



ASPE NEWS

American Society of Plumbing Engineers

Eastern Michigan Chapter

http://aspe.org/Eastern_Michigan

Serving our membership since 1975

Vol. 13, Issue 6

Plumbing Design Classes

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2010
Where: Plumbing Industry Training Center
 SEE map on back page

ASPE HANDBOOK & VENDOR CLASSES
3:30 - 5:30 PM

Basic: CPD Prep Class Part 1
Vendor: Residential Fire Protection
 See page 3 for program & speaker

DINNER
5:30 - 6:00 PM

Cost: ASPE, ASSE, MBPA Mbrs: NC
 Non-members: \$15.00 FOR DINNER

DESIGN CLASS
6:00 - 8:30 PM

Topic: Water Safety = Life Safety:
 Mechanical Engineer/
 Contractor/ Hospital Engineer

Speaker: Stacey Wesselink
 See page 3 for program & bio

See the full event schedule on our web site.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
 RSVP by the **Friday** prior
 to day of class to:

David Rhodes, VP Tech:
(586) 739-8915 x59 phone
drhodes@cr-plumbing.com

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John R. Nussbaum, IPP, FASSE



I am deeply grateful to those manufacturers and representatives who continue their support of ASPE / ASSE dinner meetings even in these times of cut-backs due to the poor economic conditions we are all going through. The Board of Directors also appreciates your dedication and support. Without you, we would not be able to carry on as we have become accustomed to over the years.

Both ASPE and ASSE have been in transition:

ASSE has improved with the new additional professional staff people at the Society offices in Westlake, Ohio. The *Plumbing Standards* magazine is a greatly improved publication and the standards are being revised in a timely manner. I have visited them and sat in on a well-run working group meeting last June and was impressed with how well it was proceeding. Last year's president, Richard Prospal, upon taking office promised he would work with the Board of Directors to have the Society improve their business operations and become more visible and dedicated to serving the membership. Richard also has reached out to other plumbing industry associations to improve relations to the point of helping each other become better informed. It is my opinion that Richard has delivered on his promise to improve ASSE as he stated he would when elected.

ASPE, as many of you are aware, has been and continues to be in a state of transition. First it was the upheaval of moving from California to Chicago, Illinois, after hiring Stan Wolfson. The lawsuits over the magazine's name that put us in debt, the dues rebate issues (Chapters verses the Society) and one controversy after another and the sudden and untimely death of VP Technical Norman Parks, has kept the Society in turmoil.

Aside from all of this, a lot of positive things have taken place including the election of Julius Ballanco as Society president—mind you, he is in his second term. Julius has been remarkable. He has worked well with Stan to pull the magazine from red to black ink and *PS&D* has become the primer and most sought after plumbing engineering publication in the plumbing industry. Julius and Stan worked diligently to locate and secure a home for the Society and were instrumental in raising the money to make it happen (I am aware of the pressure put on us to forgive the past dues rebates as many chapters did, however, the end justified the means). Yes, there are some who have criticized and complained about the direction that Stan and Julius have moved the Society, but for the most part we as a Society are far better off

continued on page 4

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February Tech Program

Water Safety = Life Safety: Mechanical Engineer/ Contractor/ Hospital Engineer



Stacey Wesselink

After losing two family members to hospital-acquired illnesses, Stacey Wesselink joined LiquiTech Environmental in 2008 to foster the growing culture of patient safety initiatives in hospitals. As National Director of the firm's Pathogen Division, Stacey works closely with hospitals, architectural and engineering firms to develop best-practices that reduce life safety risks associated with waterborne pathogens.

Program: This presentation offers an in-depth examination of the undeniable impact that the domestic water system has on safety, clinical outcomes and economics. We will explore the climate of regulatory and health care reimbursement pressures that are shaping new "best practices" for Mechanical Engineers to minimize risk related to domestic water system contamination. Discussion will cover what the DOD, VHA, ASHRAE, and other proactive organizations are doing to increase the safety of domestic water systems; Calculate the potential economic impact of risk avoidance, a ten-year outlook for one hospital; Address common misconceptions and how to avoid dangerous plumbing design pitfalls; Identify strategies to sanitize domestic water systems and the impact of different methods; on facility resources; How to navigate the realm of legal responsibility and reduce liability exposure.

February Vendor Program

Residential Fire Protection



Jim Prisby has been with Uponor, a Radiant Heating/Cooling, Plumbing, and Sprinklers Systems Manufacturer based out of Apple Valley, MN, since 2003 and is currently the Midwest Regional Technical Services Representative. His role involves getting customers comfortable with the design and installation of Uponor products

offering, which include Radiant Heating and Cooling Systems, Plumbing Systems, and Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems. His professional experience includes the design, installation, and technical support of Heating, Cooling, Plumbing, Fire Sprinkler and Electrical Systems. He holds an Associate's Degree in Electrical/Electronic Systems and a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Jim is a LEED Accredited Professional and a member of the Radiant Panel Association (RPA), U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), Illinois Solar Energy Association (ISEA), and International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA).

