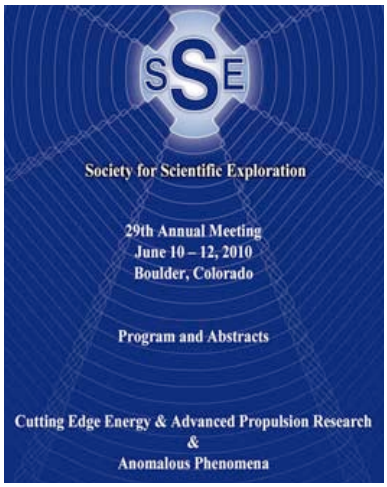
Society for Scientific Exploration 2010 Annual Meeting

Ken Rauen

The Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE, (www.scientificexploration.org) held its 29th annual meeting at the Millenium Harvest House Hotel in Boulder, Colorado from June 10-12, 2010. The title of the conference was "Cutting Edge Energy & Advanced Propulsion Research & Anomalous Phenomena." Unlike most professional scientific organizations, the SSE encourages debates in frontier topics of science, such as zero-point energy and psi phenomena. This odd mixture of generic topics found a congenial environment throughout the conference. Largely attended by people in two different camps, they entertained each other with all of the presentations. The conference organizer was Dr. Daniel Sheehan, Professor of Physics at the University of San Diego, whose personal research, like my own, delves beyond the traditional limits of the Second Law of Thermodynamics.



The conference opened with a talk by Jack Houck, a retired aerospace engineer who years ago introduced the phenomenon of psychokinesis to the world through spoon bending parties, training 18,000 Americans how to do it with an 80% success rate. See his website, www.jackhouck.com.

The first set of papers of the conference focused on advanced propulsion and energy conversion. Eric Davis from the Institute for Advanced Studies (Austin, Texas) gave the first presentation, a realistic introduction to faster-than-light (FTL) space travel. In short, "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" special effects are being taken seriously by physicists, including those at NASA JPL.

Others spoke of their research into FTL transportation, all of them from extensive research backgrounds. This conference had a profound air of genuine scientific investigation. This is real science being done by many individuals, within a professional association. For those seeking a professional science journal to publish their work in, the SSE's *Journal of Scientific Exploration* is a worthy consideration.

Second Law challengers presented their arguments. Daniel Sheehan talked about the field in general, then presented details for a nanotechnology semiconductor PN junction thermoelectric generator. This thermoelectric generator has the traditional reverse junction of the circuit replaced with a vacuum-gapped hammer and anvil mechanical oscillator. The oscillator produces mechanical energy from the vacuum-gapped "reverse junction" capacitor charge in which the oscillator is built. Electrical energy is transduced out of the nanotech mechanical oscillator, coming solely from ambient heat. Angel funding has been provided to enter the cleanroom fabrication stage of the first prototypes. Dr. Sheehan has published a theoretical paper on a similar topic (*Journal of Chemical Physics*, 2005, Vol. 122, 1).

I also presented in this arena, lecturing from my *Infinite Energy* #52 paper about "The Proell Effect: A Macroscopic Demon," and the research that was done prototyping an engine concept while at New Energy Research Laboratory in 2000-2003. Still, this research remains unassailed. The conference was attended by several university physics professors, and again, no flaws were found. Debate was lively on this topic of the Rauen and Sheehan research projects, but congenial and open, like scientific debate should be. If there ever has been a genuine, scientific society conference chock-full of heretical topics, this was it.

For those *IE* readers in the scientific disciplines, things got even weirder than this. The research into psi phenomena uses statistics to demonstrate existence of purported phenomena of human consciousness. The statistical body of evidence, particularly regarding the conscious influence over machines, featuring random number generators, is prodigious. Dr. Robert Jahn, from the PEAR Lab at Princeton (http://www.princeton.edu/~pear/), was here and he, like Jack Houck, helped establish this field as legitimate.

Other presenters extended this field into remote viewing. All of them have U.S. military intelligence connections. Courtney Brown's presentations of The Farsight Institute in Atlanta were of keen interest, with the Institute's extremely detailed research into remote viewing. "Military grade" remote viewers in his study groups provide stunning evidence of the ability of consciousness to circumvent the limitations of space and time, to where only pure cynicism can withstand the evidence.

These two fields of frontier physics alternative energy/propulsion and psi research have one researcher in common: Hal Puthoff. He is known to *IE* readers as the most prominent ZPE researcher, but he also was a founder of the remote viewing research at Stanford Research Institute in the 1970s, along with Russell Targ, in cooperation with the U.S. government. Hal Puthoff was not present, but the number two personality in ZPE research, Bernard Haisch, was. Bernie presented his budding engineering research into a ZPE generator which is being developed in cooperation with University of Colorado at Boulder Physics Professor Garret Moddel, the outgoing SSE President. It was encouraging to see real efforts to tap ZPE. One of Garrett's grad students, Olga Dmitriyeva, did a preliminary laboratory study of ZPE-tapping modalities and she presented some eyebrow-raising data showing that it may indeed be possible on a greater-

than-a-fly's-whisker scale. Of all the talk about ZPE over the years, the author has been disappointed. This was the first "cool drink of water" on the topic at this conference. May Bernie and Garrett do well as they explore a whole new continent of opportunity.

Dr. Robert Park, Professor of Physics at the University of Maryland and an outspoken critic of "voodoo science" as an American Physical Society spokesperson, has a colleague on his campus whom he is not familiar with. Biochemistry Professor John Hansen presented a paper entitled, "A Torsion Pendulum that Detects and Measures a Novel Form of Cranial Energy." As Gene Mallove used to say, "We are not in Kansas anymore!" Dr. Hansen told the author that he and Dr. Park are not aware of each other.

Humor was present also. York Dobyns, Professor of Physics at Princeton, gave a delightful paper on what seems to be possible for advanced propulsion but what fails scrutiny.

Another noteworthy paper presented at the conference was by University of Quebec at Chicoutimi Physics Professor Rene Verreault, "Some Evidence of Lunar Periodicities in the Precession of a Standard Foucault Pendulum." It is the author's opinion that the standard model of gravity is wrong; this experimental evidence, plus the "insolvability" of the three body problem, and other evidence like the torsion pendulum research of Erwin Saxl, one of Einstein's grad students at Princeton, all point a seriously questioning finger at the classical understanding of gravity, which actually is not clearly understood. Maybe science is not done and we still have more to learn.

At the banquet that finished the conference, one of the psi-side attendees demonstrated his ability to bend spoons at my table, a private audience of eight. He picked up a heavy stainless steel spoon from the table from the stainless silverware that we were eating with, and gently held it in one hand. He waved his other hand over it, about 2 inches away, in a way that all of us could easily see what was happening. The spoon's thin stem by the bowl of the spoon bent as if the upheld spoon bowl was a flower bud and the flower stem wilted in about 10 seconds, to an angle of about 120 degrees from normal. This could not be done without substantial force, which he demonstrated by straightening the spoon. He then went on to do it three more times, in different ways in just seconds, including twisting the neck of the spoon while the spoon was held in horizontal balance with just two fingers. We examined the spoons as well—a great way to end a great conference!

DVD recordings of all conference proceedings are available from National Conference Recording Service (www.ncrusa.com). Sorry, the spoon bending demonstration was out of the spotlight and not recorded.

The next conference is scheduled for June 9-11, 2011 in Boulder, Colorado.