The Pioneers will meet at a unique ocean front resort on the coast of Maine in October. Stage Neck Inn is an exceptional destination situated on a rocky peninsula with adjacent sandy beach, ocean, harbor, and river frontage. Nearby are several renowned golf courses. The property is close to the Kittery Outlet Malls and the historic attractions of York, Maine. Pioneers will enjoy fabulous meals in the award winning dining room of the Stage Neck Inn.

York is comprised of York Village, York Beach, and York Harbor. It is the oldest town in Maine and has several historic and many scenic attractions. There are miles of pristine sandy beaches - Harbor Beach (adjacent to the Inn), Long Sands Beach, Short Sands Beach, Cape Neddick Beach and, within a short drive, the famed Ogunquit Beach.

Nearby are shops offering antiques and distinctive arts and crafts. You may also enjoy the area’s ocean beaches, whale watching, a ride aboard a lobstering boat, and much more. The New Hampshire seacoast and the many cultural attractions of Portsmouth, New Hampshire are just minutes away from the Inn. Stage Neck Inn is located just one hour from Boston, but a world away!

A trip is planned to Kennebunkport and a cooking class has been organized at Stonewall Kitchen. Also, it is Harborfest and Marketfest weekend in York – a real Maine happening!

Registration and activity sheets will go out in mid-June, so make your reservations early in order to be with your fellow Pioneers on the rocky coast of Maine. **Reservations must be made prior to August 15, 2014** so that the rooms are held at the quoted rate, which includes full breakfasts and dinners.

The host couple for this meeting will be Steve and Roz Hershfield. For additional information, do not hesitate to call them at 207-361-4525. Roz and Steve invite you to their home for a cocktail party on Thursday evening. An RSVP is required and will be part of the Registration Package.
From February 20th to 22nd, 2014 the Pioneers had their Annual Meeting at Loew’s Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando, Florida. During this meeting, a great amount of ground was covered and the need for further emphasis on membership and attendance became apparent.

As I left Orlando, the thoughts that I brought home with me were:

- How great it is that we have established a program for funding endowments at institutions teaching plastics and polymer technology!
- How much we appreciate SPI’s offer to donate 10% of the profits from the Hall of Fame Dinner to PPA for funding fellowships!
- What a change in the site selection process - evaluating the use of a Meeting Planner for our Fall 2015 meeting!

Other thoughts that came to mind were:

- While we inducted four new members, how do we keep, and accelerate this process?
- How is it that of the six new members inducted at Turning Stone Casino last fall, not one attended the Orlando meeting?

All of us must commit to work with the Membership Committee to attract qualified individuals who will be active in PPA. Further, I’m asking that Sponsors of new members stay in contact with their nominees to see that they attend subsequent meetings.

We now move on to Fall 2014 and will be returning to the Stage Neck Inn in York Harbor, Maine. As we did in 2011, we will essentially take over the whole facility and a great many events are planned. We have listened to our PALS Committee, and there will be a cooking class at Stonewall Kitchen where the participants will prepare Chicken Saltimbocca! This class will be limited to the first thirty who sign up, so when the Activity Sheet goes out in June, make sure it’s returned quickly! Also planned are golf, a trip to Cape Porpoise and Kennebunkport, and jitneys to Marketfest and Harvestfest! Again, Roz and I will host a cocktail party at our home on the Thursday of that weekend.

Since the Stage Neck Inn is a small, boutique hotel, reservations at the Inn for October 16th through 19th must be made by August 15, 2014. Hotel and meeting registration forms will be going out in June so reply quickly and we’re looking forward to seeing everyone in Maine, “where life is how it should be!”

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK
SPRING 2014
By John and Moira Fearncombe

Two years ago Moira and I volunteered to help David and Rozann Caldwell with the Much Travelled Sheet (MTS). We made it clear at the time that, while we enjoyed helping put the newsletter together, we did not want to succeed them. Well, guess what? In our organization, good things happen when you volunteer.

We have benefited from a terrific apprenticeship under David and Rozann and are looking forward to continuing to provide the PPA with an informative newsletter - one that makes us all proud. We are pleased to announce that Larry and Terry Schneider have volunteered to assist us with the MTS.

In this edition of the MTS, you will see articles by Ashby Rice and Glenn Beall. We hope that you, too, will be willing to share your hobbies, news, and plastics info for future issues.

Our goal is to publish a snapshot of current PPA news, meetings, events, updates, plastics news, and future venues. We take on this role to serve PPA members, so if you have any news you would like included or suggestions for improvement, please contact us.

John and Moira Fearncombe
Newsletter Chairs
Phone (847) 381-1670 johnblc@gmail.com
PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING 2014 MEETING AT LOEW’S ROYAL PACIFIC RESORT IN ORLANDO, FL
COCKTAIL HOUR - THURSDAY & FRIDAY
Photos from the Spring 2014 Meeting at Loew’s Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando, FL
Dinner on Friday
Photos from the Spring 2014 Meeting at Loew’s Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando, FL

**Golf Event**

Friday Golfers (from left to right): Dave Murdock, Stu Swain, Al Hodge, Mark Wolverton, Martin Stark, and Dennis Paradise

Saturday Golfers  Back Row: Bill Carteaux, Mark Wolverton, Jay Gardiner  Front Row: Stu Swain, John Schmidt, Bill Humphrey, Martin Stark, Paul Dumesnil, and Sal Monte

Golfing Chair Mark Wolverton presented the golfing prizes on Saturday night.

