

Chapter History for Society Year 2005-2006

The Austin Chapter of ASHRAE (066) began its year under new President Jeremy Smith, P.E. with a BOG meeting in June at a local eating establishment even as the out-going President Mark Merriman was trying to finalize the books. Way to go Jeremy! A second BOG meeting in July (mind you the Austin Chapter DOES NOT meet in June or July for a summer break), started a level of enthusiasm that perpetuated itself throughout the year. Due to this early organizational effort, and the abundance of energy that a new president such as Jeremy has, the Austin Chapter transcended all of the early goal setting, and is to be congratulated wholeheartedly! During the Chapter Year 2005-2006, the following members were elected and worked diligently throughout the year:



President	Jeremy Smith, P.E. (CRC Delegate)	BOG#1	Mark Merriman (Research)
Pres. Elect	Cameron Labunski, P.E. (Newsletter/CRC Alt)	BOG#2	Glenn See (PAOE)
Vice President	Thursten Simonsen, P.E. (Programs)	BOG#3	Mike Davidson (Membership)
Treasurer	Charles Whitten, P.E. (Treasurer)	BOG#4	Randy Schrecengost, P.E. (Historian)
Secretary	Gordon Hall (Golf)	BOG#5	Wes Van Rite (Student Activities)

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, upcoming members the Chapter is grooming to “take-over”. The support was provided by these members:

Honors&Awards / Nominating	Bill Klock, P.E.	Reception/Phone Comm	Margaret Bigger
Student Activities K-12	Doug Blount	TEGA	Mike Blankenship
Web Master	Don Lipinski, EIT	PP Council / Auditing	Jim Ruth, P.E.
Membership	Mike Davidson	Roster	Paul Cherry, P.E.
Refrigeration	OPEN	Seminars	Randy Schrecengost P.E.

AUGUST

The traditional third Thursday of the month (August 18th) found the Austin Chapter of ASHRAE meeting again at our favorite all you can eat BBQ restaurant - County Line on the Hill. The drinks are cold and the meal is only \$20.00 – Whoop! (<= That's Aggie for great job!). The Chapter typically has five (5) distinct sessions during a regular meeting day. The BOG meets at 4:30 p.m. and transitions into the Social time from 5:30-6:00 p.m. The Technical Session occurs between 6:00-6:30 p.m., followed with Dinner from about 6:30-7:00 p.m. At the beginning of dinner, the President begins the business portion of the meeting with a round of self introductions. Finally the Program usually goes from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and the Chapter adjourns. Many members returned to more socializing and cussing and discussing about projects or life in general.

As always our BOG's met at 4:30 p.m. to go over the evening's plans and continue the organization efforts to get all the Chapter's goals accomplished. Once the meeting started, Jeremy summarized to the members the many exciting activities planned for the upcoming year. Notable planned activities would include: guest speakers such as Region VIII DRC – Art Giesler on December 15th and ASHRAE Society President – Lee Burgett on January 19th. The Chapter planned to have a few lunch meetings in November and December; and, a tour of the Austin Convention Center District Cooling Plant in conjunction with the World Energy Engineering Congress in September.

Jeremy took a minute and reflected on some of last year's accomplishments. Research Promotion did well under Wes Goodwin's leadership, and the Chapter achieved the “High 5” Award for most dollars contributed in the past 5 years. Also, the Chapter was awarded the “Challenge” Award for contributing 5% over the High 5” goal. For the year, our Chapter donated \$33,838 through contributions by 91 different organizations or individuals. In addition, several of our members were honored at the CRC in San Antonio, TX including: Jeremy Smith – Newsletter Rookie of the Year, and Mark Merriman – President's Award of Excellence (P.A.O.E.). The P.A.O.E. is a method to track performance of chapters in all aspects including Membership, student Activities, and Chapter Operations. Our Chapter finished 8th out of 15 chapters in Region VIII with 4,176 points. Job well done!

