

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino



American Nuclear Society
Savannah River Section

July 2025 to January 2026 Edition

Web address: <https://savannahriver.ans.org/>

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Winner of ANS 2025 Meritorious Section Award for Best Overall Local Section

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Chair and Vice Chair Messages

Chair



Dear ANS-SR Section Members,

The section fall 2025 session had a great combination of activities for our members and their guests that highlighted the past, present and future. For example, the September speaker, Susie Ferrara, the Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager for Savannah River Nuclear Solutions at SRS, emphasized the past at the Site. She also covered preparation of events marking the 75th anniversary of the 1950 announcement of the construction of the Savannah River Plant. She discussed the key improvements with the 315-M Curation Facility, and highlighted the new NNSA sponsored 75th Anniversary SRS exhibit to be installed at the SRS Museum in Aiken.

The October speaker, Jim Little, a member of the South Carolina Governor's Nuclear Council past President and CEO of Washington Safety Management Solutions in the early 2000s, gave an update on current efforts to restart construction of V. C. Summer Units 2 and 3. He presented a balanced assessment of what it would take to resume and complete construction of the two AP1000 units.

The November meeting was a tour of the state-of-the-art SRNL Advance Manufacturing Collaborative Facility (AMCF) at USC-Aiken. As Daren Timmons of AMCF showed during the tour, the facility will yield many great future opportunities for advancing engineering and science in the CSRA.

In early December, Paul Ebel led a tour of the long-dormant Allied General Nuclear Services (AGNS) in Barnwell, that was once a promising commercial facility for reprocessing of nuclear fuel.

This fall the local section participated in several Outreach and STEM activities that also reflected Section past, present and future themes. Activities included:

- College Night at the Augusta Convention Center where ANS SR volunteers interacted with CSRA high school seniors, parents, and educators on Nuclear Science and Technology college opportunities.
- S.E.E.D. day at USC-Aiken and the Fall Fission Festival near the SRS Historical Museum where ANS SR section members demonstrated nuclear science concepts with hands-on activities, and celebrated nuclear in costume, respectively. as well as holding a "Trivia" gathering for members to get to know each other in a more relaxed setting.
- A Nuclear Science Discovery workshop opportunity with Bill Wabbersen that helped build the Section's capability to provide volunteers for teachable, hands-on activities at area schools.

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Chair and Vice Chair Messages (contd)

We ended 2025 with a great Holiday Celebration party that included great food, fellowship and live music.

All these activities and more are covered in this edition of the Neutrino. I'm eagerly awaiting the winter and spring activities in 2026 and encourage members and non-members to get engaged with the best overall section in the American Nuclear Society.

Carl Benhardt
2025-26 Chair

Vice Chair

ANS Savannah River Section Members,

As we look ahead to the coming year, I want to share how excited I am about the direction of our section and the opportunities in front of us. Thanks to the dedication and energy of our leadership team and membership, the past year was a strong and successful one marked by engaging programs, meaningful technical discussions, and continued outreach across our professional and local communities.



Building on that momentum, we have an excellent program planned for the year ahead. We are focused on delivering high-quality technical content, increasing opportunities for professional development and networking, and strengthening our role as a trusted resource on nuclear science and technology in the CSRA. As the nuclear industry landscape evolves and interests grow in our field, this is an exciting time to be involved with ANS.

I am grateful for your continued engagement and support, and I look forward to working alongside you to make this year even more impactful than the last. I encourage everyone to stay involved, attend our events, and share your ideas as we continue to grow and strengthen our section.

My best,

James Deaton
2025-26 Vice Chair

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Technical Meetings

September

On September 25, 2025, Susie Ferrara, of the SRS Cold War Curation Facility, presented "Hot Labs, Cold War, and South Carolina's Best Kept Secret: Preserving the SRS Legacy". The meeting was held at the Electric Eats Bar & Grille, in Aiken, SC.

Susie is a Cold War Historic Preservation Program Manager, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC at the SRS. She has the responsibility for the preservation, Management, and treatment of National Register of Historic Places. Eligible historic properties, equipment, archival records, and documents within the SRS Cold War Heritage tourism and outreach; and continued partnership with the SRS Heritage Foundation's SRS Museum. In her talk, Susie gave an update on the 75th Anniversary of the Savannah River Site, improvements with the 315-M Curation Facility, and the new National Nuclear Security Administration sponsored 75th Anniversary exhibit to be installed at the SRS Museum.



Susie Ferrara

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Technical Meetings (contd)

October

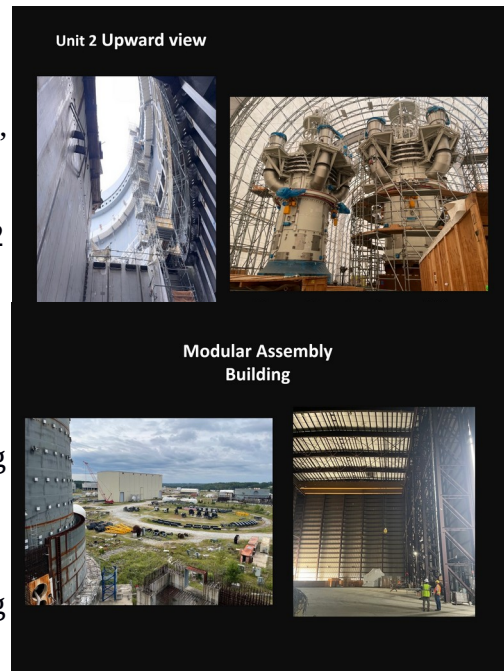


This ANS SRS dinner meeting featured fifty-year, nuclear professional, Jim Little. Mr. Little is the industry representative on the Governor of South Carolina’s Nuclear Advisory Committee and spoke on the resumption of the Virgil C. Summer Nuclear Project. Jim’s presentation was entitled, “Virgil Summer: From \$9 Billion Loss to America’s Next Nuclear Success – With Mindsight Over Hindsight” and given to an audience of 47 at Newberry Hall in Aiken.