Low Team Winners Martin Stark, Al Hodge, Dave Murdock, and Stu Swain each received a PPA ceramic tile coaster.
Cocktails on Saturday

The Saturday Scramble was a very close competition, whose winners were determined by a scorecard playoff. In a nod to archery where a Horn Spoon is awarded to a competitor who failed to hit inside the white area of the target, the PPA Horn Spoon is awarded to the last place team.

Low Net Champion for the Weekend was Sal Monte and Low Gross Score was shot by Paul Dumesnil.

The PPA spoon is a “tip of the cap” to the first molders of thermoplastic materials - horners. This edition of the spoon is sourced from domesticated animal horn and displays a miniature PPA logo.

Mark Wolverton, Sal Monte, and Dennis Paradise were awarded a PPA Spoon recognizing this accomplishment. (2nd of two teams!)

COCKTAILS ON SATURDAY
PHOTOS FROM THE SPRING 2014 MEETING AT LOEW’S ROYAL PACIFIC RESORT IN ORLANDO, FL

DINNER ON SATURDAY
NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

The Plastics Pioneers Association announced that four new members have joined the organization. The membership is limited to 250 active members who must have 25 or more years of experience in the industry to be considered. In addition, an existing PPA member must sponsor the nominee who is judged on contributions made to the advancement of the plastics industry.

Dr. Gregory Campbell

Dr. Gregory Campbell earned his B.S.(1964), M.S.(1966) and his Ph.D.(1969) degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine. Greg has been associated with the plastics industry since 1968 when he went to work as a Senior Staff Research Engineer for General Motors Research – a position he held until 1981 at which time Greg joined Mobil Chemical as a supervisor in polymer process research. In 1984, Greg left Mobil and became a Professor of Chemical Engineering for Clarkson University, a position he held for 23 years before leaving to start his own consulting company, Castle Research Associates in Jonesport, Maine.

During the course of his career, Greg has been extremely active in the SPE. He has been a member of the SPE Extrusion Board and Chair of the Finance Committee since 2002. He has also served as SPE Extrusion Division Councillor, Chair of the SPE Bylaws and Policy Committee, Chair of the SPE Fellows Committee, member of the Finance Committee, member of the SPE Executive Committee, and SPE Treasurer.

SPE has honored Greg for his contributions many times. He is an SPE Fellow and an SPE Honored Service Member. He received the award for best paper in the Extrusion Division in 2006 and 2011 and from the Injection Molding Division in 2012. In 2011, he was acknowledged by the Extrusion Division with the Bruce Maddock Award for significant contributions to the advancement of single screw technology or associated processing technology by providing experimental achievements and understanding to the fundamentals of the process.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Campbell has delivered a total of 228 technical presentations to societies and industry on polymer processing. He and his wife Susann currently reside in Jonesport, ME.

Sponsors: Tim Womer and Gail Bristol.
Paul Dumesnil, Jr.
Paul Dumesnil, Jr. has been part of the plastics industry his entire professional career, focusing on the materials side of the business. In 1983, Paul graduated from State University of New York – Old Westbury, where he earned a B.S. in Business Administration.

After graduation, Paul joined Monsanto in Kenilworth, N.J. as a sales representative. From there he went to work for Huntsman in the Chicago area as Regional Sales Manager for polystyrene. Following stints in sales and administration for BAECO Plastics and Ashland Chemical, Paul returned to Huntsman as National Accounts Manager, based in Georgia.

In 1996, Paul joined Trademark Plastics, Linden, N.J., as Senior Account Manager, and from 2000 to 2006, he worked in sales and marketing for Maryland Enterprises, Inc. Since 2007, Paul has been Senior Vice President for Plastic Solutions, based in the Tampa-St. Petersburg, FL area. Plastic Solutions is a distributor of prime engineering and commodity thermoplastics and is the exclusive distributor of PrimaFlex prime engineering and commodity thermoplastic resins.

Paul has been an active member of the Sheet Producers Division of the SPI.

*Sponsors: Bill Humphrey and Jay Gardiner.*

Stephen Hoenig
Stephen Hoenig graduated from the University of North Texas with a B.S. in Chemistry and B.A. in English and is taking graduate studies in technical writing at the University of Houston. He has 36 years of industrial experience, most of that in plastics. Stephen spent four years as a chemist for Chromalloy before joining Dow Chemical Co. In his 30-year career at Dow, Stephen served in a wide variety of functions including Polyolefins Research Chemist, Polyethylene Technical Service and Development Leader, Insite Development Group Leader, ESI Development Group Leader, Business Information Systems, Application Technology Leader for Durables, Global Technical Services and Development Leader for Flooring, and Styron Flooring Leader. Ultimately, he rose to the position of Dow’s Global Technical Service and Development Leader. While at Dow, Stephen received the Futures Award for the development of new plastics products for thin-wall molding that achieved sales in excess of $23 million in the first year of commercialization.

