control NETWORK

News on the industry & Information for Contemporary Controls' Most Valued Customers

TRADE SHOWS

Learn the latest innovations in technology by attending these trade shows.

Building Automation 2007 Conference
September 25–27
Wyndham Phoenix Hotel
Booth #29
Phoenix, AZ USA

ISA Expo 2007
October 2–4
Reliant Center
Booth #2253
Houston, TX USA

SPS/IPC/Drives 2007
November 27–29
Exhibition Centre Nuremberg
Hall 9, Stand 101
Nuremberg, Germany

AHR Expo 2008
January 22–24
Javits Convention Center
Booth #246
New York City, NY USA

Over 30 Years

In Networked Controls

CONTEMPORARY CONTROLS

Connecting Networks Worldwide

BAS Remote Welcomed at Cochrane Supply's Tridium Mini Summit

Display featuring BAS Remotes connected to a Jace-2.

Contemporary Controls had an opportunity to display the BAS Remote at a mini Tridium summit hosted by Cochrane Supply, our BAS distributor in Michigan. It was fun (as always) to rub elbows and swap stories with the numerous installers/integrators that attended the conference.

Tridium made it quite apparent that they view the BAS Remote as an ancillary device for their Jace controller. Since the Jace offers BACnet/IP as one of its many drivers, our I/O product that supports BACnet/IP is a simple extension to bring I/O status to/from the controller. A nice feature of the Jace is that it can consolidate all the I/O status into a common database from various communication protocols like Lon, BACnet MS/TP, Modbus and of course BACnet/IP.

We left the summit knowing that we are on track with the BAS Remote. One installer nicknamed it the "oops I/O." Named the "Oops I/O" because of its ability to be easily added at locations where someone forgot, missed on the layout, or just decided to add a new apparatus without informing anyone. Bet that never happens in your projects, right? The universal I/O of the BAS Remote provides the ultimate in flexibility by being able to operate as voltage or current analog in or out, a temperature input, or a pulse input for metering or flow applications all in the same point. Since the BAS Remote also provides loop power, no additional power supply is required to use the analog features of the unit. You just supply the 24 VAC to the BAS Remote, and we will provide the 24 VDC you need to power up your loop devices.

The stories from the installers/integrators reinforced our ideas on how the BAS Remote would be effective. One integrator told us how he could obtain a "free" Ethernet port from the IT group. This would allow him to mount the BAS Remote close to the installation site without the need to run additional cabling. This offered a considerable dollar savings for both the installer and facility owner. We also heard tales of how adding a few additional I/O points sometimes meant "2 electricians, 8 hours each" which adds cost and the inconvenience and disruption of routing the wire through existing infrastructure. One integrator was impressed that the pulse input would totalize or provide a rate. He had metering projects that required no missed pulse counts and some building controllers would not guarantee catching every pulse.

The stories go on about how the BAS Remote seems to make a lot of sense in smaller remodeling projects where getting in and getting out quickly can lead to a project being profitable or not. Some installers commented that the BAS Remote is a futuristic device providing Ethernet connectivity which is where they perceived the building automation connectivity model to be headed.

Keep us in mind for your I/O interconnect and if you have ideas on how to improve our product with some additional functionality; please don't be shy, let us know. All great ideas come from the folks that use the products, not necessarily from those that make them. You tell us what you need, and we'll figure out how to build it.

Contemporary Controls' Electronics Engineer is Recognized as a Top Fundraiser in the MS150 Bike Tour

Contemporary Controls' Electronics Engineer Rhiannon LaPointe is a dedicated fundraiser for the Greater Illinois Chapter of Multiple Sclerosis for she cycles in the MS150 Bike Tour year after year. Just recently, she received her Leader Jersey as a top fund-raiser. She collected $2050 as part of her effort to meet her team's goal of more than $4,300.

LaPointe was among 1,900 riders along with her teammates which included George Thomas, Ben Gantner, Mike Manna, and Steve Bogolub. The team cycled to and from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois June 23rd and 24th.

