

1311 Twin Cities Section
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Hosted by: Roger Zematis
Dytec Instruments

The Twin Cities Section 1311 conducted its first meeting of the year on February 4th, 2010. Our meeting was hosted by Roger Zematis (Dytec Instruments) and took place at the New Brighton Community Center in New Brighton, Minnesota. The meeting included seven speakers, group discussions, NCSLI news and an occasional splash of television and movie trivia.

We had 87 attendees representing numerous companies and industries throughout the region. This was a good turn out given the “wonderful” winter weather (rain, snow and ice) we experienced during the day. Ah yes, we love it here in Minnesota! Up here in the Twin Cities section, I’m very thankful for such an active and supportive membership.

The meeting started with a brief introduction and some announcements by yours truly followed by a round of 1970’s TV show trivia. Our host, Roger Zematis from Dytec Instruments, conducted a presentation which included an overview of Dytec Instruments and their various roles in support of the metrology and measurement community.

Our first speaker was Haritha Peruru from Boston Scientific who presented “Accuracy and Test Point Determination.” When OEM and/or industry standard calibration procedures are not available or if they are lacking sufficient detail, this process is utilized to determine appropriate and sufficient calibration test points. Haritha provided an overview of this “How to Guide” in addition to flow chart examples associated with determination of calibration test points.

The second topic was presented in a tag team format by Terry Conder and Jim Ek from 3M who presented “Tech, Twists and Wizards – Educational Outreach for Students and Teachers.” Terry started the presentation with an overview and history of the educational outreach program at 3M. It was truly amazing to see the broad range of commitment from the 3M Corporation and the volunteerism of 3M employees. This educational outreach program includes an administrator, steering committee and various teams who partner with local schools and teachers. Jim con-



Speaker - Haritha Peruru



Speaker - Terry Conder



Speaker - Jim Ek

tinued the presentation by giving us a behind the scenes look into the recruiting and training of 3M employee volunteers. As a volunteer teacher himself, Jim shared various experiences of how rewarding the program is for teachers, students and the educational outreach volunteers themselves.

Our third topic was another tag team effort from Jane McDougall (Precision Repair & Calibration) and Harry Spinks (Boston Scientific) who presented “Creating a Partnership with Your Calibration Laboratory.” As a commercial calibration laboratory, Jane provided insight into common problems associated with insufficient calibration information and/or poor customer communication. As a supplier quality engineer, Harry gave us some perspective on the calibration supplier evaluation process and how utilizing proper communication can ensure a successful partnership. Various forms and criteria were also presented to highlight these critical communication components. From these perspectives, building and maintaining a successful relationship with your calibration provider requires clear and concise two-way communication.



Speaker - Harry Spinks



Speaker - Jane McDougall

After lunch, it was time for a few quick door prizes and a round of 1970’s movie trivia. With everyone settled in for the afternoon, Terry Conder from 3M Corporate Metrology started us off with an update of recent NCSLI news and activities of the NCSLI Board of Directors.

Our sixth speaker of the day was Kim Anderson from FasTest Incorporated who presented “Pressure Calibration Productivity Improvements.” Kim provided examples, testimonials and videos of how increased productivity and efficiency can be achieved by implementing a variety of “quick-connect” style pressure fittings in the calibration laboratory. For laboratories providing pressure calibration services and finding themselves having to often deal with high volume, production line, remote and/or difficult locations, the information and examples that Kim presented was very intriguing. Kim also passed around numerous pressure fittings and adapters so everyone could get their hands on and play with these amazing devices.



Speaker - Kim Anderson



Speaker - Walter Nowocin



1135 Michigan Section Meeting.

The meeting closed with door prizes provided by the NCSLI Business Office, A2LA, and DTE Energy. After that, several attendees took a tour of the calibration laboratory.

Bosch, DTE Energy, Dynamic Technology, VTI Instruments,

A2LA, and the attending organizations represented continue to uphold the reputation that NCSLI has built for the measurement community. I want to thank each of them for their continued support and look forward to seeing them all soon.

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