

March 2003
Vol 3 Issue 1

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Next Chapter Meeting

**Join us Tuesday, April 8, 2003,
 at Holiday Inn, Route 495 and 20,
 Marlboro**

Time: 5:30-8:30PM

Presentation: Managing Virtual Projects

Presenter: Marcus Goncalves, President, Marcus Goncalves Consulting Group



<http://www.acteva.com/go/centralmass>

Cost: \$25.00 for early registration and pre-payment, \$30.00 at the door

If you prefer not to use our online sign up service, please make your check out to:

Central Mass Chapter of PMI and mail to:

PMI Central Mass Chapter
 c/o Jim Baldinger
 204 Glen Street
 Marlboro, MA 01752

Note From Our President

By Jim Baldinger

Managing the project portfolio, setting up and managing a project office, assessing and managing risks, resolving conflict, building teams, developing requirements, managing the project life cycle, using diversity to the team's advantage, communicating effectively, and more are all challenges that project managers deal with every minute of their career. Every day there are successes and failures. Most importantly, there are always opportunities to learn and move forward. In accepting the honor of president of the PMI Central Mass Chapter, I see an opportunity to facilitate this learning and momentum.

My goal over the next few months is for the Chapter to provide a forum for you, the members, to gain knowledge and share experiences that will enhance your project management skills and tools. I hope that every one of you will be able to attribute at least one helpful tidbit to your membership in the Chapter. As you know, however, there is never a free lunch. In order for the Chapter to meet its goals we need your help. Please give us your feedback on our meetings and programs. If you have an idea for a meeting activity or speaker, please pass it on. The enthusiasm is building. I ask your help in keeping it going.

PMP Care & Feeding

By Jim Walsh, PMP

After obtaining Project Management Professional certification there is a requirement to demonstrate an ongoing professional commitment to the field of project management. The vehicle for this demonstration is the Professional Development Unit (PDU). Typically, one PDU is 'earned' for each hour spent in 'planned, structured learning experience or activity.' The experience or activity can be in one of five areas: 1) formal academic education, 2) professional activities and self-directed learning, 3) PMI registered education provider instruction, 4) other provider instruction, or 5) service to professional or community organizations.

The Continuing Certification Requirements Handbook, available on the PMI web site, provides answers to most questions you might have about obtaining PDU's and reporting them. But it doesn't clearly spell out how to report activity associated with 'potential' chapters, like ours.

Recently we spoke with Leslie Higham, Accreditation Programs Coordinator for the national PMI organization. She indicated that PDU's earned through events like our chapter meetings should be

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Courses held in Boston.

March 10 - 14, 2003

Courses held in Hartford.

March 24 - 28, 2003
 April 28 - May 2, 2003
 May 19 - 23, 2003
 June 23 - 27, 2003

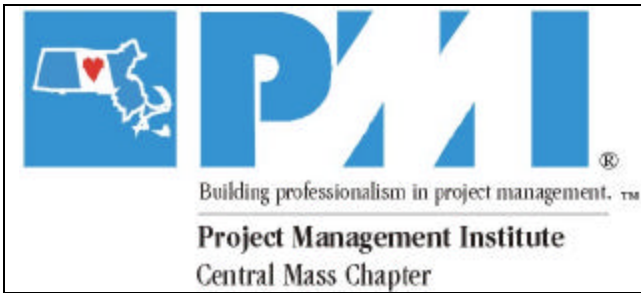
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Where Specifications Came From

Submitted By Tom Belanger

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and English expatriates built the US railroads. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing. Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts. So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since. And the ruts? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels and wagons, were first made by Roman war chariots. Since chariots were made for, or by Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing. Thus, we have the answer to the original question. The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live

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NEWSLETTER

Meeting Schedule

The Central Mass PMI Chapter meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro at the intersection of Routes 495 and 20 at 5:30pm. You may register and/or pay for these meetings at www.acteva.com/go/centralmass or via the link available with the 'Acteva, Register now' button.



Chapter meetings are currently scheduled for

April 8, 2003
May 13, 2003
June 10, 2003
July 8, 2003 (tentative)
August 12, 2003 (tentative)

Board meetings are currently scheduled for

March 25, 2003
April 22, 2003
May 27, 2003
June 24, 2003
July 22, 2003 (tentative)
August 26, 2003 (tentative)

Please visit the Central Mass PMI Chapter Web site at www.pmcmass.com for more information on these and other events.

Ad Space Available

Highly focused distribution and modestly priced. Contact belanger_thomas@pmcmass.com for details and to place your ad in this newsletter and our web site.

 Can we pencil you in??

