

Come to California's "River City"

Dawn Banghart, CHP

Mark your calendar: the 57th Annual Health Physics Society Meeting, sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter, will be held in Sacramento 22-26 July 2012. If you are reading this and noting a little frost in the air, just contemplate this: Sacramento ranks in the top 10 sunniest cities in the United States, with 78 percent of its annual weather "sunny." Rain typically only falls, on average, 58 days from November to March. Residents frequently cite "great weather" as one of the reasons they call Sacramento home. If you fear it will be too humid or too warm, fear not Goldilocks, the Mediterranean climate will be dry, with the heat (average July temperature is 93° F) moderated by a delta breeze that comes through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta all the way from chilly San Francisco Bay.

Why is it called the River City? Sacramento is located at the junction of the Sacramento River and the American River in the northern portion of California's



expansive Central Valley. Historically, both the American River, and especially the Sacramento River were key elements in the economic success of the city. Now both rivers are used extensively for recreation. The American River is a waterway for power boats (including Jet Ski and similar craft) and has become an international attraction for rafters and kayakers. The Sacramento River sees many boaters, who can make day trips to nearby sloughs or continue along the Delta to the Bay Area and San Francisco. The refurbished Delta King, a paddlewheel steamboat, boasts a hotel, a restaurant, and two different theaters for nightlife along the Old Sacramento riverfront. The riverfront is a nice place on a summer evening to stroll and dream of neutron irradiation.

*Blow, ye winds, hioh, for Californioh!
There's plenty of gold, so I am told
On the banks of Sacramento*

Oh, there will be more on the gold later. So have you put us into your calendar? Please keep checking the official website <http://hps.org/meetings/meeting30.html> to find more details. As the meeting gets closer, more information will be added.

Note from the Sacramento Local Arrangements Committee Cochairs Marcia Hartman and Jim Case: In case you are wondering if Dawn has moved to Sacramento, she has volunteered to help the Sierra Nevada Chapter by writing Health Physics News articles. As you can see, she has a flair for writing. We have a number of Northern California Chapter members helping us host the meeting since we have a rather small chapter.