Little has government and commercial leadership experience at companies including Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Washington Group International, and URS Corporation. He served as President and CEO, 2003-2008, for Washin Safety Management Solutions, LLC in Aiken.

James Little speaking at Newberry Hall

In his talk, Jim discussed the factors involved in the original Virgil C. Summer project failure, an update of the current state, efforts and required actions to restore it to a national success story and how it could be a template for the future. From a walkdown visit in 2024, Jim characterized the Summer Units 2 and 3 site as “remarkable, with the project site looking as if work had stopped only months earlier”. He described seeing “26 acres of warehouses filled with components, materials preserved, protected, and ready, with infrastructure intact and awaiting completion.” Little said that while the challenges would be extraordinary, completing Virgil Summer could bring immense benefits. Some of the more prominent ones would be: (1) Filling a critical gap in South Carolina’s power generation; (2) Converting a \$9 billion loss on the utility rate base into equity within an operating nuclear plant. (3) Securing South Carolina’s leadership in nuclear technology and generation; (4) Creating a replicable model for additional AP1000 units; and (5) Creating jobs while promoting economic growth and sizable tax revenue return.



Images from Jim Little’s talk showing VC Summer project facilities taken during 2024 tour

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Technical Meetings (contd)

Jim covered management of large project risk and how successful projects get to successful completion in today's economic environment. He included approaches for risk management that would be important to the Summer units' completion, such as hindsight, foresight, and mindsight (in short, "the ability to see how we make decisions, how biases and emotions, not logic, can shape our choices"). Little ended on an optimistic note, saying, "Virgil Summer is ready. The site is intact. The technology is proven. The opportunity is waiting. But completion will not come from contracts or technology alone. It will come from mindset. The choice is ours. Do we let the past define us? Or do we seize this chance, together, and complete Virgil Summer?"

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Scan this code for Jim Little's presentation.

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Technical Meetings (contd)



Past and present professionals of Amentum and its legacy companies attended the dinner meeting. Back row (L-R) – Rob Fundak, Kevin O’Kula, Mukesh Gupta, Elizabeth Henley, Sean White, Jan Radder, ANS SRS Chair Carl Benhardt; Front row (L-R) – Jim Little (President and CEO, 2003-08), Carl Fields, and Fred Beranek. Not shown were later attendees Steve Nathan and Tinh Tran.

December 2025 Update on Units 2 and 3 Virgil C. Summer Completion*

Santee Cooper, South Carolina’s state-owned electric and water utility, announced in December 2025 that it signed a memorandum of understanding with Brookfield Asset Management. The MOU represents the next step in Santee Cooper potentially selling the two partially built AP1000 units at V.C. Summer nuclear power plant to Brookfield. With its signing, the two parties will now conduct a feasibility study on completing those units.

As part of the deal, Santee Cooper is set to receive \$2.7 billion in cash should the parties reach a final investment decision and commit to completing the units. The utility would additionally maintain a targeted 25 percent ownership share of the plant—with proportional capacity once the units begin commercial operation. The MOU sets a deadline of June 26, 2026, for Brookfield to determine initial feasibility. It also establishes a path to final investment decision that is estimated to take 18–24 months.

*(See <https://www.ans.org/news/2025-12-10/article-7608/vc-summer-update-mou-signed-with-brookfield/> for full report)

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Technical Meetings (contd)

November

On November 13, 2025, the ANS Savannah River Section toured the Savannah River National Laboratory's new Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative (AMC) Facility. It is a true public-private partnership, combining the unique capabilities of the US Department of Energy's National Laboratories, industrial enterprises, and educational institutions to drive the long-term sustainability of the US manufacturing sector. AMC is an innovation hub for manufacturing, fostering modern industrial practices, advancing new technologies, and training the future manufacturing workforce with a focus on chemical and materials manufacturing. This facility is one of only seven national laboratory facilities located on a university campus. The 60,000-square-foot facility provides new laboratory, office, and conference space suitable for advanced manufacturing research and development, but also houses collaborative and research and development spaces for launching innovative technologies into the commercial sector. Daren Timmons, the AMC director and director of technology partnerships at SRNL, started the section tour of the facility.



Daren Timmons



Section touring the Classroom/Lab

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Technical Meetings (contd)

2025 Holiday Celebration

On December 9, 2025, the local section met at Cavalier's in North Augusta for the annual Holiday Celebration. The attendees enjoyed the food, interface and music. The musician, Fred Williams a full-time engineer at SRS but occasionally does a side gig with playing the tenor sax. Fred plays smooth jazz – contemporary praise and worship saxophonist, and is a native of Baton Rouge, LA and now makes Augusta, GA home. Influenced as a young teen while listening to a saxophonist perform with the Southern University Band, little did he know he would find himself on that very campus in the midst of upcoming artists such as Branford Marsalis, and Donald Harrison.

Fred recently released “Day Trip” a CD consisting of his own smooth jazz arrangements. At the request of fans Fred has also delivered by putting together a compilation of holiday classics; the result “Christmas Joy – Christmas Jazz”.



