The current buzzword in the HVAC industry
Commissioning.

Have you ever asked the questions, "What is commissioning", "Who accomplishes commissioning", "What is the roll for the Owner", "What is the role of the A/E", "What is the role of the HVAC contractor", "What is the role of the Controls contractor", "How is the manufacturer's rep involved with commissioning", "What is the role of the Commissioning Authority", or "Who else is involved with this animal called commissioning"?

All of these are good questions, and there are other questions about this seemingly new term of "Commissioning". Each of these questions deserves an answer. This discussion will try to answer all your questions about commissioning, or at least give everyone a better understanding about which direction the industry is taking.

There are other terms like: "sustainability, LEED, etc." that are associated with commissioning as well, and these will also be discussed.

John Crafton has been involved in the HVAC business in Albuquerque since 1976 when he moved from a branch office of Bridgers and Paxton in El Paso to their home office here. He has been a manufacturer's rep with The Johnston Company, a project manager for Yearout Mechanical, and the director of the mechanical engineering department for the former BPLW Architects and Engineers. Currently, John is a Sr. Mechanical Engineer and Commissioning Authority with WH Pacific (formerly AASCG, Inc.).

Meeting date: Tuesday, April 15th at 11:45am
Place: Pappadeaux (Jefferson & I-25)
Cost: $ 15.00

Please RSVP by Friday April 11th to Dan Beckley, 343-8190, or email to: danbeckley@tjc-nm.com
Obviously these are just general forecasts and any negativity in general economic forecast are likely to be also indicated in these industry numbers. In New Mexico I’m encouraged that there is an increasing emphasis on engineering with the energy mandates at the state and local level which will tend to increase the amount of design required on any given project. Additionally there seems to be a continuing investment in institutional facilities in New Mexico a fact that is highlighted in the forecasts.

Last Month

In March we had another great turnout to hear Jack McKeegan explain how to maximize the efficiency of hot water heating systems. Judging by the feedback, the presentation was very well received. There were a number of you who requested copies of his presentation. He has promised to get it to me, and I will forward it to those who have requested it as soon as I get my hands on it.

Student Activities

March was a very exciting month for student activities. On March 21st UNM hosted the 49th Annual Central NM Science and Engineering Research Challenge. This event is for K – 12 students who have expressed an interest in the fields of science and engineering. Patrick Watkins, Ryan Shaffer, and I judged projects relevant to our industry and selected 2 students who each will receive a $100 award for their exceptional projects. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2008 NM Chapter of ASHRAE Award: Jordan Gateley of Hope Christian for his project Color and Heat Absorption, and Delaney Miller of Hope Christian for her project Can Hair Measure Humidity? At the conclusion of this regional challenge, Delaney has found herself qualifying for the state competition! Also, thank you for all the responses in regards to job/internship opportunities for the UNM HVAC students. I passed along all the information to the class and I hope to see some students beginning their careers with us.

Mike Ferguson
Student Activities Chairman
The following is what remains of the 2007/2008 schedule of programs. Additional speaker information will be provided in each monthly newsletter.

April 15, 2008  John Crafton – Current HVAC Buzzword is Commissioning

May 20, 2008  John Bucholz – City of Albuquerque Green Building Program

   Note: Joint meeting with NMFMN
   Dinner Meeting – Sandia Casino

All meetings will be Lunch meetings at Pappadeaux unless noted otherwise.
Chapter Offices Were:

President:                    John Grapsas
President-Elect:            Steve Maggert
Secretary:                    Mike Slaman
Treasurer:                    Al Guera

On April 21, 1992, the monthly meeting speaker was Becky Kilbourne, Director of Market Planning & Program Development at PNM. Her topic was "Demand Side Management – A Utility's Perspective". She said that communication between the utility and the engineering community is necessary before any Demand Side Management program can be successful.

The New Mexico Chapter of ASHRAE presented ‘Spring Seminars’ on April 23rd. These seminars covered subjects from thermal storage to CFC recovery & reclamation.