

HOTLINE

The Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory is a United States Department of Energy Facility

Staff Celebrates NSTX Run



At top left, PPPL'ers enjoy the pizza party in the LSB Lobby under a series of flags reflecting the Olympics theme of the bash. At right, PPPL Director Rob Goldston delivers congratulatory remarks to the NSTX team. At bottom left, party-goers grab a slice or two. PPPL's John Jenner (far left) leads the line.

Pizza for everyone! On August 6, PPPL'ers consumed more than 100 pizzas in the LSB Lobby at an Olympics-themed bash to celebrate the successful completion of the National Spherical Torus Experiment (NSTX) operations for Fiscal Year 2004. The machine completed 21.1 weeks of operation on August 5, with myriad accomplishments.

"This party is in honor of the NSTX 21 run-week accomplishment and in honor of all who contributed to making the run a scientific success," said PPPL Director Rob Goldston. "Accomplishing the run-week milestone was an Olympic-class marathon: hurdles were cleared, poles were vaulted, targets were hit (both archery and sharpshooting), shots were put, hammers were thrown (safely, safely, safely), thrusts were parried, goals were scored, beams were balanced, boats were tacked (!), serves were volleyed, and generally the NSTX plasma was wrestled in every which way (freestyle and Greco-Roman, as well as Taekwondo)."

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NSTX

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He congratulated staff and gave a summary of NSTX's achievements, which included producing 2,460 plasma discharges with some of the best characteristics ever made in NSTX.

The Director noted that many experimental hurdles were jumped on the machine. During the run, experiments required by the NSTX 2004 milestones were successfully completed, enabling further analyses. By using new research tools, a wider range of plasma operating conditions was obtained.

Wonderful Data

Ed Synakowski, NSTX Deputy Program Director, characterized the FY 2004 operations as "wonderfully run experiments that produced wonderful data."

The machine is in a maintenance period for the next several months. Operations are expected to resume in the winter. "Our achievements set us up for what needs to be done for the next NSTX run," said Goldston. ●



Above, Chun Kung stocks up on pizza slices.



Top, from left, Charles Sands, Manny Fernandez, Ted Frankowiak, and Steve Raftopoulos take part in the festivities in the Cafeteria Courtyard. Middle, Bobbie Forcier (at right) heads for the ice-cream truck. Bottom, a group of PPPL'ers enjoy the pizza. From left are John Trafalski, Bill Zimmer, and Steve Kemp.

Hotline

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The NSTX Control Room is a hub of activity when the machine is operating. Above, researchers work together during the FY04 run.

Spotlight

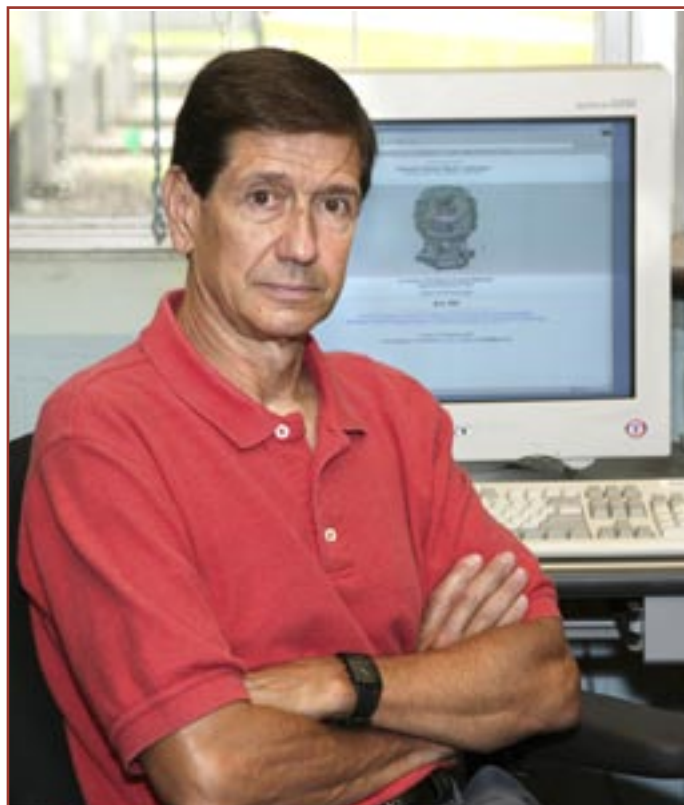
Name: Don Monticello

Position: Theoretical physicist whose primary responsibility is the calculation of equilibria for the National Compact Stellarator Experiment (NCSX) project.

Quote: I joined PPPL's Theory Group in 1975 after spending two years at the Institute for Advanced Study, where I had the good fortune to work with Marshall Rosenbluth and Roscoe White. At the Institute, I started working in the field of computational science and I have worked in the field ever since. The field has changed much over the decades because of improvements in technology, and PPPL has always kept pace with these changes, being mostly at the forefront.

