

STEM Society Meeting, November 13, 2012

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1 About the STEM Society and the STEM Society Website

STEM is an abbreviation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. There are nearly 100 people on the mailing list, although a much smaller group attends any one meeting. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at the Trailside Center at 99th and Holmes in Kansas City, Missouri. The meetings are open to all. The start time is 6PM. We make presentations, have discussions, and sometimes have scientific demonstrations. The topics range from General Relativity to scientific experiments for kids.

The set of meeting notes may be viewed by going down the list of notes appearing on the front page of the site. These notes contains links to documents, which may be viewed or downloaded by clicking the link. Other documents can be reached by clicking the heading "Documents and Downloads" that appears on the left side of the front page. Then click on "documents." The meeting notes may also be viewed in an archive file in the list of documents. Most of the documents are PDF files. They may be viewed or downloaded to the computer by clicking, provided Adobe Reader is present,

or another program capable of reading PDF files. There are usually more documents available at the site than are listed under "Documents" because they are not in the documents.htm file.

The web site is:

<http://www.stem2.org/>

Direct to the documents list:

<http://www.stem2.org/je/documents.htm>

Direct to the archive file:

<http://www.stem2.org/je/archive.pdf>

2 The November Meeting Announcement

The November meeting of the STEM Society will take place on the second Tuesday of the month, November 13, 2012, at the Trailside Center at 99th and Holmes in Kansas City, Missouri. The starting time is 6PM.

NEWS: Last meeting our projector bulb had finally been replaced. However, the projector now had rather poor quality. We are in the process of buying a replacement, which may appear before our meeting.

A List of Possible Topics:

- (1) A presentation by Rick Lavelock about the move of Honeywell from the Federal Complex on 95th Street to a new facility in Grandview, and the possible use of the vacated buildings and equipment for science education.
- (2) Electronics: The Concept of Impedance, and A Practical Introduction to Transistors and Diodes.
- (3) Using Matlab and Octave for Mathematical and Scientific Computation.
- (4) Problems and Solutions.
- (5) Discussion Topic: Is it possible to give a real understanding of Mathematics and Science to students who are bright and have the required abilities, but at a very fundamental level have no real interest in truth, and have no real

interest in how the world works? Does this group comprise the vast majority of students? Before we jump to the conclusion that this can be accomplished by the proper teaching of young children, it is obviously true that we can never make everyone devoted to any specific skill, say for example, to make everyone fanatically interested in ballet dancing.

(6) Book Reports.

(8) Impromptu Topics and Demonstrations by Attendees.

The STEM Society web site:

<http://www.stem2.org/>

3 The Meeting

Our failing projector did work a little better than last meeting, but still was a little dim and fuzzy. However, we are replacing it with a new projector.

Rick Lavelock gave his presentation on the Honeywell move and such, but only because he had brought his own laptop, which he used after experiencing some frustration with our desktop. Our desktop computer was not working in a proper manner. Consequently some of the topics we had prepared we could not present. I think I will be sure to bring a laptop to future meetings just in case.

However, we did have a discussion on our topic number 5, from above, on the frustrations of trying to teach students science and mathematics, when they are for the most part just not very interested. We did not really reach any real consensus on this though.

The Lavelock presentation was one that had been presented to many different groups. There was not much about reuse of the abandoned facility for education, although from what was presented such reuse for education seems to me rather unlikely.

The audience did appear to have a good time, even though the content of the meeting was a little thin.