

CLOSING REMARKS

JOE WHITE (U.S. Naval Research Laboratory): It's time for my favorite part of the meeting, right before we go home. First of all, thank you all for coming this year. It's a good crowd. This was our first time at trying downtown. It's probably our last time in a while at trying downtown, I think. The hotel was kind of a mixed blessing here. We go back to Reston in 2006, so we're going to go back out into the country again.

There were a lot of interesting things this year. I think my favorite paper – and I'm not supposed to have a favorite paper -- but I think it had to be Prof. Mills's paper. I really liked the idea of the elephants stomping and the kiss-of-death packets. It was just a nice touch.

The other thing that I particularly liked was the interoperability panel yesterday afternoon. I think we brought out a lot of things that people needed to think about. I know that probably not all of us have thought of everything. I particularly thank Eduardo [Detoma] for all the work in putting that together. And of course there was a lot of new stuff this year on the chip-scale atomic clocks, which was kind of nice from my standpoint.

As usual, we thank our exhibitors. They're part of the people that make this meeting possible. It gives you a chance to look at what they're doing, find out what you want to buy. It gives them a chance to tell you what they're doing, and all in all it works out pretty well for everybody. So we're happy about that.

I think the big news at this point is something I've been reminding you about every year for the last couple years, and that is next year is finally going to be the year that we do our joint meeting with [IEEE] Frequency Control [Symposium]. The schedule is late August, and the thing to remember is that pushes up all our dates for next year. So instead of having to have your abstracts in roughly the first of August, the Call for Papers will go out in late January, and we anticipate that we'll have to have the abstracts in by late March [actually 15 April]. I think the Program Committee will meet in April, so it's going to be in that time frame. We'll get the Call out as soon as we're organized enough to do it, but please keep that in mind. I know that comes kind of quick on the heels of this meeting, and you've just gotten done telling us all the wonderful things you've just done, but do some more wonderful things between now and then, and be ready to report on them.

This gets us down to comments and questions. First of all, credit cards. We talk about this every year, but next year it's going to work because IEEE is going to take the money, and you'll actually be able to register online with your credit card, and come to the meeting and register with your credit card. 2006 we're going to try to make it work here at PTTI, but it's going to be a bit of a job, I think.

So really my next questions are for you. What did you like this year, what didn't you like? Hotel comments are not being accepted, because we had a lot of those, and we all believe you, and that's why we're going back to Reston, but other than that, what did you like, and what didn't you like? Did you like being downtown, for instance? Was that a good thing or a bad thing?

AUDIENCE: A good thing. It was fun.

WHITE: Even the local people that had to ...? Okay, good, all right. Is it better than being out in the country at Reston?

AUDIENCE: Yes and no.

WHITE: All right, so downtown wasn't so bad if just the hotel had worked out right and we wouldn't have ended up changing rooms at the last minute and some odd things like that. Okay. What did you like? What worked well for you this year that you'd want us to do again? ... Nothing?

AUDIENCE: I think the panel discussion. We could do something like that again.

WHITE: That was a really good group. [Detoma] didn't get everybody he wanted. He originally had 11 people on that panel, and some of them couldn't make it due to visa problems.

AUDIENCE: I was pleased to see the relaxed prescriptions on deadline for the turning in of Powerpoint presentations.

WHITE: Yes, we were, too. I'll get into that in a minute as to how that came to be. Well, actually we had planned to do essentially what we did this year anyway. It's just that it happened a little differently from what we expected.

Other comments on what you liked? Okay, now for the fun part. What didn't you like? What shouldn't we do in the outyears that we did this year or last year, or anytime you remember that you think we may do again? ... So nobody cares one way or the other?

DEMETRIOS MATSAKIS (U.S. Naval Observatory): 8:30 starting, instead of 8:00. If you get enough cancellations ...

WHITE: Yes, that's right, if we get enough cancellations, we could just start at 8:30. And I am sorry about that. This year we had a number of people that were from out of the country that apparently had trouble getting into the country. I think the Chinese in particular. I'm not quite sure exactly what did happen there, but I think they alone accounted for two-thirds of the cancellations.

RON BEARD (U.S. Naval Research Laboratory): I vote for 9:30.

WHITE: That's the problem with living in town and going to the meeting in town. What was it, 3 and a half hours it took you to get here the first day?

BEARD: Yeah.

WHITE: How bad was it today?

BEARD: Only 2.

WHITE: That's a lot better. Well, you're the branch head; if you'd allow us to stay in the hotel ...

AUDIENCE: Do you know when we'll be getting the Proceedings?

WHITE: No. Where's Lee? When will we be getting the Proceedings, Lee?

LEE BREAKIRON (U.S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY): Roughly June.

