What is ARFTG?

ARFTG, or Automatic Radio Frequency Techniques Group, is a technical organization interested in all aspects of RF and microwave test and measurement. ARFTG was originally set up in 1972 to help the end user get the most from the latest generation test and measurement equipment. This was exemplified by the introduction and eventual widespread use of instruments such as vector network analyzers (VNAs) with internal computing power to handle functions such as calibrations. ARFTG has continued to evolve and now has more than 600 members worldwide. ARFTG’s core mission is one of education, and it achieves this by hosting conferences, workshops, and training courses. ARFTG sponsors two meetings each year—one in the spring and one in the fall. Events that take place at these events follow.

Spring—During MTT-S Microwave Week

- A one-day microwave measurement conference on Friday
- Up to two workshops cosponsored with IMS
- A nonlinear VNA users’ forum

Charles Wilker is with DuPont, Wilmington, Delaware; he is the ARFTG 73rd conference chair. Dave Blackham is with Agilent, Santa Rosa, California; he is the ARFTG 72nd technical program chair. Leonard Hayden is with Cascade Microtech, Beaverton, Oregon; he is the ARFTG president. Nick Ridler is with National Physical Laboratory, U.K.; he is the ARFTG publicity chair.

ARFTG June 2009

Charles Wilker, Dave Blackham, Leonard Hayden, and Nick Ridler

Fall—A Four-Day Symposium

- A one-and-a-half day microwave measurement conference
- A one-and-a-half day microwave measurement training course
- Workshops on specific topics (e.g., non-linear measurement, signal integrity, RF power amplifier design)
- A nonlinear VNA users’ forum

ARFTG at Microwave Week 2009

ARFTG will be well represented at this year’s MTT-S Microwave Week in Boston, MA. In fact, the ARFTG conference forms an integral part of Microwave Week and will take place on the last day of that week (Friday, 12 June).

The venue will be the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. So, if you are at all interested in measurements, particularly high-frequency measurements (for example, measurements in the range 1 kHz–1 THz, or thereabouts), why not come along and join us? You’ll find the atmosphere informal and friendly. The chances are you will take away with you much more than you came with—perhaps, some fresh ideas to help with your current projects; certainly, some new technical contacts; and perhaps, even some opportunities to take your own career to that next level.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Practical Application of Nonlinear Measurement” in setting up the technical program for the conference, papers were solicited from areas including:

- Nonlinear vector network analysis
- Nonlinear time-domain techniques
- On-wafer nonlinear microwave measurement
- Nondestructive in-circuit testing
- Complex waveform analysis

The most stimulating part of the ARFTG experience is the opportunity to interact one-on-one with colleagues, experts, and vendors in the RF and microwave test and measurement community (Figure 1).

More details on all of this can be found at www.arftg.org.

What’s New in 2009 (continued from page 52)

We hope that this can be achieved by combining many traditional and familiar tools and practices with some innovative features and opportunities to aid in the preparation for the conference as well as in the participation in events and meetings during the (frequently hectic) schedules characterizing Microwave Week. We will have succeeded if attendees can meet their goals.

Need to Know More?

ARFTG’s Web site (www.arftg.org) usually has all you need to know about up-and-coming events. This includes our conference during Microwave Week 2009. Alternatively, there are some key contacts within the ARFTG organizing group as follows:

- For exhibits information, contact exhibits@arftg.org
- For sponsorship information, contact Leonard Hayden at leonard.hayden@ieee.org
- For conference technical program information, contact Dave Blackham at dave_blackham@agilent.com
- For all other conference matters, contact Charles Wilker at wilker@ieee.org

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Figure 1. Oral technical session at the 63rd ARFTG conference, Philadelphia, June 2003.

Figure 2. The interactive forum at the 68th ARFTG conference in Boulder, December 2006.

Figure 4. Thursday’s informal attendee social will take place on the Provincetown II.”