



Emerald Coast Florida Chapter

Volume 2, Issue 4

President's Corner

by

Bonnie McClure, PMP

Fellow Program Managers

Can you believe that July is over already? Amidst the heat outside, your Emerald Coast Florida Chapter has had quite a busy month. For those of you who joined us, our July meeting was very successful as we learned more about adding risk in EVMS. Our Mobile branch is well on their way to becoming our next branch and has put in a lot of hours to launch their branch.

We are now heading into the busiest time of our calendar year. Here are a few of the things you can look forward to in the near future:

We are beginning to solicit volunteers for next years board of directors. Are you interested in earning valuable PDUs towards your PMP and help guide the future of our Chapter. If so, please contact myself or any board member and let us know what position you would be interested in.

We are planning our Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Celebration. Please mark your calendars for November 18th. We will be holding our celebration at the Ramada on Okaloosa Island. We hope to see you all there. If you are interested in assisting with planning, please feel free to contact me, we would be happy to have you. You can earn PDUs for helping with this event.

November 4, 2010 is International Project Management Day. Please watch your email as we announce some special Project Management Appreciation events to celebrate. We will be honoring special project managers at our annual meeting.

August and September have some special speakers that are sure to captivate and educate us. Remember you can earn PDUs just for attending our monthly lunch meetings.

We want to hear what you are looking for. August will see our next membership survey come out. Please let us know what events you would like to see from your board.

I look forward to getting to know more of you and working with you on one of our upcoming events. Enjoy the end of your summer, stay safe, and we hope to see you at the August meeting.

PMI Emerald Coast
Florida Chapter
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Volume X, Issue Y
Jul-Aug 2010

Membership Stats
as of
March 30 2010:

Members: 168
93 PMP & 2 CAPM

1 Regular Members
6 Student Members

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February Membership
Activity:
0 New Members
3 Renewals

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Social



Media
Groups:

What is the difference between Contact Hours and PDUs? By Cornelius Fichtner, PMP

If you are working toward a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification, you may have wondered “What is the difference between Contact Hours and Professional Development Units (PDUs)?”

The main difference between Contact Hours and PDUs is that Contact Hours are accumulated prior and PDUs after your PMP Exam. Before the exam you need 35 Contact Hours and after you become a certified PMP, you will need to accumulate 60 Professional Development Units (PDUs) every three years to keep your certification current. However the content of the training can be identical.

The Contact Hours Requirement:

Only 35 Contact Hours are required to apply for the [PMP certificate](#). One Contact Hour is equivalent to 60 minutes of relevant project management instruction. You must complete all 35 hours prior to submitting your PMP Certification application. In order to be “relevant,” the training must cover one or more of the following:

- ✦ Project Quality, Project Scope, Project Schedule, Project Budget, Project Communications
- ✦ Project Risk, Project Procurement, Project Integration Management

Accumulating and Tracking Your Contact Hours:

Contact Hours are earned by attending Project Management relevant instruction. Unlike the Project Management Experience hours, there is no specified time period prior to your PMP application in which you had to complete your 35 Contact Hours. Any class you took at any age could be counted as Contact Hour so long as it had some project management practices. For example, if your company provided training to use their project management software such as MS Project, Primavera, QTask, or Prolog, you could claim Contact Hours.

Ideally, it is easier to track Contact Hours accumulated from “Project Management” focused instruction. However, any course that includes some project management instruction, the time spent specifically on project management concepts and practices, is eligible, even if it was not the main theme of the course.

Remember that anything on your PMP Exam Application is subject to audit. So, it is a good practice to only include training for which you are prepared to submit proof. As you accumulate training, document the training’s relevance by retaining copies of the course syllabus, class catalog page and other materials. For each course claimed, also document your successful completion by retaining copies of certificates, exam results, and/or class transcripts.

Contact Hours Education Providers:

Training is available in many formats. The course work might be presented in live classes, workshops or webinars. They might also include prerecorded podcasts or video.

In the PMP Handbook, the Project Management Institute (PMI) suggests that Contact Hours be obtained from one of the following types of education providers:

- ✦ PMI Registered Education Providers (R.E.P.s)*
- ✦ PMI component organizations *
- ✦ Employer/company-sponsored programs
- ✦ Training companies or consultants (e.g., training schools)
- ✦ Distance-learning companies which include end-of-course assessments
- ✦ University/college academic and continuing education programs

Preapproved Sources:

Contact Hour eligible training courses are preapproved when they are provided by PMI R.E.P.s, PMI components organizations (e.g. local PMI chapters, specific interest groups), or PMI itself.

However, there are caveats. For example, PMI chapter meetings are not Contact Hours. Only the portion of the meeting that conducts a learning activity can be counted toward Contact Hours.

Basically, any resource offering relevant subject matter qualifies so long as it's not "self-directed learning." For example, reading books, watching instructional videos or sessions with coaches or mentors, are not eligible as Contact Hours.

Contact Hour programs:

PMP Prep Workshops are offered in a mix of timelines, media and sources. Most PMI Chapters and many training companies offer instructor-led PMP Exam workshops. There is a variety of self study programs which are delivered via the internet, DVD and Podcast. What most of these courses have in common is that they are specifically designed to give you the best preparation for your PMP Exam as well as your 35 Contact Hours in one offering.

