John Poston, Sr., Ph.D., has focused much of his life’s work, more than 45 years, on being an effective educator, scientist, author, and humanitarian to the radiation science community. Dr. Poston has become a leader in health physics and radiation protection education while at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (1964–1977) as eventual Section Head of the Health Physics Division, at the Georgia Institute of Technology (1977–1984) as an Associate Professor in the School of Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics, and as a Professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering at Texas A&M University, where he has been working with Texas students since 1985. While in Aggieland, Dr. Poston served as Head of the Department of Nuclear Engineering for ten years. In his own amiable style, Dr. Poston has served as mentor, colleague, and friend to literally hundreds of students who now enjoy success in our field, thanks to Dr. Poston’s astute guidance.

Before obtaining his advanced degrees, Dr. Poston was employed as an experimental research reactor physicist by the Babcock and Wilcox Company (1958–1964). Following on the heels of obtaining his graduate degree in Nuclear Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1969, Dr. Poston received his Ph.D. in the same discipline and at the same institution in 1971.

From conducting dosimetry research for the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (1964–1974), to aiding in the evaluation of quality factors for fast neutrons (2004–2005), Dr. Poston’s career has been punctuated by conducting research in relevant and timely issues. Although primarily regarded as a pioneer in internal dose assessment and external dosimetry of mixed radiation fields, Dr. Poston’s widely varied research has included modeling dosimetry for nuclear accident scenarios, radiation exposure modeling from an infinite cloud of photon emitters, and engineering waterways with nuclear detonations.

Dr. Poston has served as Secretary (1974–1976) and President (1986–1987) of the Health Physics Society and elected Fellow of the Society and a recipient of the HPS Founders Award. Dr. Poston was elected Fellow of the American Nuclear Society in 1996. In the fall of 2001, Dr. Poston was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Poston served as an elected member of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) for twelve years and, in 2002, was elected to Honorary Membership (lifetime) on the Council. Dr. Poston received the Glen Murphy Award from the American Society for Engineering Education and the Loevinger-Berman Award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine. In 1995, he was elected to the Georgia Tech Academy of Distinguished Engineering Graduates. In 1998, he was appointed chair of the writing group that prepared NCRP Report No. 138 on terrorist activities involving radioactive materials. This year, an undergraduate scholarship has been established in Dr. Poston’s name for students enrolled at Texas A&M University in a radiation-related major.

Dr. Poston is an accomplished author of two books (both co-written with Geoffrey G. Eichholz), 22 chapters or sections of publications such as World Book Encyclopedia and Reference Man: A System for Internal Dose Calculations. Dr. Poston has contributed to no fewer than seven different published NCRP Reports. Dr. Poston has had more than 50 open literature papers published and more than 30 papers published in Proceedings.

Forty-five individual letters, as well as a Chapter letter signed by President John Salsman, were submitted to the HPS Awards Committee in support of Dr. Poston. The South Texas Chapter is privileged and honored to sponsor and support the awarding of the 2005 Robley D. Evans Commemorative Medal to Dr. John W. Poston. Congratulations to our mentor and friend.
Three chapter meetings were conducted since the 2004 Annual Health Physics Society (HPS) Meeting. We are working with the HPS Secretariat to obtain hotel information for a possible 2009 Midyear Meeting, hosted by the STC-HPS, in San Antonio, TX.

Chapter Officers made a presentation to the HPS Venues Committee to host the 2009 Midyear Meeting in San Antonio, TX. The Venues Committee requested detailed hotel room pricing before they would make a decision. STC-HPS is working with Lori Strong (HPS Secretariat, Burk & Assoc.) to obtain detailed hotel and convention center information.

The Chapter is conducting a “Needs Assessment,” obtaining information about the current membership demographics and the potential members that do not attend the meetings or belong to the chapter.

We are implementing electronic voting and on-line payment of dues as well as implementing taking credit cards for payment of dues and meeting registration. Meeting registration via the Internet may be available for the September meeting.

We recently reformatted and updated the STC-HPS web site.

The STC-HPS co-sponsored, with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin, TX, on September 16–17, 2004. The conference focused on the activities and reorganization of the DSHS, the status of low-level radioactive waste disposal in Texas, and the new application and regulations for medical uses of radiation. More than 200 registered for the meeting. Approval for CEUs for Medical Specialties were obtained and issued to appropriate attendees.

Three newsletters were published (The Billet, August 2004, December 2004, and March 2005) and several articles were submitted to the HPS Newsletter.

Records retention schedule was approved and applied to chapter files.

The Annual STC-HPS Affiliates Meeting was held on January 28–29, 2005, in San Antonio, TX. This was our Annual Vendors’ Fair, and we hosted a visit from the President-Elect of the HPS. About 70 people attended this meeting.

The Student Paper and Annual Business Meeting was held on April 15–16, 2005, in Waco, TX. We had 25 presentations by students on a variety of topics. We handed out awards to the top papers in three categories. New officers of the chapter were announced.

We are in the process of setting up self-sustained scholarship funds at Texas A&M University to be given to students pursuing health physics or related degrees. This scholarship is in addition to existing student grants for other institutions.
The South Texas Chapter (STC) April 2005 Meeting had the most student presentations to date. There was a total of 25 presentations by students from Texas A&M University (TAMU), University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), and Texas State Technical College (TSTC). The papers ranged from the analysis of tattoo ink to the neutron activation analysis (NAA) of paint.

Our own Mike Charlton, from the UTHSCSA, gave the lunchtime presentation entitled “The Future of Professional Development for Health & Safety Practitioners.” Since this was a meeting that focused on students, it was a very relevant topic and gave insight into the directions that a student might take. While Mike talked about our future, the rest of us enjoyed BBQ brisket and sausage from Tom’s BBQ.

