

ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and Ground-Water Geology"

San Diego Chapter, July 2009 Newsletter

JOINT AEG/SDAG MEETING NOTICE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

This month, the AEG monthly meeting will be a joint meeting with SDAG. We will have a presentation by **Dave Schug** from **URS Corporation** who will be presenting a discussion on **"GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES FOR DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED BORINQUEN DAMS EXPANSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, PANAMA"**.

Join us at Marina Village, Wednesday July 15, 2009.

Where:

Catalina Room (southern end of MVCC) SEE MAP
Marina Village Conference Center
1936 Quivira Way, San Diego, CA 92109

When:

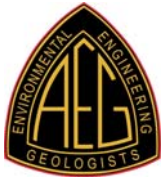
5:30 pm – Social Hour
6:30 pm – Dinner
7:00 pm – Program

Directions:

FROM INTERSTATE 5: Take the SEA WORLD DRIVE exit. From SEA WORLD DRIVE, take WEST MISSION BAY DRIVE on your right. When you see the large green sign that says QUIVIRA ROAD, get in the farthest left of the two left turn lanes. Turn left, go one very short block and turn left again. Drive about one half mile and MARINA VILLAGE will be on your right.

FROM INTERSTATE 8: Take the WEST MISSION BAY DRIVE exit to the right. You will be on INGRAHAM STREET for a short distance from which you will take the next exit marked WEST MISSION BAY DRIVE on your right. When you see the large green sign that says QUIVIRA ROAD, get in the farthest left of the two left turn lanes. Turn left, go one very short block and turn left again. Drive about one half mile and MARINA VILLAGE will be on your right.

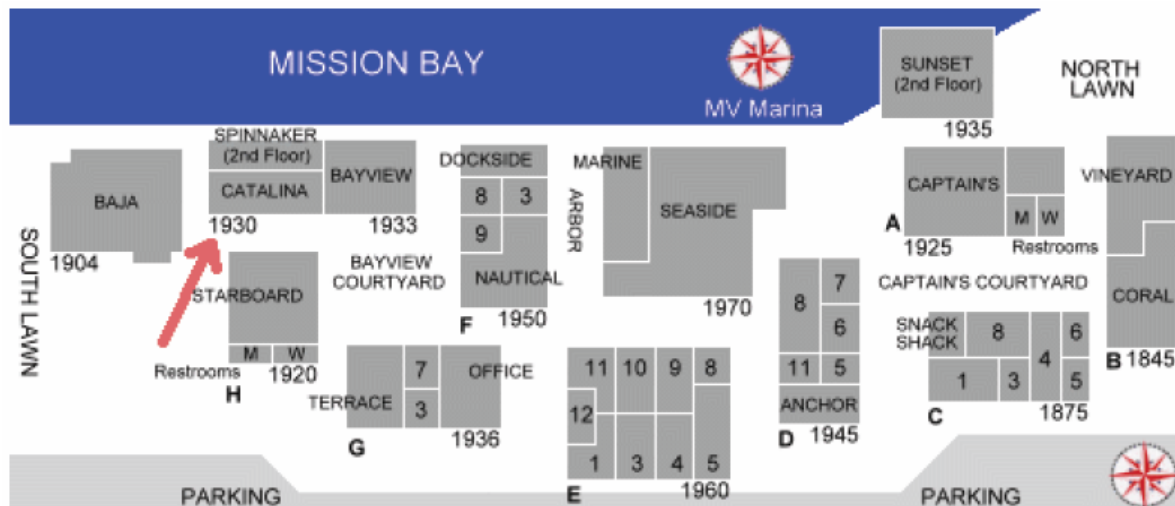
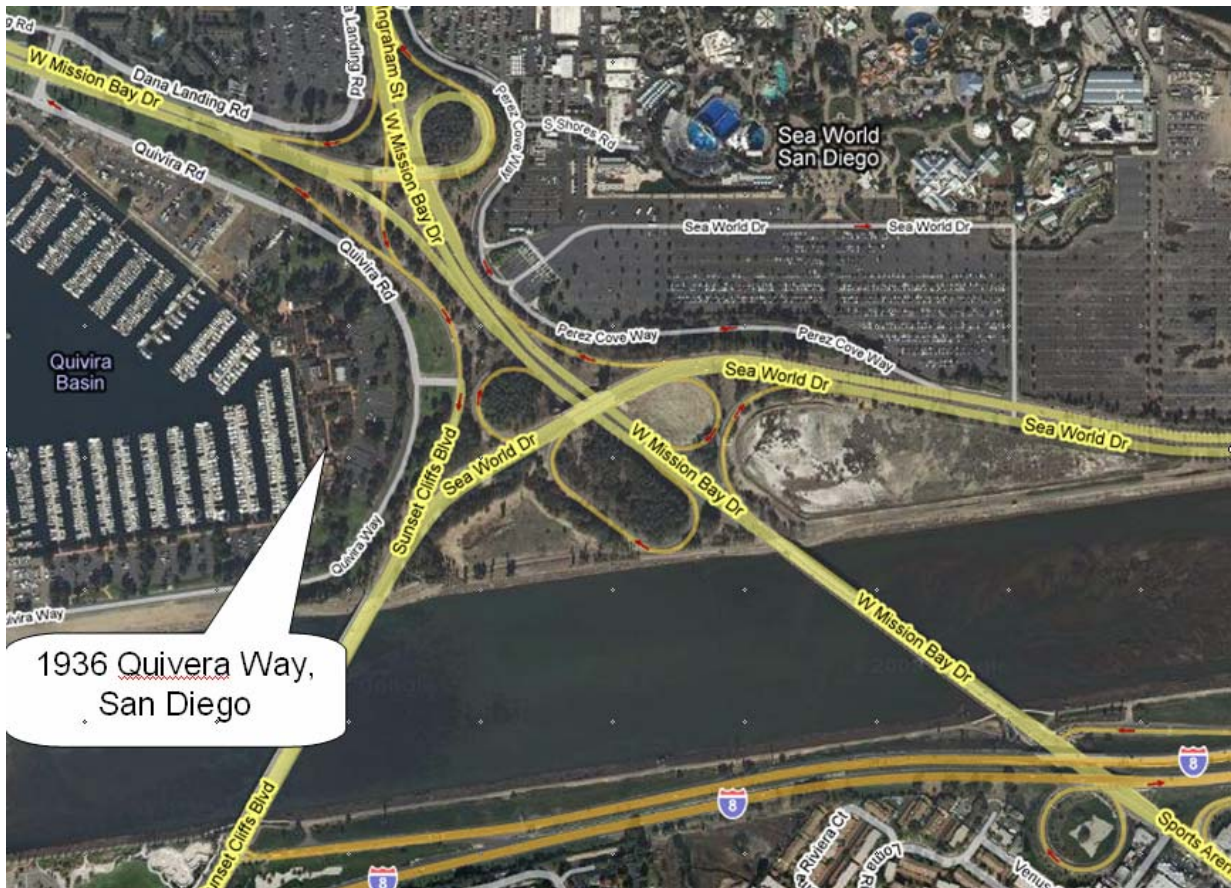
BUFFET: Caesar salad, carved baron of beef, oven herb roasted chicken, oven roasted baby red potatoes, green beans almandine, baked rolls/breads. **Note:** a special entree will be prepared



