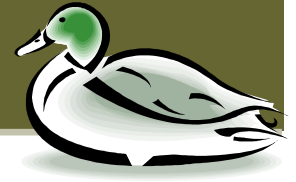


QAAC NEWSLETTER



Newsletter of the Quality Assurance Association of Connecticut, Inc.
www.qaac.org

QAAC Events

After a busy season ending with the May presentation on Quick Test Professional, QAAC will be taking the summer off. No speakers or presentations are planned for June, July or August.

The fall season will kick off with the annual full day seminar. Plans are being put together for a full day of education and networking. Tentative dates are either Friday September 17th or Friday September 24th. Mark those days on your calendar and watch the QAAC website (www.qaac.com) for more details.

If you are interested in speaking at an upcoming meeting or the September seminar, please submit a bio and abstract of your topic to Director of Education, Kiran Pyneni through the QAAC website.

2010 -2011 Board Members

Each fall QAAC elects a new board. Positions include president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, membership, education, programs & logistics, communications, charter and one member-at-large.

Several board members are returning again this year, but some are transitioning off. If you are interested in a position, please contact Deepak Sharma, current president, via the QAAC website for additional details.

Don't feel like making the commitment of being a board member? There is always a need for helping hands, so consider volunteering for a committee.

And don't forget, QAAC board members receive additional certification hours.

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Welcome New Board Members

QAAC would like to welcome 2 new board members. Joining the board are Daksha Kantaria as Vice-President and Niket S Gandhi as director of Programs and Logistics.

Niket is an Engineer with focus on Performance Engineering and experience in performance testing. Currently working for WellPoint Inc. in North Haven-CT. Prior experience includes performance Test Engineer at Expedia Inc. and consulting experience in automation testing, Capacity Management and Modeling. In addition to IT Performance Engineering has a good understanding for Hardware Engineering which includes, manufacturing and performance, functional, system testing of the products.

Daksha is an Information Technology professional with 20 years of experience concentrated on Leadership, Quality Assurance, Project Management and Service Delivery. Daksha has over 12 years of successful QA experience in many areas such as leading business, and technology testing initiatives. In addition to Quality Assurance Management Daksha has thorough understanding and expertise in Network management and administration. Daksha had worked for Cigna Corporation for 20 years in different IT roles (1989-2009), and since November of 2009 she is working at Travelers as a QA Director. Daksha has been involved with QAAC since 2003 .Daksha holds a Masters in Accounting from M.S. University, India, A Associate in Information Technology from Harford community college, USA, A BS in Music (India) and a recent MBA with concentration on in IT management from Jones International University, USA.

Book Review: “Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: How Self-Education and the Pursuit of Passion Can Lead to a Lifetime of Success”

By Cheryl Klein, CSTE

This was a nice easy read of just under 200 pages. Despite the short length it was an interesting read. First of all, I found it interesting to read, in his own words, how one of the most recognized experts in our industry got his start. And it was not a conventional start at all. I also appreciated the over lying idea that education, any education, is a good thing. James discusses and is very aware of his learning style, and discusses the tools and tricks he uses to maximize that to his advantage. While he dislikes standard and formalized education, he has other ways to continually learn and expand his knowledge base. Although I am the opposite (I enjoy and thrive in classes and standard class type settings) I appreciated and believe some of his ideas can still be applied to how I learn. But the key take away here isn't that any given method or strategy of learning is “right” or “wrong” but that you understand your own strengths and weaknesses and then use that to continually improve yourself. The important thing isn't how you learn something, but simply that you do learn something. And that you continue learning.

I enjoyed some of the random topics he seemed to pickup and learn about. Items you wouldn't consider relevant to testing or furthering your professional development, but then again, you never know when or how something may become important. And even if something never does directly affect your work, the process of learning makes you better at it. I enjoyed the book. Not only was it short, but it was a casual, friendly style of writing that made it easy to read. I'd recommend this to anyone, not just professional testers, but anyone interested in understanding a little better the importance of a broad and inclusive education. I picked this up at my local library, but you can also order it on-line (either hard cover or as an e-book).

“Secrets of a Buccaneer-Scholar: How Self-Education and the Pursuit of Passion Can Lead to a Lifetime of Success”

Written by: James M. Bach

ISBN: 1439109087

ISBN-13: 9781439109083

Newsletter Submissions

Have you read an interesting book lately? Or maybe attended an interesting training session? Or how about that new tool you picked up and love/loathe and want to let everyone know about? Here is your chance - submit an article to the QAAC Newsletter! Not sure you can write an article by yourself? That's okay... we can help!

If you are interested in contributing to the next QAAC newsletter, please send your submission via the QAAC website (www.qaac.com).

Dabble Board – Free Tool Evaluation

By Cheryl Klein, CSTE

DabbleBoard is a free, on-line white board. So if you have people in different offices/locations, this allows you to share diagrams and pictures with them.

I've only had the opportunity to use this once or twice, but found it fairly easy to use. I would recommend viewing the Tour first. When I tried on my own to figure it out I didn't have much luck, but after a short video I was able to jump right in and start using the tool. It has some pre-made drawings or pictures available to get you started. Basic items like buttons, arrows, circles, etc. Once you have created pictures they are saved for later re-use. A nice feature is you can e-mail the white board to another user and they can modify the picture also.

DabbleBoard is video only, so if you are using this for meetings you'll still need to set up the conference call. And if using this you may want to make sure you have a headset so your hands are free to draw with. Also, all the participants need to have internet access. You can not print from DabbleBoard, but it does allow you to download the image & from there you can print or e-mail the image.

The website does have a related Blog, but it doesn't appear to be updated often. And the few items there seem to be announcing new features or fixes. They do have a 'Contact' link in case you need help or want to make a suggestion. I've not needed to use this so I don't know how the response time is.

You can find DabbleBoard @ <http://www.dabbleboard.com>

QAAC is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational organization, independent but affiliated with the QAI Global Institute as a local chapter of its Federation of Associations.

QAAC is exempt from federal (and state) income taxes (and state corporate taxes) under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501(c)(3). We handle money only to pay our expenses. We do not pay our officers or board members. We have no employees. We collect dues from our members to cover our operating expenses. We are permitted to accept donations to further our goals, and they are tax deductible.