*Continued on next page*
Over the course of his career, Stephen has been granted 21 patents in the plastics field. He has presented 10 papers at various ANTEC® and SAE events. Stephen is a member of the SPE, SAE, and the American Chemistry Society. Stephen currently has his own business based in Houston, where he is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. H&H Consulting, LLC is involved in new product development, including identifying customer performance requirements, technical fits, technical gaps, and developing products that fill those gaps. The company’s specialties include plastics, injection molding, profile extrusion, material science, and latex.

Stephen and his wife Wendy reside in Houston.

Stuart Swain
Stuart Swain has been involved in plastics since he graduated with a B.S. in Business Administration and a minor in Economics from Colorado State University in 1982. He started his career shortly thereafter with Chroma Corp., McHenry, IL as a Sales Engineer. Stu was promoted to Vice President of Market Development in 1986. He became a plastics industry consultant upon joining Friedman, Eisenstein, Raemer, and Schwartz in Chicago. From 1997-2000, Stu was the Vice President and General Manager of Midwest Color in Niles, IL. He went to work for Ampacet and RTP before rejoining Chroma as Director of Sales and Marketing in 2007. Stu learned to run an extruder before he got his driver’s license. He jokes that, as a boy, he worked at the family business just half days – from 6 A.M. to 6 P.M.!

Over the course of his career, Stu has presented numerous technical presentations related to compounding. Stu is the holder of three patents, has been a member of the Photoluminescent Safety Association and the Closures and Containers Manufacturers Association. He has been extremely active with the Chicago Section of the SPE, having served as President in 1992-1993.

Stu and his wife Toni reside in Lakewood, IL.

Sponsors: Glenn Beall and Steve Hershfield

INDUCTION TRIVIA:
- Steve Hershfield inducted Stu Swain exactly sixteen years to the day after his father, Bob Swain, inducted Steve into the PPA.
- Stephen and Wendy Hoenig join Sal and Erica Monte as the only two member couples currently in the PPA.
John Kretzschmar was selected as the most recent PPA Distinguished Service Member and received this award at Loew’s Royal Pacific Resort on Saturday night during the Spring 2014 Meeting. Steve Hershfield, President of PPA, presented John with a plaque and pin commemorating this achievement.

In his remarks, Steve noted that the Distinguished Service Member Award recognizes an individual for exemplifying the objectives of the Plastics Pioneers Association and cited several of John’s contributions to the PPA and the plastics industry including:

- International President of SPE
- Chairman of the Public Interest Committee of SPE
- Member of PPA for 28 years
- Served on the Board of Governors and held every office in PPA
- Member of the Plastics Hall of Fame
- President of the Plastics Academy

Steve stated that John’s devotion to service in the plastics industry, its institutions and organizations, plus his continued support of the PPA and its objectives truly qualifies him for the award of Distinguished Service Member.

In his remarks, John referred to a story asking “Who packed your parachute?” This story thanks the people who come out of the far corners of your life just when you need them the most and pack your parachutes for you. John began by thanking his parents, Richard and Aurelia, for a Christian upbringing and for raising six boys. Vic Eaton, a high school classmate, asked John to be his roommate at the University of Missouri encouraged John, telling him “You can make it!” John’s career in sales and marketing began when Russ Long, a recruiter from Spencer Chemical Co., asked John if he’d consider sales training, rather than Chemical Engineering. Fred Sutro, John’s first boss at Spencer Chemical Co., got John involved in SPE and taught him how to dress – in white button-down collar shirts and three-button single-breasted suits (so where did the plus fours come from?). Carl Setterstrom was V.P. at Rexene Polymers when John transitioned from Salesman to Sales Supervisor, District Sales Manager, and National Sales Manager for LDPE, PP, and styrene resins.

Last, but most decidedly not least, John thanked Sue, his wife of 57 ½ years. Due to knee surgery after a fall, Sue was unable to attend the Orlando meeting – the first time she was not able to be present for one of John’s awards. John recognized Sue’s devotion noting that during the first eleven years of marriage, they moved 13 times. When John and Sue started Blako Industries in 1970, Sue ran a one-girl office. She was the receptionist, telephone operator, secretary, and bookkeeper. Sue had agreed to work for a couple of years, but ended up working 25 years.
The Much Travelled Shirt

Over the past 60 years, while PPA has developed many traditions, none has been as clearly defined as the awarding of The Much Travelled Shirt. This tradition started 60 years ago when Gordon Brown, a Charter PPA member, appeared at breakfast wearing a particularly garish looking Hawaiian shirt, giving rise to many disparaging remarks. He stripped off the shirt and awarded it to his loudest critic with the proviso that he present it to another deserving member at the next meeting. That same shirt, bearing the signatures of each member receiving the award is presented at the Annual Meeting to a member, who, in the opinion of the current President, typifies the “Spirit of the Plastics Pioneers”. This garish Hawaiian shirt is now considered PPA’s most prestigious award and is called “The Much Travelled Shirt.” Last year’s awardee, Viv Malpass modeled the shirt (see left) for all to see.

