

*"Inventors Helping Inventors"*



# THE Tampa Bay INVENTOR NEWSLETTER

*The Official Publication of the Tampa Bay Inventor's Council*

P.O. BOX 1620 St. Petersburg, Florida 33731-1620

July 2001

## UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

### July 11

Club Vice President, Russ Randall will be taking time out from busy boat building business to give us his insite into being an inventor. Russ is gearing up to produce and sell his human powered boat in volume and he may give us an update also.

### July 25

Gracia Bennish is known for her fine art. Because she likes to eat out at really nice restaurants and play with expensive toys, she learned to make a living applying her talents to the business community. Her company is called Gracia Creative. Over twenty years ago, she began to study the fields of marketing and promotion. She found that all companies need to focus on basics—image and identity. If a company presents itself well, it attains credibility. How should you present yourself as an inventor? How should you present your company? Your products? What does imagination and art have to do with it?

Find out more at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## CALENDAR

### GENERAL MEETINGS

- July 11 ..... 7:30 pm
- July 25 ..... 7:30 pm
- Aug 8 ..... 7:30 pm
- Aug 22 ..... 7:30 pm

**The Board of Trustees Meeting**  
TBA  
Largo Library, 5:30 pm

All meetings held at:  
**Largo Library**  
351 East Bay Drive  
Largo, Florida on  
2nd & 4th  
Wednesdays

•  
For information call:  
*See listing of Directors on page 2*

### LUNCHEON MEETING

- June 20 ..... 12:00 noon
- July 18 ..... 12:00 noon

**Santa Madeira Restaurant**  
Madeira Beach

Continued from facing page

My wife tells me the story of a famous writer who spent one hour a day writing, door closed, family warned to not disturb her unless the house was burning down and the flames were approaching her door! Perhaps you need to take a “mercenary attitude” toward time for the things you love will do. Or simply make and keep appointments with yourself for those special hats that comprise inventing!

So the message this month is “Hats On” inventors! Wear your chosen hats and get your products completed. That way we’ll all say “Hats Off!” to you.

Chuck Van Breemen  
President

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## Need to Reach TBIC?

Website:

<http://www.patent-faq.com/tbichome.htm>

Our new Website:

<http://www.inventorscouncil.org>

Copies of Newsletter to download:

<http://www.inventioneering.org>

Email:

[TBIC@patent-faq.com](mailto:TBIC@patent-faq.com)

or call Dave Kiewit, Secretary:

Phone - 727- 866-0669

Submit Artieles to our Editor at:

[Chuck@inventioneering.org](mailto:Chuck@inventioneering.org)

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Printed by Good Things.com

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*The Tampa Bay Inventors' Council (TBIC) is a corporation as defined in Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, as not for profit. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, education and scientific purposes. The TBIC is a 501 (C) (3) charitable corporation which allows the receiving of tax deductible contributions of goods and services. There are over 100 active members willing to share their expertise and experiences with fellow inventors. Meetings are held at the Largo Library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. Yearly dues are \$45 and include the Membership Directory & Resource Reference Book.*



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

HATS OFF to all my fellow inventors!

“Hats off” means to respect, admire or congratulate. This I do. I respect and admire my fellow inventors. I congratulate all of you for all the products that you create.

HATS ON to my fellow inventors! When I say “hats on,” I’m referring to the myriad of hats that we all must wear to get our products out.

A “hat” can mean “a hat of distinctive color and shape worn as a symbol of office.” Further, it means “a role or office symbolized by or as if by the wearing of special hats: *wore different hats as homemaker and executive.*” (The American Heritage Dictionary)

I’ll never forget the story of a wife (not mine, thank god!) who wanted to receive a fair salary for her work. In negotiating, she reminded her husband of her hats: a cook, housekeeper, nurse, psychologist, teacher, mother, lover, and chauffeur. Her salary demands were enormous!

A good way to organize inventing is to sort out the different hats you wear to get a product. Designer? Draftsman? Purchasing agent? Salesman? Treasurer? Legal? Modelmaker?

You can even create different work areas for different hats, and/or different times for working on the different aspects of inventing.

You can organize your whole life by listing out the various hats you wear. You may be surprised at the number of them. Besides your day job, you have yard work, you’re the general fix-it man in the family, the mechanic, the disciplinarian, you’re a singer in the local church choir--oh boy! How do you find time for it all? (And don’t forget the hat of member of The Tampa Bay Inventor’s Council!)

