

# Inventors Society of South Florida

## Inventors News

May 2007

Inventors Society of South Florida, 3220 SW 15<sup>th</sup> St., Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

### President's Corner

I, **Albert Newman**, am assuming the roll of president of ISSF. **Howard Silken** has found it necessary, on doctor's orders, to cut back on his duties and chores. He has assured me that he will still be available for back-up. I am also fortunate to have a former president, **Marvin Greenhut**, as our new vice president. There will be enough experienced leadership to maintain the quality of our meetings but I will be very dependent on the input of our board.

I have spent most of my professional life in product development. I worked for a wide assortment of companies that produced sewing machines, lighting fixtures, medical devices and printing presses.

I have 17 utility patents and 6 design patents. All are assigned to my employers except one. Inventing and cartooning are my hobbies.

Regards,

*Albert Newman*

### Board Member Participation

The board positions are voluntary, and we urge all members to consider running for the board. You will learn a lot and you will teach others from your own experience. There are opportunities to invite speakers from among experts you meet through your inventive efforts. There are opportunities to showcase inventions with the Broward County Library and other organizations.

As a board member, you can influence newsletter content and educate the public about inventing. Of course, if you have computer skills, you will be most welcomed on the board to help with membership tracking and newsletter distribution. For younger members, it will improve your resume to have experience on a board of directors.

One final thought about being a board member: it is important to have an infusion of new and younger directors because the face of inventing is changing. The Internet has revolutionized business, information access and research. Young people are more in tune with the tools of today.....PDA, VoIP, and a multitude of other acronyms comprising techie language. The board needs directors who are savvy and share this expertise so that inventors can be competitive in the marketplace.

Finally, the board thanks **Howard Silken** for serving as president, acknowledging the burden on his time and health in the handling of presidential duties and responsibilities. ❖

### National Campaign to Promote Child Inventors

The Advertising Council joined with the Department of Commerce's United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation (NIHFF) today to launch a national, multimedia public service advertising (PSA) campaign to engage a new generation of children in innovation. The campaign seeks to make inventing and developing new ideas part of American children's lives. Use a search engine to find the article *National Campaign to Inspire Invention in Children Unveiled*. ❖



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*Inventors Society  
of South Florida*

meets

***the first Saturday  
of each month***

Join Us On

May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

The Inventors Society of South Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

#### Mission Statement

To provide a forum that fosters creativity, freethinking and education that will help further our members' innovations.



#### Officers & Board Members

President: Albert Newman  
 Vice President: Marvin Greenhut  
 Secretary: Joanna Zaremba  
 Treasurer: Lucy Pettersen  
 Founding President: Robert White  
 Director: Alvin Blum and Richard Loughlin  
 Membership, Education and Goodwill Ambassadors: Howard and Paula Silken  
 Member Liaison: Joanna Zaremba  
 Publicity: Tommy Jenkins and Eva Thomas  
 Public Relations: Eva Thomas

#### Contacts

Richard Loughlin in Stuart:  
 772-287-2224  
 Howard and Paula Silken in  
 Delray Beach:  
 561-496-1140  
 Joanna Zaremba in Broward Co:  
 954-486-2426



## EU Commission Publishes Vision for Patent System

The Commission is focused on two major issues:

1. The introduction of a unified Community Patent, which would allow businesses to obtain one patent to cover the whole of the European Union (EU).
2. The introduction of an integrated EU-wide jurisdictional system for litigating patents.