Program: Residential Sprinklers - NFPA-13D - Multipurpose Opportunities - Defining Multipurpose Systems; System Layouts; Considerations

VP Technical Report

David Rhodes, CRD



Can you tell me your solar fraction? If you can't, you must have missed the January seminar.

Jim Rogers, LEED AP, presented Solar Designs for commercial and residential projects.

Jim is a sales consultant for the Prentice Company of Oak Park, Michigan, representing Viessmann and Raychem commercial products. He is a member of the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, West Michigan Chapter USGBC, ASPE and current President of the West Michigan Chapter of ASHRAE.

Jim began by helping us understand the Solar Rating and Certification Corporation rating systems and how to use the national standards to choose equipment and draw up the specs. The ratings are quite detailed and give tons of information. Different manufacturers have had their equipment and panels certified by SRCC and the specs on the certification reports will help us choose whether to use flat plate or vacuum tube and to be able to compare the cost benefits of each component we chose in our specifications

Basically, there are three types of systems: High Temperature for power generation, Medium Temperature for hot water production and A/C, (yes, solar A/C!), and Low Temp Systems for heating pools and spas.

The "Low hanging fruit" according to Jim is in the latter two. Producing hot water, space heating and heating pools and spas have the best return for the average building owner.

The Solar Fraction is the percentage of natural gas that a solar heating system can offset. Even in Michigan on sunny days a fair percentage can be achieved. A 55-60% SF for space heating and 30% for domestic hot water production will give a tax credit to your client.

Jim went over the basic piping layout and roof mounting strategies for drain back and closed loop systems. In all, his presentation was great. Many questions were asked and answered. Jim stayed right to the end and agreed to come back for another seminar.

To all those who sent e-mails to confirm their attendance, thank you.

See you all on the 3rd Tuesday, February 16th.

*David Rhodes,
Vice President Technical*

President's Report

continued from page 1

today than we were before they came along. The transition is ongoing as Stan is retiring at the end of the year and a committee has been established to find his replacement. We at the local level must always be vigilant, watchful and continue to voice our concerns through our regional chairpersons who represent us at the board level. Speaking of the board, it too has gone through change for the better. I am one who believes that the membership must make sure that the people elected to the board are the people you feel will represent you and your chapter and not become a good old boy club member looking after their own selfish interest. We are very fortunate to have Mitch Clemente as our Region 2 Chairman, who has represented us well at the board level and remains open to hearing our views and opinions.

CPD - For those who are interested in becoming CPD accredited, Joe Hernandez will begin his review classes starting this month and has new materials and PowerPoint presentations that will help prepare you to take the exam. His class begins around 3:30 PM and runs to 6:00 PM. Also, watch for the informational flyer for the upcoming half-day seminar on Domestic Water Heating.

*Your president,
John Nussbaum*

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Members, get your colleagues
to join ASPE today!



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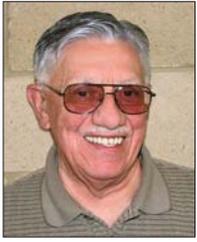
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On Feb. 2, 1887, Groundhog Day, featuring a rodent meteorologist, is celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring. 2010 prediction: 6 more weeks of winter.

Ed's Perspective

By Ed Hawley, CPD



In last month's article I discussed the subject of "Greenwashing." This month we plan to investigate the use of LEED certification. There are several organizations that now cover the subject well, such as Solar Rating Certification Corporation (SRCC).

The January 19, 2010, ASPE program was presented by Jim Rogers (jrogers@prenticeco.com) of the Dale Prentice Company. The topic, "Pressurized Commercial Thermal Solar System Design Concepts", began with a PowerPoint introduction delivered in a strong and confident manner that was easy to follow. I would label it *very* educational. Jim covered the basic design concepts from the beginning to the finished product, explained with diagrams showing details to cover each system. This was very informative as to the SRCC method that was used to certify a system. There are several well designed computer programs available to size and evaluate the complex systems. Other solar system sizing software available includes: RETScreen, F Chart, ESOP-NA, T*SOL, and TRNSYS. With a search on the Web, you could find others.

As we learned in the program presentation, there are many problems or issues that will be resolved before you can take a design from the concept to the finished product starting with system types:

Active: Uses a pump, fan or other powered devices.

Passive: Does not use a pump or fan – uses natural forces of gravity and density.

Direct: Potable water is circulated through the collector.

Indirect: A separate heat exchanger is used to transfer heat from the circulating heat transfer fluid to the process.