Continued on facing page

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2001 MEETING  
TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL

Income Builders International

Kim Morilla, from Income Builders International, was our featured speaker and provided us with an hour long sales pitch for a membership-based entrepreneurial seminar. Their \$6500 fee allows one to attend a week-long seminar and to return, as often as desired, for a networking part of the sessions, which are repeated six times a year. Kim did not provide us with a lot of details on just what one got in return for a fairly substantial investment of time and money, but a brochure from IBI explained it as “. . . a vehicle that someone who is just starting out in their career/business as well as a multi-millionaire that has experienced many successes both find they are accelerated into what is next in their life.” (Communicating clearly in writing is apparently NOT one of the things that should be next in your life). You can allegedly learn more on the internet at [www.ibi.org](http://www.ibi.org) – but when I tried to access that site it refused me access. Having sales information readily available apparently wasn't part of what was next in somebody's life while the web site was being designed.

Wound Closure

Bob Wheeler spoke for a former member who had partly solved a problem in bandaging up a wound and wanted to contribute his for others to work on. The problem involve a relative who cut himself fairly deeply, but who didn't want to go an emergency room for sutures. The solution was to put strips of tape on both sides of the wound, put a line of bumps on each piece of tape and then lace the wound closed. We don't know just what “bumps” were used, but they were apparently less than completely satisfactory. If anyone has further ideas on how to make a lace-up suture tape, he or she should call Bob.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 27, 2001 MEETING  
TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL

Prototyping

Randy Landreneau showed us a home-made video documenting the steps in making a prototype of specially shaped and patented

bottom for a soft drink bottle. His approach started with sculpting the shape that he wanted using Sculpey brand clay. A silicone rubber mold was then prepared by pouring plastic over the clay model. He then cast a number of Plaster-of-Paris duplicates of his original sculpted model, hollowed these out with a routing tool, and drilled small vent holes through selected regions. Steve Gates' vacuum forming machine was then used to draw a sheet of plastic over the plaster molds. Cutting away the excess plastic sheet left Randy with the desired bottle bottom.

### **A Partial Listing**

Otto Rodríguez described several of his patented inventions for which licenses are available. These included:

- A two-wheel drive bicycle designed for full-body exercise. The rider's arms power the front wheel.
- A low-cost approach for attaching a plastic tub inside a commode to provide a bidet function.
- A piston ring tester in which the time required to blow a charge of oil past the piston rings is used as a measure of ring integrity.
- An anti-kickback device for small engines that have a recoil starter. A locking mechanism normally allows the pull-cord to travel only in one direction. After each pull, the lock is released so the cord can rewind.
- An asymmetrical wheel bearing for a grocery cart that biases the front wheels into a toed-in or toed-out setting so that an abandoned cart does not roll freely. Otto said that over \$35 million dollars is paid out each year to repair minor automobile body damage caused by run-away carts in supermarket parking lots.
- A hand-truck for parcel delivery trucks. This truck is special in that it has a detachable power unit that drives a stair-climbing mechanism and a lift platform. With the power unit attached, the truck can be used for heavy packages or for carrying a sizable package up stairs. With the power unit removed, the hand truck can be used in a conventional fashion when dealing with lighter packages.

Dave Kiewit, Secretary, TBIC

## LEARNING FROM NATURE

“The Munich Olympic Stadium has the biggest roof in the world. It is built from a mesh of strong steel cables that hold up a light-weight covering of clear plastic panels. Their German architect Frei Otto (b 1925) devised its structure after studying the many strong stretched shapes that are found in nature, such as spiders’ webs and soap bubbles.”

from: *Inventions Explained, A Beginner’s Guide to Technological Breakthroughs* by Richard Platt.

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## CAN’T WE MAKE IT BETTER?

The modern telescope is almost unchanged since its invention in 1608.

from: *Inventions Explained, A Beginner’s Guide to Technological Breakthroughs* by Richard Platt.

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## COCA COLA — a “lucky” mistake

John Pemberton, a pharmacist from Atlanta, Georgia, had already invented “French Wine Coca — The Ideal Nerve Tonic, Health Restorer and Stimulant,” “Lemon and Orange Elixer,” and “Dr. Pemberton’s Indian Queen Magic Hair Dye.” His goal was to make a remedy for people who tumbled too much.

