

KIMMEL GERKE



Bullets

Winter
2016

Welcome to KGB... And to the annual issue of our "personal communications" to our friends, clients, and colleagues about EMI issues, problems and solutions.

This issue will be the LAST HARD COPY of the KGB. With Bill Kimmel's passing, I've cut back on the consulting to focus on EMC training.

So it is hard to justify the considerable expense of sending out the hard copy KGB (several thousand \$\$\$ each time.)

I plan to continue with an email version, so to receive future KGB news and updates, **please send your email information to dgerke@emiguru.com.**

For more details on my future plans, please see page 3, "What Next???"

Also, please visit the website at www.emiguru.com for future updates.

Best wishes – Daryl Gerke, PE

In Memorium William "Bill" Kimmel, PE 1940-2015

By now, most of you know Bill passed away in April after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

We were good friends and business partners for almost 40 years. I miss him every day, as do so many colleagues in the EMC community.

Here are some links remembering Bill:

- **EDN Magazine**

www.edn.com/electronics-blogs/rowe-s-and-columns/4440537/Memories-of-Bill-Kimmel

- **In Compliance Magazine**

incompliancemag.com/article/remembering-bill-kimmel/

- **Obituary**

www.johnsonpeterson.com/memsol.cgi?page=profile§ion=info&user_id=1574301

On behalf of Kimmel Gerke Associates and Bill's family, THANK YOU for all your kind comments and support. You make this business a sincere pleasure.

Upcoming Events... Here are some places I'll be in 2016. Hope to see you at one or more of these events.

IEEE EMC Symposium-Ottawa CANADA - July 25-29, 2016. The annual rendezvous for those interested in EMI/EMC. Meet old friends, learn new ideas, see new products, and more. <http://www.emc2016.emcss.org/>

EMC in Military Systems - Various locations. This class is sponsored by our partners at the Applied Technology Institute. Available both public and in-house. For more info, visit www.ATCourses.com.

Design for EMC/Signal Integrity - Various locations. For over 20 years we have partnered with Tektronix to offer this popular course. Also available in-house, with or without tailoring. For more info, visit www.emiguru.com.

Please Join the E-Mail List... Since this is the LAST SNAIL-MAIL COPY, please join if you are on the snail-mail list. Send your email to dgerke@emiguru.com

Multiple benefits - you will learn about:

- On line EMC events, like webinars.
 - Local public EMC events, like classes.
 - Other EMC issues/events that may be of interest
- You will also receive a notice/link for the latest KGB (pdf).

No spam, and you can opt-out at any time. The E-mail list is private, and is not rented or sold. So please join – keep up to date on EMC—and save a tree!

Brief Phone Calls are FREE... Unlike lawyers, we never charged for "six minute phone calls." I plan to continue that policy.

So, if you have a quick question or need a quick reference, feel free to ask. The best way is a short email with details and your phone number. I'll either call you back or answer by email. *Always fun to talk with old clients or students.*

If you need help running into hours (such as a design review), I'll give you a prior estimate for the fees.

Season's Greetings... Happy Holidays from our families to yours. Wishing you the peace and the joy of the season, and all the best in 2016!



Focus on Bill Kimmel...

My eulogy to Bill, given at his funeral (May 2015)...

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Daryl Gerke, Bill's friend and business partner for almost 40 years.

When Bill's daughter asked me to say a few words, I told her it would be a privilege. But when she told me I only had about five minutes, I knew it would be a huge challenge.

You see, I could go on for hours with wonderful stories about Bill... and given the opportunity, probably would. Those of you who do know me know that's true.

As an aside, Bill and I spent many pleasant hours telling, and then retelling stories... often to the chagrin of our wives. I will miss that.

So what can I say in just a few minutes? As I reflected on this, I was finally able to distill it down to three key points I'd like to share today.

(1) Bill was highly respected

The highest accolade an engineer can give to another engineer is to say, "So and so is a good engineer. "Sometimes for emphasis, one is called a "darn good engineer." We engineers are such an emotional bunch.

