

Fall 2008 Newsletter



<p>Next Meeting: Tuesday November 25, 2008</p> <p>Speaker: Mark McHugh (ETCHPS President –Elect)</p> <p>Topic: Fundamentals of Radiological Licensing</p>
<p>Location: Oak Ridge Public Library Oak Ridge, TN</p> <p>Social Begins: 5:30 PM Meeting Begins: 6:00 PM</p>

2008 Officers and Executive Council Election

Online voting for the 2008 election has been opened. The electronic ballot can be accessed through the ETCHP Membership database (see: www.hpschapters.org/etchps). Paper ballots will be available at the November Program meeting and the Annual Vendors Meeting. The slate of candidates for the 2008 election is:

Candidates:		
President-Elect:	Gary Kephart	
	Art Palmer	
Treasurer:	George Barnett	
	Craig Schwartz	
Secretary-Elect:	Jeff Bruner	
	Myra Long	
Council-Person:	Natalie Beason	
	William Riley	

2008 Annual Vendors Meeting

Look at Who's Coming To Dinner!



**ANNUAL
VENDORS
MEETING**



December 9, 2008

December 9, 2008
5:00 PM

Rothchild's Catering

Gardenia Room

Barron's Place (formerly Ten-Mile Center)

8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN

Highlights

- Dinner with ETCHP Membership
- String Quartet
- Vendor Booths
- Raffles
- Door Prizes

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Tickets: \$15.00 through November 30th, \$20 at the door, Sign-up at www.hpschapters.org/etchps.

June Program Meeting Summary

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its monthly program meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at the Sagebrush Restaurant in Oak Ridge, TN. Approximately 15 ETCHPS members and guests were in attendance.

Mark McHugh, the ETCHPS President-Elect, provided a presentation and led a discussion regarding proposed ETCHPS initiatives to provide public seminars to better inform people about radiation and directly confront the disinformation pushed on the public by the anti-nuclear groups.

Following the presentation, general tactics of anti-nuclear activist groups and associated media involvement were discussed by the meeting attendees. It was noted that the ETCHPS has members whom serve as “points-of contact” for local media groups. Mr. McHugh concluded the meeting by distributing a sign-up sheet for members interested in participating in the various initiatives proposed in the presentation.

July Meeting

No meeting was held in July due to the annual meeting of the National Health Physics Society.

August Program Meeting Summary

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its monthly program meeting on Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at the Sagebrush restaurant. Approximately 40 ETCHPS members and guests were in attendance.

Mark McHugh introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Howard Dickson, President-elect of the Health Physics Society.

Mr. Dickson introduced himself, stating that although he currently resides in Tampa, Florida, he began his Health Physics career in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He also stated the East Tennessee Chapter was his first presentation to the various local chapters of the Health Physic Society.

Mr. Dickson’s presentation was titled “Will They Ever Learn? The Public Education Game.” Factors at stake included the continuation of critical radiological applications, support for a nuclear renaissance, and deterrence of nuclear/rad terrorism. Historical statistics of risky behaviors, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and seat belt usage (or lack there-of), were presented as evidence of the positive effects of successful public education campaigns.

Mr. Dickson’s presentation detailed his plan for addressing public education, which included the following aspects:

- Role of the Health Physics Society
- Function of and proposed advances to Inter-Society Liaisons
- HPS membership involvement with the Medical Reserve Corps
- Methods for filling the Health Physics Employment Pipeline
- Development of a university HP Symposium Series
- Expanded use of media technology (e.g., YouTube, etc.)
- Function and purpose of the Radiation Primer (www.radiationanswers.org)

The presentation also included suggestions for HPS members who wish to assist in public education. These included:

- ✓ Support local Chapter educational endeavors
- ✓ Support national HPS educational initiatives
- ✓ Volunteer for an “education” committee or in a training workshop
- ✓ Mobilize Against Anti-Nuclear Disinformation
- ✓ Volunteer to speak – school, club, conference, etc.
- ✓ Judge a science fair
- ✓ Spread the gospel

Mr. Dickson concluded his presentation with the following summary:

- The HPS is organized to implement our strategic plan
- Educational endeavors are at the core of our strategic plan
- There is no shortage of good educational initiatives
- Armed with effective communication skills and knowledge, we can educate better
- HPS members must use our resources and leverage those of others to make a major difference

Mr. Dickson concluded his discussion with questions from the attendees. Questions related to the broadcasting of internal HPS communications and tactics of anti-nuclear organizations were addressed.

