



Valley Engineer Newsletter

February 2015

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- February 27, Engineer's Week Banquet
- March 10, Liability Insurance PDH Session
- April 12-14, PSPE 24 PDH Boot Camp East, Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge, PA
- June 7-9, PSPE 24 PDH Boot Camp West, Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA
- July 15-19, NSPE 2015 Annual Meeting, Seattle Marriott, Bellevue, WA
- September 24-25, State PSPE Conference, Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA



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**LEHIGH VALLEY CHAPTER
(ORGANIZED 1935)**

Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS®

Francee Fuller
Marketing Manager
Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.

The 31st Annual Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS took place on Saturday, February 7th at Springhouse Middle School, Allentown, PA. The event attracted 250 students from 25 schools across Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, and Carbon Counties excited to participate in the regional "Olympics of Math." Nationwide, approximately 40,000 students, representing more than 5,500 schools will participate in the 2015 MATHCOUNTS competition.

Thanks to the on-going work of a dedicated committee of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers, aided by the event day assistance of 60 volunteers, and the financial support of 37 companies and individuals, this annual event highlights the intellectual capabilities of our young people.

In the lead-up to the on-stage competition, Eric Tappert, PE, president of PSPE and a long-time member of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, congratulated all students on their participation and assured them "there are no losers in this group."

Ishaan Lal, a 7th grade student at Eyer Middle School and Daniel Li, a 6th grade student at Nitschmann Middle School took first and second place honors by competing

in a gripping Jeopardy-style countdown round held before an audience of 500+ on-lookers.



LVPSPE President Kevin Campbell with first place winner, Ishaan Lal

All members of the first place team from Springhouse Middle School, coached by Kevin Hallman, will be joined by Ishaan and Daniel at the Harrisburg state competitions on March 27th and 28th. The four top state winners will move on to the 2015 National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Boston, on May 8th with Raytheon Corporation as the title sponsor.



As good as it gets; the winning Springhouse team, with coach Kevin Hallman on the right, and LVPSPE President Kevin Campbell is in the rear.

The team from Nitschmann Middle School, coached by Nadine Novatek placed second and the Eyer Middle School team, coached by Julie Hummell, placed third.

The afternoon session featured the top ten ranking individuals paired in a lightning-round stage competition to determine final ranking. The top 10 individuals were:

1. Ishaan Lal, 7th grade, Eyer Middle School
2. Daniel Li, 6th grade, Nitschmann Middle School
3. Matthew Liu, 8th grade, Springhouse Middle School
4. Allison Fang, 8th grade, Springhouse Middle School
5. Geoffrey Kleinberg, 6th grade, Lower Macungie Middle School
6. Alex Adams, 7th grade, Moravian Academy
7. Julia Zheng, 8th grade, Nitschmann Middle School
8. James Wang, 8th grade, Eyer Middle School
9. Jeff Yi, 8th grade, Springhouse Middle School
10. Chris Secula, 6th grade, Nitschmann Middle School

The three top-scoring young women (Allison Fang/Springhouse, Julia Zheng/Nitschmann and Kristine Rinaldi/Pocono Mountain East) will receive a course in math or science at Cedar Crest College.

Moravian College, Lafayette College, Lehigh Carbon Community College and Northampton Community College also provided top winners with scholarships for mathematics courses to be taken in their senior year of high school.

Special thanks were accorded to Ned Schillow, who has served as a judge every year of the event. Ned is retired from the mathematics department of Lehigh Carbon Community College.

The local event is made possible through the efforts of the MATHCOUNTS committee: Chris Blechschmidt, Germaine Lenz, Andrea

Martin, Charles Myers, Cheryl Rishcoff, Tracy Torres and Chris Williams. Kevin Campbell chairs the Lehigh Valley MATHCOUNTS committee.

Our congratulations to all the participants, especially the winners, and wish them well in their future endeavors.

Bosch Rexroth, Power Transmission

Alfred Gruenke, PE

Over twenty members and guests of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers gathered on a chilly winter evening to tour the Brodhead Road facility of the Bosch Rexroth Group. We were greeted by Richard Cory, Human Resources Manager, and Aytekin Bozkan, Director.

Bosch is a \$60 billion per year worldwide company with headquarters in Germany. It employs approximately 300,000 associates in more than 80 countries worldwide. The main business is hydraulics for the automotive sector, but also manufactures kitchen appliances such as dishwashers and stoves. The company is 126 years old. It is a privately held company.

Bosch Rexroth is a subsidiary of Bosch, manufacturing Industrial Applications.

The Bosch Rexroth Brodhead Road site consists of 100,000 ft of manufacturing and shipping. It manufactures and assembles control valves for its own customers, plus hydraulic components for other manufacturers such as John Deere, Caterpillar, and others.

The factory is a "connected factory" with continual machine to machine communication in order to maximize machine utilization. Tool wear is monitored by continually meas-

uring the required torque. When a tool wears out, it is automatically replaced.

