

THE BILLET

Health Physics Society ♦ South Texas Chapter ♦ Radiation Safety Specialists

STC-HPS Assists in Mass Casualty, Dirty Bomb Exercise in San Antonio

Mike Charlton

The greater San Antonio region hosted a unique emergency response drill on October 16, 2003. Physicians, nurses, emergency response personnel, and local health physicists tested the response infrastructure to a “dirty bomb” drill. Health physics evaluators and health physics students assisted 26 local area hospitals in triage, decontamination, monitoring, contamination control, and step-down efforts.

The STC-HPS provided 40 volunteers to the San Antonio National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) to assist in

evaluating the response of the hospitals. NDMS is a federal logistical system for coordinating patient transport during a mass casualty event. The NDMS is a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and has the responsibility of responding to medical needs in the event of major



emergencies and federally declared disasters.

Chapter participants attended “evaluator training” the night before the exercise.

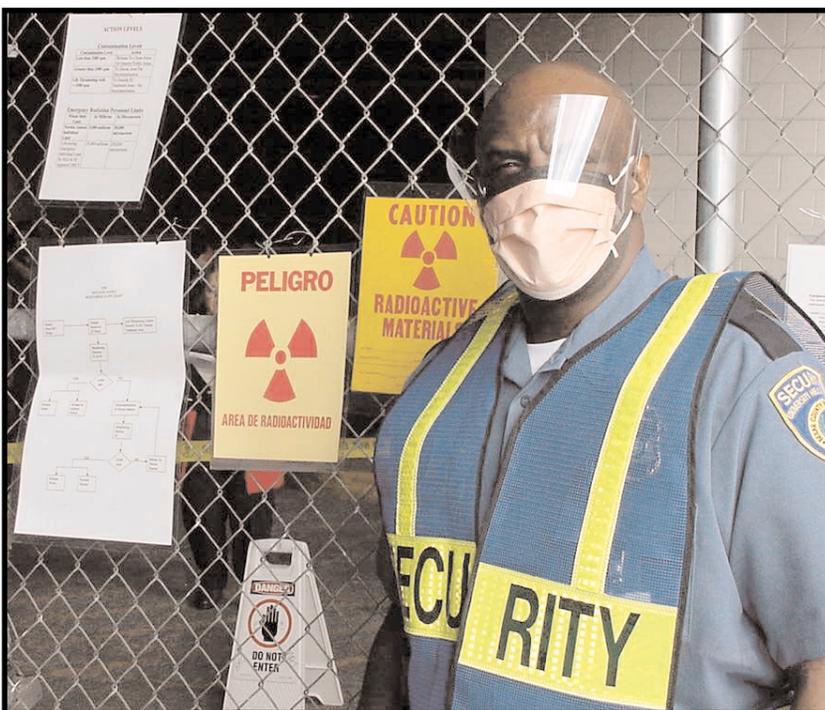
Dr. Michael Charlton, STC President, led the training class with a lecture entitled “NDMS Mass Casualty Exercise: Radiation Safety Evaluator Training.” Each health physicist was given the opportunity to learn how to become an effective and impartial evaluator.

The actual exercise began at 10 a.m. on October 16, 2003, with local high school students playing the role

of dirty bomb blast victims. Nearly 400 model patients were seen by the 26 participating hospitals during the first hour of the drill. Various aspects of medical health physics were evaluated during the exercise including security, patient tracking, decontamination, and radiation-risk conveyance.

The drill was deemed a success; however, continued improvement is critical. Staff training, procedural elements, decontamination facilities, and monitoring equipment were noted as areas for improvement. Following the exercise, Mike Charlton reviewed the findings with the STC-HPS health physics evaluators and NDMS organizers to help improve emergency response capabilities. Future dirty bomb exercises are planned and will be coming to your area soon! ♦

Additional photos on p. 5.



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BRC Loses Art Tate to Retirement

Pete Myers

Art Tate (HPS '75-present; STC '79-present), a mainstay of the Texas Radiation Control Program, retired from the Texas Department of Health's Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC) on August 31, 2003. Art's 12-year tenure at the BRC was spread over three separate segments, 1981-84, 1987, and 1994-2003. During the first 2 segments, Art was an emergency planner and radiological incident investigator. In these two periods, Art developed the Radiological Emergency Response Annex to the State of Texas Emergency Response plan, and he actively participated in full-scale emergency response graded exercises at the Texas Utility Electric Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant near Glen Rose and the South Texas Nuclear Generating Plant near Bay City, Texas. Art's third segment began in 1994 when he returned to the BRC as the Director of the Division of Compliance and Inspection where he has overseen the statewide compliance and inspection program.

Art's short-term plans following retirement include spending some time with family and friends and, perhaps eventually, consulting for projects in which he has interest.



Art's career in health physics began in 1967 as a student in the U.S. Army's Nuclear Power Plant Operators Course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. His assignments in the military included being a reactor operator at three power reactors, a health physicist at two power reactors, and a health physics supervisor during decommissioning and dismantlement of the National Science Founda-

tion reactor in McMurdo, Antarctica. He was also the Radiation Safety Officer for the U.S. Navy Non-Destructive Testing of Metals School in San Diego. Art retired from the Navy in 1978 with more than 19 years of service.

Following his retirement from the Navy, Art worked for several health physics consulting companies, was a self-employed health physics consultant performing emergency planning for numerous nuclear facilities across the United States (e.g., Three Mile Island, Oyster Creek, Connecticut Yankee, H.B. Robinson, Duane Arnold, Rancho Seco, Seabrook, Pilgrim), and was the

Project Manager at the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (Atlanta). His experience at Three Mile Island included health physicist management duties during post-accident recovery operations.

We wish Art and his wife Gwen the very best as they embark on the next series of their lives' adventures together. ♦

**CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?**

Don't miss one issue of *The Billet*.

CHANGING office? home? phone?

NOTIFY Susan Jablonski AT:

SJABLONS@tceq.state.tx.us

STC 2003–2004 Education Grant Winners

Linda Morris

The South Texas Chapter (STC) of the Health Physics Society presented its 2003–2004 Education Grants to three students at the September 20, 2003, meeting in Houston. The \$750 grants were presented to Jennifer Watson (graduate student), Whitney Bivens (undergraduate student), and Alisha Stallard (associate degree student).

Jennifer is a graduate student in medical health physics at the University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio, studying with STC President Mike Charlton. Jennifer received her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University in Radiological Health Engineering. Her long-term goal is to become a director of a radiation safety department at a medical facility. Jennifer was very active in her TAMU Student Branch-HPS and helped organize students to assist with the January 2003 HPS Midyear Meeting in San Antonio.



Education Grant Presentation: From left, John Salsman (STC President-Elect), Alisha Stallard, Jennifer Watson, Whitney Bivens, and Mike Charlton (STC President).

Whitney, whose hometown is Katy, is a third-year student at Texas A&M University as a Radiological Health Engineering major. She, too, is active in the TAMU Student Branch-HPS. Whitney plans to pursue a graduate degree in Health Physics with the goal of conducting research on radiation dosimetry and cancer therapy. The STC was pleased to have Whitney's mother at the Chapter breakfast for the grant presentation.

