
Reliability Society Newsletter

Editors: Gary Kushner and Mark Snyder
Vol. 32, No. 2, April 1986 (USPS 460-200)

Chapter Reports

Los Angeles Chapter

A meeting jointly sponsored by the Los Angeles Chapters of the IEEE Computer Society and Reliability Society was held at the Hacienda Hotel on February 20th. The speakers were Mr. Erwin Book of Hughes Aircraft, who covered the ADA impact of software errors; and Dr. Joseph Urban (via video), Chairman of the IEEE Technical Committee on Computer Languages, who gave an overview on ADA language programming.

Mr. Erwin Book's talk was entitled, "Speculations on the Incidence of Errors in Software Written in ADA."

Central New England

The 1985-1986 season is slowly winding down after a most satisfactory year. The five monthly meetings have been very well received and attended by the local membership. The Fall Lecture Series on the Practical Aspects of Reliability proved to be an overwhelming success with the major responses from the attendees being that the course was extremely helpful, that they would recommend this series to

others, and they would have liked it to be extended.

The final event will be our 24th Annual Spring Seminar to be held on April 17, 1986 at the Sheraton Tara in Framingham, MA.

The program has been finalized and covers a wide variety of subjects from Reliability in the Soviet Union to Reliability Warranties. As of this writing, the keynote speaker is scheduled to be:

Brigadier General Frank S. Goodell
Special Assistant for R&M, USAF

Since this will be my last input to the Reliability Society Newsletter as Chairman of the Central New England Chapter, I would like to publicly express my appreciation to the members of my executive board without whom it would have been impossible to have such an ambitious program and especially to the Central New England membership who are responsible for all success experienced this past year.

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For October Newsletter:	by July 15
For January Newsletter:	by Oct 15

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IEEE Membership Fees

It should be noted that the IEEE membership fees have been revised for 1986. Regional assessments have been increased by \$2 for the United States and \$3 for Canada. More significantly, the \$15 membership entrance fee has been abolished. A revised payment schedule follows:

Residence	September 1-February 28	March 1-August 31
United States	\$67.00	\$33.50
Canada	62.00	31.00
Europe, Africa, Middle East	59.00	29.50
Latin America	52.00	26.00
Asia, Pacific	53.00	26.50

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AdCom Meeting



At AdCom: Al Plait, President and Dr. Irving Engelson, IEEE Staff Director, Technical Activities



Dr. Derald A. Stuart accepts the award from Al Plait.

We thought it would be useful for us to reprint the following brief description of AdCom for new RS members:

The AdCom is the Advisory Committee of the Reliability Society. This committee of eighteen members manages the society by the guidelines stated in the Constitution and Bylaws. These eighteen members serve three years each on a rotational basis. Every year one-third (or six) members' offices come up for re-election. (Only two consecutive terms are allowed and the AdCom member must sit out for a term.) Once the entire AdCom is elected, these eighteen members in turn elect the President of the Society, and four Vice Presidents for a term of one year each.

The entire AdCom holds three meetings during the year. The first meeting is held in conjunction with the RAM Sym-

posium in January, the second in conjunction with the Reliability Physics Symposium in April, and the third in the fall (Chapter Chairman's Meeting). At these meetings various issues are discussed and each Vice President presents his or her report.

The AdCom meeting for January, 1986 was held on Monday, January 27, in conjunction with the RAM Symposium at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. The culmination of the meeting and dinner which followed was the presentation of the Annual IEEE Reliability Award to Dr. Derald A. Stuart of Lockheed Corporation for his outstanding management support of the Reliability discipline. (Refer to January 1986 issue of RS Newsletter for biography and details.)

Technical Operations

The Vice President of Technical Operations presides over a number of Technical Committees, each of which maintains liaison in its respective functional area and reports progress at each AdCom meeting. Reports and articles generated by these committees frequently appear in the Newsletter. As of January 1986, the committees and their chairpersons were:

Advanced Reliability Techniques
Health Care Engineering Policy

Philip Eisenberg
Vernon Gardner

Human Performance Reliability
IEEE Energy Technology Assessment
International Reliability
Maintainability
Mechanical Reliability
Nuclear Systems Safety & Reliability
Quality Assurance Management
Software Reliability
Standards and Definitions
Systems Screening

Vacant
Henry Wolf
Marion Smith
Dr. Richard Kowalski
Henry Hegner
Dr. Jerry Fussell
Henry Malec
Irving Doshay
Augustus Constantinides
William Wallace

Call for Papers

1987 ANNUAL RELIABILITY AND MAINTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

January 27, 28, 29, 1987

Marriott City Line Hotel

Philadelphia, PA USA

Assurance Technologies In The Automated Engineering Environment

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE—1986 APRIL 15

PAPER SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

If you wish to present a paper, now is the time to contact us. We need the following as soon as possible but April 15, 1986 is the deadline.

