January and February Meetings great SUCCESSES!!

Our January chapter meeting was held at Plexus and featured Kirk Van Dreel from Plexus headquarters as our guest speaker. He spoke on “RoHS Shop Floor Segregation for Board Assembly – Industry Overview and Challenges” and did an excellent job and everyone in attendance learned a lot and enjoyed the evening.

Kirk Van Dreel, Plexus

Biography: Kirk Van Dreel received his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering and Physics from the University of Wisconsin – Platteville and is currently pursuing his Masters of Science in Engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering. He has worked in the industry for over 10 years as a Process Engineer, Engineering Manager, Factory Manager, and currently holds a Sr. Staff Process Engineering position with Plexus Corp. Kirk recently chaired the NEMI Board Assembly Roadmap for 2002, and 2004. He has 4 US patents. He has issued a number of technical papers and chaired numerous technical sessions on second level assembly.

Our February chapter meeting was held at Evans and Sutherland in Salt Lake City and featured Scott Dayton from Solectron as our guest speaker. He spoke on “Solectron Production System™ (SPS) - The Customer Choice for Supply Chain Excellence”

Scott Dayton, Solectron

Biography: Scott Dayton is the site Lean Leader for the headquarters site of the Solectron corporation, which is a 14+ Billion dollar player in the Electronic Manufacturing Services arena. Manufacturing and Process Engineering, as well as Engineering Management in commercial and military electronics industry form the basis of Scott's 20 year career.
The Intermountain Chapter extends a special THANK YOU to our guest speakers and to Plexus and Evans and Sutherland for providing a venue. Besides great speakers, we enjoyed good meals, lots of networking and getting know others in the industry.

President’s Corner

The RoHS initiative and escalating marketing and political initiatives are changing the nature of today’s manufacturing under the guise of an environmental flag ship which everyone wants to appear to be a part of. However, the effects on you may be something unsuspected. Your continued contribution as well as your companies success is dependant on effective teamwork and communication of all contributing partners. The added expense from RoHS initiatives will be greater than just the value of the metals. Who is covering the cost of all the company meetings, reorganizations, new equipment, duplicated handling systems, documentation, part cross referencing, sourcing and supply, qualification, legal representation, due diligence action from top to bottom to protect against compliancy challenges? It is too big a movement to ignore since the material is changing and will introduce reliability issues to those who allow technology mixes that could cause early product failure.

Our SMTA mission statement remains our focus: we are an international network of professionals who build skills, share practical experience and develop solutions in electronic assembly including micro-systems, emerging technologies, and related business operations. Individuals helping others. My experience of what has brought success, even in periods of company downsizing and individual lay-offs, is to build trusting business relationships, minimize market fear, and help your business partners succeed. As an individual member I have been welcomed to participate in presenting papers, presenting at chapter meetings, conferences, serving as an officer and being a team member on the golf scrambles. You don’t have to have your company sponsor you! If they won’t, do as I have and stay current in the technology field with the help of SMTA. I encourage investing in the SMTA network even if it comes out of your own pocket. I have not had a company pay for my membership or even my expenses with submitting a paper at Pan Pacific. Yet indirectly, it has assisted me in being capable to support my family by staying current in this very technical field. This is something made even more important considering the new marketing and political challenges mentioned in the opening paragraph. The harder companies are hit economically, the more likely more lay-offs will be. Still, manufacturing will still be required and if we are prepared, we will have opportunities. Let’s just remember that tough times require working together.

I want to take a moment to express appreciation to past officers, sponsors and companies that have hosted our events over the past several years. We owe a lot to them – especially to our tremendous sponsors. With their help we were able as a chapter to make donations to the Red Cross and the Boys and Girls Club in Nampa last year and hope to do the same this coming fall. Be sure to check out our new chapter website at http://www.smta.org/chapters/chapters_detail.cfm?chapter_id=38 Here you can see events our chapter has planned this year and by all means, make plans to join us!!! Together we can better succeed in your responsibilities. I look forward to getting better acquainted with you all this year!

Ciao,
Don Saunders
Intermountain Chapter President

Upcoming Events:

- April 12, 2006 – Chapter meeting in Boise at SpecTek (see announcement on next page)
- April 27, 2006 – Chapter meeting in Logan, Utah at Control 4.

For more information on local events, visit http://www.smta.org/chapters/chapters_detail.cfm?chapter_id=38
ANNOUNCEMENT

What: Chapter meeting of the Intermountain Chapter of the SMTA
Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2006
Where: SpecTek at 900 E. Karcher Rd, Nampa, ID 83687
(Call 208-363-5716 for directions if needed)

Program:
3:00  Sign-in, vendor tables open, soft drinks & snacks
3:30  Welcome by Don Saunders, President of SMTA Intermountain Chapter
      Business: upcoming events, background PowerPoint with SMTA networking opportunities
3:45  Speaker: Dave Bender, RoHS Program Manager for Tyco Electronics
4:45  Q&A, visit vendor tables, networking
5:15  Dismiss

Presentation: “RoHS – Time is Running Out, Are you Ready?”
What you will learn:
- RoHS Legislation including recent exemptions
- Where are the hazardous materials and what are substitutes?
- What are other design/process issue to consider?
- Logistics Issues – part numbering, labeling, etc.
- What constitutes “due diligence” to ensure RoHS compliance?
- Emerging industry specifications (e.g. IPC 1752)

Biography:
Dave Bender is the RoHS Program Manager for Tyco Electronics. In this capacity he is responsible for
establishing the strategies and associated policies/procedures that are driving the TE Global Business Units to
RoHS compliance. Dave is an active member of several NEMI committees focused on lead free RoHS
activities and has presented at several industry forums. He has held a variety of positions in Tyco Electronics
(formerly AMP Inc.) including New Program Management, Product Management, and various IT management
positions prior to becoming involved in RoHS activities.

COST: Non-members: $30         Members: $15         Snacks: Included with admission
RSVP: Derek Smith: dtsmith@spectek.com or Don Saunders: mfgsolutions@msn.com no later than 4/10/06.
!!! ATTENTION !!!

The SMTA Intermountain Chapter is seeking Tech Tips and Real Solutions for Real Problems from our membership. *Tech Tips* are usually one page or less and give some technical advice relative to our high tech industry. *Real Solutions for Real Problems* can be longer than one page and should illustrate how a real-life, high tech problem was solved. This is YOUR opportunity to contribute to our membership community. Through this means you can share your knowledge with others – and build those relationships that are so important to our success. So I hope you will give this some serious thought and send your *Tech Tips* and *Real Solutions for Real Problems* to Kent Langston at idahosbestdad@yahoo.com. Thank you!

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- **Don Saunders**… Mfg/Mech/ Process Engineer … Full time, Contract or Consultant
- **Other** (Please call Kent Langston to list you name, job title, and resume link)

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**SPOTLIGHT**

Last of all, I’d like to spotlight our 2006 SMTA Intermountain Chapter Board of Officers and tell each one how much they are appreciated! With officers such as these, this year is bound to be a great year! Thank you!

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**2006 SMTA Intermountain Chapter Board**

- **Don Saunders** President
- **David Bell** VP Utah Ops
- **Pat Ryan** VP Programs
- **Kent Langston** VP Publications
- **Steve Hudgens** VP Utah Coor
- **Dan Herring** Treasurer
- **Brad Mecham** Secretary