



**ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**  
**Southern California Section**

*"Connecting Professionals, Practice, and the Public."*

**NEWSLETTER – May 2009**

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**Meeting Date: \*\*\*Tuesday, May 12th\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Location:** **Victorio’s Ristorante:** 10901 Victory Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91606

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.-Social Hour; 7:00 p.m.-Dinner; 7:45 p.m.-Presentation

**Cost:** \$30 per person with reservations, \$35 without reservations, \$15 with a valid Student ID.

**Reservations:** Please e-mail Jon Relyea at [jon@radiusmaps.net](mailto:jon@radiusmaps.net) or call 800-554-3205

**Speaker:** **Marshall Lew, Ph.D., G.E., Vice President and Senior Principal, MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.**

**Topic:** **Observations from Field Investigations of the Wenchuan, Sichuan Province, China Earthquake of May 12, 2008**

**Abstract:**

A team of earthquake researchers, sponsored by the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) and the Geo-Engineering Earthquake Reconnaissance (GEER) Association, carried out a field investigation in conjunction with Chinese colleagues from August 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> to document scientific and engineering effects of the devastating earthquake (moment magnitude 7.9 according to the USGS) that occurred in Wenchuan County of Sichuan Province, China, on May 12, 2008. The EERI field investigation was conducted as part of the Learning from Earthquakes Program with funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The EERI-GEER field investigation team was invited by Prof. Zifa Wang, Director of the Institute of Engineering Mechanics-China Earthquake Administration (IEM-CEA), to investigate the effects of the Wenchuan earthquake. During the short period of one week in the field, the EERI-GEER team could only get a small sample of the effects of the great earthquake. Prof. Junwu Dai of the IEM-CEA accompanied the team during the field investigation.

This presentation will show observations made during the EERI-GEER field investigation in Sichuan Province as well as observations made by other investigators who have visited the earthquake-affected region. The earthquake originated in the rugged Longmenshan Mountains, which form the transition between the Tibetan Plateau and the Sichuan Basin. The Tibetan Highlands were formed as a result of the collision of the Indian Subcontinent with the Eurasian Continent. The Longmenshan Mountains are characteristic of a massive thrust fault system which is capable of great earthquakes. Massive rock movements and landslides resulted in the earthquake as well as strong ground motions with long duration. Massive destruction was caused to structures and infrastructure and there were about 90,000 deaths with hundreds of thousands of injuries.

**Speaker:**

Dr. Marshall Lew has been with MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc. (and its predecessors) for almost 30 years and is a Vice President and Senior Principal of the firm. Dr. Lew obtained his Ph.D. in structural engineering from UCLA and is a registered Civil and Geotechnical Engineer in California and is a registered Professional Engineer in ten other states. Dr. Lew has practiced geotechnical and earthquake engineering in the western United States and internationally. Dr. Lew has been involved with pioneering efforts in seismic isolation technology having been on the design teams for the earliest base isolation projects in the United States (including the Foothill Communities Law and Justice Center and the University of Southern California's University Hospital). Dr. Lew is a member of ASCE, Structural Engineers Association of Southern California, Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (Secretary-Treasurer), Los Angeles Tall Buildings Structural Design Council (Current President), Asian American Architects and Engineers Association, Seismological Society of America, California Engineers and Land Surveyors Association of California, and the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. Dr. Lew has published over many technical papers and has led geotechnical earthquake investigation teams for several recent earthquakes in the United States and abroad including Loma Prieta, Chi-Chi, Taiwan, and Great Wenchuan earthquakes.

<b>Chair Column</b>
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Peter Thams

Hello Section, its meeting time again. Last month we met at Victorio's in North Hollywood. For those of you who have not heard or been to a meeting there, I want you to know what a great meeting place this is...no rubber chicken here! We have enjoyed all-you-can-eat feasts of roast beef and pizza or chicken cacciatore and lasagna all served with a variety of salads, breads, etc., and including beer, wine and soft drinks. It's a great deal.

Our speaker last month was George Dunfield from the Board for Geologists and Geophysicists (BGG), who traveled from Sacramento to speak on a Public-Private Partnership between AEG and the BGG. Mr. Dunfield spoke on the reorganization of the BGG, and its rededication to the protection of the interests of the public through rigorous qualification of candidates for licensure and consistent enforcement of violations against the Business and Professions Code. On a related note, the Intermountain Section recently held the short course *Geologic Licensure in Utah* in conjunction with the Utah State Division of Occupational and Professional Licensure (DOPL), whose registration goal of fifty persons was quickly exceeded and sold out with a hundred participants. The seminar was held to discuss ethical considerations related to the practice of geology and the expectations of licensees by the DOPL. A similar short course is being considered as a joint effort of the three California Sections of AEG...more on this as it develops.

