

ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater
Geology Since 1957"

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 1999

January Dinner Meeting

Tuesday January 12, 1999

Location: Stevens Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, City of Commerce, CA

Time: 5:30-Social Hour 7:00-Dinner 7:45-Announcements 8:00-Program

Reservations: Call (949) 253-5924 ext. 564

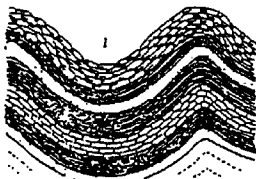
Cost: \$20.00 per person (students \$10.00 w/ valid i.d.). Please make reservations by Monday January 11, 1999. "No-shows" will be billed.

Speaker: JAMES H. MAY, Ph.D., AEG President

Topic: ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES AND THE ENGINEERING
GEOLOGIST

Advanced technology is providing new tools for the engineering geologist. Computer technology allows today's engineering geologist to construct conceptual models of the subsurface and visualize data in ways that were unheard of a few short years ago. Advances in numerical modeling have taken away the mundane aspects of modeling and made it easy for the geologist to get down to the business of solving geologic problems. Advances in GIS systems and drilling techniques are making our work easier. We must be cautious, however, that fancy tools do not take the place of expertise. With advanced technology comes the risk that the tool will become the driving force and not expertise. Silicon graphics is just a fancy coloring pencil in light of true expertise in the field of engineering geology. Or is it?

Dr. James H. May is a senior research geologist at the Army's Waterways Experiment Station (WES) Research Laboratory in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Dr. May has received geology degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University and a Ph.D. in Engineering Geology from Texas A & M. Dr. May's expertise is in hydrogeology with emphasis on groundwater cleanup at military installations and erosion in unlined spillway channels. Dr. May is an adjunct professor at Mississippi State University, Texas A & M, and Indiana University and teaches graduate-level groundwater courses at the WES Graduate Center.



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CHAIR'S COLUMN

Welcome to 1999 - year of the Sunset Review Committee! Our last meeting of the year was a lot of fun and we had a good turnout during what is one of the busiest social months of the year for many members. Our thanks go out to all who attended and especially to the companies that displayed their services at booths. Advanced Support Technology, Leighton and Associates, D and D Construction, Trench Shoring Company, and Global Drilling Supply all participated in our first Corporate Members and Vendors Night, and many members came away loaded with free samples, literature, and new ideas. I'm looking forward to making this a successful annual event. Also as part of our last meeting of the year, a raffle of donated items was held (many thanks to Buzz Spellman for an outstanding specimen of petrified wood). The proceeds of the raffle will help defray the Section's operating expenses during the coming year.

After a long drought, the Southern California Section has reappeared on the national scene in the AEG News, thanks to Newsletter Editor, Stuart Michener. If you have any Southern California member news that you would like to see included, please forward it to Stuart or myself for inclusion in future issues. The Southern California Section is the largest section of AEG; it's time we started acting like it! Congratulations and thanks to new member Dawn James who has volunteered to take over the position of Publications Chair; look for publications to start appearing at our dinner meetings in the next few months. There are many positions in the organization that could do with a boost from enthusiastic volunteers. If you have a particular interest in helping out, please contact me or one of the other officers. Results of the November membership survey are being tabulated and will be made available next month. Thanks to everyone who responded; if you didn't respond and would still like your voice to be heard, let us know and we'll send you a survey form. Due to personal circumstances, I may not be able to attend the January or February dinner meetings. However, Vice Chair Dave Seymour will be filling in during my absence. My very best wishes to all AEG members and your families for a very Happy New Year and a successful 1999.

-- Wendy Schell

BOARD OF REGISTRATION NEEDS TECHNICAL EXPERTS

The Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists needs to increase the number of technical experts available to the Board for independent analysis of geological complaints. Some remuneration, on an hourly basis, is available for this expertise. Interested parties should send their resume and area of expertise (landslides, fault investigation studies, seismic hazards, groundwater, etc.) to Paul Sweeney, Executive Officer of the SBRGG at 2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A, Sacramento, CA 95833.