for vegetarians, but it will not be put out on the buffet; vegetarians should specifically request the vegetarian entree when they visit the buffet.

Cost: \$25 for members (AEG/SDAG), \$30 non members. Students \$20

Please. **RSVP** at the **SDAG** Website www.sandiegogeologists.org Feel free to invite friends and coworkers!





JUNE MEETING COMMENTS!

Our June meeting at Giovanni's on June 8, 2009 had 22 members/non-members showing up for GTI's Woody Higdon's presentation on using digital aerial photography and GIS technology to gain detailed geological information. GTI was celebrating their 30th year of business! Woody's presentation specifically discussed the Soledad Mt. Landslides and was extremely interesting. The meeting was held outside which was nice except for the helicopters and cars creating some interruptions. However, the Social hour was fun and the presentation generated a lot of discussion. Woody provided all the information on how to request digital images to ensure receiving the highest quality images containing the best available detail for extracting information.

Thank you to GTI for a great time!



MINUTES/DISCUSSION

The meeting came to order at 5:30 pm and was concluded by 8:30 pm. Topics covered consisted of:

- **Socializing** began around 5:30 pm
- **Announcements and Introductions**
 1. Joint meeting with SDAG in July and August. Dave Schug with URS will be presenting at the July joint meeting and Jahns Lecturer Ed Medley will be presenting at the August meeting.
 2. The 2010 Geotech Engineering Earthquake Conference is being held in San Diego this year May 24th to 29th at the Mission Valley Marriott
- **Newsletter content, presentations and notices.** Please feel free to email Darren Knight or Bob Stroh with submissions or recommendations for speakers and topics



- **GeoTech Imagery (GTI)** gave their presentation on "Digital Aerial Photography, GIS and the Soledad Mt. Landslide"
 1. Short discussions and socializing continued after presentation
- **End of Meeting** at about 8:30 pm

Our speaker for the joint AEG/SDAG meeting this month is **Dave Schug** from URS Corporation (david_schug@urscorp.com) who will be presenting a discussion on the **"Geotechnical Investigations for the Panama Canal Expansion Project"**.

