

President  
Edward Maher  
42 Tuttle Drive  
Acton, MA 01720  
978-568-2785 (W)  
edward.maher@framatome-anp.com

President-Elect  
Margaret McCarthy  
30 North Farms Road  
Haydenville, MA 01039-9724  
413-755-4624 (W)  
mem@schoolph.umass.edu

Immediate Past President  
Ninni Jacob  
Brown University  
Env Health and Safety Office  
164 Angell Street  
Providence, RI 02912  
401-863-1738 (W)  
ninni\_jacob@brown.edu

Secretary  
Elizabeth Brackett  
64 Sutton Drive  
Vernon, CT 06066  
860-872-2137 (W)  
brackett@cshore.com

Treasurer  
Ronald Thurlow  
21 Myrtle Avenue  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
603-773-7438 (W)  
thurlrm@naesco.com

RETURN ADDRESS:

Publicity Committee/Editor  
Doug LaMay  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
NW12-114  
138 Albany Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-253-4203  
dlamay@mit.edu

# Newsletter



## NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER OF THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

**Volume XXXIX No. 4**  
March 2003

Continuing Education Committee  
Haro der Hagopian  
978-568-2524 (W)

History Committee  
Michael Whalen  
617-727-6214 (W)  
mpwhalen@aol.com

Admissions Committee  
John Sumares  
617-727-6214 (W)

Ethics, Awards Committees  
Ninni Jacob  
401-863-1738 (W)  
ninni\_jacob@brown.edu

Program Committee  
Margaret McCarthy  
413-755-4624 (W)  
mem@schoolph.umass.edu

Affiliate Relations Committee  
John Anderson, Jr.  
781-828-9118 (W)

Finance Committee  
Ronald Thurlow  
603-773-7438 (W)  
thurlrm@naesco.com

Public Relations Committee  
William McCarthy  
617-253-0346 (W)  
wbm@mit.edu

## Notes from the President-Elect

Margaret McCarthy

### *The San Antonio Mid-Year Meeting*

The topic of the meeting, Homeland Security, drew the largest number of attendees of any mid-year meeting to date. I was in attendance, as I am ending two of my national committee charges.

The Public Education Committee was chaired by Ken Krieger from the Southwest Texas Chapter. This committee has produced material for the HPS web page and is involved with the upgrade and modification of our public front via the internet. My own small part included writing the food irradiation response and contributing to the definitions, which will eventually appear on the web. The Homeland Security Committee, chaired by Alan Brodsky, presented its final report. Much time, restructuring, and modification has shaped this committee into one that can meet the timely responsibilities now approaching. Both of these committee chairmen are retiring from their tenures in June.

### *Local Chapter Meeting at Sturbridge on February 6<sup>th</sup>*

The joint meeting with the Western Massachusetts Industrial Hygiene Association went off splendidly, with cooperative weather and a great turnout. We encouraged the Connecticut chapter to attend and four CT members from our neighbor state to the south were present. The speaker was Sal DiNardi, Ph.D., a professor at Umass-Amherst who is a certified Industrial Hygienist, Chairman of the Environmental Health Department *and* Program Director of the Industrial Hygiene Program at the university. His topic was monitoring devices for indoor air on submarines. He traced the history of the monitoring devices to what is presently applicable.

### *Future Meetings*

A meeting will be held on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The topic will be "Radiological Challenges & Solutions to a Power Reactor Outage." [details included with this newsletter]

The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Westford Regency in Westford, MA. Our keynote

speaker is the President-Elect of the HPS, Ken Kase, who will update us on the status of the national.

## NE LRAD Meeting

The NELRAD annual meeting is planned for April 30<sup>th</sup> at Henderson House, Weston. The theme is: "Radwaste A, B, and C". Topics include: Radwaste Reduction at NIH; ANSI N13.50 Characterization of Radwaste; and, Radwaste Management Decision Tree. ABHP credits will be offered. Contact Dave Drum at [dedrum@earthlink.net](mailto:dedrum@earthlink.net) for more information.

## Free Meeting!

If you've got something you'd like to submit for the NECHPS Newsletter, please pass it along. We'll accept HP news updates, editorial pieces, or just about anything of interest to the New England Health Physics community.

If your submission finds its way into the Newsletter, you'll earn free admission for yourself or a guest to one of the chapter meetings (excluding the Annual Meeting).

You can e-mail submissions to Doug LaMay at [dlamay@mit.edu](mailto:dlamay@mit.edu). WordPerfect and MS Word submissions are both acceptable. You can also fax short submissions or announcements to (617) 252-1533.

## Membership Dues

Members are reminded that they should pay their dues *as soon as possible* to ensure that membership status remains in good standing. You may check your dues status by looking at the mailing label attached to this newsletter - the label will have a statement in the upper right corner: "Paid thru July 2003", for example.

