



Serving Professionals in Engineering, Environmental,  
and Ground Water Geology

OREGON SECTION

# NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the Oregon Section Association of Engineering Geologists

May, 2001

VOLUME 01, NUMBER 05

## **MAY MEETING:**

Speaker: ***Larry Peirson***  
Cornforth Consultants

Talk: **“Rockfall - An International Concern,  
The Baha Descent, Saudi, Arabia”**

Date: **Wednesday, May 17, 2001**

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

Where: ***Old Market Pub***  
6959 SW Multnomah Blvd., Portland

Menu: \$10/Person (Pizza Feed)

**Reservations:** Call David James, 503-684-3460 (ext. 230) by noon Monday (5/14/01)  
**“A reservation made is a reservation paid.”** Please call to cancel if you can not attend. Thank you!

***Speaker: Larry Pierson, Cornforth Consultants, Inc.***

***Presentation: Rockfall - An International Concern, The Baha Descent, Saudi, Arabia***

Along the southwest coast of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exists very challenging road building terrain. The area, located in the Hijaz Mountains, roughly parallels the Red Sea graben. The average relief typically exceeds 2000 meters. Roadways from the mountains toward the Red Sea, referred to as Descents, are roughly superimposed on centuries-old caravan routes. Replacement of these ancient routes with modern highways during the last two decades has greatly enhanced the speed of travel and overall safety for the Saudi People.

The descent highways are carved into the sides of the deeply incised mountain drainages. Maintaining a six percent maximum grade created the need for several roadway switchbacks and many thousands of feet of structures including bridges, half viaducts, retaining walls, tunnels and rockfall galleries. In addition, shotcrete and rock bolt stabilization techniques were extensively used. Many of the rockfall problems are the result of the original highway construction practices; however, rockfalls from the steep natural slopes also contribute to the overall problem. Recent large-scale events have led to several road closures. One of these events destroyed a bridge pier causing collapse of the structure and resulting in several fatalities.

## ***Message from the Chair (May 2001)***

### *A Look Back at Last Month's Meeting*

We have had the pleasure of hearing a number of very good presentations this year, and Bob Watters' presentation on geotechnical engineering analysis of volcano failures was another excellent one. With the challenges that different types of landslide mechanisms provide engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers, a slope stability analysis of a Cascade volcano could be one of the biggest. Bob is performing state-of-the-practice stability analyses of some of the most challenging sites that any of us could dream of. Besides having an enjoyable evening at the Lucky Labrador, Bob treated us with a presentation of field mapping, sampling, soil and rock testing, rock mass rating, characterization of soil and rock properties, finite element analysis, failure criteria analysis and palm reading. If you ever have a chance to hear Bob Watters give a presentation, I recommend that you try not to miss it!

### *News from the Mid-Year Board Meeting*

One of the regular activities at the mid-year Board of Directors (BD) Meeting is reviewing AEG's past fiscal year budget. It appears that 1999/2000 fiscal year finished significantly over budget. As a result, to pay for the overage, the current year's budget has been cut significantly. We will experience a cutback in the workforce at Headquarters (HQ) and a reduction in AEG promotional effort during the second half of the year. The 'over budget' is largely due to an over estimate of the number of members, and the extra efforts by HQ to promote AEG and ultimately increase membership. There was also an unanticipated expense due to the larger than anticipated management effort made by HQ at the San Jose annual meeting. A few other unanticipated expenses also occurred, including fees from a greater use of bank credit cards.

Another item that was reviewed at the BD Meeting involved a number of problems that members experienced with services provided by HQ. Some of this was attributed to high staff turnover that resulted in paperwork problems such as mistakes entered in member data. HQ has developed operational guidelines to

enable better training of new student staff, ultimately to prevent these types of errors. There was also a shortage in communication between HQ and Executive Council (EC), which also contributed to the 1999/2000 overrun.

A couple changes to our bylaws were approved. Section chairs are directors at the BD Meeting, and if a direction is unable to attend they are now able to appoint an alternate director to attend and vote in their absence. The other bylaw change involves our honorary members. The change removes the limit of 20 members, increases the number of required sponsors to three, and establishes an award limit of only one honorary member per year.

On the second day of the meeting, the directors divide into workshops to address current issues. This year the workshops included: low student chapter activity, low numbers of qualified graduates entering the profession, low director attendance at the ED meetings (a number of sections do not send directors), and how to establish an award to recognize successful sections. You will hear more about these issues in upcoming editions of the AEG News.