The Commission will issue a comprehensive IPR Strategy Communication by early 2008, which will address the main outstanding non-legislative and horizontal issues in all fields of IPR. ❖

## ThinkFire to Help Technology Inventors

ThinkFire, the leading business advisor to high-technology and private equity firms about intellectual property, announced today the creation of a Leveraged Transactions Group (LTG). The new division will focus on identifying and monetizing valuable patents owned by individual inventors, small and medium sized companies, universities and research institutions. Use a search engine to find *Thinkfire to Help Inventors, SMEs Sell and License Patents* written by the IPFrontline Staff. ❖

## Washington OBSERVATIONS

Don Kelly, UIA Board of Directors

### 110<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS TURNS TO PATENT REFORM And We All Have Our Wish

Busy beavers, those House and Senate Committee members and staff, once again are throwing their energy into crafting legislation to change the US Patent System. No disrespect intended with the beaver reference, but many UIA constituents will say that gnawing on trees isn't all that far removed, metaphorically, from slowly grinding away inventors' rights. The difference is that the trees grow back.

Often out of the loop, independent inventors and small business entrepreneurs ponder, "*Patent reform?*" They put their ears to the ground and promptly get their heads trampled by a flotilla of big-biz lobbyists bound for Capitol Hill. Decidedly out of season, the April air is filled with Eddie Arnold old refrain, "*Jolly old St. Nicholas, lean your head this way.*"

Come on, Mr. Chairman, join in! "*Johnny wants a pair of skates, Suzy wants a dolly,*" and new lyrics plead: "*Microsoft wants no injunctions; INTEL thinks trolls are folly.*"

No doubt about it, mega-corps with bulging briefcases packed with reform agendas are moving faster than red and blue states altering primary dates. Our UIA constituents ask, "What's a little guy to do?" My advice is that we may simply have to rely on the seasoned common sense spread along the House and Senate Committee dais. Surely, the 100th Congress wouldn't act to shut down America's most treasured natural resource.

While we hear no public outcry to preserve the time-tested *first-to-invent system* ("*We've sighted no black helicopters circling the Hill,*" a Fortune-One mega-corp IP/VP remarked.), we certainly trust that House and Senate Committee Chairs won't move us all into *first-inventor-to-file* without a solid link to a reasonable *grace period*. I'm confident that they'll come up with additional perks for small business concerns to sweeten *such a deal*.

Continued from page 2

UIA constituents often suggest increasing USPTO authority and funding to extend its educational outreach deeply into the grassroots. The learning objective would be that budding creators know where to start, where to get help, and whom to avoid. After all, an informed public files better patent applications, which of course are less resource-intensive to manage by a burdened USPTO. How about throwing in a new anti-scam law? This time, give this one a vicious bite so it can gnaw away those scurrilous invention marketing firms once and for all? Now there's a great holiday gift...though long overdue.

Oh...and something else. Surely the House and Senate Committees don't favor *pre-grant publication* for every pending patent application, even when most small businesses don't intend foreign filing. *What? They do?* Hey, what happened to that compromise reached when we hashed out the *American Inventors Protection Act*, back in 1999? Wasn't that a conditioned agreement? Did the small print say "*Expiration Date April 2007?*"

*St. Nick, if it's not too late, please add a black chopper to our list.*

One of our UIA members from Florida called to express concern for the *assignee-filing* feature expected to be tossed into the reform package. She asks, "*Aren't we forgetting someone important here?*" Fact is, the UIA hears lots of stories about corporate inventors with conflicts related to in-house inventor ownership. Apparently, many believe it's not a simple matter of streamlining the patenting process. They note that there are good reasons for solid and fair employment contracts.

Others ask, "*What's with all this third party stuff?*" I quickly point to the obvious value of third party submission of prior art; but, small inventive concerns argue they can barely manage lawyer fees as it is. Their hope is that any thought of opening-up the patenting process to public participation will take into account the prospect of undue economic burden on the innovators. Listening to their concerns will help shape a balanced outcome of any new legislation.

All that said, I wouldn't want this column to portray that inventors and small businesses are *across-the-board* opposed to Patent Reform. Indeed, UIA constituents are high on patent quality. In nearly every instance, a miniscule patent portfolio is all an aspiring *start-up* has to bank on, literally and figuratively. So, each patent had better be good. UIA constituents value patent process simplification, and the training, nurturing, retention of patent examiners.

