



The International System Safety Society

*Tennessee Valley Chapter*  
ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI - TENNESSEE

<http://www.iss-s-tvc.org/>

## September 2015 Newsletter

### Tennessee Valley Chapter Officers

**President:** Christopher Trumble, 256-847-3247

**Vice President:** Steve Hosner, 256-655-6323

**Treasurer:** Ronnie Sams, 256-842-1005

**Secretary:** Jason Rupert, 256-313-8650

**Immediate Past President:** Ken Rose, 256-645-1621,

**Special Events Coordinator:** Open

**Webmaster:** Don Swallow, 256-842-8641

### President's Corner

ISSC 2015 There was a conference this year in San Diego which was attended by a few of our Tennessee Valley chapter's members. Attendance was less than hoped due to fiscal climate which is a real shame as this is the only venue that provides system safety focused training.

The Tennessee Valley chapter's immediate past President, Mr. Ken Rose accepted the Chapter of the Year award. This is testament to the quality of membership but also to continued efforts of those who have taken the reins of this chapter and they should be commended for their selfless service to the System Safety profession.



While on the topics of awards and members who are exceptional, I believe our chapter has many exceptional individuals who are truly deserving of recognition. With the fiscal climate they often go without even cost of living increases and still not only do their jobs but go above and beyond their expected duties. Awards are often the only thing our members can receive to help encourage them to continue reaching higher. Our society owes it to our members and their families to recognize their sacrifices that have benefited our way of life in substantive ways.

There are a variety of awards available to include Engineer of the Year, Manager of the Year, Educator of the Year, and the Society's Highest, the Professional Development Award. In addition, contributions to the system safety discipline and the Society are recognized by upgrading memberships to Senior and Fellow Member. I think the most

## ISSS TVC September 2015 Newsletter (con't)

difficult task we have is to decide who gets awards but this past year not one member was nominated for an award. I know there are members deserving of recognition and this year I am looking forward to seeing worthy members receive awards. The membership is encouraged to submit nominations.

**The 2015-2016 TVC Officers** took over responsibilities on 1 July 2015.

President – Christopher Trumble

Vice President – Steve Hosner

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**The Chapter is looking for a volunteer to step up and fill an open role! Special Events Coordinator.**

The Planning Committee met and discussed the future of the Chapter. I presented a “President’s platform” document, it was discussed and the contents agreed upon. The contents of the document will be presented at the September meeting. It is important you attend so you can learn what the chapter’s next year will look like.

A TVC dinner meeting is currently scheduled for 19 October 2015 starting at 1730 hours (5:30 PM) at Grille 29 restaurant, 445 Providence Main Street, Suite 101 Huntsville, AL 35806 (PH: 256-489-9470). Please confirm with someone on the Planning Committee that you are attending and how many you will be bringing by 9 October 2015 for planning purposes.

We already have a location and date for the February meeting. It will be 1130-1230 hours, 17 February 2016 at Quantitech in Huntsville. It is our goal to have the monthly meets scheduled with speakers, dates and locations well in advance so everyone can plan to attend. We are currently looking for a location to hold the November meeting from 1130-1230 hours on Wednesday 18 November 2015. If you have a suitable venue please contact Steve Hosner. We are always looking for topics and presenters for our chapter meetings. If you have topic ideas or a paper to present, contact Steve Hosner, hosnersr\_pe@knology.net.

December 2015 we are planning a Christmas get together at Airport road, Huntsville. Map and time specifics will be distributed once we know there is enough member interest. If you are interested please let Chris Trumble ([Christopher.c.trumble.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Christopher.c.trumble.civ@mail.mil)) know how many will be attending for planning purposes. It is envisioned this event will be a couple of hours, starting around 1730 hours (5:30 pm). It will be informal with finger foods and no charge to attend. You are asked to bring a food item or beverage for people attending to share.

## ISSS TVC September 2015 Newsletter (con't)

The chapter is considering starting a mentorship program and want to know if members would be interested in mentoring university students. We all have had people during the early part of our careers made a significant, positive impact on shaping our professional development. "As iron sharpens iron", I'd like to extend the opportunity to university students and our members to excel. We have some of the brightest, most experienced and talented engineers and program managers in the world in our chapter. In my opinion, the opportunity for engineering students to capitalize on this untapped resource will benefit our profession and our nation. If you are interested in being included on a list of potential mentors, please inform Chris Trumble ([Christopher.c.trumble.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Christopher.c.trumble.civ@mail.mil)).

I believe it is important to be knowledgeable in a wide variety of topics, especially if you are working in system safety. Here are some interesting facts:

- Approximately 10.5 gallons of water is used in a dishwasher. Washing the dishes by hand can use up to 20 gallons of water.
- On average, the life span of an American dollar bill is eighteen months.
- Ancient Egyptian women used to wear perfume cones made of wax that would melt in the heat letting out a nice fragrance.