Monticello's experiences at PPPL have been enriching. "It's been great here. I really enjoy working as a research physicist. It is especially rewarding to work in fusion because the potential benefits to society are enormous." He has shared his enthusiasm for fusion and astronomy with the public by giving talks to school, astronomy, and senior citizens groups, as well as at PPPL's Science-on-Saturday lecture series. He also has co-hosted and spoken at "star parties," where people interested in astronomy gather to share their views of the heavens.

Other interests: Monticello's interests outside work can be summed up by four words: family, fitness, sports, and astronomy. Monticello, the father of five and grandfather of five, said, "One of my hobbies with my wife, Margaret, is taking care of our latest grandchild, who lives close by." The couple also enjoys sailing and kayaking. The entire family spends two weeks every summer in New Hampshire sailing and enjoying the outdoors. "My wife cooks for 18 people for



two weeks!" he noted with awe. Monticello is a new member of the Mercer County Tennis League and a member, along with two of his sons, of the Lawrenceville Golf League. He also is among the PPPL lunchtime joggers, whose daily sprints offer a mix of exercise and "lively conversation." And Monticello joins son Anthony as a member of the local astronomy club. "Astronomy is a very exciting area. It leads to our understanding of our origins and the origins of the universe," he said. ●

Nemeth Named Chief Engineer at Steam Plant



In June, Jules Nemeth was named Chief Engineer at PPPL's Steam Plant. Nemeth replaces John Clark, who retired this spring.

Nemeth had been Operating Engineer at the Steam Plant for 21 years, with increasing responsibilities. He has been at PPPL since 1974.

Nemeth has a New Jersey Red Seal license for stationary engineers.

Congratulations, Jules! ●

PPPL Hosts Visitors for Meetings, Workshops



Above, PPPL's John DeLooper (far left) shows Jen Surovy and Joye Purser, legislative assistants for Representative Rush Holt and Representative Lincoln Davis, respectively, a plasma bulb at the Science Ed Lab during a Congressional Staff visit on August 13. Princeton University's Chris Carter, who co-hosted the visit with PPPL Director Rob Goldston and Deputy Director Rich Hawryluk, is at back.



At top left, a delegation of Japanese scientists and policy makers met with representatives of the U.S. fusion community on August 4 at PPPL to discuss the establishment of the U.S. ITER Project Office. The meeting participants also exchanged views about how to maintain the ITER activity and how to explore related activities with the U.S. Following the meeting, PPPL Director Rob Goldston led the Japanese visitors on a tour of the Laboratory. From left are Akio Yuuki, Vice Minister of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); PPPL's Masa Ono; MEXT's Satoru Ohtake; PPPL's Goldston; Yasuko Kurihara, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan; and PPPL's John DeLooper at the Coil Winding Facility for the National Compact Stellarator Experiment.

At top right, a student experiments with a solar-powered model car as part of the "Energy in the 21st Century" workshop August 2-6 for students from the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology in Hackensack, New Jersey. During the week, the participants studied solar energy, hydrogen fuel cells, plasmas, and fusion energy. The workshop was organized by PPPL's Andrew Post-Zwicker and Chris Ritter and was co-taught by Master Teacher Harry Rheam and undergraduate Irina Schnayder.

At middle left, students involved in programs at various Department of Energy offices build solar-powered model cars as part of a two-day visit to PPPL in August. Bill Nay, of DOE's Office of Science, and student leader Martia Hays arranged the visit, which included a plasma show, tour, fire extinguisher training, and a solar car competition. PPPL staff who participated were George Ascione, John DeLooper, Tom Meighan, Matt Mercuri, James Morgan, Andrew Post-Zwicker, Kevin Rhoades, and Patti Wieser. ●

PPPL's Schneider and Bandmates Rock



The 609 Band performs at a local establishment. Second from left is PPPL's Hans Schneider on bass.

If you want to book The 609 Band — featuring PPPL's Hans Schneider on bass — you'll have to call a number with a "732" area code.

Billed as "New Jersey's good time rock and roll cover band," the name denotes the group's diverse musical offerings. "The name of the band is the area code. We wanted an ambiguous name — not something associated with just one kind of music. We play a wide mix of rock and roll, but also veer into things with a blues tinge," said Schneider, who came up with the title. "We try to cover a lot of different artists, from Tom Jones to Stevie Ray Vaughan to Tom Petty."

Schneider, along with his four bandmates, perform at local establishments and private parties. "Everybody's really pumped up for this," he said of the band members, who besides himself include Phillip Faraone on guitar and keyboard, Tom Faraone on guitar, Bob Homoky on guitar, and Mike Zarrilli on drums.

