

NEW ENGLAND REGION 1110

By Tim Cooke, NCSLI Region Coordinator



The distinguished looking building with the orange accents is just one of the new Genzyme buildings in Framingham, and was the location of our Region 1110 meeting on August 29, 2013. Framingham is located some 20 miles west of Boston, and is a town that has seen dramatic change in demographics and industry over recent decades. This was a very suitable location for our meeting, the primary theme of which was change.

Jeff Gust was kind enough to rearrange his schedule, which allowed him to attend the NextEra Fleet Metrology Conference in Seabrook, New Hampshire, and also present at our meeting. Jeff is a past president of NCSLI International, and is presently the Chief Corporate Metrologist for Fluke Corporation. Jeff discussed changes in test point selection for the Fluke 5700 series calibrators. Prior to shipment of new units, data is taken at an enhanced level on the 5700s. Largely, this additional information is to evaluate manufacturing characteristics. Some of these extraneous data points will no longer be included on reports for units sent back for routine recalibration. The changes being made are based on their unparalleled knowledge of the product and its performance. Fluke knows these calibrators like no one else, and they test at the

critical “break points” to provide the product performance their customers expect.

Despite having traveled from Colorado to attend our meeting, Michael Schwartz seemed refreshed and ready to go for his presentation. Perhaps he stayed at a Holiday Inn Express, but whatever the reason, he was able to bring to us his presentation on modular based software architecture without missing a beat. Michael is the CEO of Cal Lab Solutions. A Microsoft Certified company, Cal Lab solutions is also an Agile Solutions Partner. Michael described the current state of software being such that automated calibration routines are run one at a time on individual UUTs. The future holds promise for parallel testing as well as for the accommodation of intermediate start and stop points. The Metrology Services Bus™ is a means of better integrat-

ing metrology systems software in an ever changing world.

Next to weigh in was Jennifer Camarda, a Sales Specialist for Premium Balances & Software at Sartorius. Jennifer spoke on The Fundamentals of Weighing, and was able to cover many of the fundamental concepts. Then, by use of not only video presentations but also onsite demo units, Jennifer was able to illustrate common causes of error and advanced concepts. Temperature is a critical factor to take into account when using these precision weighing systems, and the audience of 38 NCSLI members quickly warmed up to that fact when the dramatic effects of error with temperature change was demonstrated for them.

A healthy lunch spread was provided compliments of Micro-Clean, a key supplier to our host. Hasanna Birdsong was on



Jeff Gust.



New England Meeting.

hand to describe the services Micro-Clean can provide. Those services include certification, compliance documentation, consulting and training for performance of critical environments.

Dr. Jun Bautista of Genzyme was not only our host, but also our afternoon speaker on two different topics. The first topic was regarding changes to General Chapter 41 (Weights and Balances), and General Chapter 1251 (Weighing on an Analytical Balance). Chapter 41 has been revised for clarity and specific requirements for accuracy and calibration have been defined. Chapter 1251 will be official on the first of December and includes revised requirements for drift test frequency, minimum weighs, and repeatability.

Last, but certainly not least, was a presentation and discussion led by Dr. Bautista on Metrology 2020. It was reiterated that there is “no time in history where change has occurred so quickly and on so many fronts as is happening now.”

There is that word again...change. The practice of calibration is not exempt from that change. While stressing that the science of metrology is not something that should be outsourced, Dr. Bautista discussed the logic behind partnerships with specific key providers to enhance efficiencies.

On behalf of New England Region 1110, I'd like to thank Jun Bautista of Genzyme for making this venue available to us. I'd also like to thank CrossPoint Engineering for providing our morning coffee and refreshments.

To all our speakers, we are especially grateful for your informative and thought-provoking presentations. The knowledge you have shared will undoubtedly help us each face the ever-changing challenges of our industry.

tcooke@repaircalibration.net



Michael Schwartz.



Jennifer Camarda.



Hasanna Birdsong



Jun Bautista.