- For each author and coauthor:

Name

Work address and phone number

Home address and phone number

Brief biographical sketch

- Paper title must not exceed 50 letters and spaces—count them—the printer will truncate at 50.

- Paper summary shall not be more than 1000 words structured in the following three sections:

(1) Problems or Questions Addressed

(2) Work Performed

(3) Results and/or Conclusions Reached

Please note that initial screening for candidate papers is based solely on these summaries. If a summary does not clearly indicate the paper's value (i.e., the 3 sections itemized above), it will generally receive no further consideration. Therefore, it is essential that your initial submission be carefully prepared.

All papers must be new and must not have been presented at a national meeting prior to the Symposium. Papers

presented at local meetings are acceptable. Authors must indicate the status of any previous or planned presentation/publication of the subject material covered in their submittal. All submittals become the property of the Symposium and cannot be returned.

TEN COPIES of each author's (and coauthor's) name, work address and phone number, home address and phone number, brief biography, paper title and paper summary must be sent to:

Anthony Coppola

RAMS Program Chairman

RADC/RBET

Griffis AFB

New York 13441-5700 USA

Authors will be notified of Program Committee decisions in early June 1986. Full text drafts will be required by 1986 August 1 for review. Comments from this review will be returned to the authors by September 3. Final camera ready papers must be submitted not later than October 1, 1986, and must be accompanied by the author's signed release for publication in the Symposium Proceedings. These dates do not have slack, and authors should fully recognize the responsibility of their commitment to this schedule when the initial submittal is made.

RAMS Best Paper Award

At each year's Symposium banquet the P. K. McElroy Award is presented to the author of that paper which was voted "best paper" at the prior year's symposium. That honor was bestowed upon Mr. J. C. Bear of General Dynamics Corporation for his 1985 paper, "Training 1500 Engineers to Improve R & M."

John Bear is the engineering manager in charge of the reliability functions at General Dynamics Pomona Division, with responsibilities on a variety of tactical weapon system programs. His experience has included thirty-three years

with General Dynamics, three years with ARINC Research Corporation, and three years with the Army Signal Corps in WWII. His primary interest has been with the management of reliability functions, but he has also worked in research, design, testing, quality control, and logistics. He has authored a text and a number of papers on reliability, and is a recipient of the U.S. Navy's Willoughby Award for outstanding contributions to fleet readiness. He has a BS degree in electrical engineering from Caltech.

Symposia Management Committees Chapter Awards Committee

It is the desire of AdCom to see greater member participation on the Management committees for the Reliability and Maintainability Symposium (RAMS) and the International Reliability Physics Symposium (IRPS). Those wishing to get into the management committee queue should contact the following:

For RAMS: Mr. V. R. (Val) Monshaw
(609) 426-2182

Mr. J. W. (Bill) Thomas
(301) 585-0421

For IRPS: Mr. A. L. (Al) Tamburrino
(315) 330-2813

The Reliability Society Chapter Awards Committee is also interested in adding new members to its roles. RS members interested in more information should contact the following:

Mr. R. A. (Bob) Jaquess
(303) 977-6462

Call For Practical Papers

The *IEEE Transactions on Reliability* is looking for practical papers. The following is an excerpt from the Transactions:

We, the Editors, want to publish practical papers just as badly as you, the readers, want to see them. They are hard to find. We established the Special Papers Board to search out practical papers. We reject very few practical papers, because we want to encourage their submittal.

When next you complain about how few practical papers appear in this, or any similar journal, ask yourself this question: "When was the most recent time that I, or someone from this division of my company, submitted a practical paper to this journal?"

The main reason why you see so many theoretical papers, and so few practical papers, is that university professors get paid to write theoretical papers, and engineers get paid to produce hardware rather than to write papers about it. Both do their jobs reasonably well.

Examples of general areas which both you and we want are as follows.

1. Case histories.
2. Reliability techniques which engineers actually found to be useful on a job, and those which were not useful or were too expensive.
3. How engineers and managers set realistic R&M requirements for a system or equipment.
4. The kinds of reliability testing which were actually cost-effective.
5. Use of reliability data from the field instead of from

special reliability tests. Comparison of field data with reliability tests.

