



THE *BILLET* STC NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER of the HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

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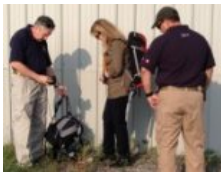
Student Presentation Meeting, April 21-22

The South Texas Chapter (STC) of the HPS will be hosting a Student Presentation meeting featuring research by students at our local colleges and universities.



Introducing the 2016 Texas Radiation Advisory Board

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PRND "Rodeo" held in Austin

The purpose of the rodeo is to display PRND equipment and allow vendors to discuss equipment capabilities with members of the Texas Nuclear Sector Working Group—in particular, leaders of State and Local Law Enforcement agencies.



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"Dr. Emery's extensive background and experience in laboratory research and safety will play a vital role in enhancing the advisory board's effectiveness."



Great White North Happenings

Consider attending the CRPA Annual meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (SK), Canada (June 5-7, 2017) as an alternative radiation protection conference experience.

[The Billet STC
Newsletter Home](#)

[Future STC Meetings](#)

[Executive Council
Meeting Minutes](#)

[April 22
Student Presentation
Meeting—Online
Registration](#)

[Affiliates Roster](#)

[Chapter Leadership](#)

[Subscribe](#)





Photos from the Topical Meeting & Affiliates' Fair

Stan Bravenec took lots of great photos of the presenters, exhibits, and attendees.

In Memoriam: John Simek

John Simek was a member of the American Nuclear Society and Health Physics Society. He was elected to Fellow status, certified Health Physicist and served as President of South Texas Chapter HPS and on National Society committees. He was active in the Texas State government, serving 17 years as a member of the State agency and three times president of the Board.

Governor Abbott reappoints Linda Morris

By: John P. Hageman

Texas Insider Report: AUSTIN, Texas — Governor Greg Abbott has reappointed Linda Morris to the Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission for a term to expire on September 1, 2021. The Commission manages the disposal of low level radioactive waste, while maintaining the health, safety and welfare of citizens.

Linda Kay Morris of Waco is a licensed Medical Health Physicist and an Associate Professor at Texas State Technical College (TSTC), Environmental Health and Safety Technology Department. She also serves as the Radiation Safety Officer for TSTC. Linda is a Fellow of the Health Physics Society and past President and current Student Assistant Chair of the South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society. Additionally, she is a member of the Central Texas Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Ms. Morris received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Lamar University and a Master of Science in Biophysics from Texas A&M University.



Student Presentation Meeting

April 21-22, 2017

By: Amanda Sullivan

The South Texas Chapter (STC) of the HPS will be hosting a Student Presentation meeting featuring research by students at our local colleges and universities. Please mark your calendars and come on out to support the next generation of professionals in the health physics field. The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22, and the Executive Council meeting will be held Friday evening, April 21. We're very excited and hope that you will be able to join us!

Venue

The Meeting will be held at:

IDEAS Center — Texas State Technical College, 3801 Campus Dr., Bellmead, TX 76705

The meeting will be held from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, April 22. Details regarding onsite registration and the Executive Council meeting will follow in the next few weeks.

Registration Costs

- \$45 for STC Members, registering in advance on the STC-HPS.ORG website, before April 1, 2017
- \$10 for Students
- \$55 for registration made on or after April 1, 2017
- Non Members: \$10 extra
- \$65 for at the door registration on day of the meeting, if room and lunch are available

Registration includes breakfast, lunch and snack.

Accommodations

There is a limited block of rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn for Friday night, April 21, at a discounted rate of \$114/night, plus tax. To reserve a room under this block, please call the hotel at 1-254-412-1999 and give the group code—South Texas Chapter of the Health Physics Society. This block of discounted rooms is available until sold out, so make sure you make your reservation as early as possible!



The 2016 Texas Radiation Advisory Board

By: John P. Hageman, MS, CHP

The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB or Board) reviews and evaluates state radiation policies, programs, and proposed rules. The Board also makes recommendations and provides technical advice that may be required on matters relating to development, use, and regulation of sources of radiation.