Particularly fascinating was the robot from KUKA, a Japanese supplier. It moved the steel blocks from workstation to workstation cutting, drilling, de-burring, and stacking the part. The de-burring is done with a 2,000 bar water spray. The movements of the robot reminds one of a large bird of prey, or possibly one of the critters from "Jurassic Park" as it twirled, twisted, moved forward, changed its own tools, and moved the parts for the various operations. It was during periods of inactivity that the resemblance was the eeriest. The last operation was to paint the part John Deere green, and stack them for shipment. Bosch Rexroth manufactures 15,000 units per year for John Deere. There is even a John Deere wall clock in this area!

Service to the customer is of primary essence. The manufacturing is so streamlined that any part can be built and shipped in five days. All parts are pressure tested before shipment, and returned parts are tested to determine the root cause of failure.

Bosch Rexroth also builds hydraulic components and systems for specialized, low-volume applications for industrial customers such as FLSmidth. These require close cooperation between Rexroth Bosch's engineers and the customer in engineering, manufacturing, installation, and field service.

Because of the pressures of low-cost manufacturing in third world countries, the emphasis is on quality and customer satisfaction. This facility is in operation eighteen shifts per week, expandable to 21 shifts if required. There are 700 employees in the Bethlehem area, 400 in manufacturing. New associates receive three weeks of initial training. There are 25 interns from local colleges who remain for six months.

Bosch Rexroth has a Good Steward of the Earth policy by continually monitoring its effluent. The corporate aim is to reduce CO² by 20% by 2020 and reduce waste to landfills to zero. The CO² goal that has already been achieved at this location.

We thank Richard Cory, and Aytakin Bozkan for an informative and interesting glimpse into one of the fine manufacturers we have in the Lehigh Valley.

February not-so Blues

Alfred Gruenke PE

Readers of this Newsletter, I'm sure, have often read my ranting about the month of February. The cold, the snow, the ice, the general gloominess. I have numerous times demanded that we go directly from January to March relieving mankind of the rigors of February, but this has fallen on deaf ears.

But there is a solution. Go away to warmer climes for this period. Doing so is always good, even more so if it's a work assignment and you're getting paid for it, and you're on an expense account. This fortunate event occurred to me a couple of years ago when I received an assignment to give a training session at a cement plant outside of Miami, Florida.

The assignment was for two-two week electrical maintenance sessions, and a one week course on hydraulics, to be held starting early in February. Talk about tough duty! Training assignments are relatively easy. The prep time always takes twice as long as the sessions, but class time is strictly eight hours per day, and no weekend work. No one calls at 2:00 AM asking me to come out and fix a damper that won't open, or there is an alarm blinking that the operator does not understand.

I managed to convince my boss that I ought to spend a week familiarizing myself on the plant layout so I could speak knowledgeably about the plant. That's six weeks away from a miserable Pennsylvania winter! So, my wife Joanie and I loaded up our Dodge with the course material, shorts, swim gear, miscellaneous clothes and golf clubs, and headed south, to the land of sunshine and warmth, of lush, green fairways bordered by stately oak trees draped in Spanish moss. Sitting on a veranda with the warm air in our faces as we watch the sun rising from the Eastern Sea, as it heralds the birth of a new day. Life is good.



What a lovely scene! Yeah, right.

We had a small apartment across the street from a golf course that offered a round of golf on Sunday, with cart, for only \$20.00! As a bonus, Joanie found enough golf balls outside the fence that lasted me for a couple of years.

We had a great time. We celebrated Mardi Gras in Hollywood (Florida), and went to great restaurants. We even went to South Beach. Not good for a simple country boy from Pennsylvania!

But the high point of our trip was Key West, the southernmost city in continental USA.

Continued on page 18

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

A great way to be involved in the LVPSPE Chapter is to contribute to the **LVPSPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please Contact the Valley Engineer Editor to sponsor scholarships for the remainder of the calendar year.

If you would like to contribute in any amount – please send your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation to PA ENGINEERING FUND. Donations should be mailed to:

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Please note "LVPSPE Scholarship Fund" on the comment line.

Or, you may contribute via the LVPSPE website <http://www.lvpspe.org/Donations>.

Scholarship application is at <http://www.lvpspe.org/Scholarships>. Any questions regarding scholarships can be directed to

Alex Dezubay, PE
610-597-2007
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The monthly Board of Direction meetings are 6:00 PM on the second (2nd) Monday of each month. Open to all members; they are held at the office of Barry Isett & Associates, 85 South Route 100, Allentown, PA.

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The Florida Keys are a series of islands stretching 100 miles from Key Largo to Key West, traversed by a truly spectacular causeway. Ignoring screams of "Be careful!" "Slow down!" "You're too close to the edge!" and other epithets for three hours, we were in Key West.

It was lunch time, so we stopped at a restaurant off Roosevelt Boulevard right on the docks. That's where I discovered grouper, probably the best denizen of the deep to ever delight the palate. We were entertained with Jimmy Buffet tunes by a post-middle aged man who looked as if he was a leftover hippie who had been in that spot since the '60's, but a day is like a year and a year is like a day for one who has found inner peace.



It's a tough job, but someone has to do it.

