



ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

Southern California Section

"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental, and Groundwater
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NEWSLETTER – JULY 2000

Monthly Dinner Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2000
Location: Stevens Steak House, 5332 Stevens Place, Commerce, CA
Time: 5:30 p.m. - Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. – Dinner and Presentation
Reservations: Call (949) 253-5924, ext. 564 by 5:00 p.m., Friday, July 7, 2000
Cost: \$25.00 per person with advance reservations, \$30.00 at the door, and \$12.00 for students w/ valid i.d. "No-shows" will be billed \$10.00.

Speaker: JOSEPH H. BIRMAN, Ph.D.

Subject: HOW TO FIND OUT A LOT OF THINGS WITH TEMPERATURE

In 1957, not knowing any better, the founder of GSi/water began experimenting with temperature as a means to explore for ground water. In 1961, still not knowing any better, the founders of GSi/water began applying the technique in the field. The basis of the technique is that moving water modifies by advection the thermal regimen otherwise produced by conductive heat flow to the surface. Temperature, therefore, can be a very effective tracer where geohydrologic settings are appropriate, and where the variables affecting heat flow can be recognized and accommodated. GSi/water has used the thermal technique successfully throughout much of the United States and abroad for water resources exploration, dam leakage, and environmental monitoring including landfills and other sources of contaminants. Case illustrations will be shown, and the advantages and limitations of the technique will be discussed.

Dr. Birman is currently the President and founder of Geothermal Surveys, Inc. (dba GSi/water). He earned an AB from Brown University in 1948, an MS from the California Institute of Technology in 1950, and a Ph.D. from UCLA in 1957. He is a registered geologist, geophysicist, engineering geologist, and hydrogeologist in the State of California, and is also registered in Arizona and Oregon. Dr. Birman is also an emeritus professor of geology at Occidental College and also contributed to AEG Special Publication No. 4 – Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California, 1992, pp. 417-423.

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CHAIR'S COLUMN

This month is election month for the Southern California Section of AEG. All the officer positions are up for election this year. Each officer position is for a one year term except for the position of Chairman which is two years. Please take a moment to fill out the ballot included in the newsletter and return it to the address on the reverse by July 20th. The results of the election will be announced in the next newsletter and the new officers will be introduced at the August meeting (to be held at Steven's Steak House, City of Commerce).

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Kerry Cato as the new Continuing Education (Short Course) Coordinator for the Southern California Section. Kerry will be taking over from Sue Tanges who has held the position for a number of years. Many thanks to Sue for all her hard work putting short courses together for our members. We also have new Field Trip Coordinators for the section. Charles Nestle and Chris Sexton will be working on a variety of fun and interesting field trips for our members in the coming months. This position was formerly held by Dr. Kim Bishop who last organized the Rock Avalanche field trip last year. Kim's field trip efforts have been greatly appreciated. If you have any ideas for either short courses or field trips, or are interested in helping, please contact the coordinators and let them know.

The AEG Annual Meeting is fast approaching. This year the meeting will be held in San Jose from September 19 to 26. A number of interesting field trips and social events have been planned to complement the technical sessions. I encourage everyone to register early to take advantage of the reduced hotel and registration rates.

NEWS FROM THE AEG· GRA 2000 TEAM

By Robert E. Tepel

What's new for AEG· GRA 2000? We're planning a multi-author booksigning event at the Icebreaker on September 21. You will have a chance to purchase any of several books that relate to geology and engineering geology, in both textbook and popular formats, and have them autographed by the author. We are still negotiating with authors and their publishers, so the list of titles will be announced later.

AEG· GRA 2000 is the Annual Meeting you will not want to miss. No matter what your specialty is, there will be sessions of interest and value on all three days. All 232 traditional spoken presentation slots are filled, plus at least a dozen poster session slots. Ten symposia, covering a wide range of traditional and cutting-edge topics, are included in the technical sessions. The meeting time frame

is September 19-26 overall, with technical sessions on September 22-24 (Friday through Sunday).

Eight world-class field trips are ready to go, and the field trip guidebook will be a valued reference for years to come. Four short courses will introduce you to state-of-the-art technology and provide real-world experience under the guidance of experts. The Exhibit Hall is full with all 38 booths taken. Spend some quality time with these experts and see what new technology is headed your way.

Advance notice will appear in the June AEG NEWS. The Program with Abstracts volume will be delivered in July to all GRA members as well as all AEG members. Both issues will carry the registration form, hotel information, and a full meeting program description. Please note that the hotel room block is limited, so make your hotel reservations early to take advantage of the special block rate.

