Is Your Continuous Radon Monitor An Analytical Device?

A Mitigators Guide to Sump Pump Basics

Liability Insurance and Mitigators

Lung Cancer Survivor and Advocate
Corentium Pro, femto-Tech CRM-510M, RadonAway RadStar RS-300

recent years. l-r: RTCA MR-2000-P Continuous Radon Monitor,

Cover Art: Images in graphic are used with permission, and chosen

-Jacquelyn E. Nixon     page 14

The message is loud and clear radon exposure is unsafe at any level.

Reduction (CRRR) Advocate and Lung Cancer Survivor, tells of her path

personal assets. – Steve Riggs    page 15

mitigation work you do is integral to protecting your business and

while maintaining their certification properly. – Peter Hendrick  page 8

NRPP Mitigation professionals are now required to list all the devices

Analytical Device?

Is Your Continuous Radon Monitor An

choosing the best sump pump for the job. – David Daniel page 5

One mitigator’s view and review on the reasons for analyzing and

Basics

A Mitigators Guide to Sump Pump

購入する人が多いです。これは、製造業者や販売業者を通じて、製品の実際の使用状況、さらにはユーザーの満足度を評価するためのものです。

In This Issue:

2016 AARST National Board of Directors

AARST, the American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists, is a nonprofit, professional organization dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of radon measurement, mitigation, and transfer of information for the benefit of members, consumers, and the public at large. AARST’s leadership is democratically elected by the members.

AARST NRPP represents your voice as we meet the wide range of challenges facing radon professionals and the community. Your membership and participation provides you a voice in the changes to come, and allows you to gain updated information, discover new techniques, learn about new problems before they occur, and hone your professional skills.

OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: New Phil Jenkins, PhD
president@aarst.org
PAST PRESIDENT: Shawn Price
shawn.price@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT: Matt Koch
matt@northwestradiation.com
VICE PRESIDENT: New David Dannels
david.dannels@ameritech.net
SECRETARY: Arnold Dennen janed@dennen.com
TREASURER: David Kapturkowski
david@aarstspace.com
AARST CHARTERS
Email: charters@aarst.org

NIV: Georgia Chapter of AARST
David Goulding
David@enlightenbuilding.com
NIV: Hawaii Chapter
Gary Ruesner
hoosenp@homefesco.net
Kentucky (KARP)
Kyle Haymann
kathy@protectservice.com
Midwest
Eric Lowenkowski
eric@proradon.com
New England
Dave Bill
df Bill@aarstspace.com
NIV: New York State Chapter
(formerly Eric Chaplet)
George Schambach
goerge@professionaland.com
Ohio (OARP)
Tracey Casano
tcp@lase.net
Pennsylvania (formerly Tri-State)
Celia Rajkovich
celia@rci.net
Rocky Mountain
Tammy Linton	
Tammy@theenvironmetal.com
FORMING:
Minnosota
Pacific Northwest

Copyright © 2016 American Association of Radon Scientists & Technologists, all rights reserved.

Page 4

AARST President’s Column
By Phil Jenkins, President, AARST

As I assume the position of President of AARST, I realize how multifaceted that AARST has become, and although I have been involved with radon for most of the past forty years, I also realize that my expertise primarily relates to radon devices and the quality of radon measurements. Luckily, there are a number of experienced and dedicated people on the AARST Staff and Board and throughout the membership on whom I can rely for help in areas where my expertise is lacking. And I realize how difficult it will be to fill the shoes of our previous president, Shawn Price, who has done an incredible job over the past four years. Thank you, Shawn, for your hard work.

At our symposium in September, it was encouraging to see a number of younger faces in the crowd; however, it is clear from all the gray hair that a large percentage of our members are “more experienced.” We are losing a number of our leaders to retirement and even death. So I ask you, bring young people into the business, encourage them to join AARST and become active in the various programs of AARST. And if you are asked to participate in a committee, or some other volunteer service for AMST, give it serious consideration. A strong Association is good for your business, but more importantly is crucial for the accomplishment of our ultimate mission which is to reduce radon-induced lung cancer. We need to ensure the future of the Association with younger radon professionals.

