

# Silicon Valley Chemist

Santa Clara Valley Section

American Chemical Society

Volume 23 No. 3

## Hiller Aviation Museum Home to Things with Wings

The March meeting of the local section will be a bit different. In keeping with a new trend to visit relevant museums in the area, we will be visiting the Hiller Aviation Museum on Saturday, March 24th. The Museum, located in San Carlos, contains a collection dedicated to man's concept of flight – past, present and future. The large gallery is full of unique planes, helicopters and other craft that show the role Bay Area aviation pioneers played in the development of air transportation. We will have docents to guide us through the exhibits and



help us understand the goals that the innovators had in mind for each advancement.

There is a full-scale replica of the Avitor that was built in 1869 in San Francisco. This steam powered, heavier-than-air 'aeroplane' flew long before the Wright brothers conducted their first powered flight! The collapsible Rotorcycle from the mid-1950's could be the solution to today's commuting problem!

In addition to aviation exhibits that span 130 years of flight history, we can view the restoration shop where museum volunteers restore planes and helicopters. Currently a NASA Swing wing and a British Airways 747 are being refurbished for inclusion in the collection. There is also an excellent flight store with models, toys and memorabilia for sale.

We will not be having lunch, so this will be an inexpensive, family oriented meeting for March. This is a museum primarily for adults and older

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## March Museum Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, March 24, 2001

**Time:** 1:00 to 4:00 pm

**Location:** Hiller Aviation Museum  
601 Skyway Road  
San Carlos, CA  
(650) 654-0200

**Directions:** Take Route 101 to the Holly Street-Parkway Shores exit. Drive east on Redwood Shores Pkwy. Turn right on Airport Road and right. Onto Skyway Road. See map on the web at [www.hiller.org/about-us/images/airport.gif](http://www.hiller.org/about-us/images/airport.gif)

### Reservations:

*Shirley Radding* (408) 246-2564  
(408) 296-8625 FAX  
*Sally Peters* (650) 854-4614

Reservations should be made by March 20th stating name, company affiliation, number of people in the party and their ages. Register using our web site: [www.scvacs.org](http://www.scvacs.org).

**Cost:** Adult **\$7.00**  
Seniors (65+) **\$5.00**  
Youths (8-17) **\$5.00**  
Children (under 8) **Free**

## Chair's Message

The calendar on the last page of the newsletter includes some new items. There are several events in addition to the monthly dinner meetings that are important and of interest to our members, so they will be listed here. First of all is our monthly executive committee meeting. We meet once a month to report, plan and discuss activities in the local section. You are always welcome to attend these meetings to offer suggestions and to get previews of the meetings in the planning stages. Three new members of the group are Tricia Takahara, the new chair of the Chemistry Olympiad committee, George Cooke, from the MTBE and Fuel Oxygenates committee, and Elaine Collins, the director of the student affiliate chapter at San Jose State University. All three are new volunteers to their activities

and deserve strong support from the section.

Dr. Patricia Takahara of Roche Bioscience is chairing this year's Chemistry Olympiad. She has sent letters to all honors and A.P. chemistry teachers in the valley asking them to register their best students for the opportunity to represent our country in the international competition. It all begins at the local section level with volunteers and students. Ask your high school chemistry student to talk to his or her teacher about the competition and encourage them to compete. Also volunteer to help Tricia with the local section activities.

Changing direction, from future activities to events in the past, I wanted to tell you about some items we recent-

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Hiller Aviation Museum, continued from front page

children. The most active exhibit is the helicopter simulator where children can operate controls for an interactive tour around the Bay Area. There is an excellent web site for a preview of the Museum at <http://www.biller.org>.

Please make your reservations online or by contacting Shirley Radding or Sally Peters as we do for dinner meetings. On Saturday we will meet in the Museum Atrium, receive our badges and pay our treasurer for the admission.



Chair's Message, continued from front page

ly discovered. Shirley Radding, the membership chair, wrote a brief history of our section for the luncheon that will be held in San Diego to commemorate the California section's 100th anniversary. Shirley remembered that Harry Mosher, a Stanford professor, was the chair of the California section in 1954. He and Doug Skoog, also from Stanford, worked with several members from the Valley to form this section. In those days traveling distances to evening meetings was also an issue as it is today! They would take cars full graduate students and young industrial chemists to UC Berkeley for the meetings. Lois Durham, Shirley Radding, and Floyd Hobbs are three who attended those meetings at the Berkeley chemistry department and faculty club. All three of them are still active today on our executive committee and supportive of our programs. As it turned out, Harry Mosher never was chair of the Santa Clara Valley section! According to records, Irving Abrams was the first chair in 1954; Doug Skoog was the second, and Bruce Graham from SRI was the third. (Rumor has it, that as Shirley's boss, Bruce 'encouraged' her

to become involved in the section!)

Stay tuned for more historical items about our section in the future newsletters. I would like to invite all of you to reminisce in this area and send me some of your memories. They do not have to be 46-year-old memories, but what was your first local section meeting? What was the most interesting one? Where was it held? How many Nobel laureates have addressed our group?