The STC Associate Degree awardee is Alisha Stallard. Alisha, who is a Baylor Univer-

sity graduate, will complete her Environmental Health & Safety degree at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in April 2004. She has found the study of Health Physics to be both challenging and stimulating and is looking forward to making a contribution to the field. Alisha is President of the TSTC Student Branch-HPS and recently oversaw a successful fundraising campaign and a Thanksgiving food drive for the campus.

The STC annually presents three \$750 grants to Chapter students. To be eligible, appli-

cants must be performing full-time work toward an associate, bachelor, or graduate degree in health physics or a related field offered by a bona fide program at a Texas institution of higher education. They must also be members in good standing of the South Texas Chapter Health Physics Society. Application for the 2004–2005 school year grants

opens January 24, 2004. The deadline will be May 14, 2004.

An informal survey by the STC of previous grant winners indicates that approximately 75% are still in the field of health physics. The STC Student Assistance Committee would like to thank the 2003–2004 judges: Cathy Clark Jones, Frank Iddings, and Bill Bryant. For more information, please contact Student Assistance Chair Linda Morris at Linda.Morris@tstc.edu. ♦

Appreciative Student - Alisha Stallard

Mike Charlton

I received a very nice thank you note from Alisha Stallard for receiving the 2003–2004 education grant (Associate Level). It reads as follows:

The South Texas Chapter - Health Physics Society:

I would like to thank you for selecting me as one of the 2003–2004 Education Grant recipients. It is truly an honor to receive this award and to be affiliated with the South Texas Chapter. I look forward not only to contributing my time and efforts in the field of Health Physics but also to (fulfill) the mission of this chapter.

Sincerely - Alisha Stallard

Lost Sources

John P. Hageman

An excellent article by Julie Davis, “Thefts of Nuclear Gauges,” was in a recent issue of the *Radiation Report*, Volume 25, No. 2, Winter 2002–03, published by the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control (BRC). You can find this article in the BRC web site at <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/radiation/pdf/files/rwn0203.pdf>.

The article showed, by graphical data, that the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex and the Houston area lead the State with the largest numbers of thefts and unrecovered nuclear gauges. This is logical considering the population and construction in these areas. I think that the per capita number of lost and stolen gauges would not be too out of proportion for these two areas.

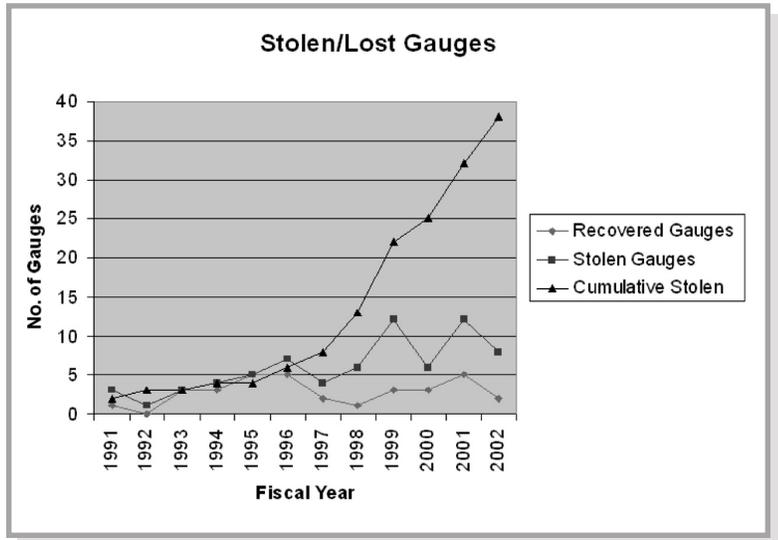
The article also shows graphically the number of stolen (& lost) gauges by fiscal year and the number of recovered gauges, also by fiscal year. I have reproduced that graph, but with the added data line of cumulative stolen (& lost) gauges over the years. This data line points out more clearly what is stated in the article: that there are now “A total of 38 gauges missing.” This trend of a constant increase in the total (or cumulative) missing gauges is interesting, but I would not say it is alarming.

I do not use the term alarming because the concern for the public’s safety from these generally licensed sources is minimal, unless there is an intentional desire to misuse them. The devices (gauges) and their sealed sources are designed to greatly minimize the chance for unintentional exposure; and warning labels are placed on the devices to further prevent unintentional exposure.

Also, the number of missing gauges does not alarm me from the perspective of “What is being done to recover these missing sources?” I am sure that the regulatory staff and police are doing everything that can be done to find the missing sources. Ask yourself, what can be done to find a suitcase-size item, probably tucked away in someone’s garage or tossed in a land fill or ditch because of guilt, fear of possessing stolen goods, or fear derived from the radiation warning tags.

What does surprise me is the cumulative number of gauges that have been reported as lost or stolen—71 since 1991. I think the cause for this ever-increasing number is the lack of care and/or concern of the gauge user. I will ask the alarming question, “Why haven’t the source users learned **not to lose a source and/or how to prevent one from being stolen?**” The level of care to protect these devices from loss must be increased.

I say this from a very personal point of view because, as I am writing this article, I have to report a missing/lost nickel-63 Electron Capture Detector source. I know the source is just hiding or the process for returning the source to the manufacturer was totally inadequate. The manufacturer does not have the source in his inventory, and I can’t find it or prove it was returned. So what lessons have I learned about how “not to lose a source and/or how not to let one get stolen?”



Now that I’m walking the mile in these shoes, I’ve learned some hard lessons. All the tap dancing about the low activity of the source, the limited potential for exposure, and the small risks of a lost source just won’t hide the fact that a source under my license is lost. Here are some suggestions to prevent this from happening in the future:

1. Plan ahead about how you will keep the source from becoming lost or stolen.

- ❖ Develop security guidelines or procedures for the sources.
- ❖ Establish ways to protect and/or conceal the source from theft.
- ❖ Train employees about the importance of source security.
- ❖ Establish what to do and how quickly if a source can’t be located.

2. Take the following steps now.

- ❖ Spend the time with each and every person who will use or store the source to make them clearly understand the security requirements for the source.
- ❖ Take the time to personally do a periodic “eyes-on” physical inventory of the sources, even if they are “in storage.”
- ❖ Find out if the source can be sent back to the manufacturer or properly disposed of if it is in storage for more than a year. (What good is it to keep an unused piece of equipment around anyway?)

3. Take personal responsibility for the security of the sources/gauges. Think of it as not just a “company problem,” think of it as your problem. Think about what would happen if my child found this “lost” source in the ditch some day. ♦

STC-HPS Assists in Dirty Bomb Exercise

PHOTOS

Continued from p. 1.



