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DECEMBER 2007

# Rocky Mountain Monthly

IESNA ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION

WWW.IESRMS.ORG

## IESNA Holiday Lights Tour IES, Friends, and Fun!

The Rocky Mountain Section of IESNA invites you, your family, friends and co-workers to join us for a special holiday event. As our thanks to you for all of your support through the year, we will be hosting a free festive tour of holiday lights in Downtown Denver. We will be taking in the sights from Union Station to the Denver City and County building, and many points in between.

Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or cider at one of our warming stations along the way, and learn about the holiday lights from the experts that helped design and install them.

If you have any extra holiday goodies to share, bring them along to add to our drinks and snacks. Share in the warmth, friendship and fun!

### HOLIDAY LIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS:

Union Station - Oxford Hotel - Larimer Square - Writers Square - D&F Tower Skyline Park - 16<sup>th</sup> Street Mall - The Pavilions - Denver City & County Building

**COST:** a cheerful smile (FREE!)

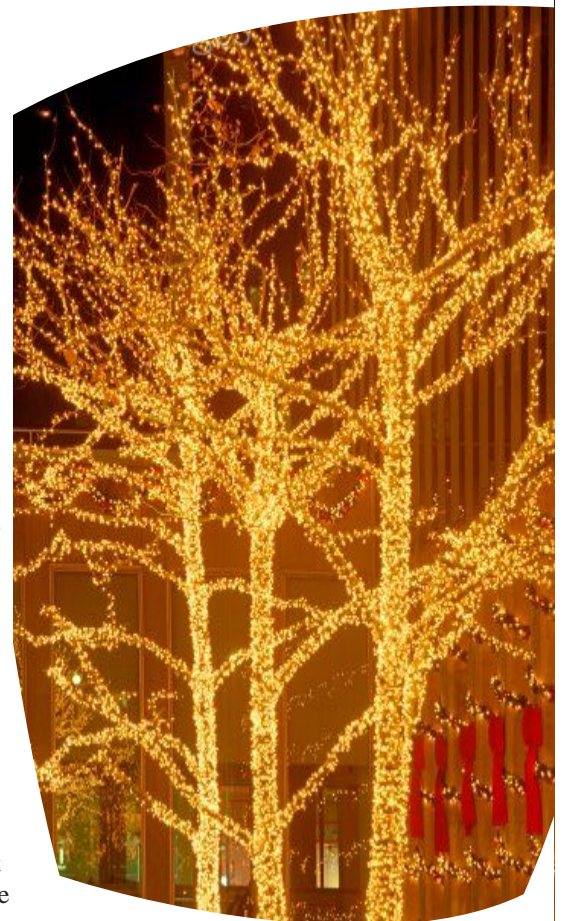
**LOCATION:** Union Station, 17<sup>th</sup> Street & Wynkoop

**TIME:** check-in at 6:30pm, tour leaves at 7:00pm

**GETTING THERE:** We encourage those that can to use light rail

**WHO IS INVITED:** Everyone!

We need to know how many snacks, hot chocolate, and cider to provide, so please RSVP for everyone in your group!



## HOLIDAY LIGHTS MEETING DETAILS

Register for this meeting right now!



Click here to be automatically directed to the registration website.

**Date:** Tuesday, December 11, 2007

**Location:** Union Station Great Hall

**Time:** 6:30pm - tour leaves at 7:00pm

**Cost:** FREE



DIRECTIONS?

CLICK HERE



Deadline for RSVP is Monday, December 10

Wisdom,

Wonders,

and

Wit

# The Castle Rock Star

There is a town on busy Interstate 25 through Colorado between Denver and Colorado Springs called Castle Rock. It is named for a large geological formation which looked to early travelers to the area like a castle on a hill. A special tradition has been observed in the town every Christmas since 1936. It has a star. A 45 foot tall electric star which lights up the night in the town from the week after Thanksgiving to sometime in January. The star has been a symbol to people in Castle Rock for over 60 years.



THE CHRISTMAS STAR AT CASTLEROCK, COLO.