A project that is a priority of mine in 2017 is the establishment of a formal program of radon measurement intercomparisons among the reference laboratories within the US and internationally. A program of formal international intercomparisons is also a priority of the Coalition of International Radon Associations (CORA) of which AARST is a member. Radon measurements are the bases for many decisions regarding mitigation, radon mapping, risk, allocation of funds, etc., and it is crucial that our measurements be accurate. Intercomparisons among reference labs are essential for ensuring that 4 pCi/L, for example, is the same at one lab, or in one country, as it is for all the others. And ultimately, the measurements relate to national references that also must agree. We will be working with personnel at the EPA laboratory in Montgomery, Alabama as they reestablish the national radon reference for the US. Also, with the help of some funding from EPA, we are working on procedures for radon measurement intercomparisons among reference labs in the US using a “transfer standard.” And we have met with the leadership of CORA to discuss plans for a similar method of intercomparisons throughout Europe, Canada and the US.

“A strong Association is good for your business, but more importantly is crucial for the accomplishment of our ultimate mission which is to reduce radon-induced lung cancer.”

I am a Certified Health Physicist, which means that I am a specialist in radiation protection, the prevention of unnecessary radiation exposure. People are being exposed unnecessarily to elevated concentrations of radon in their homes or at work, and often they are totally unaware of the exposure or even what radon is. Our mission as radon professionals is several fold: increase radon awareness, conduct measurements in a professional manner following national standards or State regulations, conduct mitigation likewise and most importantly reduce unnecessary exposure to radon thereby reducing the occurrence of lung cancer due to radon.

Phil Jenkins, President, AARST

Letter from the President

AD INDEX

RadonAwayPage 4
Radon Supplies Page 6
RCI Page 7
PDS Page 9
Air Chek Page 10
Accustar Page 11
Educational Services Page 13
Fanteect Page 17
Nelson Insurance Page 18
Festa Page 19

3
At RadonAway, we don’t stop at making the #1 radon fans in the world. Whether we’re improving our existing technologies or offering you something new, we work year-round to bring you the top quality radon products you expect and deserve.
Nuts and Bolts (Continued from page 5)

their pump is active it is a huge liability for you. Don’t take the chance on faulty piping. Re-pipe it for a fair price and use 1 ½” if possible. Large capacity pumps say 80 gpm will need a 2” piping. Anchor the piping down with proper clamps so to cut down on vibration when the pump is operating. If the customers piping is in good order and you can connect to it using your normal connections or reduce up or down with one fitting you should be ok. I just don’t recommend trying to make something work, cobbled it together to make it work. It is better to cut out what is there and start from scratch.

How to evaluate what is needed. This can be very easy. Look at what is there. If you can look up the brand name and what horse power it is you can look up its capacity. If the owner says it keeps up fine then a pump with similar or better capacity will do. If it barely keeps up then suggest one that can pump more gpm.

Materials to use should always be schedule 40 PVC, pressure rated pipe, typically 1 ½”. Sometimes on larger pumps a 2” pipe is required. Use galvanized or stainless steel clamps to anchor the piping. We normally don’t use J-hooks in sump pump piping. It does not keep it rigid enough. The only check valves I will use are the Zoeller green body check valves with the 1 ½” to 1 ¼” rubber couplers. They are a solid body check valve with no seams, so less likely to spring a leak. The rubber couplers allow you to attach to an existing 1 ½” or 1 ¼” pipe. If the owners pipe is 1” in size we cut it out and re-pipe to 1 ½”, even if it looks good. You would lose too much capacity on a 1” pipe.

What do we do with all those pedestal sump pumps that we cut out? We leave them by the floor drain to drain out. We then tell the homeowner to take it to their new home for a backup or to leave it for a backup for the new owners. There is nothing wrong with a pedestal pump; you just can’t seal the pit properly with that type. It is an older pump and probably should not be used as a backup then we will take it and recycle it. Keep in mind, even a new pump out of the box can fail at any given moment. Always have a backup, especially if the basement is finished off.

