



Medicine Hat Branch Newsletter

December 8, 2005

Season's Greetings from your Branch Executive!

Your branch executive, on behalf of APEGGA extend to you and yours their very best wishes for healthy, happy and safe holiday season.

The branch has been busy this fall with school and member outreach activities which we would like to highlight in this issue of our branch newsletter.

Outreach to schools



During *Alberta Science and Technology week*, APEGGA members helped the local PRAXIS society hold their annual Science Family Olympics. This year's event is at **Medicine Hat High School** on Saturday, **October 22 from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**. Robert Arthur, Sandra Plank, Clayton Bos and John Penrose manned their math table to show participants how to do Sudoku puzzles. Our efforts were very well received.

National Engineering and Geosciences week will be held in March. The Branch continues to work with

APEGGA and local schools to put on a **Science Olympics**. Science Olympics will invite area schools to enter teams in either the Grade 7 to 9 or the Grade 10 to 12 categories. Teams will be given a challenge project to complete and present on **Saturday Mar. 4, 2006** at Medicine Hat High School's South Gym. On the big day, each team will also be given two mystery challenges that need to be completed on the day. Invitations should be going out to local schools very soon. Thanks to Kenzie Liefso and Don Urquhart who are organizing the Branch's effort.

Member Outreach

Wednesday, October 26 – Technical / Social Evening – WILD ROSE WIND FARM PROJECT – Presented by: Claude Mindorff, President of West WindEau Inc.



West WindEau Inc. is an Alberta wind power development company based in Medicine Hat. In February 2005, West WindEau purchased the Alberta wind power interests of Superior Wind Energy Inc. West WindEau Inc. has continued a program of identifying and optioning lands with energetic wind resources in South East Alberta. With over two years of wind resource studies complete, West WindEau has confirmed that the acquired land leases and the high value wind resource in the study area can support a commercial development initiative. This project called the “WILD ROSE WIND FARM” will be the subject of Mr. Mindorff presentation.

Mr. Mindorff has been active in the North American Wind Industry for the last six years, first as Business Development Manager with Superior Wind Energy (a Brascan Power subsidiary), subsequently as VP and General Manager of Brascan Power Wind, and most recently, as Wind Advisor to Brascan Power. Mr. Mindorff has played a major role in a variety of industry leading initiatives.

Tuesday, November 15 – Noon Hour Video Conference – About eight of our local members were able to make it out to our first association wide video conference. Five or six branches participated in this event in which Mr. Dan gave us a Presentation on the implementation of the **Alberta SuperNet**. The meeting was held at Entre Corp which is now downtown across from the Towne Theater above the Credit union. This video conference was sponsored by APEGGA Head office this time around and so there was no charge.

The video conference was well received by those members in attendance, some of whom had worked quite closely with Alberta SuperNet. The next event is expected to be in January and our information to date tells us that the topic for discussion will be the development of the Edmonton ring road project

Future such events at this facility will cost the branch about \$125, which seems quite cost effective. Seating at the facility is limited to 15 and we already have 10 RSVP's so do let us know asap if you would like to be in attendance.

Thursday, November 17 – Technical / Social Evening – APEGGA members and guests met at Ralph's Texas Bar & Grill for a Technical/Social evening. After a delicious roast beef buffet dinner, Mr. Colby Bell shared his experiences as the project manager of the University of Calgary's entry into the 2005 Solar Car Challenge. The UC team designed their car, tested a prototype, and built their race vehicle - in only nine months. Then, they were off to the races!

The North American race started in Austin, Texas and finished at the University of Calgary campus in July. The solar cars made stops in many cities along the 4000 km route, including Medicine Hat. In September, the team and their vehicle traveled to Australia, to race over 3000 km from Darwin to Adelaide. The UC team finished 13th overall in North America. In Australia, they finished 10th overall; what's even more impressive is that they finished first in the production category and were the first rookie team to ever complete the Australian race.

The Solar Car Challenge attracts teams from around the world. There are two categories of vehicles: open class and production class. Open class entries use specialized materials and have budgets in the millions of dollars. Production class vehicles (like UC's entry) are built from off-the-shelf components. The UC team's vehicle was completed on a budget of merely \$350,000.

The solar cars are built for speed, not comfort. The UC vehicle reached speeds of up to 85 km/hr. Colby was one of the team's drivers, and he described what it was like to race across the Australian outback in a vehicle without air conditioning. The race was physically challenging for the drivers and their vehicles, and some teams didn't finish.

Colby's enthusiasm for solar power goes beyond the Solar Car Challenge. He and his team members visit schools and community groups to share their experiences and to increase awareness of the potential of solar power to replace some of our non-renewable energy sources. It's a topic that's becoming more important as we acknowledge the environmental impacts of fossil fuels and our vulnerability in depending on them so heavily. And who knows? Maybe one day, they'll build a solar car that has air conditioning and a CD player.

To learn more about the University of Calgary's entry in the Solar Car Challenge, visit www.calgarysolarteam.ca. The photograph below is taken from the Australian race organizer's web site. *(Thanks to Sandra Plank for this submission to the Newsletter)*



The Branch executive is looking at a number of interesting topics for future member outreach activities from January to June. Stay tuned for future notices.

Branch Executive Meeting

Our Next Branch Exec meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2006 at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room M – 1 at City Hall. Members are welcome to attend!