Double your discounts: register as an AEG or GRA member by August 21 and you will receive both the early registration discount and the member discount. Membership application forms for both AEG and GRA will be printed in the Program with Abstracts volume (July AEG NEWS). You can also print an AEG membership application form, print the meeting registration form, and reserve a hotel room at the AEG web site, www.aegweb.org. GRA membership application forms are available on-line at www.grac.org.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS

The Board of Registration for Geologists and Geophysicists (Board) is responsible for regulating the practice of geology and geophysics in the state of California. In the past few months the Board has received several inquiries concerning Registered Environmental Assessors II (REA IIs) and the practice of geology. It has also been brought to the Board's attention that information has been distributed to the public and several state and local government agencies that implies that REA IIs may practice geology.

The Registered Environmental Assessor program regulations are contained in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, sections 19030 et seq. Section 19041(e) and (f) specify, "An REA II shall not submit a report or render a hazardous substance or hazardous waste site cleanup opinion in a report which does not include the signature and registration number of the REA II. If other registered professionals perform

**A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF
REGISTRATION FOR GEOLOGISTS AND
GEOPHYSICISTS (cont'd)**

engineering, geologic or other professional services which are included in, or form the basis of the report or opinion, the signature and registration number of each shall be included in the report or opinion.

All engineering or geologic work shall be performed by a registered professional in compliance with the requirements of the Professional Engineers Act, Business and Professions Code sections 6700-6799 and the Geologist and Geophysicist Act, Business and Professions Code sections 7800-7887."

At this time, recently enacted legislation requires an REA II or licensed hazardous substance contractor to conduct Phase I environmental site assessments and if required, Preliminary Endangerment Assessments (PEAs), for new school sites. Elements of an environmental site assessment and/or PEA that can be considered the practice of geology include:

- *Determination of extent of contamination in soil and ground water;
- *Evaluation of geologic and hydrogeologic characteristics of the site; and
- *Determination of naturally occurring hazardous materials, generally rocks and/or soil containing asbestos or elevated levels of metals such as mercury.

The Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Manual prepared by Department of Toxic Substances Control states, "Geologic or engineering plans specifications, drawings, and reports must be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a California registered geologist or civil engineer, as appropriate, who will review and sign all such documents indicating responsibility for their content."

Section 7832 of the Business and Professions Code requires an individual to be licensed as a Registered Geologist if he or she practices or offers to practice geology for others. Section 3003(f)(2) of Article 1, Division 29, Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations states:

"The practice of geology or geophysics "for others" includes but is not limited to the performance of geological or geophysical services by any individual, firm, partnership, corporation or other association or by the employees or staff members thereof, whether or not the principal business of such organization is the practice of geology or geophysics, when the geological or geophysical reports, documents or exhibits constituting

the practice of geology or geophysics are disseminated or made available to the public or any individual or combination of individuals other than the employees or staff of such organization in such a manner that the public or said individual or combination of individuals may reasonably be expected to rely thereon or be affected thereby."

In addition, Section 7835 of the Business and Professions Code states: "All geologic plans, specifications, reports or documents shall be prepared by a registered geologist, or registered certified specialty geologist, or by a subordinate employee under his direction. In addition, they shall be signed by such registered geologist or registered certified specialty geologist or stamped with his seal, either of which shall indicate his responsibility for them."

Therefore, the portions of environmental site assessments and PEAs that constitute the practice of geology must be performed by or under the direction of a California Registered Geologist.

If you are not a Registered Geologist and perform portions of a project that require geologic input or evaluation, you could be practicing geology without a license and are therefore subject to disciplinary action from the Board. Geologic work involving the exercise of discretion and judgment should be conducted under the responsible charge of a Registered Geologist. This would include the use of initiative, skill, and independent judgment regarding determination of lateral and vertical extent of contamination in soil and groundwater and determination of naturally occurring hazardous materials such as asbestos in serpentine deposits.

The Board's mission is to continuously enhance the quality, value and availability of geological and geophysical services offered to the people of California. The Board's goal is to protect the health, safety and welfare of California consumers who utilize the services of geologists and geophysicists. The Board is also responsible for enforcing the Geologist and Geophysicist Act. Sections 3062 of the Act authorize the Executive Officer to issue citations with orders of abatement or administrative fines up to \$2,500 for unlicensed practice of geology. To meet the Board's mission and goals, the Board will actively pursue enforcement cases for unlicensed practice of geology against REAs that are not also licensed in California as civil engineers or Registered Geologists.

A copy of the Geologist and Geophysicist Act and Rules and Regulations is posted on the Board's website at www.dca.ca.gov/geology. If you need more information or have other questions, please call Mary Scruggs, Enforcement Manager, at 916-263-2113.