Customers that have finished basements are always advised to have abackup system. A battery backup system, which Pro Series has or a backup generator would be great. Most insurance companies for home owners require a backup system if the basement is finished off. But most home owners are not aware of that. If their policy requires that, and they don’t have one and they get water in their basement the insurance company may not pay out a claim.

My bottom line is that once you seal a pit, you just took on a huge liability. And if you are replacing a sump pump it’s even a bigger liability. Don’t skimp on quality. And don’t attach to cobbled up piping. Always make sure the pump, new or not, in the pit functions before you seal it also. Protect yourself and your business.

Continued from page 5

Now the largest distributor of fantech radon fans.

WE SELL DETAILS

RADON MITIGATION SUPPLIES FROM FAN TO CAP
We sell not just everything you need to install a great system, we sell the unique detail products so you can install the best system.

THE SERVICE YOU EXPECT
From the moment you call us with your question or order, a real person will assist you to ensure we provide the best possible information or product. We take pride in our ability to serve your radon mitigation business needs personally, accurately and quickly.

RCI accepts Visa, Mastercard & American Express.

PRODUCTS INCLUDE

RadonAway Fans  Caulking  Radon Retarder
Fantech Fans  Radon Fans  Fan Housing
Couplings  Fire Products
Sump Lids  Drainers
U-tube Manometer  PVC Caps
Roof Flashings  Systems Labels
Uniseals

RadonControl.com  567 Industrial Dr. Carmel, IN 46032  800-523-2084
Is Your Continuous Radon Monitor An Analytical Device?  

By Peter Hendrick

This is a big question. One that is tied to the question of competency and proficiency and the integrity of all radon measurement providers who make a living in the United States measuring radioactivity accurately.

Why this question came up. AARST-NRPP is requiring that all professionals list the devices they are using – and we are finding that many mistakenly believe that the CRM they use is a passive device.

In the United States, our entire system of measurement and our ability to conduct the business of radon risk reduction accurately and safely relies on the fact that we get this right and that we all understand the devices we use and how they must be maintained. There is no room for error.

Whether radon practitioners are state licensed professionals or are NRPP or NRSB certified professionals, all radon professionals rely on proficiency requirements originally formulated by USA EPA in protocols developed in the early 90s. (These are now AARST-ANSI American National Radon Standards and, in some cases, state regulations.)

These requirements generally involve entry level courses and national exams, plus, for radon measurement professionals, they must use measurement devices on lists maintained by NRPP or NRSB.

The radon measurement devices on the NRPP and NRSB lists that are on the market today, whether they are passive charcoal canisters or alpha tracks or sophisticated electronic devices, have been evaluated either originally by EPA or, since 2000, by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) and/or the National Radon Safety Board (NRSB).

Radon Measurement Professionals are forbidden to use a non-listed radon measurement device to report results to a consumer, and they must maintain Quality Assurance Quality Control (QA/QC) protocols and records, and have their equipment calibrated annually, if it is a continuous radon monitor (CRM) or any device that is electronic and/or requires calibration. In addition, if they are reading and reporting the results of their devices they must have performed and passed a radon device performance test on the analytical equipment.

What is a Performance Test?

Performance tests are an often-used tool in all types of certification programs for all types of professionals. For radon measurement devices that are analytical, the operator must send the device to a special (independent) laboratory (known as a radon performance chamber or secondary chamber) to be exposed to a known amount of radon gas. The device is sent back to the professional who must read the results within an acceptance range of accuracy and report that back to the chamber. If they do so successfully, the chamber issues a report that the applicant passed the performance test. (In the early days, US EPA required that the professional show up at the chamber and do the exercise in person, a process that required travel and at least two days to complete.)

The AARST National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) Requirements:

NRPP professionals who place and retrieve devices (in a passive manner, generally charcoal and alpha tracks, but also some CRMs and electrets) and send these devices to a laboratory or an analytical professional to do the actual analysis and report radon results are known as “Standard Services Provider.”

• They do not engage in the analysis and reporting out of the results.