Remember that the current By-Laws state that dues are \$10.00 per year, however, a payment of \$40.00 will get a member 5 years of Chapter membership.

Dues are always accepted and payable at the Chapter's technical meetings.

volunteer by March 17.

## Dirty Bomb

If you haven't already seen it, PBS is airing a Nova program titled "Dirty Bomb", about Radiological Dispersion Devices. The program aims to address several issues. How easy is it to acquire materials and manufacture an RDD? How does a dirty bomb differ from a conventional nuclear weapon, and just what harm does a Radiological Dispersion Device pose? A member of the Health Physics Society, Andrew Karam, is featured in the program.

Check <http://www.wgbh.org/schedules> for listings or <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/dirtybomb> for an on-line summary of the program's contents as well as other supplementary material.

## Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee, consisting of William Lorenzen, Tom O'Connell and Ninni Jacob, is soliciting nominations for the following positions for the 2003-2004 Chapter Year:

President-Elect;  
Treasurer; and  
Director (three positions open).

Please call Ninni Jacob, Chairperson at (401) 863-1738 or contact her via e-mail at [ninni\\_jacob@brown.edu](mailto:ninni_jacob@brown.edu) if you have any suggestions.

The final slate will be presented in the next newsletter.

## Volunteers Needed Ninni Jacob

The HPS President-Elect is in the process of selecting members for three-year appointments to Society committees beginning in July 2003. A number of people have indicated an interest in serving, but we need more. Please visit the HPS website [[www.hps.org](http://www.hps.org)] to volunteer. You can access information about each committee from the Home page to find out more about what the committee does and to submit your name for membership. You can also access the volunteer form from the Members Only home page by clicking on Site Map and then selecting the volunteer form. If you would like to be considered for committee membership, please

## Call for Abstracts

The New England Chapter of the AAPM has announced a call for abstracts for the Peter Neurath Young Investigators Symposium. Anyone starting out in medical physics including trainees, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows or physicists recently entered into the field is welcome to apply. Abstracts submitted for consideration will be reviewed on the basis of the relevance and significance of the work, which must be primarily that of the young investigator. Talks will be limited to approximately 20 minutes.

The symposium is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Emerson Hospital in Concord, MA. For more details, consult <http://www.aapm.org/ne>.

## Upcoming Event

BELLE (Biological Effects of Low-Level Exposure) is hosting "Non-Linear Dose-Response Relationships in Biology, Toxicology and Medicine, an International Conference" at the campus of UMass-Amherst on May 28-30, 2003.

The conference will be principally technical in nature with most papers concerned with clarifying the nature of the dose-response in the low dose zone. Consequently, the conference would be relevant to professionals in the fields of radiation biology, health physics, or epidemiology. The conference would also be of particular interest to those in federal and state governmental agencies as well as those private-sector organizations/companies whose job is involved with assessing risk from toxic agents.

For more information, contact Denise Leonard at (413) 545-1239, or check <http://www.belleonline.com>.

## Job Announcement

PerkinElmer Life Sciences is currently advertising for a Radiation Protection Specialist position at their Boston offices.

Contact Sarah Reinhard at (617) 338-9758 for more information, or go to: <http://lifesciences.perkinelmer.com> and choose the menu option "careers".

## MEMBERSHIP POLL PART II

*(HELP SAVE NECHPS SOME \$\$\$)*

Many thanks to those who responded to the initial survey soliciting ideas for “going electronic” with the chapter Newsletter. 50 people responded, with 45 of you indicating that e-mail would be an acceptable format. The ideas you passed along were very helpful for finding a direction to go with this concept.

My plan is to allow each individual member to choose one of the following options:

- A. receive a hard copy only;

*(the default choice if I don't receive a response from you)*

OR

- B. receive both a hard copy and an e-mailed electronic copy;

*(choose one of the following for the electronic copy:*

*PDF format or  
WordPerfect file)*

OR

- C. receive an e-mailed electronic copy only.

*(choose one of the following for the electronic copy:*

*PDF format or  
WordPerfect file)*

The idea is to customize the choice for each member, while saving money for the chapter. I encourage any of you interested in receiving an electronic copy to choose option C. Currently the Newsletter costs about \$500.00 per mailing; for every 50 people who choose C, we'll save about \$100.00 per mailing, which amounts to a savings in the range of \$400.00-\$500.00 per year.

Please contact me with your choice: A, B, or C. If you choose B or C, please also pick a format for the electronic copy you'd like to receive (PDF or WordPerfect) and an e-mail address to which you'd like me to send the Newsletter (if different than the one I'm using now to send you info).