Future Meetings

Date	Location	Topic	Deadline for <i>The Billet</i>
January 23–24, 2004	Holiday Inn San Antonio	Affiliates Fair & Winter Meeting	November 21, 2003
February 8–11, 2004	Augusta, Georgia	National HPS Midyear Topical Meeting Air Monitoring and Internal Dosimetry	N/A
April 23–24, 2004	Texas A&M College Station	Student Papers	February 20, 2004
July 11–15, 2004	Washington, D.C.	National HPS Annual Meeting	N/A



E-MAIL ALERT

**Not getting your e-mail messages from the STC
OR your e-mail has changed OR is changing?**

NOTIFY Mary Van Baalen AT:

mary.vanbaalen-1@nasa.gov



Minutes of the Executive Council Meeting of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society, Inc. *UT Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX* *September 19, 2003*

Persons in Attendance: Executive Council (EC) Members: Bob Emery, Past-President; Mike Charlton, President; John Salsman, President-elect; Mary Van Baalen, Secretary; Stacy Krieger, Executive Council Member; Eva Legler, Executive Council Member; Jim Sharp, Executive Council Member; Pete Myers, Treasurer-elect. Not in Attendance: Ken Krieger, Treasurer.

Committee Chairpersons: In Attendance: David Fogle, Nominations Committee Chairperson; Bob Wilson, Legislative Committee Chairperson; John Salsman, Program Committee Chairperson; Eva Legler, Science Teacher Workshop Chairperson; Susan Jablonski, Admissions Committee Chairperson; Jennifer Watson, Publications Committee Chairperson; John Hageman, Editor, *The Billet*; Linda Morris, Student Assistance Committee Chairperson; Sharon Sharp, Public Relations Committee Chairperson; Steve Vittatoe, Affiliates Committee Chairperson; Ruth McBurney, *Ad Hoc* Strategic Planning Committee Chairperson; Marty Meltz, *Ad Hoc* Task Force on Nuclear Training Chairperson.

Chapter Members and Guests in Attendance: Al Evans and Janet McCrary

Call to Order — Mike Charlton. A quorum having been established, Mike called the meeting of the EC of the South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc. (STC), to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda — Mike Charlton. A motion was made by Bob Emery to accept the agenda with a meeting ending time of 7:30 p.m. Mary Van Baalen seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mike called for a vote on the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of EC Meeting on April 23, 2003 — Mike asked the EC if there were any changes to be made to the Minutes of the meeting held April 23, 2003. A motion to accept the Minutes was made by Bob Emery. Eva Legler seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Mike called for a vote on the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously.

President's Report — Mike Charlton. Mike reported that it is his desire that the EC members e-mail reports to him prior to the meeting so he can continue Past-President Emery's practice of streamlining the meetings.

Mike reported that HPS National has requested the STC-HPS to host another Midyear Meeting in 2009. The EC agreed that this was something that the Chapter would like to pursue. Mike will indicate to National the Chapter's desire to host another meeting.

Mike initiated a discussion on whether the EC would be interested in pursuing a grant to conduct training for first responders. Discussion on such topics as resources needed, training perspectives, and

proposal styles followed. It was agreed that a proposal that would narrow the scope of the discussion would be circulated to the EC members for review.

Mike requested assistance from the EC members in volunteering or locating other volunteers for the "Hospital Response Dirty Bomb Drill" to be conducted October 15–16, 2003, in San Antonio. He feels that this would be an outreach opportunity for the STC-HPS to the medical community in Texas. Training will be provided to all volunteers.

In keeping with the EC's efforts to determine what the STC-HPS membership would like to gain from the Chapter and its functions, Mike proposed performing an electronic needs-assessment survey. It is thought that an electronic survey could be easily disseminated to the membership, and the data obtained would be straightforward to summarize. John Hageman suggested that electronic survey tools can be purchased for a reasonable cost, and the use of such a tool would be valuable to the STC-HPS. The EC voted unanimously to fund \$250 toward this endeavor.

Mike reported on his and John Salsman's efforts to develop and print an STC-HPS brochure that could be used for public outreach in such forums as Science Teacher Workshops. The EC voted to authorize John to spend up to \$750 to have color glossy brochures printed.

One of the Chapter's goals is to encourage education in health physics for undergraduate and graduate college students, and, therefore, the Chapter has been distributing education grants for many years. Mike has had a status of the education grant recipients from 1996–2003 prepared that shows that 75% of the recipients are working in or studying health physics. In order to foster continued educational support, Mike proposed to the EC that a study be performed to determine the feasibility of establishing a health physics scholarship in John Poston Sr.'s name since he has been instrumental in the education of many STC-HPS members. The EC agreed, and an *ad hoc* committee composed of Janet McCrary, Bob Wilson, Linda Morris, and David Fogle was formed.

Mike reported that National will be providing resources for updating websites to local chapters and that the STC should avail itself of this service.

Treasurer's Report — Stacy Krieger. Stacy reported for Ken that the Chapter is in excellent financial health with total assets of \$102,814.52.

Stacy again reminded the EC that the scholarship funds had been transferred to the operating funds until an investment with a reasonable interest rate becomes available.

Reimbursements: Reimbursement to John Salsman for expenses related to the upcoming meeting was approved. Pete Myers was reimbursed \$38 for the STC P.O. Box in Austin.

Mary Van Baalen made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. John Salsman seconded the motion, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Secretary's Report — Mary Van Baalen. Mary reported that several electronic notifications from the Texas Department of Health for rulemaking have been forwarded to her. These were forwarded to Bob Wilson, Legislative Committee Chair to review.

Mary reminded the EC of the proposed formal records retention schedule specifically stating which records the Chapter would maintain. The discussion has been tabled until the issue of contracting for administrative services is resolved.

Mary has spoken with Donna Passions with the Texas Institute for Continuing Legal Education regarding the costs for the list of services below.

- ◆ Building/converting/maintaining membership database
- ◆ Communicate with membership
- ◆ Develop membership directory
- ◆ Develop/maintain web pages
- ◆ Maintain records within reason
- ◆ Examples of services that are attractive to Affiliates

Ms. Passions provided a preliminary estimate of \$1,000/month. The EC felt that this cost was too high, and Mary will communicate this to Ms. Passions.

Due to the one-hour technical lecture, only one hour of CEU credit will be given for the September 20, 2003, meeting.

Mary reported that the recent electronic distribution using the current e-mail distribution list resulted in 50 undeliverable e-mails. It is believed that the list needs updating.

Standing Committee Reports

Program — John Salsman. John reported on the format for the meeting for tomorrow's meeting. The meeting is titled *Protecting Houston's Health in an Emergency*. There will be a breakfast presentation at the Warwick at 7:30 a.m. followed by the technical meeting at the McGovern Museum of Health & Science.

The Annual Affiliates Fair and Winter Meeting will be held January 24, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk in San Antonio. The HPS President-elect will not be available that weekend so an alternate luncheon speaker will need to be identified.

The R.D. Neff Student Paper Competition is tentatively scheduled for April 24, 2004, in College Station.

Admissions — Susan Jablonski. Eighteen persons applying for membership were approved for membership by the EC.

One of the attendees of the UTH HSC RSO class was already an STC-HPS member who had paid her 2003 dues in full prior to attending the class. It was determined that her UTH HSC RSO student member dues would be applied as partial payment to her 2004 renewal.

