



Spotlight on Section Service

Tom Peter Completes Full Decade as Director of NJAIHA Industrial Hygiene Summer Training Course*

By: Tim Rice, NJAIHA Section Historian

If you had been trying to find Tom Peter on any given Tuesday night in June, July, or August from 1999 through this past Summer, you most likely would have had to look no further than Classroom A-B of the Extension Conference Center, Cook College Campus, Rutgers University... otherwise known as the home of NJAIHA's traditional and ever popular Industrial Hygiene Summer Training Course.

Why? Well, for 11 straight years now, starting with the Summer of 1999 and going through this past August, Tom has served as the Course's Director, a role which has had him donating most of his Tuesday evenings to personally ensure that each of the 12 weekly sessions held each Summer have been properly moderated and successfully completed.

In his role as Director, Tom each year donates his time to ensure that the instructors for all 12 sessions are lined up in advance, that the class room is booked, that the course is adequately advertised, that the proper number of the nearly 500 page Course manual are printed up in advance and ready for week one, that all students are properly registered in the opening week of the Course, and that each week the instructors are properly introduced and their audiovisual needs are met. Oh, did I forget to mention...he also makes the coffee and picks up the donuts before each session!



Tom Peter monitors classroom activity - Week 2 of the 2009 Year

Tom, currently Remediation Project Manager with Insurance Restoration Specialists, Inc, does thankfully have help running the course with Alex Ruiz excellently serving as Associate Course Director, which is more important than ever now that the Course recently expanded in scope by adding a safety topics review component. This component, sponsored by the NJ Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (NJASSE), is comprised of nine, 3-hour Thursday night sessions.

For those new to NJAIHA, the Summer Course, as described in the annual flyer, is... "designed to provide basic training in a number of primary industrial hygiene subjects and will likely be beneficial to those entering the field as well as those who are looking to sharpen their skills in certain technical areas. In addition many of the people who have attended the Course have found it to be very helpful in preparing for the industrial hygiene certification exam."

Is the Course a tradition? Yes, indeed, as it now just completed its 33rd year, having begun during the 1976-77 year under the Presidency of George Stanton. George, currently President of American Hazard Control Consultants, Inc., reflects on those times,



Tom at October 2009 NHAIHA Dinner Meeting

“We doubled the dues from \$5 to \$10 per year to obtain the funds for the review course. Not many CIH’s back then and formal comprehensive courses were not readily available at the time - NYU The Center for Safety (where I studied and taught) was too far to travel for most of our NJAIHA members, the Rutgers program was developing with Ray Manganelli, the NJIT engineering master’s program in Occupational Safety & Health Engineering was a fledgling with John Mihalasky - so the section members put the review course together - I recall Wes VanPelt did the Ionizing and Non-ionizing Radiation segments”

And, would you believe, Wes VanPelt is still teaching the Non-Ionizing Radiation class 33 years later!

Has the Course been ever popular and a bargain also? That’s an emphatic “yes” too, as Tom indicates, *“When I took the class over, I opened the doors to everyone, and we started getting better attendance, 25-30 people per year. Over the past 8 years we have had 25-30-40 people in the class. Attendance was 30-40 again last year when we added the safety topics on Thursday nights. This year we had a lower turnout than usual...not sure why, but we will try to get more next year”*.

Further Tom relays, *“This class has been providing a valuable service to the members of NJAIHA and now the NJASSE, and has been successful in introducing new people into our fields. And for the cost of \$150 for 12 weeks of classes, it is a bargain”* (a bargain indeed, Tom, for at a fee of just \$150, certified industrial hygienists have the opportunity to obtain 0.5 CM points per lecture session, or a maximum of five (5) CM points for the Summer).

Tom closes, *“I have enjoyed running the class and meeting a lot of people each year. I thank all the volunteers who have helped as speakers over the years. They are all highly qualified top notch people who have made it easy for me to coordinate the class all these years”*.

And thank you, Tom, for your “top notch” dedicated service to NJAIHA over these past 11 summers!

* Since 2008, officially titled the “Industrial Hygiene and Safety Review Course”, as it is now a co-sponsored effort between the NJAIHA and the NJ Chapter of the American Society of Safety Engineers (NJASSE) with Tuesday night (industrial hygiene) and Thursday night (safety) sessions.



*Week 2 of the 2009 Industrial Hygiene & Safety Review Course
Extension Education Center, Cook College, Rutgers University*



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