Speaking of short courses, the 2009 Shlemon Specialty Conference *Evaluation, Risk Analysis & Mitigation of Surface Faulting* recently hosted by the Inland Empire Chapter was a great success. Congratulations to Kerry Cato and all those who participated.

### **Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting – Seattle, WA**

The AEG Board of Directors met in Seattle over the weekend of April 18 and 19. A Strategic Plan Workshop was conducted on the Friday before. All meetings were held at the URS Corporation Office Building in downtown Seattle. The major issues discussed are summarized below.

### ***Membership***

One of the main themes emerging from the Strategic Plan Workshop and the Board Meeting was the need to retain and increase membership. Membership renewals are down, partially accounting for an \$18,000 deficit in the operating budget year to date. Strategies to eliminate the deficit by reducing spending without cutting services to members, including sending paperless versions of the various publications generated by the association, were discussed and will be pursued, however, an overall decline in membership remains a concern. Section Chairs will work with national on renewing lapsed memberships and a national goal has been set of 300 new memberships by the annual meeting in September.

### ***JTFAP***

The Joint Task Force on Areas of Practice (JTFAP) document released for comment in February was an important agenda item and received a good deal of discussion. It was evident early on that although most felt the document was at best poorly written and in need of revision/repurposing, the majority consensus (with significant dissent) was that some form of such document was an inevitability and it was, therefore, better for AEG to be involved than not. The Board **did not** approve incorporation of comments into a red-lined version to be re-distributed for approval. Action on the JTFAP document has been deferred to the Annual Meeting

in Lake Tahoe, where an open forum will be held to discuss the issue. In the meantime, AEG's President, Mark Molinari, will appoint a committee to review and evaluate the comments received during the review period, ***which remains open until June 15th***, and prepare recommendations for consideration. The committee will not be appointed until after June 15<sup>th</sup> and pending reaction by ASCE membership. If ASCE membership responds negatively and influences their Board to reject the document, AEG will likely follow suit.

### ***Review of Governance Structure***

As it currently exists, the Board of Directors is comprised of the four elected officers and the immediate past president (Executive Council) and the Chair of each section, for a total of 30 directors. Based on current membership, there is one board member for approximately every 100 members, compared to other associations such as ASCE where the ratio is one member for every 8,500 members. The questions posed to the group were (1) is the governance structure effective, and (2) can it be improved? It was not expected that these questions be answered at that Board meeting, only that interest be gauged in evaluating the current structure. Concerns raised were that the Board may be inefficient due to its size, and that some areas were under-represented. Based on a comparison between AEG and ASCE it would seem that AEG representation is adequate and possibly excessive. It was also noted that although the average is 1 director per 100 members, there may be a disparity between representation of the larger sections where 1 director may represent 500 members and smaller sections where 1 director may represent fewer than 10 members. These numbers are just examples and the Governance Committee was asked to assemble available demographic information to help evaluate these issues.

### ***Volunteers***

In a recent survey conducted by our national organization, members were asked if they would be willing to serve on the various committees having vacancies. Many committees at both the local and national levels are in need of Volunteers. The Southern California Section showed the greatest interest and those who responded affirmatively will be contacted and asked to participate.

## Short Course Announcement

### Annual AEG Inland Chapter Short Course

### Expanding Geological Practice: New Areas & Methods”

- Talks are in two technical areas:
  - **Site Investigation Survey Methods:**  
GPS-GIS, InSAR, LiDAR
  - **State of Environmental Practice**
- **Date: Friday June 12, 2009**
  - Registration deadline: Friday June 5
- **Location:**  
UC-Riverside, Extension Center, Riverside, CA
- **Cost**
  - \$90 AEG members
  - \$115 non-member Professional
  - \$20 Students (limited number of student spaces available)Registration fee includes parking & lunch
- **Schedule:**
  - 8:30 Registration
  - 9:00 – 12:10 Survey method talks
  - 12:10 – 1:40 Lunch
  - 1:40 – 4:15 Environmental talks
- For more information & brochure, see the AEG Inland website:

<http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/shortcourses/>

**Public Service Announcement**

Charles Nestle

**ZIP-A-DIPS Are Still Available!**

How many of you have given up trying to find replacement for your faded and warped Zip-A-Dips? Zip-A-Dips are available from Don and Jeannine Lamar, who have lived in retirement in Reno for the past six years. Jeannine said that they don't plan on having any more made when they exhaust the present supply of Zip-A-Dips. She said, "It sure is nice to know that some geologists are still using ZADs."

Order your Zip-A-Dip by phone: (775) 322-5344. The price for 1 is \$4.00, or order 2-10 for \$3.50 ea., 11-49 for 3.00 ea., and 50+ for \$2.50 ea.

