

IMS 2002 Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the MTT-S

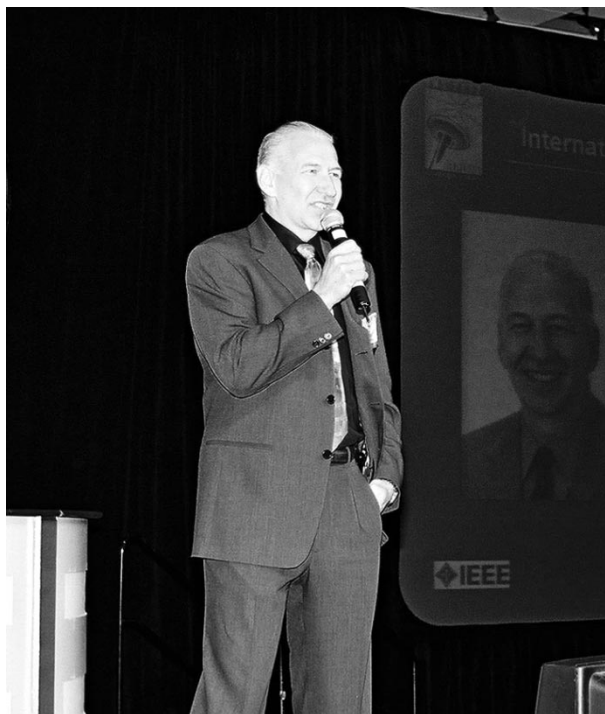
Donn T. Harvey, *Member, IEEE*

I. MICROWAVE WEEK

THE 2002 IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (IEEE MTT-S) International Microwave Symposium (IMS2002) was held in Seattle, WA. "Microwave Week," as it is informally known, started with registration on Saturday, 1 June 2002 and ran through Friday, 7 June 2002. Microwave Week once again was comprised of three conferences, the Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits (RFIC) Conference on Monday and Tuesday, the International Microwave Symposium itself on Tuesday through Thursday, and the Automatic Radio Frequency Techniques Group (ARFTG) Conference finished up the week on Friday. Interspersed throughout the week were over 30 workshops, panel sessions, and three days of interactive forums. This year, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the IEEE MTT-S, we featured an expanded historical exhibit and a special historical interactive forum. By every measure, the symposium was a great success with near-record-breaking attendance, while maintaining the same high-quality technical sessions the symposium is known for.

Many people may not realize the amount of work required to organize a symposium of this magnitude. Most of the work is done by a local volunteer group of society members, which form the local Steering Committee. Organization of the Steering Committee began in 1995 after the IEEE MTT-S Administrative Committee (AdCom) voted to have the IMS2002 held in Seattle, WA, a first for the IEEE MTT-S IMS. With little or no experience on the committee organizing the ever-growing symposium, the local committee had seven years to observe, learn, and solicit advice on the intricacies of organizing an event of this scale. As Chairman of the Steering Committee, I had two goals for the group: put on a great symposium and have fun along the way. We accomplished both of these goals.

The Steering Committee was made up of members from a diverse geographic area, but primarily the Portland, OR, and Seattle, WA, areas. The Technical Program Committee (TPC) was nearly all based in the Portland, OR, region with "Local Arrangements and Operations" based in Seattle, WA. Roughly half the committee was part of what became known as "The Portland Crew." Many of the committee members volunteered an incredible amount of time and put forth much effort, especially over the last year. Their reward was not financial, but came from developing personal and professional relationships with their peers that will last a lifetime.



General Chairman Donn Harvey addresses the plenary session.



IEEE MTT-S President John Barr addresses the plenary session.



Donn Harvey with Eric Strid (*left*) and IEEE MTT-S IMS Vice Chair Marc Sweet (*right*).



IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 TPC members Tom Ruttan, Leonard Hayden, and TPC Vice Chair Ed Godshalk.

II. ATTENDANCE STRONG

Planning the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 was complicated by challenging economic conditions and the corresponding slowdown in our industry. The Steering Committee faced many difficult decisions, as we attempted to predict attendance levels, plan for worst case scenarios, and modify our spending, yet maintain the quality our attendees have come to expect. The Steering Committee reviewed historical registration trends in detail and attempted to extrapolate this data to predict our attendance levels. The Steering Committee carefully monitored preliminary indicators throughout the preceding year. The first encouraging news came from the exhibitor registration; the booths were sold out with a waiting list. In all, we had 856 exhibit booths filled. The next indicator was the paper submittals, over 1200 papers were submitted, only a few percent down from 2001 and more than IEEE MTT-S IMS2000. This encouraging news was tempered by the pre-registration numbers; they were down 20% from last year. This information sent the budget committee scrambling to review the projected revenue and expenditures. Were there any places to cut in case the onsite



Panelists in "The Weakest Engineer" at the awards banquet.



