vacancies, said petition bearing the signature of at least five Chapter Members in good standing.”

For your information, the following Officers will continue to serve during the 2003-2004 chapter year:

President: Christopher Martel

Immediate

Past-President: Margaret McCarthy

Treasurer: Michael P. Whalen

GOLFERS WANTED!

If anyone is interested in a NECHPS *golf outing* I would like to hear from you!

I would like to see if there is enough interest to set this up for a weekday sometime this summer.

Please e-mail me if you would be interested: william.lorenzen@childrens.harvard.edu.