Lastly, a dues increase was approved which will only affect Members and Associate Members beginning in 2001/2002. The increase is way too long over due. You may recall that last year a proposed budget increase was voted down

Even with the time and travel requirements, one of the most satisfying experiences that I have had during my tenure as Chair of Oregon Section is my role as a director at the BD Meetings, and participating in the governance of AEG. I hope that many of our Oregon Members are able to participate at this level.

See you at next weeks meeting at the Old Market Pub!

Charlie Hammond  
Oregon Section Chair

## *Short News Items*

**Green Briefcases:** Remember those green briefcase bags that we have left over from the Seattle annual meeting? Well, now is the time to pick one or more up for \$5.00 each. That's less than you spend for lunch! People that already have one say "they were worth the old price of \$10.00 and I am going to buy another!" Get one before they are all gone!!

**E-Mail "Newsletter:"** Oregon Section AEG will not send a "Paper Copy" of the newsletter to those that the E-mail address reaches unless they request it. If you don't get the newsletter E-mail and want it that way please send me your E-mail address and I will add you to the list. This will save the Oregon Section significant costs in postage etc. To get on the E-mail list contact: Dave Michael at [dmichael@odf.state.or.us](mailto:dmichael@odf.state.or.us)

**AEG Homepage:** check it out: <http://www.aegweb.org>

**The Board of Geologist examiners:** 707 13<sup>th</sup>. St. SE, Suite 275 Salem, OR, 97301  
Phone (503) 566-2837, Fax (503) 362-6393 e-mail: [osbge@open.org](mailto:osbge@open.org)  
contact ***Susanna Knight***, Administrator for assistance with Board issues.

**If you have NEWS items that you would like to include, please contact or E-mail Dave Michael – newsletter editor at [dmichael@odf.state.or.us](mailto:dmichael@odf.state.or.us)**

## ***Senate Bill 447 Needs Your Support***

There is a bill that has recently passed the Oregon State Senate and is now in the Oregon State House of Representatives that is of the utmost importance to Certified Engineering Geologists in the State.

Senate Bill 447 (SB 447) would amend the civil engineering registration laws to include an exception for certified engineering geologists. A similar exception was given to engineers in the original geology registration laws of 1977. However, because of an oversight in the original 1977 legislation, geologists never received a similar exception for certified engineering geologists in the engineering laws. This has caused a conflict in the geology and engineering laws which a small group of civil engineers is now using to try to limit the practice of engineering geology in the State. This bill would not limit the practice of civil engineers nor would it allow engineering geologists to practice outside their field of expertise. The bill would merely correct the oversight and would allow certified engineering geologists to practice the field of engineering geology without interference from engineers, or the State Engineering Board.

At the request of Tom Ferrero, C.E.G., from Ashland, Oregon, SB 447 was initially sponsored in the Oregon State Senate by Senator Lenn Hannon. The bill narrowly passed the Senate Committee for Business, Labor & Economic Development (4 to 3), before going onto the Senate floor where it passed (22 to 6). SB 447 is now in the Oregon State House of Representatives Committee for Business, Labor, & Consumer Affairs, where its original hearing date has been postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.

We are confident that once SB 447 goes to the House floor it will be passed and made into law. However, it still needs to pass the House Committee where it is most vulnerable to engineers lobbying efforts, and can be significantly altered or rejected entirely. We fervently ask every geology and engineering geologist in the State to write their House Representative as soon as possible and ask for their support for SB 447. Do not be complacent on this issue. Even though it easily passed in the Senate, it can even more easily die in the House Committee. We ask for everyone's support and ACTION NOW !! Thanks !

You can find out who your House Representative is, and how to get in contact with them, at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/siteindexset.htm>.

Submitted to AEG Oregon Chapter Newsletter by Doug Gless

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

## AEG OREGON SECTION 2000-2001

Please indicate your choice for the following offices. This ballot should be returned to: Ruth Wilmoth, AEG Oregon Section Secretary, c/o Columbia Geotechnical, P.O. Box 87367, Vancouver, WA, 98687. Please return the ballot by June 1, 2001. The new slate of officers will be announced at the September meeting.

### CHAIRPERSON

#### Andrew Harvey:

Andrew has served the past year as Chair-Elect, and has been active with the Oregon section since 1992. He was affiliated with the Southwestern Section beginning in 1986, and was a student member at University of Idaho in 1982-1984. Andrew helped coordinate field trips for the National AEG meeting in Portland in 1997. He received his BS in Geology form University of Arizona and his MS in Geology from University of Idaho. Currently, he is a senior geologist with Kleinfelder Associates, Inc.

