



# THE OBSERVER

August 2007

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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Daniel Hudson, PE

NHSPE President

I am writing this on July 1st, the day that I officially assume the duties of President of the New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers. To me this is an unusual phenomenon, as I am more accustomed to working behind the scenes. However, NHSPE has called on me to lead and strangely I'm not completely intimidated by the idea. The reasons are simple; we have a great Board of Directors (BOD), the things we do are important to the profession and of value to our members, and somebody has to do it... so why not me?

As is often said, "many hands make light work" and although we do much of the profession's heavy lifting (legislative efforts this year come to mind), we have always found dedicated and highly capable individuals

*A Word From The President  
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## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe the time has finally come, but now, after serving two extraordinary years in this role, I write this President's Message for the last time. I must say that in the years spent serving our membership and profession, from State Director up through President, it has been a tremendous experience that I have found both humbling and rewarding. Humbling when considering the number of truly exceptional, remarkable, and accomplished individuals that I have crossed paths with over this period; and rewarding that I have had the opportunity to give back to a profession that truly shapes the built environment that we all live in and care about. In looking back, it was Mr. David Gates, PE, past president (1998-1999) and Engineer of the Year (1996) that introduced me to this organization in 2000. With that introduction, he truly opened my eyes to the wonderful opportunities that exist in terms of

professional and personal growth if you become engaged as an active participant in this great profession. Dave continues to be one of my greatest mentors as a true example of the consummate engineer and I would like to thank him for being such a great example for us in a time when common sense can sometimes get lost in a myriad of details, data, and emails that can be stifling.

I don't really want to go on about everything that has been accomplished in the last 2 years and I know you don't want me to either, but I will say that I went back to our 2006 summer planning session to see what we said we would do in 2007 and in the most general terms our mission looked something like this... (1) provide a heightened awareness of PE's, the profession and

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## Governor Vetoes Damages-Shifting Bill

On June 2, Gov. John Lynch vetoed HB 143, which would have permitted a court to levy a high percentage of legal damages in accident cases to defendants with a low percentage of comparative fault, such as engineering firms. NHSPE, NSPE, and other professional organizations strongly opposed this bill. HB 143 was the most important bill being addressed by the NHSPE legislative tracking initiative this year.

In a press release, Gov. Lynch said he vetoed the bill "because it is unfair for a defendant with a low degree of fault to have to pay a disproportionately large share of the damages." New Hampshire has a hybrid system of comparative fault,

he said, that tries to balance the interests of injured plaintiffs with minimally liable defendants. The Attorney General had also testified that HB 143 would have increased litigation costs and judgments borne by the taxpayers.

The NHSPE legislative tracking initiative is also tracking other state bills relevant to the engineering profession:

HB 833 would establish a committee to study the outsourcing of jobs involving state contracts. Some engineering firms have started offshoring certain engineering tasks so that they can submit more

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# NHSPE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting was held on June 12th at the Manchester Hilton Garden Inn, overlooking the minor league baseball stadium for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. Members were fortunate to be joined by Kathryn A. Gray, P.E., F. NSPE (IL), past president of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

Ms. Gray began the formal segment of the evening with a discussion of NSPE's mission, recent accomplishments, and goals for future action. She also reminded us to celebrate, as this year marks 100 Years of Engineering Licensure. Ms. Gray then inducted this year's Board of Directors and incoming president Daniel Hudson, P.E. accepted the personalized gavel from outgoing president Roch Larochelle, P.E. We thank Roch for two full years of dedication as the President of this organization, and look forward to Dan's future leadership in this position.

Before and after the induction of new officers, members relaxed on the patio and took in the ongoing Fisher Cats baseball game. 🐾

*Submitted by Erin Wood, PE*



(Top) View of the Fisher Cats baseball game from the patio at the NHSPE Annual Meeting. (Right) NHSPE President Dan Hudson, P.E. displaying the president's gavel. (Left) NSPE past president Kathryn A. Gray, P.E., F.NSPE (left) and newly elected NHSPE Board of Directors.