Some CRMs are known as blind monitors. The CRM is connected via modem to a central lab and the report is done at the laboratory. Therefore, the Standard Services Provider is not doing any analysis.

NRPP professionals who use Continuous Radon Monitors that they themselves read and report results are known as Analytical Service Providers.

• Individuals in the Analytical category have actually gone through the additional process in their certification.

“Like a traveler, where consumers want an airplane’s navigation and altitude equipment to be right on target (especially landing in bad weather.), so too, radon consumers need to know that their professionals measure radon gas accurately.

This is a public health and safety issue.”
process; they have done an initial performance test with the equipment and have proven their proficiency with the device.

- NRPP requires that in addition to annual calibration that a performance test must be completed every two years for a renewal.

These processes are in place to guarantee that 1) the device is calibrated and 2) the operator knows how to use the device correctly and can prove it.

A big question. A wrong answer. (Under Current NRPP Policy):

The most common misunderstanding by professionals is that the CRM device they are using is a standard device. “I’m a standard provider, I don’t do analysis I just place and retrieve and then I just push a button and it prints out the results.” Unfortunately, if the professional is reading and reporting out the results of a CRM, that’s analysis and it’s an Analytical device and, under existing policy (which is currently being reviewed by the NRPP’s Policy Board), it requires the additional steps of a performance test.

Can a CRM be used as a Passive Device by a Standard Provider? Yes, but only if there is someone in your company who is rated as an Analytical provider.

To assist NRPP professionals in these categories, Credentialing Supervisor Janna Sinclair has updated and produced a listing of devices that better defines which CRMs are analytical and which can be used by Standard providers because they are blind and which are blind capable.

A blind capable CRM device has the ability to store and retain the information securely for later reading and reporting out by an Analytical provider. NRPP has a process for small companies that use this technique to allow them to register as a lab, with one individual becoming the responsible party (an Analytical provider.)

Examples: FemtoTech and Radalink have blind monitors available for professionals and these only require that the professionals have a Standard provider certification. Some electrets can be deemed “passive” while others are analytical; it depends on who is doing the reading. For example, the Sun Nuclear 1027, 1026 and 1028 and RadStar RS300 are generally analytical devices, but they are blind capable and so could be placed by a Standard provider but results must be reported out by an Analytical provider.

The approved device list can be found at AARST-NRPP website. "I just push a button, it’s not that hard. Why do I need a performance test?"

Because, people do fail the test and we are measuring radioactivity that kills even at levels between 2 and 4 pCi/L.

However, the question remains as to whether all CRMs fit the criteria for needing performance testing.

The NRPP Policy Board (PAB) is gearing up for ISO 17024 certification, and in doing so the program will be reviewing the requirements for all certification programs. This is known as a Jobs Tasks Skills analysis, and the PAB will be assigning experts to determine the criteria that are important out on the street. This will include recommendations for how radon measurement devices are used and whether they all require performance tests and at what frequency. Under the terms for ISO compliance, which we are striving for, this type of review will now occur every five years.

Until then, report your devices accurately and be prepared to do a performance test upon renewal, or go back to using passive devices. Staff is more than willing to help and will be sending out more frequent reminders and notices on this subject.

The radon report Ter / autumn 2016

Testing for radon? AccuStar Labs has everything you need.

2016 International Radon Symposium: San Diego

By Nicole Chazaud

The end of September in San Diego California is normally very warm and is always sunny. And Paradise Point was perfect location with beaches, cabanas, pools and restaurants on Mission Bay.

Except AARST professionals arrived to find that the weather was a bit soggy. And well, it rained and was a bit foggy for almost the entire four days of our symposium. But that did not deter anyone from participating and enjoying the full days and evening events.

Saturday, onsite AARST staff and volunteers set up the Symposium office and readied themselves for the onslaught of almost three hundred attendees arriving to check-in the next day. Early arrivals got to share in the Chapter Leaders Meet & Greet dinner-style. Where almost 30 members representing 8 of our 10 chapters broke bread and shared news about their chapter.

