

Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
Volume XLIII No. 5, January 2009

e , i , 2π , oh! Come Explore What These Numbers Can Do

John Diehl
Hinsdale Central H.S.

BY PAUL CHRISTMAS

John Diehl will help us investigate familiar functions, exploring beyond the typical approach and questioning domains.

Can we take a logarithm of a negative number? Can we solve $\sin(x) = 2$? Can we compute $\sin(i)$? Can we use non-real complex numbers as exponents?

With help from DeMoivre, Euler, Gauss and other friends, we'll see interesting connections between these numbers and maybe even exclaim e , i , 2π , oh!

John has taught high school mathematics for 32 years, of which 29 have been at Hinsdale Central High School where he is currently the Mathematics Department Chair. He has taught every course including AP Calculus and AP Statistics. Beyond the classroom, he has been an instructor for T^3 . John has also been an AP Statistics Exam reader, table leader, and member of the test development committee. He has made presentations at ICTM, NCTM, T^3 , and other meetings, including presentations in England and Germany. He is also a past president of MMC.

Please reserve your seat(s) by the deadline. It helps Fountain Blue's preparation and room set-up. Also note that late reservations are accepted—we would hate for you to not come because you missed the deadline.



From I-90 & Southbound I-294: Exit at I-190 West to O'Hare; Exit onto North Mannheim Rd.; Take Mannheim Rd. North 2.25 miles.

From Northbound I-294: Exit at West Touhy Ave.; Take Touhy Ave. to Mannheim Rd.; Turn right on Mannheim Rd.

Public Transit: Take the CTA Blue Line to the Rosemont Bus Terminal; Take Pace Bus #223 to Touhy Ave. & Lee Rd.; Walk East on Touhy to Mannheim Rd.

Friday, January 9, 2009

5:30 PM Doors Open, 6:00 PM Social Hour,
7:00 PM Dinner and Talk

**Fountain Blue Banquets &
Convention Center**

2300 Mannheim Rd., Des Plaines
(847) 298-3636

\$31 for Members, \$37 for Nonmembers

Reserve by Noon, Monday, Jan. 5

reservations@mmcchicago.org or (847)
486-4690, day or night, leave a voicemail.

Points from the Interior

By PHIL GARTNER

Happy New Year to all! MMC has an excellent January in store for you to kick off the New Year. This is the month to come out of the cold and come to the Friday dinner meeting, attend the Annual Conference, and try to keep those resolutions for 2009.

I resolve to talk less in my teaching and afford my students more opportunities to explore and discuss their mathematics. As I work through my first year teaching AP Calculus, I also pledge that I will work hard on staying at least one homework assignment ahead of my kids! In terms of MMC, I pledge to work with the Board to put MMC on a solid financial path that allows it to continue to provide the program and services we all enjoy. As you may know, the past few years MMC has been running a deficit and has had to draw upon reserves to meet its obligations.

Let's see what some other Board members' New Year's resolutions are for 2009.

- Talk to at least one person at an MMC meeting that I do not know instead of socializing only with people I already know.
- To monitor my students' homework efforts more diligently. The status of "college student" unfortunately appears to have a low positive correlation with work ethic.
- To learn more about the TI-Nspire family of calculators and how to use them effectively in the teaching and learning of mathematics.
- To attend one or more MEECAS meetings to find out more about the value of CAS.
- To require each student to teach *me* something new by the end of the year.
- To learn a new technology and share my knowledge with teachers and students.
- To be patient with those who lack patience and tolerant of the intolerant.
- To integrate more science into my mathematics—especially chemistry and biology. I already do physics.
- To take more risks in the classroom and explore fun and different ways to present lessons and review material.

And finally, I resolve to write the rest of my submissions for Points from the Interior without the Board's help. Best wishes to all on keeping your resolutions!

Come out of the cold, come to the Friday dinner meeting, attend the Annual Conference of Workshops, and try to keep those New Year's resolutions for 2009.



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Number 5, January 2009



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Board Report—Meeting of 20 November 2008

By STEVE VIKTORA

The Board of Directors met on 24 August 2008. Most of the meeting was devoted to procedural matters.

Mary Wiltjer reported a club membership of 552, of whom 59 are students, 49 are retired, 11 are first-year teachers, and 30 are e-members.

The Board made two decisions related to fees for members. First, the Board decided that the cost for attending a dinner meeting only to

hear the speaker would be \$15 for members and \$21 for nonmembers. Second, the Board decided that the special membership fee for first year teachers would be \$15, but the member would receive the electronic version of *Points & Angles*.

Carol Nenne and Mary Wiltjer confirmed that the MMC Conference of Workshops will be held 24 January 2009 at The University of Chicago Lab School.

The next meeting of the

Board is scheduled for 12 February 2009 at 6:00 PM at the Braxton Seafood Grill in Oak Brook. Members of the club are welcome to attend any Board meeting, but please contact Phil Gartner at pgartner@glenbrook.k12.il.us before 5 February if you plan to attend. Because this is a dinner meeting, you would be expected to pay for your meal.

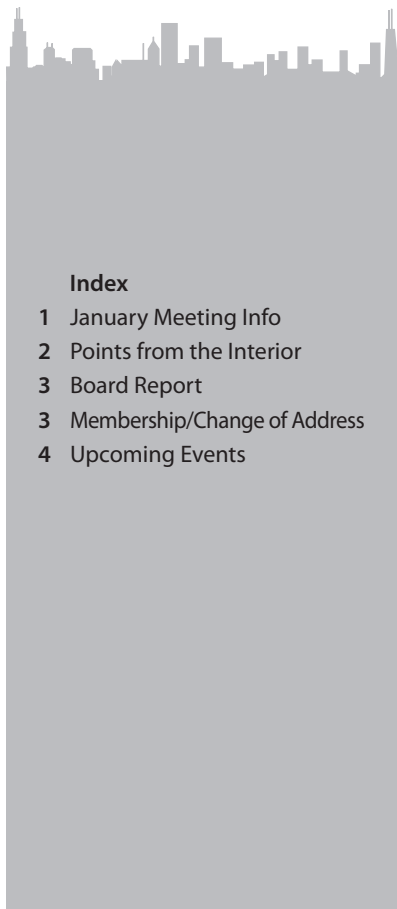
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MMC Membership and Change of Address Form



Index

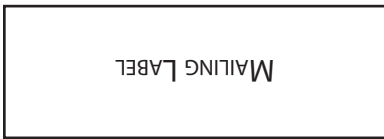
- 1 January Meeting Info
- 2 Points from the Interior
- 3 Board Report
- 3 Membership/Change of Address
- 4 Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

Fri., Jan. 9	John Diehl	<i>e, i, 2π, oh!</i> Come Explore What These Numbers Can Do
Sat., Jan. 24	U. of C. Lab	MMC Conference of Workshops 2009
<i>Jan. 31</i>		<i>MEECAS: CAS Camp</i>
Fri., Feb. 6	Tony Peressini	Comparing Solutions of the Paper Roll Problem
Fri., Mar. 13	Claran Einfeldt	A Math Cursed Life
<i>Apr. 18</i>		<i>MEECAS: Precalculus, Calculus, and CAS</i>
Fri., May 8	Nick Jackiw	Using the Newest (Yet-to-be-Released!) Version of Geometer's Sketchpad to Improve Learning

Send upcoming event items to ilg@chicagomath.org no later than the date of the MMC dinner meeting preceding the issue in which the item should appear. All items are subject to editing.

Your membership renewal date appears in the upper right corner of the label.



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