

Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,
and Ground Water Geology

OREGON SECTION

NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

May, 1998

VOLUME 98, NUMBER 05

MAY MEETING:

Speaker: ***Dr, Jim O'Connor***
U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources, Portland

Title: ***"Update on the Quaternary Geology of the
Willamette Valley"***

Date: **Thursday, May 21, 1998**

Times: 6:00 PM Social hour
7:00 PM Dinner
8:00 PM Talk

Where: Widmer Gasthaus "banquet room"
Located north of the Rose Quarter west of I-5
(almost under the 405 bridge, near the Lone Star Dome
on the corner of N. Russell and N. Interstate)

Menu: "Garden Burger" or "Bratwurst Sausage Sandwich" or "Rathskeller Burger"

Reservation: Call the receptionist at David Newton and Assoc.,(503) 228-7718.

Background on speaker:

Jim is one of the top Quaternary geologists in the region. After finishing up his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona under the guidance to Vic Baker, he came back to his roots in the Northwest and went to work for the Cascade Volcano Observatory where he worked for a few years on a project in the Cascades on the potential of moraine dams breaking. Then, he went to work for the U.S. Forest Service working on their ecological unit inventories. Finally, a couple of years ago he got a permanent job with the U.S. G.S. here in Portland, working on the Quaternary aquifers of the Willamette Valley. He has studied the gravels mainly from Portland to Eugene. He has made some excellent discoveries, which he will talk about in his talk. It will change some of our current thinking about the Valley geological history!!!

Abstract:

What is the age of the deposits in the Willamette Valley. What is their origin or their provenance? Jim will talk about lahars reaching Eugene and Salem from the Cascades. Did the Bonneville Flood make it here? What is the history of the Missoula Floods? What is the significance of Irish Bend? He will show his new Quaternary map of the valley! There will be lots of new information!

Message from the Chair:

Last month we had a super meeting! A group of 34 gathered at McMenamens to hear Dr. Andrew Fountain give an excellent talk on his research in Antarctica. This month will be our last meeting until September! Dr. Jim O'Connor will be speaking on his new ideas on the Quaternary history of the Willamette Valley. He and I will be leading a field trip in the fall (Friends of the Pleistocene) to see some of his sites! If you are interested in camping for two days and having a few beers to go with some great soil geology, come and join us!!! Be sure to note the three field trips we have scheduled this summer! They will be fun! Be sure to vote on our new treasurer and also on the change in terms for the officers.

This is my last newsletter!!!! I have had considerable input into the Oregon newsletter for the past 7.5 years, first as newsletter editor and then as chair of the section. It has been a real pleasure serving as chair for the past two years. We have accomplished a lot with putting on a successful national meeting, putting out our book, and having 17 great monthly meetings and one workshop and two field trips. We have been busy, but we have all benefited a lot! Best wishes to Dave Michael who takes over in May. The section is very healthy from a membership standpoint and also monetarily. We will have a little ceremony at this month's meeting for a changing of the officers. I have some plaques made up for the chairs for the past 8 years which will be handed out at the meeting. Dave will take over as chair, Charlie will become chair-elect, and Diane will become secretary. I am so proud of our section and what we have accomplished in the past eight years, especially the last two! Thanks for the input of all of you!!!

As I move aside, I have a few challenges for the section. I will be an officer for one more year (as past chair), but my time commitment will be greatly reduced. Some ideas that hopefully we can start in the future:

a) Give awards to speakers (like many sections do!): Some ideas from other sections are: leather map paperweights, plaques, old publications, mugs with AEG on it, license plates, hats, AEG golf balls, wine, and microbrews.

b) We need to rejuvenate some of our committees like the legislative one.

c) Try a canoe race with ASCE.

d) Improve on our Oregon AEG homepage (we have a start put together by the student chapter.

e) Do newsletters by email.

f) Do an AEG raft trip!!! (Geology, water, friends and microbrews - what fun!)

g) Do an AEG boat cruise on the Willamette and talk about the geology over a catered dinner on the Portland Rose while

sipping a microbrew.

h) Put together a canned slide show on applied geology in Oregon that members can use when talking to school classrooms.

i) Upgrade many of our Associate members to Full Membership.

j) Sponsor some symposia with Oregon agencies to cover topics like cleanups, mitigations, etc. We can bring in national speakers, give visibility to AEG, and make some money.

Thanks again for a great two years! I have loved being your chair. Dave, good luck! You have a super crew to work with! The future of the Oregon sections is bright!

Scott Burns, Chair, Oregon Section

National Mid-Year Board Meeting

Held in Las Vegas, April 18-20, 1998

Report by Scott Burns:

I have lots of good news to report from the meeting in Las Vegas.

The National AEG is doing well. It was the best attended board meeting in years - 26 were there! It may have had something to do with the site and also the field trip to Yucca Mountain on Monday. I have summarized the items from the meeting below.