I believe our membership will support anything this new Congress can propose by way of enabling USPTO leaders to build strategic plans based on full funding expectations. As for the painful costs of patenting abroad, call us the "*first-to-feel.*" We trust this Congress will do all it can to lessen that economic pain by clearing the way for global patent authorities to work together to eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and expense.

For the 100th Congress, one last request. When those big company reps come splashing through the Capitol reflecting pool with their patent reform wish lists, please bear in mind that our nation's struggling independent inventors and small business enterprise have the *big guys* vastly outnumbered. SBA studies report that those big companies also are in the minority when it comes to generating inventions of significance.

Turning again to Eddie Arnold's haunting melody,

*As for me, my little brain isn't very bright  
Choose for me, dear Santa Claus, what you think is right.*

From Washington, that's my observation. ❖

## Membership

The Inventors Society of South Florida (ISSF) membership application form is available online at [www.inventorssociety.net/appform.pdf](http://www.inventorssociety.net/appform.pdf). Annual individual membership dues are \$60.

Members are entitled to all that is offered by the ISSF: events, meetings, contests, prizes, awards, nominations, and networking. Members also benefit from a monthly newsletter full of important information, tips, publications, Internet sites and expositions.

Membership is the primary source of funds to the ISSF, without which, it is difficult if not impossible to hold meetings, send newsletters, hold special events, and maintain an Internet presence. ❖

## Newsletter Submissions

If you have something you'd like to see in the newsletter, please discuss with or send it to [cever@earthlink.net](mailto:cever@earthlink.net). If it is something that has to be copied, please send the original or a high quality copy. If you need the original document returned, please note this in the submission package.

Please remember that the newsletter is black print only. Submissions that have color (especially over text, i.e. words in a colored box) may not be usable. Try to keep submissions simple and basic. ❖

## Microloan Program

The Small Business Administration (SBA) Microloan Program provides entrepreneurs with training and loans of up to \$35,000 to help them with their start-ups. While the FY 2008 budget proposal does not eliminate the program, it provides no funding for it. Instead, the costs of the program are shifted to non-profit organizations that make the loans, and transfers the important technical assistance services to other SBA programs without providing the funding. ❖

## ISSF Meetings

ISSF meets at 1:00 pm on the first Saturday of each month at:

**Ligi Tool & Engineering, Inc.**  
3220 SW 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442  
877-523-6693  
[www.ligotool.com](http://www.ligotool.com)

**From the Florida Turnpike:** Exit at Sample Rd, Exit 69; turn right on Sample Rd (East); left on Powerline Rd; and right on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (past the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

**From I-95 Southbound:** Exit at SW 10<sup>th</sup> St, Exit 40; turn right SW 10<sup>th</sup> St (West); left on Powerline Rd; left on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

**From I-95 Northbound:** Exit at Sample Rd; turn left on Sample Rd (West); right on Powerline Rd; and right on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (past the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

**From I-75:** Exit at the Sawgrass Expressway (Route 869); go to the end of the expressway and continue east on SW 10<sup>th</sup> St; turn right on Powerline Rd and left on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

### Contact:

Howard Silken at 561-496-1140  
[silkhandp@aol.com](mailto:silkhandp@aol.com)