Pictured above is the 2025-26 Executive Committee



Food and Fellowship

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Technical Meetings (contd)

Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant Tour

On December 18, 2025, a group of ANS SR members and area nuclear professionals toured the Allied General Nuclear Services (AGNS) Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant (BNFP) in Barnwell, South Carolina. The tour was arranged and led by AGNS retiree Paul Ebel. It began at 9:00 AM at the Aiken Chamber of Commerce with a 30 minute overview followed by a drive to the Barnwell site and an approximately one-hour tour of major sections of BNFP.

Paul provided an outstanding and unique portrayal of the BNFP, its major facilities, and the basis process flowsheet. He highlighted what the group would later see and included stories about work at BNFP. The tour itself covered the site exterior, receipt and storage basins, and processing cells. In the words of one of the participants, the tour was “awesome,” that while they “learned a lot,” it was “a bit sad to be honest.” The last sentiment is interpreted to mean that the BNFP facility was and is a true national asset, halted without ever operating and the group was somewhat alarmed by its present physical condition. The full set of slides discussed by Paul may be viewed via the QR code given at the end of this article.

Background on the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant

The BNFP was designed and constructed to process light-water reactor (LWR) fuel equivalent to 1500 metric tons of uranium per year using the PUREX process. Construction began in early 1971 and was essentially completed for three facilities by mid-1976 [1]. The built facilities would have supported fuel receiving and storage, separation of uranium, plutonium and fission products in the spent fuel, conversion of uranyl nitrated solution to uranium hexafluoride (UF₆), storage of plutonium nitrate and liquid wastes, and laboratory analyses and research. While cold testing for operability was conducted using natural uranium as surrogate fuel from 1976-1983, at no time was spent nuclear reactor fuel present [2]. A BNFP flow diagram from Ebel’s overview discussion prior to the start of the tour is shown in Figure 1. The PUREX process was summarized by Ebel in his presentation ahead of the tour in Figure 2.

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Technical Meetings (contd)

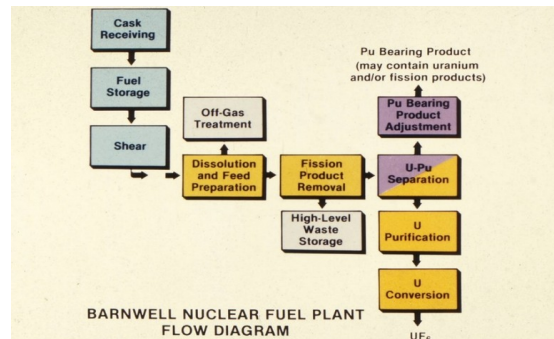


Fig 1 BNFP flow diagram from the Ebel overview presentation [1]

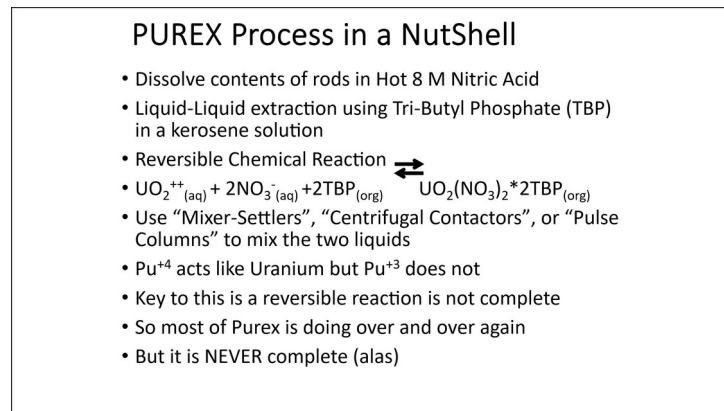


Fig 2 PUREX Process crib sheet from the Ebel presentation [1]

BNFP History and Constituent Facilities

Following a reversal of government policy in 1977, the BNFP never commenced commercial operation. This was primarily because reprocessing of spent fuel generates a stream of purified plutonium as well as purified uranium, with the plutonium inventory, if diverted, could support nuclear weapons proliferation. Thus, BNFP was never used for its primary purpose of processing spent nuclear fuel from commercial nuclear power plants. Nonetheless, of the five major facilities planned, three were completed.

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Technical Meetings (contd)

The completed facilities were:

- Fuel Receiving and Storage Facility, where spent fuel rods were to be unloaded and placed in stainless-steel-lined pools. The facility contained a cask testing and decontamination pit, two cask unloading pools, a fuel storage pool, and associated pool water cooling and treatment equipment and handling cranes. See Figure 3. [Note: No photos were taken during the tour on December 18th. Instead, photos are found in Ref. 1 and from available open literature references on AGNS and BNFP.]

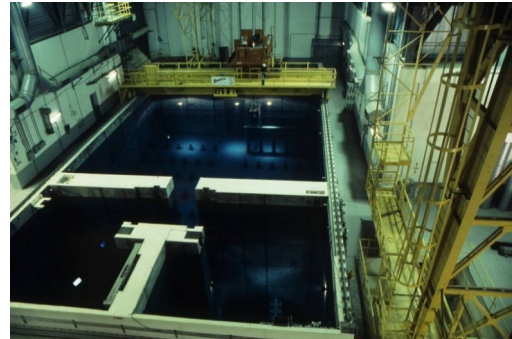


Fig. 3 Fuel rod storage tank (stainless steel-lined) [1]

- Separations Facility, that included five contact maintenance cells, two remote maintenance cells, plutonium nitrate storage cells and associated equipment, such as pumps, instrumentation, and piping [3]. The Separation was designed to process waste fuel rods by first transferring them from the storage and receiving area and chopping the fuel rods into short pieces to expose the uranium oxide, plutonium oxide and fission products to subsequent chemical processing. An initial process step was planned with hot nitric acid leaching, part of the PUREX process, that would remove the spent fuel constituents from the chopped tubing hulls. They would then be separated from each other by a solvent extraction system and be available for use in new fuel rods. The nitric acid would theoretically be recovered and used again. The process would produce both high- and low-level radioactive wastes where the high-level liquid wastes would be stored in stainless steel storage tanks inside underground concrete vaults at the plant. The chopped tubing hulls would be temporarily stored on-site [3]. See Figures 4a and 4b.