As captain, LaPointe had much praise for her team. "Even in the rain that continually poured on Saturday, my team kept their spirits high. Year after year, these individuals volunteer their time to raise money to make life better for those stricken with multiple sclerosis."

A familiar face, Kathleen Thomas, was missing on the team for she had given birth to baby Ian in April. However, Kathleen and Ian, and Kathleen's mother Judy Thomas, volunteered their time to cheer riders on as they approached the end of the line on Saturday.

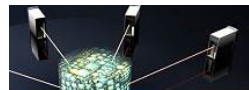# Wedding Vows Exchanged in the Entertainment Capital of the World

Javier Garza, who is employed in Contemporary Controls shipping department, said he is a "better man" for marrying Tracey Myers on July 4th in Las Vegas, Nevada. "She is truly a wonderful woman," said Javier. Despite the 117° temperatures that day, the couple beat the heat and had a beautiful outdoor wedding at the Flamingo Hotel. A reception followed with family and friends joining in the celebration. Javier and Tracey spent a week in the city enjoying the sights. He would like to thank everyone back home (especially his friends at Contemporary Controls) for helping him make this special day happen.

Javier said he met Tracey through Yahoo Personals. Once they started dating, they both realized they shared something special through their religious beliefs. Besides becoming married, Tracey is employed at Plainfield High School as a Physical education teacher. The couple enjoys playing with their dog Zoe, attending movies, and playing on a co-ed softball league in their free time.

The Contemporary Controls family wishes Javier and Tracey much happiness, good fortune and good health!

Do You Need RSTP?

RSTP (Rapid Spanning Tree Protocol) provides a loop-free redundant network with a typical recovery time from a link failure of some 30–60 seconds. When more than single redundancy is present, recovery can be 1–2 seconds. Although the recovery of RSTP is more than that of proprietary schemes, it is fast enough for many Industrial Ethernet implementations.

Why should you care about RSTP? When designing a redundant network, you may wish to choose an industry standard over a proprietary protocol. Also, RSTP networks can be configured to withstand multiple device failures—and proprietary schemes typically cannot.

RSTP continually checks the network, so that if a link fails or the topology changes, the network is automatically reconfigured to compensate for the change. When an RSTP switch senses a loop in the network, it blocks the offending ports. A network only functions properly when one path connects two stations —otherwise duplicate messaging could occur.

Users can adjust "path costs," thus refining the network topology to provide alternate signal paths through preferred devices.

Contemporary Controls will soon offer RSTP on all of its managed switches. Currently, RSTP is available only by request.
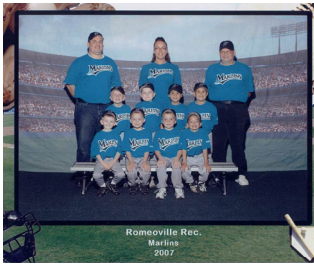
To learn more about RSTP, visit: www.ccontrols.com/pdf/abc7.pdf.

By Bill Greer, Senior Product Specialist. For other interesting topics, please visit "Bill's Blog on Industrial Ethernet" at www.ccontrols.com/blog.htm.

Get Actively Involved in Your Community…Become a Volunteer

(left to right) Coaches George Karones, Kristin Anaral and Angel Martinez gave special recognition to each Marlins' player at the end of the season.

Contemporary Controls' employees George Karones and his wife, Maria, helped 5- and 6-year-old boys in their personal development as they learned the skills of baseball with the little ball league early this spring. George volunteered his time as one of the head coaches for the Marlins team which their 5-year-old son, Nikko, was a player. Maria was team mother, responsible for organizing many activities for the boys.

The little ball program starts with the children hitting off of a tee then changes mid-season to coach-pitch. George said it was a good experience for the boys. "The boys were getting to understand about baseball. They learned the rules of the game, and they developed their skills in running, catching, batting, and throwing."

George said the most rewarding part of being a coach was seeing the team make a play. "It's all worth it…there's just something great about that!"

Maybe next year…(left to right) Coaches Cesar Garza and Javier Garza with their team, the Cubs.