## THE OBSERVER

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## 100 Years of Engineering Licensure

A century ago, anyone could work as an engineer without proof of competency. In order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, the first engineering licensure law was enacted in 1907 in Wyoming. Now every state regulates the practice of engineering to ensure public safety by granting only Professional Engineers (PEs) the authority to sign and seal engineering plans, and offer their services to the public.

To help commemorate the "100 Years of Licensure," the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) is planning celebration activities, contests, and outreach materials to continue the promotion of licensure and its importance to both the engineering profession and to public health, safety, and welfare.

For more information on the "100 Years of Licensure" celebration, or engineering licensure in general, visit [www.nspe.org](http://www.nspe.org).

**NSPE**100  
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## Outgoing President's Message

**Continued from Page 1**

NHSPE and; (2) provide continued and improved educational programs to not only our membership but all PE's throughout the state. What happened after that was just truly amazing when considering the number and quality of programs that we were able to put on for new and old PE's alike while also maintaining a strong core leadership for our regular business such as the MATHCOUNTS Program, the John Alger Memorial Scholarship, the Engineer of the Year program, and our Annual Eweek Banquet. We also initiated and launched new Government Relations and Public Relations program with the help of our National parent organization that is designed improve our visibility as PE's and as expert resources throughout our state, while also initiating planning efforts for our 1st Annual Joint Engineering Societies conference which will be held on October 11, 2007 (see [www.nhjes.org](http://www.nhjes.org) for details). If that is not enough, we also met head on with a plethora of new legislation as the House and Senate turned over leadership, including taking a very vocal and focal position on the recently vetoed HB-143 that was widely opposed by industry, business, and municipal leaders.

I would like to thank the entire Board of Directors and associated support staff for helping to guide NHSPE through all of these accomplishments since none of this would have happened without their dedication and foresight. Never before have I been surrounded by such talented and dedicated individuals and I am proud to have served with them in this role. Now, I am looking forward to continuing my service to this organization as Past President and look forward to a new year and new leadership with Mr. Dan Hudson, PE as the incoming President. Good luck Dan and thanks for all the support this year. I hope you all have a great summer! ☺

*Submitted by Roch Larochelle, PE  
NHSPE President 2005 - 2007*



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## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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to step up and pitch in and this year is no exception. Having a BOD comprised of Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and Associates of engineering companies, an attorney, a couple of past Young Engineers of the Year, and leadership from technical engineering societies, Government agencies, and those in academia tells you a bit about our group. These people are already proven leaders in the industry and we are extremely fortunate that they've agreed to volunteer their time, energy, expertise, and talents to our society. We're certainly in capable hands and I look for us to continue our pattern of growth, successes, and accomplishment of goals.


In order to fully align oneself with a group such as NHSPE, it's important to understand and accept the group's mission and underlying values. Our Mission states that, "The New Hampshire Society of Professional Engineers (NHSPE) is the society of engineering profession-


als in New Hampshire that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering, advocates licensure, and enhances the image and well being of its members while implementing the program of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) at the state level." This means many things, but the bottom line is that we do good things for engineers and the engineering profession. Many engineers are simply comfortable practicing in their profession, having completed the necessary schooling, obtained the necessary experience, and successfully navigated the professional licensure examinations. However, many of us take a deeper interest, concerning ourselves with the current and emerging threats to the profession, as well as looking for opportunities to improve it, and we want to do our part to ensure that being a licensed professional engineer in the future means as much as and more than it does today.