6. Engineering comments on the worth of standards such as the international or US military standards on reliability and maintainability.

7. Ideas, from experience, on the major obstacles to setting and achieving worthwhile reliability requirements in commercial, military, or other fields.

8. Where to find information. For example, a list of trade and professional journals of value to reliability and quality control practitioners.

9. Information summaries. For example, annotated lists of computer programs for analyzing electronic circuits or for generating fault trees; tell what the programs do, how big a computer they need, and where they are available.

10. Papers without equations.

11. Actual reliability and maintainability field experience with several technologies for accomplishing the same thing; e.g., in the microwave field.

Rarely, if ever, will a mathematical or statistical paper qualify as a practical paper, regardless of how good it is.

If you have an idea for a practical paper you would like to write, let us know. The Editor and our Special Papers Board will help you with it. Or give us the name of a colleague who wants to write a practical paper.

Call for Practical Papers—Computer Programs

The *IEEE Transactions on Reliability* is looking for practical papers dealing with computer programs.

Two types of papers are anticipated!

1. Descriptions of hands-on experience with somebody else's proprietary software.
2. Descriptions of your non-proprietary, publicly available software.

Both types must be related to reliability.

1. Experience with Proprietary Software

These papers should help the reader decide whether or not he should use the software and/or what difficulties are likely to be encountered in using it. Comments should be specific—not just statements that you hated the program or consider it too expensive. These papers will receive minimal review (viz, be treated similarly to correspondence items)—usually by the editorial board rather than by referees.

2. Description of Non-Proprietary Software

These papers must summarize the software's functions and provide sample I/O, so that the reader can reasonably judge whether further exploration is worthwhile. What the user must provide—hardware type, operating system, memory requirements—should be defined. As a minimum, source listings and documentation must be available either as a Supplement or directly from the author. If you are willing to provide more—e.g., a program copy on a user-provided 5¼-inch DSDD floppy—say so. You may request compensation for out-of-pocket expenses such as postage and materials; if you do, the amount must be stated in the paper.

If you'd like to discuss your ideas on this subject with someone, or if you want a checklist to guide your preparation of this type of paper, write to Paul Gottfried at: 9251 Three Oaks Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20901 USA.

Checklist for Papers on Non-Proprietary Computer Programs

1. State clearly the functions your program is intended to perform and identify constraints (such as system size).
2. Identify existing software that performs similar functions and indicate the ways or circumstances in which your program is preferable.
3. Include a representative sample of I/O to cover each major function performed by your program.
4. Sample I/O (and any listings intended for NAPS) must be suitable for photoreproduction.
5. Identify hardware and system software required to execute your program.
6. Indicate source-code size and operational memory requirements in KBytes.
7. Source listings and essential documentation must be made available, *except* that source code or executable code in machine-readable form may be substituted for listings. Unless the listings and documentation are to be made available as a Supplement (see Information for Readers & Authors at rear of each Transactions issue), you must indicate what is required to obtain such materials from you.
8. You **must** indicate that your program is non-proprietary and that it may be used and copied freely. If you request compensation to cover out-of-pocket expenses such as postage and materials (see #7), your paper must indicate the amount and its purpose.

Computer Conferencing

The March 1986 issue of the *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication* is a special issue on computer conferencing as a form of communication that combines techniques of speaking and writing. As engineers and writers exchange ideas ranging from simple memos to collaborative writing projects, they are finding computer conferences indispensable. *IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication*, Volume PC-29, number 1 (March 1986) explores the human dimension of the form. Articles cover a variety of topics, such as:

- structuring a computer conference
- indexing comments and responses

moderating a computer conference
 motivating the participants
 comparing a computer conference to other forms of communication
 using a computer conference in education

The price per copy is \$6.00 for IEEE members and \$12.00 for nonmembers. For individual copies contact