Fig 4a Shear and Dissolver [1]

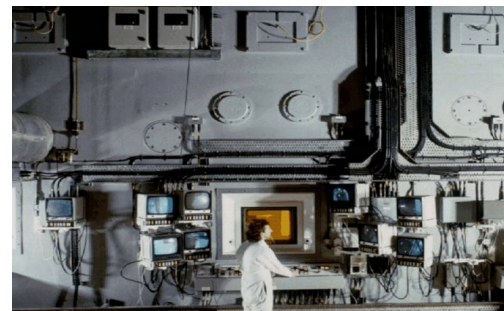


Fig 4b BNFP Operator at Hot Cells [4]

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Technical Meetings (contd)

- The Uranium Hexafluoride Facility was designed to receive uranyl nitrate from the Separations facility in liquid form and convert it into a UF₆ powder. The UF₆ facility was housed in an eight-story metal frame building (Figure 5).

Although planned originally for the overall BNFP, two additional facilities were not constructed. They were the Plutonium Product Facility and the Waste Solidification Facility.



Fig 5 Uranium Hexafluoride Facility [3]

Associated with the BNFP facilities was the Hot and Cold Laboratory Area. It contained Analytical Chemistry Laboratories, and Engineering and Technical Laboratories. The latter consisted of Engineering, Alpha, Radiochemical and Cold Chemical Laboratories. While cold testing was performed in 1977-1983 using natural uranium, research and development work was also conducted in the laboratories using plutonium and transuranics.

A Waste Tank Equipment Gallery (WTEG) housed the pumps, piping, and equipment for maintaining and sampling the three underground liquid waste storage tanks. The 300,000-gallon tanks were designed to hold high-level waste (Figure 6). The figure shows the extensive internal cooling piping required to remove radioactive decay heat. The tanks were made of stainless steel, which allowed storage of acidic wastes and essentially eliminated the presence of solids [4].



Fig 6 HLW tanks during construction [1]

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Technical Meetings (contd)

Decommissioning and Current Status

In 1983, BNFP was shut down and partially decontaminated. However, significant contamination remained in processing equipment, inside gloveboxes and fume hood in the laboratory area, as well other facility surfaces. In August of 1997, AGNS proceeded with planning to decommission the plant. Decontamination and decommissioning began in 1998 and was completed approximately two years later [2].



Fig 7 The complex shown here in a 2000, shows the exterior of Separations Facility, the Fuel Receiving and Storage Facility, the Plutonium Nitrate Loading Station, and the Hot and Cold Laboratory Area [2]

Following closure in the early 1980s, the BNFP site was conveyed to the Southern Carolina Alliance (SCA) which has been trying to redevelop the 1632 acres with new industry. To date SCA has successfully brought several industries to the site though most of the acreage is still unused [5]. The main BNFP building is presently the home of the Government Training Institute (GTI). GTI has repurposed the main building to train law enforcement personnel in tactical activities required to assure mission completion.

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Technical Meetings (contd)

References

1. Paul Ebel PowerPoint, “Some Allied General Nuclear Fuel Reprocessing Slides,” ANS Savannah River tour, December 18, 2025.
2. J. McNeil, “The Decommissioning of the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant,” Waste Management ’00 Conference, February 27-March 2, 2000, Tucson, AZ
3. Allied-General Nuclear Services Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant Decommissioning Plan, Revision 1, Attachment 1, October 14, 1983.
4. A.G. Croff, R.G. Wymer, L.L. Tavlarides, J.H. Flack, and H.G. Larson, “Background, Status, and Issues Related to the Regulation of Advanced Spent Nuclear Fuel Recycle Facilities,” ACNW&M White Paper, NUREG-1909, June 2008.
5. R. Lee and J. Little, Trip Report: Inspection and Current Status of the Cancelled Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant (BNFP) Built by the Allied-General Nuclear Service Co. (AGNS).



Scan the QR code for Paul Ebel’s overview slides on AGNS and the BNFP.

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The ANS Nuclear Criticality Safety Division Conference

The ANS Nuclear Criticality Safety Division held its topical conference in Austin, Texas on September 14 - 18, 2025. This was an event three years in the making and the Savannah River Site was proud to provide a strong showing at the conference. For criticality safety engineers, this was the professional event of the year.

There were 12 attendees from SRS who included:

- Savannah River Nuclear Solutions employees: Tracy Stover, Christian Sifuentes, Milo Scheulen, Michael MacDonald, Phillip Dressman, Jaylen Jones, and Jackson Meuret
- Spectra Tech employees (subcontracts to SRNS): Bill Newmeyer, Brittany Williamson, and David Erickson.
- Savannah River Mission Completion employee: Gary Ly.
- Sigma Science employee (subcontract to NNSA): Michael Fendler

Brittany Williamson and Michael Fendler deserve special credit as they were on the planning committee for this conference, volunteering three years of their free time to make this event a success.