President Smith indicated that the theme for the meeting Membership Promotion Night. Our Tech Session was “Your Friends at ASHRAE”, presented by the Chapter and welcomed back old friends and emphasized it was time to get back on track after the great summer break. The Main Session was titled : “Your Other Friends at ASHRAE”, presented by Chapter member and Past President: Mike Davidson. Mike spoke briefly about the

benefits of becoming an ASHRAE member, and when the projector / computer arrangement fizzled received some great “Johnny on the spot” help from Mike Hart (also a former Past President). The Chapter promoted “Bring a Friend Night” and provided a special offer to ASHRAE “Greenies”, also gave away six 2005 ASHRAE Pocket Guides to lucky raffle winners. Anyone who brought a first time guest received 2 meals for the price of 1. Our attendance consisted of: 25 Members, 3 Life Members, 0 Students, and 20 Guests for a total of 48

SEPTEMBER

Our meeting for September was held under special circumstances. First the meeting was held in conjunction with the World Energy Engineering Congress scheduled to be held at the Austin Convention Center. However, due to Hurricane Katrina and many of the unfortunate evacuees, the meetings and WEEC was moved to the Renaissance Hotel in Northwest Austin. We had to coordinate buses to carry people and members from both AEE and ASHRAE back down to the Austin Convention Center’s District Cooling Plant for a tour and Q&A session. Then we bused and/or car pooled to Tres Amigos (1801 S. Capital of Texas Hwy) for our meeting and buffet style Mexican meal. Our meeting program was presented by Mr. Frank White and Cliff Braddock of Austin Energy and Mr. Ken Wheatley of Goetting and Associates who completed the design of the plant. The 80,000 square foot district cooling plant was built in conjunction with a new parking garage, to serve the Austin Convention Center. The site is within walking distance of the Convention Center. The first phase of the plant construction included the building shell along with a single 2500 glycol chiller, all thermal ice coils, and required cooling towers and pumps with redundancy for each. All building structure, piping, and power distribution systems were provided in Phase 1 to facilitate future phased build-out of the master plan. Thermal ice storage was incorporated in the design to provide a capacity of 52,800 tons/hour. All the events were fantastic, and although was somewhat stressful with all the scheduling, we all knew the evacuees had it much worse. God Bless them! Our September was promoted as **Research Promotion and Refrigeration Nights**. Attendance consisted of: 25 Members, 4 Life Members, 0 Students, and 5 Guests for a total of 34 (an drop from September).

OCTOBER

Our meeting for October was another change from our normal operations. We had another tour but this time of the new City of Austin City Hall complex. The four-story structure was built above an underground parking garage and was opened in November 2004. This four-story structure was built above an underground parking garage, and opened in November 2004. The complex sits at 301 W. Second Street and covers an entire downtown city block bordered by Cesar Chavez Street on the south; Second Street on the north; Guadalupe Street on the west; and Lavaca Street on the east. The tour included a look at the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems related to the building’s energy efficient design. Energy efficiency features of the new Austin City Hall resulted in a facility that uses significantly less energy than if it had been designed for strict energy code compliance. The building uses chilled water from a nearby district cooling plant, and was registered in the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program, with the objective of receiving a LEED Silver rating. The MEP Design Team was ACR Engineering, Inc.



Following the tour, interested members met at Pok-e-Jo’s BBQ, 1603 West 5th Street, for dinner and the program. Our October meeting was designated as **Student Night along with Research Promotion Recognition**. The Chapter welcomed the students for Student Month, and congratulated the two (2), \$250 scholarship winners. The Treasurer, Mr. Charles Whitten announced that the Chapter continued to maintain a healthy balance of \$6,228 in the bank. Attendance consisted of: 13 Members, 4 Life Members, 8 Students, and 2 Guests for a total of 27. This was a little lower than hoped, but a very great time was had by all!