In 1936, the United States was experiencing the Great Depression. Millions of people were out of work. There was also a drought in those years which became known as the "Dust Bowl". Farms throughout the middle part of the country saw their crops dry up and their soil blow away. In Castle Rock, the Douglas County Fair, the community's main annual festival, had been held only sporadically since 1930. Like people throughout the country, the citizens of Castle Rock were losing hope because of the poor economy, and the town was badly in need of a boost. Someone heard that people in nearby Palmer Lake were talking about building a star. Community leaders in Castle Rock jumped on the idea, thinking that the star would draw travelers' attention.



George P. Stewart owned "The Rock" in 1936, and he was happy to donate the land on which the star could alight. Men from the Works Progress Administration, who may have been staying at the local Civilian Conservation Corps Camp designed the star. Forty foot steel rods were ordered from Denver and paid for with donations from the Town Council. Volunteer firemen carried the rods up Castle Rock (no mean feat, there was no road or trail up the 290 foot tall rock then). The manager of the local electric company donated some poles and helped string the electricity with wire donated by the Mountain States Telephone Company. When they were finished, the forty foot tall star with nearly 100 light bulbs shone from the top of Castle Rock. The star was lit around 5 pm and extinguished at midnight

every night throughout the Christmas season, and burned all night on Christmas and New Year's Eves. The star was lit every year from 1936 until 1941.

In 1941, the country was committing all its resources to win World War II, and the star was a luxury Castle Rock could no longer afford. Rationing of electricity did not allow the star to be lit, but the structure remained on top of the rock, a symbol of the sacrifices that everyone in the country was making. On August 14, 1945 the war was finally over. That night, the star was converted into a "V" for victory as people celebrated into the night at the fire station. The star was lit on December 7th of 1945 and it has been lit every Christmas season since. The star was completely rebuilt in 1949 in an effort to make it safer and sturdier, and there have been other repairs made to the structure in the succeeding years.

During the early 1970's, the energy crisis briefly threatened the star lighting, but the tradition continued with the star returning to its 1936 schedule of only being lit in the evening. For about 11 years, the ceremony was held at the Douglas County Courthouse. In 1978, the courthouse was destroyed in a fire. It struck a devastating blow to the community. The starlighting was held for a number of years on the "courthouse square", where a new administration building for the county was constructed.

In 1999, the starlighting was held on the steps of the new police station on Perry Street in Castle Rock. After both the 1998 and the 1999 Super Bowls, the lightbulbs in the star were replaced so that they showed blue and orange in celebration of the Denver Broncos victories.

The starlighting is organized by the Castle Rock Chamber of Commerce, which has helped sponsor the starlighting ceremony since 1965, the Castle Rock Fire Department, which has maintained the star since 1936, and the town of Castle Rock.



# LEUKOS

The Journal of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

*click here to link to the latest issue of LEUKOS*

## MEET SECTION MEMBER... Dyrll Schweitzer

*interview by Nancy Johnson*

After 30 years in the optical sales business, Dyrll Schweitzer found that the industry where he had developed his long-time career was changing drastically. "I could see the writing on the wall", says Dyrll, who at the time was the Rocky Mountain Regional Sales Manager for Luxottica. This major eyeglass manufacturer began buying out retailers, then vision clinics, and as the umbrella grew it became apparent to Dyrll that he no longer had a firm grasp on the handle.

Dyrll describes himself as gregarious, outgoing, and admits that one aspect of sales that he has always enjoyed is mingling with people. When the time came to explore new career avenues, he looked at other



sales opportunities. It was not an impulsive decision when he decided to take a position with CED, Colorado Electrical Distributors. "After about 18,000 conversations with Gary Kautz at CED, I decided that I liked their business model and what appeared to be an opportunity to develop a new venture for them." For the last 2 1/2 years Dyrll has been building relationships with facilities engineers

and property management, and assisting them in on-going servicing of their lighting installations. Dyrll has learned first hand that our lighting industry is tight-knit, and he can go to his peers with questions about the many technologies and products that are available to his customers. "My clients ask me, 'Do you have...', or 'Can you get...', and I know that at CED there is a go-to person that has the answer." He says that he is thoroughly enjoying the learning. "You know how when you buy a new car," he says, "then you suddenly notice all those cars on the road. Well, I notice lighting now, all the time." (Hey! Does that sound familiar?) "I notice how people put together lighting systems."

What do facility engineers say about the lighting systems installed in their buildings? There are a couple of common themes, Dyrll admits. "Most of the facilities that I am involved with are office environments, envelopes where people work, and greater than 100,000 square feet. The word is they are vastly over-lit with unusual designer fixtures that are not necessary. And it is a challenge stocking parts and pieces for 'designer' systems."

