

SME NEWSLETTER



August 2005

Chapter 28 Golden Gate

Chair's Message



Summer started off on a positive note with a very positive and informative tour of the McNear Brick factory. Enjoy the summary of this tour. In addition, we have several exciting tours lined up in 2005 Event Schedule.

SME Golden Gate Chapter 28 are pursuing discussions with the Silicon Valley Chapter 98 to initiate an SME annual event that every chapter member can be proud of and be a part of. Chapter 98 continues to be involved in our SME tours. We will continue to post this proposal for every member to review. Any of our members, who would like to be active participants in developing this type of

event, please contact Swami Vangal, or Bill Marlow.

Our events listing now includes events arranged by both SME Chapters 28 and 98. Please see page 2.

We look forward to providing job postings from local companies in this newsletter. There is an equipment Development Engineer job opening at Guidant as described on www.Guidant.com/careers/jobs/. Also, at this time, Adept Technology, Livermore, CA has posted job openings for automation engineer, marketing manager/director, and product marketing manager. For more information, see

the Adept Website at www.adept.com. In the future, we will be creating a separate newsletter section on "jobs".

Again, we continue to have response to our Newsletter ads. Please note our special rates include 2 free ads without obligation.



**Swami Vangal -
Ramamurthy,
Chapter Chair**

Highlights:

Chair's Message

Tour

*Annual Event
Proposal*

Advertisements

McNear Brick and Block Tour

By Swami Vangal - Ramamurthy

The McNear Brick and Block tour, San Rafael, CA on June 16 was hosted by Jeff McNear, the president and the fourth generation owner. McNear manufactures Clay Bricks, Clay Pavers, Interlocking Pavers, Concrete Blocks, and Versa-lok Retaining Systems, which are sold

throughout the USA. Semi-trucks deliver dirt, the main source of raw material for the bricks. The materials go through a series of preparation steps. The processed dirt and additional chemicals are mixed in to form a clay paste that is then injected into molds for specific shapes, or it is

formed on conveyer belts, and cut to specific dimensions. The materials are palletized and carried to natural gas burning kilns to dry at temperatures and durations depending on the product specification.

2006 SME Annual Bay Area Event Proposal

By Bill Marlow, Swami Vangal -Ramamurthy

Society of Manufacturing Engineering (SME) is the world's leading resource Where Manufacturing Comes Together – both people and information – to advance manufacturing knowledge.

By providing resources and opportunities for manufacturing professionals to develop and utilize new knowledge, improved skills, and manufacturing solutions, SME helps you grow personally and professionally and, in turn, contributes to the economic health of companies, the industries, and the nations we serve.

Our proposal for a new SME annual event is to provide a two-day event to promote manufacturing. Tentatively, the event would take place in April 2006 at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

This event would be co-sponsored by SME Chapters 28 and 98 with involvement from the following members:

- Barbara Roberts
- Bill Marlow
- Bruce MacKender
- Mark Brinkerhoff
- Keith Krook
- Paul Jahanian
- Swami Vangal-Ramamurthy
- Walt Maclay
- JoAnne Moody

Additional volunteers are welcome!

Goals & Objectives:

- 1) Engages the membership of the Bay Area SME members, and their companies.
- 2) Creates a positive public image of SME to manufacturers and the public.
- 3) Encourages SME Chapter & National membership growth, both individual and corporate.
- 4) Incorporates activities that appeal to a broad spectrum of manufacturing industries, including industrial, medical, pharmaceutical/biotech, and consumer products.
- 5) Provides professional education opportunities to benefit a broad range of manufacturing engineers, managers, technicians, supervisors, and students.
- 6) Provides business related activities to encourage

employers to see value in supporting the attendance of their employees.
7) Insure that the financial risk to the SME Chapters is kept within the bounds and is self-supporting (but a low cost to SME members)

Topics may include the following:

- Offshoring – Benefits and Pitfalls
- Roundtable discussion
- New strategies for Biotech
- New materials
- Quality issues
- Nanotechnology
- Economical Manufacturing Processes
- Lean manufacturing
- Certifications & training

SME Events Calendar 2005

EVENTS	Location	TARGET DATES / TIMES	Sponsoring SME Chapter
USS Hornet Ship Tour	Oakland	August 17, 9:30 to 11:00 am	Chapter 28
Owens Corning	Santa Clara	September 8, 3:00 to 4:00 pm	Chapter 98
Nummi	Fremont	September 15, 12:30 pm	Chapter 28
Dept of Energy Genome institute	Walnut Creek	September 15, 11 am to 1:00 pm	
Oakland Port Operations	Oakland	October 20	Chapter 28
Pacific Coast Industrial & Machine Tool Show	Santa Clara	November 8,9,10	N/A
Applied Materials	San Jose	November 10	Chapter 28
Annual Meeting	San Jose	November TBD	Chapter 28

NOTE: As events are finalized, notices will be emailed. To register for Chapter 28 events, send an email to sme_ch028@yahoo.com, or swamiv@adept.com. To register for Chapter 98 events, contact m_Brinkerhoff@fusionnet.com

**Manufacturing Consulting/Project
Management
For
Profit Improvement**

Evaluation & Implementation of Operational changes to optimize production costs, improve quality, increase capacity, enhance competitive position, & create long-term manufacturing strategy.

