

Regional News



Hosted By: See Below, October 29, 2008.

The Virginia Section held its fall meeting at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Virginia Beach on October 29, 2008. Thank you to Curt Kiser of MARCC for providing the projector for the presentations and to Vernon Alt for assisting in set up. The meeting was sponsored by 10 different companies and attended by 35 people. The sponsors displayed their products in the room where breaks and meals were held. Their sponsorship provided the meeting space, breakfast, and lunch for the attendees. Many thanks to the following companies for their sponsorship:

AcuCal	Aeroflex
Creative Marketing Associates	Flow-Tech
Fluke	Hart Scientific
PPM	SIMCO Electronics
Standard Calibrations	Tegam

The meeting began with a welcome to the attendees by the section coordinator, Tom Hettenhouser. A corrupted file on his thumb drive prevented the normal presentation of the last board meeting. The first speaker, Andy Brush of Tegam, provided a presentation of RF power calibration. His presentation covered terminology, sensor types, associated electrical instrumentation, calibration process, and uncertainty.

After a networking break, Chas Gilmore from PPM, gave a presen-

tation on nullmeters. His presentation covered history of the device. Did you know the first nullmeter, the Tangeant Galvonometer built in 1837, utilized a compass and circular ring to detect a null? He covered where and why a nullmeter is used, basic design and operation, alternative techniques, a comparison of the different approaches, and common measurement problems.

The group then had a group picture taken. Thank you to Dell Caldwell for bringing his camera and taking this and other photos of the meeting. We then enjoyed lunch, networked, and continued to view the many exhibits set up by the sponsors. Due to the marvels of modern technology, Tom connected to his office computer and recovered the board meeting presentation and presented prior to the afternoon session.

The afternoon session was dedicated to covering issues related to *ANSI/NCSL Z540.3*. Dell Caldwell started by presenting insight into the need for this standard, general thoughts, concerns, and efforts of the writing committee, and updates on groups ready to adopt the standard. He then covered the various sections of the standard paying par-



Steve Doty and Del Caldwell



Virginia Section Group Photo

ticular attention to the new requirement for probability of false accepts being less than 2 percent. Steve Doty then covered current status of the associated handbook and its contents. His presentation covered who the writing committee members are and provided details on the various appendices that provide examples for guidance. These talks were followed by a panel session where attendee's questions, opinions, and concerns were addressed.

The meeting concluded with door prizes and thanking the attendees, speakers, and sponsors. Many thanks to Tony Rand of Creative Marketing Associates for providing some door prizes and his continuing support for section meetings. Virginia's next meeting will be held at NIST in April.

Tom Hettenhouser, Section Coordinator

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