



INTRODUCTION

Hello to our members, new and old. We hope this Tidbits page finds you well. We want to say that our first Tidbits edition was a great success! At least that is what we hear from George Mouzakis. George will be participating in the next focus group. We want to thank those of you who took the time to write or call with feedback. Remember, anything that you want to voice your opinion on or bring to the attention of TBIC should be e-mailed to invent@tbic.us. Or call 548-5083. If you are trying to get word to the Board or to a member about networking with you on an idea or project, you can use these means of communication to get started.

LAST MEETING RECAP

Our last meeting seemed to be very helpful to those of you who want to try your hand at building your own prototypes. Our President, Randy Landreneau described how to make prototypes using everyday household items. Thanks for the info Randy!

We know that a lot of names were put on the list to have the Gas saver installed in your vehicles and we have heard from Mr, Kalishman and he is planning to come here and show ICTT how to produce and install the device so be patient and we will keep you informed.

MEMBER NEWS & THANK-YOU'S

We are still grateful to Gayla for donating the Macintosh computer, but we have to replace it with a more compatible one. We have learned from Robert Wheeler that he has some ties to finding us one. He has recently been coming in and learning about the software that will be available to us. For now, we will be using the computer in the office across from Jennifer's desk in the ICTT offices. You will need to make an appointment with Jennifer and allow at least two hours to do the program the first time. There is a one-hour program session on how to use the program that you will have to go through in order to use it. We will use this software to do our own patent searches and to write our rough drafts of our future patents. These things are important in keeping us self-sufficient and keeping our patent process flowing.

NEXT FOCUS GROUP PRESENTERS

We only have one entry for this Focus Group, so if you have a product or idea and you can get it together on really short notice, give Jennifer a call and she will put you on the agenda.

A PAT ON THE BACK

We're giving this pat on the back to Gary Simmons. You might know him as the gentleman that takes the pictures for our name badges. And speaking of name badges, he just handed me the upgraded version of what you can expect to get at the next meeting, if you have an existing badge. A nice laminated name badge!

He does quite a bit to keep things running during my day, especially with my computer. When I have a problem, I yell for Gary. This very Tidbits logo and page layout was designed by him. He also makes the plaques that line the wall in our meeting room. Gary has done many things for TBIC and no one would be aware of it, if not for this opportunity to point it out. Thank you Gary, for all you do for TBIC (and me, Jennifer).

If you are a paid member and you do not have a badge, please find Gary and ask him to take your picture. Tell him what your membership level is and he will make your badge and Inventors Council plaque for you.

BY THE WAY . . .

If you have any business to be taken care of on the night of our meetings, please plan to arrive by 7:00 to give us plenty of time to take care of your needs before the meeting starts. We would like to start our meetings promptly at 7:30 as planned. So, if you need to renew or upgrade your membership, or if you have any other inquiries about your membership, newsletter, badges, etc., just plan to come in plenty of time to attend to it before meeting time.

VOLUNTEERS

We could use a couple of people to come early to help with welcoming others as they arrive. Jennifer can show you where the papers are for new people to fill out.

Most of us know each other, so if you happen to see someone that you don't recognize, please introduce yourself and lead that person to either Jennifer or a membership volunteer to help out. Who knows, that person may just might know or even *be* your next valuable contact!

NEXT MEETING JULY 23rd

A few of you may be familiar with our speaker for this meeting. His name is Steve Tenbarge and he is a member of TBIC. He is a Product Designer with 30 years of experience and for the past 13 years has been a consultant. He has been the co-inventor on a number of patents and has assisted numerous individuals and companies in their product design. As inventors there are important design issues that we need to know about so we hope you can make it.

