



Table Talk

Consultants Roundtable Monthly Newsletter - James Perkins, Editor

TABLE TALK FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

There is only one meeting in September. The regular schedule of meetings twice a month commences in October and is on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 AM at Honker's on Day Road.

THE MEETING ON TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER

"Patents: Going ... Going ... Gone?" is the topic of our speaker, Patent Attorney, Ryan M. Fountain. He will discuss new ways of protecting ideas and related patent issues, reflecting the problems faced by product creators in today's global marketplace. Attorney Fountain is a specialist in intellectual property and inventions, and has processed hundreds of patent applications and thousands of trademark registrations. He holds a law degree from Georgetown University, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Physics from Lehigh University.

THE AUGUST 2007 MEETING

The speaker was R. Jerry Frost, P.E., MS, and MBA, CR's resident expert on bridges. Not only did he give us an analysis of the Minneapolis bridge collapse, but also he applied that to problems with other bridges, in particular local bridges and other well-known bridges. He showed us various structural types - their pros and cons. He gave us insight about bridge supports in water, showing how they can erode from flowing water. He talked some about earlier disasters with bridges, showing how harmonics in the wind caused failures, poor utilization of concrete reinforcements, and just poor design for the weight to be carried by the structures.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

These remarks are directed more toward the interested reader of our Consultants Roundtable web site than to CR members. The foregoing two programs, one of which is yet to be heard, are examples of the high quality of the programs sponsored by our group. Yes, they are slanted somewhat to our consulting profession. However, they have much of general interest to those who not consultants by profession, but are vitally interested in their businesses and wish to network and learn what is going on outside their circle of influence. So, it is pointed out that CR's meetings are open to others, not just to members.