1) Chris Mathewson has been appointed executive director until the year 2001. He is a professor of engineering geology at Texas A & M and has been interim director for the past six months after the untimely death of Norm Tilford, who was also a professor at Texas A & M. Chris will do a great job of taking over and getting the national office into a stable situation.

2) The board voted to move the national office from Massachusetts to College Station in June. There is no director in Massachusetts and the office is full of apathy and inefficient. All of AEG activities will now be in Texas except meetings director, Julie Keaton who works well out of her home in Arizona.

A special committee that had looked into the relocation of the national office has recommended moving it to north Denver, Colorado. The national board will revisit this plan in a couple of years. First priority is to give stability to the office and get the new software going well. The new database software is in place, but the accounting software has yet to be installed. There are many advantages of moving the offices to Texas A and M at this time - doubling the space, mailing costs down, phone costs down, internet costs down, cheap student help, the publications office is already there, and the director is there.

3) Membership - The total number of members is about 3100, which is a slight decrease. The number of renewals is down. All categories are down - the only section that is increasing is the emeritus classification!

4) Future meetings: 1998: Seattle; 1999: Salt Lake City; 2000: San Jose; 2001: St. Louis with AIPG; 2002: Reno; 2003: Denver

5) Students: Student papers are due June 1 for a chance to win a national award. Call Scott Burns for details (725-3389).

6) Budget: There is a projected shortfall this year, so we cut the budget which was adopted at the board meeting. The reserve has \$34,000 in it which is good. The annual meeting fund has \$5200 in it, and Oregon section will be adding about \$15,000 to it as a result of the profits of this past years meeting. We passed the budget for 1999, which is to be \$395,000 which includes the move of the national office to Texas. It is a balanced budget. The big news is that Chris Mathewson put this budget together without a dues increase!!!

7) Publications: The Poland volume on subsidence will come out soon. Two other books are in the pipeline - Rob Larson is doing one on classic landslides and Jeff Keaton has one on risk analysis. We are looking for someone to become editor of AEG News!! They would take over for Abdul Shakoor who is now editor of the bulletin.

8) News items and interesting facts: Did you know that Terzaghi was an engineering geologist and not a civil engineer? Many geology departments are closing in Canada - Concordia University and Montreal have already closed, and McGill has eliminated engineering geology. Kansas and Mississippi have passed registration!!! Washington is resurrecting its chase to get registration! Ken Neal (a PSU alum) is leading the charge!

9) National Science Teachers Association National Meeting in Las Vegas: Gary Luce, chair of the Reno section, set up a booth at the NSTA meeting in Las Vegas which was just before our meeting. There was great interest in AEG from the 16,000 science teachers from all over the US. Gary and Julie Keaton gave our names out to many Oregon teachers at the conference. We hope to have a booth at the OSTA conference this coming year.

10) IAEG Hookup: You will now be able to join the International AEG organization on your AEG dues statement. You will get the international journal and all members of AEG will automatically get the newsletter of IAEG. AEG will become the national committee of IAEG for the US.

11) New National Officers: Miles Carter was elected Secretary for next year. He will move up the ladder and be president in a few years. Miles is Canadian and will be the first non-American who will head AEG!! AEG is an international organization with 120 members in 20 countries. Congrats to Miles who is chair of the Montreal section. The National Project Award will go to Highway 504 at Mt. St. Helens! Two honorary members were selected: Dick Galster and Norm Tilford.

12) ASTM vs ASFE War: I was amazed at the Las Vegas board meeting of what is happening with ASTM. They have developed so much power that it has turned into a real problem for consultants. It is getting worse. AEG is joining ASFE and ASCE and many other organizations to combat the power of ASTM. Here in a nutshell is the problem:

ASTM is a developer of standards. Originally, the standards

were for materials and products and tests of the materials. They were important and trusted. Now, they are expanding by setting standards for processes of doing things. They are trying to codify standards of practice. The books that they sell on these are becoming law. If you do not follow their procedures exactly, you can be taken to court and charged with breaking the law. Beware!!

Why is there a problem. The procedures for developing these standards of practice are put together by committees which are made up of mainly providers (manufacturers of equipment) and government officials. Few consultants come to the meetings because they cannot afford it. The other two groups are paid to be there at the meetings. The committee procedures of developing the guidelines are very shaky! Standards are being adopted and developed by people who do not practice!! ASFE and AEG are monitoring committees D18 (geotechnical engineering) and E50 (environmental and hydrology). Over 100 guidelines have been developed in these committees since 1990 and another 200 are in the works. If these guidelines become law, there is no leeway for your practice. If a client does not like your work, he can sue you for not following some minute guideline and get off paying you. This is restraint of trade - we are defined as a commodity and it is defined who can practice and how we are to practice. There is no way for innovation. Phase I and II's are evolving - there is no room for deviation!

