

**DRAFT as of 9 Oct 2012**

**Dedication of IEEE Milestone –  
*The First Optical Fiber Laser and Amplifier, 1961-1964***

*In 1961, Elias Snitzer and colleagues constructed and operated the world's first optical fiber laser in the former American Optical complex at 14 Mechanic Street. Three years later this team demonstrated the first optical fiber amplifier. Fiber lasers that can cut and weld steel have since become powerful industrial tools and fiber amplifiers routinely boost signals in the global optical fiber network allowing messages to cross oceans and continents without interruption.  
October 26, 2012 Southbridge Massachusetts*

12:30 Outdoor Ceremony and Plaque Unveiling (in Park directly across from AO Main Plant):

- Welcome – Dick Whitney
- Intro of IEEE/ Background of IEEE Milestones– Gordon Day
- Local Officials / Politicians
- Ribbon Cutting (Eli Snitzer Family)
- Jeff Hecht comments on AO/ Southbridge contributions to early Fiber Optics development
- Recognition of Will Hicks and Fiber Optics (small plaque) – Jeff Hecht
- Rich Linke – Invitation to attend indoor reception, presentations, and grounds tour

1:15 Indoor reception in Southbridge Hotel (former AO Main Plant)  
– Hors d'œuvre (plus cash bar)

2:00 Presentations in Hotel Auditorium

- Dick Whitney - Brief History of AO Southbridge Facility (20m)
- Gordon Day - IEEE & the Milestone Program (15m)
- Jim Coleman - IEEE Photonics Society (15m)
- Jeff Hecht (Keynote speaker) - History of Optical Fiber Lasers & Amplifiers (45m)
- Helen Paret - Personal Comments about honoree (15m)
- Rich Linke - closing remarks (10m)