

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,  
and Ground Water Geology

OREGON SECTION

# NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

Mar. 1997

VOLUME 97, NUMBER 3

## **MARCH MEETING:**

- Speaker:** J. David Rogers, Ph.D., R.G., C.E.G., C.HG.  
Principal, Rogers-Pacific, Pleasant Hill, CA  
1996 Richard Jahns National Lecturer
- Title:** "Reassessment of the St. Francis Dam Failure"
- Date:** Thursday, March 20, 1997
- Times:** 6:00 PM: Social Hour  
7:00 PM: Dinner  
8:00 PM: Talk
- Location:** McMenamins Pub  
2927 SW Cedar Hills Blvd  
Beaverton
- Schedule:** 6:00 PM Attitude Adjustment  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:00 PM Program
- Cost/Menu:** \$10.00 Menu Selections: Chicken Extravaganza;  
High Pasta, Communication Breakdown Burger,  
Cheeseburger, Garden Burger (vegetarian)  
Note - please pay Diane for the beer (McMenamins bills us)
- Reservations:** Call receptionists at David Newton and Associates: 228-7718

## ***Background on speaker:***

Dr. Rogers is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona (1976) in geology with a master's degree (1979) and doctorate (1982) from University of California, Berkeley in geological engineering. In 1984 he founded his own consulting firm, Rogers/Pacific, with offices in Pleasant Hill and Van Nuys. Since 1994 he has also served as part-time instructor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Landscape Architecture at U.C. Berkeley where he teaches engineering geology and environmental geology for planners. He is a licensed geologist, engineering geologist and hydrogeologist in California.

Dr. Rogers recently finished an 11,000 mile trip, visiting 32 universities, 12 professional society meetings, and several governmental research institutions as part of the Jahns Lectureship.

## ***ABSTRACT***

St. Francis Dam was a curved gravity dam approximately 210 feet high which failed catastrophically upon its first filling, on March 12/13, 1928 about 35 miles north of Los Angeles. The flood waters drowned between 450 and 600 people, making it the worst American civil engineering disaster of the 20th century. No less than 13 boards of inquiry investigated the dam disaster. Most put the blame on piping of the foundation along the ancient San Francisquito fault, cutting through the dam's right abutment. William Mulholland, for 42 years the Chief Engineer of Los Angeles, accepted blame for the disaster. Dr. Rogers used modern forensics work and suggests that the dam's demise was much more complicated than previously thought. The dam site appears to have been shaped by ancient paleolandslides developed in the Pelona Schist. Failure probably happened at the left abutment first as the dam's sloping abutments were unstable when the reservoir level rose to within ten feet of the crest elevation. You will enjoy the slide show that goes with this talk!

His talk is based on a paper that he wrote in 1992 in Engineering Geology Practice in Southern California on the St. Francis Dam. That paper received the national Rock Mechanics Award of the U.S. National Committee on Rock Mechanics, the E.B. Burwell Award of the Geological Society of America for the top research in engineering geology for that year.

## ***Message from the Chair:***

I am very excited about this month's meeting. Dr. Dave Rogers is one the best speakers on engineering geology in the country. He is one of the top consultants in California in addition to being on the University of California, Berkeley's faculty as an adjunct. He is this year's Richard Jahn's Lecturer. You won't want to miss this meeting! Next month we will be having Brian Atwater come down from Seattle and talk about the latest in earthquake research in the Pacific Northwest. Brian tells me that there are some very interesting new items to talk about.

We had a very good meeting last month with the ASCE group at the Red Lion in Portland. Over 125 came to hear Dr. James Gould, the 1990 Terzaghi Lecturer, talk about dispute resolution. The talk was dry until he got into the case histories which were interesting. Dinner was super - a steak that melted in your mouth! It is always fun to interact with the civil engineers.