Symposium pre-program events began on Sunday with AARST-hosted continuing education courses and AARST board and committee meetings. Six classes were available for C.E. credits covering everything from advance mitigation techniques, to quality assurance and small business practices. At the same time, the exhibit hall was being set up, the exhibitors did an amazing job getting their booths set under five hours, being poised and ready for the Opening Reception at six pm. It was a sold out Exhibit hall.
This year, we offered vendors the option to participate in virtual booth interviews. Our volunteer AV crew went from booth to booth doing candid interviews asking about new items being showcased. These interviews can be viewed on the http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/exhibit-hall/page.

At the Exhibit Hall’s and Symposium’s Opening Reception, Executive Director Peter Hendrick and incoming and outgoing Presidents Phil Jenkins and Shawn Price welcomed exhibitors and attendees alike, the hall was packed, almost all attendees had made it in for the reception!

Monday’s Luncheon was attended by everyone. CRCPD recognized Angela Tin with the Radon Heroes award, and AARST President Shawn Price recognized Janice Nolen, Josh Kerber, and Peter Hendrick. Monday evening saw an impromptu and first networking hour with Women (Exhibitors) in Radon. This was so well received by all who had attended that AARST is looking into making this an official part of the program in future years. We are also looking into adding other networking opportunities and Meet & Greets to the Symposium program for 2017.

Monday programs started off with an inspirational speech by keynote speaker, Dr. Lane Price, M.D. who shared her experiences in the field of oncology, working with lung cancer patients who were (primarily) non-smokers; coming to terms with radon induced lung cancer. Attendees talked about her twenty minute talk throughout the entire Symposium. You can view and share her Keynote on the AARST Radon Professionals Video Channel on Youtube.

In AARST President Shawn Price’s welcome, he dedicated this year’s symposium to radon industry’s technical pioneer, Arthur Scott who passed away earlier in the summer. (See Page 19)

Monday, is traditionally split with our State partners, CRCPD with joint public affairs sessions which were full of policy updates from many state and federal officials as well as AARST leaders. For the second year AARST added concurrent Tools session (Track II) for the afternoon hours. Monday sessions were again available for NRPP Category I, C.E. included in the price of the symposium.

Tuesday programming was non-stop as well. Both tracks, Science Abstracts and Technical Tools were very well attended; presenters smooth and concise. Track II continued in its AM/PM thematic structure – new this year. Tuesday’s Luncheon and the annual business meeting for the association, was also well attended (everyone is always invited, AARST member or not). Speakers challenged attendees to contribute to the newly formed AARST PAC (Read about the AARST Policy Action Committee on Page 16), Price recognized more radon leaders: Wally Dorsey, Lisa Alexander, John Seidel, Calvin Murphy, Tony McDonald and AARST Treasurer David Kapturowski who was recognized for his contributions to budgeting and fiduciary due diligence. The 2016 Board election results were announced, and our new President, Phil Jenkins, officially stepped into his role.

While the Night Out was not a rain out it was rain delayed! Attendees arrived at Petco Park to cheer on the San Diego Padres (or the Arizona Diamond Backs depending), with high spirits and hearty appetites. The event-goers were graciously attended to by Co-symposium Chair, Dr. Darioush Ghahremani, who made sure all arrived safely, got a baseball hat (for the rain!), found the food and beverage stations, and assisted in wiping down the chairs.

Wednesday saw a solid morning of programming with attendance high in both tracks right through to Noon. Then, just as the sun was breaking through the clouds, it was over. And within a few hours, exhibitors had folded and packed their tents and radon professionals were pulling out of town, except for a few who went to the beach.

Well, a month later, I was operated on and they removed the upper left lobe. I lost 1/3 of my lung capacity. The surgery went smoothly and the same day, I tried to sing and was still able to. I was released from the hospital in 3 days and at which point I am 100% cancer free. No chemo, radiation or medication. The doctor said just walk every day.

I went back to church and the choir after 2 months. The practice helped to build my lung capacity, which I work on every day.

