



# APDA Southwest Wire

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## Future APDA Meetings

Spring 2011 Meeting will be in Lake Tahoe, NV April 26 - 29, 2011.

Fall 2011 Meeting will be in Las Vegas, NV.

Spring 2012 Special Meeting in Wellington, New Zealand

## 2011 APDA Dues

APDA membership dues are \$21/year

## APDA Scholarship

See SW and National websites for applications. New SW scholarship for college students available.

## Contact Us

[www.apdasouthwestarea.org](http://www.apdasouthwestarea.org)

Newsletter Editor

## Fall 2010 Meeting in San Diego, CA

The Fall 2010 Southwest Area APDA meeting was held September 14 through 17 in San Diego at the Catamaran Hotel. The meeting was hosted by TESLA, Inc., a long time sponsor of the APDA. Prior to the meeting, members had the opportunity for a round of golf at the Rancho Bernardo Inn Golf Course near Temecula, California. The course has been host to both PGA and LPGA tournaments. TESLA provided transportation.

12 Continuing Education Hours were available to Certified System Operators on a wide range of topics. Bismarck State College provided 4 Continuing Education Hours. They were unable to participate in person. Instead, they provided each attendee an overview of generation via their online training system. The course covered 3-phase and single phase power, active and reactive power, power factor, line charging, generator torque, reactive power and voltage.

On Wednesday, Rita Patterson and Bill Snively from Primate Technologies gave a presentation on situational awareness. They pointed out how much information an operator is exposed to and must prioritize. They provided several important suggestions for managing awareness including focusing on the situation as part of the whole picture and the importance of visualization tools to manage complexity and support prioritization of information.

Bob Staton from Xcel Energy gave a presentation on a 2008 islanding event caused by the near simultaneous failure of two transmission lines. The subsequent events created an island from the Upper Midwest into Canada. The island's frequency reached 60.8 Hz. Lessons learned included the deployment of wall-mounted mapboards in all Xcel Energy control rooms. Vince Bleaser from Monitor Mapboard, provided additional information on the Xcel Energy control rooms and their new mapboards. The operators asked for black mapboards to match their monitors. The room is painted black with task lighting illuminating the operator's desk.

Jim Streets from TESLA made a presentation on load forecasting. After summarizing the differences among long, medium and short term forecasts, Jim focused on the weather and load components that are inputs to short-term load forecasts including the relative importance of each component. Jim summarized the manual and mathematical methods for developing forecast models and identified the major companies offering load forecasting services.

The Southwest Area Business meeting was held Wednesday afternoon. Pat McCormick, Area Secretary, read the minutes. Michele Wynne,

Area Treasurer reported that the Southwest has 347 members and \$28,169.84 in the bank.

<b>SW Account Balance as of 9/1/2010</b>	
General Fund	\$15,509.02
Promotional Fund	\$201.05
Scholarship Fund	\$4517.89
Meeting Fund	\$7,856.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,169.84</b>

On Wednesday morning, Gary Jackson from SOS International held a workshop on situational awareness and critical decision making. Gary provided information and procedures to enhance awareness and decision making. This was followed by several table-top exercises that allowed the members to apply the procedures.

Following the workshop, TESLA hosted a half-day field trip.

The Scholarship Banquet and Raffle was held on Thursday night. The grand prize, an iPad donated by TESLA. The raffle added \$1,010 to the scholarship fund.

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## Spring 2011 Meeting in Lake Tahoe, NV

The Spring meeting will be held at Harrah's South Lake Tahoe, Nevada on April 26 – 29, 2011. A minimum of 12 CEH of training is planned. We are working to add the ability to pay for your register using Visa and MasterCard. Keep checking the website for updates.

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## Spring 2012 Special Meeting in New Zealand

The National APDA and Transpower New Zealand are hosting a system operator meeting in Wellington, New Zealand from March 5 – 9, 2012. Operators from neighboring counties have been invited. Representatives from most of the grids in Australia have signed up. APDA members are invited to attend. Twenty hours of NERC approved Continuing Education Hours of training will be offered. Transpower operators and APDA members John Bartley and Henry Strong will be attending the Lake Tahoe meeting to promote the special meeting.

Several strategies have been advanced to fund the trip. 1) Include the meeting as part of a vacation. 2) Hold a raffle among control room operators. 3) Have your company provide the funds equivalent to sending you to a North American APDA meeting.

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## 2011 Scholarship Applications Available

Applications for the 2011 Entering Freshmen and Continuing Education Scholarships are available on the website. The completed and must be postmarked by April 10, 2011 and received by April 15th. See website for application and rules.

Also check the [National](#) Website for applications for the National Scholarship.