These systems are designed for warm and cold climates.

Important and critical items: Proper and sufficient time shall be given for the planning of the design, of the system, since we're selling energy savings. Provide a comprehensive bill of material of *all* the parts: valves, piping, controllers, electrical diagrams, units, pumps, etc. The selection of a reliable and very experienced mechanical contractor in charge of all the trades. The designed documents shall be followed with *no exceptions*. Only new parts and components shall be used. The proper method of shop drawing submittals shall be followed. Follow sequential construction and provide the project with thorough commissioning. My former chief engineer always reminded me "we cannot try any experiments on any of our clients." Your designed product shall be functional and be backed with all your resources, education and experiences.

Engineers and technicians are often quick to obtain and use the tools available. The right tools help you to efficiently design or repair your circuit or items. Occasionally, a makeshift tool can do surprisingly well. All designers may have one or two favorite tools in their bag of tricks. Yet a useful tool that often get unno-

ticed is as plain as—and in fact is—the nose on your face.

Dictionary: CARNOT CYCLE - (Thermodynamics) A hypothetical cycle consisting of four reversible processes in succession: an isothermal expansion and heat addition; isentropic expansion; an isothermal compression and heat rejection process, and an isotropic compression.

Is Solar Thermal the Way to Go?

A look into the future: A solar-hydrogen economy in which solar thermal collectors are preferred to solar cells. Think that pure hydrogen in liquid or gas form—generated via the Carnot cycle and combusted in normal IC engines—is a much better energy solution than electric batteries, hydrogen fuel cells, and the photovoltaic's? This interesting argument I had with my buddies whom are electrical engineers, where we tried to shoot down the various energy generated and with the storage alternatives on offerings: lithium supply is limited; fuel cell membranes are expensive; highly-ordered PV structures are impractical and fragile; and poor expected reliability of fusion if we do build them. The case in this argument is going for simplicity – the only way to achieve economy to the largest capacity with ecologically sustainable energy needs is to go low-tech.

How low-tech? Simple parabolic or trough-shaped mirrors direct light to water, creating steam to drive a turbine (basically a Rankins cycle engine). The reasoning behind this thought is that this is the only solution that is friendly to the elevated temperatures required to get the most out of the solar energy (reflector can build up to thousands of degrees Celsius, melting normal PV structures). Water isn't the only solution for concentrated solar of course. Oil, molten salt or even graphite, are popular alternatives, but it's hard to deem any of these as environmentally friendly as water. But, solar thermal of the water-based kind isn't very cheap yet.

In Europe, several projects installed have advanced to the operating stages, producing power that's three times as expensive as power from conventional sources. That should change over time as production for components builds, but for now it's not cheap enough for widespread use. In addition, water itself is an environmentally-loaded medium. The ideal closed-loop system that prevents the creation of wastewater is still under development. All the ideas have merit—solar thermal is clearly a good solution for the basic load requirements, while PV solar, wind, batteries technology and other energy solutions serve and provide portable or localized power requirements. Systems have been designed by adding a glycol mix to the water for the cold climates and other products to find the right combinations of liquids for the solar thermal panels.

IS solar thermal the way to go?.....YES!!!

To all ASPE, ASSE, LBP, Plumbers, Inspectors, Venders, and Guests: Please join us for the next meeting on Feb. 16, for another great program. See you all there.

Edwin Louis Hawley, CPD

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ASPE NEWS

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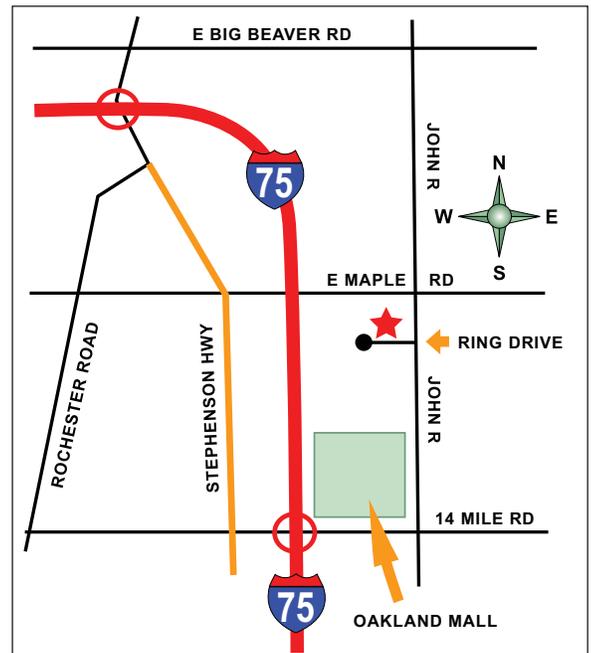
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