



June 15-19, 2016
Dayton, Ohio

www.solarsplash.com

News of IEEE/PELS **SOLAR SPLASH® 2016**

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Again in Dayton, Ohio!

Our site for this year (and for the next two years, '17 and '18) will be at the MetroPark's Eastwood Park Lake just outside downtown Dayton, Ohio. The host school for the event is Cedarville University. The dates for Splash 2016 are **June 15-19, 2016**. Dayton is located in the southern part of Ohio, and you can see a travel map, the site location, and other travel information by clicking on the "Travel and site information" link on the Splash website menu at www.solarsplash.com.

Are You Preparing for 2016? Let Us Know!

The preparations for Splash 2016 are underway at Splash Headquarters, and we hope that your team is also planning and preparing to come. So far, we have heard from **4 new teams** that are preparing to attend Splash 2016! Headquarter activities at this point include: securing sponsorships, answering your questions, keeping the webpage updated, and keeping lines of communication open between Splash Headquarters and you! So don't hesitate to contact us by email, phone, or post – and let us know you are there and working to meet and compete in 2016!

➔ If you're planning to enter in 2016, drop us an email note now so we can get the 'contacts' between us firmly in place – and to get your team listed/linked on the webpage as preparing a boat for the 2016 Splash! ←

Splash Headquarters' Address and Contact Point is:

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Getting Your Boat Project Underway and Other 'Big Picture' Items

Listed below are two items which may help you and your team get started or re-started on your solar boat project: the Solar Splash Handbook, and free downloads of last year's top Technical Reports.

Solar Splash Handbook: Chapter 1. Chapter 1 of the 'Handbook' is available under "The Handbook" menu item back on the main website (www.solarsplash.com). This is an article that should be read and re-read by all teams – both rookie and returning. It provides a guide to setting up all the elements it takes to establish a top-flight project team.

Top Five 2015 Technical Reports for Free. The top 5 Technical Reports from last year's Splash are available for downloading by going to the "Technical Reports" listing on the Splash website menu (www.solarsplash.com). Reading these reports and seeing the boats and equipment provides a wealth of technical information, plus they demonstrate how to structure a highly rated report!
Note: This year's Technical Report will be due **Monday, May 9, 2016**.

Application and the Entry Fees and Dates

You need to go to the website (www.solarsplash.com) to find the Entry Form for the competition. The fee has not changed, but the entry fee dates are slightly different than last year. The 'early fee' is \$400 if you get your entry form in by **January 11**, but the entry fee increases to \$500 if you enter after that date. The cut-off date for entries is **April 25**, 2016. Again, **getting the entry form to Headquarters is critical for meeting the dates**, not when the check arrives! [However, sending the entry form in "promises" that you will pay the fee – and the fee is "non-refundable" after the entry form has been submitted!]

Major New Award to Be Presented This Year: the "Innovation Award"

Over the years, Solar Splash has enhanced the engineering education of many students and has fostered the development of team-work and leadership skills. Additionally, many innovative advancements have resulted from this competition. Teams have always attempted to gain an edge through the design, construction, and validation of rather novel engineering creations, including new propeller designs, new hull designs, development of new drive system and steering components, enhancements in telemetry system operation, new control designs, and the use of special optics on their solar panels.

Beginning in 2016, Solar Splash will recognize these developments with a new *Innovation Award*. In coordination with the main report submission, each team will be given the opportunity to describe an innovation they made on their boat in the given year. The innovations will be evaluated, and the team with the best innovation will receive the Innovation Award. More details will be provided in upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned!

Rules Reminder

It is the discretion of the Splash officials to conduct the 'direction' of travel in the Maneuverability, Slalom, Sprint, and Endurance Courses as is seen fit. Thus, clockwise, counter-clockwise, left-ward, or right-ward changes to the directions as seen in the Rules, or as conducted in previous Splash competitions, should always be planned for.

Official Rules for the 2016 event have been posted on the website. There are no major changes from the 2015 Rules, but there are a few minor modifications. Rule 7.4.3 was modified to clarify the use of supplemental batteries. Also, a propeller safety provision was added to 7.14.8.

Returning teams as well as rookie teams are expected to be familiar with all of the Rules of the competition, so start studying now!