

Inventors' Network

Volume 7

of the Capital Area [INCA]

Issue 1

1999 Announcements: Jan 19 & Feb 16 Meetings to be on 3rd Tuesday at NIH, our regular place. See back-of Newsletter for MAP. Meeting night will be back to 3rd Monday at March 15 and thereafter.

We will be using newly refurbished rooms 6C10 and 6C6 at Building 31 in NIH.

[The reason for Tuesday meetings is that our meeting place is closed on Federal Holidays.]

Annual Dues of \$36 for members are due. An addressed envelope is included for your convenience in paying this year's dues by mail (or at the door).

Our Website, pacificocean.com/inca is having its name changed. RAOUL is getting a new one. Members **with e-mail address in our records** will be the first to be informed of the new website address. [Members with e-mail address not yet in INCA records, are herein asked to e-mail a message to **INVENT99@AOL.com**

Julie Shared

Our December speaker, **Julie Peterson** of Rehabilitation Opportunities Inc (ROI), revealed the competitively-priced special services including assembly, packaging and mailing, (including the panic mode). Jobs are priced by a professional estimator, with a minimum at \$100. ROI serves customers throughout the Greater Washington area. Her telephone number at ROI is 301 731 4242.

Bob Advised

Bob is a yacht-club Commodore on Puget Sound. His advice about volunteer clubs has been: (1) Communicate through e-mail on the Internet. (2) Organize the necessary tasks to use excellent talent of the Organization. (3) Include social events as a "necessary task", (4) write position guides for all volunteer roles. Ray is moving on this advice.

Five new internet addresses were reported on the December roster.

Alex reported that for individuals without computers and/or computer knowledge; and/or without close friends who would relay e-mail messages, a television solution remains: For approximately \$150 "web-tv modem boxes" by Sony or Magnavox can be plugged into your TV for your own e-mail receive and send. It connects you to the public internet too. Monthly cost of modem connection is from \$10 to \$20.

Home-study of invention is available through internet. I found the word "**inventorship**" yielded 224 hits, many providing valuable background to a technical paper.

Don Kelly's IPO staff has reason to be proud of **WWW.USPTO.GOV**.

PROGRAMS

Our January 19 Speaker is to be **Mr Sam Hicks**. His invention, The Rescue Phone, meets a special need recognized by police in hostage situations. The marketing and use of this invention is helping him "save lives and make money".

Our February 16 Speaker is **Dr Robert Benson**. Dr Benson is Patent Advisor within NIH Office of Technology Transfer. We will have the opportunity of hearing about and asking about innovative businesses that are entering and thriving in a growing “Biotech awareness”.

Our March 15 Panel of Speakers include internal talent including **Chuck Poponoe, Maurice Daniels, Bill Kuntz and Terry Levinson**. Each has a base of invention/market understanding and real experience. Their participation helps make INCA such a rich base of networking. Members and guests are invited to bring their questions.

On April 19 **Mac Woodward**, President of the Blue Ridge Inventors Club will tell us of his club’s expansion to inventor-groups south of Charlottesville, and some of his adventures in dealing with a changing PTO. Mac may share some of his inventions, not patentable, about organizing Independent Inventors to meet needs that are more “full time” than possible through our yeasty volunteer associations, networks and clubs.

On May 17 **Dennis Van Dusen**, [vandusen@cais.com] will discuss “Inventing a Revenue Stream”. You may remember that Dennis is the one who introduced many of us to the MIT Enterprise Forum. He is now searching for small firms that need to express the prospects, resources and strategies of their Business Plan to expert panels for assessment and recommendations. Of course such assessment groups often include market-knowledgeable and investor persons who benefit from investing and/or assisting. I hope Dennis will share with us the way he perceived and thought-about the ventures he has entered, started, exited and learned from.

On June 21 **Frampton Ellis** [fellis@anatomicresearch.com] will update us on his licensing experience with a major show manufacturer and marketer. In 1998 Frampton received INCA’s first Inventor Award. We need to make more awards, and will be organized to do so. In the meantime, this winner is ready to share the new experiences that come with making good patents and licensing them.