*To the chapter's membership, thanks for all that you do!*

## Recent Meetings

### May 20, 2015

A-P-T Research in Huntsville hosted 20 chapter members and 2 guests at a lunch meeting at their facility in Huntsville. Attendees lunched on Jason deli sandwiches with drinks provided by A-P-T. Ken Rose, Chapter President, opened the meeting welcoming the attendees and having all introduce themselves.

Our Speaker was International System Safety Society Operating Vice President for History and one of the charter members of the Society, Rex Gordon (right) ([Bio](#)). Rex's topic was "Exploring Our Society's History." Rex led an informal exploration of the Society's history by telling the story of how he became involved with the practice of system safety early in the development of the idea and how that led him to become one of the original members of the System Safety Society when it began in Southern California.



### June 24, 2015

## ISSS TVC September 2015 Newsletter (con't)

The Chapter's June meeting saw A-P-T Research in Huntsville host 19 members and 9 guests. A-P-T provided Pizza and Drinks. Ken Rose, Chapter president, publicized need to complete an election for Secretary, Treasurer, and VP for the new Society year and took nominations. The Chapter had no nominations for awards this year.

A-P-T Founder and President Tom Pfitzer ([Bio](#)) was the speaker for the meeting which was combined with Tom's simulcast to the NASA Safety Center. The title of the presentation was "Nine Ideas for Our Discipline." Tom traced the history of today's risk management ideas to ancient times and revealed nine "new" ideas that are relevant to today's safety professional, along with current industry trends and developments. The nine ideas are: (1) As a new discipline, we must be continuously open to new and expanded thinking. (2) It takes decades for the best ideas to become accepted and implemented. (3) Processes within a bureaucracy can be cross purposes with good practice of our discipline. (4) As practitioners, we should have a wide variety of solutions to reduce risk. (5) As a discipline, we need to be more comfortable quantifying risk. (6) Total system risk is the preferred metric. (7) Universal risk scales (URS) can become a decision aid. (8) Total system risks are comparable to many other types of risk. (9) The safety case approach. After his presentation, Tom led a thought-provoking question and answer session. The slides for the presentation are online ([Link](#)).



### July 15, 2015

The Chapter was hosted by Steven Hosner of System Safety Engineering, LLC. Steve provided the venue at 306 Wynn Drive in Huntsville, as well lunch for 11 members and 8 guests from Tiziki's Cafe in Madison. Don Swallom, Chapter Webmaster, opened the meeting by having all introduce themselves. He then publicized the 33rd International System Safety Conference in San Diego, August 24-27. He also announced that Chris Trumble would be serving as Chapter President and Steve Hosner as Vice President for the new Society Year pending the approval of Chapter members.

## ISSS TVC September 2015 Newsletter (con't)

Don then introduced our speaker, Steve Hosner. Steve's subject was "How Do You Do Safety for Mil-Vilian Rotorcraft?" Mil-vilian rotorcraft are rotorcraft built under military contract that require unrestricted access to civil airspace. Steve pointed out that we can accommodate the differences between military (MIL-STD-882) and civil (FAA) system safety approaches by harmonizing hazard severity definitions. Then define safety requirements based on the domain of the hazard whether civil or military. Accommodate the differences between the military (MIL-STD-882) and the civil (FAA) system safety approach by (1) using functional top-down methods to determine functional hazards, (2) assessing functional hazard severities based on the harmonized definitions, and (3) allocating safety requirements to the functional hazard based on the domain of the hazard, either civil or military. Finally, accommodate the differences between the military (MIL-STD-882) and the civil (FAA) system safety approaches by (1) allocating safety requirements to implementations and (2) using safety analysis or assessment of implementations use MIL-STD-882 analyses/assessments to determine the residual risk. Steve's slides are available at the online ([Link](#)). For further information or to procure training from Steve, contact him via email or the number on his slides.



### August 25, 2015

The August meeting took place Tuesday evening, August 25th, in Gary Braman's suite in the Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, California in conjunction with the International System Safety Conference (ISSC). Chapter members Gary Braman, Don Hanline, Ken Rose, Don Swallow, Doug Taylor, Pam Kniess and Dave West were joined by Dave's wife Amy. Attendees discussed the highlights of the Conference while sipping beverages provided by our host Gary. Other TVC members attending the Conference but unable to attend the meeting were Saralyn Dwyer, Melissa Emery, Tom Pfitzer, Rhonda Barnes, Mike Pessoney, Danielle DeBraccio and Terry Songy. The Chapter and its members were honored at the Conference as well. Gary Braman won the Scientific Research & Development Award. Pam Kniess advanced to Senior Member. Barry Hendrix and Darrell Stokes were advanced to Fellow. Finally, Tennessee Valley won the Chapter of the Year award. Find more information on the Conference including the program and photos at <http://issc2015.system-safety.org/>.