The number of presentations allowed the meeting to last until almost 5:00 p.m. After the presentations, the judges tallied their scores and announced the winners of the R.D. Neff Student Paper Award. Three awards were given: one in associate, undergraduate, and graduate categories. The Neff Student Paper Awardees were:

- Ashley Ellis and Daniel Savage (TSTC), presenting, “Did Someone Call for Backup? The Case of the Unidentified Source,” in the associate class
- Arjun Ghosh (TAMU), “Gamma Spectroscopy of Various Diets,” in the undergraduate class
- Jennifer Watson (UTHSCSA), “PET/CT Shielding Considerations for a University Hospital,” in the graduate class

At the business meeting, the results of the STC elections were announced. The new President-Elect is Jim Sharp, the new Treasurer-Elect is Stacy Krieger and the new member of the Board of Directors is Al Evans.

As the last order of business as the STC President, John Salsman, thanked everyone for a good year, and as first order of business as President, Ken Krieger presented John with a plaque thanking him for his service to the STC.

Please join me in congratulating the winners of the student presentations and the new STC officers.

Jennifer Watson receives her award check from Mike Charlton.

Duties for Chapter Officers and Volunteers are now posted on the STC-HPS web site for future reference. A link can be found on the Chapter Leadership page or go to www.stc-hps.org/duties.htm.
On Saturday afternoon, June 11, 2005, Eva Legler passed from this world in the company of her family and closest friends in El Campo after a yearlong battle with a rare form of cancer. Eva was born on January 17, 1950, in Abernathy, Texas, to Gregorio and Anatalia Salazar Gusman. Eva was the Radiation Safety Manager at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in Houston. A crowning achievement and tribute to Eva’s good nature, character, and commitment, Eva received the Employee of the Year Award from Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital in 1999.

Ms. Legler worked with and served on the Southwest Imaging Council–Houston, which is a professional organization composed of radiologic technologists, educators, and radiology managers. Eva was the current President-Elect of the Bay Area Medical Imaging Society, an organization whose purpose is to promote and advance the science of medical imaging to include medical radiography, nuclear medicine, medical ultrasound, and all other related disciplines and to promote excellence in patient care, maintain high standards in education and to improve the professional standing of all individuals interested in these fields. Ms. Legler was also a passionate instructor, consummate advocate, and loving student mentor at the Memorial Hermann School of Radiography. This year, Eva was honored by the Texas Society of Radiologic Technologists as recipient of a Life Membership for her hard work and devotion to that organization.

Education was so important to Eva that she was the South Texas Chapter’s champion of science teacher workshops, having set up many using the facilities and the volunteers from the Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital.
Besides being elected to the Chapter’s Executive Council in 2003, she served capably on the Local Arrangements Committee of the 2003 HPS Midyear Meeting. Further witness to her dedication and diligence to our Chapter, Eva was a double recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Service award from the Health Physics Society (1999 and 2000). She will be greatly missed, and our thoughts go out to her husband, Steve, a current South Texas Chapter member, and her family. Steve has created a web site, www.otromed.com, dedicated to Eva’s memory.

Survivors include her parents of El Campo; husband, Steve Legler of Sugar Land; sisters, Lori Martinez of El Campo, Alicia Legler of Garland, and Silvia Hogan of El Campo; and brothers, Adam Gusman of El Campo, Greg Gusman of Houston, Ernest Gusman (former STC-HPS member) of Houston, and Robert Gusman of El Campo. One of several memorial services was held on Saturday, June 18, at St. Robert’s Catholic Church in El Campo. Representing the South Texas Chapter were Roy and Alta Craft, Al Evans, Pete and Karen Myers, David Fogle, Susan Jablonski, and Nathaniel Fogle.

By unanimous decision of the Executive Council, the South Texas Chapter provided a lovely spray of flowers for the memorial service and donated $500 to the Memorial Hermann Southwest Volunteers.

Memorials can be made to Memorial Hermann Southwest Volunteers at 713-776-5000.

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**Phillip Pierce**

**Statewide Science and Engineering Fair Special Awardee**

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It started with a woman, her motorcycle, and a Geiger counter. Phillip Pierce received an e-mail from his father describing the journeys of a woman riding her motorcycle through the area near Chernobyl while measuring radiation levels with a Geiger counter. Phillip found the story quite interesting and started doing some research on radiation and Geiger counters, and that started his award-winning science fair project.

Phillip Pierce is a freshman at Henrietta High School, near Wichita Falls, Texas. He was awarded the Special Award presented jointly by the North and South Texas Chapters of the Health Physics Society at the 2005 ExxonMobil® Texas Science and Engineering Fair, which was held in San Antonio this year.

Phillip’s project, “Radioactive Lantern Mantles,” evaluated the beta and gamma radiation dose rates at different distances from lantern mantles containing thorium-232 by using a Geiger counter. Phillip used the measured dose rates to calculate the dose to a camper from a hypothetical exposure to a lantern mantle, carried in a pocket for 11 hours. He concluded that there is potential radiation exposure from thorium-containing lantern mantles and, although one can take measures to reduce exposure to the radiation from the thorium, the nonradioactive yttrium lantern mantles should be used, to minimize the potential radiation exposure.

Phillip’s Geiger counter is an integrated unit with a 10-year battery, is permanently calibrated, and has selectable shielding to place in front of the detector to allow for the exclusion of alpha and beta radiation. He was happy to know that the instrument had a 10-year battery, as he intends to use it for the next 10 years. Even as a freshman, Phillip is already thinking about college and is considering Texas A&M, in College Station, as the place to study radiation health and safety. For Jim Lewis and I, it was wonderful to see someone so enthusiastic about health physics so early in school. The North and South Texas Chapters will hopefully be able to support Phillip through his high school and college career (and maybe beyond that) so his enthusiasm for health physics will continue.
Los Alamos and Texas DSHS Help San Antonio Schools Remove Radioactive Gammators

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., April 12, 2005 — Crews hired by the state of Texas and advised by Los Alamos National Laboratory have recovered three large radioactive sources from high schools in San Antonio—the latest success in the Laboratory’s nationwide effort for the National Nuclear Security Administration’s (NNSA) program to reduce security and other risks associated with radioactive material.

Working with the San Antonio Independent School District, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Radiation Program led the effort to recover the three heavily shielded devices, known as Gammators, which contained four-inch-long rods of cesium-137. The Gammators were removed from Brackenridge, Fox Tech, and Lanier high schools, where they had been stored for more than 30 years after a brief career irradiating seeds, cells, and other objects with gamma rays for school science experiments.

