

"Inventors Helping Inventors"



THE Tampa Bay INVENTOR NEWSLETTER

The Official Publication of the Tampa Bay Inventor's Council

P.O. BOX 1620 St. Petersburg, Florida 33731-1620

August 2001

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

Aug 8

Member Randy Landreneau gave a presentation about how to profit from your patents based on the book patent for profit.

Aug 22

Gracia Bennish is known for her fine art. Because she likes to eat out at really nice restaurants and play with expensive toys, she learned to make a living applying her talents to the business community. Her company is called Gracia Creative. Over twenty years ago, she began to study the fields of marketing and promotion. She found that all companies need to focus on basics—image and identity. If a company presents itself well, it attains credibility. How should you present yourself as an inventor? How should you present your company? Your products? What does imagination and art have to do with it?

Find out more at the Aug 22nd meeting.

CALENDAR

GENERAL MEETINGS

- Aug 8 7:30 pm
- Aug 22 7:30 pm
- Sept 12 7:30 pm
- Sept 26 7:30 pm

The Board of Trustees Meeting
TBA
Largo Library, 6:45 pm

All meetings held at:
Largo Library
351 East Bay Drive
Largo, Florida on
2nd & 4th
Wednesdays

For information call:
*See listing of Directors
on page 2*

LUNCHEON MEETING

- Aug 15 12:00 noon
- Sept 12 12:00 noon

Santa Madeira Restaurant
Madeira Beach

TEA

Tea was discovered by the Chinese emperor, Shen Nung in 2737 B.C. He was boiling water outside. Leaves from a nearby bush blew into the open kettle and began to brew. Shen Nung liked the sweet aroma and decided to taste it. The rest is history. Tea is the most popular beverage in the world today — after plain water.

TEA BAGS

In 1904, Thomas Sullivan, an American coffee and tea merchant, sent tea and coffee samples to his customers packed in cans. One day, he decided to economize and sent his tea samples in small, hand-sewn silk bags.

Soon orders began arriving for tea packaged in little bags. Customers had discovered the bags to be a convenient way to brew the tea.

Need to Reach TBIC?

Website:

<http://www.patent-faq.com/tbichome.htm>

Our new Website:

<http://www.inventorscouncil.org>

Copies of Newsletter to download:

<http://www.inventioneering.org>

Email:

TBIC@patent-faq.com

or call Dave Kiewit, Secretary:

Phone - 727- 866-0669

Submit Artieles to our Editor at:

Chuck@inventioneering.org

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The Tampa Bay Inventors' Council (TBIC) is a corporation as defined in Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, as not for profit. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, education and scientific purposes. The TBIC is a 501 (C) (3) charitable corporation which allows the receiving of tax deductible contributions of goods and services. There are over 100 active members willing to share their expertise and experiences with fellow inventors. Meetings are held at the Largo Library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Yearly dues are \$45 and include the Membership Directory & Resource Reference Book.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

How much time do you devote to personal enhancement? Enhance: to make greater, as in cost, value, attractiveness, etc.; heighten; intensify; augment. (Webster's New World Dictionary) I'm not talking about going out and buying a new suit, getting a haircut or "working out," though these things count as enhancement, They enhance one's body, one's image. I'm talking about enhancing yourself--your abilities, your knowledge.

Education is a commodity forced upon us in our youth. Police and court systems can get downright ornery when kids don't attend school on a regular basis. But real education goes way beyond schooling. It is the pleasure of discovery and expansion--a never ending process.

Have you ever thought that every new thing you learn makes you more valuable? Every new ability makes you more desirable to someone, somewhere.

What do inventors have, if not their knowledge and their love of knowledge? What joy do they experience if not the joy of discovery? (Oh, boy, I just "invented" a book title to sit alongside *The Joy of Cooking* and *The Joy of Sex*--"***The Joy of Discovery.***")

Coming to the Tampa Bay Inventors Council Meetings is a step toward your own personal enhancement, so pat yourself on the back. Only don't stop there. You can bring excitement to each day by learning one new thing.

I'd like to look out there at my group of inventors and know that each one is growing and learning and becoming more and more able in whatever he or she wants to do.

Amen.

Chuck Van Breemen
President

MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2001 MEETING
TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL

Afloat with Ideas

Russ Randall gave us an update on his human-powered catamaran, and showed us a video that he shot while on a demo trip to see a prospective customer in Mississippi. He's considering making the hulls from vacuum-formed veneer, which has a high strength to weight ratio.

One way of finding solutions to a problem is to look for something comparable in nature and see how evolution solved a similar problem. Russ led the group through a list of comparisons and interesting facts relating to boats.

- Composite hulls are made from long strands of fiber that are awkward to handle. Short strands of fibers pull out of the matrix. Bones are made from short strands that have knobs on the ends so they don't pull out of the matrix. How do you make short fiber pieces with knobby ends?