Beware of the ASTM standards!! ASCE, it seems, is close to disavowing these standards as standards of practice. They want to base everything on professional practice. A senate investigation might come from this. Keep tuned in. The next AEG News will have an update. Things are happening!

Upcoming Field AEG trips:

May field trip: Landslides in Portland: May 30, Saturday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, \$25 which includes gourmet lunch buffet and beverages. Visit 23 sites in Portland where landslides resulted from the February 1996 storms. We will discuss processes, causes, and remediation measures. We will also talk about changes in codes and ordinances. We will visit Dodson, many failures in the West Hills, and some sites in the Oregon City area. Leader: Scott Burns. The field trip leaves from Portland State University at the corner of Broadway and Mill (1721 SW Broadway). Parking is free in the parking garage across the street on Saturdays. To sign up - call Scott Burns and put your name on the list. Leave a message on his voice mail if he is not there. 725-3389. You can pay the day of the trip.

June field trip: "Geology of the Wine Country of Yamhill County". June 20. We will spend a leisurely Saturday discussing how the geology has affected the soils of the county and how certain soils are selected for the best grape production and the

finest wines. We hope to visit six wineries to get a good cross-section (geologists are into cross-sections) of the different geologically affected wines. Leaders: Diane Murbach, Monte Murbach, Scott Burns. Cost is \$25 which will include a gourmet lunch buffet and beverages. Field trip will leave from Portland State University (corner of Broadway and Mill - 1721 SW Broadway) at 9:00 AM and return about 5:00 PM. Parking is free in the structure across the street. To sign up, call Scott Burns at 725-3389 and tell how many in your party. You can pay the day of the field trip.

July field trip: "Engineering geology of the Barney Reservoir Dam Raise". July 18. We are bringing this popular field trip back from last year to see the finished product. Many people missed it and would like to see the site. Go on this field trip to learn about difficulties in construction brought on by soil that is derived from the weathering of Coast Range basalts. Also, see new exposures of the basalt in the quarry. The dam and spillway have been completed and new wetlands have been constructed. Hear first hand from the assistant field trip leader, Brent Black, lead field engineer/geologist during construction, about heavy construction with rock and soil contractor motivation. The paper written by Charlie in the case histories volume on the project won one of the outstanding paper awards. Leader: Charlie Hammond and Brent Black. We will leave from Portland State University (corner of Broadway and Mill - 1721 SW Broadway) at 8:00 AM and return about 5:00 PM. Cost is \$25 and includes a gourmet lunch buffet and beverages. You can pay the day of the trip. To reserve a place on this trip, call Charlie Hammond at 452-1100.

Late August field trip: "Debris flow flume in action".

We don't have a date for the trip at this time. There will not be a flume experiment the day of the 50th anniversary of the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest on August 21. All Dick Iverson can tell us is that it will be last week of August or the first week of September. A flyer will be sent out in mid August to publicize the event. We will visit the forest to see the debris flow flume of Dick Iverson (USGS, Vancouver) in action. We will also visit the forest and see the site of so much of the forest geomorphology work in Oregon. Leader: Scott Burns. For information in late summer - call Scott at 725-3389.

Short news items:

National Meeting in Seattle: Remember that the abstract deadline for papers for the fall meeting is past. The deadline was May 1!

You might still be able to squeak an abstract in - email Julie Keaton with the abstract: aegjuliek@aol.com. A few notes on the Seattle meeting: Rooms will be cheaper than in Portland: \$97/single and \$107/double. There are lots of good symposia: one will be on rock slope stability and another on Hanford. There are some great field trips - be sure to sign up by June 15th for the ones co-sponsored with IAEG as they will fill up by June 15th.

Membership Chair: We will need a new membership chair for the coming year. Ed Stearns has been our chair for years and he has decided to step down. Ed has done a super job and has the whole system under control. Many thanks, Ed!!! If you want to volunteer for the position, see Dave Michael, our new chair.

Pacific Northwest Mining and Metals Conference April 11-13, 1999 in Portland at the Doubletree at the Lloyd Center. The organizers of this conference would like to have us participate in this conference. Our two groups combined with the GSA group of Portland State to put on a fine meeting in the spring two years ago at the same place. Dave Michael has volunteered to be our liaison. David James, president of the AEG student chapter, is also helping with the organization of the conference.

Southern Oregon Meeting? Do we have an organizer in Medford, Roseburg or Eugene? Last year we had a super meeting in Roseburg and there was talk of having three meetings each year in the southern part of our state. We just need for someone to step forward and organize the meeting. We will publicize it. Call Dave Michael, Oregon chair, for details.