Annual Picnic (September Meeting)



When the BBQ hit the grill on Monday evening the weather forecast was for a slight chance of showers. Wrong! Despite the rain, thunder, and lightning that filled the sky over Oak Ridge on Tuesday September 9th, 2008 approximately 30 intrepid members and guests attended the picnic at Clark Center Park. Everyone kept safe and dry under the rain shelter, had plenty to eat, and took home leftovers.

October Program Meeting Summary

The East Tennessee Chapter of the Health Physics Society held its monthly program meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at the Oak Ridge Public Library. Approximately 20 ETCHPS members and guests were in attendance.

The guest speaker was Mr. Steve Stow of the Public Outreach Committee of the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board.

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board was chartered in 1995 under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The 20-member Board serves as a communication link between the public and the US Department of Energy and provides recommendations to the DOE concerning environmental cleanup programs. The board also includes two non-voting high school students and representatives from DOE-Oak Ridge, EPA, and the Tennessee Department of Environmental and Conservation.

Projects that the ORSSAB has been involved with include:

- The **Bear Creek Burial Ground** involving 40 million pounds of uranium mixed with a variety of industrial wastes.
- The **Upper East Fork or Poplar Creek** which is contaminated with mercury inside the boundaries of the Y-12 National Security Complex.
- **Bethel Valley** which contains over 200 buildings requiring demolition or remediation.
- The **East Tennessee Technology Park** where the K-25 building requires decommissioning and demolition.

Since 1995 the ORSSAB has made 175 recommendations to DOE. Recent recommendations include:

- The **Integrated Facility Disposition Project**: The Board recommended that adequate budgeting be secured for the surveillance and maintenance of hundreds of historical facilities that are slated for demolition to prevent further deterioration that could lead to unsafe conditions and/or environmental releases.
- **Cleanup Verification**: To minimize concerns that industry leaders may have about locating facilities on previously contaminated sites the ORSSAB recommended that independent verification of cleanup actions be performed.
- **Engineering and Technology Development**: The ORSSAB recommended that DOE develop a process to incorporate public input into the development and deployment of new technologies for remediating contaminated sites.
- **Waste Information Management System**: The ORSSAB recommended that the existing Waste Information Management System used by DOE be improved by providing the current status of planned updates, known data gaps, and including more information about waste streams so that system users can better understand and possibly propose solutions to underlying technical challenges.
- **Modification to the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**: The ORSSAB endorsed a modification to the WIPP permit that would allow for the disposal of remote-handled transuranic waste. The modification was considered to be an important step toward the removal and safe long-term care of transuranic waste.
- **Recommendation on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Greater-Than-Class C Low-Level Radioactive Waste**. The Oak Ridge Reservation is being considered as a disposal site for this type of radiological waste. The ORSSAB stated that based on geologic and hydrologic limitations that Oak Ridge is not a viable disposal site. However, the Board commented that Oak Ridge may be appropriate for some short-lived insoluble radioactive waste as part of a nationwide strategy.

Other ways that the ORSSAB makes a difference: 1) Serves as the primary communication link between the public and DOE concerning the environmental management program, 2) Educational initiatives including the seating of two high school student as non-voting members and conducting teacher training sessions, 3) Maintains an exhibit at the American Museum of Science and Energy, and 4) Collecting oral histories from Oak Ridge scientists, engineers, community leaders, and residents.

The ORSSAB has received the Citizens Excellence in Community Involvement Award from the US EPA and has been recognized as the “Gold Standard” for DOE advisory boards.

More information is available at: www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab