Huntsville Section Meeting at the Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention Center.

Huntsville, Alabama

Beverly Garcia  
beverlygarcia@jmtest.com

The Huntsville fall section meeting was held on Thursday November 15, 2018. The venue of Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge and Convention center was chosen much to the delight of the section members and meeting attendees.

Special thanks to our meeting sponsors, David Hall of Southern Marketing Associates, Clint Plant of Pinnacle Test Solutions, Nancy Richardson of Keysight Technologies, Kevin Kaufman of Tegam and myself Bev Garcia of JM Test Systems, Inc.

Our meeting began with a presentation delivered via teleconference by Tim VonderHaar of Precision Environments, Inc. titled “Will Your Business and Customer Relationships Recover from an Unplanned Event?” This session addressed the need for proper planning and presented an overview of technical document LM-15, “Lab Recovery Planning; Disasters and Planned Events.” Examples of recent disasters such as the west coast wildfires as well as the recent hurricanes that have plagued the gulf south and east coast regions were discussed and the need for planning emphasized.

Adam Croan, Metrologist, MSFC Metrology & Calibration Laboratory, ERC, Inc., delivered a presentation entitled “What you May Not Know About Your HP/Agilent/Keysight 3458A.” Almost every laboratory has an HP/Agilent/Keysight 3458A 8.5 digit multimeter, but not everyone employs the instrument to reach its full measurement capability because to completely realize the published specifications of this multimeter one must be mindful of the details and specifics relating to its use. In Adam’s lecture he discussed environmental concerns, TCAL and ACAL, application of temperature coefficients and lessons learned from using, supporting and calibrating these meters.

Don Gregory, PhD, Prof. of Physics, University of Alabama Huntsville gave an interesting lecture entitled “Gravitational Wave Detection.” Dr. Gregory described the February 11, 2016 detection of an unmistakable waveform by both laser interferometer gravitational wave (LIGO)
observatories, confirming the last remaining directly undetected prediction of general relativity proving its predictions of space-time distortion.

George Schuetz, Director of Precision Gages, Mahr Inc., gave a practical presentation titled “Take a Swipe at Precision Length Measurement” covering the individual parts of the measuring process, the importance of each and how each may contribute to the end result, along with an easy way of remembering the measurement process parts for future use, finally taking a look at each one of the parts becomes even more critical when making dimensional measurements at the micron level.

During this meeting we also engaged in an interactive session where attendees had open forum to discuss projects, accomplishments, challenges, recent and upcoming events as well as feedback and lessons learned from the 2018 NCSLI Conference in Portland, Oregon experience. We also added NIST videos into our program agenda which was overwhelmingly enjoyed by all and will hopefully become part of our norm. The spring meeting date has not yet been set but we will keep up updated on the date and location.
Los Angeles/Orange County

Jon Sanders
jon.sanders@additel.com

The Los Angeles/Orange County Section 1422 meeting was held on December 5, 2018 at International Accreditation Service (IAS) in Brea, California. A total of 26 participants were in attendance. This event covered a range of topics relating to measurement applications and solutions, evaluation of uncertainties, and the new ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Jon Sanders, the Southwestern Region Coordinator, provided the welcome and introduction to NCSLI. Jon’s presentation covered NCSLI membership benefits and divisional highlights. Following Jon, Raj Nathan, President of International Accreditation Service (IAS) gave the host introduction about IAS. IAS sponsored the venue, lunch while Additel Corporation sponsored the break for the meeting attendees.

Helga Alexander, Program Manager, IAS, started the technical portion of the meeting with a presentation on the new changes to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. She provided a very good overview and comparison on what has changed in the standard and why. The new standard has been recently released, so the timing of this presentation was useful for those transitioning to the new standard.

Lukas Swanson, Global Life Science Applications Engineer, Suez Water Technologies & Solutions, next presented on water processing and testing practices and procedures for the pharmaceutical industry.

Following Lukas; Jun Bautista, Chief Technology Officer and Corporate Metrologist, Micro Quality Calibration, Inc. covered the associated uncertainty of measurement results for portable temperature and humidity chambers. Jun discussed the technologies used to lower uncertainties in RH calibrations.
In the afternoon, Megan Bishop with Ellab Validation Solutions, presented on validation methods used in the pharmaceutical industry. Her presentation focused specifically on temperature validation of steam sterilizers, chambers and other common devices in the pharmaceutical market.

David Zabarsky, President, Martek Instruments Inc, presented on compliant and in-situ low conductivity measurements in the power industry. David discussed why conductivity measurements are critical to the power plant and the related regulations within the industry.

Michael Schwartz of Cal Lab Solutions discussed software architecture and automation related to the metrology community. He showed the impact software can have to help ensure compliance and aid in automation for various calibration applications.

The Los Angeles/Orange County Section would like to thank everyone who supported this event. Also the many of those involved with making ready the facilities at IAS did a fantastic job!