NOVEMBER

For more years than can be remembered, the Austin Chapter of ASHRAE did not have a meeting in November or December due to the Holidays. The Chapter typically combined the two months into one meeting late in November or early December and called it **Past Presidents and Spouses Night**. The Chapter’s attendance, however, has been dropping in relation to that theme. So the President and Board decided to try a LUNCH meeting for November. The hope was to see some of the members who cannot make the evening meetings. The meeting was still held on the third Thursday, November 17th, but changed to the Park Plaza Hotel, 6000 Middle Fiskville Rd., near 290 East and IH-35. Mr. Andy Collier of York arranged for a presentation on Refrigerants, and an update on phase out schedules. The Chapter continued to promote Research. The Treasurer reported the Chapter balance was \$7,036. Our November attendance consisted of: 40 Members, 2 Life Members, 1 Students, and 2 Guests for a total of 45. This was a good turnout for lunch and encouraged the BOG to continue to include lunch meetings next year.



DECEMBER

As in November, the Austin Chapter decided to have a lunch meeting to continue the success of the Chapter as the Society Year readied itself to turn the corner into 2006. The first notable change was the President decided to get a "new" picture for the Register. It's been said that being President adds years to your life (look) and the new picture aged Jeremy at least 5 years.



The planned lunch meeting was at a different location but still on the third Thursday, December 15th. We met at the Park Plaza Hotel, near 290 East and IH-35. Mr. Julian R. de Bullet with McQuay International provided a technical session on "Sizing Chillers and Cooling Towers for Efficient Central Plant Operations". Mr. R. de Bullet has over 30 years experience in the HVAC industry. His career concentrated on the applied use of Chilled Water and All-Air systems. He is currently the Director of Industry Relations for McQuay International, based in Washington D.C. He is also a past Society Vice President (2001/2003), and served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and was Chair of Member Council and Publishing Council. Mr. R. de Bullet is also an ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer. During this meeting our own Art Giesler, ASHRAE Region VIII DRC, attended and provided a brief update on Region VIII activities. Treasurer reported the Chapter balance was about \$6,700. Our December attendance consisted of: 29 Members, 3 Life Members, 0 Students, and 15 Guests for a total of 47. Again, the lunch was termed a success and the BOG has decided that the "old" days of have a holiday evening meeting is most likely gone. This month we also began a feature we hope to continue in providing additional information on the governing body for the Austin Chapter. The December issue focused on the Officers of the Chapter.

Secretary: Gordon Hall was born and raised in Baytown, Texas and graduated from Texas A&M University in May of 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Distribution. While at A&M, Gordon was in the Corps of Cadets at A&M and was in the Fish Drill Team and The Ross Volunteer Company. After leaving college, Gordon joined Johnson Controls, Inc. as a Sales Engineer. This year was Gordon's first year as an ASHRAE Officer, but he has been participating in ASHRAE Austin Chapter since college. He has previously served as on the BOG and was responsible the 2005 Austin ASHRAE Golf Tournament. Gordon is a husband and a father, and he has been married for 5-1/2 years to his wife Ashli. He has a son, Carson Jaeger Hall, and he and his wife recently had a second child in 2006. Gordon enjoys all types of hunting and loves playing golf.



Treasurer: Charles Whitten has spent most of his time in Central Texas and graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Charles joined EEA Consulting Engineers right out of college and he is now Professional Engineer and Project Manager for EEA. This year Charles has joined the ranks of Austin-ASHRAE officers as the Treasurer. Charles is a husband and a father, and he and his wife Jennifer have two daughters Kaitlin and Emily. Charles enjoys engineering challenges as well as physical challenges. He spends his non-working time playing basketball, hiking, scuba diving, and enjoying other water sports.



Vice President: Thursten Simonsen was born and raised in Austin, Texas and graduated from Anderson High School prior to earning a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Texas at Austin. Thursten is employed by the Texas Building and Procurement Commission as a Senior Project Manager specializing in MEP Systems, and has been active in the ASHRAE Austin Chapter for several years. He has previously served as Secretary (04-05) and now as Vice President (05-06). Thursten advanced from Associate Member to Member status in 2004, shortly after becoming a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas. Thursten is a husband and father, with his wife (Melissa) and two children (Katelyn, Emma). Several interesting facts about Thursten: He enjoys water and snow skiing, learned to play piano and trumpet, and lived two years in Berlin, Germany during college, performing service work for his Church.