## Business Services

- Business.gov helps businesses save time and money spent on regulatory compliance by providing quick and easy access to business laws, government regulations, forms and agency contacts.
- Onvia.com provides government business intelligence to companies that do business with the government. They help companies from a variety of industries find the opportunities they need to grow their businesses, save money and become more productive.
- The *CCH Business Owner's Toolkit™* ([www.toolkit.cch.com](http://www.toolkit.cch.com)) is brought to you by CCH Tax and Accounting, a leading provider of business, legal, and tax information and software to the business community in the U.S. and abroad since 1913. CCH has custom-designed the *CCH Business Owner's Toolkit™* to bring you, the small business owner, the most accurate and up-to-date information available — all in one place — to help you quickly answer questions, make decisions, and get the most from your business.
- Also from CCH: Based on years of experience following industry trends and responding to reader inquiries, Ask Alice! Columns track the latest developments and problems facing small business owners, combining a helping hand and a little dose of humor. Occasionally, Alice interviews people with specialized expertise in specific small business topics, and CCH presents these interviews as Alice Asks. Find them at [www.toolkit.cch.com/advice/askalice.asp](http://www.toolkit.cch.com/advice/askalice.asp).
- BusinessFinance.com offers accurate unbiased business finance information. They categorized the funding criteria of over 4,000 sources of business capital, and let you easily match your need to exactly what funding sources have to offer. They separate your business credit from your personal credit so that you won't have to personally guarantee every business loan.
- Trade Show News Network ([www.TSNN.com](http://www.TSNN.com)) is a tradeshow information mecca. Select an industry or just select a location to search. Be sure to visit [www.tsnn.com/multinl/frntpage.cfm](http://www.tsnn.com/multinl/frntpage.cfm) to check out the Expofiles newsletters. ❖

## Help for Women in Business

- Springboard Enterprises ([www.springboardenterprises.org](http://www.springboardenterprises.org)) is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to accelerating women's access to the equity markets. The organization produces programs that educate, showcase and support entrepreneurs as they seek equity capital and grow their companies.
- The National Women's Business Council ([www.nwbc.gov](http://www.nwbc.gov)) is a bi-partisan federal advisory council created to serve as an independent source of advice and policy recommendations to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners.
- The Office of Women's Business Ownership (OWBO) assists women achieve their dreams and improve their communities by helping them start and run successful businesses, regardless of social or financial disadvantage, race, ethnicity or business background. OWBO and the Online Women's Business Center ([www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/onlinewbc](http://www.sba.gov/aboutsba/sbaprograms/onlinewbc)) are integral components of Entrepreneurial Development's network of training and counseling services. ❖

## News From Cathy's Desk

This month's newsletter is filled with website information that supports your inventive efforts. Time and money are in short supply for the inventor. Although, a cell phone does not contribute directly to your creative effort, it will save you time when you need it. However, it will cost you dearly if you do not comparison shop. You will need a credit card to make purchases relative to your invention. You will need a car to transport yourself and your invention materials. Also, you have a lifestyle to maintain while you are investing your time and money in your invention.

So, let me introduce you to yet another website, **www.10money.com**. The tips at this website can help almost anyone improve their financial situation by thousands of dollars, and probably much more. No doubt you've seen many financial sites that cover some financial topics in great depth. 10Money.com covers nearly all financial topics, condensing everything down to what you *really* need to know. ❖

## Shop Smart Online

- If you have doubts about the virtue of a seller, visit **www.ResellerRatings.com**, a directory of customer reviews of online vendors.
- Check price comparison engines (**www.shopzilla.com**, **www.Shopping.com** or **www.PriceGrabber.com**) and calculate tax and shipping fees.
- Check forums (**www.DealTracker.com** and **www.DealSites.net** to get the latest information on web deals before you buy.
- Clip virtual coupons at **www.CouponCode.com** and **www.CurrentCodes.com**.
- Check for product rebates at **www.TechBargains.com/rebates.cfm**, **www.RebatePlace.com**, and **www.FreeAfterRebate.info**. ❖