We are trying something new - a meeting in Roseburg! We have a good population of members downstate, and it is hard for them to make it to the meetings in Portland. Sue D'Agnese has organized a meeting for April 3 in Roseburg. Anyone in that part of the state is invited. She will be talking about the floods of 1996 in SW Oregon. See more information about the meeting later in the newsletter. Everyone downstate is invited to come to the meeting - I will be there!

I had a wonderful time giving a talk at the University of Oregon this past month to the geology department. They have lovely facilities and have a super faculty. I told everyone about AEG and our upcoming national meeting in Portland. The students were very interested in everything. The professors there are really into theoretical research and are not as interested in applied geology .

I wanted to update everyone on the Lincoln County problem that I talked about last month. A couple of professors at Oregon State had told me that the county was no longer requiring geological reports for building permits. I took it as truth, for everyone knows that a professor always tells the truth. Well, I talked to both the county and city of Newport planning offices, and they told me that there has been no change in requiring geological evaluations of problem properties. If anything, they are getting more strict and requiring more reports! Whew! Sorry to have caused the uproar, but business is as usual on the coast!

Both the book and the plans for the national meeting are progressing well! We have so much happening at this time. See you at the meeting!

Scott Burns, Section Chair

## **AEG Case Histories Book:**

The next editors meeting will be April 2 at PSU from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. So far we have 34 of the 63 articles turned in. This is the month we are pushing to complete the reviews and then revisions of the articles which have been submitted. We still have a few articles out, but over 30 are promised to me by the end of the week! If you are working on your article, try to turn it in by the 17th. We need to have at least two people review the paper. I am on sabbatical now and am spending all of my time on the book. The publisher has given us a small break. He will be coming to Portland during the first week of April to pick up the finished products. Copies of the outline of the book (which has changed a lot since we last published the outline a year ago) will be available at the meeting. The publisher will be returning galley proofs to authors over the summer.

Scott Burns, Editor

## ***UPDATE OF NEWS FROM "NATIONAL AEG"***

Next month we will have the mid-year board meeting of the national council for AEG, and it will be held in Los Angeles. As the chair of the Oregon Section, I will be representing us there. Gary Peterson will also be there pumping people up about our meeting.

One of the main items on the agenda will be the selection of a new National Executive Director. Ed Blackey is retiring after ten years of excellent service to AEG. He received the Floyd Johnson Award for service to AEG at the meeting in New Brunswick. Two of the leading candidates are professors at Texas A & M - Chris Mathewson and Norm Tilford. Both have been national presidents of AEG. Both have good ideas and would supply excellent leadership. Both are close friends and I feel would be great for AEG. It will be difficult to choose! There are other people on the list, but I am not sure who they are.

We have a new national vice president (and president elect). Paul DuMontelle had a minor stroke so stepped down. At the board meeting in September, after a lot of political wheeling and dealing, we elected John Peck (of Nevada) to replace Paul. John will be an excellent president next year.

Don Deere has been selected as the 1997 Richard Jahns National Lecturer for AEG and the Engineering Geology Division of GSA. He is internationally famous for his work in dam foundations, tunnels, rock mechanics, and landslides. His talk will be the "Role of geology in dam foundations, both new and existing structures". I have already written to invite him to come to Portland. He might be an excellent speaker for the combined meeting with ASCE since he is also an engineer.

The status of the national AEG is strong. Membership is just shy of 3200 and it has been at that level for the last five years when most organizations have been dropping in membership. The annual budget is \$436,000 and is a break-even budget. We hope to start building up reserves with the annual meeting in Portland this year. Assets of the organization are \$231,000. There are 23 sections with only 18 of them being active.

The bulletin is also looking for a new editor as Norm Tilford is stepping down as editor after many years in that role.

## *Short news items:*

1) **Special April Meeting in Roseburg:** Sue D'Agnese has organized a meeting for our members downstate who cannot come to Portland.

