



Greater El Paso
Section

Amigo Quality

Volume 27 Number 12

Welcome to the September 2007 issue of the Newsletter! Your local provider of information and learning opportunities related to quality professionals.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

LOCATION: Gerardo's Restaurant
REGISTRATION & SOCIAL HOUR: 6:15 p.m.
DATE: September 19, 2007
SPEAKER: Hector Lugo
TOPIC: Quality Conference

MEETING IS FREE FOR EVERYBODY (MEMBERS OR NON-MEMBERS) AND THE SPEAKER STARTS AT 6:45 P.M.

If you want to eat, we start our social hour at 6:15 p.m.

DINNER COST: \$10.00

THE CHAIR SPEAKS

ALFONSO ENRIQUEZ

QUALITY AND RECYCLABILITY cotinued

In the January 2005 newsletter we considered the Recycling chain and the costs involved in the recycling of a household, and imagined how the steam iron is disassembled, and the steel plate is sent to the steel recycling material center.

We now learned that there has been a steel recycling company in El Paso since 1962.

The steel plate from the steam iron together with many other steel discarded products is taken to the steel recycling company by individual entrepreneurs in their trucks, they are motivated by the money they receive for each ton of scrap. Several entrepreneurs make a living just by collecting scrap and selling it to the steel recycling company.

When the scrap arrives at the steel recycling company, the scrap is put into a shredder; the shredded scrap is moved to an Electric arc

furnace (EAF), where it is melted. Samples of the liquid steel at the EAF are taken, and analyzed with a mass spectrometer. Additional raw materials are fed into the EAF such as silicon-manganese, and other minerals, in order to achieve the specified quality of the steel.

It is always good to learn new aspects of the community where we live. The Quality in El Paso conference on October 26 will include topics of interest to all ASQ members.

AUTOMOTIVE SECTION

HECTOR LUGO

Again, I want to say thanks to all the people who are participating in some way (with articles, feedback, ideas), to make this interesting. Based on the latest I received from you, the following shows the difference between two of the automakers in the market:

Toyota will consider having a certain amount of buffer stock of special parts, which are hard to find substitutes, in order to prepare for an emergency. This is because Riken (supplier of piston rings) went out of operation because of a Earthquake, causing a halt for five shifts on Toyota, or two and half days.

Changing to Ford, about a hundred years ago, Henry Ford declared that his Model T customers could have the vehicle in any color "so long as it's black."

But today, Ford engineers and designers are mixing a paint revolution in the secret confines of the company's Dearborn product development labs.

By 2009, 45% of Ford, Lincoln and Mercury cars and trucks will feature new, often trendsetting paint colors – a color changeover that will be the biggest in the company's 104-year history.

I just wonder who is focusing on its strengths and weaknesses.

See you on the meeting!

EDUCATION SECTION

How can we test an ugly beast like software? My team uses a multimodal attack on the problem. While it is quit impossible to ever get complete “coverage” of potential software issues, we can certainly be diligent about exercising the features.

The first mode of the attack ensures that the software meets requirements. This approach assumes that the requirements exist—which is usually the case with commercial software. This type of testing is the *absolute minimum* that should be considered acceptable by a customer and the developers.

The second mode of attack involves the structured variation of parameters. We achieve this results in a variety of ways:

- Orthogonal arrays (Taguchi, Hadamard, full factorial, etc.)
- Two-way combinatorial tables (exercise every two-way combination)
- Three-way combinatorial tables

The third mode of attack uses a stochastic approach, which is a fancy word for random testing. Sometimes this approach will be called “exploratory” testing because it uses the experience and talent of the tester to reveal unexpected abberational behavior on the part of the software.

Even with all these methods, we will never achieve complete coverage for anything but the most trivial programs. This situation is the ever-present nightmare of software development.

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Remember that our section will have a conference locally—coming Fall of 2007!

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RE-CERTIFYING AND ASQ CERTIFICATIONS

STEVEN SCHAFER

Out of a total of 10 member(s) whose certifications expired December 2006, 2 lost their certification, 0 member(s) re-certification are being processed and 8 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Out of a total of 9 member(s) whose certifications expired June

2007, 4 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2007, 1 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 4 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Out of a total of 8 member(s) whose certifications will expire December 2007, 7 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of June 2008, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 1 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

Members can re-certify early! As long as you have enough points to re-certify early, you can. Your Certifications will be extended 3 years beyond the certification expiration date you currently have for your certification. So you don't lose anything by re-certifying early. Out of a total of 11 member(s) whose certifications will expire June 2008, 11 will lose their certifications if they do not re-certify by the end of December 2008, 0 member(s) re-certifications are being processed and 0 member(s) completed their re-certifications.

If anyone has questions on how to re-certify to extend their ASQ Certifications and/or how to synchronize them if they have more than one, please let me know. Re-certifying by exam now costs more money, since the prices went up January 2005 and is a lot more difficult than re-certifying. You can reach me, the Re-Certification Chair, at 915-612-7392 during working hours and at 915-584-0033 after hours. Both numbers have answering machines and if I don't answer, I will call you as soon as I can. You can also reach me via the Internet at spikequate@sbcglobal.net. I am ready to help with any questions you might have about Re-Certifying or about any ASQ Certifications you might have, call me. The Re-Certification Journal is at the following link and will guide you in the re-certification process <http://www.asq.org/certification/recertification/rucredits/index.html>.

Potential meeting and dinner schedule

YEAR	MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	LOCATION
2007	September	19	Gerardo's	TBD
2007	October	26	Quality Conference 2007 El Paso	El Paso Main Library
2007	November	14	Résumés & interviews by Herb de la Rosa	TBD
2007	December	12	Choir	Jack's School
2008	January	16	El Paso's Future by Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	TBD
2008	February	20	Speak from Santa Fe on Auditing	TBD
2008	March	21	ASQ Regional Director	TBD
2008	April	16	NMSU on organization	Las Cruces (Mesilla)
2008	May	21	ASQ El Paso's Chair report & new chair	TBD
2008	June	21	Family Picnic	TBD

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Our Section is on-line! Make a suggestion – win a FREE meal! <http://asq1401.org>