IEEE MTT-S IMS attendees ride the boat to Tillicum Village.



Deby Harvey and Jennifer Turso with the Seattle, WA, skyline in background.

registration lagged as well? Fortunately we had contingencies (as good engineers, we left a little design margin) and were able to make some last-minute adjustments with minimal impact. When the final numbers were tallied, we found the onsite registration was much stronger than expected and we were within 25 people of exceeding the number of attendees in 2001. Over 11 000 people attended the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002. The workshops were more popular than ever, with 3873 attendees.

| Position | Member | Position | Member |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| General Chairman | Donn Harvey | Liaisons | |
| Vice-Chairman | Marc Sweet | University Liaison | Russ Hertenberger |
| Operations Chairman | Tom Raschko | Liaison, RFIC & ARFTG | Paul Ferguson |
| Technical Program | | Liaison, ARFTG | Leonard Hayden |
| Chair | Eric Strid | International Liaison | Ming Chen |
| Vice-Chair | Ed Godshalk | Local Arrangements | |
| Workshops | | Chair | Jim Freeman |
| Workshop Committee Chairman | Tom Ruttan | Vice-Chair | Shashi Sanzgiri |
| Workshops – Sunday | Larry Jacobs | Photography | |
| Workshops – Monday | Rick Campbell | | Ed Adamick |
| Workshops – Friday | Walter Wohlmuth | Protocol | |
| Workshop Publicity | Nelly Vladimirovsky | | Deby Harvey |
| Workshop Publications Editor | Terry Martin | | Gerald Kaufman |
| Panel Sessions | | | Ray Butler |
| Sub-Committee Chair | John Cowles | | Janet Oneil |
| Special Sessions | | Publicity | |
| Sub-Committee Chair | Alok Tripathi | Chair | Jerry Prismantas |
| Interactive Forum | | Member | Henry Oman |
| Chair | Darren Ferwalt | Registration | |
| Vice-Chair | Rick Lutz | Chair | Steve Pennock |
| Special Interactive Chair | Tim Mintzer | | Eric Soshea |
| | Ken Mays | RFIC | |
| μAPS | | General Chairman | Sayfe Kiaei |
| Chair | Lisa Critchlow | RFIC Local Arrangements | |
| Audio/Visual | | | Vikram Jandhyala |
| Sub-Committee Chair | James McSpadden | Signs | |
| Member | Scott Raby | Sub-Committee Chair | Roland Svensson |
| Awards | | Special Events | |
| Chairman | Bill Gjertson | Sub-Committee Chair | Mike Florian |
| | Isaac Bekker | Student Papers | |
| Catering | | | Branimir Pejcinovic |
| | Gary Liebrecht | | Garth Sundberg |
| | Jan Liebrecht | Transactions | |
| CD-ROM | | Co-Editor | Andreas Weisshaar |
| CD-ROM Editor | Aurea Taylor | Co-Editor | Wolfgang Hoefer |
| Data Base | | Co-Editor | George Heiter |
| | Jock Argust | Administrator | Kathleen Runo |
| Digest | | Transportation | |
| Sub-Committee Chair | Rob Hamilton | Sub-Committee Chair | Julio Navarro |
| Member | Gul Gazipura | Web Support | |
| Member | Norman Chiang | Sub-Committee Chair | Jimmy Takeuchi |
| Member | Rob Christ | | Ruth MacDonald-Schmidt |
| Electronic Submissions | | | Trisha Satakawa |
| Presentations Coordinator | Rob Shaver | Other Members | |
| | Joe Decuir | Owner, LRW Associates | Larry Whicker |
| Finance | | Exhibition | |
| Member | Steve Peters | Chair | Harlan Howe |
| Member | Mark Virtue | Member | Kristen Dednah |
| Member | Scott Huhn | Program Publication | |
| Foothills Financial Services | Eric Downs | | Keith Moore |
| Historical Exhibit | | At-Large Member | |
| Chair | Harry Rutstein | Member | Howard Ellowitz |
| IEEE Travel And Convention Management Services (ITCMS) | | | |
| Conference Administrator | Jennifer Turso | | |

The state of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 is reflected in the following representative numbers.

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Total Attendance | 11 023 |
| IMS | 2097 |
| RFIC | 838 |

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| ARFTG | 140 |
| Workshops | 3873 |
| Awards Banquet | 436 |
| Tillicum Village Event | 504 |
| Exhibition Booths | 856 |

III. 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IEEE MTT-S

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the IEEE MTT-S. There were a number of activities to commemorate this event, including an expanded historical exhibit and special 50th anniversary interactive forum on display throughout the week. My favorite event was the 50th anniversary Special Session chaired by Leo Young with panelists George Oltman, Harold Sobol, Kiyo Tomiyasu, Ted Saad, and James Wiltse. These panelists presented an all-too-brief historical perspective on our industry laced with anecdotes from their esteemed careers. The 50th anniversary was also marked by commemorative lapel pins, which were distributed to all the attendees. IEEE MTT-S members for over 25 years were given a special version of the pin with a ruby stone. These pins are sure to become IEEE MTT-S collector items.

