Beautiful Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge once again served as the venue for the 1223 Huntsville Section Spring NCSLI meeting on Thursday May 10, 2012. Upon arrival our attendees were welcomed by coordinators Ken Garcia, US Army Metrology Engineering and Beverly Garcia, JM Test Systems, Inc.

Following registration and a continental breakfast provided by our sponsors, Beverly called the meeting to order where she welcomed the 60 attendees and vendors. Personal introductions of all participants followed. Serving as sponsors for our meeting were Agilent Technologies, Inc, Nancy Richardson, Southern Marketing Associates, Randy Fowler; IET Labs, Inc. John Hunter, and JM Test Systems, Inc.

The first speaker of the day was our very own Vernon Alt, NCSLI VP of Learning and Development. Vernon reported on the recent Board of Directors meeting, sharing 2012 updates as well as information on the upcoming NCSLI Workshop & Symposium. Conference information and registration forms were distributed to the group. Our first presentation was “Overcoming Drift: A Complete Guide to Maintaining PRTs” by, Chris Christoferson, Fluke Calibration; “Optical Multiphase Mass flow Metering” by, Valentin Korman, Ph.D., K Sciences.

Following a “Dutch treat” lunch in the Pinecrest dining room, attendees had time to mingle and visit sponsor displays. Many also took the opportunity to enjoy the terrace overlooking Lake Guntersville and watch for bald eagles which are regularly seen soaring above the park.


The final action of the day was setting the date for our fall section meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2012. Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge will again serve as our venue.

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testing standards are currently being updated to give guidance as to what replacement option(s) should be used.

The afternoon kicked off with a presentation from Mr. Dilip Shah of E=mc³ Solutions. Mr. Shah presented on specifying, analyzing and interpreting ISO/IEC 17025 accredited services. There was a lot of useful information for both users of accredited services and providers of accredited service. The presentation clarified what is required of an accredited calibration certificate or test report and tips for requesting accredited services so that you get what you need. Attendees learned some useful information that should help them avoid getting a finding during their next internal or external audit.

Next was a panel discussion that focused on ways to improve relations between testing and calibration laboratories. The panel was moderated by Mr. Robert Knake of A2LA and the panel consisted of Mr. Chuck Suchowski, ACR Technical Services; Mr. Jack Dearing, Conbraco Calibration Services; Dilip Shah, E=mc³ Solutions and Mr. Charles Mitchell, Specialized Engineering. The panel represented the calibration community and testing community. There was a lot of good discussion regarding the importance of calibration, measurement uncertainty, and traceability. The panel discussion ended with the realization that this topic could be discussed for days and we were really only scratching the surface.

The day wrapped up with door prizes and a tour of the AMRL laboratory and proficiency sample program area. Thanks again everyone involved in this meeting and making it a great success. Special thanks to our host AMRL, A2LA for sponsoring the refreshments, and Conbraco Calibration Services, Fluke Calibration, NCSL International and E=mc³ Solutions for providing door prizes.

Keep an eye out for the next meeting and upcoming training events on the NCSLI website.

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