The group came together after many members had been on a multiple-year hiatus from playing music. Schneider had been in a garage band in the 80s after graduating from college, but gave up playing when career, marriage, and family took center stage. Then Tom Faraone, a friend since fourth grade at St. Anthony's in Hightstown, asked him to consider forming a band, and Schneider dusted off his Fender Precision bass. The two had been co-members of the 80s garage band.

The group practices about once a month in the Schneider home basement. "I'm lucky my wife likes music and we can practice at my house," said Schneider. The self-taught bass player also practices at least an hour a day on his own. "Individually and collectively we have to put time in," he said.

When they were ready to take their music out of the basement, the musicians made a demo CD, produced a flier, and began marketing for gigs. "You have to go out and get jobs," said Schneider. They have played at private bashes and area establishments (see schedule on web at www.the609band.com). Members also had T-shirts with the band logo made up and created a backdrop that is hung on stage wherever they play.

The band members, most of who work day jobs and have families, have one goal with the group — fun. "First and foremost, this is for us to have fun. We're playing music we like," Schneider said, noting the infectiousness of the band's energy and lightheartedness. "We take the music seriously, but we don't take ourselves seriously. Everyone in the audience sees us having fun and it seems to catch on."

Schneider, who also runs the sound, said The 609 Band generally opens a performance with "Green River" by Creedence Clearwater Revival. From there, the selection of styles and music from rock and roll's greatest artists range from songs by Eric Clapton and Bruce Springsteen to B.B. King and the Grateful Dead. All selections are cover music; no original songs are performed.

So, Hans, why does someone have to dial the "732" area code to book The 609 Band?

"It started out as a 'tongue in cheek' joke. Tom Faraone began the band and was going to be the single point of contact for booking gigs. He lives in Jamesburg — which has a 732 area code — and the rest of us live in communities with the 609 area code," said Schneider. "He's the only guy in the band with a '732' number. I keep using his number on material because it gets people thinking — hopefully that helps them remember us." ●

PPPL'ers: Please Mind the Safety Signs

PPPL Director Rob Goldston recently issued a message to employees, reminding everyone to heed the safety signs and barrier tapes at the Laboratory. Below is his note.

PPPL'ers,

There are a significant number of projects that are either underway at PPPL or will be shortly. These include important improvements to our infrastructure (such as elevators, security systems, and roofs) as well as experimental facilities such as NCSX.

It is extremely important that all employees be aware of conditions around the Laboratory and the fact that they will be changing on a daily basis. In some cases, thoroughfares that you routinely use may be restricted to allow for the safe performance of work as well as for your personal safety.

These worksites will frequently be posted with signs, placards or tapes that advise the observer of potential hazards that can cause injury. These postings also provide safety precautions and other directions required to eliminate or reduce the hazard.

There are four types of safety signs and barrier tapes used at the Laboratory. They are: DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION, and NOTICE. All instructions on safety signs must be followed, and all barrier tapes shall not be breached, unless granted permission by the cognizant person in charge of the area, at the time you request to enter it.

There is always some degree of professional judgment applied in the placement of signs and barriers. If you identify a sign or barrier which you consider to be improper you should immediately contact Jerry Levine (Ext. 3439), Bill Slavin (Ext. 2533), Margaret Lumia (Ext. 2531), or Jack Anderson (Ext. 2207). However, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES does the fact that you consider a sign or barrier to be improper justify your disregarding it.

These control measures are intended to be used for your safety. There is no excuse for the violation of these barriers and signs – it is an essential aspect of your employment. Disregard of these important controls could result in discipline, in accordance with PPPL Policy.

Let's work together safely.

— Rob

Cafeteria Dining Area Open After Hours

An anyone hosting a vendor sales representative, having an impromptu work discussion, or just taking a break may now use the Cafeteria dining area after the Cafeteria closes.

Effective immediately, the doors to the Cafeteria will remain unlocked after 2:30 P.M. This will allow use of the seating area anytime.

Plans also are in the works to add a couple of vending machines in the seating area to make snacks and beverages available for purchase after the serving line closes. ●

New FedEx After-hours Shipping Procedure

The FedEx after-hours document shipping procedure has been revised. The new procedure is available on the web. Go to the PPPL Employee Information Services page, select Materiel Services, and find PPPL Shipping Information (<http://oorm-1-priv.pppl.gov/users/mat/>). Copies of the procedure and more information are also available from the Lab's Shipping Office at Ext. 3572.



BLOOD DRIVE



**American Red Cross
Penn-Jersey Region**

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS & PPPL

DATE: Friday, October 8, 2004

HOURS: 8:00 AM to 2:00 P.M.

**LOCATION: The American Red Cross Van will be parked
in front of the LSB on the circular driveway.**

For an appointment please call x3200.

**BLOOD SUPPLY IS CRITICALLY LOW.
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

**For more information please visit the American Red Cross website at:
<http://www.pleasegiveblood.org/>**