“We’re most grateful to the National Nuclear Security Administration for funding this effort, and to Andy Tompkins and everyone from Los Alamos for making sure this operation was carried out safely and securely,” said D. Ray Jisha of the Department of State Health Services, who supervised the work.

Over the past 25 years, Los Alamos has recovered more than 10,500 radiation sources of various types from schools, hospitals, research institutes, and industrial facilities, such as oil drilling companies. Those sources have contained everything from plutonium to cobalt (see sidebar on page 7).

“This represents the National Nuclear Security Administration’s efforts to further prioritize and accelerate the removal of high risk radioactive materials that can be used in a dirty bomb,” said Ed McGinnis, acting director of NNSA’s Office of Global Radiological Threat Reduction.

“We are working overtime across the nation to remove and secure materials that pose not only a safety hazard but a security risk, and we commend Los Alamos for another job well done.”

The barrel-shaped devices at the three high schools each weigh about 1,850 pounds. Surrounding each radioactive source, which rests on a small turntable, is a welded steel shell filled with lead shielding. Each one-inch diameter rod originally contained about 400 Curies of highly radioactive cesium-137, which has decayed to about half that level over time.

About 150 of the Gammators were supplied to schools across the United States and
to other countries in the 1960s and 1970s through the “Atoms For Peace” program. Hospitals used similar devices to irradiate blood.

Crews had to use brute force to wrestle one of the devices down two flights of stairs to reach the truck during the operation, which began with preparations on Saturday (April 9), and concluded the next day.

Because of the heavy shielding, the stored devices posed little risk to students and teachers at the three schools. However, the slim chance of exposure through inappropriate handling made removal of the Gammators a priority for the state, the school district and for Los Alamos.

“Our teams from Los Alamos have gone into hundreds of places all over the country to remove radioactive sources that are no longer needed,” said Tompkins, who works for the Los Alamos Offsite Source Recovery Project, part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration’s Radiological Threat Reduction Program. “Since the 9-11 attacks, we have stepped up our efforts significantly because of the potential threat that any radioactive material might be misused.”

Bill Vinal, science director for the school district, said state technicians frequently tested the three Gammators for leaks.

“Although there was never any danger to the students or teachers, we haven’t needed these in many years and wanted them moved to a safe, secure location,” Vinal said. “There’s just no reason to keep this type of material around.”

Los Alamos Off-Site Source Recovery Project

Los Alamos National Laboratory, working through the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), has been reducing the risk from radioactive sources for 25 years by safely and securely recovering sources from industry and academia. These efforts, known as the Off-Site Source Recovery Project (OSRP), grew after the attacks of September 11, 2001, with the increased awareness of potential security and environmental threats from unsecured nuclear materials.

**GENERAL OSRP BACKGROUND**

**Mission**

The OSRP at Los Alamos National Laboratory recovers excess and unwanted radioactive sealed sources and other radioactive material from the environment. The project is part of the U.S. Radiological Threat Reduction Program and is led by the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy. The Los Alamos OSRP has recovered more than 10,500 radioactive sources, more than two-thirds of the actinide sources known to be excess and unwanted. OSRP expects to recover a total of 18,000 actinide sources by the end of the 2005 fiscal year, 479 sources have been recovered. During the 1980s and 1990s, Los Alamos recovered about 1,100 additional sources under predecessor programs.

Concern following the September 11 attacks has accelerated the recovery and disposition of sources. New excess and unwanted sealed sources are registered with the OSRP on a regular basis. There are more than a hundred sealed plutonium and americium sources at more than 70 U.S. colleges, universities, and research institutions that are no longer wanted or needed, and OSRP hopes to recover many over the next year. Excess and unwanted americium-241, plutonium-238, and plutonium-239 sealed sources are transported to Los Alamos or the Nevada Test Site for temporary storage. Qualified sources will be disposed at the New Mexico Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP).

OSRP has substantially finished recovery of domestic well logging sources over the past few years, recovering about 3,000 that came mostly from smaller, independent operators and those who have gone out of business. Since the 9/11 attacks, well-logging companies have become progressively more security conscious and have been securing many sources from off-shore platforms and other (especially overseas) locations.

A bright spot is that the average size of excess actinide sources is decreasing, so the amount of radioactive material in each is getting smaller. This means OSRP probably has already recovered most of the actinide sources that could present the highest risk. That risk will never be reduced to zero, and large numbers of sources will remain in use by their owners unless current regulations change.
Los Alamos Continued from p. 7.

Examples of Recent Major Los Alamos Recovery Operations

Emergency recovery requested by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission of 478 sources from BSI Industries near Pittsburgh, which contained cesium-137, cobalt-60, strontium-90, radium 226, curium-244 and americium-241.

NRC-requested recovery of four large radioisotope thermoelectric generators from Houston in time for the 2004 Superbowl, containing a total of 66,000 Curies of strontium-90.

Recovery of plutonium-239 research sources from Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, MD, just five miles from the Capitol Building.

Recovery of 11 sources from locations in the Boston area and 52 in the New York City area in late June and early July in preparation for the Democratic and Republican conventions.

Achievement of an ambitious congressional mandate to recover 5,000 sources known at the time to be excess within 18 months. In its fiscal year 2002 supplemental appropriation of 9-11 funds, Congress set a March 31, 2004, deadline. OSRP beat the deadline by nearly a month, and recovered 529 additional sources.

New Organization and Expanded Mission

In October of 2003, responsibility for OSRP moved from the DOE Office of Environmental Management to NNSA as part of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative. This transition expanded the OSRP mission to include beta- and gamma-emitting sources of concern to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the U.S. government, including cobalt-60, strontium-90, cesium-137, iridium-192 and radium-226. OSRP is aggressively recovering high-activity beta and gamma sources and is defining a formal process for recovery and disposition of smaller sources containing these materials. OSRP will team with agencies, commercial organizations, and facilities that have special capabilities to manage these radionuclides.