Her stirred up a brew in a huge kettle and heated it over an open fire. He told his assistant to mix the syrup with water. Instead, the assistant mixed it with carbonated water and it was a hit.

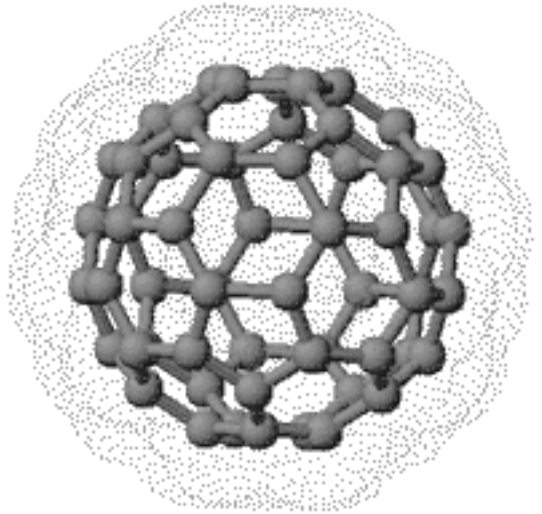
Pemberton had thought he’d created a tonic to relieve exhaustion, aid the nervous and soothe headaches. Instead he sold Coco-Cola as a soda fountain drink. In 1886, Coco-Cola sales averaged nine drinks a day. Today people in 155 countries drink 393 million Coco-Cola drinks every day.

Reference: *Mistakes that Worked* by Charlotte Foltz Jones

## BUCKY BALL, WHAT IS IT?

It is the roundest and most symmetrical large molecule known to man. Buckminsterfullerene continues to astonish with one amazing property after another. Named after American architect R. Buckminster Fuller who designed a geodesic dome with the same fundamental symmetry, C<sub>60</sub> is the third major form of pure carbon; graphite and diamond are the other two. Buckyballs were discovered in 1985 - the product of an experiment on carbon molecules in space. However, it was not until 1991 that buckyball science came into its own. Just how do buckyballs manage their chemical and physical feats? In C<sub>60</sub>, hexagons and pentagons of carbon link together in a coordinated fashion to form a hollow, geodesic dome with bonding strains equidistributed among 60 carbon atoms. Spherical buckyballs

literally add a new dimension to the chemistry of such aromatic compounds. Buckminsterfullerene has been named the Molecule of the Year. In addition to opening up new fields on chemistry, C<sub>60</sub> also shows interesting physical properties. It is resistant to shock and it has been suggested that as a lubricant, there is even evidence of superconductivity and it may provide the added ingredient that makes diamond films more practical.



### A NEW CHEMISTRY FOR CARBON

Until a few years ago, there were two known forms of pure carbon, graphite and diamond. Then an improbable-seeming third form of carbon was discovered: a hollow cluster of 60 carbon atoms shaped like a soccer ball. Buckminsterfullerene or "buckyballs"--named for the American architect R. Buckminster Fuller, whose geodesic domes had a similar structure--is the roundest, most symmetrical large molecule known. It is exceedingly rugged and very stable, capable of surviving the temperature extremes of outer space. At first, however,

the molecule was a mystery wrapped in an enigma. But when a convenient way of making this molecule, also known as C60, was discovered, it set off an explosion of research among chemists, physicists, and materials scientists to uncover the molecule's secrets. Investigators soon discovered a whole family of related molecules, including C70, C84 and other "fullerenes"--clusters as small as C28 and as large as a postulated C240. These unusual molecules turn out to have extraordinary chemical and physical properties. They react with elements from across the periodic table and with the chemical species known as free radicals--key to the polymerization processes widely used in industry--thus opening up the fullerenes to the manipulative magic of organic chemists.