Proposal: Change officer terms from two years to one year. The board has unanimously backed a change in our by-laws which would change the officer terms from two years to one year. Every two years we elect a new treasurer. That person is then committed to 10 years of service as the treasurer becomes the secretary who becomes the vice chair, then the chair and finally the past chair which we feel is a lot of work. We feel that we have many capable leaders in the group to allow new officer elections each year. The national likes having two year terms so the chairs who come to the national board meetings are there for four meetings not two which allows for greater continuity and less relearning each meeting. We would follow the Denver section model and have the vice chair go as a non-voting member to the mid-year board meeting the year before he/she takes over as chair of the section. Therefore, we would have a chair at three meetings, not four, during their term of office.

a) pros for the change: more people can become officers, less time of service when you make the commitment to serve; we have new blood coming into the organization all of the time.

b) cons for the change: It will cost us about \$500 more each year from our treasury as we pay for the mid-year board meeting travel expenses from our budget.

Please vote on this item at the end of the newsletter.

Jasper Misses us: Jasper Holland, our only honorary member from the Oregon Section and one of our past national presidents. Jasper has moved to Washington to be closer to his daughter. If you get a chance, drop him a note and say hi: Jasper Holland, 2500 S. 370th, Unit 138, Federal Way, WA 98003.

AEG Homepage: check it out: [http:// www.aegweb.org](http://www.aegweb.org)

Seismic Zonation for the Coast of Oregon: The Building Codes

Division of the state is considering a change in the seismic building code from zone 3 to zone 4 for the coast. This is because of the high potential for subduction earthquakes. I would like us to make a recommendation. We will discuss this at the meeting in our announcements.

National Meeting \$: Oregon Section makes profit for national AEG at meeting in Portland. Gary Peterson, Sue D'Agnese and Charlie Hammond have balanced the books from the national meeting! We made approximately \$19,000!!!! Give yourself a pat on the back! Gary did a wonderful job leading the whole show!!! We will keep 10% of this and expense about another 10% out to keep in the Oregon Section. That means that our section will earn close to \$4000 for our part in the national meeting! The section did well, but not as well as the Sacramento Section which made \$27,000 a few years ago at their national meeting.

Board of Geologist Examiners the new address and phone numbers for the Board is:

Board of Geologist Examiners
726 Hawthorne Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503 362-2666
Fax: 503 362-5454
New "Web Site Address" WWW.OSBGE.ORG

Voting:

Vote on Amendment to By-Laws:

a) Terms of office of AEG Section Officers **will remain two years:**

b) Terms of office of AEG Section Officers **will be one year:**

Vote for Oregon Section Treasurer:

a) **David Scofield**

b) **Monte Murbach**

Vote for one in each category. Mail your vote to Scott Burns, Dept. of Geology, P.O. Box 751, Portland State University, Portland, OR 97207. If you are running out of time, you can fax the vote: 503-725-3025 or call Scott and leave it on his phone: 503-725-3389. We must have the vote by the meeting on the 21st!

"AEG" CALENDAR:

(for more information on any of these, call Scott Burns at 725-3389 and he will fax you the information).

- May 21 May Oregon Section Meeting: Jim O'Connor,
"Quaternary Geology of the Willamette Valley"
- May 30: AEG field trip on landslides of
the Portland area
- June 20: AEG field trip: Geology of the Wine Country
- July 18: AEG field trip: Barney Reservoir, Coast Range
- Sept. 17: AEG September Monthly Mtg - first of fall!
- Sept. 19-20 Friends of the Pleistocene, Willamette Valley
(Scott Burns and Jim O'Connor, leaders)
- Sept. 21-25 IAEG meeting in Vancouver, B.C.
- Sept. 26-30 AEG National Meeting in Seattle, WA
(abstracts due next May 1, 1998)
- Oct. 4-10: SEPM Research Conferences: "Sedimentary
Record of Natural Disasters", Portland
- Oct. 15: AEG October Monthly Meeting
- Nov. 19: AEG November Monthly Meeting

"AEG - OFFICERS"

1996 - 1998

(* - means area code 541)
(N.M. - means National Meeting)

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
Membership	Ed Stearns		661-0462	

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 Diane Murbach. 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: _____

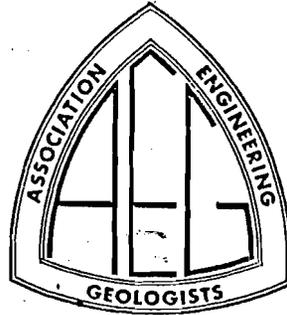
TELEPHONE: _____

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

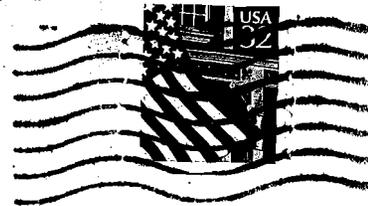
May 21, 1998

AEG



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