



The CSRA Chemist

SAVANNAH RIVER SECTION
OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

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The CSRA Chemist

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Mailing Address: Savannah River Section - American Chemical Society, c/o Lewis C. Baylor, Equitech Int'l Corp., 1359 Silver Bluff Rd., Ste. G6, Aiken, SC 29803. All newsletter articles should be sent to this address. All subscriptions, ads, and payments should be sent c/o Brian Anderson.

Advertisers: Brian Anderson is the Advertising Manager. The current ad prices are as follows: Full page (4.5" x 7") for \$100, Half page (4.5" x 3.5") for \$65, Quarter page (2.25" x 3.5" or 4.5" x 1.75") for \$40 and Business Cards (2.25" x 1.5") for \$15. We cannot accept ads that are larger than these size requirements. Send your camera ready art or computer diskette and payments to the mailing address above c/o Brian Anderson. The deadline is three weeks prior to the meeting date.

Meeting Announcements: *The CSRA Chemist* will announce scientific meetings of interest to chemists and chemical engineers (when space is available). For information and deadlines, contact Lewis Baylor.

Change of Address: Send new address and member number to address above and ACS, PO Box 3337, Columbus, Ohio 43210. You may also send e-mail to service@acs.org.

MAY EVENT

MAY MEETING: JOINT MEETING WITH TAG AUGUSTA–RICHMOND COUNTY WATER TREATMENT FILTER PLANT TOUR

Date: Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Location: Augusta–Richmond County Water Treatment Filter Plant
Augusta, GA

Schedule: 7:00 p.m. Tour

Cost: Free!!

Reservations: Contact Sara Diamond at (803) 725-2605. Leave a message on voice mail if necessary, indicating the names of those attending and whether you will be having dinner or just attending the program. Please sign up early!! The deadline is 4 pm, Tuesday, May 22. There is no limit on the number of people who can take the tour; however, we would like to know how many to expect so we don't leave anyone behind.

Program: This year's plant tour is a slight change of pace from recent years' tours of commercial production facilities. We will be touring the Augusta – Richmond County Water Treatment Filter Plant. Come see how something we take for granted – clean drinking water – is made that way! The plant has been in operation for over 60 years, and treats approximately 28 million gallons of water per day. There's a significant amount of chemistry involved in the process, and the tour promises to be quite educational.

Attire: Our hosts have indicated that safety glasses and equipment are not necessary for this tour. Still, please dress appropriately for a lab/industrial environment (long pants, no open-toed shoes, etc.). For more guidance, see the article entitled "Tour Etiquette" in the May 1997 newsletter (accessible at www.acs-sr.home.mindspring.com), or ask one of the Executive Committee members.

Directions: 1425 Highland Avenue, corner of Highland and Central Avenues (park in the Central Avenue lot).

CHAIR'S THOUGHTS

Do you feel you're getting the most you can out of your ACS membership? Everybody has a primary reason for belonging. It could be professional development and networking opportunities, the chance to teach youngsters about chemistry, knowing about the interesting speakers that come through town, or maybe even just the discounts on journal subscriptions. But chances are no matter what you have in mind, the ACS has even more benefits of which you may not know.

If you haven't been to the ACS Web site recently (www.acs.org), go take a look. The site is now easier to navigate, and there is a ton of content that can help your life as a chemist. The big news is the roll-out this month of a new placement service geared to chemists of all stripes, JobSpectrum.org. The service's focus on chemistry and cooperation with ACS Career Services make it likely to become the premier online service in our field. Features of the new site include: confidential personal accounts that store contact information, cover letters, text résumés, and more; personal search agents with e-mail alerts for new appropriate job listings; various options to search the jobs database: and the ability to apply online or submit your résumé confidentially. There will also be columns to address all stages of career management. Sign up started May 1, and the site will be fully

functional June 1. Of course, acs.org also provides links to long-standing ACS career services such as C&E News classifieds, salary surveys, and continuing education opportunities.