The Board develops and implements policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear at public meetings and speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the advisory board. Some of the advisory statements include:

- [Advisory on Patient Exposure](#)
- [Statement on EPA Proposed Rules](#)
- [Statement on Fluoroscopic Training](#)
- [Position Paper on HLW Storage](#)
- [Cone Beam Computed Tomography \(CBCT\)](#)
- [Advisory Statement on Sealed Source Disposal](#)
- [Advisory on Radionuclides in Drinking Water](#)

The Texas Radiation Advisory Board (TRAB) members, shown in the picture, are the state's advisors on all radiation issues. The Board holds quarterly meetings to review the rules and guides and programs of the agencies that regulate radiation. Board members may participate in hearings by providing expert testimony. They make recommendations about various issues and provide those to the agencies, the legislature and the governor. Board members also visit facilities in Texas to review pertinent radiation issues. The Legislature created the TRAB in 1961. The governor appoints members who normally serve for a term of 6 years.

Board members who are STC-HPS members are:

- John Hageman, Chairman of the Board
- Bob Emery, Chairman of the Topic Research Committee
- Ken Krieger, Past Chairman of the Industrial, Nuclear Power, Uranium, and Waste Committee

Texas Radiation Advisory Board members: starting at the top, L-R:

Frank (Neal) Leavell, DDS, representing Dentistry; **Simon Trubek, M.D.**, representing Radiology; **Mark A. Silberman, M.D.**, representing Pathology;

William C. (Bill) Campbell, representing the Insurance Industry; **Melissa "Missy" Shorey**, representing the Public; **Steve Harris**, representing Labor;

Robert Emery, Dr. P.H., representing Hospital Administrators; **Mark C. Harvey, Ph.D.**, representing Medical Professionals in Nuclear Physics;

Karen Cuneo Newton, representing the Public;

Darlene Metter, M.D., FACR, representing Nuclear Medicine; **Judith (Judy) Raab**, representing the Petroleum Industry; **John P. Hageman, M.S. C.H.P.**, representing Health Physicists;

Kevin L. Raabe, REM, representing the Uranium Mining Industry; **Gerald T. (Tim) Powell**, representing the Radioactive Waste Industry; **John R. Johnson, D.V.M.**, representing



*Agriculture; **Kenneth V Krieger, M.S. C.H.P.**, representing Industry; **Darshan Sachde, Ph.D.**, representing the Public*



PRND "Rodeo" held in Austin

By: John P. Hageman, MS, CHP

A Preventive Radiological and Nuclear Detection (PRND) "Rodeo" at Austin's TCEA Conference Center and Fire Department Training Facilities, on September 20–21, 2016. This Rodeo was a display and presentation of the latest equipment used to detect radiological and nuclear threats.

The PRND Rodeo was hosted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO). All vendors were screened and invited by DNDO. Texas Department of Public Safety provided suitable one-day location (4,000 square feet) to allow presentations and a second venue for demonstration and testing of PRND equipment such as outdoor mobile and backpack radioisotope detection and identification equipment.

The purpose of the rodeo is to display PRND equipment and allow vendors to discuss equipment capabilities with members of the Texas Nuclear Sector Working Group—in particular, leaders of State and Local Law Enforcement agencies to include: Texas Rangers, Texas Highway Patrol, Texas Aviation Division, Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Representatives from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and Department of State Health Services also participated. [View pictures of the event.](#)

Texas is currently in the midst of an initiative to enhance its PRND preparedness. Both the Nuclear Sector Working Group's Equipment Committee and Law Enforcement Committee used this Rodeo to enhance its understanding of detection equipment capabilities.

The list of vendors that generously gave their time for these 2 days is available [here](#).

For more information see the [Texas Preventive Radiological & Nuclear Detection Program](#) flyer.”



Bob Emery appointed to Univ. of California Center for Laboratory Safety Advisory Board



Robert "Safety Bob" Emery, Dr.P.H., Vice President for Safety, Health, Environment & Risk Management at UT Health (the Univ of Texas Health Science Center at Houston), has been appointed to the University of California (UC) Center for Laboratory Safety Advisory Board.

The mission of the center is to sponsor and support research in laboratory safety; develop and translate research into applied best practices; and facilitate implementation and optimization of laboratory safety practices.

The center was established in March 2011 following a tragic accident that led to the death of a researcher performing an experiment in a laboratory on the UCLA campus. While implementing changes to its lab safety protocols, safety experts discovered a scarcity of evidence-based research on accident rates and laboratory safety at academic institutions. The UC Center for Laboratory Safety aims to fill that gap by conducting and promoting research on laboratory safety.

"Dr. Emery's extensive background and experience in laboratory research and safety will play a vital role in enhancing the advisory board's effectiveness," said Craig Merlic, Ph.D., executive director of the UC Center for Laboratory Safety.