- a) Date: Thursday, April 3, 1997
- b) Where: Izzy's Pizza  
1200 Garden Valley Road  
(take Exit 125 west off of I-5)
- c) Times: 6:00 Happy Hour  
7:00 Dinner  
8:00 Talks
- d) Dinner Menu: choice of all you can eat salad bar (\$5.15), or all you can eat pizza bar (\$6.79) or all you can eat everything bar (\$7.79)
- e) Talk Title: "The storms of 1996 in SW Oregon: landslides, floods, and disasters" - there will be slides of slides, etc from the coast, Ashland, Douglas Country, Crater Lake, I-5, and much more
- f) Speakers: Sue D'Agnese (ODOT); Mike Long (USFS), John Seward (ODF)

2) **We need photos:** Here is your chance to get a favorite photo that you have published. Contact Scott Burns, 725-3389 for details. Bring a slide or print to the next meeting. We have received some very good ones so far. We need cover photos for the AEG Case Histories book.

3) **Check out AEG on the WEB:** <http://geoweb.tamu.edu/aeg/>

4) **Check out the Web Page for the Student Chapter at Portland State:**

<http://www.geol.pdx.edu/AEG>

5) **Job Openings:**

a) **Portland State University:** Looking for adjunct professor to teach two courses in seismic site evaluation/seismology and earthquake design engineering for students of civil engineering and geology. We would like to have a practicing geologist or CE. Contact Scott Burns, 725-3389 for more information.

6) **Looking for Jobs:**

a) Debra Doyle, 2015 Thompson Ave., Vancouver, WA 98660, telephone (360-750-1432); email: [ddoyle@pacifier.com](mailto:ddoyle@pacifier.com); Debbi just received her MS in geology from Portland State. Her experience is in the area of: shoreline erosion, soils, environmental geology.

7) **News from the Board of Geologist Examiners:** The board is looking for volunteers to proctor both the CEG and RG exams which will both be on April 18, 1996 in Salem. The telephone number for the board is 503-378-4180.

8) New members: We would love to welcome these new members who have joined AEG in the past months:

- a) Debra Gellar - David Newton and Associates
- b) Dick Glasheen - David Newton and Associates
- c) Ralph Soule - Geopotential Inc. (environmental and exploration geophysics)
- d) David Qualman - PSU Geology Student
- e) Terry Jacques - Affiliated Member of AEG - Geotech Explorations
- f) John D. Martin - Squier Associates
- g) Dermit O'Keefe - Georesources Inc.

9) GSA gives us Money: Many of you helped with the GSA Cordilleran meeting in Portland last spring. Because AEG was a co-sponsor of the meeting, we got a cut of the profits. Mike Cummings gave me us a check for \$269.87 last week.

10) Book Dedication: We have the new case histories book that will be coming out in the fall. The editors would like to dedicate the book to someone. Three names have been suggested: John Eliot Allen (professor at Portland State who passed away in December), Herb Schlicker (one of our past presidents, a leader in our field for years who passed away a couple of years ago), or Jasper Holland (who this year became one of the 15 honorary members of AEG, is a past national president, and a past chair of the Oregon section). Do you have any suggestions? Please pass them onto Scott Burns (725-3389). We will discuss this at our next meeting.

11) Spring Courses at Portland State: Classes start April 1, 1997 and end June 13. I have listed a couple of courses that might be of interest to our group:

Geol. 574: Geomorphology, MWF, 11:30-12:35, Dr. Fountain  
Geol 583: Anatomy of Landslides, MW, 17:15-18:30, Dr. Cruikshank  
Geol. 541: Groundwater Modeling, TuTh, 17:15-18:30, Dr. Johnson  
Geog. 592: Geographic Information Systems II, Tu, 16:00-18:40, Dr. Vrana  
CE 341: Soil Mechanics, Tu 17:30-20:00, Tim Blackwood

I would like to mention one of my favorite courses, and that is the Anatomy of Landslides course taught by Dr. Cruikshank. It is a senior/graduate level course where one learns to assess landslides from all phases. Extensive field work using new GPS systems and computer modeling will take place. Book with be the new TRB 247 manual which is superb. A description of the course can be found on the web: <http://www.geol.pdx.edu/Courses/G483>. Call Ken Cruikshank for further information at 725-3383.