Materials like the cesium-137 and strontium-90 recovered at BSI and Houston (described above) and in the three San Antonio high schools have been recovered as special priority cases and are helping to define the process for future recoveries. With the help of Bechtel-Nevada, OSRP recently decommissioned a large cobalt irradiator at the University of Hawaii, and the sources have been sent to disposal at the NTS. As OSRP reduces the risk in this country, it is now using its expertise and infrastructure to assist the IAEA to reduce the risk through source recovery in other nations around the world.

The goal of the OSRP is not to recover every source, just all sources that are excess, unwanted, or improperly secured. These recoveries will significantly reduce the risk that existed at the start of this decade. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and authorized state agencies are responsible to assure that all the sources that remain in use are secured and well protected.

How Long Will You Stay Hot?

This table is based on findings from a recent, unpublished study by Dr. Lionel Zuckler, professor of radiology at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He examined the length of time that common radiation treatments may stay in the body and trigger security detectors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>What it does</th>
<th>Time radiation can be detected in the body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PET Scan</td>
<td>Measures the body’s use of glucose to detect various forms of cancer; also detects early Alzheimer’s disease</td>
<td>Less than 24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone and thyroid scans</td>
<td>Bone scans can help detect cancer and find fractures or infections. Thyroid scans diagnose disease of the thyroid gland.</td>
<td>3 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac Exams with Thallium</td>
<td>Detects coronary heart disease</td>
<td>Up to 30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iodine Therapy</td>
<td>Use to treat thyroid cancer and overactive thyroid</td>
<td>Up to 95 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Robert N. Cherry, Jr., Ph.D. (Physics, University of Michigan), CHP, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired), well known and respected in most radiation safety circles, has been selected as the EPA Director of Radiological Emergency Response, Preparation, and Prevention. Prior to his selection to this important position, some of Bob’s recent work experience included: Senior Health Physicist, Dade Moeller & Associates, Washington, DC; Senior Health Physicist, Earth Tech, San Antonio, TX; and Radiation Safety Officer, U.S. Army, Pentagon, Arlington, VA. He is a Certified Health Physicist and has been active in the Health Physics Society since becoming a plenary member in 1980, serving on many Society committees, as the Chair of the HPS Strategic Planning Committee, on the HPS Board of Directors, as the President of the HPS Baltimore-Washington Chapter, and as a loyal member of the South Texas Chapter. His friends and colleagues, past and present, wish him well as he undertakes new challenges in his distinguished radiation safety career.

Hearty and Heartfelt Congratulations, Bob, from all the members of the South Texas Chapter.

Jim Lewis and I were the STC Judges for the Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair in San Antonio, Texas.

For the Junior-level entries, we included electromagnetic radiation in our judging because of the lack of ionizing radiation projects. Our junior winner was Justin Turner of Marion Middle School in Marion, Texas, for “Electricity: Friend or Foe.” His experiment evaluated the effect of an electromagnetic field, from a electrical wire coiled around planted radish seeds, on their rate of growth. He found that the addition of an electric field caused better growth than the control pot without electricity. His conclusions sought to verify the results and pondered if farmers could use the results to increase crop output.

For the Senior-level entries some ionizing-radiation projects were presented; here too, we also expanded the horizons. Our senior winner was Andres Montemayor from the John Jay Science and Engineering Academy in San Antonio, Texas, for “Detectable Variations of Electromagnetic Fields Originating from High-Voltage Power Lines.” Using a real-time magnetic field sensor, he identified maximum and average magnetic field strengths beneath power lines and at school. He discussed the discrepancy of research results published in scientific journals regarding public health hazard risks and effects of electromagnetic fields. He intends to attend UTSA to study physics.

Baylor University formally funded a radiation safety position and has posted the position on their web site and are seeking motivated candidates immediately. The hiring range is likely to be in the $45-55K range based on the candidate’s qualifications. Baylor University does pay some taxes, dental, and a large portion of medical expenses, which usually is equivalent to $3-5K a year in added benefits. Retirement benefits for this position are also very good. Additionally, Baylor is in a lower cost of living area. For more information go to:

http://www.baylor.edu/hr_services/index.php?id=1784

Or contact Jess Kelly, Ph.D., EHS Manager, Department of Risk Management, Baylor University, One Bear Place #97371, Waco, Texas 76798-7371, 254-710-7656 office, 254-710-6256 fax.

On Friday, April 15, 2005, before the Student Paper Presentation, STC members met to outline and catalog the duties of the numerous volunteer positions within the STC-HPS organization. Duties for Chapter officers and committee members were addressed. There was input from all present about the duties of these positions. It was discovered that there were duties that were assigned to the positions that were long forgotten. The duties are now written down so anyone wanting to explore the possibilities of holding an office or volunteering for a committee position within the STC will know what they are getting into. If you are interested in volunteering for a position or running for an office, please see the list posted on the STC-HPS web site. A link can be found on the Chapter Leadership page or go to www.stc-hps.org/duties.htm.

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Persons in Attendance—Executive Council (EC): John Salsman, President; Ken Krieger, President-Elect; Roy Craft, Secretary; Pete Myers, Treasurer; Stan Bravenec, EC Member; Stacy Krieger, EC Member, Mike Charlton, Past President. Committee Chairpersons: David Fogle, Nominations Committee; Karen Myers, Public Relations Committee; Susan Jablonski, Admissions Committee, Linda Morris, Student Assistance Committee. Chapter Members and Guests: Al Evans, Dan Menchaca, and Alisha Stallard.

Call to Order—John Salsman. With a quorum established, President Salsman called the meeting of the EC of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, Inc. (STC-HPS), to order at 5:15 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda—A motion was made by Mike Charlton to accept the agenda with a meeting ending time of 6:00 p.m. Ken Krieger seconded the motion. There being no discussion, President Salsman called for a vote on the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of EC Meeting—President Salsman asked the EC if there were any changes to be made to the minutes of the meeting held January 28, as published in The Billet. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mike Charlton, and seconded by Ken Krieger. There being no discussion, President Salsman called for a vote on the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

President’s Report—John Salsman. John S reported that STC-HPS elections were conducted successfully and in accordance with the By-Laws of the Chapter. A committee counted the ballots and the results are:

- President Elect: Jim Sharp
- Treasurer Elect: Stacy Krieger
- Board Member: Al Evans

The EC offered congratulations to the newly elected members and many thanks to all those who stood for election as chapter officers.