Emery earned his bachelor's degree in environmental sciences from University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1979 and his master's in public health from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1989. In 1991, he earned a master's in environmental health at East Carolina University.

Upon earning his Doctor of Public Health at UT Health, School of Public Health in 1997, Emery joined the school's faculty as an assistant professor of occupational health. He has served as vice president for Safety, Health, Environment and Risk Management since 2004. Emery will serve a 3-year term on the UC advisory board.



Great White North Happenings

By: Scott "Nick" Nicholson, CIH, CHP, CSP, Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA), Director (2015-2017)

Need affordable ICRP document access? Consider joining the Canadian Radiation Protection Association (CRPA). CRPA members get free unlimited access to ICRP documents, and were the first radiation protection association to offer this benefit to its members. Full membership is 165 Canadian dollars, which is around \$126 US at the time of this writing. Click on the website for more information.

<http://crpa-acrp.org/home/>

Can't make the HPS Annual meeting in Raleigh, NC, this year? Consider attending the CRPA Annual meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan (SK), Canada (June 5-7, 2017) as an alternative radiation protection conference experience. Saskatoon is near uranium mining regions within Canada, and a uranium mine tour will be offered as well on June 4. Escape the Texas heat and enjoy extended daylight hours. Don't forget your passport. Click on the website for more information.

<http://crpa-acrp.org/conference/>



Photos from the Topical Meeting & Affiliate's Fair, September 22–23, 2016

[View these photos with captions.](#)







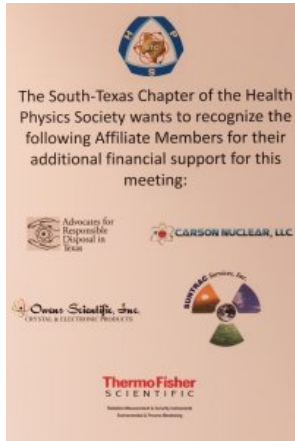












In Memoriam: John Simek

By: John Poston, et al.

John E. Simek

December 30, 1935–August 5, 2016

John E. Simek, 80, of Bryan, passed away Friday, August 5, 2016, at his lake house at Camp Creek. John was born December 30, 1935, to John G. and Laura E. Simek in San Diego, California. His father was career Navy, and the family lived either on the west coast in San Diego or east coast in Norfolk.

Following WWII, they moved to College Station. John graduated from A&M Consolidated High School and enrolled in Texas A&M College, he received his degree from A&M in Nuclear Engineering. He was employed with Texas A&M in the Nuclear Safety Operations and Nuclear Engineering Department. He oversaw the administration of the nuclear material licenses for Texas A&M University System around the world as well as the research done on the University campus.

John served our country in the U.S. Army, furthering his education, graduating from the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army Senior Officer College (Army War College). He retired as Major General.

John was a member of the American Nuclear Society and Health Physics Society. He was elected to Fellow status, certified Health Physicist and served as President of South Texas Chapter HPS and on National Society committees. He was active in the Texas State government, serving 17 years as a member of the State agency and three times president of the Board.

John was a member of the 12th Man Foundation, Association of the U.S. Army, St. Andrews Episcopal Church serving on Vestry. He is also a member of the Bryan/College Station Mason's and past president of Brazos Valley Shriner's Club. John enjoyed fishing from Alaska to Brazil with his local favorite at Camp Creek.

John is preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara J. (Lero) Simek of 27 years and his second wife, Netta Jackson Simek of 23 years. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, J.B. and Kimberly Simek; daughter, Monique Renee (Simek) Stewart; sister, Frances J. Engelbrecht; niece, Paige Mann; and nephew, Darrin Engelbrecht and wife Kim. Memorials may be made to Wounded Warrior Project, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675.



STC – EC Meeting
Sept 22, 2017

1) Persons in attendance:

Susanne Savely
Janet Gutierrez
Jennifer Cerecero
Amanda Sullivan
Linda Morris
Matt Amen
Tracy Tipping
Bobby Janecka
Jay Poston
Billie Harvey
Stan Bravanec

2) Meeting Convened

Quorum Established.

The meeting was officially convened at 5:05PM by Suzanne Savely, President.

3) Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 22, 2016 meeting were distributed and reviewed by the group. Motion to approve made by Amanda Sullivan; Second by Billie Harvey.

Minutes were approved.

4) Reports Made

Past President – Will Pate

Nothing to report.

