



AEG SACRAMENTO

Monthly Bulletin and Meeting Announcement

Spring is Here !

The weather here lately may have confused you, but the forerunners of Spring are definitely upon us! Trees are in bloom and the days are beginning to get longer once again. The true sign of Spring's arrival for AEG members though is the increasing flurry of activity that comes with anticipation of starting new consulting and building projects! Everyone is busy, busy, busy!

Here in the AEG Sacramento section we are busy too, preparing for our upcoming **Drilling and Sampling Technologies 2006 Workshop** and lining up our monthly speakers and dinners! Our January and February meetings turned out to be some of the best attended meetings on record and we are looking forward to many more. This month we have a real treat in store as our own Dave Bieber and Bob Anderson share their experiences and photos in an engineering geology tour of South African geohazards.

So we invite you to take a break from your busy schedule and our wild weather woes to come join us, share a couple of beers with your geologic colleagues and enjoy an evening tour of sunny South African geology!

Section Meeting Date: March 28, 2006

Meeting Location: **Sudwerks in Davis**, 2001 Second Street, adjacent to I-80: get off at Richards, turn right, right on 5th, then right on L St ;left on Second St to Sudwerks, under the Pole Line Rd bridge superstructure fronting I-80 Fwy.

Meeting Schedule:

- 5:30 - 6:30 Sign-In & Social Hour
- 6:30 - 7:30 Dinner & Announcements
- 7:30 - 8:15 Speaker Talk & Slide Show
- 8:15 - 8:30 Questions & Answers

An Engineering Geological Tourist's Introduction to South Africa's Geohazards

David W. Bieber, Geological Services Manager, Geocon Consultants, Inc.

Bob Anderson, Senior Engineering Geologist, California Seismic Safety Commission

Abstract:

David Bieber and Bob Anderson have each recently completed geohazards focused trips to the Republic of South Africa. During their respective trips, they viewed geohazards associated with seismicity, land subsidence, mine related geohazards, slope stability, and naturally occurring asbestos. This talk will present a photographic tour of many of the hazards viewed, the effects of those hazards, and efforts being undertaken to predict and mitigate them.



David Bieber, RG, RGP, CEG, CHG

Geocon Consultants, Inc.

David Bieber is the Geological Services Manager for Geocon Consultants, Inc. in Rancho Cordova, California, past president of AEG National and a long-time member of the Sacramento Section. David is a California Registered Geologist, Registered Geophysicist, Certified Engineering Geologist, and Certified Hydrogeologist. His current areas of professional practice include naturally occurring asbestos, abandoned mine land assessment, and the provision of integrated geological support for active construction projects.

David received a Bachelor of Science degree in Pathobiology with a minor in Natural Resource Conservation from the University of Connecticut, finished his undergraduate geology studies at the Colorado School of Mines, and received a M.S. degree in Geology from the University of Colorado.

Bob Anderson, Senior Engineering Geologist

California Seismic Safety Commission

Bob Anderson is a Senior Engineering Geologist with the California Seismic Safety Commission. He is a C.E.G. and P.G. with 18 years experience primarily on infrastructure and seismic hazard projects in the California, Turkey, Taiwan and South Africa. His focus is on seismic hazard mitigation, planning, preparedness and emergency response. Recently, Bob has been working on two significant projects: 1) Emergency preparedness and response issues related to mining induced seismicity in South African Gold Mining Districts with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Mining Tech). and 2) a review of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Water System Improvement Program Seismic Upgrade changes.

A Message from Your Board

by
Nate Manley

Being a victim of your own success can be a wonderful thing sometimes! As anyone who attended our February meeting can attest to, we were a bit crowded...to say the least. In what can only be described as the most impressive turnout for a February meeting ever, more than 50 people attended last month's meeting and presentation on naturally occurring asbestos identification, quantification methodology and ongoing efforts to better standardize laboratory sample processing and analysis. Thankfully, geologists tend to be a rather congenial bunch and (with an ample supply of beer) we all packed in to the cozy room for a very informative presentation. Many thanks to Dave Siederquist and our new friends from Forensic Analytical!