Member at Large

Member: Eugene (Gene) Valois
-PMI Member since: August 2002
-CMASS Member Since: Jan 2003
-PMI Certification: CAPM pending
-Career Span: 20 years
-Companies/Business worked for: -
GTE Government Systems
-CyberTrust Solutions,
-Baltimore Technologies - Voice and data transmission security companies. –
Positions held:
-Digital Hardware Engineer,
-Systems Architect,
-Project Manager
Current Title and Company: -Project Manager, unemployed
Education:
-BSEE
-PM Certificate from WPI.
-Tidbits: Tail Gunner on B-52 during Vietnam War.

PMP Cost Increase On Horizon

By Jim Walsh, PMP

Attention Project Management Professionals. Chapter leaders have been informed by PMI HQ of plans to reinstate a processing fee for PMP certification renewal beginning January 1, 2004. PMI US members will be assessed \$75 "to offset rising administrative costs." The charge for non US PMI members will be \$150.

At the end of the Continuing Certification Requirements cycle and after required PDU's have been reported, an application for certification renewal needs to be submitted. When returning the renewal application, PMPs will be required to include the appropriate fee payment.

PMP Care & Feeding (Cont'd)

reported as category type 4, Other Provider. When our chapter is recognized and established as an education provider, the category will change to type 3, PMI Registered Education Provider Instruction.

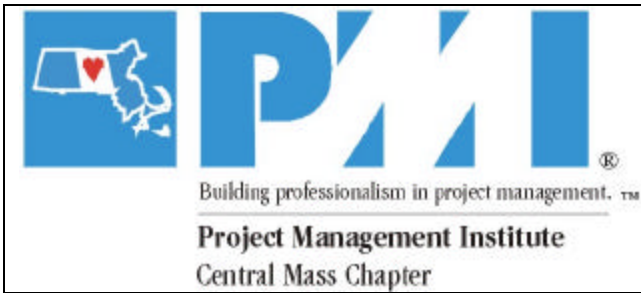
One of the bits of information required when reporting PDU's is a program number which uniquely identifies the event. The program number is constructed by concatenating our chapter identification number and the event date in 'mmddyy' format. To illustrate, the program number for our February 18, 2003 chapter meeting would be C257-021803.

Recognizing the need to support our PMP members, chapter leaders are looking into expanding our event planning and announcements to include information needed to report PDU's. If you have a question in the mean time, don't hesitate to speak with board members or contact them via email.

In closing, we would reiterate the PMI recommendation to keep a folder for hardcopy that can substantiate your participation. This will insure you are well prepared should you be selected to participate in the random audits PMI performs each year.

Call For Speakers

The chapter is seeking ideas for stimulating topics and dynamic speakers for our monthly meetings. Forward your thoughts and suggestions to tom_belanger@pmcmass.com



NEWSLETTER

What Else Can We Do?

The board is seeking new ideas for programs and activities that will enhance the value of the Central Mass chapter to its members.

Share your thoughts and ideas on how our organization helps you in your project management endeavors and what else it might do to advance your career and the profession. Reply to barb@pmicmass.com

Project Manager Tools

Submitter: Karen Cardinal
Product Name: TrackPlus
Type of Product: SW application
Primarily used to: track action items, tasks, work packages, issues, problem reports
Where to find it:

<http://trackplus.sourceforge.net>

Benefits: Easy to use; many features

Cost: shareware

Where Specifications Came From (continued from page 2)

forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horses behind came up with it, you may be exactly right. Because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses.

Now the twist to the story.....

There's an interesting extension to the story about railroad gauges and horses' behinds. When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big boosters rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRB's. The SRB's are made by Thiokol at their factory in Utah. The Engineers who designed the SRB's might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRB's had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRB's had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses behinds. So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined by the width of a Horse's Behind!

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Meet The Board

Chapter elections were held on Tuesday, February 18, 2003. Members selected to provide leadership for our chapter were:

President: *Jim Baldinger*
Vice President: *Jim Walsh, PMP*
Treasurer: *Gene Valois*
Recording Secretary: *Rebecca Hagopian*

Non Elected Chapter Positions:

Director of Meetings and Events: *Open*
Director of Sponsorship: *Thomas Belanger, Acting*
Director of Education: *Thomas Belanger*
Director Of Communications: *Barbara Karten*

Jobs@PMICMass

By Jim Walsh, PMP

An important service our chapter provides to its members and the Central Mass business community is an opportunity to connect. Local employers through posting information on our web site about positions they are seeking to fill can gain access to our membership of skilled project management professionals. Making these professionals aware of the need is as easy as completing the job profile form available at www.pmicmass.com/postjob.htm then returning it via email to jobs@pmicmass.com. Profiles will be promoted at chapter meetings and posted on our web site for 30 days. A 30-day extension is available by simply providing email authorization.

The posting service is offered without charge to either members or employers. So don't hesitate to provide a pointer to www.pmicmass.com/postjob.htm and encouragement to send along a profile to be posted. And when you are ready for that new job be sure your search includes regularly stopping by our web site at www.pmicmass.com/jobspage.htm.