PPA President, Steve Hershfeld, stated that this year’s awardee was an easy and natural choice. He has contributed to our Industry and especially to PPA and continues to contribute with his wisdom and sage advice. Steve offered some insights about this year’s nominee. During his freshman year at university, he met his future wife on a blind date. Wasting no time, as is still his habit, they got married after his graduation and had three children. They now have three grandchildren and what was a blind date has become a wonderful marriage of 50 years.

Our awardee’s professional career in the Plastics Industry has been quite diverse ranging from working on rocket nozzles to multilayer food containers to hospital serving systems. His list of accomplishments are way too numerous to list. He has been a long term member of SPE, a member of PPA since 1993, and has served two terms in the dual functions of Treasurer and Managing Director. He has many hobbies and interests that are just as diverse as his career and include coin and stamp collecting, astronomy, and political campaign organizing.

He has always provided the President with great advice, always had what’s best for PPA in his actions, and a friend that Steve could always call upon. It is a pleasure, and honor, to present this year’s award of The Much Travelled Shirt to Tony Mack. Unfortunately, Tony and Dolores were unable to attend the Orlando meeting, so Steve and Roz presented the shirt to Tony at a later date.

The 2014 Winner of The Much Travelled Shirt is Tony Mack!
WE FONDLY REMEMBER . . .
IVER J. FREEMAN

Iver J. Freeman was born June 21, 1920 and died on Friday, November 22, 2013 in Harwich Massachusetts.

PPA MEMBER SINCE 1973

WE FONDLY REMEMBER . . .
RUSSELL J. GOULD, SR.

Russell J. Gould, Sr. was born on August 12, 1939 in Medford, MA to John and Phyllis (nee Gibbons). He passed away on Saturday, December 21, 2013 in Mount Prospect, IL.

Russ was an internationally known inventor and consultant and won engineering awards for his distinguished work in the plastics industry. After being diagnosed with prostate cancer, he worked tirelessly to educate and support prostate cancer programs locally and nationally. Russ was a cancer specialist and counselor with Wellness Place in Palatine, IL. His dedication to individuals and his work with communities such as the SEA Blue Prostate Cancer Walk/Run directly affected the lives of thousands of men and their families.

Russell is survived by his children, Russell (Tracey) Gould Jr., Nancy (John) O’Brien and Scott (Paula) Gould; his grandchildren, Russell J. Gould III, Devon T. Gould, Shannon M. O’Brien, Kelley A. O’Brien; brothers-in-law Joe Barry, Robert (Donna) Lewis; sister-in-law Jean Richards and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Judy; his parents; sister, Judith Barry; nephew Robbie Lewis and Francis and Jean Lewis.

PPA MEMBER SINCE 2000
The Education Committee’s first scholarship endowment monies were awarded to the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a check was sent to the school in January, 2014. Professor Robert Malloy, Chair, Department of Plastics Engineering at UMass Lowell, attended the Saturday General Meeting to thank the PPA for this grant. The PPA will provide $15,000 for five years ($75,000 total) plus one additional $3,000 scholarship for each year until fully funded. Monies will be paid out at a rate of 4% and any additional funds go back into the principal.

PPA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS FOR 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>COLLEGE</th>
<th>CLASS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Victor H. Batarseh</td>
<td>Drexel University</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Ashton M. Brusca</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Platteville</td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Christopher J. Davis</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Jake Fallon</td>
<td>Penn State Erie, Behrend College</td>
<td>Junior</td>
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<tr>
<td>5) Leah Flynn</td>
<td>Pittsburg State University, Kansas</td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Nathaniel F. Iveson</td>
<td>Ferris State University</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
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<tr>
<td>7) Peter A. Jones</td>
<td>UMass Lowell</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<tr>
<td>8) Stephen A. Levy</td>
<td>Penn State Erie, Behrend College</td>
<td>Junior</td>
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<tr>
<td>9) Timothy J. McNulty</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Stout</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<tr>
<td>10) Anthony W. Mott</td>
<td>Penn State Erie, Behrend College</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<tr>
<td>11) Alex M. Nash</td>
<td>University of Maine</td>
<td>Senior</td>
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<tr>
<td>12) Steven E. Pax</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Stout</td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13) Dawn L. Pfeffer</td>
<td>Ohio University</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14) Bryan T. Robinson</td>
<td>Pennsylvania College of Technology</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15) Kyle W. Shwenker</td>
<td>Pittsburg State University, Kansas</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16) Thomas A. Sharp</td>
<td>University of Houston, Texas</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17) Katelyn L. Shinavski</td>
<td>Pennsylvania State University</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18) Amber L. Toboyek</td>
<td>Michigan Technological University</td>
<td>Freshman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19) Zachary T. Wenner</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Stout</td>
<td>Senior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20) Teng Yang</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Platteville</td>
<td>Junior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21) William D. Walker</td>
<td>University of Southern Mississippi</td>
<td>Sophomore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PLASTIVAN™ KIDS SAY THANKS

