

Chapter History for Society Year 2004-2005

The Austin Chapter of ASHRAE (066) had a fantastic year under the guidance of Chapter President Mark Merriman. Mark jumped on the year early by calling a BOG meeting in July, and continued his directives throughout the year. On December 2nd, our Chapter held its traditional Spouses Night, then eventually wound down to the last meeting in May of 2005. The Chapter exceeded many of the goals that were established early, and is to be congratulated!



During the Chapter Year 2004-2005, the following members were elected and work diligently throughout the year:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Board Of Governors</u>	
President	Mark Merriman	Wes Goodwin, P.E.
President Elect	Jeremy Smith, P.E.	Gordon Hall
Vice President	Cameron Labunski, P.E.	Mike Davidson
Treasurer	Glenn See	Randy Schrecengost, P.E.
Secretary	Thursten Simonsen, P.E.	Wes Van Rite

The Austin Chapter's BOG's also serve as the main contacts for the Committees, overseeing one or more activities as the Chapter's needs require. Additional support is provided by other willing members – most of which are former Officers or BOGs members; or, are new, up-and-coming members the Chapter is grooming to “take-over”. The support was provided by the following members:

CRC Delegate	Mark Merriman
CRC Alternate	Jeremy Smith, P.E.
Research / Resource	Wes Goodwin, P.E.
Golf	Gordon Hall
Newsletter Editor	Jeremy Smith, P.E.
Programs	Cameron Labunski, P.E.
Historian / Seminars	Randy Schrecengost, P.E.
Honors and Awards / Nominating	Bill Klock, P.E.
Phone Committee / Reception	Margaret Bigger
Student Activities K-12	Doug Blount
TEGA	Mike Blankenship
Web Master	Garrett Mauer
Past President's Council / Auditing	Jim Ruth, P.E.

AUGUST

The Austin Chapter of ASHRAE always meets on the third Thursday of the month unless a special circumstance causes us to change. Our chapter's first meeting of the year was on August 19, and we met at the County Line on the Hill where we get all you can eat BBQ and charge a mere \$20.00. We recapped the previous year's successes like the “High 5 Award” for the most dollars contributed in the past 5 years by Mr. Jim Ruth, P.E. In addition, the Chapter was awarded the “Challenge” Award for contributing 5% over the “High 5” Goal. For the Chapter year 2003-2004, our Chapter raised \$33,838 through contributions by 91 different organizations

or individuals. In addition, several members were honored at the CRC in Tyler, Texas.

Mark Merriman summarized the goals for the Chapter for the up-coming year then we sat down to eat BBQ. Our technical meeting was on Variable Speed Drives and soft starters presented by Mr. Mike Filley, P.E. a consulting Engineer specialist for the Square D Company. Afterwards, our DRC Mr. Hugh McMillan gave us an Region VIII update and summarized the goals for our region. As we had hoped, the Chapter began with a bang! August attendance consisted of: 23 Members, 3 Life Members, 3 Guests for a total of 29.

On a sad note, our Chapter began the year with the loss of a distinguished member, Mr. William L. Adair. Bill was a managing principal with the Austin architectural/engineering firm of O'Connell Robertson & Associates. Bill was an active member of the local engineering community and a treasured Past President of our Chapter.

SEPTEMBER

Our meeting for September was one of those special circumstances and was changed to the 4th Thursday, the 23rd, because we wanted it to coincide with the World Energy Engineers Congress held at the Austin Convention Center. We met at a LaQuinta for dinner and the heard about and toured the City of Austin's Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant at the Domain. The plant system consisted of a 4.6 MW gas turbine and the exhaust heat recovered and used to fire a 2,500 ton absorption chiller. The system was designed by Burns and McDonnell. September attendance consisted of: 20 Members, 3 Life Members, 20 Students, and 5 Guests for a total of 48 (65% increase from August).