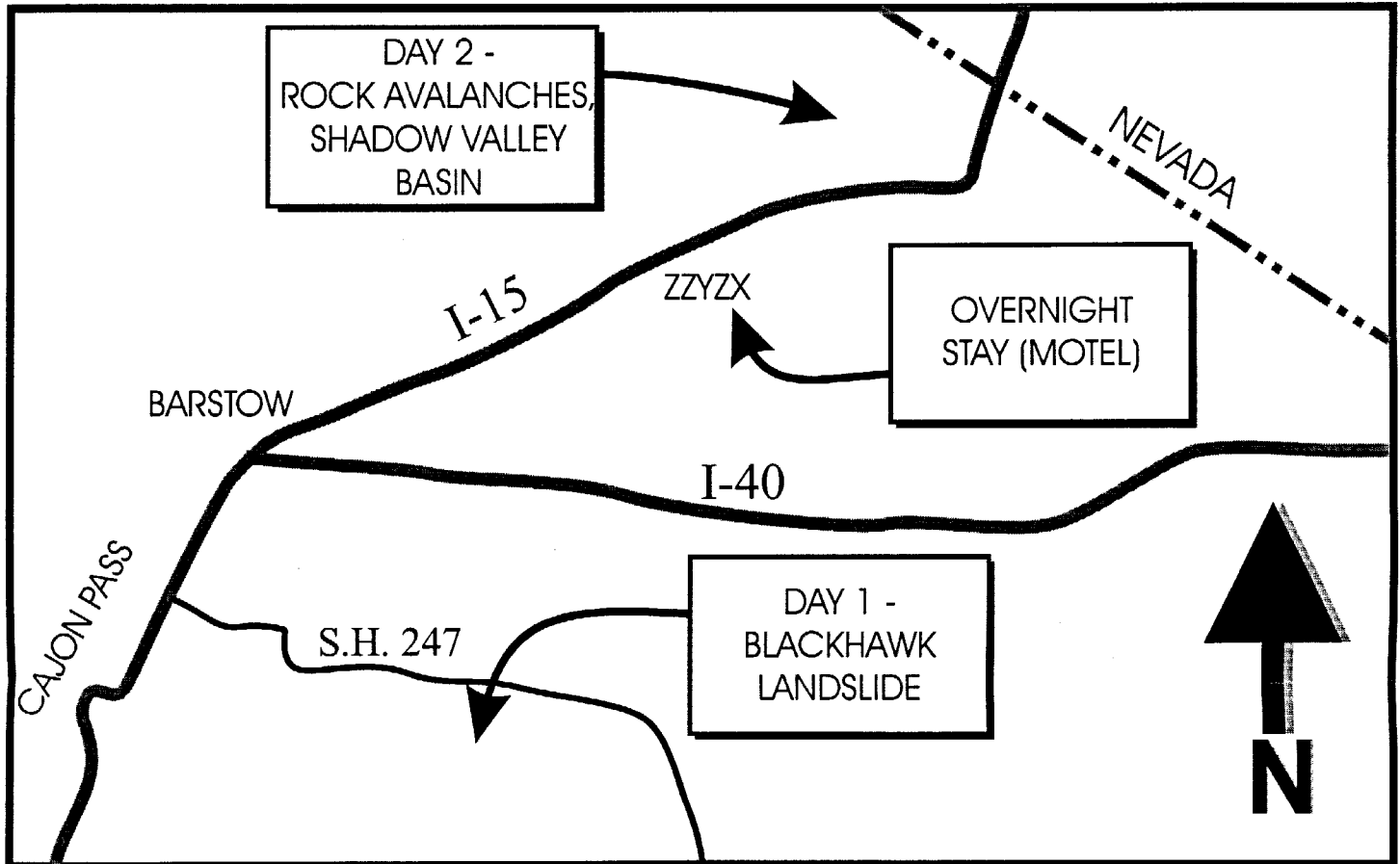
SECTION WEB SITE UNDER DEVELOPMENT

It's no secret that the use of the Internet by earth scientists across the globe is exploding -- AEG President (and this month's guest speaker) Dr. James May highlighted the increasing importance of this technology in the recent *AEG News*. To better serve the needs of our members, disseminate important information, and facilitate communication with other AEG Sections, we are developing a Southern California Section web site.