## Free Software

- *Trillian 3.1* from Cerulean Studios makes all your instant-messaging communications interoperable.
- *ZoneAlarm 6.5.722* from Zone Labs keeps your PC safe from hackers and other threats.
- *Advanced Disk Cleaner 4.7* from Innovative Solutions produces a list of garbage files that you can choose to delete.
- *Skype 3* from Skype enables free PC-to-PC calls including conference calls with up to 9 people and video calls.
- *Bazooka Adware and Spyware Scanner 1.13.03* from Kephyr detects and removes malware.
- *PrimoPDF 3* from ActivePDF enables printing to PDF from virtually any Windows application, including optimization and security.
- *OpenOffice.org 2.1* from OpenOffice.org Project is a multiplatform open-source productivity suite that works seamlessly with the equivalent Microsoft file formats and more.
- *AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition 7.5.4* from Grisoft protects your computer from viruses.
- *Biz-Plan 3* from Invest-Tech is a 48-page customizable business plan template for Microsoft Word.
- *FastStone Image Viewer 3.0* from FastStone Soft is an image browser, converter, and editor that supports all major graphics formats. ❖

### Patent Model Museum

The Rothschild Petersen Patent Model Museum is the largest privately-owned collection of United States patent models in the world. Containing nearly 4,000 patent models and related documents, the collection spans America's Industrial Revolution. Alan Rothschild eventually hopes to establish a national Patent Model Museum, open to the public. Visit them online at **www.patentmodel.org**. ❖

### Finance Start-Up

All businesses require some form of financing. An integral component of starting a successful business is raising sufficient capital. There are many challenges here, but numerous resources are available at **www.sba.gov/smallbusinessplanner/start/financestartup**. ❖

### Business Start-Up

Visit **www.smalltownmarketing.com/startdirectory.html** to find a list of articles including:

- *How To Determine If There Is A Need For Your Product*
- *Pricing Methods And How to Use Them*
- *How To Develop Your Position Strategy*
- *What You Should Know Before You Write A Business Plan*
- *How To Find What Your Customers Are Really Looking For*
- *How To Succeed In The New Millennium*. ❖

### Association for Enterprise Opportunity

AEO is the national association of community-based organizations that provide entrepreneurial education, access to capital, and support to aspiring and active low-income entrepreneurs. AEO provides its members with a forum, information, and a voice to promote enterprise opportunity for people and communities with limited resources. Learn more at **http://microenterpriseworks.org/** or call 703.841.7760 or email **aeo@assoceo.org**. ❖

## Small Business Marketing

Visit [www.smalltownmarketing.com/mktgdirectory.html](http://www.smalltownmarketing.com/mktgdirectory.html) to find a list of articles about small business marketing including:

- *Product Price: How To Show The Customer What You Are Worth*
- *Target Marketing: Who They Are, How To Find Them*
- *How To Do A Market Analysis*
- *How To Evaluate The Competition*
- *How To Make Your Business Unique (You Don't Have A Choice)*
- *Understanding Why Customers Buy*
- *How To Develop Product Benefits That Sell*
- *How Marketing Creates Value.* ❖

## Start-Up Financing

Visit [www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness/resources/startups/financing.mspx](http://www.microsoft.com/smallbusiness/resources/startups/financing.mspx) to find articles:

- 6 things to know about getting start-up financing from the SBA
- 5 financial decisions before starting a business
- Your business idea rocks, but your credit reeks
- 5 tips for estimating your start-up costs
- How much should you pay yourself at a start-up?
- 5 keys to starting business in uncertain times. ❖

## Tradeshaw Directory

Visit [www.tradeshawweek.com](http://www.tradeshawweek.com) and click Tradeshaw Directory in the left sidebar. Search the directory alphabetically or by keyword.

## 4 Hot Inventing Trends

The most important trend affecting the marketplace is that companies are realizing the possibilities of working with inventors. Manufacturers are becoming more open to products from outside inventors. TV exposure has helped. A lot of the larger retailers seek new ideas for their private label programs.