Approximately 200 criticality safety professionals attended this conference. The conference included approximately 100 technical presentations, three workshops (plutonium chemistry, sensitivity analysis, and thermal scattering law), various social events, and tours of the University of Texas high performance computing center and research reactor facility. It was an exciting and eventful week.

Additionally, due to the conference being a smaller standalone meeting, this afforded the planners the opportunity to host it in a city rarely visited by ANS, a music and entertainment mecca Austin! Conference goers in off hours had the opportunity to take in the vibrant live music scene, explore the natural and historic sites of the local countryside, or watch the nightly emergence of over a million bats from the downtown Austin bridge.

SRNS and Spectra Tech employees contributed 6 of the approximately 100 papers for the conference. For many of the SRNS attendees, this was their first professional conference. The next such conference will not be until at least 2029.

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Upcoming Events in 2026

March 2026 Meeting ANS President

The Savannah River Section is pleased to welcome Dr. Hashem M. “Hash” Hashemian, the 71st President of the American Nuclear Society to the March 25, 2026, dinner meeting. The dinner and Dr. Hashemian’s presentation are planned for Newberry Hall in Aiken, South Carolina. Details for registering for this event will be announced in late February.

Dr. Hashemian is the CEO of Analysis and Measurement Services Corporation (AMS), a nuclear engineering firm headquartered in Knoxville that he co-founded in 1977. Under his leadership, AMS has developed instrumentation and control system testing analysis equipment, training, and services that have been delivered to 26 countries. Plants serviced by AMS include virtually every US nuclear power plant, as well as many in Europe and Asia.



Hashemian is the author or coauthor of 22 US patents. He is a member of the European Nuclear Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the International Society of Automation, and the American Nuclear Society. Within ANS, Hashemian has served in a number of roles across various conferences and committees, including as vice chair of the Development Committee; chair of the Honors and Awards Committee; and chair of the Human Factors, Instrumentation, and Control Division.

Aside from his work in the industry, Hashemian teaches at two universities. He is an adjunct professor of practice at Georgia Institute of Technology’s Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering and an adjunct professor of nuclear engineering at the University of Tennessee–Knoxville. He holds three doctoral degrees in electrical engineering, nuclear engineering and computer engineering from Lamar University, Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), and Western University (Canada), respectively.

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Upcoming Events in 2026 (contd)

May 2026 Meeting Project Director, New Product Introduction, Columbia Fuel Manufacturing Expansion

Elise Malek, Project Director, New Product Introduction, Columbia Fuel Manufacturing Expansion, will speak on Thursday, May 14, 2026. Her talk will describe the expansion of the Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility by constructing a new building and installing processes to produce LEU+ fuel assemblies. Ms. Malek's work is part of the Westinghouse support of US pressurized water reactor transitioning to 24-month refueling cycles. Planning, licensing and construction of this expansion are underway in a new facility near the existing Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility (CFFF) in Hopkins, SC. The location and other details for this dinner meeting and presentation will be announced later this spring.



Westinghouse Columbia Fuel Fabrication Facility Site

May 22, 2026 Augusta Greenjackets Baseball Game

The section returns for its 6th annual night at SRP Park in North Augusta to enjoy a networking and family-friendly evening in the Concourse Lawn Ace Lounge. The GreenJackets play their cross-state rivals, the Columbia Fireflies, on Friday May 22, 2026. Outstanding ballpark fare food buffet and an exciting game are planned. Details for sign-up and reservations will be available soon.



Some of the SRS baseball fans last year

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Benjamin Scholarship

About the ANS Savannah River Dr. Richard Benjamin Scholarships

The ANS Savannah River Scholarship Awards are given in honor of Dr. Richard Benjamin's contributions to nuclear science and technology, and the American Nuclear Society. The Benjamin Scholarships help defray first-year college costs for an academic year of study and are provided in the memory of its long-time member, Dr. Richard (Dick) Benjamin (1925-2013). The award is now in its twelfth year and is for students with academic and career interests in a STEM field, and particularly those wishing to major in a field associated with nuclear science and technology.

Dr. Benjamin was a mentor to many nuclear science and technology professionals in the Aiken-Augusta area for over four decades. He received his BA in Engineering from Lamar University, MS in Nuclear Engineering from Southern Methodist University, and earned his PhD in Nuclear Physics from the University of Texas in 1965. After a three-year post-doctoral study at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Dr. Benjamin came to the Aiken-Augusta area in 1968 with the acceptance of employment at the Savannah River Laboratory (now Savannah River National Laboratory). He worked in many technical areas during his Savannah River Site career, most notably the Reactor Physics, Atmospheric Technologies, and Advanced Planning Groups, followed by the Accelerator Production of Tritium Project.

During his long and illustrious ANS career, he was active with two of its divisions, the Fuel Cycle and Waste Management and Environmental Sciences Divisions, and served as a chair for each one at different times. In June 1992, Dr. Benjamin had the honor of representing ANS at the first United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He served in many ways and held key offices with the Savannah River Section of ANS. Dr. Benjamin was co-director of the local Tasters Guild, a wine and food appreciation society, and was an avid supporter of the Augusta Opera and the Augusta Choral Society. He also enjoyed outdoor activities such as hunting and skiing, and helped found the Aiken Dove Club. He was a co-founder and proprietor of Wine World in North Augusta, where many ANS Savannah River Section Executive Committee meetings were held until its closing in 2019.