Pre-Speaker Networking

In January we expect to renew or at least reformalize our intended “Networking” practice for the period between 5:30 and 6:30. “Corner Coach” topic hosts will stand in the four corners of the room to share in on-going networking themes:

Frampton Ellis or appointee (OA) will host **PATENTS**. Maurice Daniels OA will host **MARKETING**.
Phill Shaw OA will host **PROTOTYPING**. Bill Kuntz OA will host **FUNDING**.

We anticipate that these four coaches or appointed (OA) delegates will spend some time in their corner of the conference room between 5:45 - 6:15. Some sign will identify each corner’s discussion group. - Since networking tends to be fluid in nature, the coaches may co-mingle within other topics. However, they wear their INCA identification tags, so targeted networking is almost always possible.

Individual’s and team’s projects become a base for questions and “voluntary inventor-experience sharing”.

For instance, Sho Maruyama [sjmaruyama@erols.com] proposed in Dec.98 that INCA members might join with him in inventing improvements on mobility assistance for aging or infirmed people.

Sho’s ad-hoc team of INCA volunteers and others might use both e-mail and “corner-coach” time

- (1) to exchange background material during their “thinking-about criteria” stage;
- (2) to collect alternatives in their research processes; and
- (3) to test market priorities prior to patent prosecution.

Note: INCA’s charter as a learning organization provides an environment for others to combine in worthwhile research projects that involves invention, patenting, marketing, demonstration ware and funding.

December-Reported **Successes:**

George Jones, our volunteer video operator, 301 577 0144, reported his issuance of a new patent.

George expressed pride in the performance of his Patent Attorney: Only 3-months between application and issue. To make the celebration even better, a toy agent had called him in response to the patent register.

Sho announced a first retail sale of his Chef's Knife Sharpener.

Jerry Porter from the Blue Ridge Inventors Club has moved into Kensington Md. (301) 962 8491. Welcome.

INTERNET SHARING

NAME for our web-site?

Raoul Drapeau, [r-drapeau@usa.net] our Webmaster is seeking a term that (1) represents what we do or what we are and (2) is available as a domain term. He values a name that need not be changed again if our web-server should be changed. [Our INCA name works well for public image, but has complications as domain-useable.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE The PTO is proud of new capabilities for text search on line.

<http://www.uspto.gov> now offers direct view or download for the essential tools of patent prosecution. Hooray!!!

BUSINESS PLAN The Small Business Administration offers an outline for a business plan. Their model can be printed (onto 31 pages) or it can be downloaded for modification into your unique business plan..

<http://www.sbaonline.sba.gov/starting/businessplan.html>

PTO Courses to help inventors:

Anne Kelly sent Ray a list of courses that would be presented to the incoming class of examiners:

A 5-hour presentation will address (1) Types of applications, and the application content.

Three-hour presentations will address:

- | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|
| 2. 35USC 112 Rejections,
not based on prior art | 6. Restriction | 10. Allowance/Issue |
| 3. 35 USC 102 Novelty | 7. 35 USC 101 Utility &
35 USC 112 para 1 | 11. Appeals |
| 4. 35 USC 103 Obviousness | 8. Response by applicant | 12. Interference |
| 5. Double Patenting | 9. Final Rejection / After Final | 13. Petitions |
| | | 14. Reexamination |

Anne is interested in the potential attendance and fair distribution of cost sharing for Independent Inventors. She also suggested a possible one-to-three day "Inventors course" that drew on portions from within aforementioned topics. Design of such a course would need some inventor representation to balance the total information (within the MPEP) against the time-budgets and direct interest of some of her customers.

Ray will collect response to both educational issues on **INVENT99@AOL.com**.

Denny Lennon's response about courses was to ask for broader instruction in **Claim-Writing**.

A "spirited" conversation followed: **Mac Woodward**, President of the Blue Ridge Inventors Club, told about his patent-attorney friend who encouraged clients to start their invention work with their own expression of claims, Within this structure, each word within a claim necessarily drives an explanation within the specification, and demands that the drawings include number-arrows to declare its important features.