After 7 months, I returned to my normal duties, through a conversation with a friend, I mentioned that everyone is puzzled about how I got lung cancer. He mentioned that radon was the largest cause of lung cancer in non-smokers. I didn’t know anything about radon, so I did my homework and read about it. I was shocked at the study results regarding radon emissions and the number of deaths due to exposure. I had my building tested out of the money. I called my “cancer money” the insurance company gave me for loss of income. I lived in this building for 38 years. The area that I live is built on top of old coal mines in Pennsylvania. I asked two neighbors in 2 ground condos to test along with my 3rd floor condo. The ground condos came out to 7 pCi/L on the right and 18 pCi/L on the left. My condo came out to 3 pCi/L. The EPA has established that any home which has a radon reading of above 4 pCi/L of radon needs to undergo radon removal. However, even levels of 2 pCi/L of radon is still hundreds of times more harmful to us than the carcinogens allowed by the FDA in our food and water.

In answer to her question, I said, “No. I feel great. Except, well, I sing by ear and I noticed that my voice sometimes sounds a little bit edgy and I can roll notes, but it seems now I have to take a quick short breath to end the run.” I said that it was probably because I had been sitting and working on the computer too much in the last year and I probably just need to exercise my diaphragm more, that’s all. Singing and music is my passion. I got my voice when I was eight years old. I’ve been in every church choir. I just love it!

My doctor asked me as she listened to my chest, if I was coughing or had any chest pains, to which I said, “Nothing.” At that point, we were both going to blow it off as I thought it was nothing. My doctor had her hand on the door, ready to leave, but then said, “Well, since you got this free maintenance, let’s just order a chest x-ray.” Two days later, I got a call saying they found a tumor approximately 1 inch in diameter in my lung. I had the biopsy which proved to be lung cancer – adenocarcinoma. I was blown away! Of course I went through all of the mental pain everyone else does and after talking with my doctor again, she said, “Do you realize that we both almost walked out of that door? And, if you hadn’t gotten shingles, we probably never would have found this for another year or so?”
Meet the New FR & HP Series
Our best inline Radon fans ever

Women In Radon

A couple of years ago we asked for input from membership to nominate women in the radon industry as a way of acknowledging the many women who worked diligently and passionately in our industry. This was to be a feature for a Radon Reporter, which because of the limits of its scope never really came to fruition. With the amount of nominations we received it was so obvious our Member’s desire to make a shout out.

This year we took a tiny step at the Symposium to invite Ladies from our Exhibitors to sit for an hour and share stories, but mostly connect. Based on the extreme excitement of this small gathering, we walked away with a promise to each other and from AARST National: to grow this network. We promise that Symposium programming will have a networking opportunity at future symposiums being inclusive to all women in attendance. AARST National will also facilitate this networking opportunity, beginning with a LinkedIn Group. Please look for us there as we formulate the goals and helpful conversations which might be engaged upon.

AARST Radon PAC (Political Action Committee)

A PAC (political action committee) is an entity established under law that allows groups of individuals to pool funds to support the election of candidates for political office and for other election-related purposes. This pooling mechanism allows people with common interests — such as members of a trade association — to concentrate and magnify their impact in supporting candidates for office.

AARST has established AARST Radon PAC for the benefit of the membership, to help elect political candidates who understand and appreciate the need for federal policies to reduce risk of radon-induced lung cancer. Having a PAC elevates AARST’s status as a policy advocate in Washington DC. It allows AARST to contribute funds to the campaigns of candidates whose policies and interests are aligned with AARST and its membership with respect to radon testing and mitigation. The PAC gives AARST a political capability to complement its congressional and federal agency capabilities.

Member contributions to the PAC are entirely voluntary and are not a condition of membership. However, only members of AARST may contribute to participate in the AARST Radon PAC. It is a privilege of membership in AARST. AARST invites its members to participate, but there is no consequence to not participating.

For your downloadable form, please visit the Standards and Policy tabbed Section of our website: http://aarst-nrpp.com/wp/aarst-radon-pac/
Philanthropy at the Symposium

Another activity at the Symposium deserves mentioning. Philanthropy (fəˈlanθrəpē/) is described as the desire to promote the welfare of others, expressed especially by the generous donation of money to good causes. Syn.: benevolence, generosity, humanitarianism, public-spirited.

