

NEWSLETTER  
**December**  
2006



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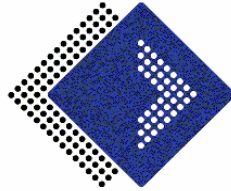
**Letter From the President:**

**SMTAI Goes Solo**

**2006 SMTA Vendor  
Day Schedule**



**Atlanta Chapter**



**SMTA**

Surface Mount Technology Association

**Back in the Saddle Again, By Dick Russell**

**It is great to be back as President of the Atlanta Chapter.**

For those who don't know me, I was the Membership Chairman during the initial formation of the Atlanta SMTA Chapter (12 years ago). That February during our formation, the SMTA held its first Officer Forum in Minneapolis (Yes – Minneapolis – February). I was adventurous - enough and had a real winter coat - to "volunteer" to attend the classes on how to be an effective leader in a volunteer organization. When I returned, the President notified us she was moving back to where her hometown. I was instantly pushed forward into Presidency, since I was "factory trained".

Over multiple terms as President, I have had the pleasure and honor to lead this chapter into two "Chapter of the Year Awards" starting the Atlanta SMTA Expo with Frances Stewart, *Circuits Assembly Magazine*, (amazing how things circle back). I am extremely proud that we started supporting worthwhile charities such as the American Red Cross, (during 911 and Hurricane Katrina), Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Joseph Sams School as well as our own Atlanta SMTA scholarship fund. We also supported the Hutchins Grant, given by the SMTA. My chest starts to swell when I hear that other chapters in the SMTA are now helping similar charities, (that's what it is about).

In October I will end a two year term on the Board of Directors for the SMTA. During this tenure we have been faced with a lot of "global" decisions about China and the Pacific Rim. This year I recently voted and supported the decision to leave the ATE Show in Chicago and form our own show in Orlando. The Board is also, currently looking at other shows for us to co-host to replace revenue from SMTA-I .



(Letter from the President continued)

The SMTA Atlanta Chapter is looking for a few good people to make presentations at our general Chapter meetings in 2007.

The motto of the SMTA is "Sharing the Knowledge"; so SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH US by being A SPEAKER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE in our community...VOLUNTEER TO SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE.

Here is a list of the top areas of interest voted on by our SMTA membership.

1. Advanced Packaging: BGA, CSP, 0201:
2. Industry Trends:
3. Lead Free Assembly/RoHs/WEEE:
4. Lean Manufacturing:
5. PCB Surface Finishes:
6. Soldering Processes:
7. DFM, Failure Analysis, Flex/Rigid, Quality and Standards:
8. Chip on Board and Cleaning:

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL? HOW ABOUT A PROCESS THAT WORKED? How about a "Horror Story" - - SHARE IT WITH FELLOW SMTA MEMBERS.

Here is a list of scheduled months for our 2007 meetings:

Jan  
Mar  
May  
Sept  
Nov

Contact Bob Lazarra  
CircuitConnect@aol.com

This year I also circled back to Micromeritics after leaving to work with Clover Electronics and Phoenix Designs. (Again, amazing how things come around).

I am excited with our 2007 officers and committee heads, aka the "Dream Team" of Atlanta. Join me in thanking the following individuals for volunteering their services and precious time to make this chapter worthwhile for you  
Secretary – Matt Kehoe, SIPAD Systems  
Treasurer – John Burris, Automated Logic  
VP Membership – Jean Arnold, Cable Connections  
VP Technical – Bob Lazzara, Circuit-Connect  
Expo Committee Chair – Frances Stewart, UP Media Group  
Webmaster – Ben McCallum, Micromeritics  
Vice President - CW Kelly, Z-Mar

I want to remind everyone – please support our chapter and efforts by the officers by attending:

**The First Meeting in 2007:**

We will be meeting at Viscom's brand new facility in Duluth with a presentation on automated optical inspection. Shane's Rib Shack will be catering the meeting with ribs and chopped chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, Texas toast, cookies and tea.

**Scholarship Funds:**

At the January meeting we will be presenting our scholarship awards. *Quick*, if you have not applied – please do so before Jan 3rd. Because we have experienced several technical difficulties with our web site, please contact Jean Arnold (even if you applied) to verify we have your application, [jean@cable-connections.com](mailto:jean@cable-connections.com)

**Schedule of Events:**

Be sure to mark your new 2007 calendars with the following dates: January 18<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup> chapter meetings. April 19<sup>th</sup> for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlanta SMTA Chapter Expo at the Gwinnett Civic Center, May 17<sup>th</sup>, September 20<sup>th</sup>, and November 15<sup>th</sup> chapter meetings We will be constantly updating the webpage [www.atlantasmta.com](http://www.atlantasmta.com) and sending out reminders as we establish the locations and presentations.