President – Susanne Savely

Topical/Affiliates Meeting Activities

- Program
 - Assisted President-Elect with arranging for speakers
 - Obtained presentations and bios
 - Attempted to arrange astronaut speaker without success!
 - Helped obtain certificates from HPS for high school award winners

- Efforts to raise meeting attendance
 - Attendance is up, as per Will's email – 84 people in attendance, up from approximately 60 at last meeting
 - Unable to personally reach out to additional potential attendees, except through the NIRDS (TMC-based) mailing list.

Name change from STC-HPS to Texas Chapter – HPS

- North Texas Chapter – okay with it, a per emails
- West Texas – reached via email to open discussion with them

As discussed during Sept 22nd, meeting will reach out to the national chapter to discuss procedure for dissolving the North and West Texas chapters and changing name. Will need to go out to full chapter for vote.

President Elect/Program Committee – Amanda Sullivan

Annual HPS Breakfast

Thanks to John Hageman for all his work planning the breakfast meeting!

2016 Technical Meeting and Affiliates’ Fair

- Big thanks to Susanne for putting the speakers together!
- Financials
 - 80 registered as of 9/20/2016
 - 4 walk-ins at of 9/22/2016
 - \$1800 allocated from vendor donations and sponsored breakfast ~ \$2120
 - \$4715 collected in registrations
 - = \$8635 collected

 - Projected hotel costs: \$9311.29
 - Projected Technical costs: \$550
 - = \$9861.29

 - Projected loss of \$1226.29. However, this is below the allowed loss per year given for meetings of \$1500

Secretary – Billie Harvey

STC Gmail account set-up. This email can be transferred to any future secretaries. It is

STCHPSSecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer – Jennifer Cerecero

Petty Cash Fund: \$ 85.00

Bank Accounts:

Bank Account	Previous Balance	Interest Received	Current Balance
Science Teacher (0279)	\$ 3987.86 (April 11, 2016)	\$ 0.83	\$ 3988.69 (September 12, 2016)
Student Scholarship (5456)	\$ 5115.25 (March 14, 2016)	\$ 1.25	\$ 5116.54 (September 19, 2016)

Bank Account	Previous Balance	Net Change	Current Balance
Operating Account (1166)	\$ 45939.72 (April 13, 2016)	(\$10395.40)	\$35544.32 (September 16, 2016)

Deposits into Operating Account:

PayPal	Treasurer Deposits	Credit Card Refunds	Total
\$4395.03	\$867.00	\$ 0.00	\$5262.03

Payments from Operating Account:

EXPENSE	AMOUNT
Website Fees	\$89.16
Student Travel Grants	\$1000.00
Student Presentation Awards	\$1300.00
Billet Fee	\$500.00
Amazon Fees for Badges	\$36.99
Science Fair Plaques	\$112.00
J Cody's Bryan TX	\$971.35
Jason's Deli Bryan TX	\$1128.93
USPS PO Box	\$60.00
Hilton Hotel Hold – Houston Meeting	\$10000.00
Vintage House – Bryan TX	\$444.00
International Wire Fee – Ultra NCS	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$15657.43

Summary of Meetings:

	Number Attending/Registered to	Amount Received	Meeting Cost	Difference
HPS Annual Meeting Breakfast 7/2013	14 (including 3 students)	\$250.00	\$246.43	\$3.57
Houston Meeting 9/2013	78 (including 16 students, Science Fair winner & parents)	\$2745.00	\$ 2,363.22	\$381.78
San Antonio Meeting 1/2014	55 (including 3 students)	\$4,190.00	\$ 4,573.50	(\$ 383.50)
College Station Meeting 3/2014	67 attendees	\$1900.00	\$ 930.13	\$969.87
Breakfast Meeting 7/2014	11 attendees	\$192.76	\$192.76	\$0

Regulatory Conference	384 attendees	\$61046.53	\$38376.59	\$22669.94
Sugarland Meeting	60 attendees	\$2385.00	\$1820.75	\$564.25
Breakfast Meeting 7/2015	12 attendees	-	-	-
Waco Meeting	49 attendees	\$1145.00	\$737.49	\$407.51
San Antonio Meeting 9/2015	60 attendees	\$4533.89	\$5093.31	(\$ 559.42)
College Station Meeting 4/2016	52 attendees	\$1115.00	\$2544.28	(\$1429.28)
Clear Lake Meeting 9/2016	80 attendees	TBD	TBD	TBD

Pending Deposits:

\$420 (Treasurer)

\$2039.98 (Paypal)