The Plastics Pioneers Association provides $5,000 each year to enable the SPE Foundation’s PlastiVan™ program to reach middle and high schools around the U.S. to promote the vast opportunities the plastics industry has to offer. Students are educated about the chemistry, history, processing, manufacturing, sustainability, and applications of plastics. Approximately 200 students participate in a single day’s visit of the program. For information about sponsoring the PlastiVan™ yourself, contact Marjorie Weiner at mweinder@4spe.org.
**WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE (TIM WOMER, AL HODGE & STEVE SOPHER):**

The new PPA website is almost ready! The webpage design is complete - the old website content has been transferred over. The updated PPA website will have a new, more modern updated look and will offer a number of new features including links to a number of professional industry organizations, the ability to search and download previous newsletters, and the ability to view photos from previous PPA meetings. The website will also contain a searchable membership database and will contain the updated Who’s Who member profiles.

The website will contain both public and private (members only) sections as was the case with the old website. Once the website is ready for launch, we will send out a membership-wide email blast to notify all members of the update. All members will have to log in and recreate member passwords. As we get closer, we will provide instructions on how to do this.

The goal of the Website Committee is to promote the PPA through the website as well as use the website to update members and allow for efficient member communication. Once the website is up and running, we will be monitoring it and will make changes and updates as required. The future goals for the website include such added features as:

1. Possible PPA membership blog
2. Ability to post pictures from PPA events
3. Ability to pay dues and make donations through the website via PayPal
4. Additional pages added (as necessary) for specific committee activities

Again, we will notify all members when the new website is ready to launch. Thanks to all who were involved.
Prior to my retirement in 2005, my exposure to formal music training was limited to singing in a grade school barbershop quartet and sitting bored through a junior high general music theory class. I had never played an instrument and, needless to say, did not read music. However, tunes I like readily stick in my head; and I’m often - sometimes to the annoyance of those nearby - mindlessly whistling these as I go about my daily routine.

My eldest son, Patrick, took up the violin at a young age, and went on to become quite a proficient player. When I retired, his old student violin was languishing on a shelf in his closet; and so I had it tuned up, and signed up for an introduction to violin class at our local Life Long Learning Center. There, I learned the basics of classical violin playing: how to hold the bow, how to tune the instrument, and how to sound notes rather than produce those horrid “finger nails on a chalkboard” screeches. It was slow going, and I had to force myself to grind through the obligatory scales and bowing exercises. At about the two month mark, we were taught our first actual tune: “America” - and when I learned to play it recognizably, I was hooked.

Then, just by messing around, I found I could sound out those long familiar tunes tucked away in my brain’s archive; and when I managed to sound out, and then play end-to-end my first “from scratch” tune, I was off and running. That first song was an old Bob Wills classic, “Faded Love”.

After playing for about a year, I decided to attend one of the many fiddle camps that are offered by various organizations. I selected a camp organized by the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, West Virginia. Fiddle camps come in all sorts of formats. The Augusta camp was organized around genres: old time music (think mountain cabin front porch picking), early country, bluegrass, Cajun, and Celtic with a week devoted to each. In addition to fiddle, parallel classes were offered in mandolin, guitar, upright bass, and banjo. At night, and between classes, impromptu jams formed that all were invited to join. It was like adult summer music camp, and I had a ball. I’ve gone back every year since, with Cajun week being my favorite.

It was at this point I began to realize that Patrick’s student violin was just never going to make the deep, rich, “darkish” sound that I had come to associate with fiddle music. So, I headed off to a violin shop, and proceeded to purchase an instrument that “spoke” to me. I probably tried 20-30 different fiddles (aka violins); and once I picked the one I wanted, I went through just as many different bows before I found the pair that worked for me. In the process, I learned a lot about the variations in violin sounds, the huge impact bow characteristics have on the sound, and the importance of selecting the right strings. Every player has his/her own preferences that they grow into as they accumulate playing time and evolve their styles.

When home, I leave my fiddle set up and ready to play. I end up clocking between one and two hours a day – sometimes in one session, and sometimes in 15-20 minute sets spread over the day. Once I realized I’m one of those lucky folks who can play
by ear, I gave up playing scales and grinding through bow drills. I simply pick up the fiddle and launch into a tune I know, or start working on one I can whistle but haven’t yet learned to play. If I can whistle it, I can play it. And, the reverse is also true - until a song is stuck in my head, it’s useless for me to attempt to play it.

I particularly love to play Christmas carols and that happens to be something my classical violinist son and I can do together. We’ve started a tradition of playing caroling duets for our family each Christmas Eve. I’ve appended a picture of us taken during one of our performances.