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### CHAIR-ELECT

#### Ruth Wilmoth:

Ruth has served the past year as Oregon Section Secretary. She has been active with the Oregon Section since 1994, and before that was a member-at-large while living in Hawaii. Ruth received her BA in Geology from the University of California at Berkeley and her MS in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Currently she is the Engineering Geologist and President of Columbia Geotechnical, the company she started in 1995, located in Vancouver, Washington.

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### SECRETARY

#### Warren Krager:

Warren has served the past year as Treasurer. He has been a member of the Oregon Section of AEG since 1990 and was an associate member for several prior years. Warren received a B.S. in Geology from Oregon State University in 1985, and has approximately 16 years of consulting geology and engineering geology experience in the Pacific Northwest. He is currently a senior engineering geologist in Kleinfelder's geotechnical group.

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### TREASURER

Rowland French:

Rowland has been active in the Oregon Section of AEG since he moved to Oregon in 1988. He has attended several AEG national meetings as an exhibitor. Since 1988 he has worked at Northwest Geophysical Associates, Inc. in Corvallis where he is currently Vice President and manager of geophysical services. Rowland received his B.S. in Physics from Dartmouth College and his PhD in Geology from the University of Michigan.

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## ENGINEERING GEOLOGY OF THE SALEM AREA

### OREGON SECTION AEG FIELD TRIP SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2001

The Oregon section of AEG will sponsor a 1-day field trip to the Salem, Oregon area to observe (kick the dirt) and discuss current engineering geology issues impacting development and the Engineering Geology/Geotechnical consulting practice. The field trip will highlight the following topics:

- Landslides and Slope hazards in the Salem Hills area.
- City of Salem and Marion County slope and landslide hazard recognition ordinances and susceptibility evaluations for reducing risks to future development. In addition, the Planning staff will discuss the development issues they have had to address since development of the ordinance.
- Radon contamination in the Salem area.
- Stratigraphy of alluvial terraces in the Salem/North Willamette Valley area.
- Bedrock faulting in the Salem/North Willamette Valley area.

Speakers on the field trip will consist of Gary Peterson of Squire & Associates, Andrew Harvey of Kleinfelder Associates, the two consultants who prepared the slope and landslide susceptibility maps; the City of Salem Planning staff who developed the City ordinance; and Scott Burns of Portland State University, who has been involved, with his students, in the geological mapping and preparation of published reports of the Salem and North Willamette Valley area. Participants of the field trip will receive a certificate of participation that may be applied to the continuing education units required by the Oregon Engineering Board.

The trip will depart from the Tualatin area at 8:00 am sharp from the western side of the Fred Meyer parking lot off of Nyberg Road in Tualatin and return around 5:00 pm the same day. The transportation will be in PSU vans, to access some of the hillside stops. A coffee and donut break as well as a box lunch will be provided. The lunch stop is tentatively planned at a local Salem Winery. The cost for the fieldtrip is \$25.00, which includes transportation from Tualatin, coffee & doughnuts in the AM, and a box lunch.

**Space is limited to 20 people. To secure your reservation, please complete, detach, and return the lower portion of this form along with the \$25.00 per person cost (made payable to OR Section AEG – Fieldtrip) by May 26, 2001.**

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#### Oregon Section AEG Fieldtrip Registration

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Return with your \$25.00/person fieldtrip cost (make check payable to OR Section AEG-Field Trip) to:*

Tom Kuper (503) 638-9722  
22680 SW 76<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Tualatin, OR 97062

*Engineering Geology around the Wenatchee Basin*

# WASHINGTON SECTION AEG FIELD TRIP

**June 9–10, 2001**

*Announcement and Registration*

Come join in for a two-day excursion to the eastern slopes of the Cascades around Wenatchee, Leavenworth, and Lake Chelan. The two-day trip will highlight landslides, rock slope engineering, rockfall control, dams, and other development issues in a setting of some of the most interesting Tertiary and Quaternary geology in Washington.

The trip will depart by bus from Seattle at 7:30 am Saturday June 9<sup>th</sup> and return to Seattle around 5:00 pm Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Attendees have the option to tent camp (showers provided) or stay in a nearby hotel. A catered picnic dinner will be provided on Saturday night at the campground (Wenatchee River County Park in Monitor, WA), and transportation will be provided to and from the dinner for hotel residents. The estimated cost of the trip is \$115, which includes lunches both Saturday and Sunday, Saturday night dinner, beverages/snacks, transportation, and a commemorative field trip guide. Accommodation costs are not included and are estimated to be \$10 for camping and \$60 for a hotel room (single occupancy, or less if you double up).

