

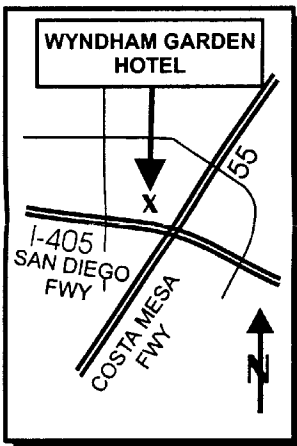
ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

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NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 1999

JOINT MEETING WITH THE SOUTH COAST GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY [NOTE MEETING LOCATION AND DATE]



Date: Monday, February 8, 1999

Location: Wyndham Garden Hotel, Orange County Airport
3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa, CA [714-751-5100]

Time: Social Hour - 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Reservations: Call (949) 250-1421

Cost: \$20.00 per person (students \$10.00 w/ valid i.d.). Please make reservations by Friday February 5th. "No-shows" will be billed.

Speaker: Thomas L. Holzer, U.S. Geological Survey
AEG/GSA 1998 Richard H. Jahns Distinguished Lecturer

Topic: Earthquakes and Natural Disaster Insurance

Natural hazards in the United States from 1992 to 1996 cost on average about \$1 billion per week. Insurance is the one of the primary tools used by society to relieve losses from natural hazards. For infrequent but costly hazards such as earthquakes, determining appropriate insurance premiums to charge is a challenging and vexing problem for both insurance companies and State regulators. The ramifications of not getting it "right" are serious. Charge too little and company insolvency may result. Charge too much and potential customers decline to buy insurance and thwart the mitigation strategy. To help establish appropriate premium rates, insurers are increasingly turning to formal earthquake loss models. These models estimate future losses that must be offset with premiums. They start with a description of earthquake sources, predict ground shaking from each of these sources, and correlate ground shaking with damage to predict annualized losses for exposed buildings. To ensure credible results, earth scientists must play a major role in developing and validating these models. Analyses of the sensitivity of loss models to geologic and seismologic data also provide insight into the relative importance and economic value of these data.

Dr. Thomas L. Holzer is an engineering geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, California. He received his B.S.E. degree from Princeton University and M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees from Stanford University. He has participated in numerous post-earthquake investigations including the 1989 Loma Prieta, 1994 Northridge, and 1995 Kobe, Japan, earthquakes, and has published extensively on ground failure during these earthquakes. His current research interests include the challenge of estimating economic losses from future catastrophic natural disasters. He has participated in regulatory reviews of rates for residential earthquake insurance in California and has lectured to many professional groups on the challenges of setting insurance premiums for natural disasters.

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REQUEST FOR OUTSTANDING PHOTOS FOR CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

Most geologists understand the aesthetic qualities of rock. A children's Art of Rocks Book Project has been designed by photojournalist Lou Jacobs, Jr., a writer of over 40 books on photography and numerous children's books. The Art of Rocks Book Project is designed for 8 to 12 year-old children, to interest them in science, in the aesthetics of geology, as well as the important lesson of seeing the art in rocks. The planned book will contain numerous color and black and white photos combined with limited text about the interesting features or special history of the photo. Various scales will be represented, from x-ray crystallography, to rock thin sections, to close-ups of crystals or hand samples, to landscape views.

A typical landscape photo from Lake Tahoe showing rounded boulders of granite may have the accompanying text reflect the themes of fire and ice: the original plutonic origin of the rock, uplift, erosion and deposition, and the later sculpting of the rounded shapes and striations by the more recent glaciers. This book will fire the imagination of children with the beauty of rocks in easy and understandable (nontechnical) language. Another example might be a thin section showing various colors of crystals that are visually appealing. The text might explain the origin of the rock and the types of minerals as well as any interesting history of the rock. A worm tube cast that now looks more like modern sculpture might be a perfect shot worth submitting for the book project.