As the e-mails and phone calls poured in after the news of Bill's passing, those phrases were repeated many times. Often with examples of how Bill had jumped in to difficult situations... helped out... and even saved their bacon.

Past students lauded his abilities to take complex concepts and make them easy to understand.

Of course, I agree with those sentiments... Working together for 40 years, I know of no better practitioner of the engineering profession.

(2) Bill was extremely gracious

In a business where giant egos sometimes reign, Bill was modest to a fault. When I shared a comment with him several weeks ago that someone had called him a "rock star", he chuckled and replied, "Gee, I just thought I was doing my job." ... Classic Bill.

Bill also willingly shared what he knew. Not only with clients, but with colleagues and even complete strangers.

An e-mail from a professor in the UK told how, in the middle of his battle with cancer, he took the time to discuss the impact of some new standards. It was much appreciated... He was literally known around the world.

A phone call from a vendor told how he took the time at a trade show last fall to talk with the woman's son about a career in engineering, and how much it meant to both of them... She had only met Bill earlier that day.

(3) Bill was a friend to ALL

I'm biased, of course... What started out as a couple of young engineers collaborating on some moonlighting projects blossomed into a friendship that lasted almost 40 years... Personally, I can think of nobody else who would have been a better friend and a better business partner.

He also leaves behind a multitude of friends in our engineering community... The many e-mails and phone calls in the past week have constantly expressed this sentiment... About what a good friend he had been, and how much he will be missed.

In closing, I'd like to share one particularly eloquent e-mail I received from one of those friends just after Bill's passing.

I'm not much of a reader, but one time my Rabbi lent me a book to read. It was by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner, the author of "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People". I never finished it, but I remember one passage:

As most clergy do, the Rabbi liked to learn about other faiths. He was at some kind of convention or conference, and he heard the Buddhists talking about how you shouldn't get attached to anyone, because you would only lose them eventually...

Rabbi Kushner disagreed... He said that isn't living... Rather, we should allow ourselves to love people even though it will be painful when we lose them... That is living.

So I'm doing a little living right now, over Bill. (Thanks – Jeff Silberberg)

Right now, I think we are ALL doing a little living over Bill... REST IN PEACE, my friend!

EDN Designer's Guide to EMC... Written entirely by Kimmel Gerke Associates. First published in 1994, and updated in 2001. All still very relevant today.

Order on-line at www.emiguru.com for \$29, and download immediately. Hard copies available for \$39, which includes US shipping. Call for details, or special pricing on multiple copies. *Attend a class and get a FREE hard copy.*

EMC Suppression Handbook... Also written entirely by Kimmel Gerke Associates. The first ten years of the *EMC Notebook* column in *Electromagnetic News Report*. Order on-line at www.emiguru.com for \$25, and download immediately. *Aesop's fables for EMC.*

If you receive the KGB by snail mail...

PLEASE send your e-mail address to continue...

This is the LAST hard copy KGB...

What Next ???

Bill Kimmel's passing was a grim reminder that life is not infinite. So I've been reassessing what to do next. Here are my current thoughts.

Kimmel Gerke Associates...

– *Consulting* - Decrease the consulting that involves travel, but stay involved with EMC training.

I have been handing off new out of town consulting projects to select colleagues. The objectives are to support our clients, while helping other EMC consultants. (Contact me for more info.)

I remain available for in-office consultations (such as design reviews) and local consultations.

– *Training* - Staying involved with training. I really enjoy EMC training, and it gives the most bang for the buck for helping others. More effective to work with ten or twenty at a time than just one or two.

My current goal is to limit classes to no more than one a month, a decrease from the past. So far, so good. These include both in-house and public classes.

Recently added the *EMC in Military Systems* class (partnered with the Applied Technology Institute), along with the popular *Design for EMC* class (partnered with Tektronix for over 20 years).

JumpToConsulting...

Started a blog (www.jumptoconsulting.com) on consulting five years ago as a creative project. The blog now has over 175 posts. Also presented short tutorials on consulting, and helped several make their own *JumpToConsulting*.

This has been very satisfying. Efforts are underway to increase this activity – post more, and develop an on-line class. An introductory e-book is on the wish list, along with some magazine articles.