Another employee, Javier Garza, served as a coach for the Bronco league made up of 11-and 12-year-old boys. The team called themselves the Cubs. Javier said it was exciting to watch the team play because the boys already know all the fundamentals of baseball. "They're playing like adults now," said Javier. "Competition comes into play and that's something to watch. Baseball is my favorite sport, he said. I couldn't think of a better way to volunteer my time than by working with the kids, especially since my nephew Brandon was on the team. Coaching wasn"t just about baseball, it was about teaching life skills. I was preparing these kids for the challenges of high school and that was rewarding for me."
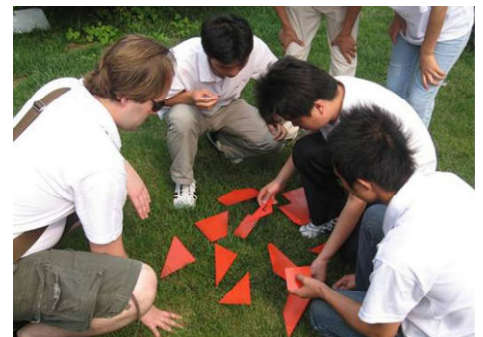
Survivor…Chinese Style

China is growing less of a mystery to individuals outside the country. Like the employees in our company who have traveled to our subsidiary in Suzhou, they have witnessed a fascinating people. We'd like to share one aspect of their Chinese culture.

After celebrating their 5th anniversary, Contemporary Controls (Suzhou) Co. Ltd (CCC) thought it was time to get to know one another better and have some fun doing it. In the latter part of June, CCC traveled to the beautiful coastal city of Qingdao in the southern tip of the Shandong Peninsula which is about 300 miles from Suzhou. It is a city of breathtaking beaches and mountains.

The company participated in team building activities. It was "Survivor" Chinese style. Under the direction of two instructors at the training base, the CCC family divided into two teams to compete in several challenges. They pitted their skills and wits against each other as they made a hexagon with rope when blindfolded or shook hands with each other within 60 seconds. Mission impossible? Not really. They did it! And what trust they showed. They caught free-falling Martin and Kenny just in time. And who would finish the jigsaw puzzle first? The smartest one of all—we won't tell. They learned that surviving on an island isn't easy, but they worked together and with their respect for one another they got through the contests. After nearly two days of team building, the CCC family relaxed by sightseeing and playing beach volleyball. They enjoyed the city's distinctive flavors in seafood and drank its famous Qingdao (Tsingtao) Beer.
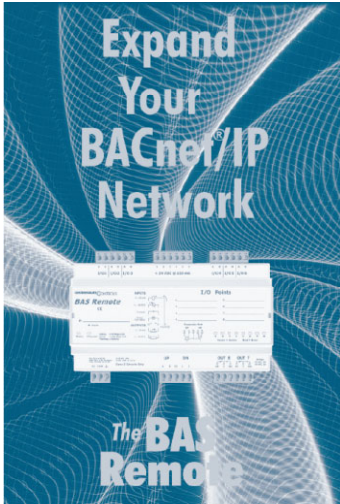

Now back home and refreshed, they're ready to transfer their team building experience to their skills at work. They survived and they didn't even have to eat bugs!

CONTEMPORARY CONTROLS

Contemporary Control Systems, Inc.
2431 Curtiss Street
Downers Grove, IL 60515 USA

Address service requested.

Expand Your BACnet/IP Network

The BAS Remote

US fax back and e-mail:	UK fax back and e-mail:	Germany fax back and e-mail:	China fax back and e-mail:
1-630-963-0109	+44 (0)24 7641 3923	+49 (0)341 520359-16	+86 512 68095966
info@ccontrols.com	ccl.info@ccontrols.com	ccg.info@ccontrols.com	info@ccontrols.com.cn

NEWS

- BAS Remote Welcomed at Cochrane Supply's Mini Summit.

- This month's Tech Update asks the question: Do You Need RSTP?

- Learn how the employees at our subsidiary in China improved their teambuilding skills.

- Become a volunteer...that's just what some of Contemporary Controls' employees did this Spring.

For your automation networking solutions visit: www.ccontrols.com