John S has continued making arrangements for the 2009 Midyear meeting of the HPS in San Antonio and having discussions with Lori Strong. The proposed dates are January 11 through 14. The hotel rates are still under negotiation by National. The venues and topics will be presented at the Spokane National meeting.

Letters were written supporting the nominations of candidates for National recognition. John Poston was nominated for the prestigious Robley D. Evans Commemorative Medal for the year 2005. Many chapter members and members of other chapters also wrote letters in support of Dr. Poston. Letters were also written in support of Chapter Member Robert Cherry and Max Scott of Louisiana State University.

The EC again affirmed support of assistance to President McBurney for her 2005–2006 term as President of the National Society.

The Science Teachers Workshop—A workshop to assist other chapters in presenting Science Teachers Workshops will again be presented, by request, at the National Meeting in Spokane in July. The materials used in Denver need to be updated and prepared for distribution.

Action items from the past meeting include discussions of on-line dues payment. Pete Myers has spent much time researching the options available. Pete gave a talk explaining the different options for collecting dues via credit card. The options include combinations of cost per transaction and minimum charges for transactions. After discussion and based on a recommendation of the EC, President Salsman directed Pete to establish, on a trial basis, a mechanism for members to pay their membership dues and meeting registration fees via credit card using the least expensive option. The option will allow members to phone, e-mail, or fax their request [e.g., membership dues, fund donation(s) and/or meeting registration] and credit card information to Pete. Pete will then use an automated telephone dial-in program available to Bank One customers that will authorize Bank One to transfer the appropriate amount of money to STC’s operating account while assigning a debt in the same amount to the members’ credit card accounts. It is hoped that this option for dues/fee payment will be available in time for persons to register for the September meeting in Galveston.

The scholarships being endowed by the Chapter were discussed by the EC with positive comments. Discussions concerning the transfer of funds to the scholarship funds were discussed to minimize the cost of directing the funds from current accounts to the self-sustaining scholarship funds in honor of John Poston and Richard Neff. The President and others have discussed the establishment and continued operation of the Neff-Poston scholarship by Texas A&M. The Texas A&M Foundation will manage the funds for the scholarship and the administration of the scholarship for a fee. The fee would involve a one-time cost in the amount of the annual scholarship, rather than a percentage of the scholarship each year. The initial capital will be transferred to the foundation by the chapter. The board voted to use the one-time fee option. The motion passed unanimously. Although the scholarships are in Nuclear Engineering, Health Physics will be...
the focus of the awards. The fund will be from the scholarship with additions from the operating funds. The awards are anticipated to be $25,000 per year. Other current scholarships, especially the Technical School awards, shall be continued.

Updates on future meetings include the Affiliates Meeting in Galveston in September, the Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA, July 10–14, 2005. The 2006 Meeting will be in Scottsdale, AZ. See also table of meetings and The Billet’s deadline dates.

Treasurer’s Report—Pete Myers. Pete reported that the Chapter has total assets of $126,895.25. Data reports and charts show the health of the Chapter is very robust.

Stan Bravenec made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Secretary’s Report—Roy Craft. Roy reviewed the Minutes of the January 28 Executive Council Meeting in the March issue of The Billet.

A copy of the Chapter Charter was sent to Pete Myers so that we could obtain approval for the chapter to assign Continuing Education Credits (medical) (CEU’s) without individual approvals by the authorizing organizations.

Roy reviewed and commented on proposed additions to the Chapter web site. The improvements were very good.

Ballots were printed and mailed out to 198 members. The return was approximately 58%. A committee was formed, in accordance with the By-Laws of the chapter, to validate and count the ballots. Four ballots did not have return addresses with names, and one was returned with the forwarding address unknown. One ballot returned as damaged mail was replaced. John Salsman, at the start of the EC meeting, reported the results of the voting. Thanks to all nominees for their willingness to serve the Chapter.

The Workshop on Chapter Officers and Volunteers—John Salsman. The workshop on duties and activities of officers and volunteers to keep the chapter functioning at the high level we have come to expect was held in the Technical Center after a great meal, at the TSTC Food Service Center, thanks to the efforts of Linda Morris. John Salsman conducted the discussion, and Stan Bravenec took notes. The notes and hints will be published on the STC-HPS web site. Many thanks to all who attended and made suggestions and comments. This is a “living document,” and those with suggestions or additions can send them to rcraft@nctv.com.

Standing Committee Reports

Program—Ken Krieger. The R.D. Neff Student Paper Competition will be held tomorrow at the TSTC facility in the IDEAS Center. The luncheon speaker will be Mike Charlton.

Ken contacted Sue Burk at National HPS regarding the STC breakfast in Spokane. She indicated that she has us on the calendar but does not have details yet.

The fall meeting will be held Sept 9–10 in Galveston at the Victorian Condo-Hotel and Conference Center located at 6300 Seawall Blvd. With a topic of Industrial Radiation/NORM, there should be interest from those outside the Chapter membership. The lunchtime speaker is TBA but probably will be about an update on the HDER program. Lunch will be a Pasta Buffet at the meeting site. We have an agreed rate of $80 for government and $92 for nongovernment rooms. The price may seem high, but this hotel is right on the beach, and it will still be in the tourist season. All of the hotels will be a little pricey.

Admissions—Susan Jablonski reported that the new STC members (confirmed National HPS members) are:

- Noel Montgomery U.S. Air Force Research Lab, San Antonio, TX
- Michael A. Smith Earth Tech, San Antonio, TX

New STC members to be voted on (11 total):

- Thomas Allen Brock, Student Texas State Technical College, Waco, TX
- David V. Crowder, Sr. City of Austin Police Department, Austin, TX
- Charles Fox University of North Texas, Denton, TX*
- Bryan Fritz, Student Texas A&M University, College Station, TX
- Eddie Horace, Jr. U.T. Health Science Center, Houston, TX*
- Saul Jauregui U.T. – Pan American, Edinburg, TX
- Dustin Leutwyler, Student Texas State Technical College, Waco, TX
- Barbara McIntosh, Student Texas State Technical College, Waco, TX
- Elisa Mille U.T. Health Science Center, Houston, TX*
- Sonia Simmons Texas Dept. of State Health Services, Austin, TX
- Bridget D. Stephens Texas Dept. of State Health Services, Austin, TX

* Indicates UT-HSC RSO Student membership paid at a reduced rate of $5 for the first year.

