

The Problem Section—Take the Challenge

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The problem section seeks lively and interesting problems involving mathematics, as well as solutions to ones already published here. The typical problem might entail anywhere from one hour up to one month of effort to solve. Technology (calculator, computer) may supplement a problem solution but should never supplant it.

A good problem will go beyond your textbook, your routine, and your comfort zone to stretch your knowledge. A very good problem may have some generalization, special case, or nice extension into another area. It might afford a novel solution beyond mere formulaic chug-and-plug. One other recurring feature will be Quickies, which are just shorter, easier problems that do not quite make the cut because they can be handled more quickly. Their solutions will appear in the same issue just before the solutions to earlier problems. However, if you believe you have a better solution to a Quickie, please send it. If we agree, we will publish it in a future issue, with full attribution of your role.

It is our aim that all published proposers and correct solvers be acknowledged properly for every problem or timely correct solution they provide. To propose a new problem, prepare it as a Microsoft Word file in .doc format, including graphs or drawings, using MathType or Equation Editor as needed for layout. Send it to the Problem Section Editor at DrMWEcker@aol.com along with your name, any institutional affiliation, and address. Note that electronic submissions are strongly preferred over paper, but if you need to use snail-mail, send items to Dr. Mike Ecker/ Problems Editor, AMATYC/ 1 Hamilton Road/ Dallas, PA 18612. Similarly, please send all proposed solutions by email to the Solutions Editor, Prof. Stephen Plett, at Prof.S.Plett@gmail.com. All problems and solutions offered by e-mail will be acknowledged immediately via e-mail by the respective editor. We invite all our readers to find a few time-worthy challenges and jump right in!



Michael W. Ecker had a 45-year career as a mathematics professor, most of it at Pennsylvania State University's Wilkes-Barre campus. He retired from teaching in 2016. His PhD in math was from CUNY (1978). Published 500+ times as mathematician or computer journalist, Mike also served on national committees responsible for creating competitive national exams, and was the founding Problem Section Editor of The AMATYC Review (1981-1997). As a recreational mathematician, he published his own newsletter, *Recreational & Educational Computing* (1986-2007). He remains an avid technology enthusiast, currently owning over 125 computers.



Stephen Plett recently retired after 40 years as a mathematics professor, most of it at Fullerton College. His two Master's Degrees are in Applied Mathematics from UCR (1980) and Mathematics for Collegiate Teaching from CSU Fullerton (1988). Steve has authored introductory textbooks in Differential Equations and Linear Algebra, a few journal articles, and has contributed to publications in problem solving for 35 years, including being Solutions Editor of The AMATYC Review for Mike and his successor as Problem Section Editor (1997-2008).