



The International System Safety Society

Tennessee Valley Chapter
ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI - TENNESSEE

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

March 2016 Newsletter

Tennessee Valley Chapter Officers

President: Christopher Trumble, 256-847-3247

Vice President: Open

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

This term as Chapter President has seen a great deal of activity and my reign is rapidly coming to a close. April ballots will be sent out for positions in the Chapter and I urge you to throw your name into the hat and run for a position. Our chapter is blessed with such an amazing group of intelligent and hard working professionals, that I have every confidence any of whom would do a great job at coordinating and/or managing the chapter's operations. Our chapter of the International System Safety Society is, in my opinion the best of the chapters, due in large part to the incremental building upon the foundation and successes of preceding Chapter Officers. I encourage those members who are apprehensive to run for a Chapter Officer position to put aside any fears, because they are unfounded. The support and cooperation I have received from the members, previous Chapter Officers, current Chapter Officers and local businesses has really made this an enjoyable experience which has benefited me personally and professionally.



If you choose not to run for one of the Chapter Officer positions, I remind you of the importance of voting for someone for each of the Chapter Officer positions. Your vote is your voice as member of the Chapter. It's your opportunity to be heard, to hold those elected accountable for their decisions and to have a say in important issues that affect your professional organization. Remember that during the Chapter Officer Elections, your vote matters.

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News

Mr. Steve Hosner regrettably stepped down as vice president a couple of months ago. Steve's family is still battling with health issues. The Chapter is keeping his family in our thoughts and prayers.

During the February meeting we received a brief introduction to the Chem-E Car competition that the University of Alabama Huntsville (UAH) chemical engineering students are participating in. The competition is being held in Tuscaloosa, AL the 2nd of April 2016. I'm proud to be able to support their effort by donating \$100.00 from the ISSS-TVC towards the UAH team's registration fee. If any of our members wish to assist the team with guidance they would welcome your guidance. Following the competition we plan on having a representative from the UAH team brief us on the competition results.

February 17th we were fortunate to have Mr. Dean Nichols of [APT Research](#) (Huntsville, Alabama) provide a presentation at our host facility [Quantitech](#) (7027 Old Madison Pike, Suite 106, Huntsville, AL). His presentation, "Risk-based Technique for Explosive Safety" was very well received. Dean provided an excellent program of instruction and information related to assessing risks associated with explosives to include some impressive video clips. Explosives are utilized in many of the systems our membership are involved in. I'm confident our members and guests working in industries such as rockets, missiles, automobile air bags, aircraft fire extinguisher squibs, small arms ammunition and demolitions munitions benefited greatly from this presentation. The turnout for this meeting was very good. The meeting was attended by 27 people (14 members and 13 guests).



Dean Nichols

The Chapter of the Year award has transferred in February 2016 from the [Bastion Technologies](#) facility to the [Quantitech](#) office. Quantitech very graciously provided sandwiches, snacks and drinks for lunch and has been a valued supporter of the Chapter. I'm confident the Award will feel at home while it is gracing one of their walls. If your business would like to display the award at their facility just email a request and we will be happy to try to coordinate a period of time for you to display it.

Meetings

16 March 2016 [Dynetics](#) 1002 Explorer Blvd. Huntsville, AL 35806 will be hosting our monthly meeting. Mr. Josh McNeil and Latoya Eggleston from US Army [AMRDEC Software Engineering Directorate](#) (SED) has agreed to provide a presentation regarding the US Air Force F35 aircraft software safety program. Software is being used in almost every system, whether it be a military vehicle or weapon system, a commercial aircraft,

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automobile, ship, power generation or transmission system, etc. It's anticipated our membership will have a keen interest in this topic. Additionally, we are excited to be extending an invitation to the local chapter of the IEEE membership to attend and make this a joint meeting. It is hoped we can mutually broaden our professional network via this meeting.

20 April 2016 [APT Research](#) 4950 Research Dr. NW, Huntsville, AL 35805 will be hosting the meeting. Tom Pfitzer from APT Research will be providing a presentation. Many of our membership are familiar with Tom as he has been active in the Society for many years and done a great deal for the chapter. His presentations are well attended and equally well received. Saving the details of his presentation for a future newsletter.

April 2016 ballots for the Chapter Officers will be sent out. Start thinking now about submitting your name for a Chapter officer position. The Chapter will be needing a President and Vice president for the upcoming year.

18 May 2016 [Intuitive Research and Technology](#) 5030 Bradford Blvd NW # 205, Huntsville, AL 35805 will be hosting the meeting. A representative from Intuitive will be providing a presentation. Stay tuned for further details.

