

BOULDER/DENVER SECTION 1323

Michael Schwartz, NCSLI Coordinator



The Boulder/Denver section is back on track having our first meeting in five years at Agilent Technologies Loveland facility. It was a great meeting with a turnout of over 27 people. Jon Sanders with Fluke did an exceptional job of getting the word out to all of his contacts in the area about the meeting and hopefully they too will soon be NCSLI members.

Mike Schwartz, Boulder/Denver section coordinator, kept the meeting on track, starting with a remote call by Robert J. Sawyer, NCSLI Central Division VP, who presented the NCSLI board meeting highlights. This provided very valuable information.

Miguel Decos from On Time Support, was next with a very informative and in-depth presentation on “Implementing Electronic Records and Electronic Signatures” giving requirements and several practical examples currently available at little to no cost. Miguel is scheduled to present at the 2012 NCSLI Workshop & Symposium in Sacramento, CA.

After a short break, Marty Kidd with Fluke Calibration, presented on “How to Avoid Surprising Errors from Thermal EMF’s” He demonstrated several shorting connections with the Fluke 8508A and how much error you can expect to introduce based on the hardware you are using to zero your precision DMMs. We all know now that when it comes to zero voltage measurements, bigger is not better.



Boulder/Denver meeting group photo.

Before breaking for lunch, Gary Biermann from Agilent's Loveland Primary Standards Lab. gave a brief presentation on the people and standards behind your 3458A calibration. This was a good introduction for the group as a whole on what they would be seeing during the lab tour that afternoon. Attendees broke into groups no larger than six at a time to prevent any thermal fluctuations in the lab halting calibration operations. This lab is kept at 23 +/- 1 °C ambient temperature, and too many hot bodies can disrupt results. (To maintain this level, the lab has 23 °C air pouring out of over three million tiny holes in the ceiling of the shielded room).

After enjoying the Agilent cafeteria, attendees met back to start the lab tours. As each group broke off for the tour, Mike Schwartz led the group in an informal discussion covering ideas and options for future meetings, future topics, and what value the NCSLI section meeting provided to the group. A broad set of ideas emerged and we hope a high level of interest and participation will continue as we plan our next meeting in the fall.

Once everyone had an opportunity to tour the lab, it was door prize time, raffling off two volts meters, IR Temperature gun, and a safety tester. The meeting was called a success at 3:00pm and after cleaning up, was adjourned at a local pub.

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Boulder/ Denver meeting.