US 1 Mile Marker 0 is in Key West. This legendary highway that parallels the East Coast all the way to Canada and beyond begins here. I had the forethought to take this picture.



At the Beginning!

The center of Key West is Duval Street, which runs for about one mile roughly northwest to southeast across the island. The bars are the best this side of Soho, and are legendary. Smoky Joe's (Ernest Hemingway's favorite bar), Hog's Breath Saloon (A hog's breath is better than no breath at all.), Island Dogs Bar, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, and so on. Local ordinances allow one to carry an open drink when walking from bar to bar, which is such a civilized practice!

A word of advice: If you are unaccustomed to "alternative lifestyles" you should approach Key West cautiously. It is a bit of a "loosy-goosey" place, with tourists and locals mixing pleasantly in various non-traditional bars and pubs. My suggestion is to keep an open mind, relax, and enjoy yourself.

It occurred to me to add to my Bucket List: Get up early, have a good, hearty breakfast, then go to the end of Duval Street and enter a bar and have a drink. Walk to the next bar, and have another drink. Continue until either a) the sun goes down, b) I reach the end of Duval Street or, c) I fall asleep. I predict c) long before a) or b), but it would be a challenge.

The trip home was less eventful, but it was time well spent.

Key West is not someplace to go to only once, especially when the temperature hovers in the low teens and the wind is blowing the snow around your ears and the snow blower won't start.

The color of springtime is in the flowers; the color of winter is in the imagination.

-Terri Guillemets

Unsung, the noblest deed will die.

-Pindar

Even stupid questions have an answer!

-Linus, from Peanuts

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much.

People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so too do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline.

The human brain works slower in old age, said Dr. Michael Ramscar, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

So there!

For me, winning isn't something that happens suddenly on the field when the whistle blows and the crowds roar. Winning is something that builds physically and mentally every day that you train and every night that you dream.

-Emmit Smith

Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views."

-William F. Buckley Jr.

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.

-Michael Jordan

Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.

-George Orwell

AN IRISH FRIENDSHIP WISH

Work like you don't need the money.
Love like you've never been hurt.
Dance like nobody's watching.
Sing like nobody's listening.
Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

It's National Friendship Week, February 9-13, 2015. Send this to everyone you consider A FRIEND.

Pass this on, and brighten someone's day.



**Lehigh Valley Chapter
Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers**



Minutes for the February 16, 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
6:00 pm at the Office of Barry Isett & Assoc. 85 S. Route 100, Allentown, PA

Attendees: Kevin Campbell, Al Gruenke, Peter Staffeld, Don Kohn, Angelika Forndran, Al Dezubay, Ray Szczucki and Chris Williams.

Call to Order: Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM

President – Kevin Campbell

- Roles & Responsibilities:
 - Programs - Kevin
 - Valley Engineer – Al Gruenke
 - Scholarship – Al Dezubay
 - Student Chapters – Peter Staffeld
 - MATHCOUNTS Coordinator – Kevin Campbell
 - Membership – open

Programs

- February – Engineer’s Week Banquet on February 27th.
 - Plaques and proclamations are being prepared for EOY and YEOY. LVBJ has bios for award recipients.
- March – Professional liability insurance PDH session on March 10th at AFC First. Pizza to be provided. Barry Isett & Associates is paying the \$200 room fee.
- April – Possibly Martin Guitar for a morning tour.
- May – Installation of officers at DeSales University.
- Possible IronPigs outing in June

MATHCOUNTS

- Event went well. Next year we should have a meeting at the facility prior to the event to coordinate various details.
- Probably new location next year. Possibly East Penn SD. MATHCOUNTS judge Jason Malozzi (professor at LCCC) suggested holding the event at LCCC.
- Kevin Campbell volunteered to coordinate MATHCOUNTS again next year.
- Al Gruenke will volunteer at state competition.

Valley Engineer & Scholarship Fundraising – Al Gruenke

- Doing well with scholarship donations. Fundraising goal was \$10,000. Currently at +- \$10,500. Expecting around \$11,300.
- VE issue to be finalized in next couple weeks.

Scholarship Update – Al Dezubay

- Requests have been sent to guidance counselors. Received one application so far.
- Submission deadline is 3/8.
- Al will prepare packet of applications. Don, Angelika, Nicole and Al Dezubay will then provide recommendation to the Board.

Treasurer – Ray Szczucki

- Mathcounts expenses have been paid.
- Kevin Campbell has checks to be deposited.
- Checking balance: \$4,704. Business market rate acct balance: \$22,433.

State Director – Angelika Forndran

- State is requesting articles for PE Reporter
- Lobbying for elimination of the industrial exemption. Angelika will provide article to Al for inclusion in Valley Engineer.
- PSPE ‘Boot Camp’ from April 12-14 at Radisson Hotel Valley Forge. Register through PSPE. We should mention this event on the Chapter website as well.

Past President – Peter Staffeld

- Mike Basta is current NE VP, need new Alt St. Director. Peter would like to finalize nominating committee report shortly.

Adjournment at 6:59 PM on a motion by Chris, seconded by Don. All were in favor.