Special Events

The Chapter is looking for volunteers to assist with the following special events:

[Alabama Science & Engineering Fair](#) April 2 - 4, 2015 The University of Alabama in Huntsville Earth System Science Center, CRH 3078 Huntsville, AL 35899. The chapter is pleased that members have stepped up and agreed to support this event as judges. We missed supporting this event the last two years and it's fantastic that we didn't have to make it three years that we missed.



[NASA Rover Challenge](#) April 7-9, 2016 awards presented last day of race at 5:00 pm. We have a couple of volunteers but there is room for more to participate.

If you are interested please contact Chris Trumble (Christopher.c.trumble.civ@mail.mil).

Awards

The opportunity to nominate members for awards is rapidly drawing to a close. The ISSS-TVC is still waiting for submission. Rumor is, there is one submission being worked and hope this gets completed and submitted in time for consideration. There is no limit on how many submissions so please identify a deserving member and have them recognized.

Fun stuff

The majority of our membership is probably aware there is an upcoming Federal election. Here are some trivia facts related to the United States election that you may or may not be aware of:

- **To what party did George Washington belong when he was elected the first US President in 1789: The Federalists, The Anti-Federalists, or the Democratic-Republicans?**
Neither Washington nor his opponent John Adams were affiliated with any party at the time of the first election in our country's history, probably because they were too busy forming the foundation of our country. In the second election in 1792, both men ran again (with the same results), but by this time, they were both aligned with the Federalist party.
- **Who was the first person to run for and win the position of Vice President?**
George Clinton in 1804. Prior to that year, the Vice President was the Presidential candidate with the second-most electoral votes (John Adams in 1789 and 1792, Thomas Jefferson in 1796, and Aaron Burr in 1800), as outlined in Article II, Section I of the US Constitution.
- **Who received more electoral votes in the 1800 election: Thomas Jefferson or Aaron Burr?** Aaron Burr. Though Jefferson was ultimately declared the winner, there were multiple abnormalities in the electoral process. Burr originally received 74 electoral votes to Jefferson's 72, but only because one New York elector illegally cast both of his votes for Burr. When this was uncovered, his second vote was redirected to Jefferson, resulting in a tie. But even a tie was not the result that should have been. The Republicans planned for one of their electors to abstain from his second vote in order to give Jefferson a one vote advantage, but the plan was botched, resulting in a tie. This tie was settled by a vote of the outgoing House of Representatives, in which Jefferson emerged victorious
- **Who was the only candidate to receive electoral votes after death?** 1872 Liberal Republican candidate Horace Greeley. Incumbent President Ulysses S. Grant won by a landslide (286 electoral vote to 66), but Greeley passed away between the popular vote and the voting in the Electoral College. In the confusion that followed, Greeley's electors split their votes among 4 different candidates, with Greeley still getting the votes of 3 electors. Congress subsequently disallowed these 3 votes for obvious reasons, namely Greeley's lack of a pulse, but Greeley still goes down as the only candidate to die during the electoral process.
- **Who was the only candidate to receive an absolute majority of the popular vote while still losing the election?** Many of you will think the answer is Al Gore in the 2000 election, but Gore only received a relative majority with 48.4% of the popular vote to George W. Bush's 47.9%. The only losing candidate to receive more than 50% of the popular vote was Democrat Samuel J. Tilden in 1876. Tilden led Republican Rutherford B. Hayes in the Electoral College 184-165 with 20 votes still in dispute. Each party claimed it had won the 19 votes belonging to Florida, Louisiana, and South Carolina while one of the three voters

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from Oregon attempted to vote for Tilden before being overruled by the state's other two electors. After much legal action, the Democrats agreed to allow all 20 disputed votes to go to Hayes in exchange for the withdrawal of federal troops from the South, ending Reconstruction, and multiple other compromises.

- **Who was the last third-party candidate to win electoral votes?** Independent George Wallace in 1968. A big political issue at the time was the government's involvement in the segregation of schools in the South. Wallace ran on a platform opposing such federal intervention, and therefore won the southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi who supported segregation.
- **Which election featured the most lopsided vote in US history?** In 1984, incumbent President Ronald Reagan broke every election record imaginable in his race against Democratic candidate Walter Mondale who received only 13 electoral votes from the District of Columbia and his native Minnesota. Reagan received almost 60% of the popular vote, defeating Mondale by almost 17 million votes and garnering a record 525 electoral votes from 49 states.

To the chapter's membership, keep expanding your knowledge and thanks for all that you do!