



# ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS

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

## NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2000

### MONTHLY DINNER MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 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, November 10, 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:** Susan Hough  
**TITLE:** The 1811-1812 New Madrid, Central US Earthquake Sequence: Mainshocks, Aftershocks, and Triggered Earthquakes.

#### ABSTRACT:

We tend to think of earthquakes as a "California problem," but prior to 1906 they were anything but. A very large and damaging earthquake struck Charleston, South Carolina in 1886, and a remarkable sequence of large events occurred in the mid-continent near the bootheel of Missouri in 1811-1812. The so-called "New Madrid" sequence of 1811-1812 produced three earthquakes with magnitudes now estimated at well upwards of M7. Our understanding of the New Madrid sequence has been painstakingly gleaned from available accounts of geologic and shaking effects.

In this talk, I will discuss what is known about the three great New Madrid mainshocks--their magnitudes and causative faults--as well as their aftershocks. Because of scrupulous record-keeping on the part of a couple of individuals, the aftershock sequence is surprisingly well documented. Finally, I show that two of the three New Madrid mainshocks produced what seismologists term remotely triggered earthquakes in the northern Kentucky/southern Ohio region, the largest of which I estimate to have been a M5 event. Triggered earthquakes were not recognized by the seismological community until 1992, when the M7.3 Landers, California earthquake provided unambiguous evidence for triggered earthquakes at distances of up to 1000 kilometers from the mainshock. I will discuss how the old observations from New Madrid might provide important insights into the "new" phenomenon of triggered earthquakes.

#### OFFICERS

##### CHAIR

David Seymour  
(714) 560-9016  
[seymourgeo@hotmail.com](mailto:seymourgeo@hotmail.com)

##### VICE CHAIR

Lorraine Muto  
(626) 337-5103  
[lmuto@wildan.com](mailto:lmuto@wildan.com)

##### SECRETARY

Tania Gonzalez  
(714) 282-6123  
[tgonzalez@earthcoconsultants.com](mailto:tgonzalez@earthcoconsultants.com)

##### TREASURER

Jacob Holt  
(805) 522-5174  
[geojakeh@aol.com](mailto:geojakeh@aol.com)

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

**By David Seymour**

Moses led his people aimlessly across the desert for 40 years until they found the promise land. Some say it was because he was too stubborn to stop and ask for directions. Well I'm not too stubborn to ask for directions, but I am disappointed by the low attendance at many of our meetings over the last year. Many of the local societies have also had problems with attendance. Speaking as a past president of SCGS and your current AEG chair, it's difficult to predict attendance at a meeting, except for the case of high profile speakers or notable topics. In a nutshell, you can only expect good attendance when there's something worth attending. Providing that something is not always easy.

I've been discussing our low attendance with other local societies that are having the same problem. Providing a wider range of topics apparently hasn't worked, nor bringing in notable speakers. A recent SCGS meeting with Burt Slemmons drew around 30, but no where near the numbers that he might have drawn in years past. This is also true of an earlier AEG meeting with Art Stukey, our National president, which drew around 20.

I've received feedback from several people over the last few months and intend on trying some new twists to our old format. These twists include more joint meetings, fewer meetings during the year, sponsor supported "refreshments", and changes in venue. I could go on and on about these issues, but I won't. I'd rather spend my energy trying to improve the situation than rambling through the desert. Your comments and suggestions, however, are still encouraged and appreciated.

Changing the subject, the last fiscal quarter of the year is typically a tight one for our local section. Right now our treasury is the lowest it's been in many years. Requests for financial donations are enclosed with this newsletter. I hope each of you will take some time to approach your employer, or consider making a donation yourself. Due to our current finances, our **next regularly scheduled meeting will be in January 2001.**

One final note – it's election time. Hopefully, most of you will be out there voting on November 7 – thank goodness it's not the second Tuesday of the month. Among the many issues and propositions, I suggest you learn more about Proposition 35. This proposition is backed by CELSOC and ASCE, and favors those in the consulting industry. You can get more information at [www.yesprop35.com](http://www.yesprop35.com). Happy voting and I hope to see in November.

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

**Bruce and Wendy Schell** are thrilled to announce the drug-free (and doctor free) birth of their daughter, **Kiri Mackenzie Schell** at 2:45 am on Thursday, September 28, 2000. Congratulations to Bruce and Wendy on the newest pebble.