From time to time I decide to give our perpetually busy section chairperson a break from the onerous task of composing our monthly "Message from Your Board" and opt to write the piece myself. Of course when I do write these pieces I occasionally wonder if anybody really reads them. By the way, did you hear that **aliens have invaded** and are specifically **abducting geologists** to clean up toxic spills on distant planets? Maybe you missed that one...but hopefully I've now got your attention!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that the success of meetings like February's and the long-term health of our organization depends heavily on the participation and involvement of its members! Every meeting, every field trip and every fund-raiser we hold requires a great deal of work and care to make successful!

So why am I bringing this up now? As the saying goes "Many hands make light work". Well, we have some heavy work ahead of us and could use a few more hands to help lighten the load! At the end of April we will be holding the Drilling and Sampling Technologies 2006 seminar as our big fundraising event for the year. We still need several more volunteers on hand to assist with preparations for and execution of this event. If you'd like to help, talk to Eric Chase at the next meeting...I'm sure he could find a place for you!

Also, I'd like to ask for a couple of volunteers to assist with our meetings. It would be particularly helpful to find someone with knowledge of AV equipment to work with our sound system, getting everything set up and the microphones wired at each meeting. Also (as I discovered last month), working the check-in table by yourself can be quite challenging! So, for those of you with great social skills, I'm sure our treasurer Chani would appreciate the extra help and company a volunteer at check-in would be able to offer.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate our members who volunteered to sponsor student meals at the past few meetings. One of the great strides forward that our section has made in recent years has been its support of and involvement with local geoscience students. We are understandably proud of this work and I know that many local companies have gained excellent new employees directly from our student member population!

In light of this, I'd like to propose a **new student sponsorship opportunity for our member companies**. For each of the eight regular meetings we hold during the year, I'd like to ask for one corporate sponsor to contribute \$150 to cover the student attendees for that month's meeting. In recognition, each sponsor will get to have their corporate name and logo proudly displayed on our website's student page and meeting sign-up page for that month. If your company wants to sponsor more than one meeting each year, even better! So if you think your company might be interested in sponsoring student attendance at our monthly meeting, please get in touch with me at tnmanley@sbcglobal.net.

In parting, I'd like to encourage you all to get involved to whatever extent you are able! I've considered it a privilege working with the terrific people in AEG, who are doing great work here for our community and our profession as a whole. Working with AEG has been one of the most rewarding things I've done these past few years and I know it can be equally rewarding for you too! So don't miss out on the opportunity to make a difference in the profession!

Sincerely,

Nate Manley
AEG Sacramento Section Secretary

Hot Off the Press!

Commentary on the Status of the Board of Registration

By Eric Chase

The Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (the Board) has convened a meeting for Friday, March 24 (see their website for details, <http://www.geology.ca.gov>), with a short agenda, namely a performance appraisal of the Executive Officer Paul Sweeney. For those of you who are not aware, the reasons for this meeting are many, and relate to the behavior of the Executive Officer over the past several months. I first became alarmed at Mr. Sweeney's behavior when he issued an indictment of the California Specific Examination (CSE), which came out of the blue. He then proceeded to convene a focus group, at the Board's direction, throughout which process Mr. Sweeney's hand lay heavy on the outcome. Following that, he convinced the Board to rescind the exam, claiming that the focus group supported his position, which some focus group members have said did not accurately reflect their findings. I wrote a rebuttal to Mr. Sweeney's position which I submitted in the indicated way, by e-mail to the Board via their website. I seriously doubt the Board ever saw my e-mail. Many of you may have read my commentary in our January newsletter on this topic. Mr. Sweeney is not a geologist, licensed or otherwise. He serves at the pleasure of the Board, as is apparent from the agenda above. Following the Board's poorly-informed action rescinding the CSE, at the Board's direction a workshop was convened, to create a handbook and questionnaire as a substitute for the CSE. The workshop was convened with oversight from the California Office of Examination Resources. It appears Mr. Sweeney managed to subvert the directive of the Board by instructing the OER overseer not to allow discussion of a questionnaire, or any other form of feedback from prospective licensees. The remnant of the CSE (handbook with questionnaire) was thus effectively eliminated in this high-handed manner.