Dr. Richard (Dick) Benjamin and his wife, Sally, circa early 2000s.

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Benjamin Scholarship (contd)



2026 American Nuclear Society
Savannah River Section
13TH ANNUAL BENJAMIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

<https://savannahriver.ans.org/>

The Benjamin Scholarship is a competitive financial award given in memory of Dr. Richard W. Benjamin towards the first year of a four-year Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) College/University, or either year of a two-year Technical College degree program.

Scholarship award amounts are based on number & quality of applications with awards typically ranging from \$500 - \$2,000.

- Seeking students with major and career goals in specific STEM disciplines especially those interested in a Nuclear Science and Technology career. See flip side for example fields and majors.
- Current CSRA graduating high school seniors or first-year technical college students are eligible.

➤ **Applications accepted from January 12 – May 4, 2026.**

➤ **Required Application Materials and Evaluation Criteria (%):**

1. Cover form including name, address, evening phone number, current school, home email address, name of college or technical school, and STEM major to which the Benjamin Memorial Scholarship would be applied. Includes a one-sentence non-school related fun fact about yourself (10%).
2. A one-page essay (300 words or less) on why a career in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and educational is the goal of the student; Highlight what you plan to pursue in college & potential career goals. Confirm that AI was not used to write essay (40%)
3. High school transcripts (seven (7) semesters in the case of current high school seniors); First-year transcripts for applicants who are already technical college students (20%)
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation (LoR) from education institution or community organization individuals; Recommendation: One LoR from math, physical science, computer science, or related subject area teacher or club activity leader. Each recommendation is weighted 15%. (30%)

➤ Submit application materials by: 1) Email with attachments to: ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com, or 2) U.S. mail to:

Benjamin Scholarship, ANS-Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804

➤ **Scholarship Award(s) will be announced in June 2026.**



Fillable
Cover Form
PDF

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Benjamin Scholarship (contd)



2026 American Nuclear Society Savannah River Section THIRTEENTH ANNUAL BENJAMIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Eligible STEM Degree or Certificate to which 2026 Benjamin Scholarship is to be applied.

- Applied and Engineering Physics
- Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computer and Computational Sciences, including Artificial Intelligence and Statistics
- Electrical Engineering
- Geosciences
- Engineering Technology (2-year and 4-year programs)
- Material Science and Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering; Naval Architecture, Ocean Engineering & Oceanography
- Nuclear Engineering and Physics
- Operations Research
- Physics, including but not limited to areas of Radiological and Medical Physics
- Other STEM areas may not be evaluated as highly. This is left to the discretion of the Scholarship evaluation team.



See Benjamin Scholarship letter for more details.

ans.savannahriver.scholarship@gmail.com

Benjamin Scholarship, ANS-Savannah River Section, P.O. Box 7001, Aiken, SC 29804

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American Nuclear Society (ANS)

ANS is a professional and technical society of approximately 10,000 engineers, scientists, education professionals and students worldwide that work to promote the awareness and understanding of applications of nuclear science and technology for the benefit of humankind. The ANS Savannah River Section is a 501(c) 3 organization under IRS guidelines. Donations to ANS are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Donations can be sent to the following address and checks can be made out to ANS Savannah River Section or use this QR code or PayPal link below.

ANS Savannah River Section
PO Box 7001
Aiken, SC 29804



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=5VYRNAZ35ELN4

Corporate Charitable Support

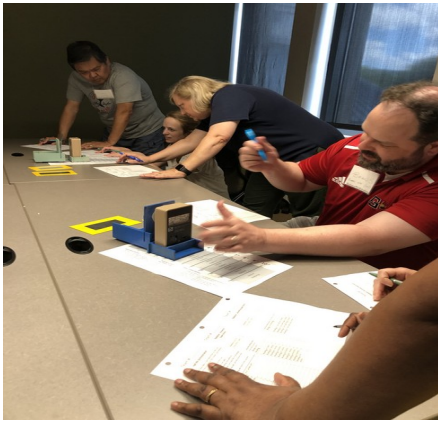
ANS SR section's Educational and Outreach efforts have been successful over the last few years based on charitable contributions from its members and friends and corporate nuclear organizations in the CSRA. The section would like to especially thank Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC) for their donation of \$2000.00

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Outreach

South Carolina Teachers Workshop

On July 16, 2025, Bill Wabbersen and Jon Guy conducted a nuclear science teachers workshop for South Carolina high school science teachers at Furman University. Bill and Jon have been invited to conduct the workshop at Furman for several years. Teachers learned about isotopes, radiation and its interaction with matter, half-life, fission, nuclear power, spent fuel management, and radiation management. The workshop participants use unique hands-on activities to reinforce each lesson. This year Bill introduced the new Nuclear Science Discovery Kits and will be partnering with the high school teachers to distribute them for free across South Carolina.



Here are some photos of the ALARA activities session. Teachers use GM detectors and Thorium-232 sources to understand Distance and Shielding.