President-Elect: Cameron Labunski was born and raised in Harlingen, Texas and earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001. Cameron is a Professional Engineer employed by Tom Green and Company Consulting Engineers. Cameron has been active in ASHRAE since college, and he has gone through the officer ranks in the Austin Chapter as Secretary (03-04), Vice-President (04-05), and now President Elect (05-06). He is also currently a judge for the ASHRAE Technology Award. Cameron is the only unmarried officer, but has recently become engaged. One interesting fact about Cameron is



that he runs the annual Hood to Coast Relay (dividing 198-miles between 12-runners) every August from Mount Hood to Seaside Oregon.

President: Jeremy Smith (photos elsewhere in this historical commentary) was born and raised in Glenrock, Wyoming (population: 2500). He earned a B.S. in Architectural Engineering from the University of Wyoming in 1998 and after graduation migrated south to Austin. Jeremy is a Professional Engineer also employed by Energy Engineering Associates (EEA) for the past 5 years. Jeremy has been active in ASHRAE since his college days when he was the Vice President of his student chapter. He has also gone through the local officer ranks in the Austin Chapter as the Treasurer (02-03), Vice-President (03-04), President Elect (04-05), and now as President. Jeremy is a family man with a beautiful wife (Alyssa) and a 9 month old little girl (Hailey). An interesting fact that the Chapter may not know about Jeremy is that he completed the 100 mile 2004 Hotter-Than-Hell bicycle ride in Wichita Falls, TX.

JANUARY

January found our chapter back at our favorite place, the County Line on the Hill Restaurant on Bee Cave Road. The meeting began at the regular time of 6:00 p.m. following the scheduled BOG meeting. The meeting was related to Engineering Ethics and attendance was high as most professional engineers still needed their 1 hour of credit toward their licensing requirements. Speakers were C.W. Clark, P.E., Director of Compliance and Enforcement and David Howell, P.E., Director of Licensing.

During the normal business, the Chapter promoted the annual CRC (Chapter Regional Conference) to be held in Cancun for all 15 chapters in ASHRAE Region VIII, April 27-29 2006. As always this is the time for all the chapters to come together and learn about and from each other. Also, the Chapter's Seminars Chairman, Mr. Randy Schrecengost, P.E. reminded members of the March 31st Applications Design seminar on Hydronic Systems Design and Balancing, presented by Mr. Mark Hegberg of ITT Fluid Handling and the B&G Little Red School House. During this month, the Chapter also recognized all important past ASHRAE Research contributors and senior members. Mr. Bill received his Life Member certificate presented by President Jeremy Smith. January Chapter's January budget announcement was \$5,400. Our attendance consisted of: 35 Members, 4 Life Members, 0 Students, and 16 Guests for a total of 55.



Above: Jeremy Smith (President) presents Bill Crook with his Life Member certificate.

FEBRUARY

The February meeting was on the typical 3rd Thursday, February 16, at the County Line once again, with all the regularly scheduled activities: Social: 5:30-6:00 p.m., Tech. Session: 6:00-6:30 p.m., Dinner: 6:30-7:00 p.m., Program: 7:00-8:00 p.m., and the cost was still only \$20/person. Our President noted that since the Super Bowl had come and gone and many of the members would now enter the magical time of year when we get back to taking care of the things around the house that we put off for four months of football heaven; we would declare the official start of "Honey-do" season! The February technical program covered A/E Liability on Mold and Mold Litigation, presented by Ryan Nord with the law firm of Allensworth & Porter LLP. Litigation, especially mold litigation, is something all ASHRAE engineers must be aware of and Mr. Nord shared his experiences and suggestions on avoiding litigation on this topic.