IV. NEW FOR IEEE MTT-S IMS2002

The 2002 Steering Committee continued with many of the traditions of past symposiums and added a few changes of our own. Two of the changes were the addition of the abstract book and a switch to a soft-cover digest. The intent of the abstract book was to provide something easy to carry and take notes in and the soft-cover digest helped reduce costs and made the digests less bulky for shipment. Other less noticeable changes included increased usage of all electronic presentations and the elimination of the 35-mm slide format. For the second year in a row, technical papers were submitted and judged in an electronic web-based format, a trend that I believe is here to stay.

V. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The social aspect of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 allowed attendees to get to know each other better and develop new friendships. Social events were held nearly every day and included the RFIC Symposium Reception, Microwave Journal/IEEE MTT-S Reception, Industry Hosted Cocktail Reception, IEEE MTT-S Awards Banquet, and the Student Awards Banquet. The IEEE MTT-S Awards Banquet was a special opportunity to honor our IEEE MTT-S award recipients for 2002. Attendees were also treated to a great dinner, entertainment by Timeless Soul, a Seattle vocal group and a special screening of the show "The Weakest Engineer," which featured an impressive demonstration of knowledge by some of our finest IEEE MTT-S representatives. On Tuesday evening, we had an excursion to Tillicum Village, which included a boat cruise to Blake Island and a Northwest Coast Indian-style baked salmon dinner and dance show.

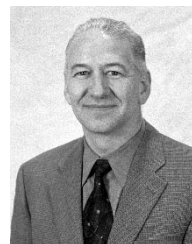
Our guest program had a long list of events with something for everyone. The most popular event was the Boeing Everett Plant tour, where the Boeing 747 jumbo jet is assembled. Other popular tours included a day trip to Victoria, Morning runs through downtown Seattle, walking tours of Seattle, a trip to Mount Rainier, Seattle city highlights tour, Northwest Winery

and Brewery tour, Snoqualmie Falls, Hedges Winery, Seattle Museum Tour, and Seattle Harbor Tour.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am writing this two months after the close of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002, and I feel that by all measures that it was a great success. A number of people have called or written with congratulations on a job well done. The true congratulations should go to the people on the Local Steering Committee who volunteered many hours to make the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 the success it was. Each one has my heartfelt thanks for making my job easier. A proper list of thanks would far exceed the page allotment for this paper. I hope I have the opportunity to do that in person. There are a few people that I feel need special mention because, without them, the outcome of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 may have been a different story.

Thank you E. Strid for being there since day one, keeping me and the committee on track, adding credibility to this rag-tag bunch, and becoming a true friend. To E. Godshalk for backing up Eric during the rough times and helping us succeed with the "fun" part of our goal. Thank you to the glue of the "Seattle Crew" T. Raschko and J. Freeman for never giving up. Finally, there is one person without which we would have been lost. Who took on a daunting task without complaint and never let on when she was overwhelmed or frustrated with us engineers. A true professional with a can-do attitude and endless energy who became a hero and fast friend to all the committee members. A special thank you to our friend . . . J. Turso.



Donn T. Harvey (S'84-M'85) received the B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee, WI, in 1985, and completed course work toward the M.S. degree in electromagnetics and applied math from the University of Washington, Seattle, from 1986 to 1987.

He is currently the President of Techlink Northwest Inc., Issaquah, WA, a technical staffing firm that specializes in placing consultants and contract engineers with high-technology companies. Prior to founding Techlink Northwest Inc., he spent six years with Metawave Communications, where he helped pioneer smart antenna technologies for analog, CDMA, and global system for mobile communication (GSM) cellular systems. He spent 12 years with the Boeing Company, where he was involved with the development of millimeter-wave airborne phased-array antennas for high-speed data connectivity. While with the Boeing High Technology Center, he supported 35-GHz frequency-modulated continuous wave (FMCW) RADAR circuit design, high-frequency packaging research, and GaAs monolithic microwave integrated circuit (MMIC) circuit design. He was a member of a team that developed the world's first on-wafer MMIC measurements at 50 GHz using thru-reflect line (TRL) calibration techniques. He has authored or coauthored numerous papers and given presentations on smart antenna and phased-array antenna technologies. He holds four patents.

Mr. Harvey has been an active member of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (IEEE MTT-S) and is a past Seattle section vice chairman and chairman for two terms. He served on the Technical Program Committees for the Wireless Workshop and RAWCON Conferences. He was chairman of the IEEE MTT-S IMS2002 and has built and coordinated the efforts of over 60 volunteers for seven years.