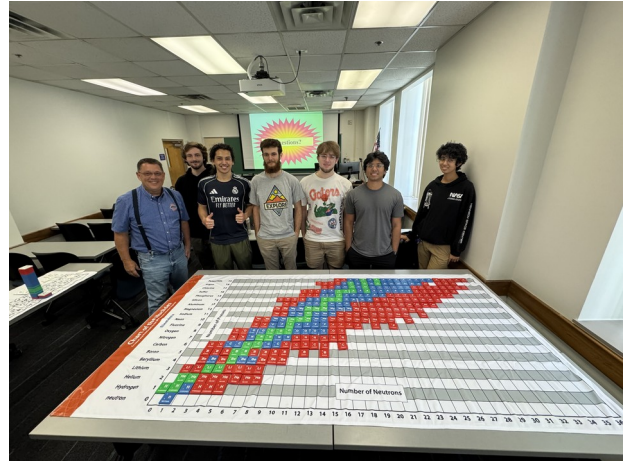
University of Florida Workshops

From July 23rd to 25th, Bill Wabbersen conducted three days of nuclear science educational workshops for University of Florida (UF) students, faculty, and local North Florida high school teachers. Over three days these workshops were conducted as part of an Introduction to Nuclear Engineering class, an extended session as an introduction to the new set of Nuclear Science Discovery Kits that Bill has recently developed, and a session during a Societal Aspects of Nuclear Engineering course. Bill was invited to speak at UF after meeting with the faculty at the CONTE conference in February.

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Outreach (contd)

Bill also toured the UF Training Reactor where he worked in the mid-1980s. Bill donated one of his Nuclear Science Discovery Kits called Atoms, Isotopes, & Radiation to the UF nuclear engineering program. UF faculty plan on developing teacher workshops for high schools in the North Florida region using the kit.



Bill Wabbersen and UF Students using a Nuclear Science Discovery Kit

Other Bill Wabbersen Activities

Bill Wabbersen conducted a Journey to the Center of the Atom session (using one of the Nuclear Science Discovery Kits) at Ruth Patrick Science Education Center at USC Aiken on October 20, 2025, as part of Nuclear Science Week.

Also, Bill taught two Nuclear Science Sessions (Atoms, Isotopes, and Radiation Kit) at York Comprehensive High School in York, SC (just a couple miles away from Catawba Nuclear Station) on November 17, 2025.



Bill Wabbersen making his presentation



Students creating a Chart of the Nuclides

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Outreach (contd)

CSRA College Night

College Night was held on September 11, 2025, at the Augusta Convention Center, Augusta, GA. ANS was at College Night for another year of providing insights on options out of high school that can lead to careers in the nuclear field, what it can be like to work as a nuclear engineer, and information about our local Benjamin Scholarship for students pursuing a STEM program next Fall. This year the ANS booth was placed front and center at the Augusta Convention Center, and drew a lot of interest from the prospective workforce of tomorrow. We look forward to seeing what these students choose to do after they graduate this school year.



Graham Jones, Brent Barnett and Michelle Johnson

SEED STEM Festival

Saturday, September 20, 2025, the SEED STEM Festival was held at USC Aiken, Aiken, SC. The event lasted from 10 AM to 3 PM and had a constant stream of people. Attendance for the event totaled 3,300 parents and students. As usual, the booth was setup to provide a hands-on demonstration of radiation and ways to detect it, and a demonstration of a chain reaction with mousetraps and ping pong balls. Also on display were items collected from members over the years, like a cutaway model of fuel rods placed inside a cask.



Graham Jones provides background on what a Geiger counter does before letting attendees detect radioactive sources with it

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Outreach (contd)

Fall Fission Festival

On Saturday, October 18, 2025, the Fall Fission Festival, was held at the Mill Parking Lot by the SRS Museum in Aiken, SC. The local ANS chapter supported the third annual Fall Fission Festival for the second time. This rapidly growing event once more saw costumed students visiting booths to receive candy, and a little exposure to nuclear science as well. Between the warm weather and selection of food trucks, it was a nice, sunny day for all who attended.



Brent Barnett and Milo Scheulen provided the booth with some candy and Halloween decorations to support the themed event.

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Outreach (contd)

Nuclear Trivia

The third annual ANS-SRS Nuclear Trivia Night was held on Thursday, October 23, 2025. The event occurred at the Electric Eats Bar & Grille in Aiken. To help celebrate Nuclear Science Week (October 20-24), ANS was happy to conduct another trivia night with a focus on everything nuclear. The trivia questions ranged from pop culture to historical events to hard science. This year marked a return to the old Aiken Brew Pub location, and, as we have come to understand it, the only time with Electric Eats as proprietor. Players enjoyed food and drinks while puzzling over scientific and loosely-tied nuclear questions, and once more two teams tied in the final, so all of those team members were eligible to receive a prize. Trivia will take place somewhere else next Nuclear Science Week by necessity, but the fun times are guaranteed to remain.



The Attendees



Graham Jones leads Trivia

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Outreach (contd)

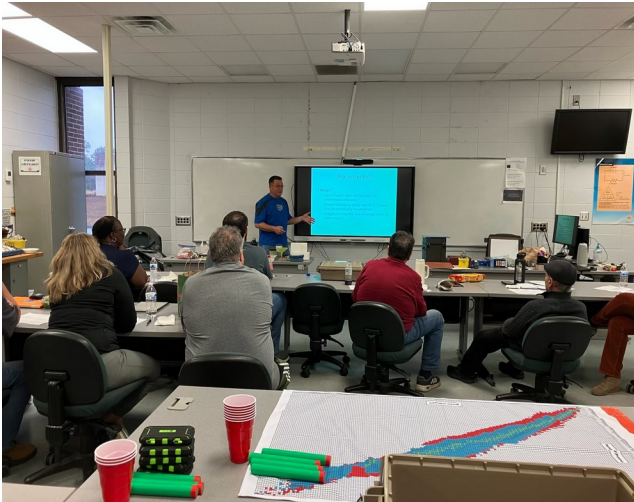
Augusta Tech Workshop

The Nuclear Science Discovery Workshop was held on December 6, 2025, at Augusta Technical College. Bill Wabbersen presented material to section members who attended. Bill gave a short introduction to what was demonstrated, then moved on to the hands-on workshop using Nuclear Science Discovery Kits. Eight people attended: three section Executive Committee members, one high school teacher, one instructor from Augusta Tech, one ANS member, and two CNTA members.