Having been involved in NHSPE for a number of years in various capacities, it's now my turn to assume the helm. Luckily I've seen many do so before me, each with a unique style, but all with

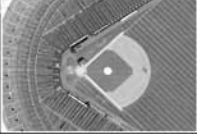
good success so I have a number of mentors to emulate and to turn to for sage advice when needed. In addition to being one of my NHSPE mentors, your Past-President Roch Larochelle has served as a mentor to me professionally at CLD Consulting Engineers, and personally as a friend and has hopefully prepared me for my new NHSPE role. Those that know us both well would tell you that we're definitely different people; however we share the same values, goals, and vision of what NHSPE can and should be.

I've never considered myself the guy to light up a room when I enter, but I'd like to think that I'm one that shows up and gets the things done that need doing when called upon. If I've learned anything in life it's that showing up is half the battle... so here I am, ready to serve NHSPE to the full extent of my capabilities and am confident that the members of your 2007/2008 Board of Directors are willing and ready to do the same. If and when we call on you for assistance, I hope that you too will ask yourself "why not me?" and arrive at the same conclusion that we have. 








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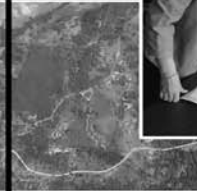



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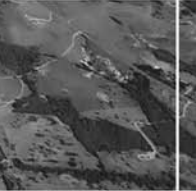












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# NHSPE PORTSMOUTH LUNCHEON MEETING THE UPPER COURT STREET BURIAL GROUND

On May 10th a luncheon meeting was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Portsmouth, New Hampshire entitled "The Upper Court Street Burial Ground - Challenges of Urban Archaeology." Our guest speaker was Dr. Kathleen Wheeler, Director and Principal Archaeologist of Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC (IAC). Dr. Wheeler described the chain of events that led to the discovery of the burial ground, as well as steps taken to document, preserve, and ultimately re-intern the remains.

As part of a sewer line replacement project, IAC was contracted investigate whether or not there were any archaeological resources in the project area. As part of a Phase 1A study (document review) from historic maps it was known that a "Negro Burring Ground" was located somewhere in Portsmouth, but the exact location was unknown. From available historic records, it appeared that the burial ground was located on the west side of Chestnut Street and was used during the approximate period between 1705 and 1800. Therefore, in May 2002 a Phase 1B study was undertaken which involved exploration around the Chestnut Street intersection (difficult in an urban setting with pavement, brick sidewalks, etc.) to see if the location of the burial ground could be verified. Nothing was

found, and it was determined that the construction project should proceed, but only after a protocol had been developed with specific steps that should be taken should something be found during construction.

At 8AM on October 7, 2003, a coffin was discovered during excavation for the sewer line replacement. Construction was halted and IAC was contacted to investigate. As they unearthed the gravesite, another was discovered due to its proximity to the first. This pattern continued, and as each coffin was removed "en bloc" (all at once) others were discovered. Ultimately 8 coffins were removed and another 5 were unearthed, but not removed. As each coffin was removed, it was carried by honorary African American pall bearers to a hearse with proceedings overseen by Reverend Arthur Hilson, as well as Oscar Mokeme from the Portland Museum of African Tribal Art. The remains were then taken to a secure location for further study.

Of the 8 sets of remains that were removed, 6 were in very poor condition. The soil conditions at the burial site were very good for preserving wood, but unfortunately dissolved most of the bones. However, it has been determined that 4 were male, 1 was female, and 3 were indeterminate. Estimated ages at time of death vary including; 1 child (7-12 years

old), 6 adults aged 21-40 years, and one adult 30-50 years old. No artifacts were found with the exception of a possible shroud pin and therefore it is theorized that the bodies may have been wrapped in shrouds vs. in clothing. Based upon the density of the graves sites found, it is estimated that there could possibly be as many as 200 bodies buried in this location.

Discovery of this African American burial site is historic and is the only such site of its kind discovered in New England. This one of a kind discovery has propagated on-going research, advanced the forensic sciences, and has expanded the understanding of colonial African American community. It has also brought a sense of relief and celebration for the descendant community of these African Americans, as it confirms information passed down through the generations about the burial site.