If you want to know more, use a search engine to find the article *4 Hot Inventing Trends* by **Tamara Monosoff**. ❖

## Products & Services

**Alvin Blum**

Registered Patent Agent

954-462-5006

## *Inventor's Survival Guide*

by Catherine VerSchneider

*A great resource on the invent-to-market process!*

For more info and pricing visit [www.inventorssurvivalguide.com](http://www.inventorssurvivalguide.com)

## "I Have An Idea... "

by Howard and Paula Silken

*Answers a lot of questions for first-time inventors*

For more info and pricing call 561-496-1140 or e-mail [silkhandp@aol.com](mailto:silkhandp@aol.com)

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or call 877-523-6693

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Visit [www.tarpsclip.com](http://www.tarpsclip.com) for more info or email [Sales@tarpsclip.com](mailto:Sales@tarpsclip.com).

## SmallBusiness.com

Smallbusiness.com is a collection of resources for those seeking information and assistance in starting and running a small business in the U.S. (although, its creators believe a lot of the information is universal and hope those in other countries will use this as a model.) Smallbusiness.com consists of the following services:

- Smallbusiness.com search – A narrowly-focused search engine that seeks out answers from the best web-based resources for small business owners and managers.
- Smallbusiness.com user-contributed content – Consists of three types of information (and more types are being added constantly): Guides, Directories and Glossary. Guides are detailed "how-to" articles. Directories are lists of links. The Glossary contains definitions or encyclopedia-like descriptions of business terms. The best way to find what you seek is by using the search box in the left column at the top of most pages. If you would like to correct or add knowledge to an entry, or would like to create a new entry, you may do so.
- Smallbusiness.com News Wire – A headline news resource (or, aggregator) tracking stories of interest to those who manage and work at small businesses.

## Product Recalls are Invention Opportunities

- Visit [www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls/recalls.htm](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls/recalls.htm) and pick the category that interests you and search for a specific brand name or product:
  - Automotive
  - Children's Clothing, Toys & Childcare Supplies
  - Drugs & Medical Devices
  - Food Products
  - Household Products
  - Sporting Goods
- Recalls of most consumer products are handled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)).
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov)) handles automotive recalls, including infant seats. ❖

## Food and Packaging Inventions Wanted

General Mills is interested in technologies that would be applicable to one of their current lines of business, which include:

- Baking products (cakes, brownies, frosting, etc.)
- Cereal
- Frozen vegetables, pastries, pizzas and snacks
- Refrigerated and frozen dough (bread, cookies, biscuits, rolls, etc.)
- Shelf-stable meals, meal kits, soups and side dishes
- Snacks bars, fruit snacks, popcorn, salty snacks
- Yogurt and yogurt beverages
- Soy beverages

In addition, they are interested in any new innovative foods or packaging ideas that you have outside of their current areas of business. For more information, visit [www.generalmills.com/win](http://www.generalmills.com/win). ❖

## Newsletters for Inventors

- *The Link* from Kaufmann Eventuring provides an easy-to-use digest of the freshest content posted on [www.eventuring.org](http://www.eventuring.org), including funding sources, intellectual property, competitive analysis, pricing, and market analysis.
- *SCORE Expert Answers* from the Service Corps of Retired Executives ([www.score.org](http://www.score.org)) features expert interviews with how-to advice and inspiration for business success.
- The FREE SBA newsletters listed at <http://web.sba.gov/list> offer a wide variety of information and business opportunities for small businesses. Subscribe to one or many and receive e-mail notification as soon as items are published. The list includes city, state, regional and national newsletters.
- ConsumerAffairs.Com is a non-partisan, independent information provider. They are supported entirely by advertising and are not affiliated with any other consumer organization, government agency or corporation. Visit [www.consumeraffairs.com/newsletters/0000.html](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/newsletters/0000.html) to access newsletters.
- The *Toolkit*<sup>™</sup> Newsletter provides tips, news and advice for small business owners in the United States. Visit [www.toolkit.cch.com/newsletter.asp](http://www.toolkit.cch.com/newsletter.asp) to subscribe. ❖

### Florida MEP

Florida MEP (Manufacturing Extension Partnership) is a non-profit service available to every manufacturer in the state to help them compete more effectively in the global marketplace. Improved efficiency, elimination of waste, international certifications, integration into global supply chains and networking Florida businesses with the resources they need to become more profitable, and increased sales are among the benefits of working with the Florida MEP.