Still considering the book I've always promised myself to write. After a couple of EMC books, I don't need it for the ego boost, but it would be fun to do.

Personal...

Goof off more and enjoy life. Play with the dog and hit the road in the RV. Read more books. Revisit ham radio.

Thanks to the consulting business, I no longer need to work. Just very grateful for my success in the wacky world of EMI/EMC.

It has been great fun, and I've enjoyed meeting and helping so many people – a sentiment that Bill also shared.

So thank you all, and please keep in touch!

Consider In-house EMC Training... You may have noticed the public class schedule has shrunk in the past few years.

Due to the economy, revenues are down as companies tighten training and travel budgets. At the same time, the expenses (promotion, hotels, catering, etc.) continue to go up. Thus, we cut back the public classes.

Simply stated, the old public model no longer works. And while I really enjoy teaching, this is still a business and the classes must carry their own weight.

NO, I am NOT getting out of the public training business. I plan to continue with public classes, but at a reduced level from the past.

The NEW EMPHASIS is on IN-HOUSE CLASSES...

So if you want to take advantage of almost 50 years of industry experience combined with personally teaching over 5,000 students, call to get on the schedule.

But don't wait too long. I won't be doing this forever. With Bill's passing, I've already cut back. And at my age, I'm pretty sure I won't be doing this 20 years from now.

BREAK-EVEN is about 12 students... You can have up to 30 students at a fixed fee (no per-seat fees). You provide the training space, A/V, and refreshments. I provide the materials and instructor (me.)

The materials can be tailored to focus on your particular problems. See the last page for examples of past classes.

Design reviews can be added. About 80% of the in-house classes include this one-day option.

Don't have 12 students? Share a "hybrid" class with other local companies. Similar to an in-house class, but I request only one payment (you work out the money split.) I've done several such classes with good success.

The PAYBACK for EMC training is there... Save one trip to the test lab, and you have probably recovered ALL the class fees. Any savings after that are 100% profit.

But it is not just test savings. One client told us that preventing just one equipment shutdown saved \$50K. Another client told us that getting to market one month early was - as the credit card people say - *priceless!*

Interested? Call 888-EMI-GURU... or drop me a line at dgerke@emiguru.com to schedule your class.

www.jumptoconsulting.com

Visit my blog on how to **start/build/maintain a small consulting practice**. Based on my 30+ years as an EMC consulting engineer. Over 175 posts, regular updates.

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**FIRST CLASS
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How to Contact Daryl...

Telephone... Toll Free or Direct...

- Answering Service - 888-EMI-GURU (Toll Free)
- Arizona Office - 480-755-0080 (MST)

E-Mail... A preferred method if you don't need a "real time" answer. dgerke@emiguru.com

Snail Mail... If you need to mail or Fed-X something...
-Daryl Gerke, 2538 W. Monterey, Mesa, AZ 85202

LinkedIn... Please add a comment that you are a KGB reader, past student or client, or colleague.

Web Site... Please visit www.emiguru.com for class schedules, back issues of the KGB, bibliography, back articles, and other useful EMI stuff.

EMI/EMC in Military Systems...

We now partner with the Applied Technology Institute to offer our EMC Military Systems course on both PUBLIC and IN-HOUSE, This class includes EMC Troubleshooting and MIL-STD-461/464 Design Impact.

ATI is an industry leader in technical training, with hundreds of specialized technical classes in their catalog.

Sign up ATCourses.com, and be notified of future classes by email. Get their catalog too.

In-House EMC Courses... Here are some classes done for past clients:

- Design for EMC (2 days)
- EMC Grounding & Shielding (2 days)
- EMC in Military Systems (2 ½ days - 3 days)
- EMC in Avionics Systems (2 days)
- EMC in Medical Devices (2 days)
- EMC in Vehicular Electronics (2 days)
- EMC and Signal Integrity in PCBs (1 day)
- EMC for Mechanical Engineers (1 day)

Flat rate for up to 30 students, but with even dozen students, an in-house class makes sense. Call 888-EMI-GURU for more information on an in-house class at your facility.

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