Although this project was not without controversy, overall it was a success and Dr. Wheeler offered the following keys to ensure successful future projects; communication, constant updates and exchanges of data and plans, flexibility to respond to unexpected discoveries, and not being afraid to ask stupid questions. ☺

*Submitted by Daniel Hudson, PE*

## JOINT SOCIETIES UPDATE

Planning remains ongoing for our upcoming October 11, 2007 conference (see [www.nhjes.org](http://www.nhjes.org) for details). By the time you read this summary, the Joint Societies Conference Committee will have already held another planning meeting (July 12, 2007) where we will be reviewing draft registration forms and conference brochures. As many of you already know we have also launched our funding campaign which is a crucial part of the ultimate success of the new annual program. Please contact me or Deb Coon at [dcoon@htanh.com](mailto:dcoon@htanh.com) if you would like to become a conference sponsor and take advan-

tage of the advertising opportunities. One item I would like to note is that we have successfully secured a \$500 Technical Symposium Grant from IEEE as seed money for this conference. Special thanks go to Don Sherwood and Tom Perkins from IEEE for their efforts in putting the application together. Both Tom and Don are members of the conference committee. Keep an eye out as registrations will be opening in August for this conference and we are hoping for a healthy turnout. ☺

*Submitted by Roch Larochelle, PE*



*Archaeologists excavate the burial site at Court Street and Chestnut Street.*

## Membership Report

NHSPE continues to experience steady growth in our membership. The following individuals have joined or submitted membership applications since April 2007:

Robert C. Alderman  
Jason M. Ayotte  
John R. Blackburn  
Kurt D. Blomquist  
Michael L. Bramhall  
Eric W. Botterman  
Todd W. Buck  
Joseph M. Burke  
Raymond A. Cook  
Kathleen S. Corliss

Darrell B. Ford  
John G. Goudreau  
Marc R. Grenier  
Donald Lasell  
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Jeffrey W. Santacruce  
Lennart D. Suther  
Michael A. Trainque  
Andrew P. Vardakis  
Tracy L. Wood

Changes to your membership profile (name, address, email, etc.)

may be made online at

[www.nspe.org/membership/](http://www.nspe.org/membership/) or  
emailed to [memserv@nspe.org](mailto:memserv@nspe.org).

If you'd like assistance from NHSPE's Membership Chairman, see the back page of this issue for contact information, or email [membership@nhspe.org](mailto:membership@nhspe.org).

## Governor Vetoes Damages-Shifting Bill

**Continued from Page 1**

competitive bids for contracts. HB 833 passed the Senate with an amendment, to which the House has not concurred.


HB 776 establishes the licensure and regulation of private investigators, which is defined as including accident reconstruction. As submitted, a PE engaged to perform accident reconstruction would have to get a PI license, which is probably not intended. NHSPE is working to insert an amendment. HB 776 is still in committee in the House.

HB 310 would allow municipalities to regulate wind turbines used for home energy production. The bill has been retained in the House Municipal and City Government Committee.

SB 125 establishes certification for architecture firms, which would be under the jurisdiction of the Joint Board. The bill has passed the House and Senate, but

has not yet been signed by the Governor.

SB 212 adds home inspectors to professions overseen by the Joint Board. It remains in the Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee.


HB 499 changes the Industrial Research Center to the Innovation Research Center and modernizes its purpose. Gov. Lynch signed the bill into law on June 28. The law will be effective August 27, 2007. 

*Submitted by Phil Decker, PE, Esq.*

## LOCAL WIN IN TRAC BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

Teams from high schools and junior high schools from around the country competed in AASHTO's 2006-2007 TRAC bridge building competition. A team of students from Belmont High School in New Hampshire won the high school division finals at the AASHTO Spring Meeting in Arizona. The three-member "Belmont Builders" consisted of Benton Beltramo (freshman), Nick Riendeau (freshman), and Kaiti Tuthill (sophomore), and were led by math teacher Randy Wormald. The team built an arched bridge with a cable-operated lift mechanism and will share a \$1,500 savings bond for their success.