- A fish has about one seventh the drag of an identically shaped rigid model, because the fish has a slimy skin. A porpoise doesn't have a slimy skin, but it has a layer of fat under the skin that ripples as the porpoise swims. What ideas does this give us about making a more efficient boat hull?

A Member's Web Site

Joe Schmitt pointed out that Ruby Williams has over 60 products for sale on her web site (rbwilliamsco.com). Some of these, starting with the vinyl exercise sweat suit, are her inventions. Some are purchased products for which she's supplied a new marketing twist (Go to a park in St. Pete, and you'll see dispensers for plastic pooper scooper bags). And some of the products are purchased items that fit in with the rest of her product line.

Dave Kiewit, Secretary, TBIC

MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2001 MEETING
TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL

Cleaning up a little, but not rolling in dough

Steve Gates reviewed his four-year saga of developing and selling a paint roller cleaner. During the past year he's broken off with a company that was going to merchandise the product and has dealt with several major retailers. No big sales yet, but things may get better.

Steve's product is a price-sensitive item that he hopes to sell in at retail either as a stand-alone product, or as a packaging component for a paint roller kit. Some of the cost containment points he made were:

- Keep looking for ways to make the product for a lower cost. He's recently redesigned his mold tooling to get rid a secondary trimming operation that was adding a labor cost to the product.
- Be your own salesman. When he canceled the licensing deal with the firm that was going to sell product for him, he cut out an entire layer of cost.

A Management Overview

Arte Maren gave an overview talk on management, with a particular emphasis on start-ups. One of the points he made was that people who focus on the ultimate reward (\$\$\$\$) don't do nearly as well as people who focus on the things they need to deliver in order to get that reward.

Dave Kiewit, Secretary, TBIC

HAMMACHER SCHLEMMER ANNOUNCES SEMIFINALISTS FOR
NATIONAL
SEARCH FOR INVENTION 2001

Winners to Be Announced in New York on September 11

<http://www.hammacher.com/sfi/2001/2001semifinalist.html>

CHICAGO, August 6, 2001 – Hammacher Schlemmer, world-renowned retailer of the Best, the Only and the Unexpected in consumer products, today announced the 22 national semifinalists for its National SEARCH for INVENTION 2001 competition. In its eighth year, SEARCH for INVENTION is the premier event of its kind, consistently attracting the nation's brightest inventors of innovative consumer products.

The winners of SEARCH for INVENTION 2001 will be announced September 11 at Hammacher Schlemmer's flagship store in New York City. The overall winner will receive a \$5,000 grant, and the best invention in each of four categories will receive grants in the amount of \$1,000. Additionally, the winning inventions will be displayed at the New York store.

This year's semifinalists, chosen from a record number of more than **550** entries by Hammacher Schlemmer's independent product testing organization, include a car-mounted laser-assisted parking device; a back-saving, wearable floor mop; a gliding, moveable paint tray; a laser assisted fishing rod; a bicycle alarm; a motorized hair styling brush; and a hands-free personal watercraft.

In selecting its semifinalists, Hammacher Schlemmer searched for products in the categories of personal electronics, personal care, utilitarian home and garden, and recreation that uniquely addressed an existing lifestyle challenge. Selected entries must also have been patented at the time of submission with a working or non-working prototype available. Additionally, semifinalist inventions must be for general consumer use.

“The objective of this competition is to support the tradition of invention in this country and afford all inventors the opportunity to

showcase their inventions,” said Bill Booth, president of Hammacher Schlemmer. “This year’s group of semifinalists displays the same ingenuity and imagination for which Hammacher Schlemmer has been known for the past 153 years.”

A panel of eight respected consumer products experts will judge the 22 semifinalist inventions. This year’s panel includes:

- Dick DeBartolo, *ABC World News Now*
- Ed Curran, creator of *Technogadgets*
- Cory Greenberg, *The NBC Today Show*
- Cliff Gromer, *Popular Mechanics Magazine*
- Andy Gibbs, chief executive officer of the *Patent Café*
- Rima Suqi, *New York Magazine*
- Steve Greenberg, *The Discovery Channel*
- Paul Moriarty, *CBS KYW-TV*

Since 1848, Hammacher Schlemmer has built a reputation for introducing Americans to original products that fill consumer needs so well that they become household necessities. It was on the pages of the Hammacher Schlemmer catalog that consumers were first introduced to such staples of the American lifestyle as the pop-up toaster (1930), steam iron (1948) and microwave oven (1968). The catalog also introduced the first portable DVD player in 1998.

