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We are pleased to have Paul H. Berger from Baum’s Castorine to provide insight into a local company. Benjamin Ward Baum had a barrel making business in Chittenango, New York, when oil was discovered in western Pennsylvania. Thinking that the barrels would be useful to this growing new industry he expanded his barrel making business into the oil fields of Pennsylvania. In time, with his sons Benjamin Jr. and L. Frank, he became a producer and refiner. Lamp oil for illumination was the largest part of their product line. After Benjamin Jr. spent some time studying chemistry in Germany they began to utilize other fractions in the crude oil they were processing. They developed axle oil that was thickened and fortified with castor oil and then formed a new company [Baum’s Castorine] to make and sell it in 1879. Baum’s has been meeting technological challenges by using applied chemical principles. The latest being the economical replacement of chlorinated paraffinic hydrocarbons in metalworking fluids.

The meeting will be at Vescio’s Franklin Hotel 301 South James St. (315-336-9974) in Rome NY. The social hour will be 5:30-6:30 P.M. followed by dinner from the Hotel menu (choice of chicken entrees, pasta, veal, or strip steak) & the presentation after dinner.

Prices will be $10 for ASM/ASME members & guests & $15 for nonmembers. RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 29TH.

Please contact Pam for reservations at (315)363-4025 or e-mail is ppaolini@twcny.rr.com.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

SUNY Poly Talk/Tour - Thursday, OCTOBER 29, 2015
Fiber Instrument Sales - Tuesday, NOVEMBER 17, 2015
Holiday Meeting - Friday, DECEMBER 4, 2015

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