

# SD WIND

Monthly newsletter from South Dakota Wind Application Center

## Announcements

- Sanborn Central and Buffalo Ridge schools will soon be joining MTI in gathering meteorological data from MET towers provided by the SDWAC.
- A Midwest Wind Summit will be held on October 4-6, 2010 at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, SD with more information provided at their website: <http://www.midwestwindsummit.com>

## South Dakota State University YEA Camp

High school students across the state came to SDSU for the annual Youth Engineering Adventure (YEA) camp. The YEA camp focuses on high school student interaction with engineering. The SDWAC presented materials on wind energy, available at <http://wac.sdwind.org/learn> and allowed the students to build many different devices designed to harness energy from the wind.



## Recognition

CONGRADULATIONS to Steve Wegman for winning the Wind Powering America's Outstanding Leadership Award! Mr. Wegman accepted his award while at the American Wind Energy Association conference in Dallas, Texas.

The award recognized his work with the Wind for Schools Project in South Dakota.

[http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/business/article\\_e1b960c0-74d4-11df-a16d-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/business/article_e1b960c0-74d4-11df-a16d-001cc4c03286.html)

## Technology

A robot has been designed to crawl the thousands of miles of transmission lines in the United States in order to check for age and network of the power grid.

Researchers at the Electric Power Research Institute are the minds behind this 140 pound, six-foot long prototype. "There is nothing that does what it does; nothing that even tries," said Andrew Phillips, director of power transmission research at the institute. The robot rolls at about three miles an hour along a high-lying "shield wire," a wire that protects the main transmission lines below from lightning strikes. "We decided instead to harvest power flowing through the shield wire itself," says Phillips, who explains that the shield wire picks up some power flow from the nearby transmission lines through electromagnetic induction. Solar cells will still be used for backup power, however.



<http://www.technologyreview.com/energy/25502/?nlid=3108>