Although the site is only 50% complete, and a web/e-mail host remains to be selected, you can "surf" the draft version of the site at its temporary URL (http://home.pacbell.net/nsam/aeg_sca/index.htm). Your constructive feedback is encouraged -- please direct your comments to the Editor at michener@meredithboli.com.

TENTATIVE MAP AND ITINERARY

SPRING AEG FIELD TRIP -- BLACKHAWK LANDSLIDE AND ROCK AVALANCHES OF THE SHADOW VALLEY BASIN



The field trip will be led by Dr. Kim Bishop, Dept. of Geology, California State University, Los Angeles. Stay tuned for details in next month's newsletter.

FREE GEOTECHNICAL REFERENCES

Courtesy of a retired engineer and former Section member:

- 1) Paper-bound reports, mostly by EERI, for numerous earthquakes worldwide (1980's through 1990's), approximately 2 "shelf-feet" worth
- 2) "Journal, Geotechnical Division (formerly Soil Mechanics and Foundation Division), ASCE," 1954 through 1994, approximately 12 "shelf-feet" worth
- 3) A few issues of "Geotechnique" and "Canadian Geotechnical Journal, both pre-1970, may be incomplete sets.

Must pick up in Irvine, California. Please phone/fax John Gaffey (949) 786-2313 for additional details.

ROADWORK COMPLICATES ACCESS TO STEVEN'S STEAK AND SEAFOOD HOUSE

Those of you who have attended recent dinner meetings at the Steven's Steak House can attest to the "challenges" posed by ongoing road construction on Atlantic Avenue in the vicinity of the I-5 Freeway. To ease your drive to the next meeting, we sought the advice of the fine folks at Steven's, who provided us with the following generic directions (note: these directions have not been "field-tested" as yet):

FROM ORANGE COUNTY: Take the Santa Ana (5) Freeway north. Exit Washington Blvd. Turn right to Washington. Right on Washington to Eastern. 3rd signal on left to Steven's.

FROM INLAND EMPIRE: Take Pomona (60) or San Bernardino (10) Freeways west to the 605 Freeway. Take the 605 south to the Santa Ana (5) Freeway. Take the Santa Ana Freeway north, following the directions from Orange Co. (above).

FROM SANTA MONICA: Take the Santa Monica (10) Freeway east to the Santa Ana (5) Freeway south. Exit Atlantic-Eastern, then straight ahead to Steven's.

FROM SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: Take the Santa Ana (5) Freeway south. Exit Atlantic-Eastern, then straight ahead to Steven's.

FROM LONG BEACH: Take the 710 Freeway north. Exit Atlantic north. Continue north on Atlantic past Washington Blvd. Turn right on Steven's Place, then right to the Steak House.

STUDENTS INVITED TO APRIL 13, 1999 DINNER MEETING

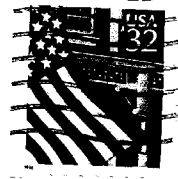
(Following is an excerpt from a letter from Section Chair Wendy Schell that was recently mailed to Geology Department chairs at various Southern California colleges and universities)

"The Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists would like to invite both graduate and undergraduate students to our April 13, 1999 meeting. We encourage all faculty members to attend this meeting with their students. Students attending will be provided an opportunity to establish contacts with professionals working in the engineering, environmental, and ground water geology industry. Students are encouraged to submit a brief report, preferably relating to the engineering, environmental, and ground water geology industry. Three of the reports submitted will be selected and an opportunity for a brief oral presentation will be provided to these students at the time of our meeting. Students may also participate in a poster presentation prior to the commencement of the meeting. Reports should be submitted to David Seymour at 26276 Buscador, Mission Viejo, California 92692 (work phone 714-433-2364). Please submit reports by March 10, 1999

Interested students should contact the Association of Engineering Geologists at the following phone number for reservations - (949) 253-5924 ext. 564. Reservations should be made a minimum of one week prior to the meeting. Students submitting a report will be allowed to attend the meeting without charge. Students wishing to attend without submittal of a report may attend for a fee of \$10.00. The three students selected for presentation of an oral report will be presented an award from the Southern California Section of the Association of Engineering Geologists."



Association of Engineering Geologists
Southern California Section



Stuart R. Michener
AEG Newsletter Editor
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