

Tennessee Inventors Association Meeting

Saturday July 21, 2007

10 AM in the 2020 Building in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park
Nonmembers are always welcome.

TIA June 16, 2007, Meeting Notes by Tom Kulaga, TIA Recording Secretary

Forthcoming Meeting

**UPCOMING MEETING , Saturday, July 21 2007 in the Tech 2020 building
in the Oak Ridge Industrial Park off the Pellissippi Parkway**

UPCOMING MEETING

Bruce Chaffins, a local inventor and businessman, will be speaking at the upcoming July 21 TIA meeting. Bruce has invented and is manufacturing a rapid prototyper. His Whizzit rapid prototyping machine is a three-dimensional color printer that offers significant advances over other prototypers and is economical to operate. See his web site at <<http://www.safeguardrobotics.com/>>.

June 16, 2007, TIA Meeting

Tom Whisman, the Business Reference Manager at the Knox County Public Library / Lawson McGhee Library made an informative presentation to the Tennessee Inventors Association on Saturday, June 16, 2007. Mr. Whisman was originally scheduled to make a presentation earlier this year, but, unfortunately, that was the weekend it decided to snow in East Tennessee.

Tom provided information on accessing the resources available through the public library that assist inventors and entrepreneurs in developing and marketing their inventions and ideas. The library has resources available both at the library and on-line over the Internet.

The Thomas Register is an index and resource for industrial information, products, services, CAD drawings, and other information on industrial products. The Thomas Register is available on-line at <<http://www.thomasnet.com/>> and at the library, as a multi-volume set of books. The Thomas Register is invaluable for researching who can manufacture or supply components and which companies may be interested in licensing or buying an invention because they manufacture or sell similar products.

Tom showed an example of the information available through the Thomas Register. A type of product, for example, filters, can be searched and a lists of companies will be returned. The list can be broken down by city or state. The list shows information on the companies, including web sites, company profiles with size, location, and the number of employees. Catalog information is also available.

Another resource Tom discussed is Sweets Network, which provides information for the construction industry, including building and construction/architectural manufactures. Sweets is available at <<http://sweets.construction.com/>>.

Tom also discussed the Encyclopedia of Associations, which includes information on more than 100,000 associations and trade groups worldwide. The Encyclopedia is a LexisNexis database and it is not a free on-line service. But, the library has access to the Encyclopedia and will help anyone obtain information on trade groups and associations. This information is helpful to inventors because finding a trade group or association may provide valuable information for the development and marketing of the invention.

The Trade Show News Network at <<http://www.tsnn.com/>> has information on the schedules for all kinds of trade shows. Inventors can use this information to find out where and when there is a tradeshow that deals with the invention. Trade shows are a great way to network and to discover who makes and sells particular items in an industry.

Tom described the services uniquely offered by the Knox County Library system. Knox County residents are eligible for a free library card and those who live outside Knox County can get a library card for a \$25 annual fee. With the library card and a PIN, many databases and reference tools of the Knox County Library can be accessed from the Internet.

The Knox County Library provides access to the Tennessee Electronic Library, which is a reference tool available to anyone with a Knox County Library library card. The Tennessee Electronic Library includes a database of encyclopedias and many specialized reference materials, including newspapers, magazines, trade publications, and various reference books.

Another resource is the Reference USA database that provides U.S. business and residential directory information. The Reference USA database is useful for business profiles and personnel, customer mailing lists, market research. The library also has access to the Lifestyle Data Analysis, but only at the Main Branch of the library.

Tom then provided several other sources that have information useful for inventors. The Fogler Library at the University of Maine at <<http://www.library.umaine.edu/patents/>> includes links to many patent related resources.

The New Hampshire State Library at <<http://pierce.state.nh.us/internet/patent.asp>> also offers many links to resources of interest to inventors. The NH State Library site includes links specifically targeting inventors, including links for funding inventions, an inventor's handbook, and to the National Inventor Fraud Center.

One last resource discussed by Tom was the Census Bureau with their County Business Patterns web site at <<http://www.census.gov/epcd/cbp/view/cbpview.html>>. This web site offers geographically-based business information, which is useful for performing market analysis and research.

Tom closed his presentation with some additional information on the Knox County Library. The library web site is at <<http://www.knoxcounty.org/library/>>. For the main branch of the library downtown, free parking is available at the Locust Street parking garage, which is 1 block North of the library. The main library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9am to 8:30 pm, Friday, 9am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 12 to 5pm, and Sunday 1 to 5pm.

Everyday Edisons

Everyone is reminded to watch the television show Everyday Edisons that is being shown on the local PBS television station. Everyday Edisons chronicles several inventors as they develop and market their inventions. The show is being aired on Friday nights at 10:30 throughout the Summer. The television show does a good job of chronicling the efforts of the inventors as they develop their inventions and bring them to market. To find out more about the show, visit <www.EverydayEdisons.com>. The Tennessee Inventors Association is a cosponsor of the show along with Tom's law firm, Knox Patents.

Tom Whisman



WWW.

Knox Patents

.COM

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**Tennessee
Inventors
Association**

www.TennesseeInventors.org

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ DUES RENEWAL

Mail to TIA Treasurer, P.O. Box 11225, Knoxville, TN 37939-1225

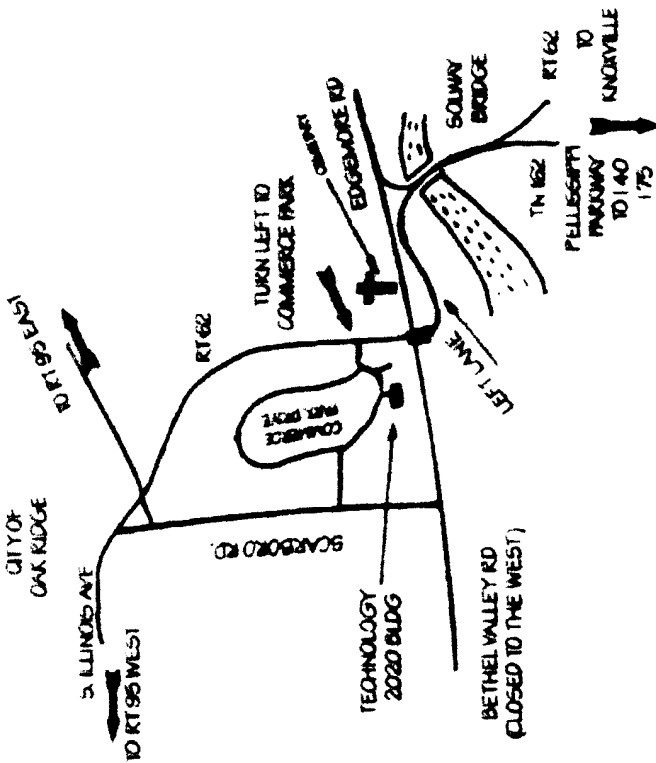
Dues are \$30.00 per year, and due in January. Anyone joining after January will pay a pro rated amount.
Please make checks payable to Tennessee Inventors Association.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ E-mail _____

INVENTIONS

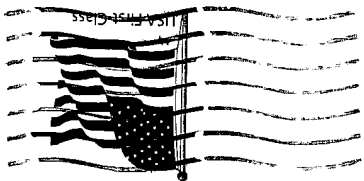


REGULAR MEETINGS
1020 COMMERCE PARK DR.
(2020 BUILDING)

THIRD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH
10:00 A.M. TILL NOON
FOR INFORMATION CALL

865-483-0151

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