Kudos to local members that gave presentations at the 2000 Annual Meeting, including **Kerry Cato, Bruce Clark, David Evans, Eldon Gath, Mike Hart, Woody Higdon, Jon Kaneshiro, Reinhard Knur, Robert Larson, F. Beach Leighton, Steven Martindale, Christopher Sexton, Phillip Shaller, Roy Shlemon, James Slosson, Stephen Testa, and William Tracy**. Our apologies if we inadvertently missed someone.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

**By David Seymour**

Two of my favorite quotes from Mark Twain.

*"Presence of mind during an emergency is admirable, absent of body is preferable."* Mark Twain

*"Researchers have already cast much darkness upon the subject, and if they continue their investigations, we shall soon know nothing at all about it."* Mark Twain

## E-MAIL OR SNAIL MAIL

We are finally going on-line, with the help of **Stuart Michener** and **Desiree Dier**, past and present newsletter editors. Starting with the January or February newsletter, you will have the option of having your monthly newsletter sent via e-mail. This is an either/or option – if you choose e-mail you will no longer receive a hard copy in the mail. This will not only reduce paper waste, but also help us reduce printing and postal costs that run about \$350 per month. Please e-mail Desiree at [ddier1@home.com](mailto:ddier1@home.com) if you would like receiving the e-mail version only.

We are also on the verge of posting our web site, which will include our newsletter, links, and other information. We'll keep you posted.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**PROJECT GEOLOGIST**

Camarillo and Irvine, CA offices

Bing Yen & Associates, Inc. is seeking qualified candidates to fill Project Geologist positions in both our Camarillo and Irvine, CA offices. We are seeking individuals with a BA/BS in Geology (MA/MS preferred), a minimum of 6 years experience in engineering geology, strong communication and computer skills, and ability to work in a team environment. California registration as a Certified Engineering Geologist, or ability to obtain registration within 1 year, is preferred.

Please submit resumes to:

BING YEN & ASSOCIATES, INC. Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Established 1979

2310 E. Ponderosa Dr., Suite 1, Camarillo, CA 93010

FAX: 805-383-3090; email: phipps@bingyen.com

17701 Mitchell North, Irvine, CA 92614-6029

FAX: 949-757-1941; email: sykora@bingyen.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP - John Whitney (714) 647-0277

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS - Joe Cota (818) 785-2158

(cotageo@thevine.com)

Mark Schluter (626) 930-1223 ( conversegp@aol.com )

PUBLICATIONS - Dawn James (818) 707-8320, djames@leightongeo.com

FIELD TRIPS - Chris Sexton (805) 524-4418 and Charles Nestle (626)458-4923

SHORT COURSES - Kerry Cato (909) 506-9688

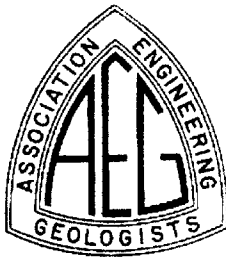
EDUCATION - Ali Tabidian (818) 677-2536

EDITOR - Desiree Dier (619) 445-5336

(ddier1@home.com)

RATES FOR ADVERTISING IN AEG NEWSLETTER

Corporate Members: Preprinted Insert		\$300/yr
	1pg	\$200/yr
	1/2 pg	\$125/yr
	1/4 pg	\$100/yr
Non-members: Preprinted Insert		\$400/yr
	1pg	\$300/yr
	1/2 pg	\$175/yr
	1/4 pg	\$125/yr



**ASSOCIATION OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION**

*"Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental and Ground-Water Geology"*

October 2000

Corporate Leaders and Members  
Greater Southern California Area

RE: Funding for Southern California Section

Dear Corporate Leaders and Members:

In years past we have asked for financial support from local corporations and individual for general funding purposes and to sponsor events. Your sponsorship over the years has helped to pay for many things that our funding from national AEG does not cover. Over the last two years, our local section has been very active in the political arena, supporting a Sacramento lobbyist, sending legislative committee members to State Board and Sunset Review meetings, and contributing to other geopolitical organizations such as the California Council of Geoscience Organizations (CCGO). As many of you know, our expenditures and efforts paid off, with the renewal of our State Board and licensure. But these victories did not come without cost. As an example, we contribute \$7,200 per year for the lobbyist and \$500 per year to CCGO. These additional expenses have far outweighed our normal income and we are now feeling the financial crunch. As such, we are looking toward our corporate and individual sponsors for support to help offset these costs.

In efforts to cut costs, we are currently setting up a website and will start distributing our meeting announcement via e-mail. Printing and mailing costs typically cost us around \$400 per month for the "snail mail" version of our newsletter. We hope to phase out this expensive habit with e-mail distribution and a website that will post our newsletter and be linked to the AEG National website and other geologic organizations.