The Art of Rocks Book Project is requesting those with appropriate photos to submit them for the upcoming book. Submitters of photos selected for publication will receive a free copy of the book and a listing in the photo credits. Rules of submission: Please send color slides or 4" X 6" prints to James A. Jacobs, Art of Rocks Book Project, 707 View Point Road, Mill Valley, CA 94941; work phone: (510) 232-2728; ext. 222; e-mail: augerpro@jps.net. The photos are requested by February 15, 1999, however, late photos may be accepted. All photos, whether they are used in the book or not, will be returned if a stamped and self addressed envelope is included with the submittal. Please mark all photos or slides with the submitter's name. No fees will be paid for the use of the photos and it is assumed that the act of submittal of the photos is the permission to use the photos for this particular purpose. It is recommended that copies be made of the submitted materials, in case the photos are lost in the mail. In addition to the photos, please submit a brief discussion of the subject matter and a few sentences about how the photo was taken and a little about the photographer. There is a thrill associated with being able to go into a local bookstore and see a book with one's photos and credits in it.

About the project designers: Lou Jacobs, Jr. teaches photography and photojournalism at various southern California universities. He is the former national president of the American Society of Magazine Photographers. Jim Jacobs is a geologist who enjoys photography and interesting photos of rocks. Jim Jacobs' photos that have appeared in his uncle's photography books.

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to **Wendy and Bruce Schell** and **David and Kerri Seymour** on two very important additions (geologists-to-be?) to their families: Gavin Drummond Schell, born on January 21, 1999, almost exactly one month after Brenton Charles Seymour, born on December 21, 1998!

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Section Vice Chair **David Seymour** recently joined MCE Group in Santa Ana, California. David says the new position is challenging and promises to keep him busy with several large transportation infrastructure projects already on the books.

Not to be outdone, Section Treasurer **Doug Santo** recently joined Willdan Associates' City of Industry office as manager of the firm's newly formed Geology/Geotechnical Division. Doug brings experience in applied engineering geology, hydrogeology, and geotechnical engineering in California, Nevada, and on the east coast. He has managed important infrastructure and development projects for both public and private sector clients.

Best of luck to David and Doug with their new career opportunities! [Note the updated phone numbers/e-mail on page one of this newsletter.]

SPRING FIELD TRIP UPDATE

Section Field Trip Chairman Kim Bishop provided us with the following update regarding the Section's Spring Field Trip on May 15 and 16. Sign-up sheets will be provided in the March newsletter and trip attendance will be limited to 50 people. We will meet near the Blackhawk landslide on Saturday morning May 15, the first day of the field trip. The time-honored "fend-for-yourself" transportation policy will be in effect, so attendees will need to use their own vehicles or car pool (a car pool sheet will be circulated at the March dinner meeting). Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and Sunday lunch will be provided. Saturday evening Kim will present a talk on mechanisms that have been proposed to explain the low apparent friction of long runout rock avalanches. Stay tuned for more field trip information in upcoming newsletters.

ON-LINE GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

Geologic Resources is creating a web site with professional resources of potential interest: software for geoscientists, products for geoscientists, free resources of all kinds, chat, and message boards. They hope to initiate discussions in the chat area and on the message board that will help you with work-related issues such as: engineering geology, environmental assessments and remediation, aquifer testing, and tunneling and blasting. Take their web site for a spin at <http://www.geologicresources.com>.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ENTRY-LEVEL GEOLOGISTS AND ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Leighton and Associates, Inc. has immediate openings for entry-level geologists and engineering geologists with 1 to 3 years experience. Please send resumes in confidence to: Tim Lawson, Principal Engineer/Geologist, Leighton and Associates, Inc., 17781 Cowan, Irvine, California 92614

GEOLOGISTS & GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS

A growing geotechnical and environmental consulting firm has opportunities for staff and senior staff-level geologists and engineers in its Camarillo (Ventura County) office. Seeking candidates with approximately 3-6 years experience in geotechnical engineering or engineering geology. Candidates should have strong communication and computer skills. California PE or RG/CEG a plus, but not required. We are an EOE with competitive benefits. Mail, fax, or E-mail resume to: Bing Yen & Associates, Inc., 711 Daily Drive, Suite 230, Camarillo, CA 93010, Fax: (805)383-3090, E-mail: Phipps40@atc-enviro.com

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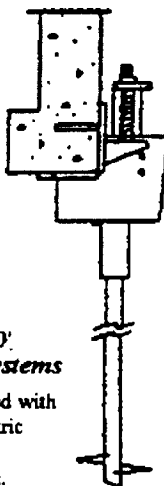
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DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS IS FEBRUARY 24TH.

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