

# A Wealth of Knowledge Waiting to be Picked Up

Dirk Petersen, November 2023

After 34 years in the Mass Properties department of a big aerospace company I retired from an occupation which always fascinated me. I had been trained on the job, more experienced colleagues had passed their knowledge, I tried to enhance the knowledge available in the company. I knew what I knew, and I knew what I did not know.

During the later years of my career, I was able to concentrate on transfer of knowledge to less experienced engineers, something I wanted to continue even after retirement to give something back to our profession. I took up a position in the SAWE and dug into that organization.

Soon it dawned on me that I might have known what I knew, but I grossly underestimated the amount of knowledge which I did not know. The wealth of knowledge in the SAWE is tremendous. Some of it is recorded in publications, some of it is available in training.

Mostly it is captured in the brains of its members. Nonetheless it is easily accessible. Just apply as mentee in SAWE's Mentoring Program.

Today I wish I had dug into SAWE early in my career. Picking up the available knowledge instead of reinventing the wheel would have saved me a lot of effort.