12) Seismic Hazards Analysis Short Course in Menlo Park: The San Francisco Section of AEG is sponsoring a short course, May 3, 1997 from 8 AM to 5 PM in Menlo Park, California. Contact Jack Alt (510-791-1986). Cost is \$95 for members of AEG.

# ***AEG 1997 ANNUAL MEETING MESSAGE***

Our outstanding annual meeting committee has been hard at work! Expect to see a complete meeting description in the upcoming AEG NEWS, as well as a registration form for the meeting. Julie Keaton has pulled together the work of each committee person, and we have set a new standard in getting this critical information out early to AEG Members. This is the first time in recent memory that the registration form and meeting details will be available in the Spring Issue, some 5 to 6 months ahead of the meeting! Along those lines, at last count we already had some 10 exhibitors signed up for our meeting, an excellent early response! Other recent developments include:

The teachers workshop has developed into an excellent program. We have lined up an excellent speaker for the keynote luncheon buffet. The brew pub tour, murder mystery, safari night at the zoo and other entertainment events are coming together.

Work is underway on a web page to advertise the meeting. At the mid year AEG Board of Directors meeting in April, I will be presenting our meeting plan, as well as officially nominating the Westside Light Rail Tunnel as the Engineering and Environmental Project award. Tri-met is excited about this possible award.

Now is the time to think about preparing an abstract / paper for the October meeting, presentation. See the attached call for papers for additional information. Most importantly, **LET PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE MEETING** -- Our best advertisement is through our word of mouth. Talk about the meeting with your colleagues and distant contacts. Invite them to Portland. Also, if you are able to help with promotional efforts, simply by providing addresses of your contacts or other organizations where we can advertise our meeting, please let me know.

Gary Peterson, 1997 Annual Meeting chair.

## **“AEG - OFFICERS”**

*1996 - 1998*

(\* - means area code 541)

Position	Name	Telephone		
		Daytime	Home	FAX
Chair	Scott Burns	725-3389	692-9618	725-3025
Chair-Elect	Dave Michael	359-7448	357-0238	357-4548
Newsletter	“			
Secretary	Charlie Hammond	452-1100	274-1437	452-1528
Treasurer	Diane Murbach	228-7718	538-8352	228-7781
Past Chair	Sue D’Agnese	*957-3595	*673-1797	*957-3604
N.M. Treasurer	“			
Membership	Ed Stearns		661-0462	
N.M. Tech. Sessions	“			
N.M. Chair	Gary Peterson	635-4419	697-3100	635-1430
N.M. Field Trips	T & D Kuper	228-7718	638-9722	228-7781
N.M. Publicity	Ken Walsh		652-6107	833-6844
N.M.Short Courses	Mei-Mei Wang	731-4100		731-4066

**Converging on  
Cascadia**



Serving Professionals In Engineering, Environmental and Ground Water Geology

**PORTLAND, OREGON**

## **First Call for Technical Papers and Exhibitors**

For The 1997 AEG Annual Meeting  
Hosted by the Oregon Section

### **Paper and Poster Presentation Topics:**

Coastal Engineering	Landslides and Slope Stability
Environmental Investigations	Seismic Hazards
Field and Laboratory Testing	Stream Restoration
Ground Water Investigations / Modeling	Fluvial Geomorphology
Water Supply Studies	Transportation Geology
Landfill Technology	General Engineering Geology Topics

Topics other than the above suggestions will be considered. Presentations based on case histories are encouraged. Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes each. Poster session will be provided during the exhibitors luncheon. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words should be sent to the address listed below.