Online PMP Exam Prep Classes with Contact Hours:

Here is probably the most important tip for you when it comes to earning your pre-exam Contact Hours online: If you take an online class, live or prerecorded, the provider must give you an "End of course assessment" exam before they give you the certificate for the hours. If they don't test you then any certificate or other proof of completion is worthless for your PMP Exam.

About the author: Cornelius Fichtner, PMP is a noted PMP expert. He has helped over 10,000 students prepare for the PMP Exam with *The Project Management PrepCast* at <http://www.pmprepcast.com> and he guides PMI credential holders on earning PDUs with *The PDU Insider* at <http://www.pdu-insider.com>

Chapter Communications

If you are receiving e-mail communications from the PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter - your e-mail address is on our distribution list. You have been added to this list because - (1) you have requested notification of chapter events (2) we have received notification from the PMI that you have joined/renewed your membership in our chapter (includes contact info) and/or (3) you are a PMI member in our area and we hope to interest you in an upcoming chapter event (including Chapter Branch formation). Also—when you renew your membership - please ensure your contact information is current!

It is not our intent to contact anyone who wishes to be excluded from our distribution list. If you receive unwanted e-mail from the PMI Emerald Coast Florida Chapter- please contact the VP Communications and request to be removed from this distribution list.

For new members who may not yet be receiving chapter e-mail notices - depending on the day of the month you join it may take a couple of weeks for us to receive your information from the PMI. Please feel free to contact the VP Communications to have your e-mail address added to our distribution list rather than waiting for PMI to send us their notification.

Where do I take the PMP Exam?

If you are not taking a PMP training class that includes taking the exam, you may be wondering how/where you will take your test. The PMI website provides the name of the testing company but not much more in the way of specifics. You might start your search using the following URL: <http://www.prometric.com/default.htm> As you drill down to find a testing site, be aware that the one most convenient for YOU may not be in Florida; for instance, the site in Mobile Alabama is more convenient if you live near Pensacola. Another possibility is Tallahassee—depending on your location.

Contact Your Board

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for business results©

Interested in a PMP Boot Camp/Prep Course?

The Emerald Coast PMI Chapter hosted a PMP Boot Camp session during July. The instructor, David Daniels from PMI Directors LLC, received great reviews and we plan on hosting another session with him as the instructor this fall. PMI Directors will make a donation to the Emerald Coast Chapter which is their usual practice when working with a local Chapter! We also provided input that their registration process did not work as well as we would expect; so in the vein of continuous process improvement, Keith Yockey is working with them on Lesson's Learned to determine if there is a better way for us to work together in the future.

If anyone is interested in attending a PMP Boot Camp this fall, please let Keith know as soon as possible.

August Monthly Member Meeting

Aug 18th at the REEF from 11:30-12:30 featuring Narda Vega—"Ethics in Program/Project Management- Are USG and Industry Driven Ethics that Different?".

To Register go to the Chapter Website at <http://pmiemeraldcoastfl.org>

Chapter Website

www.pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

We encourage suggestions and other input regarding Newsletter and/or Website content. If you have an item or and an idea for Newsletter or Website content —please send it to: info@pmiemeraldcoastfl.org

Academic Resources

To advance the teaching of project management in higher education, PMI offers a range of programs and services for students, professors, researchers and educational institutions.

Student Resources: For students, PMI continues to develop educational resources to help them achieve their academic goals. PMI also offers discounted student memberships, tuition scholarships, professional credentials and the ability to get involved in communities to learn and network with other students and project management practitioners.

Faculty Resources: Classroom resources such as teaching case studies, journal articles, *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* and other global standards have proven invaluable to instructors. PMI also offers a scholarly journal and research grant opportunities.

Institutional Resources: Because higher education plays an important role in advancing project management, PMI offers programs that give recognition to universities and colleges that meet quality standards for project management education and training.

From: PMI website - see "Academic Resources" under "Academic Degree Accreditation" on the "Career Development" page on the PMI.org website: www.pmi.org.

Newest Emerald Coast Branch—Panama City

The PMI Emerald Coast Fl Chapter (ECC) members living and working in the Panama City area faced the dilemma of a one hour plus drive each way to be able to attend a Chapter function. This was especially difficult for luncheons. We were excited when the national organization approved the Chapter's plan to stand up regional branches to serve its members across the widely dispersed Panhandle. By organizing the Panama City Branch (PCB) under the Chapter's umbrella and with their help and support, the membership here in the "far East" now have a functioning component of the PMI ECC and can reap the benefits of "official" sanction. We have an enthusiastic Branch Board of Directors dedicated to the pursuit of project management professionalism. Oceaneering International, Inc. supported our branch with a monetary donation for professional organization growth in the month of July.

Below is a list of events for the next three months:

PCB Upcoming Events:

- 26 August - PCB General Membership Meeting; 1700 hrs; L-3 Main; Speaker: John Devlin, PMP; Topic: Earned Value Management (EVM)
- 9 Sept - PCB BOD Meeting; 1700 hrs (Navy Base Briefing)
- 23 Sept - PCB General Membership Meeting; 1700 hrs; L-3 Main; Speaker: Roberto Lago; Topic: Risk Management on Large DoD Projects
- 30 Sept - Certification Exam deadline; Sponsored by Gulf Coast Community College
- 14 Oct - PCB BOD Meeting; 1700 hrs (GCCC, FSU Briefing)
- 28 Oct - PCB General Membership Meeting; 1700 hrs; L-3 Main; Speaker: TBD; Topic: TBD

For more information regarding the PCB, contact John Dawson at john.dawson@l-3com.com