Another feature of acs.org that I was not aware of until recently is the collection of links to chemical library databases. ACS publications such as LabGuide and Chemyclopedia are online. One can also search the holdings of the ACS library, which has over 16,000 books and 300,000 photographs; the library can provide some other services to members. There are links to sites dealing with chemical and health safety, proper writing style, and government and professional organizations. And one can search ACS journals and find links to SciFinder, STN, and other databases.

I could write pages more about what's at acs.org, but you should see it for yourself. The site is your guidebook to all that ACS offers its members.

- Rob Lascola



ASME/JOINT SOCIETY PICNIC - IT'S FREE!

Once again, ACS is proud to be part of the annual ASME/Joint Society Spring picnic, and the Section will be picking up the tab for all members and their families. As with last year, the picnic will provide an opportunity to meet new people, build relations among the societies, and most importantly, to have fun. Last year, the other participating societies were the American Society of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) and the South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE). Although it was rather hot on the day of the picnic last year, everyone found a way to enjoy themselves. The following is information on this year's picnic.

Who: All members of the sponsoring societies, plus family members

Date: Saturday, May 26th

Time: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Place: Riverview Park Pavilion/
Picnic Area, N. Augusta, S.C.

Food: Catered by Bobby's BBQ
(typical barbeque stuff, with tea)

Cost: Free!!

Activities: Volleyball, horseshoes, softball (fields are adjacent to the pavilion), tennis, and all the other amenities that are part of the park. If you are interested in attending, please call Sara Diamond at 725-2380 by COB Thursday, May 17.

- Rob Lascola

GIRL SCOUT ROUNDUP

The annual Girl Scout Roundup was held at the Aiken Jaycees Fairground on Saturday April 28th. Hundreds of girls stopped by the American Chemical Society's booth to play with super water absorbing polymers. They watched as 2 teaspoons of polyacrylamide ("Water Saver" from Home Depot) slowly absorbed a cup of water and then played with the resulting gel. They also competed to see which troop was best at "filling a diaper." Several troops were able to get a newborn-size diaper to hold over 4 cups of water—although it generally took three scouts to do it. Once again, ACS took the prize (completely unofficial) as the messiest booth.

- Stephanie Myers



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BOY SCOUT ROUNDUP

Saturday, April 21st was a beautiful, warm, sunny spring day. It was just the type day to bring out the Scouts for their annual roundup at the Riverwalk in Augusta and the ACS was there to welcome them.

Charles Crawford got us a nice spot near the Wackenhut K-9 team, the Fire Safety House and the Pinewood Derby races. This was just the place to draw plenty of visitors, including the Section's own Roy Beck from Troop 7. Armed with our posters, courtesy of Brian Anderson's term as Chair, and the Hoffman Electrolysis apparatus, we attracted Scouts of all ages. They saw water being electrically decomposed and the gasses collected in the tops of tubes. The addition of some Universal Indicator showed the formation of hydrogen and hydroxyl ions at the respective electrodes.

Some visitors remembered a good deal of what was told them about this. One Cub Scout did a pretty good job of describing it to his friend on his second visit to the table. Parents seemed to enjoy it also. I'll admit, though, that some of these Scouts asked the strangest questions. If you thought oral comprehensives were rough in college, try figuring out what some of these kids want to know.

We have more to do here in the future. One Saturday in February,

the Scouts sponsor Merit Badge University, a gathering where 'mentors' (that's us) help them achieve various badges. One is Chemistry but they also have an Atomic Energy badge, so those of us on site will have our work cut out for us. Come out and help; it was a great time and a lot of fun.

- Bill Trammell

COUNCILOR'S REPORT FROM THE SAN DIEGO NATIONAL MEETING

The 221st American Chemical Society National Meeting was held in San Diego April 1 – 5, 2001. As is customary, committees began work prior to the general meeting on March 30 and 31. Chris Bannochie is assigned as a member of the Council Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), subcommittee on Public Policy. This is a new subcommittee assignment for Chris, and the committee is under a new chair, the third in as many National meetings, so everyone is settling into the new chair's organization and priorities. Chris will be the committee liaison to the Local Section Activities Committee (LSAC) and the subcommittee liaison to the Office of Legislative and Government Affairs (OLGA). In these roles, he is eager to receive



input from Savannah River Section members concerning issues or concerns they may have.

