



## *Dinosaurs and Other Mesozoic Reptiles of California*

Richard P. Hilton, Professor of Geology, Sierra College

### **Abstract:**

This slide/lecture presentation is about dinosaurs and other fossil Mesozoic reptiles found in California and the people involved in their science. Bones, originally deposited in sediments between 210 and 65 million years ago, have been discovered in the rocks of the hills, mountains and deserts of California and just to the south in Baja California. While most of these fossil reptiles lived in the sea (thalattosaurs, ichthyosaurs, mosasaurs, plesiosaurs and turtles), some, like the birds and the pterosaurs, soared above it. Others like tortoises and dinosaurs came from terrestrial habitats or died there and were washed into the sea. Perhaps just as interesting as these prehistoric creatures is the rich story of the work and adventure involved in the discovery, preparation and publishing of the finds. Here we find scientists, teachers, students, ranchers, weekend fossil hunters, and even a dog that found a fossil bone. There are folks from all walks of life and all levels of education. This talk chronicles the first 100 years of fossil Mesozoic reptile discovery in California.

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### **Richard P. Hilton, Professor of Geology** Sierra College

Dick Hilton is a professor of geology and paleontology at Sierra College. He has a Bachelors degree in Geology with a minor in Biology, and a Masters degree in Earth Science from California State University, Chico. He is a paleontological consultant and an avid nature photographer. He is Chairman of the Sierra College Natural History Museum, and a board member of the California State University Chico, Geoscience Board and the Northern California Natural History Museum. He is a member of the California Natural History Film Project. He has published numerous scientific articles in the field of vertebrate paleontology and a book entitled, "Dinosaurs and other Mesozoic Reptiles of California, 2003, University of California Press. As a naturalist he has led many natural history trips to Africa, South America, including the Amazon, Baja, the Galapagos, Alaska and many parts of the United States and Canada. He has led paleontological digs throughout the western United States. He and his wife Kristin, Sierra College Biology Technician, travel to the world in search of some of the remaining natural areas.

*Don't Miss Out!*

*Sign up for the Rock Slope Stability and Design Spring Seminar Today!*

<http://www.aegsacto.org/about/workshops/>

To all the AEG Sacramento Members!

Listen up folks! The Sacramento Section of AEG has been working on a real gem of a workshop for us this year. Thanks largely to the concerted efforts of Pat Jenks of Wallace-Kuhl and Drew Kennedy of SAGE, AEG Sacramento members are being presented with the opportunity to study rock slope stability, design methodology and technologies with some of the very best people in the business, including:

Chester (Skip) F. Watts, Ph.D., PG, Director, Institute for Engineering Geosciences, Dalton Distinguished Professor of Geology, Radford University, Virginia and author of ROCKPACK III.

Martin Woodard, Ph.D., PG, Project Manager, Kleinfelder Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Brendan Fisher, PE, PG, Senior Engineering Geologist, Kleinfelder, Inc., Bellevue, Washington.

John Kemeny, Ph.D., Director of Research, Split Engineering, Associate Professor, Department of Mining and Geological Engineering, University of Arizona and author of Split-FX Software.

This short course is not the same as the rock slope stability short course recently offered through AEG at national meetings or by the Southern California Section in 2006. Instead, this short course is being specially designed for professionals seeking intermediate level instruction on methods and new technologies applicable to rock slope stability investigation, analyses and design and will cover more advanced topics as well as new technologies for characterization of rock faces.

So don't procrastinate on this opportunity....seminars of this quality don't show up in your own backyard every day! For more information and a link to the sign-up form, copy the link shown above into your browser. We're looking forward to a great meeting and hope to see you there!

