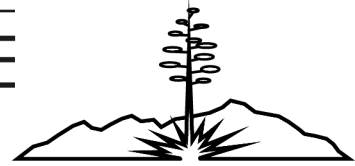




SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

# THE BORDER LINE

News from the SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER



February 2002, Volume 6, Number 6

## Meeting details

### When

Thursday, February 14

### Where

Courtyard by Marriott  
201 S. Williams Boulevard  
In the Williams Center,  
near Broadway and  
Craycroft.)

### Registration

5:30 - 6 p.m.

### Light meal

6 - 7 p.m.

### Program

7 - 8 p.m.

### Cost

\$10 members

\$15 nonmembers

\$5 program only

### RSVP

To RSVP or to get more  
information, contact  
Pat Markey at pat.markey  
@prodigy.net.

Reserve by 4 p.m.

Monday, February 11.

No-shows will be billed,  
and walk-ins are always  
welcome! (Although a  
meal is not guaranteed to  
walk-ins.)

## Join us February 14 Acing your interview with Andrew Davis

San Francisco Bay area recruiter and career coach Andrew Davis will present practical, irreverent, and effective advice for candidates interviewing for technical publications positions at the February meeting. Have you ever witnessed a hiring manager change the job description *during* the interview? Been on the losing end of a salary negotiation squeeze play? Fretted while the interviewer copyedits your alpha-draft writing sample? Stifled yawns because your boss-to-be wouldn't shut up and listen?

Ever wondered what you could say to make a manager eat out of your hand? How to let the interviewer know that it doesn't matter that you've not programmed in Java? How to negotiate compensation without risk? How to persuade a company to let you telecommute more often?

You'll get straight answers to all these questions and more — bring plenty of your own for the Q&A session to follow. Andrew's goal is to make you *look forward* to your next interview.

Andrew Davis runs Synergistech Communications, Inc., a Bay area recruiting and career coaching service exclusively for technical communicators. Andrew was a technical writer himself for a decade before "crossing the line" in 1995. He survived three years at Oracle, the notoriously ruthless database giant, and a four-year stint as an overachieving tech pubs contractor, before succumbing to terminal boredom (with writing API references) and rampant ambition (to provide better service to hiring managers than the recruiters who'd call him daily for candidate referrals while he was the San Francisco STC's vice president and president).

Synergistech strives to be the kind of recruiting company Andrew wishes had been available during his own tech writing career — an informed, fair, reliable ally in technical publications professionals' job search. Although his recruiting business is currently in hibernation due to weak economic demand, Andrew and his two recruiters are about to launch a separate enterprise focused on helping all job seekers improve their resumes, interviewing skills, and even their confidence about what their references will say.

Andrew hopes that you'll benefit from his insights, and he will be available after his presentation ("until the last person leaves") to critique your resume or answer questions.



### About the newsletter

*The Border Line* is the official publication of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Society for Technical Communication.

### Contributions

Contributions are welcome. Send mail to sarahbonati@captaris.com, or phone 320-7029. Include your name and telephone number with your submission.

For the publication of your first article, you'll be attending the Southern Arizona STC program of your choice as a guest of the chapter (workshops excluded).

Your submission should be factual, original, not previously published, and relevant to the field of technical communication; for example, describing tools, techniques, or tips for communicators.

By submitting an article, you implicitly grant a license to this newsletter to run the article and for other STC publications to reprint it without permission. Copyright is held by the writer. With your submission, please notify the editor if the article has run elsewhere and if it has been submitted for consideration to other publications.

The newsletter editor determines the submissions that are appropriate for publication. We reserve the right to edit your text to conform to the style guidelines and space restrictions of the newsletter.

The deadline for time-sensitive submissions is the first day of each month.

### Reprints

Reprints of *The Border Line* are not available, but back issues can be viewed at the chapter Web site.

## Newsletter subscription notes

*The Border Line* is mailed to nonmembers as a courtesy of the chapter. To keep mailing and printing costs down, the chapter will send newsletters to nonmembers for three months only.

To save paper, printing, and postage costs, *The Border Line* is available via e-mail in PDF format.

To sign up for this service, send a message to Sarah Bonati at sarahbonati@captaris.com.

## Chapter contacts

President	Brenda Huettner 749-0747 bphuettner@aol.com
Vice President	Helen Marty helen.marty@sunquest.com
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Publicity	Dennis Yannutz dyannutz@knowledgecc.com
Web site	Dirk J. Arnold dirkarnold@captaris.com

Administrative and program planning meetings for the chapter occur the first Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Café at Broadway and Rosemont. Members are welcome to participate.

