

The Dialog

The Newsletter of the Southern Ohio Section of the American Association of
Physics Teachers
September 2008

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Announcing SOS/AAPT FALL 2008 MEETING JOINT WITH OSAPS

Hosted by the Air Force Institute of Technology
and Wright State University
at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio
Saturday, Oct 11, 2008

- Come meet with your colleagues from Southern and Central Ohio!
- Pick up a few new ideas for your classroom and share a few of your own good ideas!
- Present a contributed paper or a "How I do it" demo!
- Highlighted invited speakers:
 - Prof. Ken A. Dill, University of California, San Francisco, "*Proteins and Other Foldameric Materials*"
 - Prof. Vicky L. Colvin, Rice University, "*Solid State Physics, 'What it has to do with nanotechnology and the environment'*"
- Workshop on cosmic rays, including assembling cloud chambers

See p. 2 for a tentative schedule. More details and registration information are available at:

<http://www.afit.edu/en/OSAPS08/Default.cfm>

Early registration deadline: September 26, 2008

Inside This Issue

pp. 1-2: Fall 2008 meeting
at Wright State, Dayton, OH

p.2: Section News

p.3: Future Meetings

p.3: Dialog and AAPT info

p.4: State Science Day a
great success!

SOS/AAPT Website and Blog

The SOS/AAPT has a website at:

<http://www.sosaapt.org> with a mailbox at secretary@sosaapt.org

Please check out it out and suggest links and content of interest to physics teachers and students.

Recent addition! A blog for southern Ohio physics teachers. Try it out, sign up and make suggestions.

<http://blog.sosaapt.org>

Tentative schedule, SOS/AAPT Fall meeting at Wright State Univ, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008:

Time	Event
07:30-10:30	Breakfast
07:30-09:00	Registration
08:00-10:00	Contributed papers
10:00-11:00	Invited Talk: Prof. Ken Dill, University of California, San Francisco, " <i>Proteins and Other Foldameric Materials</i> "
11:00-12:00	Invited Talk: Prof. Vicky L. Colvin, Rice University, " <i>Solid State Physics, 'What it has to do with nanotechnology and the environment'</i> "
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Cosmic Ray workshop
14:00-14:30	"How I do it" session
14:30-15:00	SOSAAPT business meeting

Section News – Southern Ohio, Spring 2008

The Southern Ohio Section held our spring meeting on April 26, 2008 at Olentangy High School in Lewis Center, OH (north of Columbus). Between 20 and 30 members were in attendance, including several first-time attendees. Our host, Mary Whalen, produced a well-organized, fun, and educational meeting for us. She had assistance from Jason Cervenc (Thomas Worthington High School) and Doug Forrest (Pickerington High School North).

The day opened with the first of two invited speakers, Bob Brown of Case Western Reserve University (in our neighboring Ohio section) who told us about his method to help students *Revisit, Reflect, Remember, and Really Learn?: The Latest Data on a Cycling Method of Teaching Introductory Physics*. Our second invited speaker was Jim Beatty from The Ohio State University, who explained the work he and his collaborators are doing in Argentina and Antarctica to learn more about *The Highest Energy Particles in the Universe*.

Kathy Harper of The Ohio State University presented a workshop on Jeopardy Problems, and the team of Jason Cervenc and Brian Geniusz from Thomas Worthington High School gave a workshop on lab practica, entitled, *Practica with a Purpose*.

Jim Sullivan of the University of Cincinnati OMI College of Applied Science contributed a presentation that was an update on some of his ongoing work, entitled, *Physics Assessment Tool – Part II*. We also had a brief *How I Do It* session, coordinated by Doug Forrest. Presentations included one by Minda Wesley of Olentangy Liberty High School on teaching rotational kinematics and one by Doug Forrest about a homework/lab exercise he has students do to measure their homes' levels of radon.

We also elected some new officers. The president elect is Jennifer Blue of Miami University, the new vice-president for high schools is Eric Towers of Summit Country Day School, and our

new section representative is Kathy Harper, who will be at Denison University, effective Sept. 1.