SEMINARS

Our first seminar was held on July 16th. Paul Simmons spoke on the subject of trade shows and answered a lot of our questions. In our last Tidbits page we wrote to tell about the Road Show that was to be held in October in Orlando. We had asked if you might like to pool together and make a field trip out of it. We have since gathered in-depth information and found that this was not something that would be helpful to us after all. The Group that was holding the show ran an ad in the Inventors Digest where it was discovered by TBIC. They made it sound as though anyone could attend and bring in an idea to show to the companies that would be there, such as Toys 'R' Us, Hasbro and other big names. After making some calls and checking into it further, we learned that the procedure for getting your item in front of someone would be a little more complicated. It would take to long to explain here, so I will just say that the Seminar was a great way to get informed on how wrong this show would have been for us.

Our next Seminar is scheduled for July 30th and our speaker is a member. His name is Chris Salter. He will be explaining what we need to know to be ready to present our inventions to Investors, Manufacturers, or at a trade show.

HEAR YE ! HEAR YE !!

We are planning to get the election process started by asking you to get to know as much about your fellow members as you possibly can between now and the August 1st meeting. That is when we will be opening up the meeting for members to nominate someone or themselves for a seat on the board of trustees. Once the Trustees are selected, they will then vote amongst themselves to elect the President and other officers. So get to know your fellow members any way you can and come to the meeting prepared to elect those of your fellow members that you think will lead us to a great future!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

We are trying to plan a get-together for our members. We are thinking a picnic or a potluck-type dinner at the TBIC facility or at a member's house. Gayla Kilbride has graciously offered to hold it at her house.

I would like to hear your opinions on this and maybe take a vote to select a night to hold this. We are trying to come up with as many different ways to get our members together as possible. Call 548-5083 (TBIC's new number) to voice your opinion.

AVAILABLE DISPLAY SPACE

If you have a product or an idea that is protected and would like to display it in the display area, we will create a booth for you. We want to show the wares of all our inventors. If you need a mini-version made for displaying, we can probably make it in the prototyping shop. Call Jennifer at 727-547-5450 to discuss.

JUST A TIDBIT

I know that when we meet on our scheduled nights and everyone is busy trying to mingle, we don't take time to look through some of the useful information that is in our TBIC office. It is spread around here and there for lack of shelf space, but there are some very important and informative materials in there, and I hope you all will at least give it a 'look-see'. Russ Randall has his collection of Thomas Register books there. There are items such as newspaper and magazine articles that our members bring in, and catalogs that have items that are on the market now. Thumbing through catalogs has inspired some to create new ideas or to improve on something they see. These magazines and catalogs sometimes serve as an instant patent search. I'm sure we can all find an idea or two that would make us say "hey, I thought of that!" . . . Oh well, on to the next invention.

ELECTION NEWS

Elections are coming up. The five to seven members of the Board of Trustees will be decided at the annual business meeting on August 13th. The Board of Trustees has the duty of making sure that TBIC is legal, solvent, and maintains its purpose, which is primarily educational. A member of the Board of Trustees has a solemn duty to TBIC.

To make sure that there is no misunderstanding, TBIC is totally separate from Paul Simmons' company, International Center for Technology Transfer (ICTT). If Paul works with an inventor to help him get his product licensed or financed, he does so entirely through ICTT. TBIC has nothing to do with any of the activities of Mr. Simmons in regard to helping an inventor get his product licensed or financed. But TBIC does benefit from the generous donation of space and facilities provided by Mr. Simmons.

If you want to become a member of the Board of Trustees, Jennifer will provide you with a form to fill out at our next meeting. You will be able to describe any qualifications that you feel you have. Before the August 13th meeting, the current Board of Trustees will come up with a list of candidates for the future Board of Trustees. At the meeting, if you are not on that list, you may be nominated or nominate yourself.

At the August 13th meeting, each candidate will have one or two minutes to promote him or herself to the group. Then, the voting will be done by secret ballot. The seven individuals with the most votes will be the new Board of Trustees. The new Board will take office September 1st and will elect the President, Vice President, and other officers at its first meeting. The officers do not have to be members of the Board of Trustees.

*RANDY LANDRENEAU,
President*