Discovery Kits illustrating key concepts of:

1. Periodic Table & Radiation
2. Decay Chains & Half-Lives
3. Fission.

The goal of the workshop is to train those interested in being able to use or demonstrate how to use one or more of the kits in area schools or at our Outreach and Public Information events that we participate in throughout the year. In time we envision loaning one or more kits to interested science educators in our region to enrich the teaching of nuclear science concepts as part of their curriculum.



Bill making his presentation to attendees



Attendees creating the decay chain for U-238

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Awards



Local Section Meritorious Award

Presented to

ANS Savannah River Local Section

for the categories of
Best Overall

American Nuclear Society

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. M. Hashemian".

H. M. Hashemian, President

August 25, 2025

Date

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Change to ANS SRS Webpage

Thanks to our webmaster James Deaton, the ANS Savannah River webpage now has migrated to the ANS National's standardized style and format. Access ANS SR at <https://savannahriver.ans.org/> to stay up to date on past events and future activities.


Welcome, Kevin | Join | Donate | Shop | Search Q

About ANS | About Nuclear | Events | Publications | Divisions & Sections | Nuclear Newswire

Savannah River Local Section


Local Section

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- Links & Info
- Contact Us



Savannah River Section of the American Nuclear Society

The core purpose of the ANS Savannah River Section is to promote the awareness and understanding of the application of nuclear science and technology locally (in the Central Savannah River Area), nationally and globally.



About ANS

The American Nuclear Society is the premier society for nuclear professionals nationally and internationally. Our individual membership ranks include more than 11,000 engineers, scientists, educators, students, and others with nuclear related interests. Our members hail from more than 1,600 corporations, educational institutions, and government agencies from over 40 different countries. More than 80 industry-leading companies support the ANS as Organization Members.

ANS, a not-for-profit society, provides extensive opportunities for every professional group in the nuclear field to interact effectively via 22 divisions and technical groups, 59 U.S. and 10 non-U.S. local sections, 3 plant branches, and 43 U.S. and 3 non-U.S. student sections

The Society serves as an advocate for individuals and organizations having a stake in nuclear science and technology. Our Washington, D.C. office acts as a technical resource to senior policy and decision makers. ANS produces position papers on nuclear science and technology issues of our times, publishing these in print and on our website.

Get Involved Locally
Join ANS-SR

Get Involved Nationally
Join ANS

30 Winner of ANS 2025 Meritorious Section Award for Best Overall Local Section

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

ANS Savannah River Section Executive Administrator Wanted

The ANS Savannah River Section is seeking qualified individuals to fill the position of Executive Administrator for the Section. Qualifications for this position are as follows:

- One to two years of administrative experience strongly preferred, preferably in development or at a nonprofit organization
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office required
- Detail-oriented, strong sensitivity to deadlines, multitasking ability, strong organizational and problem-solving skills a must
- Ability to work collaboratively with a team

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Prepare notices for distribution regarding monthly technical meeting and section information
- Draft notice(s) are sent to specific chair for review before distribution
- Database management (e.g. updating new contact information)
- Preparing, transmitting, registration surveys (surveymonkey.com)
- Collecting surveys and sending reservation confirmations
- Resolving questions/problems with reservations
- Provides as-needed assistance with various events and meetings throughout the year including monthly technical dinners
- Prepare roster with specific information for each meeting
- Prepare name badges
- Work with the Treasurer and Chair as needed
- Assist other Section Program Chairs on an as-needed basis
- Perform other administrative, general clerical tasks, and project duties as needed

The ANS-SRS Executive Administrator is a paid volunteer position. Hourly salary will be negotiated. Level of effort on a monthly basis averages 8 to 10 hours, but occasionally higher. Interested applicants are invited to email their resume and a cover letter (with the name and contact information of at least one reference) to:

ans.savannahriver@gmail.com

or by US Mail to:

ANS Savannah River – Administrator Assistant Interest
PO Box 7001
Aiken, SC 29804

2025-26 Mid Year Neutrino

Come Join the Savannah River Section!

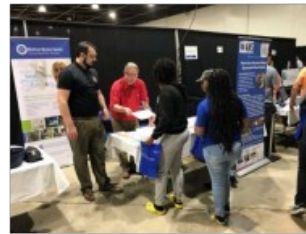
Technical Presentations & Professional Development

Annual Scholarship Program

Local STEM Outreach

Networking & Social Events

Who we are: The ANS Savannah River Section is the face of ANS in the local community and is made up of Savannah River Site, Plant Vogtle, engineering organizations, educational and medical institution professionals, students, educators, retirees and other supporting individuals that live and work in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) that includes portions of western South Carolina and eastern Georgia.



Outreach to future nuclear professionals

What we do: The core purpose of the ANS Savannah River Section is to promote awareness and understanding of the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology locally, nationally and globally.



ANS-SR Technical Dinners – Hot topics and hot fare!

Joining or changing your information: Email your name, email* and phone number to ans.savannahriver@gmail.com. Let us know your interest in joining an ANS SR Committee. Openings include Program, Outreach & Public Information, Publications, Scholarship, Membership and Young Professionals.

*** Note that Federal or organization firewall may prevent email to your work. Personal email preferred.**