AARST’s mission statement is printed in each Radon Reporter™ on the Masthead page, on the website and in the Code of Ethics members sign when joining. It states: AARST-NRPP is a non-profit, professional organization of members who are dedicated to the highest standard of excellence and ethical performance of radon measurement, radon mitigation and transfer of radon information for the benefit of members, consumers and the public at large.

Furthermore our Code of Ethics goes on to state: These principles are intended to aid members of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST), individually and collectively, in maintaining a professional level of ethical conduct. It is a guideline for professional responsibility by which they may determine the propriety of their conduct in relationships with colleagues, with members of other professions, and with the public.

AARST has relationships with a number of non-profits whose primary function are to support advocacy and radon awareness education. Each of these groups hold certain esteem in our small industry as well as different mission statements and end goals. CanSAR and CRRR play an important role in raising radon awareness in general and advocacy both on a personal level in trying to direct families to proper resources for radon prevention and on a larger scale in advocacy and education of our law and policy makers at all levels of government. The AARST Foundation is engaged in scientific, literary and social programs as they relate to radon risk reduction.

While it costs attendees hundreds if not thousands (depending on how many company members attend a symposium) it humbles us to see that while in attendance, pockets continue to open to support in a way that becomes a personal commitment to a specific activity.

This year we are very encouraged to report that well over $15,000 in donations and pledges were made to the variety of outlets/endeavors available for people to connect to.

Actually over the past 5 or more years, many how-to Tools are shared at the symposiums, from running Relays For Life® to conducting your own PSA, to learning about how to create changes in legislation on a local scale.

The symposium is a place for great ideas to hatch, for attendees to be on the ground floor, getting the knowledge first hand, and have the opportunity to ask and share thoughts with leaders in the industry while sitting at a lunch table or grabbing breakfast or coffee during a break.

This year’s Take-Away Tool seems so easy. Add a line item sum onto a work statement/contract, that says you donate $blank dollars of each service you charge for to your charity of choice. This opens up a path for further conversation regarding radon risk reduction, and that even as a business you believe so strongly that you contribute a portion of your proceeds (profit) towards the hard work advocacy groups do to make change. Consider companies such as Newman’s Own, and many other large commercial companies who tell us a percentage of their profits to go directly to their charity of choice, and you buy those pink coffee cups, wear red, purple or yellow, save the whales, make pasta sauce, and now SAVE A LIFE from radon risk.
Reflections on Arthur Scott

By William J. Angell
AARST Past-president and MURC Director

I first met Arthur in the late 1980s in Dayton, OH where he was conducting research and demonstration for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Office of Research and Development (ORD) on active soil depressurization (ASD) in slab-on-grade foundations. By this point in time, Arthur had established a notable reputation in the emerging field of radon control.

It is dangerous to say someone was first in demonstrating the effectiveness of ASD for radon control but Arthur was most certainly one of the first to share that honor with others including Luc Lance in Elliot Lake, Ontario.

One of the early examples of Arthur’s work was in the February 1982 Atomic Energy Control Board Final Report on Investigation and Implementation of Remedial Measures for the Radiation Reduction and Radioactive Decontamination of Elliot Lake Ontario. This report notes that in 1981, “weeping tile ventilation” (drain tile depressurization) was successfully applied for radon mitigation in a dozen homes. It was further noted that subfloor and sump ventilation (subslab and sump depressurization) was being effectively tested. It was not a surprise that Arthur was retained by EPA ORD for ASD research in the U.S. in the latter 1980s. After 2007, Arthur completed a number of guidance documents for Health Canada on radon measurement and mitigation.

On a personal level, one of my early memorable moments was riding shotgun with Arthur on the way to the Dayton subslab mitigation research sites. Arthur drove like a rocket pilot. In more recent times, I found him to be an effective debater on questions like radon fan and ASD discharge locations. Perhaps more important was Arthur loved life with his wife on and off the dance floor. He demonstrated that radon science and joy are the true grit we all need to seek.

Thank you Arthur Scott.