OCTOBER

Our meeting for October was another special circumstance (we really do meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month – usually at the same place all the time) and was changed for another tour of the Dynamic Systems, Inc. (DSI) sheet metal and pipe fabrication shop. October is our traditional Student Chapter Members' Night. We had more than 20 students from our four (4) student chapters of University of Texas, Austin Community College, Central Texas College, and Texas State Technical College. We all witnessed ductwork and piping fabrication for normal and specialty projects. Afterwards we had dinner at Hill's Café where we reserved the outdoor pavilion. The Chapter members committed to bringing in as many new members as possible. September attendance consisted of: 27 Members, 0 Life Members, 22 Students, and 5 Guests for a total of 54 (another 12% increase from September).

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Typically the Austin Chapter of ASHRAE does not have a meeting in November due to Thanksgiving, and Christmas in December puts a damper on things for that month. So, we usually combine the two months into one meeting in later November or early December and celebrate our Spouses. This year we had our Spouses Night on December 2nd at a local restaurant called Chez Zee. Our program is usually a light hearted and very non-technical presentation in order to entice our significant other to attend. The National Comedy Theatre presented "Who's Line Is It Anyway?" and brought a smile to our faces, and make monkey's out of a few of us in the process. The Chapter continued to promote Resource / Research. Our December attendance consisted of: 14 Members, 0 Life Members, 0 Students, and 12 Guests for a total of 26. This was a little lower than hoped, but a very great time was had by all!

JANUARY

January found our chapter following our traditional meeting date, by changing once again! Our meeting was held on the 4th Wednesday of the month to accommodate our speaker, Society President Ron Vallort. This Historian cannot remember when our Chapter actually had a Society President speak at one of our meetings. It was fantastic! We also tried out a new location at the Park Plaza Hotel (formerly the Airport Hilton) on Middle Fiskville Road. During the meeting it was announced that our Chapter achieved the “Full Circle” award where all of the Chapter’s Officers and BOG’s contributed a minimum of \$100 to ASHRAE Resource/Research (old habit that I personally don’t want to break and I’m trying to send a message) by December 31st. This shows a clear commitment to our Chapter members and shows we “lead by example”. The Chapter also made a plea to decrease our delinquency listings by publishing letters to the membership explaining how the ASHRAE dues system works.

During this month, the Chapter recognized all the ASHRAE Research contributors from last year record RP campaign by handing out medals and plaques. Our technical session for the evening covered “Applications of ASHRAE 90.1 in Laboratory Design” by Wes Stidham, P.E. Our program was “Refrigeration: Technology for Survival by our own Ron Vallort, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, and Society President for 2004-2005. Our January attendance consisted of: 49 Members, 3 Life Members, 0 Students, and 2 Guests for a total of 54. This was a great turnout for President Vallort!



FEBRUARY

Finally February had us meeting on the 3rd Thursday at the County Line once again. I for one was beginning to have difficulty keeping up! The technical program covered A/E Liability presented by Mr. Alfred Traver, PhD, J.D., P.E., from the University of Texas Mechanical Engineering Department. Mr. Traver explained how engineers face large amounts of liability and are very vulnerable to litigation due to their accountability. He discussed the possible liabilities of an Engineer and means to limit the probability of reaching a point of litigation on such matters. The program was on “Engineering Ethics” presented by Mr. Donald Willhouse, P.E., Texas Board of Professional Engineers Outreach Program. Mr. Willhouse reviewed the State Board Rules regarding ethical practice and provided some examples of previous enforcement cases. This program assisted all the professional engineers in our membership to obtain the 1 hour (PDH) required to remain licensed. This month the Chapter also began to heavily promote the upcoming golf tournament where a good chunk of our money is raised for Research. Our February attendance consisted of: 52 Members, 6 Life Members, 0 Students, and 10 Guests for a total of 68. Who said you can’t drag all the engineers into one room when you need them?

