



# The PENNANT

Newsletter of the  
ASHRAE® Central Pennsylvania Chapter  
[www.ashraecenpenn.org](http://www.ashraecenpenn.org)

Volume 3, Number 9, May 2005

## President's Message ...



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It has been my privilege to serve as the Central PA ASHRAE Chapter President. I would like to extend a special thanks to my officers and committee chairs that all helped make 2004 – 2005 a successful year.

During my involvement over the past five years with Central PA ASHRAE there has been a group of gentlemen that have always helped our chapter. They regularly attend chapter board meetings and do a great deal behind the scenes. I specifically want to thank Tom McKay, Frank Ruth, Carl Courtney, Tom Long and Dan Wyrick. Lastly I would like to thank our members who make our chapter even possible.

At our last meeting we had a large number of students in attendance from our local affiliated student chapters. Thanks again to all the students who attended and presented their senior projects. I would also like to thank Matt Tressler who coordinated the evening's activities.

The Annual Central PA ASHRAE Family Night takes place at City Island on Monday May 16th. Join us as we watch the Harrisburg Senators play some baseball. On July 29th our annual Central PA ASHRAE golf event will take place at Heritage Hills.

Thanks again for everything. I hope you will join me in supporting Glenn Diesposti as next years President in what promises to be another successful year for our chapter.

Respectfully,  
Myron Ramage  
President

**Attention Representatives and Contractors! The directory web page will open on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

[www.ashraecenpenn.org](http://www.ashraecenpenn.org)

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# Meeting Agenda Monday May 16, 2005

## The Program for May is Family Night !!!!

Join us on May 16, to watch the Harrisburg Senators take on New Britain. A buffet, including chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and refreshments, will be available from 5:00 – 6:30pm. Game time is 6:05pm and 50 Seats will be available in the Grandstand. Reserve your tickets with Glenn before Monday May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Cost: Adults - \$20, Children 3-12 - \$10, and under 2 are free

[Glenn.diesposti@carrier.utc.com](mailto:Glenn.diesposti@carrier.utc.com)



# Schedule of Events

Date	Event	Topic / Description
September 8, 2004	BOG Meeting / Program	<b>Indoor Air Quality</b> By W. Edward Montz, Jr., Ph.D., CIAQP
October 4, 2004	BOG Meeting / Program	<b>Hydronics</b> By Dan Holohan
November 3, 2004	Professional Development Seminar	<b>Professional Energy Code Seminar ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2001</b> By Larry Spielvogel, PE
November 10, 2004	BOG Meeting / Program @ Appalachian Brewing Co. Harrisburg	<b>Resource Promotion Night Humidification</b> By Scott Herr and Dean Scheurich
December 8, 2004	BOG Meeting / Program @ Holiday Inn New Cumberland	<b>Acoustics</b> By Carl Eichelberger
January 12, 2005	BOG Meeting / Program Location TBD	<b>Cooling Tower and Chiller Interaction</b>
February 23, 2005	BOG Meeting / Program @ Holiday Inn New Cumberland	<b>Natatorium System Design</b>
February 25, 2005	Professional Development Seminar @ Holiday Inn New Cumberland	<b>Indoor Air Quality</b> By Dan In-Hout (ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer)
March 9, 2005	BOG Meeting / Program @ Holiday Inn New Cumberland	<b>ASHRAE Standard 62</b>
April 20, 2005	BOG Meeting / Program @ Appalachian Brewing Co. Harrisburg	<b>Student Activities Night – Student Presentations</b>
May 16, 2005	Senators Game!! @ City Island, Harrisburg	Senator's Outing <b>Family Night</b>
July 29, 2005	Golf Outing	<b>Membership Promotion Day</b>

# The Directory

**Simply the most cost effective advertising you will ever do!**

New for this year

> **Contractor listing**

> **Web listing**

Now that we have two good years of success and experience we are expanding our publication to include contractors.

You can now choose to have your products and services listed on our website!  
If you are a local ASHRAE member or an advertiser you will still receive the hard copy.

Why even think about it! For \$150 you get your products and services listed not only in the hardcopy directory, but also on the web.

We expect to open our listing service by the end of April! Check our website [www.ashraecenpenn.org](http://www.ashraecenpenn.org) for the link to the Manufacturers Directory!