For the Year 2001, we are asking for donations between \$100 and \$250. In appreciation, each donor will have their name (and logo if provided) listed on our upcoming website and in our newsletter. Please make out your check to "AEG" and mail to my attention at the address listed below.

Sincerely,

David C. Seymour, CEG  
Chair 2000/2001

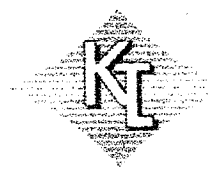
26276 Buscador  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Solutions  
Land  
Water

Consulting Geohydrologist  
Engineering Geologist  
Water Quality Specialist

**Sanford L. Werner**  
Registered Geologist  
Certified Engineering Geologist

21031 Blythe Street, Canoga Park, CA 91304  
(818) 998-8178



**KEANTAN  
LABORATORIES**

720 North Valley St., Suite B, Anaheim, CA 92801  
Tel: (714) 535-7616 Fax: (714) 535-7568

We provide field and laboratory support services for *geotechnical* and *environmental* projects.

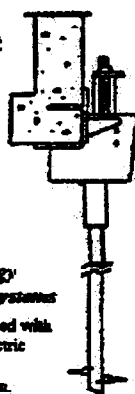
*Field technicians* available to assist you in any grading, public works, landfills, transportation, or water projects. (Special rates for AEG members)

We have a complete state-of-the-art *laboratory*. If there are any geotechnical tests others can't perform, chances are we'll be able to help you. Visit us at our website at [keontanlabs.com](http://keontanlabs.com)

**DISTRIBUTOR FOR CHANCE® HELICAL PIER®  
UNDERPINNING SYSTEM  
AND THE STANLEY® COMPULEVEL™**

THE ONLY ENGINEERED  
FOUNDATION SYSTEM  
LISTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Building Codes:
- BOCA**
- Report No. 94-27
- ICBO**
- Report No. ER-6110
- SBBCCI**
- Report No. 9284



*This Proven System Provides*

- These Benefits:*
- Significantly lower cost compared to other stabilizing methods.
  - Measurable capacity during installation.
  - Predictable results: known capacity in specific soils.
  - No stress on structure during installation.
  - Fast installation: minimal site preparation.
  - Installs in limited access areas.
  - Provides support for failing retaining walls.
  - Can be utilized in emergency shoring situations.

*For more information on products, or how you can become a certified Chance® installing contractor in your area contact:*  
**ADVANCED SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY, INC.**  
**(805) 250-1688**  
*Serving Southern California*

*Proven Helical Pier® Technology  
Now Used For Underpinning Systems*  
Foundation Stabilization is accomplished with an engineering technology used by electric utilities for decades:  
Helical screw anchor foundation system.



**ENVIRONMENTAL RECORDS REVIEW  
California Site Assessment Report**

**\$ 89<sup>00</sup>** including map

Our report identifies agency-listed hazardous waste / contaminated sites, solid waste landfills, hazardous waste transfer stations, spills, underground storage tanks and leaking underground fuel tanks in proximity to the subject site. The databases used were obtained from selected government agencies in charge of collecting and keeping such records in accordance with ASTM E-1527-97 (Standard Government Records Inquiry for Commercial Real Estate Transactions).

- \*ASTM Standards
- \*Accurate, easy to read, concise reports
- \*Rapid turn-around
- \* Professional staff

**\*\* Call 800-317-7919  
to order**

**Natural Hazards Disclosure, Inc.**  
PMB 501, 16654 Soledad Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91351  
Phone: 800-317-7919 [www.naturalhazards.com](http://www.naturalhazards.com) FAX: 888-999-6439



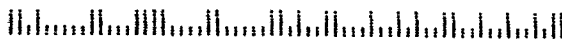
ALWAYS USE ZIP CODE E



**Association of Engineering Geologists**  
*Southern California Section*

Desiree Dier  
AEG Newsletter Editor  
538 Silverbrook Dr.  
El Cajon, CA 92019

91106-1472 45



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



# Construction Specialties, Inc.

LC. # 681416



*"Specializing In Hillside Drilling & Tough Hand Excavations"*

- \* Test Pits/Test Borings
- \* Foundation Underpinning & Repair
- \* Caissions/Grade Beams
- \* Slope Repairs/Recompaction
- \* Demolition & Hauling

*Friendly & Professional Service*

# (818) 767-8864