See you at the Hiller Aviation Museum on Saturday, the 24th, in San Carlos for our monthly meeting!

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## MTBE and Fuel Oxygenates Committee

Environmental regulations requiring the addition of oxygenates to gasoline has led to the use of MTBE and other components in fuel. The use of these oxygenates has resulted in their accidental release into ground water, surface water, and other areas of the environment. This is a significant environmental concern. The Northern California MTBE and Fuel Oxygenates Committee was established in 1998 to provide an open forum to discuss and exchange technical information on MTBE and other fuel oxygenates.

The Santa Clara Valley section of the ACS, San Jose State University, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District sponsor the committee. George Cook, a geologist with the Water District, is the new chair of the committee. He can be reached at 408-265-2665 or [georcook@scvw.dst.ca.us](mailto:georcook@scvw.dst.ca.us). Meetings are the first Thursday of each month.

On April 5th, 2001 the meeting will be held at the Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Francisco Bay Region Offices located at 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, CA. Contact George for more information.

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## Call for Nominations Shirley B. Radding Award

The Santa Clara Valley Section announces the call for nominations for the 2001 Shirley B. Radding Award.

First awarded in 1994 to its namesake, the Shirley B. Radding Award annually honors someone who has been a member of the ACS for at least 20 years. Nominees must have demonstrated dedicated, unselfish leadership, service to the American Chemical Society through elected or appointed positions at local, regional and national levels. Nominees must also have made significant contributions over a sustained period of time to industrial, applied or academic chemistry.

The award consists of an honorarium of \$1,000, and a suitable inscribed memento. Nominations should consist of at least one letter of nomination stating how the nominee's work relates to all aspects of the award. It is recommended that seconding letters accompany the nomination. Nominations are due on or before April 1, 2001, and must be mailed to:

***Radding Award Committee  
Santa Clara Valley Section, ACS  
P.O. Box 395  
Palo Alto, CA 94302-0395***

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – 2001 CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

This year's Chemistry Olympiad activities will kick-off with the Santa Clara Valley Section's qualifying competition from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 31, 2001 at Roche in Palo Alto. Chemistry students from high schools throughout the region will be invited to the event. Prizes will be given to the top students from AP/advanced chemistry and from first-year/general chemistry. To make the event fair and fun for all participants, prizes will also be given to students from various regions and school districts.

The top fifteen students from the qualifying competition, with a maximum of two students per high school, will be invited to participate in the 2001 United States National Chemistry Olympiad on April 21, 2001 at Santa Clara University from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Winners of the

National Chemistry Olympiad will be invited to a two week training camp at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs where the team that will represent the United States in the International Chemistry Olympiad will be chosen. The 2001 International Chemistry Olympiad will be held at the beginning of July in Bombay, India.

We need volunteers to register students and proctor both the Santa Clara Valley qualifying test as well as the National Chemistry Olympiad test. We also need a school or college to donate use of a scantron grading machine for the local qualifying test. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Patricia Takahara at [patricia.takahara@roche.com](mailto:patricia.takahara@roche.com) or (650) 855-5312.





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#### MARCH 2001 NEWSLETTER TOPICS:

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Call for Nominations – Shirley B. Radding Award  
Volunteers Needed – 2001 Chemistry Olympiad

#### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS



<http://www.scvacs.org>

#### SANTA CLARA VALLEY SECTION

##### 2001 SECTION OFFICERS

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Chair-Elect	Jon Touster	650-723-4340
Secretary	Karl Marhenke	831-479-6263
Treasurer	Hong Gao	650-564-5197
Past-Chair	Ean Warren	650-329-4554

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1999-01	Herb Silber	408-924-4954
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2000-02	John F. Riley	650-328-4036
2000-02	Ean Warren	650-329-4554
2001-03	Linda Brunauer	408-554-6947
2001-03	Bonnie Charpentier	650-354-2344
2001-03	Sally Peters	650-812-4994

##### Alternate Councilors

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2000-02	Donna Drogos	408-265-2600
2000-02	Lance Wong	650-829-1148
2001-03	George Lechner	408-226-7262
2001-03	Howard Peters	650-324-1677

##### Newsletter Editor

Steven Colby 650-812-3424  
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#### FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>Mar 8</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Mar 24</b>	Hiller Aviation Museum
<b>Mar 31</b>	Chemistry Olympiad Qualifying Test
<b>Apr 1</b>	MTBE Fuel & Oxygenates Meeting
<b>Apr 1-5</b>	National ACS Meeting
<b>Apr 4</b>	Luncheon Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the California Section
<b>Apr 21</b>	Chemistry Olympiad National Test
<b>Apr 26</b>	SJSU Dinner Meeting
<b>May 4 - Jun 19</b>	Illustrating Nature Exhibit Opening and Display
<b>May 24</b>	Nanotechnology <i>Dr. Ralph Merke</i>

#### CHEMPLOYMENT ABSTRACTS

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