February is always the month when the Chapter continued to heavily promote: our Research efforts and the upcoming golf tournament where a good chunk of our money is raised; the annual CRC (Chapter Regional Conference) to be held in Cancun April 27-29; the Chapter's March 31st Applications Design seminar on Hydronic Systems; and, **Engineers Week**. Our attendance consisted of: 34 Members, 2 Life Members, 0 Students, and 13Guests for a total of 49.

MARCH

The March meeting again at the County Line on the Hill. The technical program was presented by Mr. Thomas J. O'Meara, a licensed attorney for 28 years, and Ms. Jamie R. Peterson, recently licensed in 2005. The members learned to understand issues about professional liability insurance, how to maintain it, and most importantly how to avoid claims. Since it was close to St. Patrick's Day, members also enjoyed several "green" beverages. The Chapter continued to promote Research and the golf tournament, as well as the upcoming CRC and Seminar on March 31st by the B&G Little Red School House. March's attendance consisted of: 22 Members, 3 Life Members, 0 Students, and 4Guests for a total of 29. A pretty small turnout, but it's traditionally hard to get members out during Spring Break in Austin.

APRIL

This was a Historical Month for the Austin Chapter. We commemorated our Chapter's 50th Anniversary. The Chapter was originally chartered on April 8, 1956 and quickly grew from the old ASHVE (American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers group that existing in Austin in the 1950s. Chapter

Historian, Randy Schrecengost reported on the five decades of Austin's ASHRAE Chapter in an article admitting that given the significance of being 50 years old, a small three or four page summary cannot do the Chapter justice. .

50th Anniversary of
THE AUSTIN REGISTER

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE
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Our evening speaker was Mr. Edward J. Temos with York International who spoke to us on Chiller Heat Recovery Applications. Mr. Temos is an application specialist for large tonnage chillers with a strong background in heat-pumps, thermal storage and district energy. He has been with York for 33 years in fields of low temperature refrigeration. Special thanks goes to member Andy Collier of York for arranging this presentation. The Chapter's Seminars Chairman, Mr. Randy Schrecengost, P.E. announced that the March 31st Applications Design seminar on Hydronic Systems Design and Balancing, as presented by Mr. Mark Hegberg of ITT Fluid Handling and the B&G Little Red School House raised \$1,635 and had a total of 22 people in attendance. All the money raised goes toward Research. April's meeting attendance consisted of: 19 Members, 4 Life Members, 0 Students, and 11 Guests for a total of 34.

MAY

The May meeting was at the County Line and always ends the Chapter's year. This meeting is usually a fun carefree gathering to toast the successes of the year. It is also somewhat sad and nostalgic as all the previous fun throughout the year is fondly remembered and hopefully not forgotten (at least by the Historian long enough to get down in writing). President Jeremy Smith thanked all the Officers, BOG and committee members, and the untold other silent volunteers for a "job well done". He congratulated the newly elected Officers, BOG and Chairman moving forward for President-Elect Cameron Labunski's term in office. Jeremy stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve the Chapter and hopes to continue to serve in various ways. We installed the new chain of command before anyone could change their minds and followed with the program of the evening. The transfer and acceptance of the "charge of duty" by was completed quickly, and a brief celebration was held with approval by all.

The program this month was a panel discussion titled "Do's and Don'ts: Lessons Learned through Design and Construction". The panel consisted of 4 individuals offering insight and response to questions and complications that often arise through construction. The panel consisted of an Owner Representative, a design Engineer, a Contractor and a Sales Engineer. Special thanks went out to Gordon Hall and Mike Davidson for organizing the meeting panel and discussion items.

JUNE - JULY

The Austin Chapter typically does not hold regular meeting during the months of June and July. The Chapter BOGs and Officers do meet when called by the new in-coming President. The Chapter usually spends this time reviewing the past year and making plans for the new year. The new President will present his ideas and goals to the group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Schrecengost, P.E.
Historian