Part of a nationwide network of MEP centers in all 50 states, linked together through the Department of Commerce National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Florida MEP enables even the smallest firms in Florida to have easy access to more than 2,000 manufacturing, technical and business specialists, along with the latest technology and industry best practices.

Visit [www.mep.nist.gov](http://www.mep.nist.gov) for an overview of the program and a list of affiliates nationwide. ❖

### Continuing Education

Inventors developing ideas in the architecture, engineering and/or construction industries will find continuing education courses online at [www.aecdaily.com](http://www.aecdaily.com). In the listing you will find Whirlpool's *Principles of Universal Design in Housing and Home Appliances*. ❖

### Overlapping Types

*Intellectual Property: Overlapping Types*, written by **Tamsen Valoir, PhD.**, discusses the major types of IP and shows how different aspects of a product can be protected by different types of IP at the *same* time. Use a search engine to find the article by title and author. ❖

### Joint Infringement

Multi-step combination claims where no single party performs all steps of the combination are problematic. Read *e-Business Joint "Patent" Infringement* written by **Harold Wegner** for the details of the catch-22. Use a search engine to find the article by title and author. ❖

*Inventor Facts*

Though considered an American institution, carbonated (soda) water was invented and produced in 1772 by English chemist Joseph Priestly.

The First US patent, issued in 1790 and authorized by President George Washington, protected a new method for making soap.

*Inventors Society  
of South Florida*  
meets  
*the first Saturday  
of each month*  
Join Us On  
May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM

**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.InventorsSociety.net](http://www.InventorsSociety.net)

**Automotive X Prize Update**

The X PRIZE Foundation is developing a multi-million dollar Automotive X PRIZE (AXP) to inspire a new generation of super-efficient vehicles that help break our addiction to oil and stem the effects of climate change.

The AXP will be awarded to the teams that win a stage race for clean, production-capable vehicles that exceed 100 MPG equivalent fuel economy. The AXP will challenge teams to design, build and demonstrate vehicles that are super-efficient and production-capable, not concept cars. Complete draft Competition Guidelines may be downloaded at <http://auto.xprize.org>. ❖

**ISSF News**

Congratulations to members **Eva Thomas** and **Freddy Lee** on being among the nine finalists in the Venture2 Spring 2007 Inventor Search in Delray Beach, FL. The grand prize winner is Kristen and Michael Nevils for their WaterSafe emergency preparedness product ([www.mywatersafe.com](http://www.mywatersafe.com)).

Recently, American Inventor changed its schedule from Orlando to Tampa, catching inventors unaware. Thankfully, **Eva Thomas** contacted them to ask about parking and learned date and location change. She informed two other inventors immediately. One was packing for the trip and the other was already on the road. Networking between inventors is important. Thank you, Eva! ❖

**Newsletter Disclaimer**

The Inventors Society of South Florida, Inc. (ISSF), a 501(c)(3) organization, provides a wealth of information to our members and the general public regarding all aspects of the invention experience through its newsletters, website, speakers, etc., however, the ISSF does not endorse, suggest or recommend that any of this information may or should be relied upon without the user's own independent investigation and evaluation. Further, the ISSF disclaims any responsibility for any financial investment and/or legal, accounting, or other professional advice which may be rendered by individual officers, directors, sponsors, members, speakers and/or guests, at or as a result of contacts made at any ISSF activity, and/or through our newsletters, websites, or any other source not specifically stated. ❖

**Inventors News  
May 2007**

To receive the newsletter via email, send your email address to [designal21@bellsouth.net](mailto:designal21@bellsouth.net). For those without email, hard copy of the newsletter will be available at the monthly meeting.

Inventors Society of South Florida  
3220 SW 15th St.  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442