Nominations — David Fogle. David reported that the HPS Board of Directors appointed both Ruth McBurney and John Hageman as delegates to the IRPA meeting in Spain.

Public Relations — No Report.

Appointed Committee Reports

Science Teacher Workshop — Eva Legler. Eva reported that she plans to conduct three Science Teacher Workshops in the upcoming year with the first to be November 15, 2003, at Memorial Southwest Hospital. Late breaking news – Due to scheduling difficulties, the November Science Teacher Workshop is being moved to March 2004.

Affiliate Membership — Steve Vittatoe. Steve reported that he has been working to improve the percentage of Affiliates paying their dues.

Legislation — Bob Wilson. Bob distributed a lengthy report containing descriptions of the rulemaking activities at the Bureau of Radiation Control, within the Federal Register, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Radiation Advisory Board, and the transition within the Health & Human Services. His report also contained a synopsis of several articles published in newspapers throughout the U.S. The description of the reorganization of the Bureau of Radiation Control within the Department of Health and Human Services resulted in the most discussion among the EC membership.

Publications — Jennifer Watson. Jennifer distributed the upcoming deadlines for *The Billet*. November 21, 2003, is the deadline for publication prior to the January 24, 2004, Affiliates Fair and Winter Meeting. February 20, 2004, is the deadline for the April 24, 2004, meeting (student papers/elections) in College Station.

Ad Hoc Task Force on Nuclear Training Endeavors — Marty Meltz. Marty reported on the difficulties in working with the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse state contact in obtaining equipment for the San Antonio area. It is believed that Houston and Dallas have received their equipment. Although, the details (what has been received, numbers received, and who received it) about the equipment are not available. Marty will be contacting Stan Bravenec to determine the status of the HDER training that was to have occurred in Houston.

The Radiation Event Preparedness Registry is largely debugged. Marty plans to continue working with the programmer to evaluate several recommended changes. He also plans to contact national and state agencies and organizations to begin the process of registering individuals and their expertise and equipment.

Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee — Ruth McBurney. Ruth presented a draft strategic plan for the STC. She requested comments and suggestions from the EC. The first two pages of the plan will be distributed to the EC with instructions for each member to review and ensure that the current STC activities fit within the categories described in the plan.

Student Assistance Committee — Linda Morris. Linda reported that the following students received the 2003 Education Grant certificates and checks. The checks will be distributed at the meeting tomorrow.

Associate – Alisha Stallard, TSTC

Bachelor – Whitney Bivens, TAMU

Graduate – Jennifer Watson, UTHSC-SA

Linda also reported that the Student Assistance Committee is preparing for the 2004 state and regional Science Fairs. The committee participated in five regional fairs and the state fair that was held at UT Arlington last year. The plan is to do the same this year. John White of the NTC has expressed interest in jointly sponsoring an award with the STC. The EC gave Linda permission to explore this with the NTC.

Since the Committee will be continuing to participate in these Science Fairs, Linda requested of the EC that she be provided funds to cover 10 awards packages. The cost would be \$450. John Salsman made a motion to fund the awards packages, and Mary Van Baalen seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business — None

New Business — None

Adjournment — President Charlton adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m. ♦

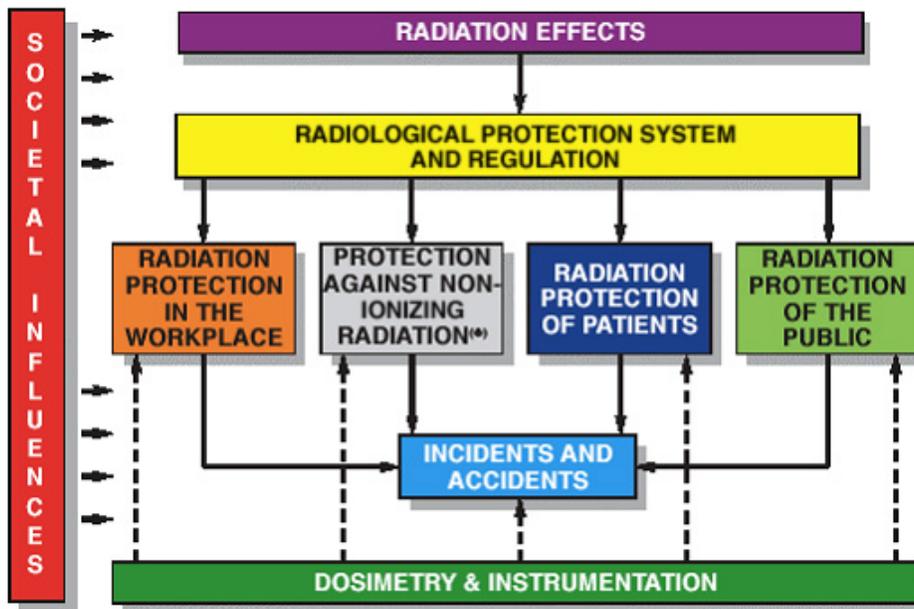
Two STCers Selected as IRPA Delegates

David Fogle



Hearty Congratulations to Ruth McBurney, HPS Strategic Plans Committee Chairperson ('04), and John Hageman, HPS Board Director ('06), on their recent selection as 2 of the 30 U.S. delegates to the 11th International Congress of the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA-11), to be held May 23–28, 2004, in Madrid, Spain. Selections were made by the HPS Board of Directors at the HPS Annual Meeting in San Diego and is accompanied by a commitment from HPS to subsidize \$1,000 of each delegates' expenses. IRPA Congresses are the international equivalent of HPS Annual Meetings except that they are convened only every four years. The IRPA-11 scientific program will be organized into nine thematic areas:

RADIATION PROTECTION



* Given their specific nature, all the aspects related with the Protection Against Non-Ionizing Radiation will be addressed together.

Especially at this time when major changes concerning standards are being discussed, the IRPA Congresses are significant milestones in the standards development process. This 11th Congress will cover development of standards not only for protection of people but also for protection of the environment.

Some history taken from the IRPA webpage (www.irpa.com): The initial organization of IRPA stems from initiatives of the Health Physics Society (USA) through a committee with K.Z. Morgan as its chairman. After several meetings of this committee and correspondence with thousands of persons, it was determined that there existed a strong and almost unanimous desire to form a truly interna-

tional health physics organization. This determination led to the calling of a *pro tempore* general assembly in Paris, France (1964), at which there were 45 official delegates representing 15 health physics or radiation protection societies. Throughout the meeting, there was expressed a genuine spirit of cooperation and strong desire to form this international association, which was called the International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA). A constitution was adopted that stated the primary objectives. At this Paris meeting, a provisional Executive Council of IRPA was elected. It was agreed that IRPA would have formal existence when three or more societies representing at least 1,000 members had

become affiliated with it and that all affiliates prior to December 31, 1965, would be charter members of IRPA. Forty-five countries are now IRPA affiliates.