On the morning of Saturday May 10, approximately 30 physicists served as judges at Ohio's State Science Day competition to determine the awarding of physics prizes for students in high school and middle school. As he has for many years, Gordon Aubrecht of The Ohio State University coordinated the efforts of judging nearly 150 projects. The prizes are awarded by the Southern Ohio Section of AAPT, with the generous financial support of the Ohio Section of APS.

Also of note is that Fred Reuter, our current president, secretary, and webpage manager, has been updating our website with new features, including past issues of our newsletter, a blog, links to other physics websites, and a listing of educational opportunities.

Our Fall 2008 section meeting is scheduled for October 11 at Wright State University in Dayton, in conjunction with the Ohio Section of APS. Elizabeth George of Wittenberg University will coordinate the AAPT activities at the meeting.

At the request of the national AAPT, the section is coordinating a strand of physics-related presentations to be offered throughout the day at the upcoming regional meeting of the NSTA in Cincinnati. "Physics Day" will be Friday, December 5.

Kathy Harper, Southern Ohio Section Representative

Future meetings:

Spring 2009: Shawnee State Univ.,
Portsmouth Ohio
Fall 2009: Summit Country Day School
and/or Cincinnati Observatory Center
Spring 2010: UC Clermont College
Fall 2010: Worthington H.S.

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When did you last pay your membership dues?

If you can't answer this question and are not a lifetime member, it is time to pay your \$10.00 dues to the SOS/AAPT.

Checks for membership can be made out to the SOS/AAPT and sent to
Gordon Aubrecht
Treasurer, SOS/AAPT

Department of Physics
The Ohio State University
191 W. Woodruff Ave.
Columbus, OH 43210-1117

Please ask teaching colleagues and valued friends to consider becoming a part of our organization. New members are always welcome and needed.

State Science Day Success: Great thanks to all who helped judge for the physics prize at State Science Day this spring! Specifically:

Gordon Aubrecht(OSU)	Tom Kassebaum (OSU)
Dan Banks (NSB Group)	Bill Kuhlman (St Xavier High, Cincinnati)
Kevin Benner (OSU)	Katie Malone (OSU)
Nicolas Bock (OSU)	Frederick M. Reuter (St Xavier High, Cincinnati)
Elyse Briggs (OSU)	Eleanor C. Sayre (OSU)
David Carpenter (Hayes High, Delaware)	Phillip Smith (OSU)
John Ciprian (Dayton Early College Academy)	Edward E. Smith (OSU)
Luke A. Corwin (OSU)	Steve Stonebraker (OSU)
Kevin J. Disotell (OSU)	James Sullivan (U. Cincinnati)
Jay Gupta (OSU)	Riley Vollmer (OSU)
Kathleen A. Harper (OSU)	Jean Wheasler (OSU)
Ryan Hartlage (OSU)	Mary Wildermuth (OSU)
Shan C. Huang (Sinclair Community College)	John Wilkins (OSU)
Frank Huss (U. Cincinnati Astronomy)	
Beth Johnson (OSU)	

The winners are as follows:

At the 10-12 (high school) level

1. Keith A. Hawkins, "Correlations between supermassive black holes and intergalactic light shed on galaxy collisions in compact clusters," Glen Oak HS, Canton, \$150
2. Nathan J. Bryant, ".22 LR: Cost vs. precision," Xenia Christian HS, Xenia, \$100
3. Mary L. Stuhldreher, "Does your timber have timbre? Finding the best wood for marimba bars," Wadsworth HS, Wadsworth, \$50

At the 7-9 (middle school) level

1. Benjamin M. Pifher, "Why winglets," Mechanicsburg HS, Mechanicsburg, \$150
2. (tie) Lisa N. Guo, "How the magnetic field strength affects the speed of a motor," Solon HS, Solon, \$100
2. (tie) Aarti Kumar, "Variables that affect natural battery output," Mason HS, Mason, \$100
3. Elizabeth A. Bancroft, "Effects of temperature on tennis ball bounce," Lial School, Whitehouse, \$50