## Society contacts

Society for Technical Communication

*Designing the future of technical communication*

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## Committee prepares for chapter elections

To prepare for annual chapter elections, an elections committee has been appointed to develop a slate of candidates for the four elected offices on the chapter administrative council.

The offices are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

You are welcome to suggest a nominee to the committee, or you can submit nominations independently:

- To suggest nominees to the committee, contact Elaine Knights (elk62@aol.com or call 299-6225.)
- To submit nominees to the council outside of the nominating committee, the nomination must be made in writing, and it must be signed by five voting members of the chapter. Send the nomination to chapter president Brenda Huettner (P.O. Box 14333, Tucson, 85732-4333).

Watch for these dates:

**February 15.** The election committee submits names of candidates to chapter president, Brenda Huettner.

**March 7.** Nominations announced to chapter membership. Announcement to include date of election and statement of methods of nominating and voting for candidates.

**April 1.** The election committee mails ballots to chapter membership.

**April 15.** Ballots must be postmarked or received by the election committee no later than April 18.

**April 18.** Election Day (votes are counted.)

**April 25.** Deadline for notifying chapter membership of election results.

## STC fees may be tax deductible

by Carrie Cooper, chapter treasurer

Thinking about your tax return? Don't forget that your STC annual membership dues and the fees you pay to attend meetings, seminars, and conferences may be tax deductible.

Dues may be deducted either as a charitable expense, business expense, or miscellaneous expense, but they must be deducted from the tax return filed for the year in which they were paid. In other words, dues paid in 2001 can be deducted only on 2001 tax returns.

For more information, see the STC Web page frequently asked questions at <http://stc.org/faqs.html#3>. If you have any questions about tax deductions, contact your local IRS representative or an accountant.

## STC 2001-2002 schedule

*Events are in Tucson unless noted*

February 12	Education Outreach Committee, 6:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble Café at Broadway and Rosemont.
February 12	Phoenix chapter How to Deal with Recruiters and Negotiate Compensation with Andrew Davis
February 14	Acing Your Interview with technical communication recruiter and career consultant Andrew Davis of Synergistec Communications
March 12	Phoenix chapter XML: Why and How? with Phebe Packer and Jim Cox
March 21	Whine and Cheese
April 9	Phoenix chapter Indexing with a Vengeance with Bonni Graham
April 18	The Changing Role of the Technical Communicator with Andrea Ames, past president of the Silicon Valley chapter
April 20	Prepare for the Future: Professional Development, Skills, Tools, and Industry Predictions for Technical Communicators, a half-day workshop with Andrea Ames
May 5-8	STC international conference in Nashville
May 14	Phoenix chapter A Book of Your Own: How to Write and Publish It with Jim Morgan
May 16	Program TBD
June 11	Phoenix chapter Awards banquet
June 20	End of year celebration

**For meeting details, go to  
<http://www.stc-saz.org>  
For Phoenix meetings, go to  
<http://www.stc-phoenix.com>**



## Look for new meeting digs

By Patricia Markey, facilities committee

The chapter's new primary meeting location is the Courtyard by Marriott. The January meeting at the Marriott received high marks for food and facilities.

The chapter facilities committee began to research alternative meeting locations in November, because the Viscount Suite Hotel, where the chapter has held most of its meetings over the last few years, told us that it planned to increase its fees.

The committee established the primary selection criteria to be cost and location within the ZIP Code where most members reside, 85711. Members of the committee gathered information about nine facilities in the area, created a cost comparison, and made some site visits.

As a result, we decided to move future meetings to the Courtyard by Marriott, 201 S. Williams Boulevard. Williams Boulevard is south of Broadway between Craycroft and Rosemont, east of the Williams Centre.

The cost to attend the program and dine has been reduced to \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members.

The remainder of the meetings for this fiscal year will be held at the Marriott, with one exception. In March, the meeting will be held at University of Arizona Science and Technology Park.

## Kachina chapter announces Tucson competition winners

The New Mexico Kachina chapter of STC announced the winners of its Online Communication, Technical Art, and Technical Publications competitions of the Kachina (New Mexico) chapter in January.

The winners from the Southern Arizona chapter were entered by the Captaris RightFax product technical communications team in Tucson.

Congratulations to:

- **Dirk Arnold** (multimedia designer), with contributions from **Jim Russell** (software engineer) for the RightFax/Lotus Notes integration product demo.
- **Brenda Huettner** (technical writer), with contributions from **Adam Friedmann** (technical instructor), and **Dave Tosi** (software engineer) for the *RightFax COM Module Reference Guide*.

In the online communication competition, five merit awards were given in a field of nine entries.

In the publications competition, 11 merit awards were given in a field of 43 entries.

The competitions have no predetermined award quotas. All awards recognize communication products that effectively convey technical information and meet high standards of professionalism.

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