**Chapter Meetings****Inland Empire:**

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/inlandempire/>

**Central Coast:**

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/centralcoast/>

**San Diego:**

For the latest information and updates, please visit <http://www.aegsc.org/chapters/extremesocal/>

**National Business Donation**

- Platinum - \$1,000
- Gold - \$500
- Silver - \$250

Company name, address and contact information are presented in AEG News and section receives 10% of donation. A national donation does not yield a line in our local section newsletter.

**Company & Employment Advertising Newsletter (includes SoCal website posting)**

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
▪ Business Card	\$10	\$100
▪ ¼ Page	\$20	\$200
▪ ⅓ Page	\$30	\$300
▪ ½ Page	\$35	\$350
▪ Full Page	\$50	\$500

**SoCal website posting only**

\$20/month

\* The deadline for submitting an advertisement for next month's newsletter is Friday, May 29th.

**YEAR 2009 CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED**

Contributions from corporations and individual members are greatly appreciated. Contributors will be listed in our newsletter throughout the year and can post their logo or business card in the newsletter if so desired. Please mail contributions made out to **AEG** to our section treasurer, Jon Relyea.

**2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

For those of you who have not yet renewed (**the deadline was November 1**), are unsure about your membership status, or did not receive your membership dues statement, please contact AEG Headquarters at [www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org). You can renew your membership online. Please update your membership if you wish to continue to receive future issues of the newsletter.

**\*\*\*NOTICE: Proposed New AEG Publication\*\*\***

**WHO'S WHO in SO CALIFORNIA ENGINEERING GEOLOGY**  
**The Evolution of Engineering Geology in Southern California**

Have you ever wondered "Whatever happened to\_\_\_?" or "I've heard of \_\_\_ , who is he?"

The undersigned have decided to try to prepare an internet publication with the above title, which will include biographies of engineering geologists in southern California. We would like you to share your biography (autobiography) with other EGs. If you have worked on an interesting project, others would like to know about it.

If we limit each autobiography to 3 pages of text, plus photos, this publication would be more than 1,000 pages long. Therefore, we plan to utilize a proposed new AEG Foundation internet website, where there is no limit to total pages, and we can use color photos. Also, this new website will be available for no-charge access, worldwide, thus spreading the word on the history and evolution of engineering geology, and southern California's immense contribution.

We suggest (not require) three criteria for inclusion: 1. That you are a CA licensed CEG; 2. That you are now or once were a member of AEG; 3. That you have enough years of professional experience to relate one or more significant projects you have worked on. We believe there are more than 250 such EGs in southern California. This will be an evolving internet site where new autobiographies can be added.

We will also include Memorial biographies of past notable geologists in southern California. So far, we have identified 30, including John Buwalda, Ian Campbell, Tom Dibblee, Rollin Eckis, Perry Ehlig, Richard Jahns, John Mann, F.L. Ransome, Charles Richter, Dottie & Marty Stout, Gene Waggoner. Biographies of 14 of these notable geologists were published for the recent AEG Annual Meeting, in "History of the Association's First 50 Years," available from AEG HQ, contact Julie Keaton or Becky Roland.

Here is a CHECKLIST FOR YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHY:

Complete NAME, address, phone, email; BIRTH DATE and place; UNIVERSITY(s) attended, major(s), degree(s), year(s); MILITARY service; FIRMS/AGENCIES you worked for; up to 3 significant PROJECTS you worked on; possibly relate a serious or humorous INCIDENT; a MENTOR you may wish to acknowledge; professional SOCIETIES, HONORS, AWARDS; HOBBIES; up to 5 PUBLICATIONS; PHOTOS of yourself and of projects (scanned images preferred).

So, if you wish to be included in this new internet publication, prepare your autobiography and email it with photos to: allen@hatheway.net and in the Subject box, type: So. Cal. Geologist. Or mail it to Allen Hatheway, 10256 Stoltz Dr., Rolla, MO 65401. Please, no more than 3 pages of text, single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt.

Please pass this notice on to those you may know who no longer get this Newsletter.

In the spirit of camaraderie, we thank you,

Richard Proctor  
 Allen Hatheway  
 David Rogers  
 Larry Cann  
 Bob Lynn



**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES & ADVERTISING**

If you would like to post an ad in the newsletter, please contact Steve Varnell at [svarnell@fugro.com](mailto:svarnell@fugro.com). Advertisement rates are shown in the box below.

<b>Company &amp; Employment Advertising Newsletter (includes SoCal website posting)</b>		
	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
▪ Business Card	\$10	\$100
▪ ¼ Page	\$20	\$200
▪ ⅓ Page	\$30	\$300
▪ ½ Page	\$35	\$350
▪ Full Page	\$50	\$500
<b><u>SoCal website posting only</u></b>		
<b>\$20/month</b>		

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