Dyrll is a newcomer to the IESNA community. Extend a hand when you meet him next.

**WELCOME**

## NEW SECTION MEMBERS

Warren DeHaan, Boulder  
Aviation Vision  
Expert Services

Jason Enrod, Denver  
American Lighting

Arvidas Jarasius, Westminster  
Arrow Electronics

Wayne Turnbow, Centennial  
Lights of the Rockies

### Holiday Lights Tour

*Downtown Denver*

*December 11*

Join us for a friends and family evening as we take a tour of the highlights of holiday lights around Downtown Denver and at the Denver Zoo's ZooLights!

## 2007-2008 Upcoming Section Events

### Lighting Forensics

*Original Brooklyn's*

*March 11*

We explore in depth design considerations when working in dark spaces, parking garages, secure facilities, and detention centers with a presentation by a leader in the field.

### IES/DLF Stadium Tour

*Invesco Field at Mile High*

*January TBD*

Join us as we partner with DLF in a tour of one of Denver's great sports venues and discuss egress lighting, code compliance, sports lighting, and the VE process.

### LED Expo

*Original Brooklyn's*

*February 12*

Join us as we invite manufacturers to bring you the latest products and technologies in the LED industry along with demonstrations and discussions on the industry.

### Happy Holidays...

*...from your friends  
at IESRMS*





# Lumens per Gallon

by Scott Payne, LC, PE

special columnist to the Rocky Mountain Monthly

Suppose, for the sake of discussion, that one was in possession of a 1973 Cadillac Coupe de Ville; a magnificent monster 20 feet long and eight feet wide formerly owned by one's daughter. The great land yacht glows an opalescent white; the blue vinyl of its flawless landau top unmolested by birds. The interior is so huge it has its own weather patterns. Driving is like cruising down the road in your living room. The body is pristine, and the car's well maintained 454 cubic inch engine will pass anything on the highway but a gas station.

This car was the pinnacle of the auto maker's art. In 1973. Since the car was built before computer chips and relays, all the controls were made to work by force of arm. If you wanted the vent open, you pulled the lever that yanked the cable that opened the door. On a good day, rolling downhill, the best you could expect was seven miles per gallon. Even when the car was new, fresh out of the box, the Cadillac owner's manual advised adding a quart of oil every thousand miles. I was reminded of my Cadillac lawn ornament the other day while being shown several new lighting products. The luminaires presented by the

factory representative were appealing. The thought and care given to design was evident. Unfortunately, I flipped all the way through the catalog without coming to the fluorescent section. Since the last A-lamp I specified was an elevator pit light in 1997, I thought there must be a companion commercial catalog. When asked, the rep explained that the company was thinking about introducing a new compact fluorescent line "soon". There is a tremendous amount of talent in the world of luminaire design. This is a nexus at which art and physics merge to produce a thing that is vitally useful.

Invisible in their ubiquitousness yet obvious in their absence, luminaires become part of the background statuary that populates our built environment. Aesthetics are important; however, the world can no longer afford lighting that uses a quart of oil every thousand miles.

(Next month: In Defense of the Incandescent Lamp)



We'll be awarding yet another new product from Apple at the end of this year, so be sure to make our monthly meetings! You can plan ahead using our online calendar or the newsletters Upcoming Events feature. Remember, the most attended person gets our prize again this year!

Congratulations to last years winner of an iPod Nano, **Andrew Mitchell of WSI Lighting!**



**Remember, submissions are due in January! Visit [IESRMS.ORG](http://IESRMS.ORG) for tips and ideas on how to submit a winning project!**

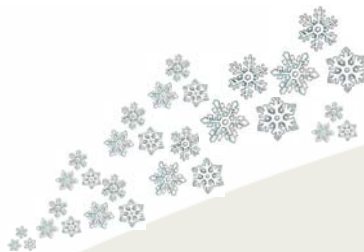
Have a great idea?

Want to submit an article?

**LET US KNOW!**

Send your bright ideas to us at [newsletter@iesrms.org](mailto:newsletter@iesrms.org), and we will do the research for an article or publish *your* article in the next issue!

**GET INVOLVED!**



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