In the 2000 SEARCH for INVENTION, Horst Lebrecht, inventor of the “Shade Stand with Swirling Canopy” took home the grand prize for his pole-mounted swirling fabric-type canopy, designed to provide the user with shade regardless of the sun’s position. Other category winners included:

- Daniel Baird in the utilitarian home and garden category for his “Bit Grip,” a belt that wraps around a drill or ladder to secure drill bits and screws.
- Stewart Hicks in the personal care category for his “Solar Heated Jacket,” a cold weather jacket heated by solar cells and rechargeable batteries.
- Gary & Carl Krouth won in the recreation category with their “Fish’n’Chum,” a leg mounted fishing rod and reel holder designed for “hands-off” fishing.
- Charles Urso’s “Cap Lamp,” a sports cap with a hidden lighting

system that reflects light around the wearer while an adjustable spotlight directs a light beam forward, won in the personal electronics category.

In previous years, winning inventions have been made available in the company's catalogs. Dr. James Hannoosh's 1995 invention, the "Self-Righting Walking Cane," and Lori and Mark Burchett's "Infant's Medicine Delivery Bottle," winner of the 1996 competition, were highlighted in Hammacher Schlemmer's Winter 1997 catalog. Additionally, Janice and Don Martell's "Timeless Container," a 1999 winner in the recreation category, is currently featured in the company's Spring 2001 catalog.

Hammacher Schlemmer is the nation's oldest catalog company in the United States, nurturing the spirit of invention for more than 150 years. The company publishes seasonal catalogs throughout the year and operates retail stores in New York City and Chicago. Hammacher Schlemmer can be found on the Internet at www.hammacher.com.

SEARCH for INVENTION 2001 Semifinalists

PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

1. Continuous Loop Mouse

Inventor: David Rowe, *Leawood, Kan.*

2. Wrist Pendant Wireless Keyboard

Inventor: Bruce Howard, *Sudley Springs, Va.*

3. Bicycle Anti-Theft Alarm

Inventor: Perryn Holtrop, *Riverside, Ca.*

4. Child Emergency Locator - Herbie the Hydrant

Inventor: Mike Lucas, *Leawood, Kan.*

5. Laser Parking Apparatus

Inventor: LaMoyne W. Durham, *Saline, Mich.*

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PERSONAL CARE

6. Disposable Oral Hygiene System - Fresh Mouth

Inventor: Dorothea A. Barth, *Shaumburg, Ill.*

7. Motorized Round Brush

Inventor: Matt Jiovanni, *Chicago, Ill.*

8. Overshoe for Sliding on Floor

Inventor: Edward Pao, *Wailuku, Hawaii*

9. Personal Ozone Indicator

Inventor: Larry McMurray, *Normandy Park, Wash.*

10. Footcare Device

Inventor: Pamela Brunderman, *White Plains, NY*

11. Child Carrier

Inventor: Anne Kernkamp, *Temecula, Ca.*

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

US Patent & Trademarks Office:

www.uspto.gov

Delphion (IBM)

www.delphion.com

Optipat

www.optipat.com

Interesting inventor' site

www.patentcafe.com

Nat. inventors' hall of fame

www.invent.org

Nat assoc. of product development

www.napd.org

Trade show guide

www.expoguide.com

Inventor's Digest

www.inventorsdigest.com

UTILITARIAN HOME AND GARDEN

12. Water Faucet Flashlight

Inventor: Andrew Spiller, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

13. Mashed Potato Machine

Inventor: Carmina O'Connor, *Warrenville, Ill.*

14. Sprinkler Water Conservation Device

Inventor: Frank Grott, *Punta Gorda, Fla.*

15. Moveable Paint Tray Glider

Inventor: Tom Pasinski, *Chicago, Ill.*

16. Cordless Rotary Powered Mop

Inventor: Steven Caruso, *Antioch, Ill.*

17. Hook and Loop Hanger for a Shower Curtain & Liner

Inventor: Stephanie A. Eberhardt, *Camden, Del.*

RECREATION

18. Laser Fishing Rod

Inventor: Wylie Wiggins, *Independence, Mo.*

19. Hands-free Watercraft with Fin & Sail

Inventor: R. S. Wang, *EHT, NJ*

20. Sports Whistle w/ Visual Signal

Inventor: Arnold Schneider Jr., *Devon, Pa.*

21. Beach Chair Towel Retainer System – Beach Bands

Inventor: Dorothy Daniels, *Boca Raton, Fla.*

22. TV Pedaler

Inventor: David Delman, *Jericho, NY*



Make your Inventing Process More Effective and More Fun!

A few of the benefits you will enjoy: Monthly programs, Luncheons, Free workshops, Updates on Legislation affecting the Industry, Free TBIC Membership Directory, and Current Industry News!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 1620, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33731
Attn: Treasurer

Membership Application
Dues \$ 45 per year

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TAMPA BAY INVENTORS COUNCIL

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