BALLOT

Please check one line for each position;

CHAIRMAN	___	Dave Seymour, MCE Group Write-in _____
VICE CHAIR	___	Lorraine Muto, Willdan Associates Write-in _____
SECRETARY	___	Tania Gonzalez, Earth Consultants International Write-in _____
TREASURER	___	Jake Holt, Mountain Geology Write-in _____

When completed, please fold the ballot and secure with TAPE (not staples). All ballots must be recieved no later then July 20, 2000.
Thank-you.

Mail to; Wendy Schell
Chairman, AEG Southern California Section
3775 Carmel Ave
Irvine, CA 92606

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Irvine, CA 92606

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AEG 2000 NATIONAL MEETING IN SAN JOSE, CA

The 2000 National AEG Meeting is being held September 19th through September 26th in San Jose, CA. Over 50 student volunteers are needed for the meeting. Some of the “perks” of being a student volunteer are as follows:

- Free full registration including registration gift, complimentary exhibitors luncheon and ice breaker reception
- Priority for the free annual banquet ticket raffle (last year all of the volunteers received tickets)
- A great opportunity to network and learn more about engineering geology
- A great opportunity to meet other students (informal student get-togethers will be planned)
- Something great to put on your resume!
- If you are a student volunteer for a short course or field trip, you get all of the hand-outs and materials that the registered participants receive (priority goes to the first students who volunteer)

If you are interested in being a student volunteer and/or would like more information, contact Corinne Stewart at (408) 629-7801 or <stewart_corinne@hotmail.com>.

GEOLOGY IN ADVERTISING

Geology in Advertising is “just for fun” poster that is being presented at the Annual Meeting in San Jose, September 2000. Connie Stewart is looking for contributions from anyone and everyone. To contribute to this poster, send an ad (newspaper, magazine, etc) or label (bottled water, etc.) or anything else that is advertising and relates to or uses geology, to:

Corinne Stewart
2622 Gassmann Drive
San Jose, CA 95121.

Include your name, the source of the ad (if possible), and any comments that you would like to make. Contact Corinne at <stewart_corinne@hotmail.com> .

STUDENT RESUME BINDER FOR AEG NATIONAL MEETING 2000

A binder of students’ resumes will be available for review at the AEG National Meeting in San Jose, September 2000. Copies of the individual resumes will be available to interested employers. You do not have to attend the meeting to submit a resume. If you are interested, please contact Corinne Stewart at <stewart_corinne@hotmail.com>.

MORE NEWS ON ROOM RATES FOR ANNUAL AEG MEETING

By Robert Tepel

Our contract with the DoubleTree Hotel calls for 25 rooms per night of the total nightly room block to be available at the prevailing Federal Government per diem rate for qualified government employees. This was a good deal a few years ago when we negotiated the contract. The federal government per diem rate was significantly lower than the \$135.00 per night standard block rate.

Time’s changed. An AEG member requested the government rate a few weeks ago and was quoted a rate of \$149.00 per night, \$14.00 over the standard block rate. When Julie Keaton and I met yesterday with the hotel's Director of Convention Services we confirmed that indeed that the currently applicable government rate is HIGHER than our block rate.

We received assurance that appropriate instructions would be given to the reservations clerks, so that when someone called and asked to reserve a room at the government rate, they would be told what the government rate is and then asked if they would prefer the same room at the lower block rate. To be on the safe side, kindly inform your government employee members and colleagues of this situation. They should ignore the government rate and just reserve a room at the block rate. It is cheaper.

I guess this tells us how far inflation has progressed since we negotiated the hotel contract a few years ago.

CCGO HAS A NEW WEB SITE

By Betsy Mathieson, President, CCGO

The California Council of Geoscience Organizations is pleased to announce the establishment of a new service to its member organizations and friends. Our web site, <http://www.cngo.org>, now includes a "Master Calendar" for posting of member organizations' events and other activities of interest to California geoscientists. The content is currently in skeleton form, with only a few organizations' regular meeting dates listed, and no speaker names or talk titles yet.

So check out the calendar, admire the cool format that Kevin Blatt, our webmaster, created, and send me your organizations' event listings in the format we've started. Please list speaker and title of presentation when known. Include field trips, short courses, and other events of interest. Include an e-mail address for further information for each event.

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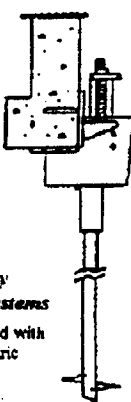
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RATES FOR ADVERTISING IN AEG NEWSLETTER

Corporate Members:	Preprinted Insert	\$300/yr
	1 pg	\$200/yr
	1/2 pg	\$125/yr
	1/4 pg	\$100/yr
Non-members:	Preprinted Insert	\$400/yr
	1 pg	\$300/yr
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