For those of you who would like to be nominated as a U.S. delegate to IRPA-12 in 2008, 10 delegates are selected from the current HPS Board of Directors, and 20 additional HPS-member delegates are selected from the general membership. To be a candidate from the membership, the individual must (1) get a recommendation in writing by the President of an HPS Chapter or Section or (2) have 20 or more HPS voting members sign a petition recommending them as a candidate for the Congress. Delegates are selected by the HPS Board of Directors using a secret ballot. ♦

Houston Jumps into Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse Program

Stan Bravenec

The Houston contingent of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society (STC-HPS) has joined the ranks of the Homeland Defense Equipment Reuse (HDER) Program. Many Chapter members in other South Texas cities are already participating. The HDER Program distributes radiation detection equipment and provides training to first responders such as firefighters and EMS.

Houston is a critical area for the program, with many good reasons to monitor for terrorist activities. The Houston metropolitan area is composed of a population between 3–4 million people and is the fourth largest city in the nation, and the Port of Houston is the second busiest ship channel in the nation. Nearby Texas City has a very large petrochemical industrial complex. Other potential terrorist targets include NASA, Ellington Field (used by the White House), The Texas Medical Center (the largest and most prestigious medical center complex in the world), and several large convention arenas, three large sports stadiums, and Houston is the site for the 2004 Superbowl (approximately one mile away from the Texas Medical Center).

The Houston crew consists of:

- ❖ Stan Bravenec, Asst. RSO, VA Medical Center (Houston Point of Contact)
- ❖ David Engelbretson, RSO, The Methodist Hospital
- ❖ Janet McCrary, RPM, UT Health Sciences Center Houston
- ❖ Warren Snell, RSO, Baylor College of Medicine

The Houston crew attended the initial 4-hour HDER training session on July 24, 2003, at the National Chapter Meeting in San Diego. As soon as the STC members attend the second training session taught to the first responders (taught by General Physics out of Pine Bluff, AR), the chapter can begin advising responders on equipment selection and conducting refresher training once their equipment arrives. Currently, the entire Chapter is waiting on the state HDER contact, Charley Todd of TAMU, to schedule the second training sessions and order equipment.

Once the program gets off the ground and running, we will be looking for more motivated individuals to help train first responders in equipment use and relieving their anxiety about working with radiation. **This is a great opportunity to serve your community and be a special part of our Nation's defense against terrorism!** ♦

NOTE: Stan Bravenec is a Health Physicist and the Assistant Radiation Safety Officer with the VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. His phone number is 713-794-7188 and e-mail is JosephS.Braveneciii@med.va.gov

NEW MEMBERS! (Update since October 2002)

Susan M. Jablonski, Chair, STC Admissions Committee

Please congratulate these new South Texas Chapter members. Please help in recruiting new members into the Chapter by passing on this copy of *The Billet* to your colleague with the membership application form on page 17.

Jerry J. Anderson	HDR – San Antonio
Whitney Bivens	TAMU Student
D. Dwaine Brown	Halliburton Energy Services
Arthur Camp	Iso-Tex Diagnostics, Inc.
Rick Castillo	Weatherford International
Shane Connor	KI4U, Inc.
Daniel Cawthon	Memorial Hermann Healthcare Systems
James Coulter	Hilcorp Energy Company
Ronald Dean Cox, II	Weatherford International
Jonathan Edwards	Science Fair Winner – Austin
Chris Everitt	Texas Tech – HSC
Mike Gomez	Miller Brewing Co.
Frances Harshaw	Harshaw Medical Physics
Brent Hearne	Baker Atlas, US Land Operations
David Hearne	Baylor College of Medicine
Ericka Hendrix	Texas Tech – HSC
Lane Howard	Southwest Research Institute
Evan Kornacki	Houston Science Fair Winner
Myra Lavilla	Texas Department of Health
Pete Maggiore	Portage Environmental
Jillian Mead	Halliburton Energy Company
Charlotte Miller	Halliburton Energy Services
Robert Moss	UTEP
Mehul Naik	UTHSC at San Antonio
Teresa Nevarez	TSTC Student
Andrew Pitts	Weatherford International
Becky Raabe	TAMU Student
Gil Robichaux	Weatherford International
Mike Ryan	Portage Environmental
Alisha Stallard	TSTC Student
Jean Staton	The Ocean Corporation
Susan Tarazaga	Coastal Bend Blood Center
Francis Towey	Texas Department of Health
Jennifer Watson	UTHSC at San Antonio

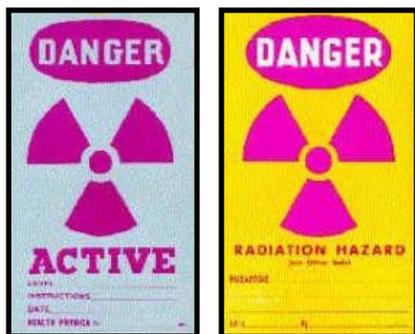
The Trefoil and the Fallout Shelter

Caitlin O'Brien

The Nuclear Trefoil and the Fallout Shelter symbols were created and implemented in the mid-1940s during the Cold War. They were a response to an increasing public need to identify both hazardous materials and the places that should be safe from them. These symbols were commonplace and familiar to the Cold War generation, a daily and important part of their lives.

The origins of the Nuclear Trefoil begin at the University of California at Berkeley. There, a group working in the Health Chemistry Department of the Radiation Laboratory came up with a design to be used within the department. This design consisted of three blade-like shapes radiating from a center circle in magenta, against a pale blue background.

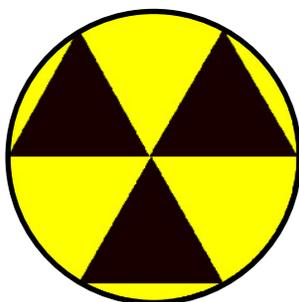
In April of 1948, the Atomic Energy Commission officially adopted this design. Later, this was modified to use a more visible yellow background, and in September of 1953, the Commission accepted the new design.



Initially, the design for the Fallout Shelter symbol was the same as that for the radiation trefoil; however, Civil Defense quickly decided that a distinction should be made between a symbol representing safety and one representing danger. Instead, a similar design was implemented, using a circle divided into

six equal parts, with alternating black and yellow sections.

This design was created by the Civil Defense Department to designate fallout shelters, which were supposed to protect the average citizen from the dangers of a nuclear attack. This symbol was slapped on the sides of churches, warehouses, and any building deemed vaguely safe enough to provide the public with a sense of security.



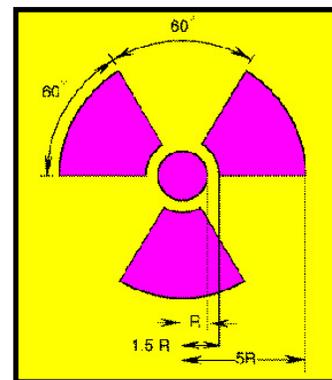
From a design standpoint, the shapes and colors involved in each of these symbols were well chosen. In the Trefoil, the designers chose magenta because it was a color rarely found in warning signs and would, therefore, be distinctive. The blue color was chosen to depart from the usual yellow of warning signs. Yellow, however, is a common warning color for a reason: it is the most highly visible of all the discernable chroma. In addition, the contrast of magenta on yellow creates what is known as a “vibrating edge” where the two colors interact, making the combination even more arresting.