*My contact information is:*

Doug LaMay  
138 Albany Street  
NW12-114  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

(617) 253-4203  
dlamay@mit.edu

## ***April Meeting***

### *Radiological Challenges and Solutions to a Power Reactor Outage*

- Date:** Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003
- Location:** The Inn of Hampton, Hampton, NH
- Time:** 5:00-6:00 PM Registration/Cash Bar  
6:00-7:00 PM Dinner  
7:00-8:00 PM Guest Speaker
- Speaker:** Mr. Ron Thurlow
- Cost:** \$30.00 Members, \$35.00 Guests/Non-Members, and \$20.00 Students
- Menu:** New England Clam Chowder  
Seasonal Mixed Greens with Balsamic Dressing  
Choice of: Statler Chicken *OR*  
Traditional Baked Haddock  
Parslied Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables, Rolls and Butter  
Apple Pie with Vanilla Ice Cream

***(don't forget to let Margaret know your choice of entrees when you register!)***

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***The registration deadline is April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003.***

Please note, you can make payment after 4/4, up to and including the night of the event (pay "at the door"); however, no matter when you make payment, you *must* register by April 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you register then decide to cancel, you must do so before April 4<sup>th</sup>, or you are responsible for payment.

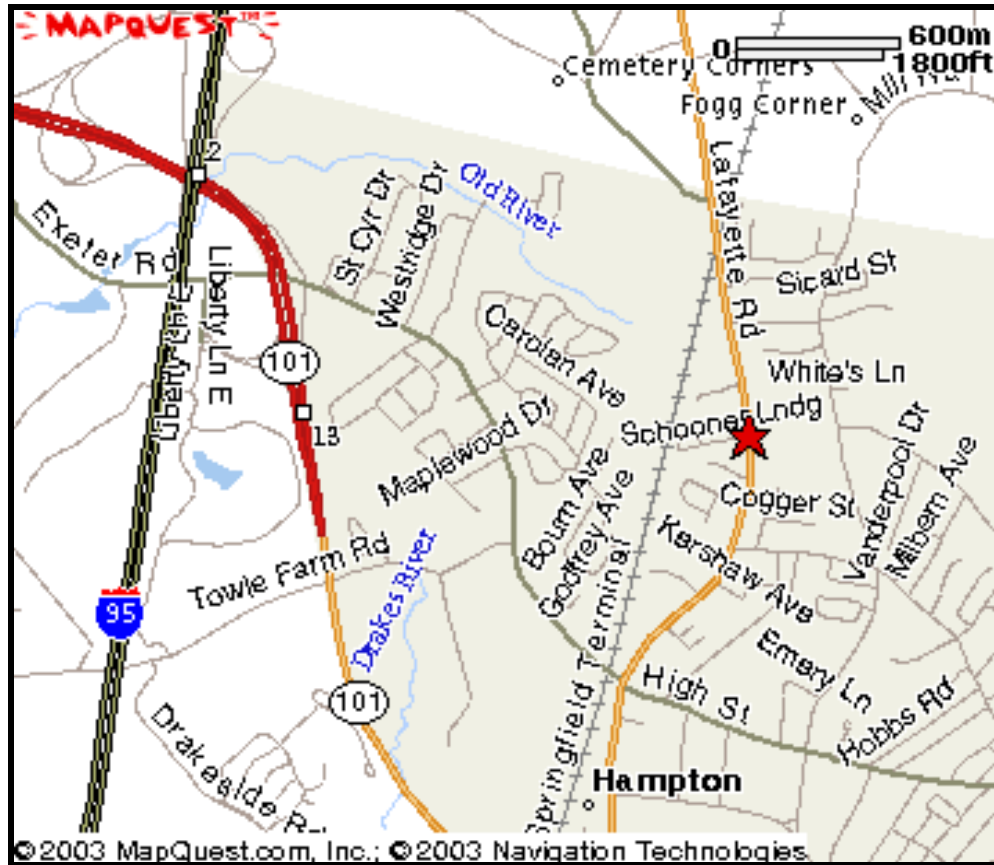
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration (with check to NECHPS) to: Margaret McCarthy  
30 North Farms Road  
Haydenville, MA 01039-9724

OR E-mail to register: [mem@schoolph.umass.edu](mailto:mem@schoolph.umass.edu)  
OR Register online at: [www.nechps.org](http://www.nechps.org)  
OR Call (413) 268-7863

## DIRECTIONS TO THE INN OF HAMPTON

Route-1 (815 Lafayette Rd), Hampton, NH



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### Directions

From I-95, take Exit 2 (Hampton Tolls) to Route 101 towards Hampton. From Route 101, take exit 13 (Route 27) to Hampton and go right 1.5 miles to traffic lights. At lights, turn left onto Route 1. The Inn of Hampton is on the right after about ½ mile.

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For additional information please call: 1-800 423-4561 or go to:

<http://www.theinnohampton.com>