Thus, the claims can drive the complete application.

Mac observed that the claims can be changed, and prudent application writers will include enough other material within the specification to support alternatives to an original claim attempt.

Claims are often required to be changed due to examiner's office actions that cite prior art not found in applicants search, or not recognized by the inventor or invention team.

Inventors may want to, and can change claims* where they have gained new appreciation understanding, and insight to their intellectual property that expands its boundaries.

*Entirely new claims can be generated if specification and drawings contain sufficient support.

During our 1998 meetings with USPTO persons, examiners disclosed their willingness to assist "pro-se" applicants (those who write their own application). Assistance includes offering changes in claim-words, and if requested, casting a complete expression for claim(s).

David Pressman's PATENT IT YOURSELF, Nolo Press 1996, Chapter 9 recites many of the internal rules taught within the USPTO about claim-writing. [Reading and using this instruction is a lot faster than learning the rules by having your examiner cite them as reasons for a claim's disallowance.]

Professor Irving Kayton of Patent Resources Group teaches science-graduates to prepare for taking the PTO exam. One of his lectures cited Judge Rich's comparison of Intellectual property claims to Real property claims. Both kinds of property depend on definition as to "what is included" vs what is excluded.

The engineering or science claim-writer is challenged to consider boundaries that

1. separate his sought properties from prior art,
2. extend those boundaries broadly enough to include property areas not yet refined, and
3. express the claimed property with such specificity that others will understand what it includes.

Computer techniques, as well as philosophy, were bantered to show "advantages" from writing claims "first, last or concurrently with" preparation of specifications and drawings". Mac had visited Ray Gilbert's office, and questioned why Ray used three computer screen-images simultaneously for his inventing/patenting mode:

One screen cites the initially-perceived [and iteratively refined] claims, a second screen shows drawings with numbers that link to each claim; and a third screen shows the specifications that refer to drawing numbers and reveal the current best-considered way of making the resultant product or process.

Concurrent images seems to help the viewer recognize otherwise hidden interactions, so that a resulting document meets a patent prosecutor's need for evidence of the inventor's understanding of "what wants as a property".

NEW KIND OF INVENTOR CONFERENCE?

Don Kelly is still very interested in a cooperative effort between USPTO and INCA toward hosting a representative bunch of independent inventors in Washington DC in the near future. The PTO mission would be to reveal a much friendlier and effective community of patent examiners and an even more effective PTO staff.

INCA's theme of "Inventors helping Inventors" could bring peer helpfulness into such an event.

INCA's corporate not-for-profit structure provides a potential instrument for hosting meals and facilities that are

outside the PTO charter. Hosting details depend on anticipated registration size and length-of-event. We expect that an attractive and affordable conference location can be found in the Greater Washington area. A prudent margin between event income and direct INCA expense could fund activity, resources and representation to strengthen INCA. Ray needs to hear from members and friends with conference-organizing experience. Share inputs through raybik@aol.com.

INCA is to be ORGANIZED

January is time to call in “volunteering” chits offered during August to “nearly burned out” prior INCA presidents.

Nearly 80 hours per month were volunteered by our members who were there. That level of time per month is the standard total contract effort for an Airline Pilot.

Like the pilot’s work, INCA work covers a lot of territory and employs a broad variety of skills. Our interim board has encouraged Ray to call in some chits to structure INCA’s background tasks. Member response to transition has been elegant.

STATUS

A nominating committee for March election of Officers is in place.

Monthly topical speaker presentations are arranged through July.

Network-hosts will coach in 4 generic areas: *Patents, Marketing, Prototyping & Funding*

Envelope is enclosed for \$36 check.

Position Guides (tentative)

Editing Director	Asset & Facilities Director	Membership Director
Hospitality Director	Speaker-Host Director	At Large (Conference) Director
Education Director	Web Communication Director	President (Elected)
Judge Advocate Director	Treasurer (Elected)	Vice President (Elected)