Thank you again,

Dick Russell, President  
Atlanta SMTA Chapter  
Micromeritics





## SMTA Vendor Show Schedules

### Arizona/Sonora Vendor Show

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

[Embassy Suites Hotel](#)

4400 S. Rural Road  
Tempe, AZ 85282

### Dallas SMTA Vendor Show

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

[Richardson Civic Center](#)

411 West Arapaho Road  
Richardson, TX 75080

### Houston SMTA Vendor Show

Friday, March 23, 2007

[Sam Houston Race Park](#)

7575 N. Sam Houston Pkwy W.  
Houston, TX 77064  
Show Hours: 12:00pm - 5:00pm

### 11th Atlanta SMTA Expo

Thursday, April 19, 2007

[Gwinnett Civic Center](#)

6400 Sugarloaf Parkway  
Duluth, Georgia 30097  
Show Hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm

### SMTA Boston Vendor Show

Wednesday, June 20, 2007

[Holiday Inn Boxborough Hotel](#)

242 Adams Place  
Boxborough, MA  
Show Hours: 11:00am - 7:00pm  
Set-up: 6/19 8pm - 10pm, 6/20  
8am - 11am



## SMTA International Going Solo in 2007

We want you and all of our SMTA members and chapters to give total support to our new endeavor --- SMTAI 2007 Orlando. The event will be held October 7-11, 2007 and includes THE BEST INDUSTRY TECHNICAL PROGRAM. The SMTA prides on our 22 year history of producing quality conferences. JoAnn Stromberg has personal relationships with TOP speakers who are very loyal to our conference because they know we demand quality.

From the exhibits standpoint, we are ready to provide attendees and exhibitors a targeted show. The hall will accommodate exhibitors large and small and equipment vendors will be there as well as exhibitors taking smaller booths. All coffee breaks, lunches and receptions will be held on the exhibit floor allowing unlimited networking.

SMTAI 2007 Orlando will be all under one roof at the fabulous Gaylord Palms Convention Center and Hotel -- Attendees do not have to work their way through assembly exhibits which do not apply to electronics. Our event is for colleagues involved in ELECTRONICS ONLY --- that's what our industry needs and SMTA is delighted to offer a focused association trade show and conference.

Support us -- mark your calendars. EVERYONE, SPREAD THE WORD AND HELP US MAKE THIS NEW SMTA EVENT A TOTAL SUCCESS.

If you want to be added to our mail list for exhibiting or attending, please send an e-mail to [smta.org](mailto:smta.org) or call 952-920-7682.

See you in Orlando - October 2007 for SMTA International!



[www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordpalms/](http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordpalms/)



## THOUGHTS from the FRINGE



by **Bob Lazzara**  
Circuit Connect, Inc.



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**Ancient Roman solder paste?**  
Not exactly: It's 2,000 year-old fat-based face cream that used white tin to replace lead acetate as a coloring agent.

RoHS meets Maximus Factor?

## Europe Decides: White Tin Replaces Lead... ...2,000 YEARS BEFORE RoHS

**AFTER NEARLY 100 HAPPY YEARS** of using lead to keep things together, most of the electronics assembly industry began this year to transition to Pb-free soldering materials. Thanks to a piece of European legislation, short-named *RoHS*, and its sidekick, *WEEE*, the only lead now tolerated in Europe is a right foot firmly planted in the left lane of the Autobahn.

And China's tougher version of RoHS begins in less than 90-days.

The ensuing quest for the best lead free solder has yielded an endless barrage of alloys, finishes and coatings for components, boards and assemblies. So where to begin? Perhaps a trip back in time is in order. Way-back...

...to July 1, 0006. After hundreds of years of use as a cosmetic coloring agent, citizens of Rome-controlled Britain decided to dump lead and switch to an alternative material. Their metal of choice? Not silver. Nor bismuth. They chose white tin.

This cosmetic milestone became known through a recent discovery made at an archaeological site in Southwark, London<sup>1</sup> of a small pot containing a smooth mixture of animal fat, starch and tin oxide<sup>2</sup>. Archaeologists identified the substance as an early face cream. But unlike similar specimens found throughout Roman ruins, this tin oxide cream replaced the more-commonly used lead acetate cream (Rome knew of Britain's rich tin resources and exploited same).

Fast forward to 2006: Granted, there's no relevant connection between ancient face creams and modern electronic materials. But it may be interesting to pause and reflect - if only for this moment - that the issue of finding alternatives to lead isn't really all that new.

In-fact, you could say it's ancient history.

<sup>1</sup> "Roman pot reveals oldest face cream" *Daily Telegraph*, Pav Akhtar, 29/07/2003

<sup>2</sup> "Roman cosmetic secrets revealed" *BBC*, 04/11/2004  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/3978775.stm>

<sup>3</sup> "Recipe for Roman cosmetic revealed" *Science News*, Alexandra Goho, Dec. 11, 2004