Services & fees structured to meet the needs of small shops and high volume manufacturers.

Initial meeting provides complimentary overview evaluation of operations and report.

Improvement and implementation of:

<i>Process Flow</i>	<i>Automation/Semi-automation</i>
<i>Floor Layout</i>	<i>New Process Introduction</i>
<i>LEAN</i>	<i>Production Start-up</i>
<i>Implementation</i>	
<i>Design-for-Manufacture</i>	<i>Process Troubleshooting</i>
<i>WIP/Inventory</i>	<i>Operations Benchmarking</i>
<i>Outsourcing</i>	<i>Product line rationalization</i>

Medical /Consumer /Biotech Operations

WJ (Bill) Marlow, MBA, P.E.
San Francisco, Ca 415-359-1707
wjm.eng@sbcglobal.net

Your **manufacturing**
headaches are
over!

You need machines

We build them. Turnkey automation systems that run like clockwork, year after year, cranking out the goods that build your company's bottom line.

You need components

We build them. Our precision CNC machine shop does beautiful work, prototype and production, with quick turnarounds and competitive prices.

You need to ship products

We build them. Contract manufacturing of your electromechanical products that's on time, on budget, and fully QC'd so that you can ship to your customers with confidence.

From general industrial applications to precision tools for biotech and medicine, Production Robotics builds the technologies that build your business. Put our engineering expertise, manufacturing capacity and outstanding service to work for you. Call Production Robotics today or visit our Web site at www.productionrobotics.com.

PRODUCTION
ACCELERATED
AUTOMATION **ROBOTICS**

Production Robotics, Inc.
7305-C Edgewater Drive
Oakland, CA 94621
510-777-0375
Fax 510-777-9033

FASTER - BETTER - CHEAPER – SAFER

... will the pressure never cease? It would seem not! As we move warily through 2005, every business enterprise faces accelerating change and aggressive competition. High Technology companies may be the most challenged of all! Rapid growth - shorter product life cycles - fewer people - stretched management resources - increased security concerns & international risks ... all push both hi-tech vendors and customers to the ragged edge.

Learn how Henke Associates can help your business. Visit the Henke Associates web site www.henkeassociates.net. To contact Dr. Russ Henke, please send an email to russ@henkeassociates.net, or phone 510- 287-9168.

SME Chapter 28 Officers

SME is on the Web!

Log on to SME Chapter 28
Web Site:
<http://chapters.sme.org/028/homepage.htm>

Send an E-Mail to SME
Chapter 28:
sme_ch028@yahoo.com

Log on to the SME
National Website:
www.sme.org

Advertise in the SME
bimonthly newsletter,
which is published in
hardcopy and on the web!
The first 2 newsletter
advertisements are FREE.
No obligation!

Contact JoAnne Moody at
jumoody@comcast.net for
your advertisement.

Standard rates are:
Full page \$120
1/2 page \$60
1/4 page \$30
Business card \$50

Chair	Swami Vangal-Ramamurthy	swamiv@adept.com	925 245 8153
Secretary	Sriny Sundararajan	sriny@us.xyratex.com	510 552 2394
Chair Elect	Bill Marlow	wjm.sme@sbcglobal.net	415 359 1707
Events Director & Newsletter Editor	JoAnne Moody	jumoodu@comcast.net	925 980 9655
Communications & Treasurer	Norris Tongson	NTongson@yahoo.com	408 563 4182
Student Chapter Advisor (Chico)	Dirk Vanderloop	dvanderloop@csuchico.edu	530 898 5626

What SOFTWARE is right for my process?

Ladder Logic? **Visual Basic?**
HMI? **PC?**
C?

VOLER HAS THE ANSWER!

- We specialize in providing software, electronics, sensors and systems.
- We will determine the right software and the right electrical equipment for your manufacturing application.
- We have in depth experience with a wide variety of software.
- We provide turnkey systems with electrical controls and software.
- Visit www.volersystems.com for examples of our work.
- Contact Walt Maclay at walt@volersystems.com or call 408-245-9844 for a consultation and proposal.

Member: SME Golden Gate Chapter.

Voler Engineering and
System Integration.
Professional Work.
Personal Attention!