Public Relations—Karen Myers. Karen submitted the following report:

Recent Activities: One article was submitted to the National HPS Newsletter entitled “Affiliate Fair.” Ken Krieger’s article in the March 2005 issue of The Billet was used as the basis for the article with the following additions: (1) those who were selected for the HPS Chapter Volunteer Award, (2) the special STC

Continued on p. 12.

Your Affiliates support your Chapter … please support your Affiliates!!!
Minutes Continued from p. 11.

Certificate of Appreciation Award for Jean Fox, SwRI, and (3) a paragraph on the future Neff-Poston Scholarship Fund. The article will appear in the June 2005 issue. Two photos were submitted, courtesy of Jim Sharp, of HPS Volunteer Award presentations with the option of using both if space is available.

John Hageman and Jean Fox were contacted about updating photos for the STC-HPSS web site. Thirty-five photos were submitted to include STC-HPSS meeting activities for (1) the DC Annual Meeting, July 2004; (2) the Texas Radiation Regulatory Conference in Austin, Sep 2004; (3) the Affiliate Fair in San Antonio, Jan 2005; and (4) HPS Midyear in New Orleans, Feb 2005.

Continued Planned Activities: Continuing submitting articles for the National HPS Newsletter on STC-HPSS activities. (Chapter meeting news). Continuing submitting articles to The Billet. (Jump start the Longest-standing, continuously-active members)

Nominations—David Fogle. Nomination for John W. Poston, Sr., Ph.D., for the Robley D. Evans Award was submitted and received by Ken Kase, Chair, HPS Awards Committee, on February 23. Our objective was to provide an overwhelming and robust nomination package—Nomination letter, 3 pages, signed by STC President John Salsman; JWPlésumé, 4 pages; and 45 letters of support from colleagues, friends, and students. When asked about submitting any additional letters that may come in late, Ken said, “I think there are already enough.”

STC ballots and brief bios of nominees were sent to Roy Craft. Nominees are Jim Sharp and Dan Menchaca for President-Elect, Stacy Krieger and Eddie Giles for Treasurer-Elect, Marty Meltz and Al Evans for Board Member. STC member ballots will be opened and tallied early today. The new officers were announced in the STC Secretary’s Report.

Appointed Committee Reports
Science Teacher Workshop—No report. 
Affiliate Membership—Jim Sharp. No report. 
Legislation—Susan Jablonski. Susan reported on Radioactive Waste. The WCS site in Andrews County is currently trying to expand their licensed activities. In addition to processing and storing waste, they are applying for a disposal license. The problem of having two agencies, TCEQ and THD, at one site may be solved. The potential disposal fees were discussed.


Student Assistance Committee—Linda Morris. Linda noted the various activities of the Student Assistance Committee, which includes the very important Science Fair activities as well as the student grant programs.

Regional and State Science Fair Participation—The STC presented awards at five regional science fairs this year. The students were awarded an engraved plaque, a Chart of the Nuclides, and a congratulatory letter. In addition, they were offered a complimentary one-year student membership in the STC. It looks like at least two students will join as student members. (A listing of the winners and their project titles follows these Minutes.)

For the third year in a row, the STC participated in the ExxonMobil® Texas State Science and Engineering Fair. This year, as last year, we joined the North Texas Chapter in presenting one award. John White of the NTC arranged for funds to be sent to Pete Myer for their share of the award expenses. The North and South Texas Chapters, represented by our own two devoted judges, Jim Lewis and Stacy Krieger, awarded an 8X10 walnut engraved plaque, a Chart of the Nuclides, and a $50 check. The award packet included a congratulatory letter that described the field of health physics, and referred the student to the STC and the HPS web sites. Thanks to Stacy and Jim for this special effort!

This report on our science fair activities would be remiss if I did not mention our other dedicated members who continue to judge year after year. Thanks to Janet McCrary, Stacy Krieger, Jim Lewis, John Salsman, Chris Maxwell, Pete Myers, Karen Myers, David Fogle, and Susan Jablonski. We couldn’t have done it without you!

STC Education Grants for 2005–2006—So far, we have three applicants. The deadline is May 24. At the meeting tomorrow, please remind the students of this deadline. Applications are available at the STC web site. The winners will be announced in August, and checks will be mailed to them. It would be nice for us to present the students with certificates at the Fall ’05 meeting in Galveston.

April ’05 Student Presentations in Waco—Please ask for volunteers to judge the student presentations tomorrow. The judging packets will be here tomorrow morning. The packets contain the evaluation forms for each presentation. Thanks to Ken Krieger for getting the program in time to complete student information (names and paper titles) on the judging forms.

Ad Hoc Task Force on Nuclear Training Endeavor—Marty Meltz. Marty submitted by email on 4/13/05. Copies of the report were distributed at the meeting.

The major item to report on is the status of the Radiological Event Preparedness Registry (REPR), of which the STC-HPSS was one of the initial sponsors. The first iteration, after debugging, was presented for assessment to Eric Epley, the Director of the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council (STRAC). Eric and STRAC (in one capacity) have played a leadership role in helping with the distribution of certain available state/federal funding in terrorism preparedness in the Southwest Texas Region. After reviewing the first iteration, STRAC agreed to provide additional funds ($12,000) to improve the REPR so that it was more “User” friendly.

After a long delay in funding availability in 2004, the commitment was made, and the programmer proceeded to improve upon the original version. Definitions of equipment, skills, and radioactive materials have been added. A keyword search engine

Don’t miss the Regional and State Science Fair Results listed on page 13!!!
was added. A one-time registry was added, so that an individual could register to be confirmed (or denied) in multiple categories at one time, [i.e., as a radiation expert, as an institutional representative, as a User (if active in a response capacity), etc.] The progress of the registry was interrupted in December, both because of the holidays and the programmer was assigned to a significant University project by his supervisors. The logjam was broken at the beginning of this week after the length of the delay was pointed out.

