

NARTE Starts on its Next 20 Year Journey

The previous issue of *NARTE News* celebrated a landmark event—NARTE’s 20 year anniversary. Like the “musher” on the front cover, NARTE is focusing well into the distance while trying to keep a harness on its agenda of actions. I won’t go into the myriad of details about activities that are currently being worked on by your staff and Board. The “Headquarters Highlights” column (Page 3 of this issue) regularly lists and briefly describes the status of old and new activities. Though NARTE works as a group, led by a membership elected board and officers, individual members are encouraged to keep us apprised of your concerns and recommendations. All thoughts voiced by the membership are read and “heard” by the NARTE Staff and Board. Don’t be bashful. Contact us!

Times They Are A-Changin’

The technology of telecommunications and associated NARTE disciplines continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, each year outpacing the last. Changing events, such as the war against terrorism, refocuses funding and technical resources. Still, success depends heavily on the peacetime exchange of ideas enabled by better telecommunications tools. It takes a concerted effort nowadays for NARTE members to remain technologically current, and though fast changes provide career opportunities, competition for the best jobs is still intense. While it is difficult just trying to keep abreast of the various happenings in corporate cultures, an organization such as NARTE, and a publication such as this, provide information on how



EMC Post Cards — From the Wireless Side

David A. Case, NCE

Well another year has come and gone and it seems that the workload sitting on my desk has only increased. The FCC recently issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making on Part 15 as part of the biennial review of this rule section.

Several major wireless vendors addressed the requirements of 15.203 and the definition of professional installer, and referenced the NARTE Wireless Installer certification program.

In December, Russ Carstensen and I presented an Ex Parte presentation to the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology on the technical program. This was, as I recall, the first formal presentation that NARTE made to the FCC concerning any of its programs.

The FCC recently released its Spectrum Task Force Policy Report and has issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) seeking additional comments. The Task Force report has also spawned several other NOI’s with additional ones in the works.

The first NOI is seeking comments on opening up more unlicensed spectrum below 1 GHz. This targets some of the current UHF TV bands as well as considers allocating the use of the 3650- 3700 MHz band where Local Loop Wireless resides. There is also an NOI on broadband deployment in the rural areas.

The FCC is also considering an NOI on whether there should be mandatory receiver specifications to help protect from interference caused by other services.

NARTE attended the WCA show in San Jose in January and continue to work with WCA to promote the NARTE Wireless Installers program.

NARTE will be participating not only in the Boston EMC show, August 17-22, 2003, but in the International show in Turkey, May 11-16, 2003. This will be a great place for NARTE to fly the flag.

NARTE HQ is considering requesting that all amateur operators send them their call signs. We are looking at setting up a NARTE amateur net.

Please send comments, thoughts, or opinions to me at davecase@cisco.com.

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individuals can thrive and remain on the high end of the job marketplace.

Legislation/Judicial Opinions

Various legislators and legal bodies are focusing their attention toward “restructuring” the infrastructures of large companies. Some of this reorganization is warranted, but those condemning all corporate activities as “bad” based on isolated cases seems unjustified, especially when the driving forces for change are more legal than technical. State governments are also getting more opinionated in the treatment of technical professions. Russ Carstensen’s article (page 4) on limiting the use of the “engineer” designation describes how legislative opinions are shaping the way we are recognized in our jobs and workplace.

2003 Technology Survey

Consumers are becoming more guarded in their spending. This has become evident in an economy serviced by our engineering and technician communities and companies, where many products designed, produced and distributed have a lifespan of less than a year. In many instances, phones, computers, and network hardware/software are finding their way to landfills crowded with the still shiny, hardly used, non-decaying refuse of very recent technology already buried two layers deep. *The IEEE 2003 Technology Survey* (page 11) further identifies and discusses the technological and ecological problems facing our professions in the new millennium.

NARTE continues to work on your behalf. But like the dogs running full out on the cover, NARTE “drivers” still need help from experienced members to help us pick the shortest route to the certification finish line. Let us know how we can help you find a ride to a better career.



Bogart wasn’t French, either . . .

(Ref: *NARTE News* Fall 2002 Issue re Don Kimberlin’s article on page 10 and a French phrase used in “Casablanca”)

Dear Editor:

Before the thing “propagates” too far and wide (it’s already repeated several times in that issue!) the French saying is not “en plus ca change, en plus la meme chose” but “et plus ca change et plus c’est la meme chose” (minus the accents and cedille which I do not have on my keyboard).

Often, the two “et” are not included. The translation by the way is: And the more things change, the more they stay the same. Not a big thing of course but you know us French!!!
Pierre Catala, NCE
WA1UAT (ex F2BO)