The competition challenges the students to build a model balsa wood drawbridge that is tested for mechanics and for strength-to-weight ratio. The teams are judged not only on the design and strength of the drawbridges, but also on their presentations before AASHTO's Standing Committee on Highways.

TRAC (TRAansportation and Civil engineering) is a hands-on educational outreach program that offers engineering and science related curriculum to middle schools and high schools to attract students to careers in engineering. For more information about TRAC visit [www.trac.net](http://www.trac.net). 

*Submitted by Erin Wood, PE*

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# NHSPE John Alger Memorial Scholarship 2007 Awards Update

*Congratulations go out to three winners this year for \$1,000 scholarships each, coincidentally all to budding mechanical engineers. The selections were narrowed down from a field of 43 applicants. Each of the applicants had high academic credentials and strong backgrounds in athletics, community service or music. Please help us congratulate this year's John Alger Memorial Scholarship recipients as follow:*

## Mr. Tyler Curtis

Tyler is a 2007 graduate of Somersworth High School in Somersworth, NH. He will be attending UNH-Durham expecting to graduate in the spring of 2011, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. Tyler has a GPA of 3.86, and graduated 11th in a class of 112. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the student council, the math team, and represents the student body on the Rollinsford School Board. He has lettered in varsity football and baseball, received nine academic and athletic awards, and found time for numerous community service projects in Somersworth and Rollinsford throughout his high school tenure. Tyler's career goal is to own a consulting business.

## Mr. Colin Fischer

Colin is currently a junior at UNH-Durham, majoring in Mechanical Engineering with an expectation to graduate in the spring of 2008. He is a 2004 graduate of Contoocook Valley Regional High School and since then has maintained a GPA of 3.92 at UNH. Colin

is a member of the Tau Beta Pi Honor Society, the student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers, and President Elect of ASME. He is also actively involved in the UNH Hoverclub of America Team, Robotics Club, Mechanical Engineering Student Advisory Board, and College of Engineering and Physical Science Leadership Council. Colin is thinking ahead to graduate school at MIT, Dartmouth, or Brown with interests in bio-mechanical engineering or alternative energy research.


## Mr. Jason Rice

Jason is currently a sophomore at UNH-Durham, majoring in Mechanical Engineering and expects to graduate in the spring of 2009. His interests lie in the field of sustainable energy generation and technology, applying his interests as an intern at the PSNH Schiller Station in Portsmouth. Jason has also been working part-time in the UNH Mechanical Engineering Fluids lab with Prof. Klewicki, while maintaining a GPA of 3.73. He is a projects committee member of the

student chapter of ASME, as well as a member of the Honors Program Student Advisory Board, an honors peer mentor, and a leader in the UNH Outing Club.

## NHSPE State Scholarship Program

For those of you who are new to the organization, the state scholarship program has been in place since 2001 and is funded primarily from donations made by NHSPE members and member firms. The program provides financial assistance to students (NH residents) who are already or will be attending an ABET-EAC accredited college or university for studies in the field of engineering. The program is not possible without the strong support of our members and corporate donors. **Thank you for your support.**

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to this important program, checks can be made out to "NHSPE State Scholarship" and mailed anytime to: NHSPE, State Scholarship Program, PO Box 1343, Concord, NH 03302-1343. 