The shape of the design itself is also well constructed. The origins of the circle-and-blades design are debatable, with theories ranging from a propeller warning sign to a representation of alpha, beta, and gamma rays emanating from an atom. In any case, the shape is also very distinctive and memorable. Further, the position of the blades gives the impression that the

entire piece is resting precariously on a single edge, making it seem unstable and therefore unsafe. The common addition of arrows or lightning-bolt shaped lines also increases the sense of urgency and movement in the design.

The Fallout Shelter symbol is equally attention grabbing. The contrast between yellow and black works almost as strikingly as yellow and magenta but seems less frantic because of the lack of vibration. The symmetry of the shapes and the use of an enclosed circle also suggest harmony and balance, creating an overall design that is at once striking and reassuring. This design is much simpler than the trefoil, but echoes some of its elements, such as the division of space, which creates a resonance between the two that connects them in the viewer’s mind. Therefore, seeing the Fallout Shelter symbol will immediately, if unconsciously, bring to mind images of the Nuclear Trefoil, enforcing the idea of danger and the safety that a shelter should provide.

The two work together to create an almost interactive relationship that draws on and utilizes the fears of the public to make both more effective. Each standing alone would probably function as a symbol, but the combination of the two creates a relationship that is far more dynamic than either single entity. ♦



Bibliography:

Health Physics Society, <http://www.hps.org/publicinformation/ate/q1550.html>. “How and when was the magenta trifol symbol designed?”

Health Physics and Radiation Sciences Training Program, <http://www.orau.com/ptp/collection/warningsigns/symbol3.htm>. “Radiation Warning Signs.”

Health Physics and Radiation Sciences Training Program, <http://www.orau.com/ptp/articlesstories/radwarnsymbstory.htm>. “Radiation Warning Symbol (Trefoil).”

Environmental Protection Agency, <http://www.epa.gov/radiation/students/symbols.html>. “Symbols in Radiation Protection.”

The Strategic Plan for The South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society

November 2003

This strategic plan is a dynamic guide for the future of the South Texas Chapter (STC) of the Health Physics Society (HPS). We have worked to create a collective vision for the Chapter's future and to initiate actions to achieve that vision. This plan describes key elements of our activities, and it is the basis for our long-term planning and operational decisions. It outlines strategies for moving the Chapter from where it is to where we want it to be. The essentials of the plan describe our desires for the future (Vision Statement), our critical aims (Major Objectives in Bold), and specific targets in support of our Major Objectives (Specific Objectives). Based on this strategic plan, we will design approaches (Action Plans) for achieving the Specific Objectives and Major Objectives.

Consistent with the Mission of HPS, the mission of the STC is:

Excellence in the Science and Practice of Radiation Safety

The Vision Statement of the STC is:

We strive to exceed expectations for the recognition, trust, and confidence of the public, the scientific community, and the government with regard to radiation safety.

We will continue to establish mechanisms and relationships to promote an adequate supply of highly trained radiation safety professionals.

We will continue to improve our effectiveness and efficiency in meeting the needs of our membership.

We are convinced that our Vision for the Chapter's future is desirable and achievable. We challenge the entire organization to make the Vision a reality.

Following are six Major Objectives that are critical to achieving our Vision. Supporting Specific Objectives follow each strategic Major Objective. (The order of their presentation has no significance.)

- 1. Support the science and good practice of radiation safety.**
 - 1.1 Improve science and mathematics teaching.
 - 1.2 Develop methods to encourage students to study science and mathematics.
 - 1.3 Enhance local preparedness for dealing with a radiological terrorism event through involvement in local Emergency Preparedness planning training and provision of assistance to local, state, and federal officials with recovery from such an event.
- 2. Provide enhanced membership support.**
 - 2.1 Establish and implement methods to address member concerns.
 - 2.2 Maintain and improve the quality of meetings of the Chapter.
 - 2.3 Maintain a web site that provides up-to-date information for the membership.
 - 2.4 Prepare an annual membership directory for distribution to members.
 - 2.5 Maintain and improve member education opportunities.
- 3. Sustain the health physics profession.**
 - 3.1 Encourage students to study health physics and consider it as a career objective.
 - 3.2 Improve the status of the health physics profession.
 - 3.3 Enhance Health Physics Scholarships.
- 4. Improve the recognition of the Health Physics Society and the South Texas Chapter.**
 - 4.1 Establish the Chapter as the source of expertise in radiation safety within Texas.
 - 4.2 Interact with other professional societies in a leadership role.
- 5. Foster good science in public policy.**
 - 5.1 Enlighten and educate elected officials and the public about radiation safety issues.
 - 5.2 Communicate with news media personnel about radiation safety issues.
 - 5.3 Provide reliable and useful information about radiation protection to people from all walks of life.
- 6. Enhance effective communications.**
 - 6.1 Involve a greater number of members in the administration and activities of the Chapter.
 - 6.2 Improve internal communications.
 - 6.3 Establish and maintain communications and a working relationship with company representatives who service the health physics marketplace.

South Texas Chapter of Health Physics Society, Inc.

Affiliates Fair & Winter Meeting

**Holiday Inn Riverwalk
San Antonio, Texas**

January 23–24, 2004

The January 24 Affiliates Fair and Winter Meeting will feature presentations from virtually all of the STC-HPS Affiliates, and our luncheon speaker will be former USNRC Commissioner Greta J. Dicus.

STC-HPS Affiliates will offer updates about new products and services they provide. During the breaks, members and Affiliates will have a chance to learn more about each other in the Affiliates Exhibit area in the Sky Line Atrium. As usual, Affiliates will be giving out tickets to

individuals visiting their booths for a prize drawing that will be held at the end of the meeting.

◆

*...meeting
will feature
presentations from
virtually all
of the
STC-HPS
Affiliates...*

◆

The STC-HPS Executive Council (EC) will meet Friday, January 23,

from 4 p.m.–5:30 p.m. in the Bolero Conference Room.

An informal professional networking session will follow the EC meeting at 5:30 at a nearby establishment.

If time permits, the afternoon session will also feature a short presentation by STC President Mike Charlton about the recent National Disaster Medical System drill held in San Antonio. He will also discuss a new initiative for training first responders. STC-HPS sent a proposal to HPS for a grant to provide training to

EMS and fire response personnel.

◆

*Affiliates will offer
updates
to the
membership
about several
new products and
services they
provide.*

◆

Plan to attend one or all of the Friday and Saturday sessions.

CEUs Awarded for LMP & MRT Certifications†

†Based on evaluation of finalized agenda by TDH – Professional Licensure staff.

STC-HPS members will be notified via e-mail of CEU amounts and affected certifications.