IEEE Service Center
 Publication Sales
 445 Hoes Lane
 Piscataway, NJ 08854-4150

Conference Calendar

DATE	CONFERENCE	PLACE	CONTACT
1986 April 1-3	1986 Reliability Physics Symposium	Anaheim, CA	H. C. Jones Westinghouse Corp. P.O. Box 1521 MS 3664 Baltimore, MD 21203 (301) 765-7387
April 15-16	Product Assurance Forum '86	Dover, NJ	Sid Markowitz Registration Chairman AMCOM Bldg. 62 Dover, NJ 07801-5001
April 17	24th Annual Spring Reliability Seminar	Framingham, MA	Ms. Vivian Thorsen Technical Program Chairman Raytheon Company EDL-N9 528 Boston Post Road Sudbury, MA 01776
June 2-5	INTER-RAM	Syracuse, NY	Paul Wilde Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation Quality Assurance/F-2 300 Erie Boulevard W. Syracuse, NY 13202
June 22-25	International Conference on Communications '86	Toronto, Canada	Rob Paterson QAMC ICC '86 Chairman Bell-Northern Research Box 3511, Station C Ottawa, Ontario Canada, KLY 4H7 (613) 726-5377

July 1-3
 16th International Symposium on Fault-Tolerant Computing

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 (43) 222-520293

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Sept. 9-11 AUTOTESTCON

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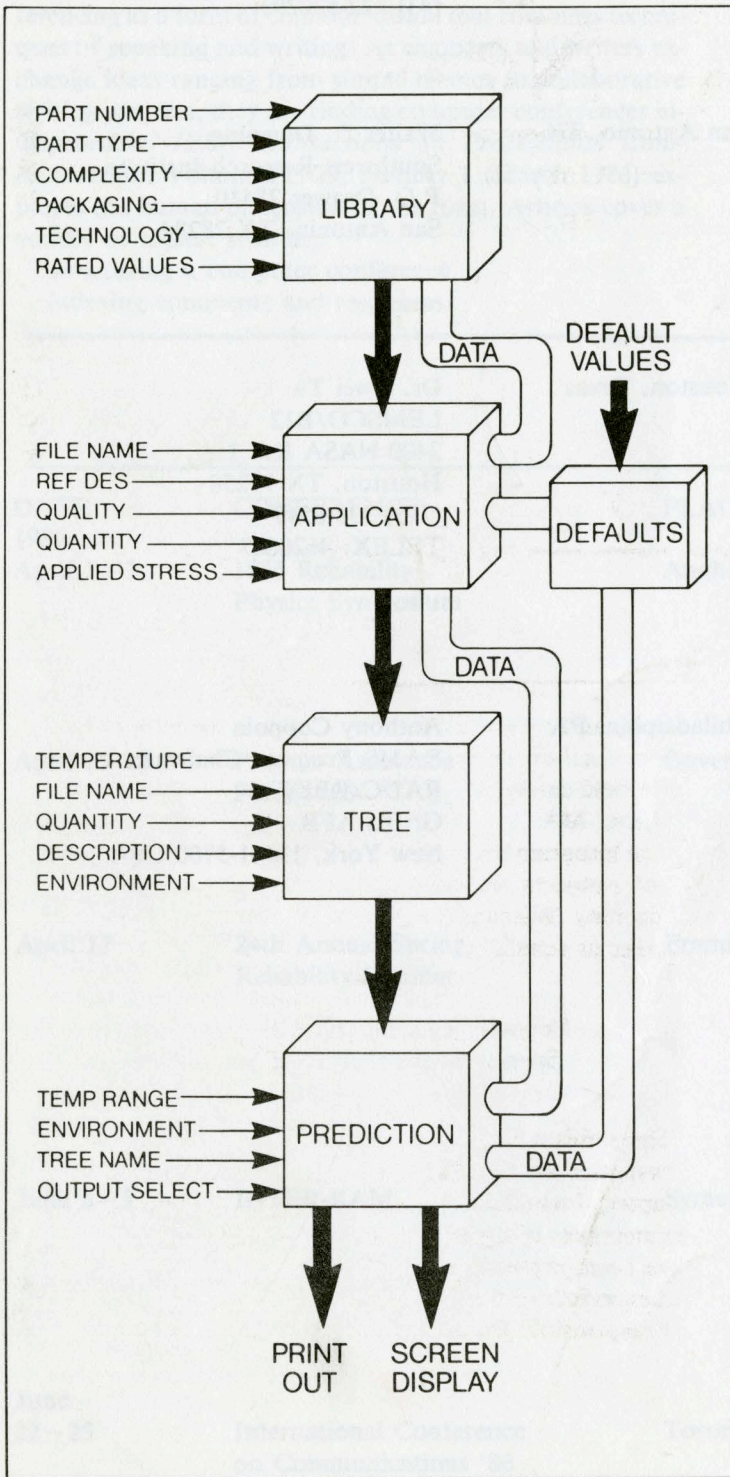
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