WHITE: Whenever Lee gets them all from the authors, which is part of the problem, getting all of the papers in. Usually we ask for them by Christmas and we're lucky if we've got them by the end of

January. So that's one of the things that drives us. The other thing is that Lee does a particularly nice job of cleaning things up and making them look good, and that eats up some more time. Demetrios, if you'd give him some more time to do that, we could probably get the Proceedings out earlier. But, yes, we're working harder at that. And I think this year, it's all CD. Is that correct, Lee?

BREAKIRON: Yes. And we're looking into using print-on-demand sites for generating hardcopies.

WHITE: I think last year we had about two people who wanted hardcopies. We're trying to get rid of that process.

BREAKIRON: I do want to point out that we used to have a limit per paper of 12 pages, above which we made people pay \$100 extra per page, but now because we're all on CD-ROM, we can afford to give authors up to 20 pages free.

WHITE: That's one of the advantages of CDs; it's hard to fill one of those things up. Other comments, questions?

JUDAH LEVINE (National Institute of Standards and Technology): The deadline for next year is coming up soon.

WHITE: It is, it's awfully soon. That's one of the problems.

LEVINE: People are going to have to project ... [inaudible]

WHITE: Yes, that's absolutely right, Judah. That was one of the tradeoffs. What we did is we split the difference between our meeting and Frequency Control. Pretend you're going to Frequency Control, and you get to submit it late.

AUDIENCE: It's very hard to read some of the presentations from the back of the room.

WHITE: Every year Shiela [Faulkner] threatens to do a Wednesday night program on how to make viewgraphs; she'd love to have somebody come in and teach us how to make viewgraphs. If there's enough interest, that will be our program next year for Wednesday night. I think we all like to think we know what we're doing, but obviously we don't. I mean, I can't read mine, either.

AUDIENCE: And some colors go well together ...

WHITE: I think there was some discussion earlier about Bill Gates's choice of colors for spreadsheets and things like that for Excel plots. I agree. How many people would like to see us do that for our Wednesday night speaker? Have somebody come in us to talk about how to make viewgraphs and presentations?

You're the only one, Jerry. There's one more. Chuck [Greenhall] wants to do it. He's the only guy who can make me laugh doing something with equations in it. He's good, anyway. The viewgraphs aren't so great, because I can't read them, but you're good. Okay.

AUDIENCE: I loved his handheld plots.

WHITE: I thought that was really nice, that was good. He got up and I says, gee, it looks just like what was on the chart, and I realized ...

CLARK WARDRIP (SFA, Inc.): How about, for the Wednesday night talk, we have something besides a scientific talk?

WHITE: How nonscientific would you like to get?

WARDRIP: You know, after 3 days of scientific talks, I really don't want to hear another one on earthquakes and such.

WHITE: Well, at least earthquakes were at least the same science we've been talking about all day. That's usually the logic. What would you suggest?

WARDRIP: We used to have people in that had nothing to do with frequency and time or science. It was something of general interest to the public. We got away from doing that, so maybe we need to get back to that.

AUDIENCE: How about something to do with the arts?

WHITE: We're open to that. If anyone has any suggestions, please e-mail them to me or Sheila.

Okay, where else would we like to have this meeting? We usually balance East Coast, West Coast. Next year, it's at a really nice location, at Vancouver, the week before Labor Day; it should be really pretty. It's out of the country. I know the vendors have had their problems already with the FCS out of the country at Montreal. We already know we're coming back here for 2006, but how about west of the Mississippi for 2007?

AUDIENCE: Honolulu?

WHITE: Well, that's west of the Mississippi.

WARDRIP: How about San Diego?

WHITE: We could do that. We've been there few times, and we can go back. Everybody does seem to like San Diego. Actually Dana Point was very nice too; I think a lot of people liked that. Anybody want to come farther east than California?

AUDIENCE: Colorado.

WHITE: There's always Colorado. Trouble is, this time of year in Colorado, you know ... There's been a lot of discussion about Tampa, and places like that.

Time to roll the credits. Lara [Schmidt] was the General Chairman, the stuckee for last year's Program Chair; this year, she gets it easy. Thank you for helping out. Ken [Senior], are you still here? A round of applause for Ken for the program this year. Rachel [Gross] is not here, but Rachel is the one who put together the tutorials this year. We had a good crowd. I think everyone was happy with that. We have a big list of Session Chairs. I want to thank all of them. That was very nice of all of you to donate your time and efforts to get everything going.

Now to the people who really make the Meeting happen. Sheila is our Meeting Manager; she does all the stuff for us and makes things happen. She and I have a meeting with the hotel in 45 minutes. Nikki [Jardine] had a lot of good help this year. This was kind of a change for everybody. Betty, Clark's wife, shows up fairly often. Lee's wife ... [tape end]