# **SIGN UP!**

# Bulletin Board

## An Old Tradition Revived: Business Cards in the Pennant

Support the Central Penn Chapter of ASHRAE and keep your name in front of your clients and peers.

**\$25 includes a card in every issue of the Pennant until June 05.**

Send cards to:

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# Announcements

## ***Promotions***

## ***New Employees***

Gannett Fleming is pleased to announce the addition of Gig Settle to their staff. Gig is a Senior Mechanical Engineer in the Facilities Division.

## ***New Members***

## ***Weddings/Births/Deaths***

## ***Anniversaries***

## ***Misc.***

**If you have any announcements that would be of interest to the local membership, please submit request to [mtome@ashraecenpenn.org](mailto:mtome@ashraecenpenn.org) for posting on the bulletin board. The chapter retains the right to reject any request.**

## Historical Committee - ASHRAE Central PA. Chapter

### Interview Questions (4/8/2005) for Mr. Tom Mckay, Past President. Interviewed by Carl C. Courtney, Historian, Central PA Chapter

#### **1. Tell us about your career in the HVAC industry. When did you start in this business?**

Tom: Actually, I began at the age of 15 or 16 by cleaning furnaces. I was of the right structure to get in the combustion chamber to clean them. I cannot say that my mother was thrilled with the idea, as she would make me change clothes before coming into the house.

My family was involved in shipbuilding and I was encouraged to attend the Maritime Academy as my brother had. As I wanted to do anything different I decided to attend Wentworth Institute in Boston with an emphasis on stationary power plants. Upon graduation I was offered a position with the Great Northern Paper Company in Millinocket, Maine. I remember that prior to starting I made an appointment to take their physical and fill out the appropriate paperwork. It was the 4th of July weekend, so my brother and I decided we would go backpacking prior to the visit. We woke up that morning with 4" of snow on our sleeping bags. That was bad enough, so before my appointment we checked into a local motel to shower and shave (and get warm). As I am shaving, I notice the florescent fixture above the mirror is flickering. While their human resource department is explaining all the "benefits", such as flying you to a remote cabin during the weekends, the fact that the community is normally cut off from the world, except by air, during January and February, they tell me the town is on 25-cycle power. That is when I decided to look at other options. I had also been offered a position with an air conditioning manufacturer in York, Pennsylvania so I called them to ask if the job was still open. Thankfully it was and they arranged for a flight two days later. The gentleman that hired me was Roland Aires, who took me to my first ASHRAE meeting. Roland, who recently passed away, was a great mentor who went on to have a great personal and Society career. I was assigned to the test lab and was responsible for ARI, AGA and Military tests. I was also sent to job sites for technical support and spent two years in the New Jersey office commuting to Flushing Meadows for the World's Fair.

From there I went to the Jackson and Church Division of York Shipley. I was hired, not for my hydronic background, but more for my air conditioning experience. At Shipley I was involved in the development of the air condition side of the Jackson & Church equipment. Here I was exposed to the applications and sales side of the industry. Part of my responsibilities was traveling through out the country and attending ASHRAE meetings talking about the various applications of direct-fired equipment.

After some time, I found my interests shifting from engineering toward sales and I obtained employment at a number of manufacturer's representative-type firms, such as the one we're meeting at today.

#### **2. What kind of educational background did you have for this work?**

Tom: As I stated I grew up in a maritime family in Maine, so Hydronics was a natural. I did not feel I wanted to pursue a life at sea, so I went to Wentworth while also attending classes at Northeastern and MIT.

But I feel the best education that I received was the experience I gained by being "thrown to the wolves" by various employers. I never enjoyed traveling, but I was the "single guy" so I was thrown in to field service early on. Then when I did get married I was sent to various trouble projects, because I "had the experience".

Education is on going and I still try to attend seminars whenever I can.

I am still on the curriculum committees for Penn State, Harrisburg Area Community College and Stevens Trade. We need younger people in our industry.