The Savannah River Section had an annexation petition before the LSAC and the Council in San Diego. The petition was for the addition of Emanuel, Jenkins, and Screven counties in Georgia to the Section. Currently, there is only one ACS member in these three counties. The petition arose during discussions with our neighboring Georgia local sections and the planned formation of a Middle Georgia Section based in Macon. The new section was being created from counties currently in the Georgia Section based in Atlanta. The Georgia Section extended from the Tennessee border to Charlton County on the Florida border. Initially, Middle Georgia proposed combining the southern Georgia counties to the Coastal Empire Section based in Savannah with three

counties bordering Savannah River and Coastal Empire going to our section. The Coastal Empire Section chose not to add the southern counties with their 12 ACS members because they felt they could not afford to service them. These counties were combined with the Middle Georgia Section because they would have otherwise been left isolated from the Georgia Section (Atlanta). The ACS-SR Executive Committee voted to annex the three counties bordering us on the south after receiving concurrence from the Georgia Section, Coastal Empire Section, Northeast Georgia Section (Athens), and Middle Georgia Section. Chris met with the LSAC subcommittee overseeing the petition in order to provide an explanation for the petition. They voted to accept our petition and the petition creating the Middle Georgia Section, and the Council voted unanimously to approve our annexation and to form a new section in Middle Georgia.

The Savannah River Section brought three additional issues before LSAC. The first was a request to include statistical information in the compilation of Local Section data published by LSAC based on the Local Section Annual Reports. The tabulated information is not as useful as it could be to local section leaders looking to compare their performance with other sections of similar size. The second was a request for financial support for additional of-

ficer training to Local Sections facing the loss of their Chair-Elect prior to his/her assuming the duties of Chair. We pointed out that smaller sections could only afford to send one officer, typically the Chair-Elect for officer training each year. If this person departs prior to serving their year as Chair, as happened to us this past year, the section is faced with the expense of training two officers the following year, or having a serving Chair with little or no knowledge of ACS workings. Our third issue was the diminishing value of the Local Section Allotment over the years. We noted that the allotment is not indexed/adjusted for inflation as are the dues and subscription costs that support it. With an ever-increasing local section mandate for programs such as Local Section Career Programs, Local Section Minority Affairs, etc., there is not sufficient money to fund many of these activities in smaller sections without significant investment income. Kathleen Schultz the Chair of LSAC assigned these issues to one of her subcommittees, and we are awaiting feedback from her as to the outcome of discussions in San Diego. One positive sign is the recent Board announcement that additional financial support for Local Sections is being considered effective this year. Apparently, other local sections have raised this issue, and it has received the attention of ACS President Attila Pavlath.

CEPA received a report on a new

ACS venture entitled Job Spectrum.com, an online employment service. The effort is designed to be a revenue vehicle for the American Chemical Society and to make the Society the premier web address for all types of scientific employment. The service would be free to job seekers and would derive its revenue from employers. It would replace the current online professional database used by employers seeking American Chemical Society members for employment opportunities. One of the main drivers for the project is the increasing pressure on C&EN classified revenues from the numerous new competitors and the rapid transition from print to online media. The concern expressed by the Employment Services Advisory Board of CEPA in Washington, D.C. when the initial concept was unveiled, was that the service did not preserve enough benefits exclusively to members of the American Chemical Society. This same concern was voiced during the presentation in San Diego, and many councilors on CEPA felt the staff members were ignoring their concerns. CEPA approved a strongly worded motion indicating our desire to see more exclusive member benefits incorporated into the program. Initially, the committee was informed the service would pilot in June of this year, but it was learned later in San Diego, that their were significant issues in achieving this

debut date and that the service would come online later than expected. Chris will continue to closely monitor this issue.

