



# TENNESSEE INVENTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 11225

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37939-1225

August 19, 2006

**Forthcoming Meeting, Saturday, August 19, 2006 at 10 AM in the 2020 Building in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park (% Igor Alexeff, TIA President**

**This meeting will be a TIA inventors' expo.** Bring your protected invention for display and discussion. We are planning on having representatives from television and other media representatives. We will also make our own video for advertising and distribution. Nonmembers can exhibit if they join TIA at the rate for the remaining year (\$ 12.50, but you also get a Patent Guidebook.). For more information, call 865-483-0151.

## **TIA July 15, 2006, Meeting Notes**

**Terry Brewster** had arraigned to have two speakers from SCORE (A group of Retired Executives) to give presentations. Nobody showed up.

## **Recording Secretary –Thomas Kulaga TIA July 15, 2006, Meeting Notes**

**Igor Alexeff** kicked off the July 15 meeting with an announcement of the upcoming TIA Inventor's Expo to be held at the usual time and place of our August 19 meeting.

**Igor** also demonstrated an ultrasound speaker that was invented by Elwood "Woody" Norris and sold by American Technology Corporation. Everyone in attendance experienced the directed sound emitted by the hypersonic sound speaker.

**Rainer Riffert**, a long-time member of the TIA, gave an interesting talk about his career, including showing the numerous devices he has developed. Rainer began his presentation by describing his work while at Electro-Optics Laboratory, where he made a laser shutter for eye surgeons. Rainer showed the group one of the shutters that he designed and developed. Rainer also showed the group an orthopedic shoe, AccuTread, for post-op patients to monitor the amount of weight being applied to their foot. The shoe includes a transducer that sends a signal to a portable monitor. The monitor alarms when the patient puts too much weight on the foot, which allows the patient to control their own rehabilitative therapy.

**Rainer** moved from that company to Griffin Technology, where he has been instrumental in designing and developing new consumer products. Rainer displayed samples of the many products he designed and developed, including the first product, a monitor adapter for Apple Computers. Other products that Rainer showed the group included the iMike, a USB sound system for Apple computers; the Power Wave and Power Mate sound systems; the Radio Shark; the Power Pod; and the Rocket FM.

Several versions of the iTrip were shown, including a demonstration of how the iTrip works with an Apple iPod. The iTrip is an FM radio transmitter that plugs into an iPod to transmit the music playing on the iPod to a nearby FM radio receiver, such as the one in the iTrip owner's car. Rainer described the evolution of the iTrip and how the design changed over time.

**Rainer** discussed the steps in designing and producing a new product such as the ones he designs. The first step is to decide what the product is to do and how it should work. He designs a schematic of the device before building a prototype. After the prototype is tested, the art department designs a good-looking case. The engineering department attempts to make the good-looking case work with the device by ensuring that the components fit into the case and that the product still functions as designed. The new product is then brought to market, hopefully to sell millions of units, as some of Rainer's products have.

**Joseph Angelini**, a young inventor with lots of ideas, made a brief presentation to the group. In addition to his full time engineering job, Joe is in the initial stages of setting up a development company that he hopes will allow him to bring his ideas to fruition. Joe's new company, which he plans to call Creasis, is to foster creativity to enable new ideas to reach the marketplace. He does not yet have a web site or a blog set up.

**Joseph** described several of his projects, including a solar project using a reflector and a Stirling engine. Joe also showed drawings and pictures of his patent pending Boat-in-a-Box, the folding, hard-sided boat that he invented.

### **.Meeting Alert!**

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Invention Exposition** in Waterbury, Connecticut will be held Thursday, October 19 through Saturday, October 21, 2006. **The cost is a bargain!** Two and one half days of workshops (9 workshops) for \$ 250. You can also rent a booth for exhibiting your inventions **and** attend the workshops for \$ 295 (Friday and Saturday). Contact [www.yankeeinventionexpo.org](http://www.yankeeinventionexpo.org), [Email- Yankeeinventionexpo@juno.com](mailto:Yankeeinventionexpo@juno.com), phone 203-575-8322, Fax-203-575-8322, or write Yankee Invention Exposition, 21 Church Street, Waterbury, CT 08702. Note that the deadline for the cheap rate is August 17.

**National Inventors' Month - August** is just around the corner, and ID is celebrating in a BIG way! Volume I of The Best of Inventors' Digest can be downloaded free at [www.inventorsdigest.com](http://www.inventorsdigest.com)

### **Patent Auction**

There is an article, "The Patent Machine", in the July 2006 issue of Business 2.0 Magazine describing a Chicago Company, "Ocean Tomo", which buys and sells intellectual property. They conduct a patent auction in October and April. For the October auction in New York City, more than 1000 patents have been submitted so far. More information is available by searching "Ocean Tomo" on the internet. There is a charge for submitting your patent.

## Photos of Past Speakers

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### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ DUES RENEWAL

Mail to TIA Treasurer, P.O. Box 11225, Knoxville, TN 37939-1225

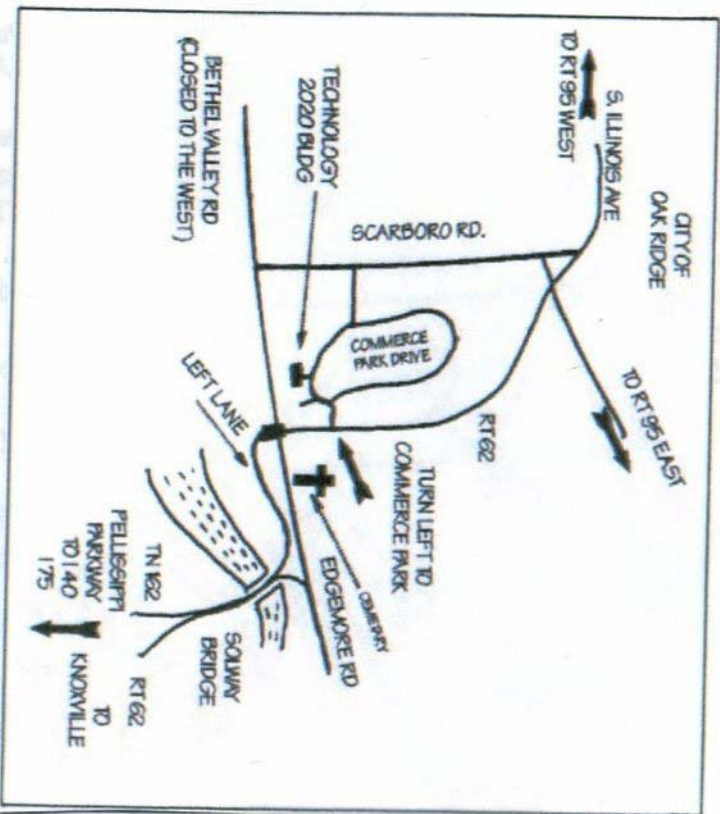
Dues are \$30.00 per year , and due in January. Anyone joining after January will pay a pro rated amount.  
Please make checks payable to Tennessee Inventors Association.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**INVENTIONS**



# REGULAR MEETINGS

1020 COMMERCE PARK DR.

**(2020 BUILDING)**

**THIRD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH**

**10:00 A.M. TILL NOON**

**FOR INFORMATION CALL**

865-483-0151



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