The programmer is now back working on the project. He is correcting some Java errors, which interrupted approvals of registrants, and he is working on setting up a scheme for automatic inquiry (every 6 months) of the registrants as to the correct status of their registration information. The HazMat team of the San Antonio Fire Department requested this so that the first responders would be confident in an emergency that the contact information was current.

An Army Reservist assigned to assist me (no cost) is helping to develop a list of frequently asked questions. He is asking in the community of first responders, including less populated areas, what the Users most pressing questions are. Then, Stan Bravenec will be assisting in preparing/reviewing the answers.

The next step is to do a final debugging internally within UTHSCSA (Michael Charlton and staff will help). The system will then move online, and the STC-HPS will be notified to become the first group of potential volunteers to register.

**Homeland Defense Emergency Response Committee** — Stan Bravenec. Stan reported that manuals for the Ludlum meters and Xetex dosimeters were provided to the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management that had received the meters as pilot project HDER equipment by the STC-HPS HDER group.

The HDER State Point of Contact (POC) has been active and ordering new equipment for various Texas counties.

The State POC is checking into funds for equipment calibration and repair for the 2006 HDER budget. The 2005 funds have already been allocated. The State POC is going to try to schedule equipment training for the Houston Office of Emergency Management.

The State POC agreed to speak about the HDER program at the September STC-HPS meeting in Galveston.

**Old Business** — The EC voted to order 100 new pins for sale or distribution. Some discussion was generated about the color of the pins. Some discouraged school identified colors for all pins.

**New Business** — We need to work on the February 2006 meeting since it will not be the Affiliates Meeting (because of the to the timing of the Midyear meeting)—February or November? Medical topic in San Antonio?

**Adjournment** — President Salsman adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m. ◆

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**2005 Regional and State Science Fair Results**

**Alamo Regional Science and Engineering Fair**
- **Date:** March 6-8, 2005
- **Judges:** Stacy Krieger and Jim Lewis
- **Awardees:** Justin Turner, Marion Middle School, Marion, TX, “Electricity: Friend or Foe”
  - Andres Montemayor, Senior Level, John Jay Science & Engineering Academy, San Antonio, “Detectable Variations of Electromagnetic Fields Originating from High-Voltage Power Lines”

**Austin Area Science Festival 2005**
- **Date:** February 24-26, 2005
- **Judges:** David Fogle and Susan Jablonski
- **Awardee:** Zoe Watson, Murchinson Middle School, Grade 7, “Expose the Truth: Does Radiation Effect the Growth of a Bean Plant?”

**Brazos Valley Science and Engineering Fair**
- **Date:** March 21-22, 2005
- **Judge:** John Salsman
- **Awardee:** Will Slattery, Senior Level, Grade 10, “The Effects of Varying Levels of Radiation Upon E-coli,” Second Year Award

**Central Texas Science and Engineering Fair**
- **Date:** March 23-24, 2005
- **Judge:** Linda Morris
- **Awardee:** Nethika Ariyasinghe, Grade 8, Midway Middle School, Hewitt, TX, “The Penetration of Lights through Clear Liquids”

**Science Engineering Fair of Houston**
- **Date:** March 17-19, 2005
- **Judge:** Janet McCrary
- **Awardees:** Jonathan Hua, Junior Level, Seabrook Intermediate School, “JCO – J505 Attack of the Neutrons”
  - Ethan Snell, Senior Level, Clear Lake High School, “SZO – S1211 Effects of Ionizing Radiation on Dermestid Beetles”

**ExxonMobil® Texas Science and Engineering Fair**
- **Date:** March 31-April 2, 2005
- **Judge:** Jim Lewis and Stacy Krieger
- **Awardee:** Philip Pierce, Henrietta High School, “Radioactive Lantern Mantles”
South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, Inc.

Industrial Use and Security of Sources and Affiliates Fair

Victorian Condo-Hotel, 6300 Seawall Blvd.
Galveston, Texas

September 9–10, 2005

The Fall Meeting and Affiliates Fair has been set for September 9–10, 2005. With our topic of industrial use and security of sources, we are hoping to reach out to a seldom recognized branch of radiation safety—industrial radiation safety.

The meeting, presentations, lunch, and the vendors’ exhibit area will all be set up within the same building at the Victorian Condo-Hotel on the beach on Galveston Island.

The lunch will be a pasta bar along with tea and coffee. Our lunchtime speaker will be announced at a later time.

Because the January HPS Midyear meeting is very close to our own meeting, our Affiliates will be presenting their new products and services at this meeting.

Presentations will be a mix of technical presentations and vendor presentations. Please make plans to attend this meeting.

The hotel is several blocks south of the main cross-island street (61st Street), and we have a special price of $80.00. Please try to make reservations before August 12.

Galveston will still be in the tourist season so there will be plenty of things to do after the meeting if you decide to stay around for a bit or bring the family for a weekend get-away.

4.5 CEUs Awarded for LMP & MRT Certifications

Your Chapter is getting stronger through … the contributions of your Affiliate Members!!!
Agenda for the STC-HPS Affiliates Fair and Meeting
Saturday, September 10, 2005
Galveston, Texas
Victorian Condo-Hotel and Conference Center
(6300 Seawall)
800-231-6363, x2232, or 409-740-3555, x2232

8:00–8:30 a.m.  Registration in Lobby of Club; Coffee in exhibit area

8:30–8:40 a.m.  Welcoming Remarks and Introductions—
Kenneth Krieger, STC President

8:40–10:00 a.m.  Vendor Presentations

10:00–10:30 a.m.  Break and Professional Networking
Affiliates Exhibit Area
Coffee, Teas, Danish, Yogurt, Fruit

10:30–11:55 a.m.  Vendor Presentations

12:00–1:45 p.m.  Luncheon: Pasta Bar
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBD

1:50–3:00 p.m.  Vendor Presentations

3:00–3:30 p.m.  Break and Professional Networking
Affiliates Exhibit Area
Coffee, Tea, Sodas, Water, Cookies, Fruit, Chips

3:30–4:00 p.m.  Vendor Presentations and Business Meeting

4:00–4:30 p.m.  Drawings and Presentation of Door Prizes

4:30 p.m.  End of Meeting
Meeting Registration

Please submit a Meeting Registration form for each member or guest attending the meeting and mail to the address below.