**3. What part did ASHRAE play in your career and continuing education?**

Tom: Until I was hired, I was almost unaware of ASHRAE as an organization. I was directed to join ASHRAE by my employer to keep abreast of developments in this rapidly growing technical field. I began to attend the local chapter meetings on a regular basis for my own benefit. I met many members whose scope of knowledge surprised me. I found that I not only learned from the lectures, but also from discussions with other members. Some of these members were my competitors, yet they never held back because of that fact. They shared in the body of knowledge and tried to support the betterment of the industry. I was impressed with the organization as a whole and very surprised that so many local members were on national ASHRAE committees. I gradually found myself drawn into the local organization structure. I began to serve on various committees and eventually was elected to an office that led to going through the chairs. My employers supported these efforts with both time and money. I was able to contribute much and I, in turn, received much.

**4. What offices have you held in ASHRAE, both elected and otherwise?**

Tom: I was on many committees including the CRC Regional meeting committees, perhaps 3 of those. I helped on the Education committee and Audit committee. As for my first elected office, I think I was Treasurer, then VP and then President. I was a CRC delegate several times. After serving as Treasurer once, I was “volunteered” to fulfill other terms of treasurers who were transferred or, for business reasons, could not complete their terms.

**5. Why did you get involved with and stay involved with ASHRAE for all of these years?**

Tom: I began to realize that this was a worthwhile organization. I was getting a great deal from the educational aspects and also from the inter-personal relationships that I was establishing. The networking with others was extremely valuable to me. Different points of view opened my eyes to possibilities that I never would have realized had I not had these discussions. I got to know people in the utility field, people in government, people in contracting and people in consulting engineering firms. These contacts led to many other activities that I was interested in such as the Boiler Division of Labor and Industry Advisory Board (? exact title?).

**6. Do you think that vendors and manufacturer’s reps have significant contributions to offer to ASHRAE?**

Tom: Oh, absolutely! There’s no doubt in my mind that we all have contributed much in the past and shall continue to do so in the future. ASHRAE always has had a variety of member types and this diversity has been one of our traditional strengths. This inter-activeness has helped to solve many problems that existed in the industry. However, in recent years, I am disturbed by an increasing trend toward the local chapter becoming a gathering of vendors rather than the mix we once had. There are reasons for this that seem to be time and money related. I don’t think employers are supporting our younger members financially. In addition everyone seems so frantically busy, that they can’t pursue ASHRAE activities. We have got to change this trend.

**7. In your opinion, has ASHRAE improved over the years of your involvement?**

Tom: Overall, yes it has. The idea of more regionalized gatherings is the most beneficial change that I see. It enables us to interact with our national leaders and other staff. This has led to definite improvements in the ASHRAE Handbooks, Handbooks on CD with word search, etc.

**8. Have you experienced the benefits of ASHRAE membership in both a tangible and an intangible way during your long career?**

Tom: I think I've made that clear from my previous answers. Yes, I gave to Society but I also received much. The lifetime friendships are priceless and there is no way I can place a number on that. I missed the winter meeting this year and it is one of the few I have missed. I have realized what I missed most was the interaction with the friends, classmates, competitors that I would see every year. Society is an important part of the name.

**9. Do you regret the considerable amount of time that you committed to ASHRAE over the years?**

Tom: On that, I have no regrets whatsoever. You have to give something back to the industry that has nurtured you for decades. ASHRAE is an organization that allows you to do that at whatever level you choose: National, Regional or Local.

**10. Do you think that ASHRAE positively contributed to your success in your chosen career?**

Tom: There's no question that it enriched my life in many ways. I just wish I could get that idea across to our younger members. It's vital to their personal growth. ASHRAE should be a part of their lives.

**11. What do you think the future holds for ASHRAE? Feel free to speculate.**

Tom: I think we are entering upon one of the most technologically interesting centuries in the history of the world. The cost of fuel and the impending crunch for obtaining it will provide great challenges for the HVAC industry. It will also provide great opportunities for ASHRAE to benefit mankind. Fuels, if not already an issue, will become an international arena for the nations of the world. Our government must look to someone to help them better utilize the fuels we have. Who better to fill that role than the ASHRAE organization? We, ASHRAE, should be part of the process of writing the laws and regulations, not reacting to legislators. We can all help by interacting with governmental agencies to promote more sensible codes and standards. We have to reach out to these people and help them to establish policy rather than reacting to policy developed from un-professional sources. ASHRAE should be there, not lobbying, but assisting in the survival of our country.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carl C. Courtney, P.E.