The CEPA generated document, *The Academic Professional Guidelines*, was approved unanimously by the Council. This third edition should be available by the Chicago National meeting once it is adopted by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors indicated at their December meeting that local section web directories adhere to the same process as print directories, and that each web directory must be hosted on the Society server using the same rigorous security standards as in other area of the Society. The full impact of this directive has not yet been disseminated to local section webmasters.

The Council passed the automatic dues escalator increase to Society Membership Dues. Hence, the 2002 dues rate for members will increase by \$3 to \$112. The

Council had disapproved the increase for 2001, but there was less incentive to eliminate the increase this year, considering the solid salary gains experienced by chemists and chemical engineers this year.

In other committee reports to the Council, SOCED (The Society Committee on Education) reported on a new three-year NSF grant for \$1.1 million to establish ACS as a national center for chemistry technician education. MAC (Committee on Membership Affairs) reported that the Society has increased student membership by 24% since 1996. Additionally, they continue to provide mini-grants for member retention activities by local sections and divisions. In 2000, grants totaled \$18,126, funding proposals from 16 of 20 applications. A new member recognition program was developed to recognize 5, 10, 15, 25, 35, and 50-year service milestones.

- Chris Bannochie



Artist's conception of the ACS dues escalator.

QUILL AND FLASK



This month's column comes to you courtesy of the ACS' Cut & Paste resource for newsletter editors. Enjoy!

A Few More Points to Ponder....

Let us, then, be up and doing,
Still achieving, still pursuing.

--Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807-1882), Poet

Low roads are crowded by those
who desire; high roads, less
traveled, by those who aspire.

Few people have the leadership skills commensurate with their next promotion or next major challenge. That's the good news. We develop those skills by jumping off cliffs and making our wings on the way down. Harry Truman wasn't Harry Truman until 1948.

--Brent Filson, writer

You may have to take it as it happens, but you should try to make it happen the way you want to take it.

--German Proverb

We with either find a way or make one.

--Hanibal (247-183 BC),
Carthaginian General

Praise does wonders for the sense of hearing.

We are what we do repeatedly.
Excellence is, therefore, not an act
but a habit.

--Aristotle (384-322 BC), Philosopher

If you see a bandwagon, it's too late.

--James Goldsmith

Surround yourself with the best people you can find, delegate authority, and don't interfere.

--Ronald Reagan, 40th US President

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ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

| Date | Event | Venue | Location |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|----------|
| January 22 | Career Workshop | ASU - New Science Bldg. | Augusta |
| January 31 | Chemical Jeopardy | USCA - Etherredge Center | Aiken |
| February 7 | SRS Technology Day | Civic Center | Augusta |
| February 19 | Career Workshop | ASU - New Science Bldg. | Augusta |
| February 20 | McIntyre "Mac" Louthan "Metallurgy, Chemistry and Corrosion Fatigue" | Snug Tavern | Augusta |
| March 15 | Fisher Expo (w/ TAG) | Hampton Inn | Aiken |
| March 19 | Career Workshop | ASU - New Science Bldg. | Augusta |
| April 21 | Boy Scout Roundup | Riverwalk | Augusta |
| April 28 | Girl Scout Roundup | Aiken Fair Ground | Aiken |
| May 22 | Augusta-Richmond County Water Treatment Filter Plant Tour | | Augusta |
| Sept. 14 | J. Ernest Simpson "Chemistry of Wine" | TBA | TBA |
| September 11 | CSRA College Night | Civic Center | Augusta |
| Sept. 14-16 | Arts in the Heart | Riverwalk | Augusta |
| October 13 | SEED | USC-Aiken | Aiken |
| Nov. 4-10 | National Chemistry Week | Various | CSRA |
| Nov. 16 | James F. O'Brien, Awards "Absinthe: A Chemical and Artistic History" | TBA | TBA |

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