# Chairman's Message

by  
Eric Chase

Greetings everyone. As spring approaches it always seems that the world gets busier week by week. That is also true for AEG's Sacramento Section. Arrangements are being finalized for the upcoming Rock Slope Stability Two Day Short Course April 20-21, and this event looks to be a great one. We have also lined up a great series of speakers for our upcoming meetings, which can be viewed on our section website. This month it is Dick Hilton from Sierra College. If you have not heard Dick speak before, it is a treat, I assure you. He will bring us the latest on vertebrate paleontology in California.

I have of late been involved in AEG at the national (and with Montreal the international) level, specifically with AEG's Strategic Planning Committee. We met recently in Denver to begin implementation and prioritization of the strategies and objectives for AEG that we devised in Anchorage last August, based on our most recent members' poll results. Chief among these for the next two years is advocacy for the profession of geology. This has been a sore point in California particularly, as we have seen from the rather misguided proposals put forth by the governor's office over the last couple of years. It is clear that the general population neither understands nor appreciates the importance of geologic practice as it impacts society here in California. The chairman of AEG's new Advocacy Committee is our own past Section Chair Bruce Hilton, aided by Sacramento Section member John Juhrend and others around the country. Plans are afoot for a multi-faceted approach to raising consciousness about geologic practice, hopefully to spare our colleagues in other areas the battles we have been made to fight here in California, AEG's own birthplace. Speaking of birthplaces, we are seeking any artifacts from the early days of AEG that might exist out there, for a Sacramento Section display at this year's annual meeting in Los Angeles. This would include photos of the early years, field trip guidebooks and other publications, etc. Please contact me if you have any such items that we can borrow, copy, and display in September.

I had dinner with a long-time colleague recently, a person central to geologic practice in California for over 40 years. I share certain concerns raised by my colleague about the direction being taken in recent months at the California Geological Survey to garner funding by offering geologic consulting services to local government agencies throughout California for a fee. This increasing trend at CGS takes work away from the private sector, and offers the consumer no protections against errors and omissions in practice, as the state agency is largely immune from such consequences. As a first look at this, I do not feel such an effort serves the consumer appropriately, and it also does a disservice to practicing geologists in California as well who cannot hope to compete equally for such work, their operating costs not being underwritten by taxpayer dollars. More views on this topic will be forthcoming from me as facts unfold. Happy Spring everyone!

Eric Chase  
AEG Sacramento Section Chair

# March 2007 AEG Meeting Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

(or e-mail to the address below)

To: Lisa Breckenridge (Wallace-Kuhl & Associates, Inc.)

email: [LBreckenridge@wallace-kuhl.com](mailto:LBreckenridge@wallace-kuhl.com)

Phone: (916) 372-1434

Fax: (916) 290-5429

From: \_\_\_\_\_

**Or You Can Sign Up Online at:** [www.aegsacto.org](http://www.aegsacto.org)

Subject: March 2007 AEG Sacramento Section Meeting

Date: March 27th, 2007

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 2007

## Event Calendar

January 30th	Keith Millard, Youngdahl Consulting Group Landslide Repair on a Gold Rush Era Roadway
February 27th	Dr. Sandy Figuers Construction vibrations and their effect on adjacent improvements
March 27th	Dick Hilton, Sierra College Dinosaurs and Other Mesozoic Reptiles in California
April 20-21st	Rock Slope Stability Workshop
April 24th	TBA
May 29th	Dr. Edward Kavazanjian, Arizona State University Post-Closure Development of Waste Landfills
June 26th	Yogesh Prashar, M2 Consultants Numerical Modeling of Fault Rupture and Lateral Spreading related PGD for a Natural Gas Pipeline
July	No Meeting
August 28th	Ken Glotzbach (City of Roseville) and Chris Petersen (MWH) Roseville Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project
September 24-29	AEG's 50th Anniversary and Annual National Meeting, Sheraton Universal Studios, Los Angeles, California
October 30th	AEG's Annual Student Night at CSUS James G. Moore, USGS Clarence King - Exploration and Discovery in the American West
November	No Meeting
December	AEG/GRA Annual Joint Holiday Meeting TBA