Fall Meeting and Affiliates Fair
September 9–10, 2005
Galveston, Texas

Registration

Hotel Registration Deadline — August 12, 2005 ◆ STC Preregistration Deadline — August 31, 2005

Attendee’s Name ____________________________________________

Attendee’s Address __________________________________________

City _____________________________ State ____________________ Zip ______________

☒ STC Member preregistration fee (technical sessions and lunch) - $40
☒ STC Member preregistration fee (technical sessions ONLY) - $20

☒ Non-STC Member preregistration fee (technical sessions and lunch) - $50*
☒ Non-STC Member preregistration fee (technical sessions ONLY) - $25*
☒ Non-STC Member (e.g., spouse/guest) preregistration fee (lunch ONLY) - $20*

☒ Students (technical sessions and lunch) - $10

☒ Registration fee (after August 31, 2005, or onsite, if space or lunch is available) - ADD $10 to the above fees.
   If contemplating onsite purchase of meals, meeting space and meals cannot be guaranteed on the day of the meeting.

☒ Need a receipt for this meeting
☒ Need CEU certificate

Mail this registration with your check (made payable to the STC-HPS) to arrive before August 31, 2005, to:

STC-HPS
Post Office Box 201723
Austin, TX 78720-1723
T: 512-834-6688 Ext. 2209
F: 512-834-6690

Preregistration will close August 31, 2005. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please call and cancel your reservation PRIOR TO AUGUST 31, 2005. Any reservations not cancelled by August 31, 2005, will be regarded as confirmed reservations, and funds will be collected for the meeting. Refunds will be honored only for cancellations made before August 31, 2005. Registration fees collected after August 31, 2005, or at the door, if available, will be $10 extra.

*Nonmembers may select the option of applying for South Texas Chapter - Health Physics Society membership at the meeting and enjoy privileges of membership at future Chapter events.
Directions

◆ The easiest way to get there is to go south on I-45 from Houston and right as 45 ends there will be an exit for 61st Street.

◆ Exit and turn right and go until the street ends.

◆ The street will end at the Gulf of Mexico, so don’t try and keep going.

◆ Turn right on Seawall Blvd and go approximately 2-3 blocks, and the Victorian Inn will be on the right.

Accommodations
Victorian Condo-Hotel

6300 Seawall Blvd.
Galveston, Texas

The Victorian Condo-Hotel one- and two-bedroom Victorian suites feature private
◆ Gulfview balconies ◆ Living/dining areas with sleeper sofas ◆ Full-size baths
◆ Separate bedrooms with queen-size beds

Additional sleeping areas come three ways
◆ Executive suites with office area ◆ Suites with a daybed option ◆ Suites with bunkbeds

Fully equipped kitchens include
◆ Coffeemaker, microwave, cooktop, refrigerator/freezer, linens, utensils, and a few more extras

Other amenities include
◆ Year-round heated swimming pools—Waterfall Lagoon, with waterfalls, rocks and lush landscaping that give the heated pool an ambience of the tropics ◆ Paradise Cove, a kid-friendly water-park-theme pool with a “zero” entry level, features a mushroom umbrella that rains water, a floating alligator to ride, a pirate’s cannon that shoots water, and coconut palm trees that sprinkle out water as the guests have the time of their lives playing

◆ 3 whirlpools ◆ Lighted tennis court ◆ Fitness center ◆ Barbecue/picnic pavilion ◆ FREE daily Continental breakfast ◆ FREE high-speed & wireless Internet access
Use the Affiliates Roster ... and call our Affiliates first!!!
South Texas Chapter - Health Physics Society
Member Renewal/Application

Please Print – This information is used for mailing labels and directory listing.

Name ________________________________  Business Name ________________________________
Home Address ________________________________  Business Address ________________________________
__________________________  ____________________________
__________________________  ____________________________
Home Phone ________________________________  Business Phone ________________________________
Home Fax ________________________________  Business Fax ________________________________
Email ________________________________

☐ I only want The Billet electronically.
☐ I would prefer to receive mail at: ☐ Home ☐ Business  ☐ I would like to be a Meeting Mentor
☐ I would prefer to receive calls at: ☐ Home ☐ Business  My interest or area of expertise ________________

☐ Yes, I am a National HPS member.
☐ Yes, I am a Certified Health Physicist.
☐ Yes, I am a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist.

Please check the STC-HPS committee(s) on which you would like to actively serve.
☐ Nominating  ☐ Meeting Program  ☐ Admissions (Membership)  ☐ Publications
☐ Legislation  ☐ Public Relations  ☐ Affiliate  ☐ Other/Ad Hoc
☐ Student Assistance

Enclosed is my check #__________ made payable to the STC-HPS for the following:
STC-HPS dues for the year:

Regular membership: $10.00/yr × ____ Years  = $____________________________
Student membership: $ 5.00/yr × ____ Years  = $____________________________
Student Scholarship Fund Donation (tax deductible)*  = $____________________________
Science Teachers Workshop Donation (tax deductible)*  = $____________________________
Total Enclosed  = $____________________________

Please mail this form with your check or money order (please do not mail cash) to:
Susan Jablonski  E: SJABLONS@tceq.state.tx.us
Admissions (Membership) Committee Chair  T: 512-239-6731
14904 Haley Hollow  F: 512-239-5151
Austin, TX 78728
Check www.stc-hps.org for a color copy of The Billet.

### Future Meetings & Deadlines

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<td>Galveston</td>
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<td>July 8, 2005</td>
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<td>January 22–25, 2006</td>
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Each time you read your Newsletter … think of your Chapter Affiliates!!!

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**E-MAIL ALERT**

Not getting your e-mail messages from the STC or your e-mail has changed or is changing? Notify Roy Craft at: rcraft@ntcv.com