*Submitted by Larry Dwyer, PE*



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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**October 11, 2007**

Annual NH Joint Engineering  
Societies Conference

**October 26, 2007**

P.E. Exam

**November 8-10 2007**

NSPE Northeast Region Fall Conference  
Princeton, New Jersey

**November 8, 2007**

UNH Stormwater Center

**February 21, 2008**

Engineers Week Banquet & Exhibition

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Structural Engineers of New Hampshire (SENH)

## ***NHJES 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Joint Engineering Societies Conference***

**Thursday, October 11, 2007**

**The Executive Court Banquet Facility at the  
Yard**

**1199 South Mammoth Road, Manchester, NH**



### ***“Dropping the Borders of Engineering”***

(Visit [www.nhjес.org](http://www.nhjес.org) for additional conference details)

The New Hampshire Joint Engineering Society invites you to our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Joint Engineering Society Conference. This year’s Conference theme is “Dropping the Borders of Engineering”. This event is geared to providing a strong informational and educational series of sessions for all disciplines of engineering.

#### **Agenda**

7:30 - 8:00	Coffee/Registration
8:30 - 8:45	Opening Address
8:45 - 10:15	Session #1 (1.50 PDH) “Team Building” by Deb Titus of Dale Carnegie
10:15 - 10:30	Break
10:30 - 12:00	Session #2 (1.50 PDH) “Knowledge Management” by Daniel Saroff of BAE Systems
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch “Students without Borders” by Eric Reitter, PE and Jenna Jambeck, PhD of UNH
1:00 - 2:00	Session #3 (1.00 PDH) “Disaster Preparedness and Response” Speaker to be Determined
2:15 - 3:15	Session #4 (1.00 PDH) “Technology and Society” by Professor Ron Sandler of Northeastern University
3:15 - 3:30	Break
3:30 - 4:30	Session #5 (1.00 PDH) “Sales for Non-Selling Professionals” by Judith Carlough of Sandler Sales Institute



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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Selection: Hot lunch Buffet including Soup, Salad and selection of Chicken or Beef entrée.

Payment: Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Will Send \_\_\_\_\_ (due by September 28, 2007)

**Cost:**

- \$80 ASCE/IEEE/NHSPE/SENH Member
- \$100 Non-Member
- \$40 Full-Time Student

**Make Checks Payable To:**

“NHSPE-NH-JES 2007 Conference”

Note: A total of 6.0 PDH’s will be offered for full attendance at this event.

**Contact For Questions:**

Deb Coon  
 Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc.  
 Phone: (603) 669-5555 x.106  
 Fax: (603) 669-4168  
 Email: [dcoon@hta-nh.com](mailto:dcoon@hta-nh.com)

**Mail Registration Form and Payment To:**

c/o Deb Coon  
 SENH  
 P.O. Box 226  
 Manchester, NH 03105

**Email To:**

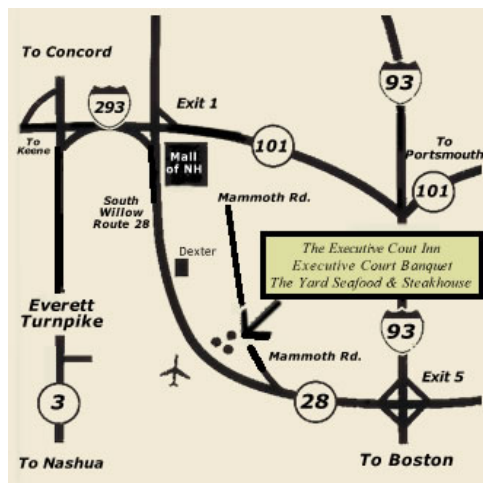
[dcoon@hta-nh.com](mailto:dcoon@hta-nh.com)

**Fax To:**

(603) 669-4168

*Registration Deadline is Noon on Friday, September 28, 2007  
 No refunds will be offered for cancellations after Noon on Friday, October 5, 2007*

**Directions/Parking:**



**From I-293 & 101**

Take exit 1, head south on Route 28 (South Willow Street) and bear left after Dexter Shoe Factory Outlet. Stay on Route 28 South and enter at the Best Western Executive Court Inn on your left.

**From I-93**

Take Exit 5 (North Londonderry) to Route 28 North for 3 miles. Enter at The Best Western Executive Court Inn on right.

Free parking is available at the site.