



## Upcoming Conferences

This past holiday season, we decided to forgo a corporate gift and instead pledged to support student scholarships at your conferences throughout the year. We know from experience that meetings are a great way for students to increase exposure to ongoing science in their field, practice scientific presentation skills, and gain access to seasoned, and often incredibly busy, researchers in the community. The connections forged at conferences often provide collaboration opportunities and post-graduation prospects vital to early-career scientists. Thank you for reaching out to us with information about the meetings you are organizing; there are a lot of exciting gatherings on the calendar! We've committed to supporting these four conferences in 2017:

The 10<sup>th</sup> **Asian Raptor Research and Conservation Network Symposium** to be held October 18–22, 2017 at Ateneo de Davao University, Roxas Avenue, Davao City, Philippines

The 6<sup>th</sup> **International Bio-Logging Science Symposium** to be held September 25–29, 2017 in Lake Constance, Germany

The 33<sup>rd</sup> **Annual Meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society** to be held July 12–16, 2017 in Austin, Texas, USA

The 24<sup>th</sup> **Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society** to be held September 23–27, 2017 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

## MTI Employee Spotlight

### Erik Mann – Electronics & Hardware Technician

**Q: What is your role here at MTI?**

A: My primary roles include installing electronics inside transmitters, performing quality control throughout the production process, and hermetically sealing completed units as the last line of defense. I am also responsible for each refurbishment that comes through the door.

**Q: You started with MTI in 2010 after becoming our top choice in a recruiting class of roughly 30 individuals, but how did you gain your practical skills?**

A: I worked as a radio repair specialist in the U.S. Army for seven years in California and Hawaii where I was trained to solder and properly handle electronic equipment. I've also managed a hobby shop where I was able to foster my love of making and fixing things and learn about different materials and tools.

**Q: What is your favorite part about your job?**

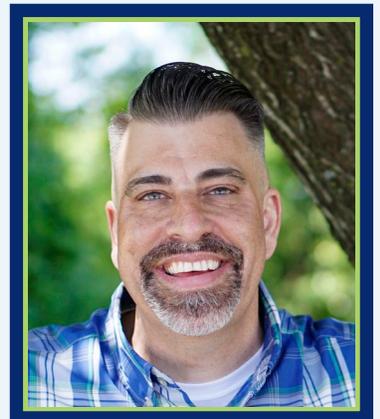
A: I really enjoy the challenge of working with refurbished transmitters. Each one comes back to us with a story about its bird and the places it has been. They are often very mangled when I get them, so it requires a little bit of detective work to troubleshoot the problem areas, and I find it very rewarding to upcycle a non-functional transmitter to one that can be redeployed to capture another bird's life story.

**Q: What is your favorite memory from your time working at MTI?**

A: My favorite memories are all from our annual office holiday party days. The camaraderie and energy after we've had our year-end reviews and received our personal bonuses is always exciting. Our gift exchange is always memorable as the gifts often seem to be extremely thoughtful or extremely absurd. I look forward to it every year.

**Q: You grew up here in Maryland and in California; what are some other interesting facts about you?**

A: My brother (who also works at MTI) and I have two deaf parents. So even though we can both hear, we learned sign language before learning to speak! I believe it's taught us patience and an attention to detail that we may not have learned otherwise. I also enjoy playing pinball and once played in a competitive league. But the most important thing about me is that I have an 18-year-old son who is starting college in Texas in the fall. I am excited (maybe as much as he is) to take him on a graduation trip to Jamaica this summer!



## 2018 CHRISTIANE HOWEY RISING SCHOLAR AWARD

– CALL FOR ENTRIES –

In addition to granting many educational awards for transmitters over the years, Christiane Howey quietly found ways to help young researchers and start-up programs. To honor Chris, and to carry on in her spirit of generosity, we are proud to offer an annual award in her name: the Christiane Howey Rising Scholar Award.

Proposals for the 2018 Christiane Howey Rising Scholar Award will be accepted through October 31, 2017 and reviewed prior to the publication of the Winter 2017 issue of *Tracker News*. The award recipient will be notified in late December to schedule a production slot. Proposals will be judged by an internal committee. Applicants are encouraged to include an educational component in their research, but this is not required.

This award is intended to provide researchers who are starting out their careers with the means to get projects off the ground. It will provide the recipient with five transmitters of his/her choice. Proposals should include an outline of the project indicating the scope and expected outcome. We are looking for a maximum of 5 pages. Please include a timeline and let us know what model of transmitter you are interested in using. The recipient will be responsible for any Argos (or GSM) data distribution costs and any duties/taxes. For more information, please email [support@microwavetelemetry.com](mailto:support@microwavetelemetry.com) or visit our website.