\$2160 Breakfast (NSSI)

Annuities:

Annuity	Previous Values	Current Values
Lincoln (699, 700, & 701)	\$ 30639.69 4/13/2016	\$ 30541.56 09/20/2016
Edward Jones	\$109099.03 04/13/2016	\$112987.92 04/13/2016
Total Values	\$139738.72 4/13/2016	\$143529.48 09/20/2016

Affiliate Committee Report

1. New Affiliates:
 - a. Alpha Neutronics – Andrew Pitts
2. ThermoFisher Replacement – Nathan Smith
3. 9 Vendor tables at meeting
4. Donations:
 - a. Breakfast: NSSI
 - b. \$150 donations – ARDT, Carson Nuclear
 - c. \$250 donations – Owens/Thermo, Suntrac
 - d. \$800 total + Breakfast costs

Student Assistance Committee Report – Linda Morris, Committee Chair

1. Education Grant Winner: This year's winner at the Associate Degree level is Hannah Irving. Hannah is a Radiation Protection Technology major at TSTC Waco who graduates in December. Anna Laura Licon from Texas A&M won the undergraduate award. The graduate award goes to Kristen Weismantel. Kristen is studying at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San

Antonio.

2. Neff-Poston Award: Dr. Jean Ragusa, TAMU Nuclear Engineering Faculty, and his Awards committee have selected Cailin O'Connell as the Neff-Poston Award winner for 2017. Cailin is an outstanding sophomore RHEN major who has already begun research with Dr. John Ford. She plans to study medical health physics in the future.
3. Science Fairs 2017: Let's start thinking about asking Chapter members to volunteer as science fairs judges for 2017. The dates for 2017 are as follows:

Fair Name/Location	Date*	Volunteer(s)
Central Texas Science & Engineering Fair	Feb. 21-22, 2017	Linda Morris
Austin Energy Regional Science	Feb. 15-18, 2017	
Science & Engineering Fair of Houston	Feb, 23-24, 2017	
Alamo Regional Science & Engineering	Feb. 23-24, 2017	
ExxonMobil Texas Science & Engineering Fair	April 1, 2017	

*Only one day needed for judging. Dates may change so confirm first.

Interested Chapter members are asked to contact Linda Morris at 254-867-2952 or Linda.morris@tstc.edu for more information and to volunteer. Last year's judges were superb. Regional winners and their families will be invited to the Spring STC Student Paper presentation meeting. STC members enjoyed hosting several young scientists at last year's meeting.

4. Annual Meeting and Student Presentations: It is really not too early to start beating the bushes for student presentations. It is recommended that the President-Elect/Program Chair contact the appropriate professors at the various universities. TSTC students will be scheduled to make presentations also. I would be willing to help the President -Elect with this task. The meeting will be held at the IDEAS Center at Texas State Technical College on April 22nd this year. (This is the same location used at TSTC in years past.)
5. Hannah Irving and Loren "Buck" Kopp were given \$500 to offset travel expenses to attend the national HPS meeting in Spokane.

6. As has already been noted in the Billet, STC national Science Fair nominees Merusha Mukherjee and Andrew Cianciolo were both given award by the HPS. They both presented this morning at our conference.
7. I would like to attempt to obtain the names of health physics or related majors from our colleges and universities to issue them a personal invitation to join the STC. I will work on that this semester.

Legislative Committee Report – Bobby Janecka

A few notes about the preliminary budget requests filed by two of the three regulatory state agencies responsible for rad (Railroad Commission of Texas does not identify program strategies down to the level of detail to distinguish funding for their activities over oil and gas NORM and TENORM in their legislative appropriation request):

- Texas Department of State Health Services is requesting the same amount of annual funding (-\$9 million) for FY18 and 19 for their radiation control activities.
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is requesting approximately the same amount of annual funding (-\$3 million) for FY18 and 19 for their radioactive waste management activities. One item of note is the agency spent more in FY16 than typical/expected largely due to spending for cleanup at the former Lamprecht and Zamzow uranium mine sites.

5. New Business

The Southwest Regional Chapter of the AAPM is hosting its 2017 annual meeting in Fort Worth TX in Nov 2017 and requested the chapter consider participating in their meeting by hosting a relevant safety-related session. Suzanne will be in touch with Dustin Gress, the AAPM chapter president about what exactly they are looking for. Someone will also touch base with the members in that area to see if they would be willing to participate.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Amanda Sullivan

Second: Janet Gutierrez

Adjourned