MARCH

The March meeting was much easier to find since it was on the 3rd Thursday at the County Line (Whew!). The technical and main programs were presented by Mr. Al Longton of Flanders/CSC. The technical session covered “Air Filtration Basics” while the program covered one particular application of system containment in Biological Safety Labs being built throughout the country and at major universities for research. Not only did the members learn about bio-hazards, since it was St. Patrick’s Day, they had several “green” beverages to illustrate some of these hazards! The Chapter continued to promote Research and the golf tournament as well as two upcoming seminars while making a big push for the Regional CRC to be held in San Antonio.



One historical article was printed in this issue of the Austin Register. It illustrated some significant events in our Chapter's history during its first year of operation, as well as a picture of the Norwood Building in downtown Austin. This building incorporated two firsts when the 14 story structure was completed in 1929. It was the first air-conditioned office building in town and it had the first self-parking ramped auto garage called the Motoramp. March's attendance consisted of: 28 Members, 4 Life Members, 0 Students, and 6 Guests for a total of 38. Most people either didn't think we would meet on Paddy's Day, or really didn't want any green stuff!

APRIL

This was one of the most hectic months of the chapter year. While preparing for the normal monthly meeting, the Seminars Chairman, Mr. Randy Schrecengost, P.E. organized an applications design seminar on Fire/Smoke, IAQ, and Energy Applications. The seminar was presented by Mr. Chris Schartz of Ruskin, and covered the International Code Updates, Life Safety Applications of Fire/Smoke dampers, and the latest developments in IAQ and Energy applications. A total of 33 people attended the seminar and \$2,150 was raised toward Research.

Our evening speaker was Mr. Tom Green, P.E. of Tom Green Consulting Engineers. Tom presented a very good summary of "Emerging Desiccant Technology in Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems". Additionally, two historical articles were printed in this issue of the Register. One illustrated some significant events in our Chapter's history during its first year of operation, as well as a picture of the Norwood Building in downtown Austin. This building incorporated two firsts when the 14 story structure was completed in 1929. It was the first air-conditioned office building in town and it had the first self-parking ramped auto garage called the Motoramp. The second article was on a member who recently retired, Mr. Gordon Ross of Texas Air Products. Gordon was also a member of the San Antonio and Shreveport Chapters during his career. April's attendance consisted of: 31 Members, 3 Life Members, 0 Students, and 7 Guests for a total of 41.

MAY

May was another fun month for the chapter.

We met with our wives and friends for a meeting and had only two purposes (if you don't count having fun together as a third.)

First, we were given a report on the CRC in Corpus Christi. All were told about the fun we had, the honors our chapter (and the other chapters received) and the wonderful things we learned. We were ready for the following year.

Next we installed the new officers. We had a very nice "passing of the colors, acceptance of the charge of duty" by this year's officers to next years, and then we went home.

JUNE - JULY

The Austin Chapter does not meet during the summer months except for BOG meetings called by the out-going President and/or the new in-coming President. The Chapter spends time summarizing the successes and the short-comings of the year and makes plans for the new Society year. The books are typically audited and accepted for passing to the in-coming Treasurer. In the past, the Chapter had planned a picnic and discussions were held to begin that effort again.

The Chapter's 2005-2006 goal is to capture the Region VIII Golden Gavel!

Chapter Summary by the numbers:

Area-assigned members fell to 228 in 2004-2005 from 235 in 2003-2004.

Chapter Dues paying members stayed the same at 196

New Members grew to 18 from just 8 in 2003-2004.

Members Delinquent was 30 verses 39 the previous year.

New student members fell to 44 from 84 in the previous year.

Active Student Branches remained at 4.

Number of Refrigeration presentations was 1.

Number of Chapter Technical sessions, seminars, programs or tours was 16.

Number of Social events held separate from programs, etc. was 2

Chapter's monthly meeting average attendance was 51 and up from 43 the previous year.

The Chapter has a Website.

The Chapter's dues remained at \$20.

The cost for meals at the meetings remained at \$20.