Preliminary Agenda

Holiday Inn Riverwalk

Friday, January 23, 2004

- 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Executive Council Meeting
Bolero Conference Room
- 5:30 – ?? p.m. Informal Professional Networking Session
Nearby local establishment

Saturday, January 24, 2004

- 8:00 – 8:20 a.m. Registration in Sky Line Atrium Foyer; and Continental Breakfast in
Affiliates' Exhibit Area
- 8:20 – 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions – John Salsman, STC President-Elect
Tango 4 Meeting Room
- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. Affiliate Demonstrations & Presentations
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Break and Professional Networking
Affiliates' Exhibit Area Open
Coffee, Assorted Teas, Sodas, and Baked Goods
Sky Line Atrium
- 10:30 – 12:00 p.m. Affiliate Demonstrations & Presentations
Tango 4 Meeting Room
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Fare – Chicken Gallantine
Tango 2 Meeting Room
Speaker: Greta J. Dicus, Former Commissioner, USNRC
Topic: To be announced
- 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Visit with Affiliates
Sky Line Atrium
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. Affiliate Demonstrations & Presentations
Tango 4 Meeting Room
- 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. Break – Snacks, Coffee, and Sodas
Affiliates' Exhibit Area Open
Sky Line Atrium
- 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. National Disaster Medical System Hospital Drill and STC-HPS
Training Initiative – Dr. Mike Charlton-President
Tango 4 Meeting Room

Accommodations Holiday Inn Riverwalk

*217 N. St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Reservations: 800-445-8475*

The Holiday Inn Riverwalk is a service hotel located in the heart of downtown and on the banks of the River Walk. The restaurant serves a casual variety for breakfast, lunch, and dinner with a spectacular river view. A pool and exercise facility are available as well as an on-site gift shop. Located directly on the river, the hotel is walking distance from shopping at Rivercenter Mall, historic Alamo, the Alamodome, and Market Square. Guest facilities include an outdoor heated pool, Jacuzzi, exercise facility, gift shop, covered parking, express check out, valet service, valet laundry service, a business center, and a full-service restaurant and lounge.

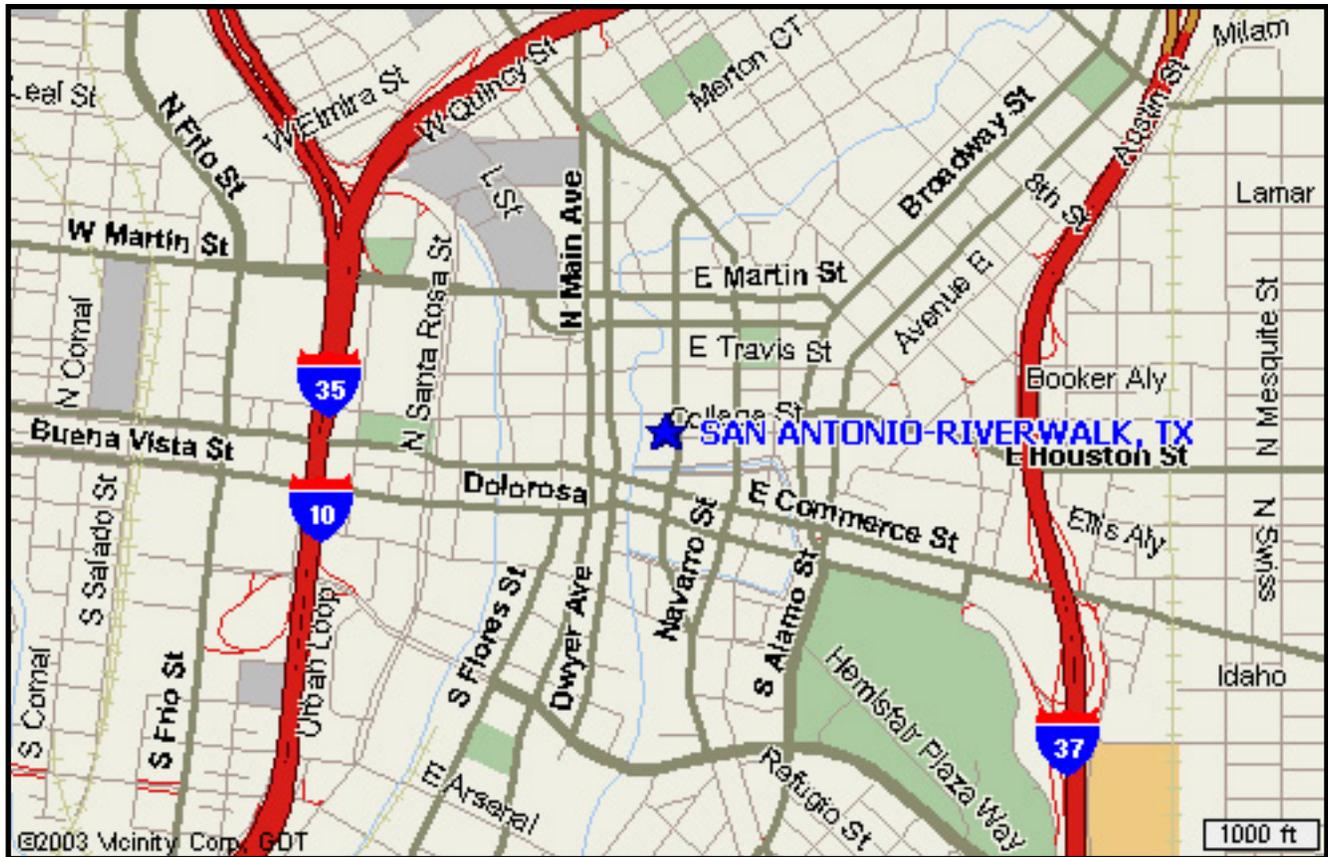
Hotel Information

- ♦ *23 floors* ♦ *313 guestrooms and 12 suites*
- ♦ *Check-In Time: 4:00 p.m., Check-Out Time: 11:00 a.m.*
- ♦ *Express Check-in/Check-out* ♦ *Pets Allowed*
- ♦ *Parking: \$13 self parking, \$18 valet (both with daily in/out privileges)*

IMPORTANT NOTICE

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday, January 23, and Saturday, January 24, 2004, until **January 9, 2004**, under the name "South Texas Chapter Health Physics Society." Room rates will be \$99 per night for single through quad occupancy. Room rates are subject to applicable state and local taxes. A limited number of rooms are available at a government per diem rate of \$80 per night for single and \$100 for double occupancy. Be prepared to present a government ID upon check-in. To secure these excellent rates, you must call the reservation telephone number listed above EARLY and specify that you are with the South Texas Chapter Health Physics Society. After the reservation deadline, Holiday Inn anticipates that no rooms will be available at this rate, so make your reservation early!

Map of Downtown San Antonio to Holiday Inn Riverwalk



Holiday Inn Riverwalk

217 N. St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Reservations: 800-445-8475

Driving Directions

- ◆ The hotel may be accessed from IH-10, IH-35, or IH-37.
- ◆ Please remember that many streets in downtown San Antonio are one-way only.
- ◆ Exact driving directions can be printed from the following website:
<http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/HOLI/hd/SATRW>
Click on "Map/Driving Directions" in the left-hand column.

Registration

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

Affiliates Fair & Winter Meeting

January 23–24, 2004

Holiday Inn Riverwalk ♦ Houston, Texas

Pre-Registration Form

Hotel Registration Deadline — January 9, 2004 ♦ STC Registration Deadline — January 16, 2004

Attendee's Name _____

Attendee's Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- STC Member (breakfast, technical session, and lunch) - \$ 45
- STC Member (technical session ONLY) - \$ 25
- Non-STC Member (breakfast, technical session, and lunch) - \$ 55**
- Non-STC Member (technical session ONLY) - \$ 40
- Non-STC Member (breakfast and lunch ONLY) - \$ 35*
- Student (breakfast, technical session, and lunch) - \$ 15
- Need a receipt for this meeting
- Need CEU certificate

Mail registration form(s) with your check (made payable to the STC-HPS) to arrive **before January 16, 2004**, to:

Kenneth V. Krieger
5003 Northfield Drive
San Antonio, TX 78228-1064
Phone (210) 271-0925
Fax (210) 271-3061

Preregistration will close on January 16, 2004. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please call and cancel your reservation **PRIOR TO JANUARY 16, 2004**. Any reservations **not cancelled by January 16, 2004**, will be regarded as confirmed reservations, and funds will be collected for the meeting. Refunds will be honored only for cancellations made before January 16, 2004. Registration fees collected after January 16, 2004, or at the door, if available, will be \$10 extra.

*If contemplating on-site purchase of meals, meeting space and meals cannot be guaranteed on the day of the meeting.

**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.

South Texas Chapter – Health Physics Society Chapter Dues Payment/Membership Application Form

(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 prefer to receive calls at: Home Business
 Yes, I am a National HPS member.
 Yes, I am a Certified Health Physicist.
 Yes, I am a Registered Radiation Protection Technologist.
- I would like to be a Meeting Mentor
 My interest or area of expertise _____

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		= \$ _____

*For two \$10 donations, you get a free STC lapel pin.

Please mail this form with your check or money order (please do not mail cash) to:

Susan Jablonski Admissions (Membership) Committee Chair 14904 Haley Hollow Austin, TX 78728	Phone: 512-239-6731 Fax: 512-239-5151 Email: SJABLONS@tceq.state.tx.us
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SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER—HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY—2003 AFFILIATE ROSTER

The Affiliates of the South Texas Chapter (STC) are listed below. Our Affiliates help support our Chapter functions, and we should support them. They contribute substantially to the STC, and each should be thanked by our considering their products or services first. Also, tell them we sent you. (*Affiliates: Please review your listing below and email any corrections to: svittatoe@canberra.com*)

ADCO Services

Jerry Wiza
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Tinley Park, IL 60477
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T: 708-429-1660
F: 708-429-9759

Advanced Measurement Technology

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Albuquerque, NM 87109
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T: 505-797-4642
F: 865-483-0396

Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas

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Austin, TX 78755-0586
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T: 512-391-0400

Atomic Energy Industrial Laboratories (AEIL) of the Southwest, Inc.

Steven H. Allen
9261 Kirby Drive
Houston, TX 77054
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F: 713-790-0542

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F: 603-971-6389

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F: 210-271-3061

F&J Speciality Products, Inc.

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404 Cypress Road
Ocala, FL 34472
WEB: www.fjspecialty.com
E: fandj@atlantic.net
T: 352-680-1177
F: 352-680-1454

ICN Worldwide Dosimetry Service

Phil Harris
3300 Hyland
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
WEB: www.dosimetry.com
E: pharris@icnpharm.com
T: 800-548-0136 Ext. 9379
F: 714-668-3149

Inovision Radiation Measurements

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Sugarland, TX 77478
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T: 800-850-4608 Ext. 3715
F: 281-494-5174

ISO-TEX

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F: 281-482-1070

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F: 661-257-8303

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Nashville, TN 37210-3818
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F: 615-871-0856

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F: 713-475-2362

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Owens Scientific, Inc.

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6906 Escondido Drive
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Oak Ridge, TN 37830-3500
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F: 865-927-6866

Radiation Technology

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F: 512-795-8718

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F: 770-497-9188

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F: 512-388-9333

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F: 972-448-1419

William B. Johnson

Dick Landfried
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F: 304-645-2182



Health Physics Society South Texas Chapter

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San Antonio, TX 78228-0510
ATTN: John Hageman
STCEditor@swri.org

Check www.stc-hps.org for late submittals and color.

Variety – The Spice of Life

John M. Salsman

The South Texas Chapter (STC) was privileged on Saturday, April 25, 2003, to host a large group of students as the feature of its technical program. The variety of health physics research topics covered during the annual STC student paper competition was second only to the quality of the student speakers. This wonderful event was hosted once again at Texas A&M University in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) (how appropriate!).

The competition featured students from Texas A&M University and the UTHSC-School of Public Health. This event is held each year to honor Dr. R.D. Neff, an outstanding member from the infant years of STC. I actually had the privilege of earning a bachelor's and master's degree under his tutelage. Dr. Neff was well read and knowledgeable in so many aspects of health physics, but what made him so special was his easy going, approachable demeanor with students. You know the saying in sports, he's a "player's coach," Dr. Neff was "student's professor." I can tell you with certainty that he would have been thrilled with the quality and scope of the students' presentations.

From topics such as energy dependence of dosimeters to radioactive analysis of tobacco to geolocation of lost radioactive sources, 36 students presented the 12 research papers in a very professional manner. Once again, a round of applause

is appropriate for these young people and their terrific effort, especially considering the tough-looking audience consisting of about 60 STC members who asked some thought-provoking questions.

The 2003 R.D. Neff Award winner in the graduate student category was Kathleen Maness with her presentation, "An Analysis of 45 Years of Reported Radiation Overexposure Events in Texas 1956-2001." The 2003 R.D. Neff Award winner in the undergraduate category was Kristin Epresi, Andrea Heap, Laura Strban, and Ashley Tull for their presentation, "Food Irradiation Facility Characterization."

During the bar-b-que buffet lunch at the MSC, Mr. David R. Bates, Director of Media Relations, UTHSC, recounted his experiences on "Sharing Your Expertise with the Media." This most enlightening presentation provided some excellent tips for getting the health physics message out to the media. One of the most valuable tips discussed the

idea of working to establish a long-term relationship with a member of the press. This enables the HP to be viewed as an expert, so that during an important event or topic, the reporter will likely call the HP and solicit information from a "factual" source. Several short clips on do's and don'ts were shown, including our very own Dr. Bob Emery, Past-President.

At the end of the afternoon break of snacks and professional networking, then STC President Bob Emery provided a State of the Chapter address. This light-hearted Powerpoint presentation included highlights of the STC accomplishments during the past year, including all the behind the scenes hard work of Janet McCrary! Mike Charlton, President-Elect, then presented Bob with a framed gavel commemorating his presidency and announced the names of the newly elected officers for 2003-2004, President-Elect, John Salsman; Treasurer-Elect, Pete Myers; and Board Director, Eva Legler. ♦

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STCEditor@swri.org