GEOTECHNICAL ISSUES FOR DESIGN OF THE PROPOSED BORINQUEN DAMS EXPANSION OF THE PANAMA CANAL, PANAMA

The new Borinquen Dams will be part of the Pacific Approach Channel (PAC) which will provide navigation access from the Gaillard Cut section of the Panama Canal to the new Pacific Post-Panamax Locks. The dams will consist of four main embankments with the longest (Dam 1E) extending about 2.7 km. The alignment of the proposed dams extends across the Pedro Miguel and Miraflores faults, as mapped by Stewart and others (1980). Recent trenching investigations indicated these faults are active. The dam foundations will be in Miocene volcanoclastic rocks including the Pedro Miguel Agglomerate and sandstone and siltstone of the La Boca Formation. The proposed dams will be zoned rock fill dams. Highly weathered overburden material will be used for core material.

This presentation will provide an overview of the geologic and seismic setting of the canal expansion, geotechnical explorations, fault rupture and slope stability and issues for design of the dams, and ongoing construction of the PAC. For an overview of the project, go to:

<http://enr.construction.com/features/environment/2007/archives/ss/070425a/070425a.asp>

Dave Schug was one of several URS Corporation geologists involved in geotechnical studies for design of the proposed dams. He worked with Panama Canal Authority (ACP) geologists during the site characterization studies and borrow material investigations. At the request of the ACP, he convened a panel of paleoseismic experts in Panama to review the results of fault trenching investigations. He was able to observe some of the preliminary cuts made during the early stages of PAC construction.

Dave received his B.S. and M.S. from San Diego State University. Dave is a Principal Geologist at URS (formerly Woodward-Clyde) in San Diego where he has worked for the past 30 years. He has recently been involved in construction monitoring of the 10-mile long San Vicente Pipeline tunnel, geotechnical investigations for the proposed San Vicente Dam Raise, and offshore explorations for beach sand replenishment.



NEXT Months (August) Meeting will be another Joint Meeting with SDAG:

We will have the AEG Jahns Lecturer (Dr. Ed Medley) down here in San Diego on **August 3**. This will be for another Joint AEG/SDAG meeting. Dr. Medley will also be presenting on August 4, the next evening, for SCGS.

Jahns Lecturer topics to choose from (email us):

1. The Least You Should Know About Characterizing Geological Chaos: Bimrocks
2. The Comforts of Ignorance and the Benefits of Arrogance: Lessons of the Failure Kind for the Geopractitioner:
3. Of Elephants, Earthquakes, Caves and Hot Rock – Recent Geological Engineering Adventures
4. Something to Chew on: Rock is More Nutritious than Dirt:
5. An Introduction to the Use of Ground-Based Stereo Photography in Geopractice
6. Forensic Investigation of the Sea Cliff Incident, an Urban Catastrophe
7. "Shoot! It's Been Delightful!" (Reflections and Snapshots from a 40 year Geo-Odyssey) :

Your input is appreciated.

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS BY BOB STROH

I've enjoyed being able to help arrange for speakers and meetings, to provide for some new venues....some of which have been "challenging" to say the least. As the year is half over now, I look forward to more presentations in the coming months and new venues too. Thanks to everyone for their help and support, and especially to the speakers at the monthly meetings who give their time freely to enhance our professional knowledge.

Remember to mark your calendar for the 2009 AEG Annual Meeting is being held September 21-29 at Harrah's Hotel and Casino in **Lake Tahoe**, get it on your calendar now. Please visit www.aegweb.org for details on the 2009 Meeting. The new **AEG NEWS** is out with all of the 2009 Annual meeting details and abstracts. This looks to be another fantastic event, not to be missed!

Look for our write up in the next **AEG NEWS** for the September Issue. We plan on submitting a summary of San Diego Chapter activities for national publication.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Please visit SDAG's Announcement Section for additional details and discussion on the new and revamped Google Earth™ See the below partial quote taken from SDAG:

"Google Earth™ finally recognizes the other 70.8% of Earth's surface!
SAN FRANCISCO - Google Earth unveiled the fifth official revamp of its service on Monday,



taking virtual tourists down to the bottom of the sea floor, to Mars, and back in time to explore the past through historical data."

Please view SOCAL AEG Newsletter for information on submitting biographies for inclusion in the AEG "Who's Who" Publication!

If you need a copy of this newsletter our would like to view an archive of San Diego Chapter newsletters you can log onto the San Diego Chapter AEG site at

<http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/extremesocal/>

AEG AND USEFUL LOCAL LINKS

- Southern California Section AEG: <http://www.aegsc.org/>
- National AEG: <http://www.aegweb.org/>
- San Diego Association of Geologists <http://www.sandiegogeologists.org>
- American Society of Civil Engineers, San Diego Geotechnical Group http://www.asce-sd.org/groups_geotech.asp
- San Diego State University, Geology Department <http://www.geology.sdsu.edu>

As a service to our members, AEG San Diego welcomes job postings - either for open positions or jobs wanted. Please contact Darren Knight (dknight@stgcx.com) for information on advertising in this newsletter. The cost for an ad is \$15 per month

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