**Space is limited to 40 people. Washington Section AEG members will be given registration priority until May 12<sup>th</sup>. After May 12<sup>th</sup>, registration will be opened to nonmembers and members of other AEG sections/professional societies.** To secure your reservation, please complete, detach and **return the lower portion of this form along with a \$75 per person deposit (made payable to WA Section AEG – Field Trip)**. If you previously responded to the pre-registration request, you still need to submit the lower form and include your deposit. We will confirm your registration and deposit upon receipt. Detailed trip information, what to bring, where to meet, etc., will be provided to you about two weeks prior to the trip.

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## WA SECTION AEG FIELD TRIP REGISTRATION

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Camping (# of tents): \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel (# of beds/shared with/smoking preference): \_\_\_\_\_

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*return w/ your \$75/person deposit (make check payable to WA Section AEG – Field Trip) to:*

Tom Badger

1802 Pine Ave. NE  
Olympia, WA 98506

[badgert@earthlink.net](mailto:badgert@earthlink.net), 360-754-2409

## ***David Rogers will give two talks at Portland State May 9, 2001***

One at Geology “Cramer Hall” 3:30 – 4:30 PM in room S17 this first talk will be about: “Landslide Repairs” featuring Alder Crest Banyon Slide in Kelso Washington

The second talk will be 9 May at 7:30 PM information below:

### **Reassessment of the St. Francis Dam Failure**

with Dr. David Rogers  
Hasselman Chair in Geological Engineering  
at the University of Missouri at Rolla

7:30 pm, Wednesday, May 9th, 2001  
in room 107 Science Building I, Portland State University

On March 12th, 1928 St. Francis Dam failed catastrophically. Nearly 600 persons drowned, making it the worst American civil engineering disaster of the 20th Century. A reassessment of the dam failure utilizing modern forensic techniques suggests that the dam's demise was much more complicated than previously thought.

Dr. Rogers is a graduate of Cal Poly Pomona (1976) in geology, with master's (1979) and doctorate (1982) degrees from U.C. Berkeley in geological engineering. In 1984 he founded his own consulting firm, Rogers/Pacific, with offices in Pleasant Hill and Van Nuys. Between 1994-2001 he served as an instructor in the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Landscape Architecture at U.C. Berkeley. In February 2001 he accepted the Hasselman Chair in Geological Engineering at the University of Missouri at Rolla.

# **AEG "Oregon Section" - OFFICERS**

Area codes are 503 unless noted:

Position	Name	Telephone	Daytime	HomeFAX
Chair	<i>Charlie Hammond</i>	<b>452-1100</b>	<b>274-1437</b>	<b>452-1528</b>
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:chammond@cornforthconsultants.com">chammond@cornforthconsultants.com</a>			
Chair Elect	<i>Andrew Harvey</i>	<b>644-9447</b>	<b>617-9486</b>	<b>643-1905</b>
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:aharvey@kleinfelder.com">aharvey@kleinfelder.com</a>			
Secretary	<i>Ruth Wilmoth</i>	<b>(360) 944-7397</b>	<b>(360) 944-6985</b>	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:cgivanc@aol.com">cgivanc@aol.com</a>			
Treasurer	<i>Warren Krager</i>	<b>644-9447</b>	<b>684-4902</b>	<b>643-1905</b>
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:wkrager@kleinfelder.com">wkrager@kleinfelder.com</a>			
Past Chair	<i>Dave Michael</i>	<b>359-7448</b>	<b>357-0238</b>	<b>359-9514</b> Newsletter
	"			
Legislative	e-mail: <a href="mailto:dmichael@odf.state.or.us">dmichael@odf.state.or.us</a>			
Membership	<i>Tim Blackwood</i>	<b>684-3460</b>	<b>631-7996</b>	<b>670-9147</b>
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:tblackwood@carlsontesting.com">tblackwood@carlsontesting.com</a>			
Programs	<i>David James</i>	<b>684-3460</b>	<b>252-3940</b>	
	e-mail: <a href="mailto:djames@carlsontesting.com">djames@carlsontesting.com</a>			

## **MEMBERSHIP**

For application forms for Membership in AEG (Member, Associate, Affiliate, or Student), call Tim Blackwood the membership chair at (503) 684-3460 (w). He will also have copies at the monthly meetings. Membership is on a calendar year basis. If you are an AEG member, headquarters will also collect our Oregon Section 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 an AEG member, fill out the form below and mail to Dave Michael. Note: the following form is only for people and organizations that wish to subscribe to the Oregon AEG Newsletter without being members of AEG.

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APPLICATION FOR OREGON SECTION, AEG "NEWSLETTER MAILINGLIST ONLY":

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mail form and \$10 to Dave Michael c/o ODF NWOA, 801 Gales Creek Rd. Forest Grove OR 97116

# ***ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR NEXT MEETING***

***May 17, 2001***  
***AEG***

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