What is happening to the seasons? Mark Twain said of April:

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

Do we really have to remember the cold first of April for the rest of 2011? I hear the same complaint from most people I meet. Now the spring should be here and we ought to enjoy the few months of sun. But once the summer starts we will long for the milder days. We, the human beings, are never satisfied.

Back to this issue of the NY-Monitor. You may have noticed that we have advanced the posting of this issue by a week. But that is not enough. If we get the activity reports, event notifications and articles in time we should be able to go online during the first few days of the month. So, once more this editor appeals to you: please submit your items in time. It takes hours to do the fact checking, remove any doubts and finalize the layout. All these cannot be done in a microsecond.

Though the NY-Monitor is not yet fully equipped with bells and whistles that is possible to get from Wordpress . . . we are getting there. You will notice that the texts are bigger and easily readable. We have also provided the pdf versions of the articles and other items that you may want to download and print. We have given links to external web sites whenever that has been needed.

In the preceding section you must have found the calendar or events for April 26 through June 8 pretty full. There are many meetings scheduled and I hope that, depending on your own interest and taste of course, you will attend one or more of them. They are great for learning about new things and also for networking. We found that the calendar of events page gets the most hits. That is why it goes first, even before my few words.

For this issue our Section chair Darlene Rivera has sent a message for the NY-Monitor. She writes about the changes in our infrastructure that have been or will be necessary to move the Section forward. As in the past we wish her the best of luck in achieving the goals she envisions. I urge all of you in the NY Section to support the chair in her efforts.

Following the chair’s message we have the reports of section activities. The principal activity this month was our participation in the Lower Hudson valley Engineering Expo. We have two reports on that, one from Robert Pellegrino and the other from Balvinder Blah. Both of them volunteered to work at the IEEE booth and did a wonderful job in explaining the goals of the IEEE to the aspiring engineers and their parents. Our thanks to both.
Next, Dr. Mayer Sasson, LF and the chair of the IEEE-USA’s Energy Policy Committee, writes on the recommendations made by the committee for incorporation in the national energy policy. As they say, it is straight from the horse’s mouth and very illuminating to know how IEEE-USA is involved in shaping the energy policy of this country.

Mel Olken, LF and our historian gives us another gem of history from his basket. This time Olken concentrates on the history and use of transformers in transmission and distribution of electricity. Yes, William Stanley was the man who thought of such use of transformers.

Our last article in this issue comes from Dr. Ronald O. Brown, LSM and active in the Maine Section of the IEEE, writes on the attraction of engineering, fun and career development for the electrical and computer engineers in the current market situation. Dr. Brown is a successful consultant and knows very well the weak and the strong traits in the engineer candidates he interviews for jobs. Parts of his article were published in the Maine Sunday Telegram in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The present article gives the best of those published earlier and are posted here with the permission of the author and the Maine Sunday Telegram.

No publication is ever free of errors or typos. We are no exception. We made some mistakes in our February 2011 issue. Please see the section on corrections.

Then there are some words on Belarc Adviser on computer usage that I find handy and would like to share the information with all of you.

As usual the guide to the prospective authors is also posted. We have also given the rates for paid announcements. We will accept paid announcements for all our issues. That is the only way we can sustain the Monitor. So, please spread the news around and get us paid announcements, small or big.

Thank you!

Amitava Dutta-Roy, Editor