When a fullerene is "doped" by inserting just the right amount of potassium or cesium into empty spaces within the crystal, it becomes a superconductor--the best organic superconductor known. More important, because C60 is a relatively simple system, it may help physicists master the still mysterious theory of high-temperature superconductivity. Speculation and some hard work on potential applications began almost immediately after the discovery of buckyballs. Possible applications of interest to industry include optical devices; chemical sensors and chemical separation devices; production of diamonds and carbides as cutting tools or hardening agents; batteries and other electrochemical applications, including hydrogen storage media; drug delivery systems and other medical applications; polymers, such as new plastics; and catalysts. Catalysts, in fact, appear to be a natural application for fullerenes, given their combination of rugged structure and high reactivity. Experiments suggest that fullerenes which incorporate alkali metals possess catalytic properties resembling those of platinum.

The C60 molecule can also absorb large numbers of hydrogen atoms--almost one hydrogen for each carbon--without disrupting the buckyball structure. This property suggests that fullerenes may be a better storage medium for hydrogen than metal hydrides, the best current material, and hence possibly a key factor in the development of new batteries and even of non-polluting automobiles based on fuel cells. A thin layer of the C70 fullerene, when deposited on a silicon chip, seems to provide a vastly improved template for growing thin films of diamond. It is too early to make reliable forecasts of commercial potential, although the early indications are that



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buckyballs may represent a technological bonanza when their properties are fully understood. Yet it is important to note that the discovery of this curious molecule and its cousins was serendipitous, made in the course of fundamental experiments aimed at understanding how long-chain molecules are formed in outer space. It is a strong reminder that fundamental science is often the wellspring of advanced technology in ways that are completely unpredictable

By Andy Gion

Excerpted from: <http://qlink.queensu.ca/~7jld/Chem210/>

Picture from: <http://www.nidlink.com/~jfromm/bucky/bucky.htm>

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Rather than force our children along the lines of standardized sociability fostering the illusion that they are supposed to be a uniform product of a human assembly line, we should be teaching them. . . that life is adventure, novelty and above all the discovery of self, that all the springs of worthwhile action have come from individual minds. . . and that each. . . human being has qualities and capacities in combination that are all his own. N.J. BERRILL

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## WEB SITES OF INTEREST

US Patent & Trademarks Office:	<a href="http://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a>
Delphion (IBM)	<a href="http://www.delphion.com">www.delphion.com</a>
Optipat	<a href="http://www.optipat.com">www.optipat.com</a>
Interesting inventor' site	<a href="http://www.patentcafe.com">www.patentcafe.com</a>
Nat. inventors' hall of fame	<a href="http://www.invent.org">www.invent.org</a>
Nat assoc. of product development	<a href="http://www.napd.org">www.napd.org</a>
Trade show guide	<a href="http://www.expoguide.com">www.expoguide.com</a>
Inventor's Digest	<a href="http://www.inventorsdigest.com">www.inventorsdigest.com</a>

# HAYSTACK TOYS IS TELLING INVENTORS WHAT TOYS PARENTS WANT

Haystack Toys is the shortest path between innovation and the consumer, inviting parents to share their views about products they would like to purchase. The information is processed by Haystack, summarized and then relayed to the inventor community via the Inventors Center, Haystack's inventor content and community area found at [www.haystacktoys.com](http://www.haystacktoys.com).

By Andy Gion, Excerpted from

Haystack announces the third annual Great American Toy Hunt. The Great American Toy Hunt™ is Haystack's revolutionary and unique process of discovery.

“We will accept applications beginning May 25, 2001 at our website [www.haystacktoys.com](http://www.haystacktoys.com) or by calling 1-877-I INVENT. From the applications, we will choose inventors to schedule confidential meetings with Haystack's expert toy panelists. We will be visiting family destination Silver Dollar City in Branson Missouri August 6-7 to meet with inventors like you in our search of “needle in the haystack” ideas – truly ingenious and unique toys that withstand the test of time. We will pick-up our Hunt again in October when we will visit Chicago, San Francisco and New York.

## WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

Haystack is looking for toys that encourage creative play for children age three and up. We are NOT looking for board games, video games, puzzles, crafts, entertainment licensed products or character-driven lines. Do you have a great idea? Apply to join us on the Hunt!”





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**Make your Inventing Process More Effective and More Fun!**

A few of the benefits you will enjoy: Monthly programs, Luncheons, Free workshops, Updates on Legislation affecting the Industry, Free TBIC Membership Directory, and Current Industry News!

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
TAMPA BAY INVENTORS' COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 1620, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33731  
Attn: Treasurer**

**Membership Application  
Dues \$ 45 per year**

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