



The International System Safety Society

Tennessee Valley Chapter
ALABAMA - MISSISSIPPI - TENNESSEE

<http://www.iss-tvc.org/>

October 2016 Newsletter

Tennessee Valley Chapter Officers, 2016-2017

President: Dave West, 256-971-6494

Vice President: Melissa Waters, 256-955-6830

Treasurer: Ronnie Sams, 256-842-1005

Secretary: Jason Rupert, 256-313-8650

Immediate Past President: Christopher Trumble, 256-847-3247

Special Events Coordinator: Open

Webmaster: Don Swallom, 256-842-8641

President's Corner



Fellow System Safety Practitioners – I am very excited about the upcoming year and all that is in store for our chapter of the International System Safety Society (ISSS). I am also honored that you have trusted me with the responsibility of leading the chapter through this next Society Year. The chapter has grown, and there have been many changes since the last time I held this office, over ten years ago. I need to recognize and give credit to the outstanding leadership of last year's officers: Chris Trumble, President; Jason Rupert, Secretary; Ronnie Sams, Treasurer; Don Swallom, Webmaster; and Ken Rose, Immediate Past President. Melissa Waters, this year's Vice President, and I – as the newcomers to the Executive Committee – are grateful for the continuity provided by returning members Chris, Jason, Ronnie, and Don. We have already held our first Executive Committee meeting, and I am pleased to say that I am not the only one filled with enthusiasm and optimism about the upcoming year!

At this summer's 34th International System Safety Conference (ISSC) in Orlando, I had the opportunity to share what I felt are the secrets of our chapter's success with the ISSS Executive Council. The geography and high concentration of System Safety people here in the Huntsville area are certainly factors, but we would not be back-to-back winners of the ISSS Chapter of the Year Award without the commitment to improving our profession and the willingness to serve the chapter exhibited by so many of you! My sincere thanks to all – keep up the great work! --Dave West

Highlights from Orlando



The 34th International System Safety Conference (ISSC) was held in Orlando, FL on August 8-12, 2016, and was a tremendous success!

Attendance was up from previous years. The Renaissance Orlando at Sea World is a beautiful facility and was perfectly suited as the conference hotel. The offsite dinner at Sea World on Wednesday evening was a festive and memorable event. Several attendees even got up close and personal with a rescued sloth!



As always, the Tennessee Valley Chapter (TVC) of the ISSS was well represented at the 34th ISSC. The TVC's contributions to the success of this year's ISSC included the following:

- Conference Chair, Gary Braman (also served as Media & Marketing Chair and Off-Site Event Coordinator)
- Budget Committee Chair, Pam Kniess
- Facilities Chair, Joe Dowd
- Conference Webmaster, Don Swallow
- Paper on *Challenges of Applying Conventional Software System Safety to Agile Software Development Programs*, Melissa Emery and Dave West
- Paper on *Model Based Development and Software System Safety*, Barry Hendrix
- G-48 Panel on *The Most Pressing Issues Facing System Safety*, Dave West (moderator) and Don Swallow (panelist)
- Tutorial on *System Safety Engineering and Management: An Overview*, Gary Braman
- Tutorial on *Safety and Human Performance*, Gary Braman

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- Panel/Roundtable on *Developing a System Safety Expert – Perceptions from industry, academia and government*, Gary Braman (moderator) and Saralyn Dwyer (panelist)

One of the highlights of the Awards Ceremony this year was the naming of the TVC as the ISSS Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row (see photo at right). Congratulations, TVC!



Our chapter's Marge Jones, Saralyn Dwyer, and Gary Braman were also recognized at the Awards Ceremony. Marge was named the ISSS Engineer of the Year for 2016. Saralyn's and Gary's membership statuses were upgraded to Fellow, the Society's highest level (at right, Saralyn is congratulated by the Society's OVP for Professional Development, Russ Mitchell; below right, Gary is congratulated by ISSS President Rod Simmons).



Previous Meeting

The TVC met at APT Research on Wednesday, September 21st, 2016, with about 30 people in attendance. For the special topic, Don Swallow reprised his presentation on a **Business Case for Using a Numbered Logarithmic Risk Severity Scale** which he had given at the G-48 Committee's *Most Pressing Issues Facing System Safety* panel at the Orlando conference.



Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the ISSS TVC will be on 19 October 2016 from 11:30 – 12:30. SAIC will host the meeting at 6723 Odyssey Drive, Huntsville, AL 35806 (this is the 4-story building to the left of the flagpole as you enter from Odyssey Drive). The special topic will be a presentation on the *Challenges of Applying Conventional Software System Safety to Agile Software Development Programs*, by Melissa Emery and Dave West. Lunch will be provided, so please RSVP to Jason Rupert, jrupert@apt-research.com and Melissa Waters, melissa.c.waters2.ctr@mail.mil.

Special Events

The Chapter is looking forward to assisting with the following special events:

- [NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge](#) March 30 – April 1, 2017 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The TVC will once again be sponsoring an



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award for the best application of System Safety (see <http://www.nasa.gov/roverchallenge/competition/system-safety-award>).

This is an opportunity to get involved in a fun event that represents our chapter and our discipline to the community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave West (david.b.west@saic.com).

- The [Alabama Regional Future City Competition \(ARFCC\)](#) will be held on Saturday, January 14th 2017 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration. As in previous years, the TVC will be sponsoring a special award for the team whose design best applies the discipline of System Safety. Two to three judges will be needed from TVC. . If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave West (david.b.west@saic.com).

Watch for announcements of other upcoming special events.

Model-Based Systems Engineering

At the 34th ISSC in Orlando, there was a great deal of talk (including a paper by our chapter's Barry Hendrix) about conducting System Safety in the context of Model-Based Systems Engineering (MBSE). The G-48 System Safety Committee is planning a workshop on System Safety in the Context of MBSE, to be held at APT Research on 16-17 May 2017. The TVC's May 2017 meeting will be held at APT Research on May 17th, during lunch on the second day of the workshop.

To the chapter's membership, keep expanding your knowledge and thanks for all that you do!