**Abstract Submittals Due May 15, 1997, E-mail preferred: [aegjuliek@aol.com](mailto:aegjuliek@aol.com)  
or mail to:**

**AEG'97 c/o Julie Keaton  
130 Yucca Drive  
Sedona, AZ 86336-3222  
(520) 204-1553 Fax (520) 204-5597**

### **Exhibits:**

Exhibitors spaces will be provided for at least 28 booths (more space available, located in Prime Exposure Ballroom. Each booth will include a table and chairs, pipe and draped 8x10 space. A brief description of the exhibit and any special requirements should be sent to the exhibitor committee chair shown below. We can accommodate small vehicle sized equipment.

### **Committee Chairs:**

Gary Peterson, Chairman, Annual Meeting, inquiries and general information  
(503) 635-4419 E-mail: [garyp@squier.com](mailto:garyp@squier.com)  
Ed Stearns, Chairman, Technical Sessions  
(503) 661-0462 E-mail: [73564.3251@compuserve.com](mailto:73564.3251@compuserve.com)  
Dave Michael, Chairman, Exhibitors and Sponsors  
(503) 359-7448 E-mail: [dave.l.michael@state.or.us](mailto:dave.l.michael@state.or.us)

**AEG 97 40th Annual Meeting, September 30-October 4, 1997**

**Gary Peterson**  
CHAIR

**C. Ed Stearns**  
TECHNICAL PROGRAM

**Mel Mei Wang**  
SHORT COURSES

**Sue D'Agnes**  
FINANCE

**Tom Kuper**  
FIELD TRIPS

**Dave Michael**  
EXHIBITORS

## ***“AEG” CALENDAR:***

- March 17:** Meeting of National Meeting Committee, PSU Geology, 4:00 - 6:00 PM,
- March 20:** Dr. David Rogers, our 1996 Richard Jahns Lecturer : Reassessment of the St. Francis Dam Failure
- April 1:** Book editors for Case Histories book: meeting at PSU in geology department, 5:30-6:30 PM
- April 3:** AEG Meeting in Roseburg: Sue D’Agnese talking about “Floods of 1996 in SW Oregon”
- April 17** Brian Atwater, “Probabilities of a Great Cascadian Earthquake in the Next 100 Years - the Latest Updates”
- May 15:** Eldon Gath, President of National AEG, “Seismic Hazard Investigation of the San Jacinto Fault through the San Bernadino Valley College”

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*For application forms for Membership in the National AEG, call Ed Stearns who is our membership chair at 661-0462 (h). He will also have copies at the monthly meetings. Membership is on a calendar year basis. Starting this year, if you are a national member, they will collect our local dues of \$10 which just covers our newsletter costs. If you would like to subscribe to the local newsletter (comes out 9 times a year) without being a national member, fill out the form below and mail to Charles Hammond. Note: the following form is only for people and organizations who wish to subscribe to the Oregon AEG Newsletter without being members of the national AEG.*

**APPLICATION FOR LOCAL MEMBERSHIP IN OREGON SECTION, AEG:**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AFFILIATION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

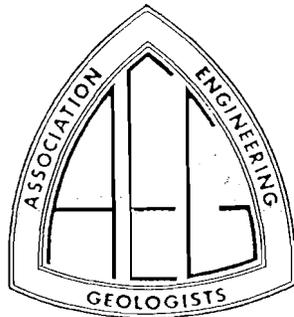
**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail form and \$10 to Diane Murbach, David Newton & Associates, 1201 SW 12th. Ave. Suite 400, Portland, OR 97205.**

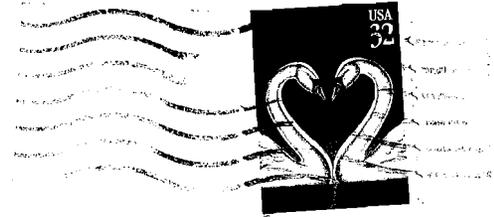
# ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR NEXT EXCITING MEETING

MARCH 20, 1997

## AEG



Dave Michael, Editor  
Oregon Chapter, AEG  
c/o ODF NWOA  
801 Gales Creek Rd.  
Forest Grove, OR 97116



MAR 14 1997

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Portland, OR 97223-5460