



# The Western Palmetto Informer

American Institute of Chemical Engineers

October 2009

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## Contact Information

Visit our website:

<http://www.wscaiche.org>

Email us at:

[sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org)

## September Meeting Thank You

WSCAICHE would like to extend a thank you to Mr. Rick Van Vorous of Pfeiffer Vacuum for presenting a wonderful presentation on industrial and chemical applications of vacuum pumping. This very informative presentation was attended by about 25 people.

## October Meeting: Beta Engineering - Power Systems / Electrical Distribution Systems 101



Please join us for Mr. John Sewell's presentation on "Beta Engineering – Power Systems / Electrical Distribution Systems" on October 20th. The presentation will provide a cursory review of the electrical transmission system (the Grid) in the US and the challenges that lie ahead for the industry. Discussion will include future load projections and the steps needed to meet those needs. A general explanation of transmission infrastructure and its related components will be portrayed including a description of how power gets from the generator to the end user. The presentation will conclude with a more detailed look into the design and engineering of substations and switchyards.

John Sewell is the Business Development Manager for Beta Engineering, a turnkey design/construct firm that specializes in engineering, procurement, and construction of high voltage power systems. John leads the marketing effort in this role.

John has worked in a business development capacity for Ford, Bacon & Davis, a consulting engineering firm serving the pulp &

paper, chemical, refining, and pipeline industries for over ten years. He also served as a developer of independent power plants for Cleco Midstream, the unregulated arm of Cleco Power.

John is a graduate of Louisiana State University where he received a Bachelor of Engineering Design Technology.

## OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, October 20, 2009  
**TIME:** 6:00 PM Social  
6:30 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM Presentation  
**LOCATION:** Madren Center (near golf course) Clemson University  
230 Madren Center Drive  
Clemson, SC 29634  
**DIRECTIONS:** I-85, exit #19B onto Hwy 72/28 North.  
Turn Left onto Perimeter Rd.  
Follow signs to Golf & Madren Center  
**COST:** \$10 for Members  
\$15 for Non-members  
Free to Attend Presentation Only

Please reply to Secretary Jeremiah Batiste at [sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org) by NOON Friday, October 16, 2009. Remember to include any dietary restrictions.

Note that the dinner portion of the meeting is not mandatory. Arrive by 7:00 pm if you want to attend the presentation without dinner.

Only RSVP if you plan to dine with us.

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## Sponsoring Opportunities

We would like to offer a sponsorship opportunity to any organization that would like to advertise in our newsletter. Rates for advertisements are as follows:

|                    | 1 Issue | 3 Issues | 7 Issues |
|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Banner (6" x 1.5") | \$50    | \$135    | \$290    |
| Half Page          | \$70    | \$190    | \$400    |
| Full Page          | \$120   | \$330    | \$685    |

We are also offering single meeting sponsorships for \$500 which includes up to a full page advertisement in that month's newsletter and recognition at the monthly meeting. Please contact Jeremiah Batiste at [sec@wscaiche.org](mailto:sec@wscaiche.org) for more information.

## August CCPS Process Safety Beacon Highlights

### Overflow + Ignition = Tank Farm Fire! (Part 1)

A large storage tank containing a flammable liquid overflowed. The spill was not detected until a security guard noticed a strong odor. He immediately reported his concern to operations personnel. Two operators responded, driving a truck to the area to investigate. Within minutes, there was a loud explosion followed by a fire. It is believed that the truck provided the ignition source. It took emergency response personnel a day and a half to extinguish the fires which spread through the tank farm. More than a dozen employees were hospitalized and there was significant property damage. The incident investigation found that the tank was being filled and, unknown to the operators, the tank level gauge AND the high level alarm had failed. The operators did not monitor the filling operation closely because they believed that the tank still had plenty of capacity.

#### **What can you do?**

- Recognize that transferring a flammable liquid is a hazardous operation with significant consequences if something goes wrong. Monitor flammable liquid transfers closely so you can detect and respond to spills and leaks.
- Before starting a transfer, make sure there is enough room in the destination tank for the material you intend to transfer. Check both source and destination tank level, temperature, and pressure at frequent intervals during transfers, and investigate any unexpected variation in the rate of change.
- When transferring liquids, estimate how much time it should take to fill the destination tank at the expected flow rate, and investigate if the transfer takes too long.
- Complete each step of the transfer procedure before moving on to the next step, and record and sign off on the procedure if required.
- If you are aware of the failure of any critical instruments or alarms in your plant, report them immediately so they can be repaired.
- Follow up on reported failures to make sure that repairs are made in a timely fashion.

[www.aiche.org/CCPS/Publications/Beacon/index.asp](http://www.aiche.org/CCPS/Publications/Beacon/index.asp)

## 2009-2010 Calendar of Events

| DATE        | LOCATION                      | TOPIC  |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 20 Oct 2009 | Clemson University            | Beta Engineering - Power Systems / Electrical Distribution Systems 101 |
| 17 Nov 2009 | Hilton                        | QLI International - Personal Goals                                     |
| 12 Jan 2010 | Hilton                        | ANSYS - Computational Fluid Dynamics                                   |
| 13 Feb 2010 | Roper Mountain Science Center | Kids Engineering Day   |
| 16 Feb 2010 | Hilton                        | TBD - Clemson University Provided Speaker                              |
| 16 Mar 2010 | Hilton                        | WESCO - Safety Systems 101   |
| 20 Apr 2010 | TBD                           | Plant Tour   |
| May 2010    | Fluor Field                   | Social   |

## 2009-2010 Officers and Executive Committee

Many thanks to the continued efforts of those in providing leadership to our Section. Members with a desire to serve can contact any Officer or Executive Committee member.

| POSITION   | NAME             | EMAIL                   | PHONE        |
|------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Chair      | Austin Crooks    | austin.crooks@fluor.com | 864-281-4635 |
| Vice-Chair | Rick Vogel       | rick.vogel@fluor.com    | 864-281-6702 |
| Secretary  | Jeremiah Batiste | sec@wscaiche.org        | 864-281-6409 |
| Treasurer  | David Laursen    | david.laursen@fluor.com | 864-281-5981 |
| Historian  | Aaron Ross       | aaron.ross@fluor.com    | 864-281-5274 |
| Webmaster  | Eugene Gill      | eugene.gill@fluor.com   | 864-281-8627 |

Other Executive Committee Members are: Oren Webb, Mary Ferris, David Harshbarger, Ann Marie Jones, and James Young.

*Active participation in professional societies as well as attending our professional and technical presentations count towards Continuing Professional Competency requirements for Licensed Professional Engineers. Upon request, the Section Secretary can provide attendance verifications for this purpose to our members.*