Fiddlers, like many other groups that share something they love, encounter kindred spirits wherever they go. While on vacation recently, I was out walking in Durango, Colorado one morning with a friend, when we passed a street musician playing a mandolin. We stopped to compliment his playing, and I mentioned that I was an aspiring fiddle player who wanted eventually to take up the mandolin as a second instrument. (The mandolin is strung and tuned identical to a fiddle, so you can think of it as a fretted and plucked version.) He proceeded to produce a fiddle (which he also played), and asked if I’d like to try an impromptu duet with him - which I did. I’ve included a picture of me playing his fiddle on the sidewalk in downtown Durango (see photo on previous page).

That leads me to answer the question that we fiddlers often get: “So, what exactly is the difference between a fiddle and a violin?” The answer is: “The player.” The instruments and bows are identical. It’s the music and the techniques that are different, and so sometimes are the tunings. Classical players almost always play in standard tuning. Fiddlers frequently adjust the tuning of their instruments to enable them to more easily play particular tunes - i.e. to make the fingering less complicated, or to enable playing a song in two different octaves without having to change the basic fingering pattern.

Another general difference is that classical violinists generally prefer to play from sheeted music, while fiddlers prefer to play by ear. When playing a piece of classical music, violinists are striving to play in unison - right down to the particulars of the bowing pattern. Their collective goal is to faithfully reproduce the music as written by the composer. Fiddlers, on the other hand, strive to make a tune their own. They borrow a phrase here and an “ornament” there, and create their own version of each song. And, they often don’t play a tune the same way each time. Improvisation is the fiddler’s lifeblood. It’s what I love about it.

My ultimate pipe dream would be to have the opportunity to play on a stage with a traditional country band, and get to watch the people dancing to the sound of my fiddle. I’d want them to enjoy themselves as much as Vivienne and I do when we waltz past a dance hall fiddler playing a country classic like the Westphalia Waltz or the Cajun “national anthem” Jole Blon waltz. I should mention that waltzes are my most favorite tunes to play.

Six years in and I’m still primarily a first position (there are a total of seven left-hand positions for the violin), single string (many fiddle tunes are best played fingering two strings at a time to create two-note chords) player. Luckily, most fiddle tunes lend themselves to first position; and, since my passion is for the melody part, single string playing works well enough. I still aspire to mastering double stops (two string chords) and to learning how to play out of third position (the next most often used), and so my fiddle-playing journey has really only just begun - but what a wonderful ride it’s been so far.
If you were born after 1950, there is a good probability that your mother prepared food on a Formica countertop. You ate breakfast on a Formica and chrome dinette set. By 1953, over one-third of the six million new homes built in the post WWII expansion featured decorative, easy-to-clean and maintain Formica surfaces.

At the time, these products were touted as being made of a new material resulting from the war efforts. The truth of the matter was that, by then, Formica was already forty years old and middle aged. In fact, Formica celebrated its one hundredth birthday in 2013.

In 1912 Westinghouse was manufacturing tubular electrical insulators by wrapping Phenal Formaldehyde (Phenolic) saturated woven cloth around steel mandrels and curing the resin in a compression molding press. Westinghouse employees Daniel J. O’Connor and Herbert A. Faber conceived the concept of slitting these tubes along their length and laying them flat to compression mold sheets of insulating material. On February 1, 1913 O’Connor and Faber filed for a patent and left Westinghouse to establish the Formica Insulator Company. The name “Formica” was a take-off from the mineral-based mica insulating sheets being produced by Westinghouse. By May of that year the company was not only in production, but was unable to keep up with sales. By September they and their eighteen new employees were still hard pressed to fill their orders.

Curing the resin produced the same dark colors as other compression molded Phenolic parts. These colors did not attract the attention of the consumer market. This was not considered a problem as the rapidly growing electrical industry eagerly purchased all of the available Formica sheet stock the company could produce. The much larger consumer market had to wait for further material and processing developments.

That wait ended in 1927 when the Formica Insulator Company secured a patent claiming an opaque cover sheet that masked the dark-colored Phenolic. The cover sheet could be rotogravure printed and this quickly led to walnut and mahogany-grained panels for the radio and furniture industry.

The introduction of Urea Formaldehyde (UF) in 1931 allowed the production of white and other light colored sheets. Formica that resembled marble was quickly accepted by soda fountains and ice cream parlors.

The expansion of Formica into the large consumer market was accelerated in 1938 when the UF cover sheets were replaced by Melamine Formaldehyde (MF). Compared to UF, this new American Cyanamid material had better toughness and a harder surface with amazing abrasion properties plus improved resistance to heat and moisture. The transparent virgin MF allowed the use of a full palette of colors and the three dimensional effect of depth. This added realism to flat surfaces chosen to look like wood, slate, leather, fabric etc.

This new material cost more than UF; however the design community and the consumer market didn’t care. It was now possible to produce virtually any color of Formica sheets of any flat surface that could be photographed. Architects and product designers found many new uses for Formica. The hallmark use in those days was on the Queen Mary luxury ocean liner launched in 1936. Large quantities of Formica sheets were used together with chrome and glass to create a stylish art deco decor.

