What Is ARFTG?

Automatic Radio Frequency Techniques Group (ARFTG) 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. The following are events that take place at these meetings.

Spring—MTT-S Microwave Week

During the MTT-S Microwave Week, the following events take place:

- a one-day microwave measurement conference on Friday
- a nonlinear VNA users’ forum

Fall—A Four-Day Symposium

In the fall, ARFTG sponsors the following:

- a one-and-one-half-day microwave measurement conference
- a one-and-one-half-day microwave measurement training course
- workshops on specific topics (e.g., nonlinear measurement, signal integrity, and RF power amplifier design)

ARFTG at Microwave Week 2010

ARFTG will be well represented at this year’s MTT-S Microwave Week in Anaheim, California. In fact, the ARFTG conference forms an integral part of Microwave Week and will take place on the last day of that week (Friday, 28 May). The venue will be the Hilton Anaheim. 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. 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.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Measurement of Modulated Signals for Communications.” Modern wireless communications signals are digitally modulated to improve the spectral efficiency of the data transmission; the RF (continued on page 77)
presentation of the automobile and its impact on American life and culture, using Los Angeles as the prime example. Its exhibits feature more than 150 rare and classic cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Wilshire Boulevard’s Miracle Mile, where the Petersen is located, is an example of the automobile’s influence. The area was developed to attract and serve automobile traffic rather than pedestrian shoppers. Wilshire Blvd was the first to have dedicated left turn lanes and synchronized traffic lights.

The vision of the Bowers Museum is to celebrate world cultures through their art. It has been voted “The Best Museum in Orange County” by the readers of The Orange County Register for 14 consecutive years. The museum’s largest collections are in the areas of Native American art, pre-Columbian art, Asian art, art of the Pacific, art of Africa, and Orange County history. Upcoming exhibitions titled, “Spirits and Headhunters: Art of the Pacific Islands” and “Secrets of the Silk Road” will be open during Microwave Week.

The Getty Center is part of the J. Paul Getty Museum. The location, architecture, gardens, and views are spectacular. The museum displays European paintings, drawings, manuscripts, sculpture and decorative arts, and European and American photographs. Natural light is one of the Getty Center’s most important architectural elements. The paintings galleries on the museum’s upper level are all naturally lit. The international loan exhibition, “Leonardo da Vinci and the Art of Sculpture: Inspiration and Invention,” will be there during Microwave Week.

Columbia Memorial Space Science Learning Center in Downey has opened recently in the former NASA plant where the Apollo space capsules and the space shuttle orbiters were designed and built. Downey has been a center of aerospace innovation since 1929, when a section of ranch land was converted into an airport and aircraft manufacturing facility. Another recent opening was Lyon Air Museum on the west side of John Wayne airport in Santa Ana. The museum shows authentic aircraft, rare vehicles, and related memorabilia, with emphasis on World War II. Visits to both of these museums are on my wish list.

I have only scratched the surface of the entertainment and sightseeing opportunities available in and around Anaheim. For most, the important opportunities will be at the technical sessions or the exhibition during Microwave Week. I hope you have a chance to see some of the rest of California and I hope to see you in Anaheim in May.

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signals that result are both amplitude and phase modulated. The measurement of these signals in frequency, time, and modulation domains is vital for the characterization of the transmitter and implementing predistortion systems to meet the stringent linearity specifications. There will be presentations on the complex modulation schemes typically found in wireless communications and on measurement techniques such as vector signal analysis. Additionally, in preparing the technical program for the conference, papers were also solicited in areas including:

- nonlinear vector network analysis
- nonlinear time domain techniques
- on-wafer nonlinear microwave measurement

Figure 2. Networking is a key feature at all ARFTG conferences.

Need to Know More?
ARFTG’s Web site (www.arftg.org) usually has all you need to know about upcoming events. This includes our conference during Microwave Week 2010. Alternatively, there are some key contacts within the ARFTG organizing group as follows:

- for exhibits information, contact Brett Grossman at exhibits@arftg.org
- for sponsorship information, contact Rusty Myers at sponsorship@arftg.org
- for conference technical program information, contact John Wood at john.wood@ieee.org
- for all other conference matters, contact Ken Wong at ken_wong@ieee.org.