Mr. Sweeney also has reportedly been misbehaving in several other ways for some time, with charges of unprofessional conduct coming from several sources in and close to the office, including use of profanity, browbeating, bullying, sowing of suspicion, undue favoritism, hostility, slander, mismanagement of budget and personnel, obstruction in the conduct of Board business, destruction of public documents, preparation of falsified or misleading meeting minutes, and other allegations. If wholly or even partly true, this may explain why the staff turnover rate under Mr. Sweeney has been extremely high.

There is another concern as well, in my view, and that is vacancies on the Board. The seven-member Board at present comprises just three active public members and one active technical member, due regrettably in part to the continued illness of Dr. Robert Matthews. Thus, there is no engineering geologist or hydrogeologist on the board, nor is there a petroleum geologist. The three vacancies weaken the Board's collective expertise and perhaps it's resolve in dealing with a misguided executive officer. These positions need to be filled, and the CSE needs to be reinstated at once. We all need to remain engaged in what is happening, because public safety must be protected. I urge you all to visit the Board's website regularly to keep abreast of such matters. And, if you have direct knowledge of inappropriate behavior or action on the part of Mr. Sweeney, I urge you to attend the Board meeting on Friday March 24 at 10:00 A.M. Do get there early and remember to fill out a speaker's slip!

March 2006 AEG Meeting Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

(or e-mail to the address below)

To: Lisa Breckenridge (Wallace-Kuhl & Associates, Inc.)
email: LBreckenridge@wallace-kuhl.com

Phone: (916) 372-1434

Fax: (916) 290-5429

From: _____

Or You Can Sign Up Online at: www.aegsacto.org

Subject: March 2006 AEG Sacramento Section Meeting

Date: March 28, 2006

Place: **Sudwerks in Davis**
(For directions, see page 1)

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 PM - Sign In and Social Hour
6:30 - 7:30 PM - Dinner & Announcements
7:30 - 8:15 PM - Speaker Talk and Slide Show
8:15 - 8:30 PM - Questions and Answers

On the Menu: *Saurbraten*
Vegetable Lasagna
Fresh Stir-fried Vegetables
Mashed Potatoes
Garden Salad

Cost: \$28 member (w/ RSVP) \$30 nonmember and walk-ins

Notes: First 5 Students (w/RSVP) Eat For Free!
Additional Student RSVPs: \$5.00 Student Walk-ins: \$10.00
Alcoholic beverages are available for those 21 and over on a cash basis.

AEG Sacramento 2006 Calendar of Events

January 31st	Dr. Lisa Hammersley, Sacramento State University The Clear Lake Volcanic Field
February 28th	Jim Flores and David Siederquist NOA: The latest update and a demonstration of PLM
March 28th	David Bieber and Bob Anderson "An Engineering Geological Tourist's Introduction to South Africa's Geohazards"
April 25th	Ross Guenther Reopening of the Idaho-Maryland Mine, Grass Valley, CA
April 28	Proposed Drilling and Sampling Technologies Workshop
May 30th	TBA
June 27th	TBA
July	No meeting
August 29th	TBA
September	TBA
October 24th	3rd Annual Student Night Speaker TBA
Oct. 30-Nov. 4	AEG 2006 National Meeting; Boston, MA "NORTHEAST ENGINEERING GEOLOGY: FROM TILL TO FILL"
November	Thanksgiving Holiday, No meeting
December	Joint AEG-GRA Holiday Meeting Speaker and Date TBA