The use of Formica on the Queen Mary was an important factor in getting this material accepted in the up-scale construction and furniture markets. Style-setting hotels, corporate offices, government buildings and luxury homes proudly displayed this supposedly “new” material.
The consumers’ love affair with Formica has continued up to the present time. In the 1980s Formica lost market share to more costly cast polyester or acrylic composites such as Corian for kitchen countertops and bathroom sinks. Starting in the 1990s, these cast composites were edged out of favor by granite and marble work surfaces. The very expensive granite and marble fad will pass and when it does Formica will still be there. It is one of a very few materials and trade names that has remained viable for one hundred years.

THE SURVEY SAYS . . .
At Loew’s Royal Pacific Resort, those attending answered the question, “If you were an American pioneer in the 1800’s (not a Plastics Pioneer), what one modern invention would you have liked to have?” The responses are summarized below.

**Sanitation** 30.0%
Includes:
- indoor plumbing (10),
- toilet (4),
- running hot water (2),
- bathroom (1),
- shower (1)

**Transportation** 23.3%
Includes:
- car (7),
- GPS (2),
- airplane, internal combustion engine, RV, SUV (1 each)

**Household/Appliances** 23.3%
Includes:
- electricity (4),
- refrigerator (4),
- washing machine (2),
- air conditioning, central heating, dishwasher, modern stove (1 each)

**Communication** 10.0%
Includes:
- cell phone (2),
- computer (2),
- printer, telephone (1 each)

**Other** 13.3%
Includes:
- Bic lighter, chain saw,
- 1st commercial polymer, plastic, pulley, rifle with metal cartridge, steam engine, water skis (1 each)

FOR SALE!!
Once again, the PALS Committee is selling PPA embroidered sweatshirts. Gail Rotheiser models this Blue Polyester/cotton 50/50 heavyweight ultra blend fleece crew with the PPA logo. Sizes available are small, medium, large, XL, XXL and XXXL. Price is $25.00 if picked up at the 2014 Fall Meeting @ York Harbor, Maine, or $31.00 delivered to your home.

The PALS are also selling Deluxe Polo Style “Palmer Caps”, 100% Cotton Twill fabric, with velcro closure. The red is shown here - additional colors available are Kahki (Tan) and Navy. The cost is $10.00 plus shipping.

Cap orders are taken by Cathy Connell at 2900 W. Dayton Street, McHenry, IL 60050; 815-759-2118. Cap orders to be mailed will need add’l shipping cost.

Mail your sweatshirt order to Dolores Mack at 48 Old Nugent Farm Road, Gloucester, MA 01930. Order soon so Dolores can get them in time for the 2014 Fall Meeting or to get delivered to your home. Make checks payable to the Plastics Pioneers Association and mail them with your order. Send any questions to Dolores at doloresmack@cs.com or call her at 978-281-3213.
PALS President Carolyn Reed-Hodge

The Pioneer Action League grew out of the PPA’s Spousal Committee and focuses on “supporting PPA activities to promote camaraderie, networking and outreach.” This committee is open to everyone who is interested in making our gatherings both fun and informative. The leadership of the PALS Committee is responsible for working with the Chairman of the Site Selection Committee and with the Meeting Host(s) to find local features and places to visit, helps to decide and arrange tours as needed, helps puts together the brochures sent to PPA HQ for the Registration Packets, makes seating charts for Friday evenings’ dinners, etc. These are some of the “behind the scenes” duties that few PPA members are aware of. But the work doesn’t stop there; being Chairman of PALS is a year-round job. Carolyn Reed-Hodge is the first and only President of the PALS, and she is someone you should know.

Carolyn is hard-working, organized and fully committed to her position. It is not unusual for PALS committee members to receive emails that she has written at midnight or later. Mind you, these are not one or two lines of vague information tossed out but a carefully thought out and constructed email covering a multitude of topics and generally a couple of attachments that provide additional information. That kind of attention to detail is invaluable, and is one of the reasons that everyone on the committee is always “on the same page”.

Al and Carolyn were inducted into the PPA in 2010 and have been active members since that time. Carolyn was asked to be a member of the Spousal Committee, the forerunner of PALS, and eventually became President of the PALS Committee. Under her guidance the members of the committee are much more involved than ever before. When asked what she feels is her biggest accomplishment in PALS, Carolyn is quick to tell you that SHE hasn’t accomplished anything, everything has been a group effort. However, one of the things that she is most proud of is the Welcome/Registration table at each meeting. Previously the registration packets were either left at the registration desk at the site of the meeting or were left on a table in the lobby. She admits that she was surprised and a little disappointed that there was no one from the organization to greet new members. So one of her first objectives was to make sure all future inductees didn’t have that same experience.

In addition to the welcome table, she mentions the creation of the call program. The membership roster, including phone numbers and email addresses, is divided among the committee members and each PAL contacts the PPA members on her list. The purpose of the calls is to a) to remind everyone of the next meeting – location, dates, etc., b) to find out if they plan to attend, c) to remind them to make their reservations before the deadline, and d) if they are not attending to make sure it isn’t due to injury or illness. Unfortunately, “d” is sometimes the feedback callers receive and that information is passed onto Carolyn. She then relays the information to Rozann Caldwell who sends out a card to the member. Another item on Carolyn’s list is the 50/50 raffle. This activity has become a large success in a short time. The proceeds from the ticket sales are divided evenly between the Education Committee and one lucky winner. It’s fun to see people pulling red tickets from pockets and purses in anticipation of the winning number being announced.
PALS PRESIDENT (CONTINUED)

You have probably noticed that some name badges have sprouted appendages of various colors that say “Chairman”, “Committee”, “PALS”, “New Member”, etc. This, too, can be credited to the PALS committee under Carolyn’s leadership.

In 2011 Carolyn spent many hours putting together an online survey for PPA members to complete regarding their preferences for meeting locations, activities, tours, transportation, etc. After receiving the completed surveys she spent more hours organizing the information into a usable format for the Site Selection Committee and the general membership.

Carolyn was born and raised in western Pennsylvania (outside of Pittsburgh), but has also spent many years in the Akron, Ohio area. She and Al married eight years ago and each of them has two children from previous marriages. Al and Carolyn became grandparents at the beginning of February and have a second grandchild coming in July. Congrats!!!

In addition to doing public relations for a non-profit organization, Carolyn has held inside sales as well as marketing and sales positions in the plastics’ industry. Carolyn is the heart and soul of the PALS Committee and is someone you should know.

PALS ACTIVITIES IN ORLANDO

Sheri Muller and Terry Schneider were among PALS members selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

Stephen Hoenig helped Carolyn Reed-Hodge as he picked Don Williams’ winning ticket.

Don and the Education Committee split the proceeds of the raffle.
PPA Committee Chairs and Members

**EDUCATION:**
Gail Bristol and Vivian Malpass, Co-Chairs.

**PLASTICS PIONEERS EDUCATION FUND (PPEF):**
John D. Michael, Sr., Chair.
*Members: Gerald Harriman, Anthony Mack - Designated Signatory
Don Williams*

**MEMBERSHIP:**
Al Hodge and Tim Womer, Co-Chairs:

**WEBSITE/WHO'S WHO:**
Tim Womer, Chair.
*Members: Daniel Cykana, Harry Greenwald, Gordon Lawry, Anthony Mack, Steven Sopher, Vincent Witherup*

**NOMINATING:**
Daniel McGuire Jr., Chair.
*Members: Paul Colby, Theodore Debreceni, John Kretzschmar, Vivian Malpass, Vincent Witherup*

**SITE SELECTION:**
Alan Woll, Chair.
*Members: Stephen Petrakis, Anthony Mack*

**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**
Harry Tenney, Chair
*Members: David Bernardi, John Blundy, Fred Steil*

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:**
Jim Callari and Matt Naitove, Co-Chairs.
*Members: Steve Petrakis*

**BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:**
Gail Bristol, Chair.
*Members: Glenn Frohring, Wendy Hoenig, Steven Sopher*

**NEWSLETTER:**
John and Moira Fearncombe, Co-Chairs.
*Members: Larry and Terry Schneider*

**PLASTICS HISTORY AND ARTIFACTS (PHAC):**
Glenn Beall, Chair.
*Members: Lawrence Broutman, Herm Dillon, John Fearncombe, Clifton Fleenor, Harry R. Greenwald, Richard Johnson, John K. Kretzschmar, Bruce Muller, Dewey Rainville, Donald V. Rosato, Jordan Rotheiser, Larry Schneider, Isobel Wayrick, Mark Wolverton*

**SPECIAL PPA COMMITTEES**

**PALS COMMITTEE:**
Carolyn Reed Hodge, Chair.
*Members: Patsy Beall, Rozann Caldwell, Roz Hershfield, Beverley Lawry, Darlene McGuire, Helen Michael, Sheri Muller, Terry Schneider, Marcia Tenney, Nancy Thiele, Ginny Williams, Lee Witherup, Janice Woll*

**SCHOLARSHIP TASK FORCE:**
Stefan Hershfield, Chair.
*Members: Al Hodge, John Michael, Sr., Ashby Rice, Kurt Swogger*

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**OFFICERS**
Stefan A. Hershfield President to 2015 (*)
Gail Bristol Vice President to 2015
Al Hodge Secretary to 2015
Ashby Rice Treasurer to 2015
Kurt Swogger Managing Director

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**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
Wolfgang Meyer Governor to 2015
Alan Woll Governor to 2015
John Michael, Sr Governor to 2015
Tim Womer Governor to 2017
Don Williams Governor to 2017
Steve Sopher Governor to 2017
Dan McGuire, Jr. Past President

*The President is an ex-officio member of all Committees*
WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

Let us know what is new and exciting in your life, or that of another PPA friend, so we can share it with the rest of the PPA membership.

Keep the letters coming in!
Write, phone, or email to:

The Much Travelled Sheet
27248 Twin Pond Road
Lake Barrington, IL 60010
Phone 847-381-1670
johnblc@gmail.com

Please feel free to view or download this or past versions of the newsletter at http://www.plasticspioneers.org/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Oct. 15 – 19, 2014
Stage Neck Inn
http://www.stageneck.com/

February 19-22, 2015
Hilton Hotel
San Antonio, TX